



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2023

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Central Asia and Turkey
Country (ies):	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, 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 Türkiye Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Türkiye Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Turkmenistan Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan Ministry of Water Resources of Uzbekistan Forestry Agency of Uzbekistan Centre for Hydro-meteorological Services of Uzbekistan
Initial project duration (years):	5 years
Project coordinates:	
<i>This section should be completed ONLY by:</i> a) Projects with 1st PIR; b) In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.	

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	17 March 2017
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	16 October 2017
Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	16 October 2022
Revised project implementation End date (if approved) ²	16 October 2024 (2 years not-cost extension was recommended during project MTR)

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	\$ 10,874,659 USD
Total Co-financing amount (USD)³:	\$ 64,885,046 USD
Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):	\$ 8,405,741 USD
Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)⁴:	\$ 7,777,514 USD
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023⁵	\$ 403,545,047 USD

¹ As per FPMIS

² If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

³ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO Document/Project Document.

⁴ The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

⁵ Please refer to the Section 13 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

M&E Milestones

Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	06 February 2023
Expected Mid-term Review date ⁶ :	
Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):	March-June 2021
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date ⁷ :	March 2024
Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)	Yes

Overall ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	<i>Satisfactory</i>
Overall implementation progress rating:	<i>Satisfactory</i>
Overall risk rating:	<i>Low Risk</i>

ESS risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	Low Risk
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Status

Implementation Status (1 st PIR, 2 nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	5 th PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Coordinator (PC)	Makhmud Shaumarov, Regional Program Coordinator	Makhmud.shaumarov@fao.org
Budget Holder (BH)	Viorel Gutu, SEC-SRC and FAO Representative in Turkey	Viorel.Gutu@fao.org
GEF Operational Focal Point (GEF OFP)	KAZ: Ms Zulfiya Suleimenova KRG: Mr Chyngyz Kochorov TJK: Mr Sheralizoda Bahodur TUR: Mr Ebubekir Gizligider TKM: Mr Berdi Berdiyev UZB: Mr Jakhongir Talipov	
Lead Technical Officer (LTO)	Ekrem Yazici, Forestry Officer, FAO-UNECE	Ekrem.Yazici@fao.org
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	Kaan Evren Basaran	Kaan.Basaran@fao.org

⁶ The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2nd PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

⁷ The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective)

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

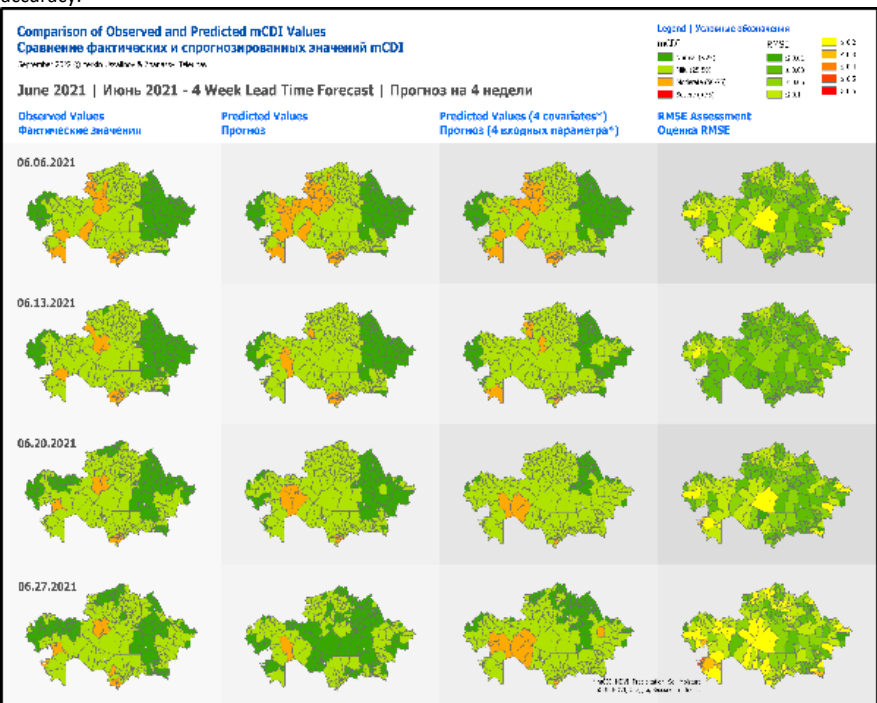
<i>Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.</i>							
Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators ⁸	Baseline	Mid-term Target ⁹	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress ¹⁰ since project start Level (and %) at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹¹
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 NAP processes	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 mainland-use systems in Central Asia	ELD for Central Asia informs INRM policies in 5 CA countries	<p>A harmonized common methodology on Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) was developed and completed at regional level for Central Asian countries. National level data collection and analyses for assessing ELD are ongoing. The reports are expected to complete and discuss with national holders by mid 2024.</p> <p>Assessment of potential value chain development for alternative crops conducted in KAZ, KYR, TJK and UZB for applying drought-tolerant and salt-resistant crops.</p> <p>The Regional Program of SDGs Implementation in Central Asia for 2020-2030 was developed by ICSD and CACILM2 project was actively participated in the development of this document.</p> <p>The programs and projects in the field of combating land degradation, agricultural development, reforestation and water resources management, implemented by international financial and donor institutions were analyzed. Potential 27 international financial institutions have been identified with grant and credit programs for technical support and financing of SLM/INRM/CSA practices with a focus on land, forest and pasture restoration, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.</p> <p>The financial and economic assessments SLM/INRM have been conducted using cost-benefit tools in five CA countries. These results are used in meetings and discussing SLM upscaling and investments with national partners and decision-makers.</p> <p>Assessment of GHG emission balance was conducted in all project pilot areas in CA countries where SLM/INRM technologies are applied. The results show that a total amount of GHG balance with</p>	HS

⁸ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Please report on results obtained in terms of Global Environmental Benefits and Socio-economic co-benefits as well.

¹¹ Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory (HS)**, **Satisfactory (S)**, **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**, **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)**, **Unsatisfactory (U)**, and **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)**. Refer to Annex 1.

						<p>projected 20 years period will be reduced/avoided by 8.9 CO2e tons in the project's SLM upscaling territories.</p> <p>The socio-economic conditions of the farmers in project sites on various dimensions have been assessed through surveys and in-depth interviews and relevant indicators have been collected.</p> <p>Decision-support tools such as AquaCrop for crop-water balancing and yield optimization are being implemented in TJK, TKM and UZB. The AquaCrop Analytical Center is being established in UZB jointly with the Ministry of Water Resources to institutionalize this tool at country level and to ensure its sustainability.</p>	
<p>Outcome 1.2: Enhanced interstate dialogue, multi-country collaboration and information sharing to promote investment for INRM scaling up</p>	<p>Sustainable mechanism for regional collaboration in place Decentralized KM system functioning Regional INRM/SLM community of practice</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>CACILM-2 management structures and a decentralized KM platform in place and functioning Regional INRM/SLM community of practice in place</p>	<p>CACILM-2 management structures and a decentralized KM platform functioning and sustainable Regional INRM/SLM community of practice supports science-practitioner-policy/ decision makers dialogue</p>	<p>The Regional Knowledge Management Platform for Central Asia is being developed jointly with WOCAT to update the global database of SLM/INRM technologies and practices from the CA Countries.</p> <p>Regional Drought Forecasting (early warning system) models with dynamic maps using 20 years climatic data have been developed and tested in Kazakhstan (National Geoportal). Currently, the 4-week drought forecasting model (using Modified Climate Deficit Index) works well with 90% accuracy.</p>	 <p>Comparison of Observed and Predicted mCDI Values Сравнение фактических и спрогнозированных значений mCDI June 2021 Июнь 2021 - 4 Week Lead Time Forecast Прогноз на 4 недели</p> <p>Legend Условная обозначка mCDI: > 0.2 (Red), 0.1-0.2 (Orange), < 0.1 (Green) RMSE: > 0.2 (Red), 0.1-0.2 (Orange), < 0.1 (Green)</p> <p>Observed Values Фактические значения Predicted Values Прогноз Predicted Values (4 weeks lead time*) Прогноз (4-недельный параметр*) RMSE Assessment Оценка RMSE</p> <p>06.06.2021 06.13.2021 06.20.2021 06.27.2021</p>	<p>HS</p>

The project team contributed to development of online mapping system with LDN monitoring data for supporting decision-making process in SLM/INRM investments and upscaling. Available at: <https://projectgeffao.users.earthengine.app/view/reu-ldn-assessment>

					<p>Strategic partnerships and Regional Consultations with IFI's such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank are ongoing to attract investments into upscaling SLM/INRM technologies, which were tested and demonstrated by the project, at national level.</p> <p>Particularly, in KAZ a joint GEF-7 project on Forestry and Pasture Landscape Restoration has been developed jointly with the World Bank team and launched for upscaling landscape restoration and Sustainable Pasture Management approaches in KAZ.</p> <p>In addition, the project team supported readiness process of the World Bank's RESILAND+ program in UZB, which will attract an additional \$ 153 million USD into SLM/INRM upscaling (landscape restoration approaches) in the country. The partnership includes also joint development of the program and potential joint implementation.</p> <p>In Kyrgyzstan, the project team supported development and launching of the Islamic Development Bank's loan program with total budget \$ 59.5 million USD on Irrigation for Irrigated Agriculture Development in Naryn and Issyk-Kul Regions in Kyrgyzstan. Joint activities on institutional and community capacity development on water saving approaches, climate-smart agriculture, Farmer Field Schools, value chain development etc. are ongoing in support of irrigation infrastructure development activities of the Bank.</p> <p>Joint cooperation with Global Soil Partnership program and private startup Boomitra (carbon marketplace) is ongoing to develop soil carbon finance mechanism in KAZ and UZB. Currently, a pasture land area of at least one million hectares, soil sampling and analysis, ground truthing of soil carbon sequestration, national financial scheme to accommodate the carbon credits, institutional mechanisms etc. are being analyzed and prepared to develop bold incentives for the landscape restoration both at national government and farm levels.</p> <p>The project team contributes also to national working groups and policy dialogue with development partners on SLM, SFM and INRM thematic areas.</p> <p>An analytical overview was prepared for all CA countries. Potential areas for "Restoration of degraded landscapes, forests and watersheds" have been identified and a concept note of a project proposal for a new watershed in the Aral Sea Basin has been completed.</p> <p>The project team participate in relevant internal and external trainings on an ongoing basis. During the reporting period the project staff have participated in 16 professional and personal capacity building events.</p> <p>The project outreach materials and news releases are regularly published in five countries of Central Asia. 201 CACILM-2 project stories and press releases were published by mass media in CA countries. The 4th issue of information bulletin "Dialogue" was prepared and disseminated among all CACILM-2 partners. 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.</p> <p>The project best practice on women's economic empowerment was presented in the sub-regional event on "Women Summit in CA and Afghanistan" organized by USAID in August 2021. Multiple reports and ToRs were reviewed by Gender expert and feedbacks were provided.</p>	
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						<p>Regional trainings and international workshops were conducted regularly in Türkiye, including field visits to Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Directorate of Combatting Desertification, Forestry Directorate, Agriculture Research Directorate to exchange experience and transfer knowledge with national policy-makers. A high-level study tours, international trainings on SNRM, land restoration, combatting desertification, institutional and financial mechanism of LDN, technological tools and mapping systems, field visits to demonstrate practices of SLM and SFM are regularly organized in Ankara, Konya and Mersin for CA delegates.</p>	
	<p>Outcome 2.1: Resilience integrated across natural resources management (NRM) sectors and production landscapes</p>	<p>Resilience principles integrated into national agricultural, water resources management and environmental plans and investment frameworks, policies and programs</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Resilience integrated into key national policy frameworks and productive sectors in all CA countries using the RAPTA approach.</p>	<p>Resilience integrated into key national policy frameworks and productive sectors in all CA countries using the RAPTA approach.</p>	<p>Kazakhstan: - National Consultant was recruited to support national partner in the development of the National Action Plan and Strategy on combatting desertification. The final draft of the NAP was submitted to the MoA for further discussion with other stakeholders. A meeting is planned to be organized with all stakeholders to present final NAP. - Agricultural drought forecasting model for 4, 8 and 12 months was prepared and geoportal developed (for internal use only: https://drought.erkin.us). Next step is presentation to the national counterparts and discuss the possibility to handover to the relevant authority for sustainability of the product. - NCB meeting was held (included) to the World Soil Day Conference organized by project on December 3, 2022 in Nur-Sultan to present project results and plans, and discuss recommendation on soil management. - Active involvement was maintained in the working group of the Majilis and joint meetings with project partners to plan for activities in 2023 - The webinar on Sustainable Management of pasture resources has been conducted. Webinar produced a number of tangible results that will contribute to a better understanding of approaches to pasture resource management and recommendations for necessary actions towards achieving sustainable management of pasture resources to reduce soil degradation at the national level will be developed. - A meeting was held with the akimat of Tselinogradsky district to discuss the expansion of sustainable pasture development practices, involving both men and women participants. The plan is to collaborate with the akimat and develop Sustainable Pasture Management Plans in a new agreement with the RI of Livestock and Fodder Production. - The World Soil Day conference showcased collaborative efforts between CACILM-2 project and partners in implementing sustainable land management practices, gaining enhanced visibility through informational materials distribution.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan: A training session on the SHARP tool was held on October 6, 2022, for specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture and other project partners. A seminar was conducted on December 20, 2022, to conclude the CACILM-2 project in Kyrgyz Republic. Representatives from project partners attended to review results, assess achievements, and plan for further scaling up of project outcomes.</p> <p>Tajikistan: Re-engagement of NC Institutional Analysis Expert to support implementation of recommendations to integrate resilience factors into RD policies is ongoing.</p> <p>Turkmenistan: - Regular informal meetings with the working group on monitoring and planning project activities were held. - Draft Law "On Soils" developed and submitted; Project hiring PILA expert for National Policy Dialogue on Forestry and land restoration in FAO-UNECE Joint Programme.</p>	<p>HS</p>

