The World Bank

Kazakhstan Resilient Landscapes Restoration Project (P171577)

Implementation Status & Results Report

Kazakhstan Resilient Landscapes Restoration Project (P171577)

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA | Kazakhstan | Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy Global Practice |
Global Environment Project | Investment Project Financing | FY 2021 | Seq No: 5 | ARCHIVED on 19-Dec-2023 | ISR58735 |

Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Forestry and Wildlife Committee, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources,
Forestry and Wildlife Committee, Project Implem

Key Dates

Key Project Dates

Bank Approval Date: 14-Jun-2021	Effectiveness Date: 01-Jul-2021
Planned Mid Term Review Date: 20-Oct-2023	Actual Mid-Term Review Date: 10-Nov-2023
Original Closing Date: 30-Sep-2025	Revised Closing Date: 30-Sep-2025

Project Development Objective (PDO)

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

To pilot agroforestry practices using a community-centered approach and to build government capacity for landscape management and
restoration.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

Components

Name
Piloting community – centered approach on dryland agroforestry and landscape restoration:(Cost $2.46 M)
Capacity building of the Forestry and Wildlife Committee (FWC) for integrated landscape management:(Cost $1.38 M)
Project coordination and monitoring:(Cost $0.50 M)

Overall Ratings

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	Moderate

Implementation Status and Key Decisions

The World Bank approved the Project on June 14, 2021 and signed the Grant Agreement on June 23, 2021. The Grant Agreement was
countersigned by the Recipient on July 1, 2021. Mid Term review of the project has been conducted during November 3-10, 2023. Progress toward
achievement of the project objectives is satisfactory, all project activities are being implemented in accordance with schedule. Component 1
activities: Construction of Kazalinsk nursery has started and organization of demonstration plots is completed. Establishment of saxaul plantation
around Kyzylorda city on area of 3,000 ha, including plantations design works and civil works is mostly completed. Component 2
activities: Preparatory works including survey and design for saxaul plantations on DAS is fully completed. Establishment of the genetics bank of the

forest trees is fully completed. Inventory of unaccounted forest is progressing in accordance with schedule. Total disbursement of project funds reached 67 percent.

Risks

Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	Moderate	Low	Low
Macroeconomic	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Sector Strategies and Policies	Moderate	Low	Low
Technical Design of Project or Program	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Fiduciary	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Environment and Social	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Stakeholders	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Other	Substantial	Low	Low
Overall	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Results

PDO Indicators by Objectives / Outcomes

To pilot agroforestry practices using a community-centered approach

▶Identification of the most effective agroforestry practices using a community-centered approach (based on a cost-benefit analysis of the pilots) (Yes/No, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	No	No	Yes
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	31-Dec-2025
Comments:	This indicator shows identification of the most effective agroforestry practices. Demonstration plots have been set up and achievement of the indicator is on track.			

▶Dryland Area Restored Using Community Centered Approach (Hectare(Ha), Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	2,950.00	2,950.00	3,135.00
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	30-Dec-2025
Comments:	This indicator measures, in hectares, the dryland area restored using community-centered approach (saxaul plantations around Kyzylorda)			

To build government capacity for landscape management and restoration				
►Land area under sustainable landscape management practices (Hectare(Ha), Corporate)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	2,950.00	2,950.00	10,815.00
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	31-Dec-2025
Comments:	The indicator measures, in hectares, the land area for which new and/or improved sustainable landscape management practices have been introduced. Land is the terrestrial biologically productive system comprising soil, vegetation, and the associated ecological and hydrological processes; Adoption refers to change of practice or change in the use of a technology promoted or introduced by the project; Sustainable landscape management (SLM) practices refers to a combination of at least two technologies and approaches to increase land quality and restore degraded lands for example, agronomic, vegetative, structural, and management measures that, applied as a combination, increase the connectivity between protected areas, forest land, rangeland, and agriculture land. Achievement of the indicator is on track and depend on implementation of activities on the demonstration plots.			
►Capacity built for landscape restoration through mapping of degraded landscapes in Dry Aral Seabed and inventory of unrecorded forests (Yes/No, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	No	No	Yes
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	31-Dec-2025
Comments:	This indicator is on track and will be completed once inventory of unrecorded forest is fully complete.			

Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Piloting community – centered approach on dryland agroforestry and landscape restoration				
►Forestry Nursery to supply planting materials to farmers and local communities (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	30-Dec-2025
Comments:	This indicator will review construction of a nursery in the project area. Anticipated construction to be completed by April 2024. Pipes, fences, Reservoirs have been procured.			
►Establishment of saxaul and other drought-resistant plantations around Kyzylorda (Hectare(Ha), Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	2,950.00	2,950.00	3,000.00
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	30-Dec-2025
Comments:	This indicator measures progress toward establishment of saxaul and drought-resistant plantations around Kyzylorda. Most planting has been completed. Some additional replanting on 50 ha is expected in 2024.			
►3 Demo plots to demonstrate innovative techniques of agroforestry in Kyzylorda oblast (Hectare(Ha), Custom)				

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	15.00	15.00
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	30-Dec-2025
Comments:	This indicator is achieved as agroforestry demonstration plots in Kyzylorda region has been set up. 3 ha in each plot have been demarcated, only 1 ha in each plot have been planted while rest of the demo area is being prepared.			

►6 Model Farms for agroforestry pilot sub-projects in Zhambyl Oblast (Hectare(Ha), Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	120.00	7,800.00
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	30-Dec-2025
Comments:	This indicator will monitor progress toward establishment of agroforestry model farms, each farm is expected to put 1,300 ha in sustainable land management practice. Demo plots on 120 ha has been set up. 1,300 ha of adjacent area for each plot will be affected once project activities on demo plots are completed.			

►Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (Metric ton, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	204,800.00
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	31-Dec-2025
Comments:	The indicator will measure the reduction of GHG as result of project activities. Training will be provided to PIU to support carbon accounting.			

►Community participation in forestry activities (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	519.00	531.00	1,000.00
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	31-Dec-2025
Comments:	This indicator measures a number of people from communities participating in project forestry activities. For GEF purposes the project will report on the broader set of beneficiaries, which includes local residents benefitting from afforested areas and improved land productivity. Completion of forestry activities like planting of 3,000 ha in Kyzylorda contributed toward progress in achievement of the target.			

□Of which female participants (Number, Custom Supplement)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	177.00	187.00	400.00

Capacity building of the Forestry and Wildlife Committee (FWC) for integrated landscape management

►Mapping of the forest fund areas on the Dried Aral Sea bed (DAS) (Hectare(Ha), Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	300,000.00	300,000.00	300,000.00

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Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	30-Dec-2025
Comments:	This indicator measures area of DAS covered by updated maps. It has been achieved with GIZ funded activities.			

►Preparatory survey and design works for saxaul plantations on DAS (Hectare(Ha), Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	50,000.00
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	30-Dec-2025
Comments:	This indicator measures area of DAS with plantation plans prepared. Due to cost saving the project financed design works for an area double in size comparing to the original plan.			

►Inventory of the unrecorded forests (Hectare(Ha), Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	140,000.00
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	30-Dec-2025
Comments:	This indicator measures area covered by forest inventory. The work is in progress.			

►Depository of forest species' seeds (gene bank) in Kazakh Scientific Research Institiute in Schuchinsk (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	30-Dec-2025
Comments:	This indicator monitors establishment of a gene bank in KSRFI in Schuchinsk. Seed bank is operational. PIU will be working to legitimize the gene bank through issuance of a legal charter.			

►Forest area brought under management plans (Hectare(Ha), Corporate)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
Date	31-Mar-2021	23-Jun-2023	08-Dec-2023	31-Dec-2025

Overall Comments

The following activities have been completed or are near completion status (i) provision of technical equipment for forestry institutions of the Kyzylorda and Zhambyl regions for the conservation, reproduction of forests, and to assist agroforestry plots has been completed employing 61 people (including 5 women); (ii) Saxaul plantation around Kyzylorda city on area of 3,000 ha creating employment for 260 people(including 90 women); (iii) gene bank in Schuchinsk creating 12 new jobs in the gene bank (including for 6 women)and ;(iv) survey and design for saxaul plantations on DAS 50 000 ha. We note the significant contribution of planting saxaul seedlings in Kyzylorda city and establishment of gene bank to the presidential commitment of planting 2 billion trees by 2025**.** Inventory for unrecorded forests has been successfully conducted, with an achievement of identifying 500,000 ha, surpassing the target.