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducted ToT for staff of strategic project partners and other agriculture universities in Uzbekistan. . - Established "Sara Urug Yangi Hayot" cooperative, providing farmers with high-quality seeds for drought and salt-tolerant crops, focusing on climate adaptation and reducing soil degradation. Procured seed processing machine to improve seed quality and market availability. - The project conducted a number value chain analysis of the drought and salt tolerant crops in the country consisting: Pistachios, and Pulses. It gave clear indication that current climate change and water scarcity in the country requires to shift some of the high-water consuming crops drought-tolerant crops, which will not compromise in the cost and benefits. Hence the project is developing the recommendation country wide with economic analysis and direction with full-fledged value chain options. <p>Turkey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actively participates in CACILM-2 regional activities through an exchange of knowledge mechanism. - Benefits from the experiences of other project countries and also shares their own experiences with them. - Represents itself as a CACILM-2 project member country and participates in various online regional events, such as conferences, workshops, and trainings organized under CACILM-2. - In July 2023, Türkiye will host a Technical Study Tour organized under CACILM-2 for representatives from decision-making levels in CACILM-2 project countries. The tour will aim to enhance the capacity of project stakeholders in integrated natural resource management and combating desertification. - Key experiences of Türkiye, such as the Land Use Classification and Monitoring System (UASIS), Dynamic Erosion Monitoring System (DEMIS), National Land Use Classification and Monitoring System (UASIS), Land Degradation Neutrality Monitoring System (LDN Monitoring), sustainable agricultural practices, and planning and management structure of forest resources, have been shared with CACILM-2 project countries in various events organized under CACILM-2. - Türkiye has undertaken several national and international events, model projects, and research projects in the scope of co-financed activities, as indicated in Türkiye Co-Financing Reports. - CACILM-2 serves as an important umbrella project to support the enhancement of synergies among CACILM-2 countries. 	
<p>Outcome 3.1: Upscaling of a proactive drought risk management (DRM) approach and innovative integrated natural resources management (INRM) technologies in selected production landscapes /</p>	<p>Improved DRM approaches and INRM technologies /best practices applied on xx ha</p> <p>Number of people (#) with improved income (at least 25%) from</p>	0	<p>152 204 ha 84,657 (Optional to add, "... for demonstration areas")</p>	<p>1 375 165 ha 169,755 (Optional to add, "... for demonstration areas, 785,941 for upscaling areas")</p>	<p>Kazakhstan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field trials and demonstrations of drought and salt-tolerant pasture crops were conducted at the experimental station in the Almaty region. Seeds were harvested and distributed among farmers for fodder production and pastures re-cultivation. - An online capacity-building event on "Sustainable management of rangeland resources in Kazakhstan" was held on April 13, 2023, with participation from various stakeholders, including young scientists, farmers, entrepreneurs, women's initiatives, and speakers from international organizations. - 3 pasture use plans of 3 farms were prepared with a total area of 3000ha were prepared and demonstrated during the field days. - Weighbridge scale for the project partner RSE Livestock and Fodder Production, has been procured. The equipment is planned to be used within the contract activities for weighing grain and hay. Also, it will be used during the certification of the SP to obtain seed producer certificate. - The structure and content of the draft roadmap for farmer's use for scaling sugar sorghum crops in the KZO was drafted. For further development and adoption of the plan it is necessary to discuss it with the MoA and local government. - The seminar "Management of saline soils for a sustainable future" organized by the International Network of Saline Soils (INSAS) in Tashkent has been attended with the participation of partners (5 partners and 2 project team). Thesis has been prepared. <p>Kyrgyzstan:</p>	S	

	land use systems (e.g. pastoral, agro-sylvo-pastoral, tree-based, irrigated, rainfed, home gardens)	improved practices				<p>The project developed technical descriptions for three innovative technologies and transferred them to the Ministry of Agriculture for dissemination. These technologies were successfully implemented on project sites, addressing water supply problems and covering various areas. All project activities were completed efficiently and on time.</p> <p>Turkmenistan: The development of land use plans for mountainous and irrigated areas is under consideration - Trainings were held for farmers in Dashoguz (irrigated area) and Ahal Provinces (desert area). 2-day Training for farmers/tenants, local specialists of the water, agro-industrial and forestry sectors "The importance of model plots to combat the processes of salinization of irrigated lands to improve their ameliorative condition" in Dashoguz Province. - A practical seminar "Methods of sustainable management of desert pastures in the context of increased drought and desertification processes in the Central Karakum" was held on June 17 at the State Nature Reserve "Bereketli Garagum" devoted to World Desertification Day. - A plan of capacity-building activities for the second semester was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection (MAEPT) and FAOSEC (Food and Agriculture Organization Subregional Office for Central Asia). - The project focused on using resource-saving technologies to combat drought and salinity. This included procuring resource-saving agricultural equipment (mini-tractors, motoblocks, no-till planter) and implementing water catchment/water-saving technologies such as constructing wells, sardobas, and a drip irrigation system. - About 50,000 seedlings of desert species (saksaul, cherkez, etc.) grown at the nurseries of the project pilot areas were disseminated among various stakeholders for planting for drought mitigation and combat desertification processes.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: - Crop rotation plans were developed for farmers in the Bukhara and Kamashi districts. A guide on organizing educational training for improving agricultural consulting organizations' employees' skills in managing drought-affected lands with resource-saving technologies was created, along with principles of adult education. Six national/regional level trainings were conducted for strategic project organizations, agriculture universities, research institutes, farmers, and households. The project also implemented various agricultural practices, including planting double crops, sowing winter crops, laser land leveling, subsoiling, and soil reclamation, as well as planting salt and drought-tolerant crops and producing catch crop seeds.</p>	
	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%)	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")	<p>Kazakhstan: - Two field days were conducted in Karaultobe, Kyzylorda region in July 2022 to demonstrate the project's results in combating salinization and rehabilitating degraded irrigated lands. - Support has been initiated for the Hydrogeological and Land Reclamation Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MoA) in acquiring soil measurement equipment. Purchased: 6 sets of IT equipment and tablets for assessing irrigated land improvement. This Institution monitor saline soils and collaborate with the project within the soil salinity mapping activity. - Salinity Management manual in Russian language has been registered in PWS system and published in FAO webpage. The manual has been translated to Kazakh and English languages. The work on design is ongoing. - SDP training for farmers in Kyzylorda, Almaty, and Turkestan regions was conducted. Soil salinity kits and conductometers were purchased for training purposes. - Monitoring and assessment of the condition of project sites in the Almaty and Zhetisu regions was carried out. Three pilot territories located in Koldi, "Akylbay" farming in Tekeli, "Bereke" farming in Kapal, "Duisembinov" farming in Karabulak, "Sayat" and "Murager" located in Sumbe has been monitored and recommendations were given.</p>	S

		<p>from improved practices</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three demonstration field days were conducted in Tekeli, Sumbe, and Koldi under the LoA with RSE Livestock and Fodder Production. Farmers and local akimat participated, learning about planting technologies in salty and degraded land areas. - 2 success stories have been prepared and included to the project bulletin. <p>Tajikistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The handouts materials prepared and distributed during the training workshops. A brochure on salinity management guidelines developed by ICBA experts under the LoA activities. - The Director of the National Remote Sensing Institute under the Committee of Geodesy and Land use under GoT expressed interest in developing cooperation and confirmed the existence of technical bases and the need to introduce new methodologies. <p>Turkmenistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project supports Turkmen Agricultural University and National Institute of desert, flora and fauna by providing a set of measuring instruments and equipment for quick analysis of soil, water, and plants. These devices will be used for educational and scientific purposes to analyze physical, chemical, and biological indicators. - Project supported the participation of 2 project experts and 3 national counterparts in the second INSAS meeting held in Tashkent and Nukus, Uzbekistan. - Collaboration is underway with FAO Global Soil Partnership Programme for implementation of its tools (GLOSOLAN, Soil Doctors Programme) in TKM. Letter was sent to MAEPT requesting implementation of GSP tools in Dashoguz region. - The project supported the printing of publications on efficient INRM and SLM technologies, including a scientific manual on saline lands development, cultivation recommendations for common almonds, a journal on desert reclamation problems, and manuals on agroreclamation machine technologies and grape storage methods. - The technical specifications (TS) are drafted to support national partners with procurement of various water-saving technologies for the demonstration plot. - A 3ha demonstration plot was created at the Turkmen Agriculture University to test technologies for combating soil salinization and improving fertility. Agro-reclamation measures will reduce salinity, and salt- and drought-resistant crops will be planted with drip irrigation to enhance soil fertility. - Extensive consultations are underway with the management of the Dashoguz Province to support on cleaning interfarm drainage collectors in the pilot area of the project in Akdepe district (50 km) for improvement of soil and crop water productivity. <p>Uzbekistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handbook “Apple and vine sapling propagation and grafting methods” has been published and distributed. - - The project is supporting the World Bank’s Loan RESILAND project preparation by providing inputs based on its findings and tested technologies, including agroforestry, restoration of pasture lands, multiplication of drought and salt-tolerant seeds, and promoting conservation agriculture. 	
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	<p>Outcome 4.1: Project implementation based on adaptive results-based management, monitoring, and reporting for enhanced impact and visibility</p>	<p>M&E system is in place to support adaptive results-based management and monitoring of upscaling resulting from the project.</p>	<p>No system in place</p>	<p>Implemented project based on adaptive results-based management</p>	<p>Project delivers expected results and shares best practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fifth PIR-2023 was submitted to GEF in July 2023. - The team regularly holds weekly planning/reporting meetings with the entire project team, and a weekly action plan is compiled. - Results-Based Monthly Monitoring Reports (RBM) are collected on time. The activities and outputs presented in the RBM reports are monitored monthly in accordance with the Annual Work Plan (AWP). - A monitoring mission was conducted in 4 target districts of the Khatlon region, Tajikistan, and the project team met with beneficiaries to assess project activities. Beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the training provided by the CACILM-2 project. - Monitoring mission conducted in Tashkent, Qashqadaryo, and Bukhara regions of Uzbekistan. Beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with CACILM-2 project training. - In order to monitor results of the progress markers the third assessment will be conducted in August-September 2023 with boundary partners (BPs) in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. <p>For CA countries CBP tool shows that the total volume of avoided GHG emissions from the 369,657 ha project demonstration sites with application of SLM practices in 20 years projection will be equal to 8.9 mln tons of CO₂e.</p> <p>The 6th virtual Project Steering Committee Meeting for the FAO/GEF Project – CACILM-2 took place on February 6, 2023.</p>	<p>HS</p>
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Measures taken to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings on Section 2

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

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as per the Implementation Plan/Annual Workplan)

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
Outcome 1.1 Enhanced knowledge of the costs of land degradation and benefits of INRM, drought preparedness and biosaline agriculture to national economies, and the region as a whole, informs policy and investment decisions at all levels, including NAP processes	Information on the costs of DLDD and benefits of INRM (ELD) informs at least one national policy in each country	ELD for Central Asia informs INRM policies in 5 CA countries		
Output 1.1.1 Harmonized approach across countries for valuation of ecosystem services	Common methodology for valuation of ecosystem services (including ELD) available and informs INRM policies in 5 CA countries	VES and ELD reports on key ecosystem services produced and distributed to inform INRM policies in 5 CA countries	<p>A series of consultations with ICSD/IFAS was conducted to enhance regional collaboration and synergies of activities. The Regional Program of SDGs Implementation in Central Asia for 2020-2030 was developed by ICSD and CACILM2 project actively participated in the development of this document.</p> <p>A harmonized common methodology on Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) was developed and completed at regional level for Central Asian countries. National level data collection and analyses for assessing ELD are ongoing. The reports are expected to complete and discussed with countries by mid 2024.</p>	
Output 1.1.2 Identification of incentives to scale up INRM (e.g. PES schemes)	At least one incentive mechanism identified for each CA country to scale up	5 different incentive mechanisms relevant to CA identified to scale up INRM practices	National project Roadmaps for upscaling SLM/INRM technologies have been developed for KAZ, TKM and UZB. Partnership with IFI's such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank is ongoing to attract investments to upscale SLM/INRM technologies, which were tested by the project, at national level.	

¹² Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

¹³ Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁴ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

	<p>INRM/SLM practices</p>		<p>Particularly, in KAZ a joint GEF-7 project on Forestry and Pasture Landscape Restoration has been developed jointly with the World Bank team and launched for upscaling landscape restoration and Sustainable Pasture Management approaches in KAZ.</p> <p>In addition, the project team supported readiness process of the World Bank’s RESILAND+ program in UZB, which will attract an additional \$ 153,000,000 USD into SLM/INRM upscaling (landscape restoration approaches) in the country. The partnership includes also joint development of the program and potential joint implementation.</p> <p>In Kyrgyzstan, the project team supported development and launching of the Islamic Development Bank’s loan program on Irrigation for Irrigated Agriculture Development in Naryn and Issyk-Kul Regions in Kyrgyzstan. Joint activities on institutional and community capacity development on water saving approaches, climate-smart agriculture, Farmer Field Schools, value chain development etc. are ongoing in support of irrigation infrastructure development activities of the Bank.</p> <p>Joint cooperation with Global Soil Partnership program and private startup Boomitra (carbon marketplace) is ongoing to develop soil carbon finance mechanism in KAZ and UZB. Currently, a pasture land area of at least one million hectares, soil sampling and analysis, ground truthing of soil carbon sequestration, national financial scheme to accommodate the carbon credits, institutional mechanisms etc. are being analysed and prepared to develop bold incentives for the landscape restoration both at national government and farm levels.</p> <p>The programs and projects in the field of combating land degradation, agricultural development, reforestation and water resources management, implemented by international financial and donor institutions were analyzed. Potential 27 international financial institutions have been identified with grant and credit programs for technical support and financing of SLM/INRM/CSA practices with a focus on land, forest and pasture restoration, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. Discussions were held with the project team.</p> <p>The financial and economic assessments have been conducted using cost-benefit tools in five CA countries.</p> <p>Kazakhstan: Financial and economic assessments were conducted, focusing on the cultivation of drought and salt-resistant crops and minimum tillage practices. A field visit to Almaty oblast (Kapal) was conducted to gather primary data through interviews with farmers and agronomists.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan: Analysis was conducted on the cultivation of elite varieties of crops (alfalfa, barley, and sainfoin) and the installation of hydraulic pump, a resource-saving technology.</p> <p>Tajikistan: Analysis was conducted on the cultivation of drought and salt-resistant crops (quinoa, safflower, amaranth, pearl millet, and sorghum), drip irrigation, and composting practices (for various crops such as tomatoes, cucumber, potatoes, maize, strawberry, alfalfa, and melon).</p> <p>Turkmenistan:</p>	
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<p>Outcome 1.2: Enhanced interstate dialogue, multi-country collaboration and information sharing to promote investment for INRM scaling up</p>	<p>Sustainable mechanism for regional collaboration in place Decentralised KM system functioning Regional INRM/SLM community of practice</p>	<p>CACILM-2 management structures and a decentralised KM platform functioning and sustainable Regional INRM/SLM community of practice supports science-practitioners-policy/decision makers dialogue</p>		
<p>Output 1.2.1: Multi-country platform for knowledge consolidation and harmonization on INRM/SLM to support national advisory and climate information services, including early warning systems</p>	<p>Knowledge Management Platform with central orchestrator established and technically functioning Number of agriculture institutions in each CA countries use KM platform for knowledge exchange on SLM/INRM practices Regional collaboration mechanism for decision-makers established under the ICSD to promote investment for</p>	<p>KM platform established and supports national advisory and climate information services, and supports policy and decision-making processes in CA</p>	<p>- An analytical overview was prepared for all CA countries. Potential areas for “Restoration of degraded landscapes, forests and watersheds” have been identified and a concept note of a project proposal for a new watershed in the Aral Sea Basin has been completed. The project proposal was discussed during the GEF-8 Regional Consultation with the project stakeholders in line with the priorities of the participating countries, and to determine the enabling environment for program implementation, including eligibility, economic feasibility, and investment affordability. Based on feedback received from stakeholders, the CN is currently being finalized by the national consultant.</p> <p>- Baseline Assessments on Early Warning System/Drought Risk Management produced by the project specialists in cooperation with the National partners and uploaded on the global FAO web:</p> <p>Kazakhstan: https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB8757EN https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB8757RU</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan: https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB8418EN https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB8418RU</p> <p>Tajikistan: https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB8435EN https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB8435RU</p>	

	INRM/SLM scaling up		Uzbekistan https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CC1905EN	
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 livelihoods (vulnerability)	Tools and methods for monitoring / assessing impacts of land degradation on ecosystem services in place and available in 5 CA countries Number of persons in key institutions per country using DLDD/INRM assessment tools	Tools for DLDD/INRM assessment used for assessing impacts on ecosystem services	The online regional workshop on “Gender mainstreaming in CACILM II: sharing good practices” organized by the CACILM-2 project on 5-6 July 2022. A total of 36 people attended the training (60% women and 40% men). The training report was shared with the REU and the CACILM-2 technical team. The training on gender in agriculture was held in Uzbekistan with the participation of over 20 people representing academic institutions in the Karshi and Kamarshi districts of Uzbekistan. In October 2022, the workshop for nearly 40 women working in the agro-business sector was organised in cooperation with the Kazakhstan Chamber of Commerce “Atameken”. The training was organized with the aim of bridging the gender gap in the business sector, and various tools and learning resources were shared with the beneficiaries. On 14-16 November 2022, a programme meeting was organised in Antalya, Turkey, with the aim of improving the communication and synergy between project staff and national/regional partners. During the programme meeting, the project team met and discussed the project activities with the national partners and a total of 21 people participated. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss many existing opportunities and challenges, discuss the existing solutions and appropriate approaches and the way forward. It is important to maintain this collaboration with colleagues and to refer to them when necessary to strengthen the teamwork and transparency.	
Output 1.2.3: Targeted knowledge and communication products prepared for wide dissemination on the multiple benefits of INRM in selected production landscapes	Project Communication and Outreach plan developed and accepted Project newsletters and other outreach materials, such as audio-visuals, social media and project website uploads, developed and made available based on the Outreach plan	At least 7 Newsletters published and available on project website and in social media At least three audio-visuals developed	In accordance with the CACILM-2 Project Communication Plan for 2022 (agreed with all National Project Managers and approved by the Regional Project Coordinator), 70 articles were published in Central Asian media between July and December 2022. All these publications, initiated by the project, reflect project activities in all Central Asian countries and are based on press releases distributed to all mass media in the region. Project news and human stories have also been actively promoted through the social nets – Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. The CACILM-2 basic video produced in the Central Asian countries and published on the FAO YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwVmG_BIS60&ab_channel=FoodandAgricultureOrganizationoftheUnitedNations (English version) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMz8L4ToAXo&ab_channel=FoodandAgricultureOrganizationoftheUnitedNations (Russian version) Seventh and eighth issues of the project’s quarterly information bulletin “Dialogue” were published and distributed to all partners in Central Asia. Links of the information bulletins are provided below: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iuiBJdkgEhkj1bKBIaGLtMVaPGvo1B1 https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10aDr7YbkfdQX5GDiuuXOWjflLP1xfgoP In November 2022, the Kazakhstan Project Office committed to support 30 greenhouse installations for women from vulnerable groups. The project conducted a call for the application, selection and identification of the greenhouse recipients. Success stories of women farmers in Uzbekistan were collected for publication in the project newsletter.	
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	Resilience integrated into key national policy frameworks and productive sectors in all CA countries		

	frameworks, policies and programs	using the RAPTA approach.		
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	National policy reviews/gap analysis for integration of resilience/sustainability factors available	All CA countries have completed policy reviews and gap analysis for integration of resilience/sustainability factors in RD policies	<p>Kazakhstan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings and discussions of project issues were held with various stakeholders, including participants from Ministries, akimats, representatives of agricultural enterprises, and public organizations. - National Consultant was recruited to support national partner in the development of the National Action Plan and Strategy on combatting desertification. The final draft of the NAP was submitted to the MoA for further discussion with other stakeholders. A meeting is planned to be organized with all stakeholders to present the final NAP. - Visits were made to Akmola and Pavlodar regions to engage stakeholders in discussions regarding the expansion of sustainable development practices for pasture lands. - Active involvement was maintained in the working group of the Majilis and joint meetings with project partners to plan for activities in 2023. <p>Reparations were made for a round table discussion on sustainable pasture management, involving relevant stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A meeting was conducted with the akimat of Yereimentau district to discuss the scaling up of sustainable pasture development practices, culminating in the signing of a Work Plan for 2023. <p>Tadjikistan: Re-engagement of NC Institutional Analysis Expert to support implementation of recommendations to integrate resilience factors into RD policies is ongoing.</p> <p>Turkmenistan:</p> <p>The draft Law of Turkmenistan "On Soils" was developed and submitted to relevant departments for further consideration. Project is in a process of hiring PILA expert for reviewing of national policies, strategies, legal and program documents of Turkmenistan in the field of sustainable forestry management as part of the expected National Policy Dialogue on Forestry and land restoration in the framework of FAO-UNECE Joint Programme.</p> <p>Uzbekistan:</p> <p>Disaster Risk Reduction Report in English and Uzbek versions are published.</p>	
Output 2.1.2: Formulation, review or update of national drought policies, strategies and guidelines for drought preparedness planning	Policy recommendations for updating national drought policies/strategies available	At least 5 new and/or updated national drought policies, strategies and guidelines produced and submitted	<p>Kazakhstan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agricultural drought forecasting model for 4, 8 and 12 months was prepared and geoportal developed (for internal use only: https://drought.erkin.us). Next step is presentation to the national counterparts and discuss the possibility to handover to the relevant authority for sustainability of the product. - NCB meeting was held (included) to the World Soil Day Conference organized by project on December 3, 2022, in Nur-Sultan to present project results and plans, and discuss recommendation on soil management. - Active involvement was maintained in the working group of the Majilis and joint meetings with project partners to plan for activities in 2023 - The webinar on Sustainable Management of pasture resources has been conducted. Webinar produced a number of tangible results that will contribute to a better understanding of approaches to pasture resource management and that recommendations for necessary actions towards achieving sustainable management of pasture resources to reduce soil degradation at the national level will be developed. - A meeting was conducted with the akimat of Tselinogradsky district, to discuss the scaling up of sustainable pasture development practices (women -2 and men – 8). It was planned to collaborate with 	

			<p>the Akimat and support them in the development of the Sustainable pasture management plans. This activity is planned to be included in a new LoA with RI of Livestock and Fodder Production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World Soil Day conference organized on December 2, 2022 with the participation of 88 participants (28 women and 60 men). Results of joint work of CACILM-2 project and project partner in the implementation and dissemination of SLM practices were presented and discussions were held. Visibility of the project has been expanded by distributing visibility materials during the conference (262). - Agricultural drought monitoring maps were uploaded to the ArcGIS Server. The work on further development for the upcoming period is ongoing. <p>Turkmenistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project in close partnership with Scientific-information Center of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (SIC ICSD) supports the development of a new edition of the National Action Program to Combat Desertification - UNCCD National Action Plan (NAP). By the end of the year the draft version of the new edition of the UNCCD NAP is expected to be presented to national partners for further step in approving it at national level. Recommendation documents have been prepared on the integration of the principles and objectives of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) into the National Action Program to Combat Desertification - DRR expert was recruited to assist international experts to finalize the report on Comprehensive analysis of the disaster risk reduction system for the agricultural sector in Turkmenistan. Hired National consultant submitted missing information in the report and responded to comments in the report and provided them to International consultants for review. It is expected that draft version of the report will be finalized and submitted to national partners for review and feedback in July. <p>Uzbekistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservation agriculture strategy has been developed and submitted to the Ministry of agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan 	
<p>Output 2.1.3: Participatory resilience assessment and mapping, and livelihood diagnostics (i.e. SHARP) to support evidence-based decision-making</p>	<p>Resilience assessment using SHARP tool conducted at project demonstration sites and reports available to support evidence-based decision-making</p> <p>Drought vulnerability maps improved and available</p>	<p>10 SHARP assessments produced to support evidence-based decision-making</p> <p>5 maps of drought vulnerability developed and available in 5 CA countries</p>	<p>Kazakhstan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The work on updating of the developed national geoportal on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) indicators is ongoing. In accordance of the request of the national partner Geoportal will be transferred to GISHAGI Institute for further sustainable administration. For this purpose, the GIS laboratory of the GISHAGI will be equipped with some necessary items. https://projectgeffao.users.earthengine.app/view/kazakhstan-ldn - The soil salinization map of Kazakhstan has been upscaled. The map was validated; appropriate territories were identified in terms of the degree of salinity according to the assessments of national experts. An extended addendum to the method of mapping soil salinity with the GSP and the CACILM-2 project team has been developed. - Collection and analysis of data for mapping soil erosion of the Uspensky district of the Pavlodar region was carried out. Now, a methodology for mapping soil erosion is being developed together with GSP. After validation, this technique will be scaled to the entire territory of the country. - WOCAT specialist has been recruited. Project`s 2 SLM technologies and 1 approach were documented in the WOCAT SLM Database. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/technologies/view/technologies_6507/ 2) https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/technologies/view/technologies_6619/ 3) https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_6654/ 	

			<p>- Currently, 2 more technologies are under the documentation.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan:</p> <p>- The training on the SHARP tool for specialists of the Ministry of Agriculture and other partners of the project was held on 6 October 2022. A total of 16 people participated, including 2 women.</p> <p>Turkmenistan:</p> <p>- A partnership was established with the FAO Global Soil Partnership, and it was agreed to organize an introductory meeting to present GSP tools to Turkmen counterparts. Additionally, arrangements were made for advanced training on mapping salt-affected soils.</p> <p>- 2 capacity building events were conducted in collaboration with FAO Global Soil Partnership (FAO GSP tools Introductory workshop and mapping salt-affected soils (SAS) training Part 2.</p> <p>- Project provides assistance to the Land Service of the MAEPT in the creation of a national coordinate system by procurement of geodetic equipment (GNSS base stations, GNSS receivers, CORS software). Procured geodetic equipment has arrived to country and is in the process of custom clearance and installation. After installation of the equipment, series of trainings to strengthen capacities of national counterparts in using GIS technologies is planned jointly with FAO TCP project and UNDP project.</p> <p>Uzbekistan:</p> <p>Land use Maps in the project areas, including Kashkadarya and Bukhara provinces were produced. Also, the project established GIS Laboratory in the national Partner agency, Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemical Research, Tashkent to prepare the Land Use Maps for the country and support the decision makers for better planning cropping patterns in the county considering drought-tolerant and salt-affected areas using SLM and NRM best practices.</p>	
Output 2.1.4: Strengthening of inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms at national level, including mainstreaming of NAPs into national sector budget allocations and investment processes for INRM scaling up	National CACILM Board (NCB) renewed and includes participants from Land, Water, Forest, Finance, Investment etc. sectors	5 NCBs with a minimum of 3 sectors participating in place and functioning	<p>Kazakhstan:</p> <p>- The recruitment of National Consultant on Mainstreaming and Scaling up Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices into Decision-Making Process has been extended and collaboration meeting on pasture management plans with the existing cleared working group has been coordinated.</p> <p>- To strengthen the NCB, the World Food Day conference organized on 02 December 2022. The conference has been conducted in hybrid format with the participation of 88 people, 57 men and 31 women. Representatives from MoA, Committee and departments of Land Degradation, NASEC and project partners from RSE Livestock and Fodder production, Soil Institute and Rice Institutes has participated and presented the works done within the project.</p> <p>World Food Day conference organized:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promo materials has been delivered- 2525 (promo) and 4629 (publication). The conference organization packages have been provided during the World Food Day conference as per the LTA requirements - 3821 (conf-pack) <p>Kyrgyzstan:</p> <p>A seminar (meeting) was held on 20 December 2022, to close the CACILM-2 project in Kyrgyz Republic. Representatives of the project partners from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Association of Pasture Users of Kyrgyz Zhayty, Camp Alatau, associations of water users, forest users and project beneficiaries from the Ayyal aimags participated. The purpose of the meetings was to summarise the results of the project, to evaluate the results achieved and to plan further work on scaling up the results of the project. A total of 26 people attended, including 2 women.</p> <p>Turkmenistan:</p>	