Early results are promising with strong interest in testing agroforestry techniques, showcasing both environmental and economic benefits, with the first yield of watermelon, pumpkin, melon etc. helping cover the operational costs for the agroforestry plot. One forest user mentioned 'revenue from sale of apples, watermelons is faster money than planting timber'. Forest users are receiving both environmental and economic benefits. Return on investment from melons and watermelons on 0.5 Ha is roughly 1.5-2 million tenge per year in Zhambyl. Forest users are also saving on feed and fodder costs by using scraps of pumpkin and zucchini waste to feed cows. Farmers also see the benefit in longer term with natural vegetation taking over after five years, benefits for nature, water in the vicinity. They intend to expand the pilot across adjoining

lands after five years. While most would like to create gardens of their own following the success of the agroforestry plots, one of the forest users the mission team os replicating the agroforestry practices on an additional 1.5 ha with his own resources in Kyzylorda.

Ms Kuikova Raushan Kuanyshbaevna, who is a female manager of the farm 'Shabar Bekbolat' and is one of the six beneficiaries receiving support for the agroforestry plots and only female engineer (Marjan), interviewed during the mission, is part of state-owned enterprise and started an informal natural resource management group through a whatsapp group which has over 256 forest users. This peer learning group (whatsapp group) is supporting adoption of sustainable practices in broader forest user community woth around 15 users having initiated practices on their own plot.

Forest nursery, legal charter for gene bank and legalization of unrecorded forests by change of land use classification are expected to be completed by spring 2024.

Performance-Based Conditions

Data on Financial Performance

Disbursements (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed		% Disbursed
P171577	TF-B6007	Effective	USD	4.34	4.34	0.00	2.91	1.44		67%

Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P171577	TF-B6007	Effective	23-Jun-2021	01-Jul-2021	01-Jul-2021	30-Sep-2025	30-Sep-2025

Cumulative Disbursements

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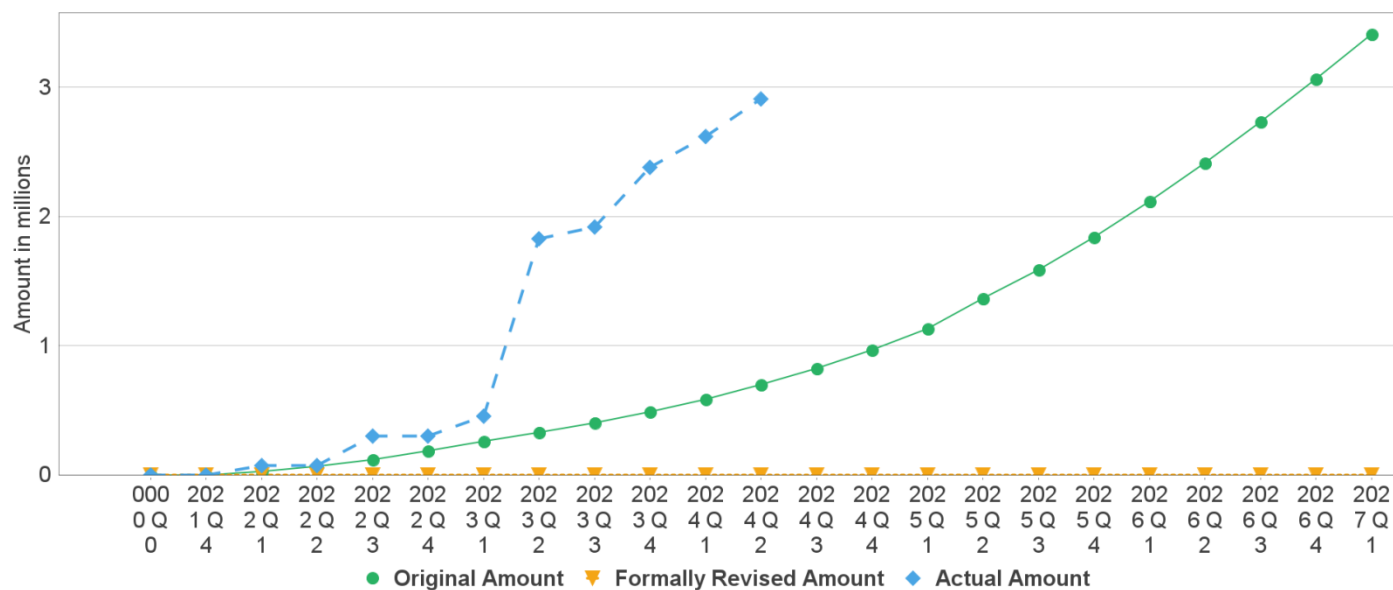
Restructuring History

There has been no restructuring to date.

Related Project(s)

There are no related projects.