			<p>Regular meetings of the intersectoral working group were conducted to discuss the project results for 2022 and to plan project activities for 2023. These meetings took place in December 2022 and March 2023, and approximately 20 representatives from major project partner agencies participated. The attendees included representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection, the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Water Economy, the Parliament (Mejlis) of Turkmenistan, the Government of Dashoguz and Ahal Provinces, the Turkmen Agriculture University named after S.A. Niyazov, the Turkmen Agriculture Institute, the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, and the Research Center of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD).</p> <p>Uzbekistan: Submitted reports on project activities to the UNCCD Focal Point and reported to the UNCCD boards.</p>	
	Number and types of incentives supporting smallholder farmers to scale up best practices	At least 10 different types incentive mechanisms supporting smallholder farmers to scale up best practices in place in CA countries		
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 and adoption of self-reliant approaches for managing climate variability and change	Partnership established with private, civil, and public sector organizations to support smallholder farmers to scale up CSA / SLM / INRM practices	At least 5 different types of enterprises support smallholder farmers to scale up CSA / SLM / INRM best practices	<p>Kazakhstan: Online Seminar «Women in Agriculture in conditions of adaptation to climate change» on 10 October 2022 has been organized for 40 women farmers. Creation of Community based Greenhouses is ongoing.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan: Proposals for scaling up climate-resistant and water-saving technologies under conditions of drought and water scarcity were prepared. All project activities were implemented efficiently and on time.</p> <p>Tajikistan: The NGO "Bonuvoni Khatlon" was selected as the boundary partner with whom the project interacts directly to contribute to the project's objectives. The progress made by the BP was assessed at the annual workshops, where progress scores were agreed on the basis of agreed criteria. The NGO "Bonuvoni Khatlon" supported smallholders in scaling up INRM practices through several trainings.</p> <p>Turkmenistan: Supported the scaling-up of the best practices and adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CSA):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Construction of 2 nurseries with fencing and drip irrigation system for growing various planting material. 2) Procurement of 25,000 seedlings for needs of forestry departments to expand agroforestry in various soil and climatic conditions of Turkmenistan. 3) Eleven (11) greenhouses were constructed to cater to the needs of the forestry departments for growing planting material. <p>Uzbekistan: -Conducted ToT for staff of strategic project partners and other agriculture universities in Uzbekistan. The total number of participants: 21 (women 2 and men 19). - The project established Farmer's Production Cooperative LLC "Sara Urug Yangi Hayot" at the model site in the Kamashi district of Kashkadarya province. The project mainly developed the institutional part of</p>	

			the model site and cooperative. In this cooperative, farmers have the advantage received high-quality seed varieties to grow and multiply on their land. In the project area, 50-60% of farmers and communities grow drought and salt-tolerant crops such as flax, sesame and safflower oil seeds. The main focus is to test and upscale the drought and salt-tolerant crops while adapting to climate change and reducing soil degradation in arid pasture land. The project procures a seed processing machine to sort the seeds to improve the seed quality and bring drought and salt-tolerant seeds to the market.	
Output 2.2.2: At least 5 resource use efficient and biodiversity friendly food and feed value-chains strengthened	Number of agriculture value chains improved using INRM/SLM/CSA practices	At least 5 agriculture value-chains improved using INRM/SLM/CSA practices in CA countries (e.g., almond-pistachio, forage-livestock, fruit trees, pulses)	<p>Kazakhstan: The report within the LoA with TALAP of financial and economic analysis of the diversification of agricultural production of medium and small farms, an overview of potential value chains, considering the opportunities for women to participate in the process of adding value to rice, melon, sweet sorghum, and sweet clover, and also prepare templates for keeping farm records of costs and benefits of farming activities have been prepared. Consolidated benefits of Crop Diversification in Kyzylorda Region (piloted area) have been prepared in one info graph.</p> <p>Tajikistan: Value Chain Analysis of several crops such as safflower, almonds and cappariss have been carried out and reports are available.</p> <p>Turkmenistan: Value chain assessment expert was hired to conduct analysis of the economic and financial efficiency of using INRM technologies and approaches and analysis of value chains, socio-economic assessment of value chains in agriculture, strengthening of current value chains for livestock production. An analysis was made of the agro-food policy in Turkmenistan in recent years with a focus on sheep breeding and its products. The accumulated material after systematization will be provided for comments and recommendations.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: The project conducted a number value chain analysis of the drought and salt tolerant crops in the country consisting of: Pistachios, and Pulses. It gave clear indication that current climate change and water scarcity in the country emerging to shift some of the high-water consuming crops to drought-tolerant crops, which will not compromise in the cost and benefits. Hence the project is developing the recommendation country wide with economic analysis and direction with full-fledged value chain options.</p>	
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	1 375 165 ha 169,755 (Optional to add, "... for demonstration areas, 785,941 for upscaling areas")		
Output 3.1.1: At least 2 multi-stakeholder land-use plans for selected production	Two multi-stakeholder land-use plans formulated and submitted for	At least 10 multi-stakeholder land-use plans produced	<p>Kazakhstan: Indicator was reached: SPMPs for 2 counties were prepared in 2021. Currently, preparation of the 3 pasture using plans for recultivated pasture for 3 farmers is ongoing.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan: Technical descriptions were developed for three innovative technologies implemented under the project. To further disseminate them nationwide, the developed technical descriptions of these innovative technologies were transferred to the Sectoral Working Group of the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>	

landscapes per country	approval		<p>Turkmenistan: Development of a sustainable pasture management plan with the participation of the local community (assessment, condition analysis and recommendations, trainings, etc.) for livestock farms which were supported by project with water saving technologies (wells, sardobas) has started. The development of land use plans for mountainous and irrigated areas is under consideration.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: Crop rotation plans for farmers of the Bukhara and Kamashi districts have been developed</p>	
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	<p>Number of different kinds of DRM and INRM approaches included in the training curricula</p> <p>Number of national and regional-level training events and workshops support by the project</p>	<p>Training curricula with at least 10 different DRM and INRM approaches produced</p> <p>10 national/regional-level trainings on DRM/INRM approaches conducted</p>	<p>Kazakhstan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field trials and demonstration of drought and salt-tolerant pasture crops of 5 genotypes were conducted at the experimental station in the Almaty region on a total area of 26.1ha in the sowing period of 2022 and 18ha in 2023. In total in 2022 18,7 - ton seeds were harvested from 39ha and distributed among 13 farmers (84.5ha for fodder production and 70 ha for pastures re-cultivation). - Capacity-building in rangeland management and effective use of drought-tolerant forage crops on the theme «Sustainable management of rangeland resources in Kazakhstan» was held in online format on April 13, 2023. Young scientists, farmers, entrepreneurs, women’s initiatives, speakers from international organizations in total 96 participants from 10 countries participated. <p>Turkmenistan: Strengthening the capacity of partners (trainings and seminars):</p> <p>1) Trainings were held for farmers in Dashoguz (irrigated area) and Ahal Provinces (desert area). 2-day Training for farmers/tenants, local specialists of the water, agro-industrial and forestry sectors "The importance of model plots to combat the processes of salinization of irrigated lands to improve their ameliorative condition" in Dashoguz Province. See training report: https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/gavgysyz_kurbanseidov_fao_org/EY9z-J8s_xOjwUr4STmbJoB2j5rKSxPJ5nUaxr4mki4LA?e=PeejMD.</p> <p>2) A practical seminar "Methods of sustainable management of desert pastures in the context of increased drought and desertification processes in the Central Karakum" was held on June 17 at the State Nature Reserve “Bereketli Garagum” devoted to World Desertification Day. https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/gavgysyz_kurbanseidov_fao_org/EY9z-J8s_xOjwUr4STmbJoB2j5rKSxPJ5nUaxr4mki4LA?e=PeejMD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A plan of capacity-building activities for the second semester was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection (MAEPT) and FAOSEC (Food and Agriculture Organization Subregional Office for Central Asia). <p>Uzbekistan:</p> <p>Guide on the organization of educational training on improving the skills of employees of agricultural consulting organizations, training adults and managing drought-affected lands by resource-saving technologies has been developed.</p> <p>Principles of adult education have been developed.</p> <p>6 national/regional level training have been conducted for strategic project organizations, agriculture universities, research institutes, farmers and households.</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 5 habitats, xx tCO2e, 15	<p>Number of best DRM & INRM practices implemented in selected production landscapes</p> <p>Land area (hectares) with drought</p>	<p>At least 5 multi-stakeholder land use plans and 6 DRM and INRM technologies applied</p> <p>239 500 ha</p>	<p>Kazakhstan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2022 the gross yield of drought tolerant fodder crops (sorghum, Sudanese grass, mohar, alfalfa, sainfoin, triticale, zhitnyak) was 187.19 centners, after cleaning it was 152.55 centners. - According to the distribution of drought-resistant fodder crops, seeds were transferred to 13 farms of the Almaty and Akmola regions. - In parallel with the organization of the project site in the village of Koldy, in 2022, forage seeds were distributed among 10 farms (9 farms in Almaty region and 1 in Akmola region). The total area of crops in peasant farms was 84.2 ha. - For further sustainability of the activities carried out within the project, 4 more forage crop genotypes were sown on the fields in Koldy under the FAO project in 2023 (18 ha). 	

<p>% crop water productivity / irrigation efficiency)</p>	<p>mitigation tools and technologies introduced</p>	<p>- Scaling of technologies for the creation of cultivated pastures and the development of a plan for their rational use (assessment of the state of pasture lands of 3 farms on an area of 70 hectares; development of 3 plans for the sustainable use of pastures).</p> <p>- Within the outcome 4 (four) farmers (PF “Baur”, PF “Sayat”, PF “Akylbay”, PF “Zharas”) of Almaty and Zhetysu region received support in the form of barbed wire fence (40 bunches) for fencing crops from animal and petrol (6,040 l.).</p> <p>- The installation works of weighbridge scale has been completed and checked within the support to small households in farming for the project partner RSE Livestock and Fodder Production in December 2022, that will be used within the contract activities for weighing grain and hay.</p> <p>- To increase the project's visibility and awareness of its activities in the field of climate change adaptation and combating desertification, the project contributed with the procurement of sprinkler irrigation system for the Botanical Garden. The equipment has been procured and installed in the "Alleys of Peace" in the Main Botanical Garden in Almaty.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan:</p> <p>- Remote sensors for measuring the amount of water and transmitting it to computers are qualitatively manufactured were installed on a project site with a total area of about 6000 hectares; hydraulic pumps - "Gidrotaran" (pumps operating without electricity and fuel) were qualitatively manufactured and installed on a project site with a total area of 15 hectares. The technology of creating an "artificial glacier" was qualitatively introduced, which will solve water supply problems on an area of 260 ha. All project activities were carried out efficiently and on time.</p> <p>Turkmenistan:</p> <p>Using resource-saving technologies to combat drought and salinity:</p> <p>1) Procurement of resource saving a/c equipment (mini-tractors, motoblocks, no-till planter. Total -25 items).</p> <p>Scaling up effective technologies for water catchment/water saving:</p> <p>2) Construction of 10 wells and 10 sardobas for the needs of livestock farms.</p> <p>3) Drip irrigation system (5 ha).</p> <p>- About 50,000 seedlings of desert species (saksaul, cherkez, etc.) grown at the nurseries of the project pilot areas were disseminated among various stakeholders for planting for drought mitigation and combat desertification processes.</p> <p>Uzbekistan:</p> <p>Double cropped Mung bean, Corn, Sorghum, Pearl millet, Sunflower planted on 520 ha using no-till planter;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter crops were sown on an area of 2890 ha using a no-till planter in October 2022 in Qashqadaryo and Bukhara; • Laser land levelling and subsoiling were done on 2560 ha in Bukhara province • Adopted soil reclamation practice on 3800 ha in Bukhara; • A total of 350 ha of salt and drought tolerant crops were planted in 2022/ 2023 crop growing season in Qashqadarya and Bukhara. • A total of 412 t seeds of catch crops such as corn, mungbean, millet, sorghum, soybean, kidney bean were produced from 520 ha in the project districts. 	
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<p>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)</p>	<p>Improved salinity management and INRM technologies/ best practices applied on XX ha</p> <p>Number of people (#) with improved income (at least 25%) from improved practices</p>	<p>1 215 605 ha</p> <p>162,892 (Optional to add, “... for demonstration areas, 694,749 for upscaling areas”)</p>		
<p>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</p>	<p>Number of guidelines on salinity management developed</p>	<p>4 guidelines (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) produced</p>	<p>Kazakhstan: Guideline on salinity management published in 2022. Currently translation into Kazakh is ongoing.</p> <p>Tajikistan: The handouts materials prepared and distributed during the training workshops. A brochure on on salinity management guidelines developed by ICBA experts under the LoA activities.</p> <p>Turkmenistan: Project supports the Turkmen Agricultural University named after S.A. Niyazov (TAU) and National Institute of desert, flora and fauna (NIDFF) by procuring set of measuring instruments and equipment for quick analysis of soil, water and plants (mobile laboratory complex, pH meter, anemometer, manual nitrogen measurement sensor, soil thermometer, soil and grain moisture meter, penetrometer, plant transpiration rate meter, lysimeter, tensiometer, meteorological station, etc.) for use in the educational and scientific activities of the institutions. These devices will be used by the faculty and scientists of the institutions to analyze the physical, chemical and biological indicators of soil, water and plants.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: Handbook “Apple and vine sapling propagation and grafting methods” has been published and distributed.</p>	
<p>Output 3.2.2: At least 2 specialized institutions / advisory service providers with increased capacities to enhance skills of stakeholders for wide adoption of salinity mitigation approaches and technologies</p>	<p>Number of salinity management and INRM approaches included in the training curricula</p> <p>Number of national and regional-level</p>	<p>Training curricula with at least 10 different salinity management and INRM approaches produced</p> <p>10 national/regional-level trainings on salinity management and</p>	<p>Kazakhstan:</p> <p>Trainings on Soil Doctors Program on soil analysis practices have been conducted in Almaty, Zhambyl, and Turkestan oblasts by partner promoter institutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The trained farmers amounted to 63 individuals - The total land owned by these farmers is 68,959.5 hectares. <p>Two extended demonstration (practical) seminars took place in July 2022 at the I. Zhakhaev Kazakh Rice Research Institute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The seminars focused on introducing and demonstrating new varieties of diversified salt- and drought-tolerant crops. - The number of farmers 29 (7 women) and 26 (2 women). <p>Support has been initiated for the Hydrogeological and Land Reclamation Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MoA) in acquiring soil measurement equipment.</p>	

	training events on salinity management and INRM approached conducted	INRM approaches conducted	<p>Purchased: 6 sets of IT equipment and tablets for assessing irrigated land improvement. Participation in the second INSAS meeting to be conducted in Tashkent and Nukus, Uzbekistan.</p> <p>Turkmenistan: Project supported the participation of 2 project experts and 3 national counterparts in the second INSAS meeting held in Tashkent and Nukus, Uzbekistan. Collaboration is underway with FAO Global Soil Partnership Programme for implementation of its tools (GLOSOLAN, Soil Doctors Programme) in TKM. Letter was sent to MAEPT requesting implementation of GSP tools in Dashoguz region. Project supported the printing of publications on efficient INRM and SLM technologies developed by experts and partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and practical manual "DIGITAL SYSTEM OF DEVELOPMENT OF SALINE LANDS IN TURKMENISTAN" 300 pcs • Manual "Recommendations for the cultivation of common almonds"-200 pcs • Journal " Desert reclamation problems in Turkmenistan" - 300 pcs • Manual "Agroreclamation machine technologies to prevent land salinization in the conditions of Turkmenistan" 200 pcs • Monograph "METHODS OF STORING GRAPES" - 200 pcs <p>The technical specifications (TS) are drafted to support national partners with procurement of various water-saving technologies for the demonstration plot.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: 5 national/regional level training courses have been conducted for project strategic organizations, agriculture universities research institutes, farmers and households. Total number of participants 346 (women 46 and men 138).</p>	
Output 3.2.3: 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 tCO ₂ e, 15% crop water productivity / irrigation efficiency	Number of salinity management plans and INRM practices implemented in selected production landscapes Land area (hectares) under salinity management plans introduced	At least 3 catchment salinity management plans and 3 INRM/SLM technologies applied 28 650 ha	<p>Tracking and updating of the catchment salinity management plans that were completed before the current reporting period is carried out.</p> <p>Kazakhstan: - In the sowing season of 2023, the SP could not upscale salt resistant crop in pilot region (Kyzylorda) due to the seed's shortages, because during the harvest in autumn 2022 seeds were not prepared due to the several reasons (main – lack of the harvesting and seed cleaner machinery). - To continue the work and stabilize the situation in the sowing period the Institute purchased additional seeds of sugar sorghum and sowed 33 hectares for further scaling of this crop. An additional 50ha was cultivated by farm under the support of the project's SP. - The updated Salinity Management manual has been uploaded to the PWS system and passed through 8 to 10 steps, registered and published in FAO webpage. The registration has been completed. - SDP training for farmers in Almaty region by Soil Institute has been started. A total number of participants, 63 farmers, participated. - 2 success stories have been prepared and included into the project bulletin.</p> <p>Tajikistan: The Director of the National Remote Sensing Institute under the Committee of Geodesy and Land use under GoT expressed interest in developing cooperation and confirmed the existence of technical bases and the need to introduce new methodologies.</p> <p>Turkmenistan:</p>	

			<p>- Demonstration plot (3 ha.) was created in the training production farm of the Turkmen Agriculture University with the purpose of testing different technologies to combat soil salinization and improve land fertility. It is planned to carry out various agro-reclamation measures to reduce the level of soil salinity, as well as planting various salt- and drought-resistant fruit crops with drip irrigation (quince, elaeagnus, unabi), as well as other crops (safflower, quinoa, alfalfa, barley, etc.), which will reduce the level of soil salinity and increase its fertility.</p> <p>- Extensive consultations are underway with the management of the Dashoguz Province to support on cleaning interfarm drainage collectors in the pilot area of the project in Akdepe district (50 km) for improvement of soil and crop water productivity.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: The project is supporting the World Bank's Loan RESILAND project preparation (USD 142.0 million worth), while providing the inputs based on the project findings and tested technologies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14.2 thousand hectares of Agroforestry (with value chains in); - 38.5 million hectares of pasture lands will be restored using Sustainable Pasture Management Plans; - Multiplication of drought and salt tolerant seeds; - Conservation agriculture, while promoting no tillage and laser levelling (USD 39.5 million worth of equipment will be purchased). 	
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.	Implemented project based on adaptive results-based management		
Output 4.1.1: M&E system established to measure project progress and impacts in terms of multiple global environmental benefits (GEBs), social and economic benefits	<p>Baseline and targets for global project indicators refined</p> <p>Annual project implementation review (PIR) reports submitted to GEF Secretariat and accepted Six-month</p>	3rd and 4th six-monthly progress reports submitted	<p>- The fifth PIR-2023 was submitted to GEF in July 2023.</p> <p>- The team regularly conducts weekly planning /reporting meetings with the entire project team and weekly action plan was collected.</p> <p>- Results-Based Monthly Monitoring Reports (RBM) are collected on time. The activities and outputs presented in the RBM reports, monitored monthly in accordance with the Annual Work Plan (AWP).</p> <p>- The monitoring mission was conducted for two days in 4 target districts of the Khatlon region, Tajikistan on 11 - 13 October 2022. During the mission, the project team met with 38 beneficiaries of which 26 of them were women farmers. In addition, beneficiaries were randomly interviewed regarding the delivery and use of the demonstration solar dryers and other project activities, including capacity building events. In general, project beneficiaries were satisfied with the training provided by the CACILM-2 project.</p> <p>- The monitoring mission was conducted in the regions of Tashkent, Qashqadaryo and Bukhara, Uzbekistan from 15 to 21 October 2022. During the monitoring mission, the project team met and discussed the project activities with the national stakeholders and 18 project beneficiaries including 3 women were randomly interviewed. Beneficiaries were also interviewed about the provision and use of the no-till planter, greenhouses, and other project activities, including capacity building events. In general, project beneficiaries were satisfied with the training provided by the</p>	

	<p>project progress reports submitted and accepted</p>		<p>CACILM-2 project.- In order to monitor results of the progress markers the third assessment will be conducted in August-September 2023 with boundary partners (BPs) in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.</p> <p>- In Kyrgyzstan, most of the capacity building events were carried out and the BPs achieved most of its outcome challenge. The NGO "Bonuvoni Khatlon" was selected as the boundary partner with whom the project interacts directly to contribute to the project's objectives. The progress made by the BP has been assessed annually during workshops where the progress score is agreed based on agreed criteria. The NGO "Bonuvoni Khatlon" has achieved all progress markers according to the LoA and the final report is available. The selected strategic partners in Uzbekistan are actively working to achieve their progress markers. The third assessment was conducted in December 2022, and the strategic partners are preparing an action plan for the progress markers with low scores to increase the score in the next assessment. Two selected Strategic Partners, the National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna and the Turkmen Agriculture Institute in the Dashoguz city in Turkmenistan, are actively working and the second assessment was conducted in December 2022. The BPs in Kazakhstan provided an action plan for the progress markers, which have low scores.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kazakhstan (mixed, grassland/pasture) - Total incremental difference (Expected Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Benefit) for the report period: -107,677 t CO2e over 20 years, area reported on: 127,648ha • Kyrgyzstan (mixed, grassland/pasture) - Total incremental difference for the report period: -161,134 t CO2e over 20 years, area reported on: 146,098ha. • Tajikistan (cropland) - Total incremental difference for the report period: -48,916 t CO2e over 20 years, area reported on: 1,674ha. • Turkmenistan (mixed) - Total incremental difference for the report period: -48,916 t CO2e over 20 years, area reported on: 21,000ha. • Uzbekistan (mixed) - Total incremental difference for the report period: -73,237 t CO2e over 20 years, area reported on: 73,237ha. <p>The CBP tool shows that the total volume of avoided GHG emissions from the 369,657 ha project demonstration sites with application of SLM practices in 20 years projection will be equal to 8.9 mln tons of CO2e.</p>	
<p><u>Output 4.1.2:</u> <u>Midterm review and final evaluations carried out and reports available</u></p>	<p>Mid-term and final evaluation reports submitted and accepted</p>	<p>Mid-project review recommendations implemented</p>	<p>A project Mid-term review (MTR) was conducted in 6 project countries from February to June 2021 and the report was presented to the PSC members and other key stakeholders. The MTR report was reviewed, and the project's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy was updated as requested by the MTR gender expert. The 5th Project Steering Committee Meeting and Regional Consultations on GEF-8 were held from 28 February to 01 March 2022 (records). The MTR team recommended to extend project for 24 months. This applies to Regional Activities, national activities in Kazakhstan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Due to budget limitation, the project implementation in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was completed in Dec 2022. However, the regional project team will keep seeking opportunities for resource mobilization with International Finance Institutions (IFIs) to attract investments for upscaling SLM/INRM technologies in all 5 countries.</p>	

4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcomes of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR (max 400 words)

During the reporting period, the project team demonstrated very satisfactory progress of the workplan implementation during 2022-2023. The budget delivery of the project reached US\$ 8,624,856 = 79.6 % of the total budget as of 30 June 2023.

The project team, with regular guidance of BH and LTO, operations support of SEC team, and under the leadership of RPC, speeded up the project implementation of major planned activities in the post-COVID-19 pandemic period, through activating field upscaling activities, capacity development events, with the support of national partners and service providers under the LoA.

The project team also improved its visibility and communication with regional mass media institutions, followed up on implementation of the Communication and Visibility Plan. More than 70 project-related articles were published in Central Asian media resources as per CACILM-2 project Communication Plan. The project team also applied its Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategy, M&E Framework, and strengthened the regional dialogue and multi-country partnership with key Government partners, IFIs, private sector and stakeholders. The regional workshop "Gender Mainstreaming in CACILM-2: Sharing Best Practices" was held online on 5-6 July 2022. More than 30 participants, including FAO gender equality experts, national project managers from Central Asian countries, as well as project partners from non-governmental sector and research institutions attended the workshop.

Key programmatic achievements (of major activities of each output):

The project team jointly with the national and international partners conducted more than 15 series of national and regional capacity building events for the farmers, beneficiaries and etc., on the areas of Drought risk management, Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Salinity management, Pasture management, Conservation agriculture, Environmental sustainability in agricultural production, Gender Mainstreaming, Monitoring and Evaluation, Water Resources Management, CSA and other modern technologies; Disease and pest management.

In Kazakhstan, 5 genotypes of drought-resistant and salt-resistant crops were distributed on an area of 26.1 ha. A Soil Doctors Program has been implemented jointly with Global Soil Partnership team to rapidly conduct soil analysis in Almaty, Zhambyl, Turkestan and Kyzylorda Regions (oblasts) by the project partners – Research Institute of Rice Production and by Kazakh Research Institute for Livestock Husbandry and Fodder Production.

In Kyrgyzstan, remote sensors for measuring the amount of irrigation water have been installed. They transmit water outflow data to central computers at District Water Management Department; Hydraulic pumps -"Hydrotaran" (Pumps operating without electricity and fuel) were manufactured and installed on the project site. The technology of creating an "Artificial glacier" has been introduced. All project actions were carried out efficiently and on time. Currently, the project team works jointly with Islamic Development Bank to attract investments for upscaling its remote water monitoring system in 4 districts of Kyrgyzstan.

In Tajikistan, trainings on "Establishment of the seedling nursery", "Agroforestry", "Drying of fruits" and "Drip irrigation" were conducted by BP Bonuvoni Khatlon. According to the work plan, 40 demountable solar dryers were delivered to the project beneficiaries in the Vakhsh, Kishoniyon, A. Jomi and Yovon districts and complemented with capacity building.

In Turkmenistan, Demonstration plot in 3 ha., was created in the training production farm of the Turkmen Agriculture University with the purpose of testing different technologies to combat soil salinization and improve land fertility.

In Uzbekistan, seed production of drought and salt tolerant crops was established and produced 198 tons. 20 small greenhouses, 5 two-wheel tractors, 3 grass mowers, 10 whole diggers, 11,000 seedlings were purchased and delivered to the households in project districts.

Strategic collaboration and partnership with the key national agencies, GEF/UNCCD/UNFCCC FPs, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, IUCN, UNECE, as well as with private international companies (e.g. Boomitra and Terraformation) were strengthened by the CACILM2 Regional Secretariat. The RPC met personally and online with UNCCD, UNFCCC and GEF focal points from CA countries and with the CACILM-2 project Govt partners in Nov 2022, Jan 2023 and June 2023 to ensure support to the project implementation, to strengthen collaboration and partnership for upscaling SLM approaches in the CA region.

The field activities such as FFS, field demos of drought and salinity management technologies, field trainings, M&E missions, were conducted in the project countries.

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.

	FY2023 Development Objective rating ¹⁵	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating ¹⁶	Comments/reasons ¹⁷ justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	HS	HS	<i>The project team achieved the planned the GEF Core Indicators during the reporting period. All recommendations received in the project's MTR report were applied as per AWP in the project countries. The project Upscaling Roadmap was developed for KAZ, TKM and UZB, whereby the team was concentrated on upscaling maximum 3-4 key technologies in each country such as the following: a) Sustainable Pasture Management (KAZ, TKM, UZB); (b) Crop seeds diversification using drought-tolerant and salt-resistant varieties (KAZ, UZB); (c) Agroforestry practices (TKM, UZB); (d) Conservation Agriculture practices (UZB, KAZ); (e) Climate-Smart Agriculture approaches (greenhouses) (KAZ, TJK, TKM, UZB). Since the regional project ends in October 2024, during the reporting period, the RPC was leading the project teams' efforts on achieving GEF target indicators and on upscaling SLM/INRM practices through attracting additional funding and investments from national programs, IFIs and other donors. For example: (i) a joint formulation of project appraisal and components with the World Bank under the current regional programs for upscaling SLM in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan); (ii) joint work with Islamic Development Bank team to upscale SLM and IWRM practices in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan; (iii) Partnership in a joint project on transboundary Livestock value chain development launched in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan funded by German Federal Government in cooperation with the University of Giessen; (iv) developing and submitting project concepts to the national partner organizations and UNCCD FPs to attract GEF-8 cycle funding in the CA countries; (v) applying Extension service into National Strategy and upscaling Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Services (AKIS) in Uzbekistan jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and World Bank etc. Also with the project team and national partners are finalizing the project's Exit Strategy for 2023/2024. Hence, the team concentrates on the key outputs of the project to ensure their institutional sustainability and capacity development.</i>
Budget Holder	HS	HS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project budget delivery rate reached 80% and the team has shown good results both at national and regional components. The project successful implementation is coordinated by RPC, LTO and supported well both by Operations Team in Ankara and in country offices. The project's planned activities are being achieved, communicated and coordinated well with the PSC members and national partner institutions. - The strategic partnership with regional, national & international partners improved after the COVID-19 pandemic situation and the budget delivery rate also progressed considerably. Although the project activities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan ended in October 2022 (due to limited budget), the project team keeps supporting them under the Regional Components in upscaling SLM practices and capacity development activities by attracting additional donors and investment resources. - Project's communication and visibility was strengthened through regular awareness raising in Central Asian media resources and by distribution of project's progress in the quarterly "Dialogue" newsletters to all stakeholders and partners. - Indeed, there were some external risks that the project team regularly faced during the project implementation. For example: (a) price fluctuations due to inflation; (b) Climate change related issues - flooding, drought, precipitation changes, sand & dust storms etc. which occur in the project areas; (c) regular management staff changes in the key ministries and partner organizations, as well as structural changes in Government organizations; (d) exchange rate and

¹⁵ **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁶ **Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁷ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

			<p>currency conversion challenges in procurement process etc. The project team demonstrated flexibility, applied adaptive management principles with technical and operational solutions, and addressed these risks effectively.</p> <p>- The overall project's implementation results are highly satisfactory, and we are confident that relevant GEF Core Indicators will be achieved, and a valuable contribution will be made to the Global Environment Benefits until the final year of the project in 2024.</p>
GEF Operational Focal Point ¹⁸	HS	HS	<p>The project team regularly informed and presented annual plans and results of the project implementation to the GEF FPs and UNCCD FPs. Officially, the project team met and discussed with all representatives during the programme meeting on 14-16 Nov 2022 in Türkiye, and virtually during the 6th PSC Meeting on 6 Feb 2023. The RPC and National Project Managers also met with them in Ashgabat, Astana, Bishkek, Tashkent during the reporting period and informed about the project progress. The FPs feedback is collected regularly and applied in the project implementation process.</p>
Lead Technical Officer ¹⁹	HS	HS	<p>During the reporting period, project implementation results were in general very satisfactory both at regional and national levels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the MTR recommendations are closely followed up; 2. the project's field SLM demonstration activities are ongoing as planned in the AWP-2022/2023; 3. the SLM upscaling roadmaps with selected best SLM practices are developed and applied in project countries; 4. The project Exit Strategy is being formulated with national partners covering the main outputs and outcomes at policy/institutional level. 5. The project's strategic partnership is being extended and now involve work with World Bank, ADB, IsDB, IUCN, GCF, UNECE etc. to attract expertise and investments into upscaling SLM/INRM for the CA countries. <p>Project team made an extra mile to achieve GEF's ambitious upscaling targets, and the SLM/INRM activities are actively progressing in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan by jointly attracting investments from the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank programs in Central Asia. Project team developed project concept notes for GEF-8 program cycle: currently the countries' endorsement and FAO facilitation procedures are ongoing to further mainstream SLM/INRM practices in the CA region with future GEF-8 funding.</p> <p>Project's field technical activities and institutional capacity development are well coordinated and consulted with FAO technical officers, where required. The project implementation/coordination in Turkmenistan have been actively enforced to speed up implementation and delivery for timely completion and achieving planned development outcomes.</p>
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	S	S	<p>The project is delivering a lot of support in piloting relevant interventions to achieve project goals and targets and it is building up networks to further upscale such approaches. The variety and spread of practices that are being delivered and supported are impressive. The upscaling roadmaps and exit strategy will ensure wider and sustained impact from the project's activities. More attention towards the coordinated policies and instruments to institutionalize the uptake of proposed techniques and practices and development of actionable strategies for continued transformation would be beneficial in the final year of the implementation.</p>

¹⁸ In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

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

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

This section is under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. 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 indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

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:

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	Current ESS risk classification 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>

²⁰ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit (Esm-unit@fao.org) should be contacted. The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification (please refer to page 13 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf>)

6. Risks

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified during the project implementation (including COVID-19 related risks). The last column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in the project, as relevant.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
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	Yes	The establishment of mechanisms for INRM planning and SLM scaling up that incorporate 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.	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 are integrated into national and regional policies. Project Logframe was split and fine-tuned to reflect baselines, Targets and Indicators for each project country. Risk Logs were updated for each county. Gender team was hired, and a regional 'Gender Equality and Social Inclusion' Strategy was developed to implement gender mainstreaming activities in the project countries.	An updated risk register will be formulated based on the country log frames, including risk response actions.
2	Building of sufficient capacity and capability of existing national and regional institutions and local authorities will take too long to allow project sustainability	Low	Yes	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.	The project develops a regional Knowledge Management Platform to strengthen regional collaboration and communication among the 5 project countries. 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. Projects annual Capacity Development Plans will be updated accordingly in each country to address institutional capacity building and relevant policies to ensure sustainability.	During the 3rd 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.

²¹ Risk ratings means a rating of accesses the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
3	The catalytic effect of the project on SLM upscaling and investments at regional and national level is limited	Low	Yes	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.	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. Regular ICSD meetings will be utilized as a regional platform to facilitate and integrate such policies into national plans and strategies. On the field level, series of video courses and FFS events are applied to facilitate SLM scale up actions among farmers. Strategic and Boundary partners were identified, and Outcome Maps developed to identify institutions for scaling up SLM practices and to ensure sustainability of the project’s interventions. The national partners are regularly communicated and encouraged to invest into INRM/SLM technologies and scaling up. In 2022/2023 the co-financing amount from the project countries reached trifold compared to initially planned investments.	
4	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.	Moderate	Yes	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.	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 Earth, 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. The project jointly with IAMO team initiated scaling out an insurance schemes based on climate index to compensate drought related risks and losses of farmers at national level.	

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
5	The COVID-19 pandemic continues in the project countries and negatively affect the project implementation.	Moderate	No	This is an external global risk which was ongoing from March 2020 until end of 2022 in Central Asian countries. 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.	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.	In case a new pandemic situation occurs, the project team will apply an adaptive management approach with alternative solutions to achieve project results: all planned regional and national trainings, meetings, consultations, M&E and important events will be conducted online as required.

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

FY2022 rating	FY2023 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Moderate	Low	The project overall risk rating is Low as the COVID-19 pandemic ended in CA countries compared to the previous two years. The travel restrictions have been lifted in CA counties and the project team can travel to the field missions to meet with partners and to monitor project progress in the field. However, the CC impact risks such as drought, Sand & Dust storms stay in Moderate level as it may affect the project’s field results. This risk may result in seasonal water deficit in the territories and spreading salty minerals with dust storms, which may occur on areas, where the project team implement upscaling of SLM technologies and approaches. On the other hand, the Government’s new strategies/programs on Green Economy demonstrate a political willingness and commitments, which are good signs and create opportunities for extended national investments into upscaling SLM/INRM and agroforestry programs.

7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission (only for projects that have conducted an MTR)

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
Recommendation 1: As the project is entering its remaining phase of 19 months, measuring the performance of the project towards its objective is needed.	The regional project team has a full-time M&E Specialist and Economist, who collects results and monitors project progress towards GEF Core indicators. Following the MTR, the project has 3 core indicators: (1) number of Ha under upscaled SLM technologies; (2) GHG emissions sequestered or avoided, and (3) number of men/women benefited from the project SLM practices and increased income and food security. The M&E Specialist collects data regularly to monitor project's performance under the new GEF Core Indicators: 1st and 2nd indicators are currently well measured and reported. The latter indicator requires more data to be analyzed on upscaling the SLM practices.
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	The national working groups have been established in KAZ, KRG TKM and UZB. In TJK it was not established. The project team will work further with them to strengthen their roles and functions to effectively integrate SLM/INRM at policy level and upscaling.
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	<p>The Project's no-cost extension for 2 years was approved by the Project Steering Committee members. The budget and activity plans (upscaling strategy) were developed for additional extension period.</p> <p>However, the project activities were completed for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in October 2022 due to lack of budget, and the project will not be extended for the next 2 years in these countries. The other 4 countries will continue implementation during the no-cost extension period until October 2024.</p>
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	Project Economist continues socio-economic analysis of SLM technologies and the project's direct/indirect benefits to the beneficiaries. The financial and economic assessments were also conducted using cost-benefit tools and results were presented in analytical reports and tables.
Recommendation 5: To hire a Turkey-based part time NPM for the remaining period of the project	The technical officer was hired in Turkey in early 2022 and workplan was developed to continue project activities in Turkey in close cooperation with the MOAF.
Recommendation 6: The activities supported by Turkey need to be more visible, particularly in progress reports and in communication products	The results of activities in Türkiye are being reported and communicated in the media to enhance visibility.
Recommendation 7: To continue to support governments in strengthening their rural advisory services (extension services)	Based on the current demand from Govt partners the project team continues technical support for Extension Service and FFS development in KAZ, TKM and UZB. The Extension Service Strategic Plan developed by the project in Uzbekistan contributed to develop the National System of Extension Service in the country.

<p>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</p>	<p>Collaboration with CAREC is active and further will be strengthened to synergize SLM activities in the region. Joint activities and CD events were conducted in 2022/2023.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9: The project needs to reach out to international and regional partners seeking more cooperation and possibly collaboration in close relations with national governments</p>	<p>The project team developed a list of current projects and programs in CA region and established dialogue with most of the active partners. Moreover, the project team established partnership with the IFIs to upscale SLM practices under the current and new programs in Central Asia. We will continue collaboration with partner organizations seeking synergies for implementation of similar thematic activities.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Project's Roadmap for scaling up SLM/INRM technologies, including at policy and institutional levels in each country of the project was developed. Strategic and boundary partners have been selected and partnership frameworks have been developed. The team will continue to work in this direction and will make sure to apply FAO Strategy on CD, including applying Farmer Field School approach.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>A webinar format will be further applied for SLM/INRM knowledge sharing, field trainings, FFS and other capacity building events to engage more numbers of participants.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The project sustainability and exit strategy will be revisited and improved. For this purpose, a Roadmap for upscaling SLM/INRM technologies and Exit Strategy with clear project Outcomes have been developed for each country with selected Strategic and Boundary partners. The team will continue to work in this direction at 5 dimensions: policy, institutional, capacity development, and field demo activities and upscaling, and will make sure to maximize the replication of results.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The activities have been revisited and prioritized in consultation with national government partners and considering the latest strategic programs in the region. To address this Recommendation, the SLM/INRM Upscaling Roadmap was developed for KAZ, TKM and UZB, whereby the team concentrated on upscaling maximum 3-4 key technologies in each country such as the following: a) Sustainable Pasture Management (KAZ, TKM, UZB); (b) Crop seeds diversification using drought-tolerant and salt-resistant varieties (KAZ, UZB); (c) Agroforestry practices (TKM, UZB); (d) Conservation Agriculture practices (UZB, KAZ); (e) Climate-Smart Agriculture approaches (greenhouses) (KAZ, TJK, TKM, UZB).</p>
<p>Recommendation 14: To screen the project against the updated GEF policy on Environmental and Social Safeguard.</p>	<p>The project team reviewed and applied GEF ESS guidelines while monitoring the project activities. The project has Low Risk rating, and the project team will keep monitoring risks. However, there is a CC-related systematic risk that needs attention, and the project team will be monitoring it and reporting accordingly to minimize its impact on sustainability of the project results.</p>
<p>Recommendation 15: To increase synergies and knowledge sharing among policy makers, researchers, regional/local administrations, and farmers/land users</p>	<p>The project's capacity building activities involve stakeholders and partners from academia, NGO, private sector, and national organizations relevant to the thematic area. Field Days, Soil Doctors Program, Participatory Learning and Field Workshop methods for capacity development were used intensively by the project. This approach was applied for FFS activities too. The project team will</p>

(beneficiaries) through “field-days” in demonstration areas (pandemic allowing).	continue this approach to involve policymakers, NGOs, farmers, and local administration to the extent possible.
Recommendation 16: To promote CSA and SLM knowledge platform at national level through cost-effective webinars.	National education and research institutions are involved in the development of SLM database and knowledge sharing in the WOCAT regional/national knowledge platform. This will complement the current project activities on development of regional knowledge platforms, which include national level capacity development webinars as well.
Recommendation 17: To implement gender recommendations issued from the gender analysis.	The project’s Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Strategy has been revisited and improved. The gender mainstreaming activities are being followed up accordingly.
Recommendation 18: To introduce the 3 GEF-7 core indicators in the Results Framework of the project.	The project team introduced the GEF-7 Core indicators in the results Framework. The former project’s indicator on “...increased incomes of men/women, and ...food security improved...”, have been modified. The <i>GEF Core Indicator #11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment</i> ” is applied instead of the former indicator and monitored accordingly following the MTR recommendation.

Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize	The project team has developed an exit strategy for KAZ, TKM and UZB. It highlights the main results, key national partners for CD, and strategic outcomes, that the team shall concentrate resources upon in 2023/2024 for implementation and upscaling.
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8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines²². Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework	GEF Core Indicators were integrated	2021/2022	Project Steering Committee
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements			
Financial management			
Implementation schedule	<p>The projects Mid-term Review Team recommended no-cost extension of the project for additional 24 months. This extension applies to KAZ, TKM, UZB and Regional Activities.</p> <p>For KRG and TJK, the project ended in Oct 2022, as NTE planned originally, due to limited available budget.</p>	<p>Original NTE: October 2022</p> <p>Revised NTE: October 2024</p>	Project Steering Committee
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity			
Other minor project amendment (define)			

22 Source: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update>

9. Stakeholders' Engagement

Please report on progress and results and challenges on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan) included at CEO Endorsement/Approval during this reporting period.

Stakeholder name	Role in project execution	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Government Institutions			
National Focal Points for GEF, UNCCD and UNFCCC in the 5 Central Asian countries	Members of the Project Steering Committee.	Full engagement and support from members of the PSC	N/A
The Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan	Key implementing partner in KAZ, responsible for use of agricultural lands, water management and forests	Development and update strategies and action plans for INRM and SLM; ensuring intersectoral interaction between organizations; capacity building of relevant beneficiaries on upscaling SLM and INRM approaches.	N/A
Committee for Land Resources Management of the MoA of Kazakhstan	Key partner on development of salinity and drought vulnerability maps at national level	The project works closely with the Committee on development of salinity and drought vulnerability maps.	N/A
The Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation (MAR) and its specialized Department on Water Management and Reclamation, Kyrgyzstan	Project's key implementation partner in KRG;	The project cooperates with the Ministry on developing and updating national strategies and policies on INRM/SLM; and on ensuring intersectoral collaboration between organizations at landscape level in KRG	N/A
The State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry Kyrgyzstan	Monitoring and coordinating the implementation of environmental legislation related to forest and pasture management	Continued engagement and support on forest and pasture management	N/A
Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CEP)	Project's implementing partner in TJK; FP for UNFCCC, UNCCD and GEF activities in TJK.	Continued full engagement and support from CEP	N/A
Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan	Supports the dissemination of the drought resistant species of trees, the activities planned with specialized nursery of MoA in TJK	Continued engagement and support from MoA	N/A
The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Turkmenistan	Project's implementing partner in TKM; FP for UNFCCC, UNCCD and GEF activities in TKM.	The MoAEP provide the strategic guidance and support in national implementation of the project	N/A
The State Committee on Water Economy of Turkmenistan	Important project partner agency; Conducts the introduction and dissemination of innovative water-saving and drought-resistant technologies to mitigate the effects of climate change and drought;	Demonstration of new achievements of research, engineering, and agricultural technologies	N/A
Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Key project implementing partner in UZB; National coordinator of FAO activities in UZB	Continued full engagement and support from MoA	N/A
Ministry of Water resources the Republic of Uzbekistan	Important project partner agency;	Conducts the introduction and dissemination of innovative water-saving and drought-resistant technologies in UZB	N/A
Uzbek Center for Hydro-meteorological services	National Focal Point for UNFCCC. Supports national activities on Agro-meteo services.	Collaboration on development of drought vulnerability and climate forecast services for agriculture sector strengthened	N/A
State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and the State Cadaster of Uzbekistan	Supports the project activities on GIS mapping, land use change and monitoring, land-use maps, and cartography.	The project works closely with the Committee on GIS mapping, land use change and monitoring,	N/A
State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Ecology and Environmental Protection	National GEF FP. Coordinates and reports national activities on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation	Actively participate on the national campaign "Planting Million Fruit Trees" in Uzbekistan.	N/A
State Forestry Agency of Uzbekistan	National UNCCD FP, supports the project activities on agro-forestry and upscaling landscape restoration	Project team closely works with the new Department for Combatting Desertification and Land Degradation under the Forestry Agency. Working groups on UNCCD implementation was established, CD activities on LDN and mapping for decision-support activities conducted.	N/A

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Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD)	The ICSD provides the political support at multi-country level and promotes sustainable agricultural practices in the region.	ICSD through its regular processes supports the SLM/INRM strategic dialogue on incentives for scaling up INRM across CA countries.	N/A
UNCCD Secretariat	Supports partnership with UNCCD and other relevant conventions, strengthen the science-policy interface on SLM for guiding policy reforms and evidence-based investments.	Partnership with representatives of UNCCD and other relevant conventions on sustainable land management were strengthened	N/A
World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)	Project partner, works on SLM/INRM global database	INRM/SLM best practices have been demonstrated in some countries of CA, drawing on the global WOCAT database for SLM technologies and approaches.	N/A
International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)	Project partner, focuses on addressing salinity issues in the CA region.	Support for crop diversification and use of more salt tolerant crops as well as use of halophytes in crop mixtures in areas with extreme salinization.	N/A
International Platform for Dryland Research and Education	Project partner, focuses on addressing LD issues in the CA region.	Cooperation on LD issues	N/A
Department of Land Cadastre under the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan.	Introduces various mapping tools in KAZ, has national outreach scale	Has mapping tools, where salinity and drought indicators can be integrated.	N/A
National Agrarian Science and Education Centre (NASEC, KAZ)	Upscaling of DRM and SM technologies and approaches	The project collaborates with NASEC in capacity building activities.	N/A
Kazakh Research Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry after U.U.Usmanov	Specializes on introduction of sustainable soil management practices for ameliorating salt-affected soils at the project sites.	The project cooperate with Institute on sustainable soil management practices for ameliorating salt-affected soils at the project sites.	N/A
Kazakh Research Institute of Livestock and Fodder Production	Project partner, focuses on addressing livestock and pastoral production issues in KAZ.	The project cooperate with Institute on production and distribution of drought resilient crops, improved pasture management, Conservation Agriculture practices, and supporting seed production systems	N/A
Kazakh Research Institute of Rice Production	Project partner, focuses on addressing salinity issues in KAZ.	Demonstration activities on upscaling of practices on combatting salinization and rehabilitation of degraded irrigated lands in Kyzylorda region.	N/A
State design Institute for land management - Kyrgyzgiprozem	Digitalization of land use maps for the country. Introduction of new mapping tools	Monitoring of the activities of Kyrgyzgiprozem to expand the digitization of land-use maps and the digitization of geobotanical maps was conducted in October 2021.	N/A
Agency on Hydrometeorology, Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan	Potential partner for applying FAO tools on drought vulnerability mapping and crop water requirements estimation	Continued engagement and support from Agency	N/A
Soil Institute under Tajik Academy of Agricultural Science	Supports dissemination of drought and salt resistant crops and technologies	Continued engagement and support from Soil Institute	N/A
The National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna, Turkmenistan	Supports implementation of project activities in TKM, CD and knowledge dissemination on SLM	Jointly with partner experts of National Institute of desert, flora and fauna several booklets/brochures on various INRM and SLM practices was developed and published	N/A
Tashkent state agrarian university	Project partner in CD and development of Extension service in UZB	Project supports the capacity development of university staff, researches in adoption of new technologies and approaches in SLM.	N/A
Agricultural Economics Research Institute, UZB	Project partner in value chain development and CD in UZB	Supporting the development of Crop Value Chain and conducting capacity building for project beneficiaries in Value Chain	N/A
Kashkadarya Branch of Scientific Research Institute of Grain and Legume Crops	Project partner, conducts field demo works on SLM/INRM technologies and drought-resistant crops production in UZB	Collaboration on drought-resistant crops production	N/A
Bukhara branch of Tashkent institute of irrigation and agricultural mechanization engineers.	Project partner, conducts field demo works on SLM/INRM technologies and salt-resistant crops production in UZB	Project supports the provision of technologies and facilities, introduction and scaling up of drought/salt resistant crops in local project sites.	N/A
UzGIP (Research institute for land and water infrastructure projects), UZB	Specialized in demonstration of land melioration and salinity management activities at project sites in UZB	Collaboration on land melioration and salinity management at project sites.	N/A
Non-Government organizations (NGOs)			
German Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ)	Development partner, has regional programs on similar thematic areas	Important partner for synergy and collaboration to scale-up SLM at regional level	N/A

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Wageningen Research Center, The Netherlands (WUR)	Supports development of national Extension Service strategy in UZB	Currently develops Agriculture knowledge innovation system together with the project team and national partners in UZB	N/A
Central Asia Regional Environmental Center (CAREC)	A regional platform for cooperation on environmental rehabilitation	Collaboration on environmental rehabilitation	N/A
Association of individual entrepreneurs and legal entities "Kazakhstan growers union"	Works on land use plans development at project sites in KAZ	The Service Provider worked on land use plans development in project sites.	N/A
Public Organization "Bonuvoni of Khatlon", TJK	The joint activities implemented to distribute drip irrigation systems and arrange a ToT workshop to apply water use efficiency technologies	Continued engagement and support from PO. ToT workshop was arranged by PO	N/A
The Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan	Conducts the implementation of sustainable food and supply chains in light of climate change and increasing drought	Collaboration on agribusiness development with the most efficient and profitable production	N/A
Republican Association "Uzbek qorakuli"	Supports the project activities on development of sustainable pasture management plans and land rehabilitation.	Continued engagement and support from Republican Association	N/A
NGO "Innovations and scientific research Cluster on sustainable development"	Service provider is specialized in water use efficiency for irrigation.	Continued engagement and support on water use efficiency for irrigation.	N/A
Research Institutions			
International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)	Focuses on agriculture R4D and CD in drylands	Resource-poor farmers related and their access to knowledge and innovations related to INRM. It supports the project through its Central Asia office in Tashkent.	N/A
Bioversity International	Bioversity is a member of the CGIAR Consortium and has a regional office in Central Asia.	Bioversity involved in implementation of activities related to agroforestry, distribution and multiplication of the local drought resistant species.	N/A
University of Central Asia	UCA's mission is to promote the social and economic development of Central Asia	UCA supports the project through its research programs and campuses in the region and through linkages with WOCAT	N/A
New stakeholders identified/engaged			
UNEP Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia		9 stakeholders from Kazakh Research Institute of Livestock and Fodder Production, During the UNEP training on the land cover digitalization conducted in Almaty, Kazakhstan	N/A
NGO "Zamin Foundation"	Rural development partner in Uzbekistan	Involved in youth capacity development and upscaling Greenhouses practices to build resilience of socially vulnerable households and women to CC risks.	
World Bank	Global donor (IFI) with ongoing loan/grant programs in Central Asia	Collaboration on upscaling SLM/INRM practices in UZB and KAZ. A new TCPf was launched to boost joint activities and to launch RESILAND+ program in UZB.	
Islamic Development Bank	Global donor (IFI) with ongoing loan/grant programs in Central Asia	Collaboration on upscaling SLM/INRM practices in UZB and KAZ. FAO TCPf project was launched in 2022 and a new CGP project is planned to be launched to facilitate joint activities in upscaling INRM technologies in KRG and UZB.	
Asian Development Bank	Global donor (IFI) with ongoing loan/grant programs in Central Asia	Collaboration on upscaling SLM/INRM practices in UZB: soil carbon finance project	
Boomitra	International startup, – global marketplace for soil carbon financing	Collaboration on upscaling SLM/INRM practices in KAZ and UZB on soil carbon finance projects.	
Terraformation	International startup, – global marketplace for forestry carbon financing	Collaboration on upscaling SLM/INRM practices in UZB on forestry carbon finance project.	

10. Gender Mainstreaming

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

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Yes	Project included gender mainstreaming analysis into project's Annual Working Plan. The ToR for hiring experts, concept notes and event descriptions were revised and GESI was mainstreamed to achieve better participation of women and youth in project's activities.
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	KAZ project team has conducted standalone workshop for 40 women in partnership with "Atameken" chamber of commerce in Kazakhstan. The training included various learning and awareness raising themes on empowerment of local women. After the training, it's been distributed among the participants on potential opportunities on benefiting from "greenhouse" construction activity organised under KAZ cluster.
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Project both distributes resources to farmers in UZB and KAZ, and actively engages women and youth (achieving at least 30% of total audience participation) at locally organising learning initiatives.
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Project beneficiaries are fully involved in all field trainings with at least 30% of representing the total audience.
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	Under FFS in KRG, TJK, TKM and UZB, women are learning different tools relevant to crop production, land management and sales that will contribute to their economic growth in a long run evaluation.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	All training and learning participants are tracked and registered in disaggregated manner. In Total in reporting period - project targeted 279 women and 689 men.
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	Project has hired gender expert who consults the project from 2020 up till present.

11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval, during this reporting period.	
<p>Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.</p>	<p>- The project selected WOCAT as the best service provider to develop a regional knowledge management platform on SLM. A letter of agreement was signed between WOCAT and the project. Fully completed a functional version of the knowledge management platform and available for publishing. The platform is being unloaded with SLM technologies from the CA countries and planned to be translated into the local languages of Central Asian countries to involve more institutional for participation and using the platform.</p> <p>- The project team participate in relevant internal and external trainings on an ongoing basis. During the reporting period the project staff have participated in 16 professional and personal capacity building events listed below. Besides that, project team organized following capacity building events at national and regional levels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Online regional workshop "Gender mainstreaming in CACILM II: sharing good practices" organized by the CACILM-2 project on 5-6 July 2022. 2. October, the workshop for nearly 40 women working in the agro-business sector was organised in cooperation with the Kazakhstan Chamber of Commerce "Atameken". 3. On 14-16 November 2022, a programme meeting was organised in Antalya, Turkey, with the aim of improving the communication and synergy between project staff and national/regional partners. 4. Regional Workshop on Sustainable Pasture Management, Hybrid WS, March 2023. 5. Panel Session "Addressing soil salinity and irrigation challenges through introducing advanced technologies in Central Asia" on 22 May 2023 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in the frame of International workshop on salt-affected soils: Managing Salt-Affected Soils for Sustainable Future, 22 May 2023, Tashkent, Uzbekistan <p>- Joint workshops and conferences with the Global Soil Partnership, Tashkent-Nukus 22-26 May 2023</p> <p>Knowledge management (KM) was essential to CACILM-2 to understand and disseminate successful and innovative SLM/INRM approaches and technologies having a high potential for implementation in the different Central Asian agro-ecosystems.</p> <p>That is why the project conducted evaluation of these technologies performance in field conditions, in 17 pilot areas chosen in all countries-participants.</p> <p>The overall goal was to make rural livelihoods more lucrative and resilient in the face of land degradation, and climate variability and change.</p> <p>To achieve this goal the project is constantly enhancing the CACILM knowledge management component to facilitate widespread dissemination of sustainable land management and INRM practices through dissemination of information, conduct trainings, educational seminars and conferences both on- and offline.</p> <p>The project also actively conduct researches, publish manuals and analyses, as well as publish CACILM-2 best practices on WOCAT portal. It also disseminating success/human stories and articles in the media and social nets (see the chapter on PR and communication).</p> <p>The target groups are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) key decision and policy making units responsible for SLM in each participating country; (ii) non-governmental organizations and rural development agencies working in each country and at regional level; (iii) extension agencies, farmers and farmers' organizations; (iv) and international donor community active in Central Asia
<p>Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.</p>	<p>The project Communication strategy was developed, discussed and approved in 2021.</p> <p>Following the Covid-19 pandemic the situation escalated due to the events in Ukraine. This led to many restrictions and affected the field of communication. The issues of the development of the agricultural sectors, adaptation to climate change and the solution of urgent tasks for the restoration of lost and rational use of natural resources again went to the background. Despite this, the project continues to operate in accordance with the communication strategy and inform partners, beneficiaries and the general public in the countries about the results of work in the region, as well as plans for the future.</p> <p>Project regularly publishes and distributes Project Newsletter "Dialogue" to inform wide audience in Central Asia on the project progress and success stories from the field. This newsletter is being distributed to more than 100 regional media resources, partners and stakeholders in the CA region.</p>
<p>Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected</p>	<p>The project managers in five CA countries are constantly analysing and sharing success stories of the project' beneficiaries and partners. Stories are then included in the newsletter "Dialogue", which is distributed to all project partners in all countries of Central Asia. The list of distribution includes ministries of agriculture and their subdivisions, local authorities, research institutes and organizations, agricultural universities, farmers' associations and other non-governmental organizations, the media in the five</p>

<p>Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.</p>	<p>countries of Central Asia, and other organizations interested in the project mandate, it's activities, results and impact. Stories are also promoted through the social nets, for example in Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook</p>
<p>Please provide links to related website, social media account</p>	<p>Publications in media and social net in the reporting period:</p> <p>https://uza.uz/en/posts/fao-projects-are-monitored-in-uzbekistan_379494 https://uz24.uz/ru/articles/monitoring-proektov-fao https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/post/69499?utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fyandex.ru%2Fnews%2Fsearch%3Ftext%3D https://dunyo.news/ru/news/uz-a-v-uzbekistane-proveden-monitoring-proektov-fao-62a0ac82ba5c8 https://nuz.uz/sobytiya/1245612-v-uzbekistane-proveden-monitoring-proektov-fao.html https://kknews.uz/107718.html https://dunyo.news/ru/news/nuz-v-uzbekistane-proveden-monitoring-proektov-fao-novosti-uzbekistana-segodnya-nuzuz-62a154ffc93f3 https://uza.uz/en/posts/uzbekistan-celebrates-world-day-to-combat-desertification-and-drought_381826 https://uza.uz/ru/posts/prodolzhaya-borbu-s-opustynivaniem-i-zasuxoy_381978 https://nuz.uz/sobytiya/1246308-v-uzbekistane-otmetili-vsemirnyj-den-borby-s-opustynivaniem-i-zasuhoy-2.html https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6943179300221145088/ https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/post/69680?utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fyandex.ru%2Fnews%2Fsearch%3Ftext%3D https://dunyo.news/ru/news/nuz-v-uzbekistane-otmetili-vsemirnyj-den-borby-s-opustynivaniem-i-zasukhoy-novosti-uzbekistana-segodnya-nuzuz-62ab0e39b1cf7 https://mk-kz.kz/economics/2022/06/17/ezhegodny-ushherb-ot-zasukhi-v-centralnoy-azii-ocenivaetsya-v-sotni-milionov-dollarov-ssha.html http://mygorod.kz/?p=11238&utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fyandex.ru%2Fnews%2Fsearch%3Ftext%3D https://bossagro.kz/30168-vsemirnyj-den-po-borbe-s-opustynivaniem-i-zasuxoy-otmechayut-segodnya/ https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/society/20220617/kak-tadzhikistan-preodolet-zasuhu http://ekois.net/17-iyunya-vsemirnyj-den-po-borbe-s-opustynivaniem-i-zasuhoy/ https://www.infoabad.com/1205-17-iyunya-vsemirnyj-den-borby-s-opustynivaniem-i-zasuhoy.html https://orient.tm/ru/post/38257/s-zasuhoy-i-opustynivaniem-borotsya-mozhno-tolko-soobshcha https://centralasia.media/news:1787748 https://www.toptj.com/News/2022/06/17/kak-tadzhikistan-preodolet-zasukhu https://123ru.net/glamour/322493321/ https://agro.kg/ru/news/28446/ https://stanradar.com/news/full/49779-kak-tadzhikistanu-preodolet-zasuhu.html http://www.photo.kg/galereya/osnovnye/ekonomika/4731-v-kyrgyzstan-pribyla-missiya-fao-iz-zhenevy-i-almaty.html http://day.kg/analitic/ekonomicheskoe/93-v-kyrgyzstan-pribyla-missiya-fao-iz-zhenevy-i-almaty.html https://www.time.kg/vremya-ne-zhdet/231440-v-kyrgyzstan-pribyla-missiya-fao-iz-zhenevy-i-almaty.html https://ecostan.kg/vremya-kozhohasha/242-voda-dlya-pastbischa-fao-pomogaet-obespechit-skot-svezhimy-kormami.html http://kg.mirtv.ru/news/132887 https://naryn.turmush.kg/news:470530 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	<p>https://sng.today/ashkhabad/27583-turkmenistan-i-fao-sozdali-novye-pitomniki-v-leshozah-strany.html https://business.com.tm/ru/post/9791/fao-sodeistvuet-realizacii-nacionalnoi-lesnoi-programmy-turkmenistana https://centralasia.news/19366-turkmenistan-i-fao-sozdali-novye-lesopitomniki.html https://sng.fm/24963-turkmenistan-i-fao-sozdali-novye-lesnye-pitomniki-v-respublike.html https://dzen.ru/a/Y9uzaRabTRNST1E3 https://turkmenportal.com/blog/57451/v-turkmenistane-sozdany-dva-lesnyh-pitomnika-i-demonstracionnyi-uchastok https://www.infoabad.com/2034-fao-pomozhet-sozdat-v-turkmenistane-dva-novyh-pitomnika-i-demonstracionnyi-uchastok.html https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7029404443850780672/ https://orient.tm/ru/post/46270/fao-sodejstvuet-realizacii-nacionalnoj-lesnoj-programmy-v-turkmenistane https://www.businesslend.com/news/fao-provides-support-in-increasing-forest-fund-for-turkmenistan/ https://www.yerzemin.com/display/fao-sodeystvuet-realizacii-nacionalnoj-lesnoj-programmy-turkmenistana/234009 https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/post/75288 https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7029405435140972544/ https://yuz.uz/ru/news/oborudovanie-dlya-teplichnogo-biznesa-peredala-fao-fermeram-uzbekistana https://www.advis.ru/php/view_news.php?id=DB048DC9-3DBD-3541-BC5D-0588C90294A5 https://twitter.com/verystrongirl/status/1625032401482141697?s=20&t=ufUjrUo1DiB41SEoBTcTzG https://yuz.uz/ru/news/zemli-budut-monitorit-na-predmet-ix-degradatsii https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/post/75612 https://uza.uz/ru/posts/proveden-analiz-riska-stixinyx-bedstviy-dlya-selskogo-xozyajstva-uzbekistana_455299 https://uz.vesti.news/uzbekistane-proveden-analiz-riska-stihiinyh-bedstvii-23021907244285.htm https://kknews.uz/134947.htm https://fair.ru/uzbekistane-proveden-analiz-riska-stihiinyh-bedstvii-23021906240046.htm https://tafsilar.info/novosti-uzbekistana/proveden-analiz-riska-stihinyh-bedstvij-v-selskom-hozajstve-ruz/ https://nuz.uz/nauka-i-tehnika/1268755-v-uzbekistane-proveden-analiz-riska-stihinyh-bedstvij-dlya-selskogo-hozyajstva.html https://sng.fm/25575-fao-primet-uchastie-v-proekte-turkmenistana-po-sozdaniyu-cifrovogo-zemelnogo-kadastra.html https://arzuw.news/v-institute-turkmenistana-proshla-vstrecha-rabochej-gruppy-fao-gjef https://www.infoabad.com/2372-novye-kolodcy-i-sardoby-pomogut-obvodneniyu-karakumov.html https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7067760876593848320/ https://twitter.com/verystrongirl/status/1661992768229580800 https://www.facebook.com/PressClubInCentralAsia https://business.com.tm/ru/post/10290/pustynya-ozhivaet-v-karakumah-stroyatsya-kolodcy-i-sardoby https://www.yerzemin.com/display/pustynya-ozhivaet-v-karakumah-stroyatsya-kolodcy-i-sardoby/252067 https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/post/77654 https://nuz.uz/nauka-i-tehnika/1278355-uzbekistan-igraet-vedushhuyu-rol-v-razvitii-mezhdunarodnogo-sotrudnichestva-po-borbe-s-zasoleniem-pochv.html https://uz24.uz/ru/articles/borba-s-zasoleniem-pochv https://evu.uz/novosti/uzbekistan-igraet-vedushhuyu-rol-v-razvitii-mezhdunarodnogo-sotrudnichestva-po-borbe-s-zasoleniem-pochv.html https://tafsilar.info/politika/uzbekistan-vedushhij-v-borbe-s-zasoleniem-pochv-krupnye-meroprijatija-v-tashkente/ https://dunyo.news/ru/news/nuz-uzbekistan-igraet-vedushchuyu-rol-v-razvitii-mezhdunarodnogo-sotrudnichestva-po-borbe-s-zasoleniem-pochv-novosti-uzbekistana-segodnya-nuzuz-647c0d2cb3c85 https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/post/77785</p>
<p>Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.</p>	<p>Project information bulletin “Dialogue” https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1laq6eeUC-vtpeApkbhKwhUv_ua6XKV-o</p> <p>WOCAT portal https://qcat.wocat.net/af/accounts/user/2942/</p>
<p>Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point’s name and contact details</p>	<p>Olga Grebennikova – Regional Communication and Outreach Specialist, CACILM-2 project. E-mail: olga.grebennikova@fao.org</p>

12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.

If applicable, please describe the process and current status of on-going/completed, legitimate consultations to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the indigenous communities.

Do indigenous peoples and or local communities have an active participation in the project activities? If yes, briefly describe how.

Local communities actively participate in the project implementation: in Kyrgyzstan the local pastoralists from 11 rural communities participated in capacity development activities to update their Pasture Management Plans and to integrate resilience factors into practice. In Tajikistan, the project worked with rural women incentive groups from 8 villages to develop capacities on SLM and crops diversification using drought-tolerant and salt-resistant crop seeds varieties. In Uzbekistan, the project team has been working with rural households in Kashkadarya and Bukhara Provinces to distribute greenhouses (capacity development on Climate-Smart Agriculture and improving resilience) and to diversify crop seeds by multiplying and distributing drought-tolerant and salt resistant forage crop seeds.

13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²³	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing ²⁴	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	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	\$86,104,978	\$52,619,878	\$100,000,000
National Government	Ministry of agriculture, food industry and melioration of Kyrgyzstan	In-kind/Grant	-	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
National Government	Committee of Environmental Protection of Tajikistan	In-kind	\$1,465,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$1,500,000
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Turkmenistan	Parallel financing: cash and in-kind	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$7,000,000
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey	In-kind/Grant	\$2,000,000	\$1,344,658	\$1,030,860	\$2,000,000
National Government	Ministry of Water Resources of Uzbekistan	Parallel financing: cash and in-kind	\$23,780,000	\$265,027,762	\$123,725,209	\$400,000,000
Multi-lateral Agency	ICARDA	cash and in-kind	\$1,700,000	\$1,935,000	\$1,935,000	\$1,935,000
Multi-lateral Agency	ICBA	cash and in-kind	\$560,000	\$120,800	\$120,800	\$560,00
Multi-lateral Agency	GIZ	Parallel financing: Regional Programs: Green	\$909,500	TBC	-	\$909,500

²³Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other.

²⁴Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions)

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_GN_01_Cofinancing_Guidelines_2018.pdf

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		CA & Integrative & Climate Sensitive Land Use in CA.				
Multi-lateral Agency	ZOI		\$50,000	-	-	-
GEF Agency	FAO	Cash and in-kind	\$11,780,000	\$7,156,302	\$6,086,707	\$16,615,860
International Financial Institution	World Bank	Parallel financing: RESILAND+ program, UZB	--	\$50,000	--	\$153,000,000
International Financial Institution	Islamic Development Bank	Parallel financing: Irrigation & Ag.Dev't Project in Naryn & Issyk Kul, KRG	--	\$10,000,000	--	\$59,500,000
Research and Education Institution	University of Giessen	Joint Project on Livestock Value Chain development in TJK & UZB	--	\$168,000	--	EUR 700,000 (~ US\$785,000)
TOTAL			\$64,885,046	\$380,907,500	\$192,018,454	\$ 745,305,360

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 Objectives Rating. A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
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 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. A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the project’s approved implementation plan.	
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.

Risk rating will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks
Moderate Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks

Annex 2.

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
Kazakhstan (grassland/pasture):				
1. Svetlana (7.5ha)	43°09'58"N	76°06'14"E		Almaty region
2. Beksultan (5ha)	48°14'10"N	80°45'32"E		East-Kazakhstan region
3. Zengi baba (5ha)	44°04'19"N	77°32'49"E		Almaty region
Kazakhstan (pasture):				
1. Petrovsky	50°06'57"N	73°37'01"E		Karaganda region
2. Talapsky	43°05'25"N	76°03'53"E		Almaty region
Kyrgyzstan (170ha - grassland/pasture/cropland)	42.2141667 N	75.7487861 E		All 5 sites are in the Kochkor District of Kyrgyzstan. Site names: Cholpon, Kokzhar, Koshdobo, Sarybulak and Talaabulak.
Tajikistan (cropland):				
1. Yovon district	38°14'12.01"N	68°54'2.39"E		Khatlon region - 4 pilot sites with a total area of 1674 ha. In the initial conditions, wheat is grown continuously with no fertilizer inputs or
2. A. Jomi district	37°57'37.08"N	68°45'1.19"E		
3. Vakhsh district	37°42'10.40"N	68°50'51.80"E		

4. Kushoniyon district	37°45'10.20"N	68°41'23.89"E		improvements. The tillage is full and the crop residue is grazed and burned.
Turkmenistan (mixed):				
1. Karakum (11,000ha)	38.7609417N	58.49556E		Karakum, Ahal Province is in a desert area. Initially the pilot site consisted of grassland, continuous pastureland in a moderately degraded condition due to over grazing with no burning.
2. Nohur (10,000ha)	38°28'20.9"N	57°01'49.0"E		The Nohur, Ahal Province site has a much wider variety of land use than Karakum. It is a mountain site with native forestland, grassland, villages with gardens, agroforestry and livestock.
Uzbekistan (mixed):				
1. Qamashi (48,600ha)	38°49'55.1"N	66°26'22.5"E		Kashkadarya region
2. Peshku (28,617ha)	40°02'21"N	64°23'39"E		Bukhara region
3. Farm Niyoz (19,000ha)	39°45'36.2"N	64°18'02.6"E		Bukhara region

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate.