

Reporting from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

## 1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

### 1.1. Project details

|                                       |                     |   |                        |   |                             |                             |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Identification Table                  |                     | GEF ID.: 3211   |                        | Umoja no.: SB-000687.26                     |                             |                             |
|                                       |                     | SMA IPMR ID: 20156  |                        | Grant ID: S1-32GFL-000474 / P1-33GFL-000427 |                             |                             |
|                                       |                     | Project Short Title: <i>Tajikistan/IMP_BS</i>   |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Project Title                         |                     | BS Support for the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework of the Republic of Tajikistan |                        |   |                             |                             |
|                                       |                     | <i>Planned</i>  |                        |   |                             |                             |
|                                       |                     | 36 months   |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Duration months                       | <i>Planned</i>      |   |                        |   |                             |                             |
|                                       | <i>Extension(s)</i> | 31.12.15 & 12 months  | 31.12.2016 & 18 months | 31.12.2018 & 18 months                      | 30.06.22 & 36 months (PCA2) | 30.06.23 & 12 months (PCA2) |
| Project Type                          |                     | Medium Size Project   |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Project Scope                         |                     | National  |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Region                                |                     | CEE and Central Asia  |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Countries                             |                     | Tajikistan  |                        |   |                             |                             |
| GEF Focal Area(s)                     |                     | Biodiversity  |                        |   |                             |                             |
| GEF financing amount                  |                     | US\$ 840,000.00   |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Co-financing amount                   |                     | US\$ 540,000.00   |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Date of CEO Endorsement               |                     | January 25, 2011  |                        |   |                             |                             |
| UNEP Project Approval Date            |                     | October 11, 2011  |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Start of Implementation               |                     | October 13, 2011  |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Date of Inception Workshop            |                     | November 25-26, 2011  |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Date of first disbursement            |                     | October 13, 2011  |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Total disbursement as of 30 June 2023 |                     | US\$803,691   |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Total expenditure as of 30 June 2023  |                     | US\$ 656,272.24   |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Expected Mid-Term Review Date         |                     | N/A   |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Completion Date                       | <i>Planned</i>      | October 10, 2014  |                        |   |                             |                             |
|                                       | <i>Revised</i>      | December 31, 2023   |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Expected Terminal Evaluation Date     |                     | June 30, 2024   |                        |   |                             |                             |
| Expected Financial Closure Date       |                     | December 31 , 2024  |                        |   |                             |                             |

## 1.2. Project description

The overall goal of the project is to assist Republic of Tajikistan in implementing its National Biosafety Framework in order to fulfill its obligations as a Party of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Cartagena Protocol and to comply with the country's Agenda 21 and National Strategy and Action Plan on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity. The project allows Republic of Tajikistan to set up and strengthen institutional and technical structures needed to meet the obligations of the Cartagena Protocol and have operational National Biosafety Framework.

The overall objective of the project is protection of biological diversity against possible adverse effects of LMOs by means of ensuring safe transfer, handling, use and transboundary movement of LMOs. To achieve overall objective, the project aims on building capacity in Tajikistan for effective and full implementation of National Biosafety Framework (NBF) that is in line with national development priorities, Cartagena Protocol and other international obligations. The project specifically contributes to:

- Development of National Strategy and Action Plan on Biosafety of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Implementing of biosafety legislative framework through development of regulations, guidelines, instructions and procedures;
- Preparation of specific technical guidelines;
- Strengthening of appropriate institutional structures for risk assessment and decision-making;
- Training of decision-makers, scientists and administrative and technical staff on legal and technical matters;
- Setting up and equipment of laboratories for risk assessment and monitoring;
- Setting up and development mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement;
- Strengthening of information exchange relating to biosafety both at the national levels as well as through the BCH; and
- Strengthening and development of public awareness, education and participation in decision-making on LMOs.

The project has 5 components, and several outcomes and outputs as follows:

### **Component 1:**

The first component of the project focuses on detailed analysis of stakeholders to ensure their active participation in the project and provide analysis of gaps and needs to implement NBF including gaps and needs. Inputs and contributions of relevant institutions are very important, and it is assumed that the governmental and non-governmental institutions will give attention to the project and actively participate in the stocktaking exercise.

### **Component 2:**

The second Component of the project is the regulatory biosafety regime. The effective implementation of the Biosafety Law depends on preparation of practical and understandable regulations, full understanding of the members of the Biosafety Committee of their responsibilities and issues related to biosafety, effective implementation of the provisions of the Law, and the clear notification procedures for applicants. Participatory approach is an important mechanism to achieve transparent, practical and effective regulatory regime. Working group meetings, workshops and training will be the main tools to achieve the second goal of the project. Therefore, it is assumed that the governmental and non-governmental institutions will give attention to the project and actively participate in the preparation of the regulations. It is also assumed that there will be political and administrative support for mandating competent authorities and advisory bodies.

### **Component 3:**

The third component of the project is the establishment of the system for handling of requests, risk assessment, decision-making and risk management of LMOs. The improvement of human resources through trainings and technical publications such as guidelines, methodologies and manuals are the main intervention logic to achieve functional system for handling of requests, risk assessment, decision-making

and risk management of LMOs. The key assumptions in this context are effective institutional collaboration and participation in meetings and trainings; appropriate national and international consultancy for trainings and technical documents; and stable positions of trained personnel.

**Component 4:**

The fourth component of the project is the establishment of the system for monitoring and inspection for LMOs. This component is critical to prevent unintentional and/or illegal introduction of LMOs. The effectiveness of the monitoring and inspection system depends on institutional capacity and human resources. In this context, the training activities, such as training of trainers and training of key staff having role in inspections, border controls and judgment as well as providing manuals and guidelines to them, have strategic importance to ensure sustainability of the human resources. The appropriate international and national consultancy services are assumed to be available to prepare the guidelines, methodologies, manuals. It is also assumed that technical staff sufficiently involved in the training courses and relevant institutions collaborate effectively during and after the Project.

**Component 5:**

The fifth component of the project is the establishment of public awareness and participation for biosafety. Effectiveness of the system will be ensured by regular dissemination of informative materials, training of relevant personnel on execution of public awareness and participation activities, sustainable education system on biosafety, regular public awareness events and operational BCHM. The assumptions in this regard are willingness of managers and technical staff to update and implement the BCH, growing interest of the public to the biosafety issues, presence of appropriate consultancy and effective collaboration and participation of relevant institutions. It is assumed that there is no stakeholder group who will be opposing project activities.

The executing agency for this project is the National Center on Implementation of National Environmental Action Plan (renamed to National Center on Environmental Actions as of 4 October 2019 by Decree #492).

The main stakeholders involved in carrying out project activities, including researching, development of regulations, taking part in trainings and workshops are:

- National Center on Implementation of National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) - renamed to National Center on Environmental Actions;
- Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan (Parliament);
- Tax Committee under the Government of the Republic Tajikistan;
- National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan and its research institutes (Institute of Plant Physiology and Genetics);
- Tajik Agrarian Academy of Sciences;
- Associations of Consumers;
- Associations of Farmers;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Mass media.

### 1.3. Project Contacts

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| Division(s) Implementing the project | Ecosystems Division  |
| Name of co-implementing Agency       | N/A  |
| Executing Agency(ies)                | National Center on Implementation of National Environment Action Plan  |
| Names of Other Project Partners      | Forestry Agency under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan<br>National Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan and its research institutes<br>Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan<br>Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan |
| UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)            | Ersin Esen   |
| UNEP Task Manager(s)                 | Alex Owusu-Biney   |
| UNEP Budget/Finance Officer          | Paul Vrontamitis   |
| UNEP Support/Assistants              | Evelyn Machasio/Solomon Kinuthia   |
| EA Manager/Representative            | Khisrav Shermatov  |
| EA Project Manager                   | Tatiana Novikova   |
| EA Finance Manager                   | Mekhrangez Niyozova  |
| EA Communications Lead, if relevant  | Khisrav Shermatov  |

## 2. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

### 2.1 UNEP PoW and UN

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)  | Nature action<br>.<br>Foundational: Environmental Governance.   |
| PoW Indicator(s)              | Nature Action: Outcome 2A/ Output 2.9/ indicator (i);<br>Environmental Governance indicator ii  |
| UNEP previous Subprogramme(s) | Healthy and Productive Ecosystems & Environmental Governance  |
| UNSDCF / UNDAF linkages       | «Sustainable and equitable economic development».<br><br>Outcome 2: People in Tajikistan benefit from equitable and sustainable economic growth through decent and productive employment; stable energy supply; improved access to specialised knowledge and innovation and a more favourable business environment, especially for entrepreneurs and farmers.<br><br>«Resilience and Environmental Sustainability»<br><br>Outcome 6: People in Tajikistan are more resilient to natural and man-made disasters and benefit from improved policy and operational frameworks for environmental protection and management of natural resources |
| Link to relevant SDG Goal(s)  | Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture  |

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Link to relevant SDG Target(s) | Target: 2.5 - By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels [BIOSAFETY], and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed |
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**2.2. GEF Core Indicators (for all GEF 6 and later projects): N/A**

| GEF Core Indicators  | Indicative expected Results |                       |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Discuss GEF core indicators targeted by the project, as well as expected results. (maximum one paragraph)</i> |                             |                       |
| N/A  |                             |                       |
| <i>Indicator</i>   | <i>Expected values at</i>   |                       |
|  | <i>Mid-term</i>             | <i>End-of-project</i> |
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|  |                             |                       |
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**2.3. Implementation status and risk**

|  | FY 2013         | FY 2014         | FY 2015         | FY 2016         | FY 2017         | FY 2018         | FY 2019         | FY 2020         | FY 2021         | FY 2022          | FY 2023          |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| PIR #  | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 5 <sup>th</sup> | 6 <sup>th</sup> | 7 <sup>th</sup> | 8 <sup>th</sup> | 9 <sup>th</sup> | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 11 <sup>th</sup> |
| Rating towards <b>outcomes</b> (section 3.1) | S               | S               | S               | S               | S               | S               | S               | S               | S               | S                | S                |
| Rating towards <b>outputs</b> (section 3.2)  | S               | S               | S               | S               | S               | S               | S               | S               | S               | S                | S                |
| Risk rating (section 3.3)                    | L               | L               | L               | L               | L               | L               | L               | L               | M               | M                | M                |

**Summary of status.****Rating towards outcomes: Satisfactory**

**During the period under review the rating towards reaching the planned outcomes is S as, in the first 6 months of the reporting period, the impact of the restrictions imposed by the covid 19 regimes and some ongoing infrastructural changes within the country have affected the biosafety authorities. These infrastructural changes are related to the processes of establishing new areas of responsibility and defining/updating functions, which delayed previously planned activities and required additional cooperation and capacity building activities. However, despite COVID-2019 impacts, affecting the implementation during the most part of the reporting period, the project has continued steadily moving towards enabling operationalizing the national biosafety framework in Tajikistan as evidenced by below progress.**

Capacitation of national institutions in addressing GMO/LMO-related issues has continued mainly through meetings aimed at increasing knowledge and understanding of main aspects of biosafety with the decision makers, representatives of the Parliament and scientific community under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences. These meetings were as well aimed at supporting the processes of adoption of the national biosafety strategy, drafted with the project support and discussing enabling the drafted tools and regulations for the effective national biosafety framework. Particularly, the project team and NEA representatives have been actively engaged in the discussions on the alterations and amendments to the Law on Biosafety at the level of Ministry of Justice, National Academy of Sciences and the Agency for Nuclear and Radiation Safety, the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and Customs Service. In this regard, two meetings with the Chairman of the Commission on environmental issues of the Parliament were facilitated, in order to discuss amendments to several articles/provisions of the Law on Biosafety. National procedures of departmental approvals on each article of the law were applied and final opinions were submitted to the Parliament to finalize the procedures for adoption of the law. Public hearings of the law were prepared and conducted, during which comments were articulated on a number of principle articles on the biosafety decision-making system. Preparations for submission to the Parliament (fall session) and subsequent submission to the Government, following national legal regulations, were completed.

Regular meetings with officials and specialists of relevant authorities, institutions, partners and the public, have been continuously held to update and address the provisions for the National Commission on Biosafety, collecting opinions and conducting analysis of current situation in order to identify further priorities for capacity building. Consultations are also being held on the newly adopted principles of the Kunming Declaration and COP15 new biodiversity framework.

As in previous years, the project focused on empowering national users to use global and national BCH by offering a series of training sessions for different levels of audience, including national stakeholders and representatives of responsible agencies, in collaboration with partner initiatives.

The main issues were observed in the difficulty of prompt translation of the national legislation into Russian and Tajik, due to the multitude of complex terms of a new specific topic "biosafety". This led to additional discussions of terms, semantic meaning of articles, etc. and delayed the established procedures for discussion, approval and harmonization, as well as the need for additional meetings and consultations. Also, UNDP Tajikistan significant administrative and staffing reform has limited the project's access to contacts for operational work in terms of finance and prompt payments. This resulted in the extension of the experts' contracts but had no impact on the performance of the work. This gave the project a chance to develop at once a set of scenarios for follow-up training, workshops and mobilize experts for consultations on new COP 15 programmes and solutions. The reorganization and knowledge transfer took some time, but now they are fully functional, and a number of contracts are in financial processing of payments in UNDP.

**Rating towards outputs: Satisfactory**

***The rating towards reaching the planned outputs is S given the project has continued practical implementation of activities aimed at updating and developing a legal framework for biosafety for Tajikistan, supporting processes for submission of the biosafety strategy with the account of new Kunming principles, training of relevant staff on biosafety procedures and advocacy interventions.***

Systematic implementation of project activities aimed at increasing capacity at various organizational and managerial levels of the country directly contributes to achieving the main project goal. During the reporting period the legislation capacity in managing the issues relating to LMO has been improved and the updated Law on Biosafety has passed all approvals for submission to the Government.

Activities on developing of normative regulations and technical guidelines on preventing LMO-related emergencies, rules and procedures, and guidelines and procedures for administrative processing of requests for competent staff have been supported by the work of national experts employed by the project. On a regulatory level a group of national experts on the development of a legal framework for biosafety has been established to facilitate the update of the Law on Biosafety, involving civil society through consultations, recommendations, participation in meetings of the Aarhus Center.

A special workshop focused on emerging CBD matters in the framework of biosafety was organized - to discuss synthetic biology. The workshop brought together 25 representatives of scientists and competent authorities to discuss synthetic biology and its relationship to biosafety principles within the framework of international experts' opinion and existing CBD positions.

The workshop-meeting on the project in Tajikistan took place during UNEP Task Manager's (Alex Owusu-Biney) mission to Tajikistan from 24 March to April 1, 2023. Responsible officials from the country's agencies participated in this meeting, shared progress in developing interagency cooperation on biosafety and developed proposals on current issues and new perspectives in the field of biosafety.

**Overall risk rating: Moderate**

As in previous years the project addresses lack of interdepartmental communication through systematically organized educational and informational events (workshops, trainings, meetings, etc.), involving representatives of key environmental, regulatory and law enforcement agencies of the country. Participation in the organized meetings and discussions enhanced knowledge and understanding of areas of responsibility, existing capacities and ways of interaction between government institutions.

The risk associated with the crisis of the national banking system remained substantive as the project bank ("Tojiksodirotbank") has been declared bankrupt and is in the process of liquidation. On August 8, 2022, the Head of the NEA personally met with the special representative of "Tojiksodirotbank", Mr. Farrukh Nuridinov, to clarify the situation on the release of remaining project funds. During the meeting, Mr. Nuriddinov noted that the bank was officially declared bankrupt and at the moment does not have the opportunity to repay or return the funds in short order. Mr. Nuridinov however assured that the bank could pay the project funds in small installments for the project activities that are implemented step-by-step. Since, as instructed by the Government, the bank is obliged to repay all debts to depositors, they step by step follow the instructions of the Government to return funds to individuals and legal entities, though this process is staged in several phases. With regard to this situation and as in previous years, financial payments are made by UNDP on behalf of the project based on UNEP financial authorization in accordance with UNDP internal financial and operating procedures.

Regarding COVID19 pandemic, slow lifting of restrictions also negatively affected the project and NEA staff, and the PIU had to reduce meeting and workshop activities, as well as travelling.

The restructuring of agencies in Tajikistan as well as realignment at UNDP Tajikistan resulted in delays in project processes and processing of documents as new instructions had to be awaited, making it extremely difficult to progress quickly.

One of the mitigation measures to achieve the planned results was the extension of the PCA and technical implementation period of the project until 31 December 2023.

**2.4. Co-financing**

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| <b>Planned Co-finance Total:</b> \$540,000 | The governmental co-financing as of June 30, 2023 made US\$ 540,000 out of planned USD 540,000.00 or 100%. |
| <b>Actual to date:</b>                     | The governmental co-financing for the project implementation supported the following:                      |

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| <p>\$540,000 and 100% as at 30 June 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-kind contribution of project staff;</li> <li>• In-kind contribution of office premises;</li> <li>• In-kind contribution of communication services;</li> <li>• Publications, Translations, Dissemination and reporting costs.</li> </ul> |
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## 2.5. Stakeholder engagement

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| <p><b>Date of project steering committee meeting</b></p> | <p>March 30,2023</p>   |
| <p><b>Stakeholder engagement</b></p>                     | <p>The project seeks to fully interact with key departments, research institutes, civil society organizations and higher education institutions, involving them in the discussion of relevant aspects of biological safety, existing procedures and provisions regarding activities related to GMOs, while also attracting competent specialists to develop regulatory and legal acts promoting the effective functioning of the legal and administrative systems of national biosafety.</p> <p>Close cooperation with representatives of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan and the representatives of the Committee on Food Security under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan contributed to the study of a number of documents, regulations and technical guidelines on monitoring and implementation of effective biosafety measures in the Republic of Tajikistan, which are intended to serve as training materials/guidelines for the creation of national biosafety mechanisms at both the national and local levels.</p> <p>Other important accomplishments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations with parliamentary environmental group on how to improve and harmonize laws.</li> <li>• Work with IAEA on understanding of biosafety issues, availability of capacity (laboratories and personnel) for the synergies with the Cartagena Protocol compliance processes.</li> <li>• Consultations with representatives of Aarhus Center, aimed at explaining the principles of Cartagena Protocol and peculiarities of consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems of Tajikistan during decision making on using GMO (seeds, meal, plants), for their further work with local communities in the Tajikistan.</li> <li>• Explanation of the procedures of the Cartagena Protocol for accession to the amendment on GMOs in relation to the Aarhus Convention.</li> </ul> <p>Committee for Environmental Protection is strongly engaged in leveraging institutional support for implementation of the project.</p> |

## 2.6. Gender

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| <p>Does the project have a gender action plan?</p> | <p>No</p>  |
| <p><b>Gender mainstreaming</b></p>                 | <p>The gender aspect is taken into account by the project, both when hiring experts, and when organizing training events. In the implementation of project activities, female experts are involved as experts on various aspects of biosafety.</p> |



## 2.7. Environmental and social safeguards management

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| <b>Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)</b>                           | No  |
| <b>New social and/or environmental risks</b>   | No  |
| <b>Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts (to be filled in by TM and EA)</b> | No  |
| <b>Environmental and social safeguards management</b>  | <p>The project capacity building activities contribute to the safe use of modern biotechnology, preventing potential harm and giving the opportunity for both environmental and socio-economic benefits. Through its interventions at different levels (and using the bottom-up approach) the project contributes to the improvement of inspection, monitoring and surveillance capacity of Tajikistan through improvement of national biosafety framework, laboratory facilities and human resources capacities to fulfill provisions of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, thus protection of the environment and social welfare. These measures are environmental and social safeguard measures which the key and fundamental focus of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Therefore, the long-term effects of the project would provide the opportunity for Tajikistan to benefit from modern biotechnology in an environmentally and socially safe manner and without any harm to human health in the future.</p> |

## 2.8. Knowledge management

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|--|--|
| <b>Knowledge activities and products</b> | <p>As in previous periods each project workshop and training contained a component for increasing the audience's knowledge on individual provisions and procedures of the Cartagena Protocol, at the same time contributing to a better understanding of the specifics of applying certain procedures in the context of the national legal and administrative system. Resource materials - global training and information resources, modules, manuals were made available to participants of project events in national language.</p> <p>The project focused on enhancing the capacity of national users to use global and national biosafety clearing-houses by offering a range of training courses for different audience levels. Training sessions and consultations on the use of global and national biosafety clearing-house mechanisms were offered to national stakeholders.</p> <p>A series of surveys, consultations and discussions on the Cartagena Protocol and biosafety facilitated by project experts with representatives of civil society and NGOs formed the position on the accession of Tajikistan to the amendment on GMO in the format of the Aarhus Convention. Along with that the dialogue with biotechnologists and laboratories' representatives allowed to update the understanding of cooperation on biosafety in view of new global trends (biosafety, new scientific achievements, updating of laboratory equipment and use of technologies at the intersection of scientific disciplines, as well as the issues of synthetic biology in relation to the CBD objectives).</p> <p>To support awareness raising on biosafety for various strata of the population, a TV and Radio company was engaged. A series of TV broadcasts and debates</p> |
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|  | <p>were facilitated with the engagement of decision makers, scientists and specialists addressing such topics as national legal framework on biosafety, scientific laboratory research of LMOs, import and export of GMOs and customs controls, biodiversity and biosafety information exchange, and the impact of LMOs on the planet and people. The recordings of the broadcasts will be handed over to national Universities to support thematic lecture activities.</p> |
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**2.9. Stories to be shared**

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|------------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>Stories to be shared</b></p> | <p>Tajikistan, as a country party to the Protocol, has committed to the development of the necessary political, legal, administrative and practical mechanisms for creating an effective national biosafety system in the context of the CP.</p> <p>A good example was a special workshop focused on emerging CBD topics in the framework of biosafety - synthetic biology. The workshop brought together 25 representatives of scientists and competent authorities to discuss synthetic biology and its relationship to biosafety principles within the framework of international opinion and current CBD position. These interactions has enriched our national focus on engaging with academia and regulatory entities to take up new and emerging issues which will ensure a scienced based background for national decision making</p> |
|------------------------------------|---|

3. PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND RISK

*Based on inputs by the Project Manager, the UNEP Task Manager<sup>1</sup> will make an overall assessment and provide ratings of:*

- (i) Progress towards achieving the project Results(s)- see section 3.1*
- (ii) Implementation progress – see section 3.2*

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<sup>1</sup> For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency.

Section 3.3 on Risk should be first completed by the Project Manager. The UNEP Task Manager will subsequently enter his/her own ratings in the appropriate column.

**3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes**

| Project objective and Outcomes   | Indicator  | Baseline level  | Mid-term target | End-of-project target   | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023   | Progress rating <sup>2</sup> |
|--|--|---|-----------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| <p><b>Objective:</b><br/>To assist the Republic of Tajikistan to implement its National Biosafety Framework (NBF) in order to comply with the Cartagena Protocol</p> | <p>Functionality biosafety system that includes:<br/>Regulatory System:<br/>Administrative system:<br/>Enforcement and monitoring system: and System for public awareness and participation is created and put in place.</p> | <p>Draft NBF was prepared during 2002-2004, but it needs updating</p> | <p>N/A</p>      | <p>By the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2014 updated NBF is adopted and being implemented effectively</p> | <p>During the reporting period the project has been steadily progressing towards its goals and objectives, and the following achievements were noted, gained by the project and NEA in collaboration with partner initiatives:</p> <p>Capacity of national institutions in addressing GMO/LMO-related issues has continued mainly through meetings aimed at increasing knowledge and understanding of main aspects of biosafety with the decision makers, representatives of the Parliament and scientific community under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences. These meetings were as well aimed at supporting the processes of adoption of the national Biosafety Strategy, drafted with the project support, and discussing enabling the drafted tools and regulations for the effective national biosafety framework.</p> <p>Along with that, with the NEA facilitation, an update new Law "On Safe Handling of GMOs" has been submitted to the Parliament of Tajikistan. Public hearings of the law were prepared and conducted, in the process of which comments were prepared to a number of principle articles on the biosafety decision-making system. Preparations for subsequent submission to the Parliament (fall session) and following submission to the Government in accordance with national legal regulations, were completed.</p> <p>In regard to the National Commission on Biosafety, several meetings with competent authorities were facilitated to address the specifics of operationalizing the Commission. Regular meetings with officials and specialists of relevant authorities, institutions, partners and the public, have been continuously held addressing updating the provisions for the Commission, collecting opinions and conducting analysis of current situation in order to identify further priorities for capacity building.</p> <p>A series of surveys, consultations and discussions were facilitated with representatives of civil society and NGOs to form the position of Tajikistan on the new developments on GMO in the format of the Aarhus Convention and the new Global Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>A dialogue with biotechnologists and laboratories' representatives was maintained, aimed at updating the needs for LMO risk assessment, laboratory methods and technologies for identification of LMOs/GMOs. In support of the CBD Secretariat's initiatives (decision BS-VI/12 of the Conference of the Parties) the NEA facilitated Tajikistan's participation in the sub-regional capacity building LMO Risk Assessment Training Course for West, Central and East Asia, which resulted in improved theoretical and practical capacities in LMO risk assessment. Following this course, at the initiative of the project, the expert presented the information about the training to the interested partners during the dedicated national workshop.</p> <p>To support awareness raising on biosafety for various strata of the population, a TV and Radio company was engaged. A series of TV broadcasts and debates were facilitated with the engagement of decision makers, scientists and specialists addressing such topics as national legal framework on biosafety, scientific laboratory research of LMOs, import and export of GMOs and customs controls, biodiversity and biosafety information exchange, and the impact of LMOs on the planet and people. The recordings of the broadcasts will be handed over to national Universities to support thematic lecture activities.</p> | <p>S</p>                     |

<sup>2</sup> Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Marginally Satisfactory (MS), Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU).

| Project objective and Outcomes   | Indicator   | Baseline level   | Mid-term target  | End-of-project target   | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023   | Progress rating <sup>2</sup> |
|--|---|--|------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| <p><b>Outcome 1: Stocktaking and integration of biosafety issues</b><br/>National consensus on strengths and weaknesses in national capacity and integrated into national plans and strategies</p> | Gap analysis of national strengths and weaknesses in regard of biosafety composed           | Basic information was collected during NBF development project, but it is outdated and needs to be updated as biosafety is a rapidly developing area | NA               | Gap analysis of national strengths and weaknesses in regard of biosafety composed | National procedures of departmental approvals on each article of the law were facilitated and final opinions were submitted to the Parliament to finalize the procedures for adoption of the updated Law on biosafety. Public hearings of the law were prepared and conducted, during which comments were prepared on a number of principle articles on the biosafety decision-making system. Preparations for submission to the Parliament (fall session) and subsequent submission to the Government in accordance with national legal regulations, were completed.  | S                            |
|  | Recommendations based on gap analysis how to proceed with biosafety in Tajikistan submitted | There is neither biosafety policy in Tajikistan nor any clear vision about possible future developments  | Draft NSAPB      | NSAPB drafted, discussed and approved   | Within the activities on updating the regulatory framework on biosafety, assessments and consultations were held on the current national policy of Tajikistan per the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and with the glance to the updated global biodiversity framework. The ongoing developments were discussed with relevant agencies and stakeholders, including during working meetings with deputies, allowing feedback and proposals on practical mechanisms and tools for actualizing the current system to be responsive to biosafety needs.  | S                            |
|  | NSAPB drafted, discussed and approved   | There is neither biosafety policy in Tajikistan nor any clear vision about possible future developments  | Draft NSAPB      | NSAPB drafted, discussed and approved   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of new CBD programs, including on biosafety, has been conducted for accounting principles of new strategic directions of the global policy for 2020-2030 in national program documents, including the Strategy.</li> <li>• Agendas have been prepared by the project team for the workshops aimed at discussing the strategy with competent authorities.</li> <li>• In support of the processes of adoption of the national biosafety strategy, meetings with key stakeholders and the public were held to inform about the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in Tajikistan and the national biosafety system.</li> </ul> | S                            |
| <p><b>Outcome 2: Regulatory system</b><br/>An efficient and operational regulatory framework with full public participation</p>  | Biosafety law and regulations drafted, discussed and submitted for approval                 | Biosafety law was adopted in 2005, but it needs updating and drafting of secondary legislation   | Draft amendments | Biosafety law and regulations drafted, discussed and submitted for approval       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings were held with representatives of the Parliament to discuss amendments to the Law on Biosafety. Public hearings of the law were facilitated and conducted, during which comments were prepared on a number of principle articles on the biosafety decision-making system. Preparations for submission to the Parliament (fall session) and subsequent submission to the Government in accordance with national legal regulations, were completed.</li> </ul>   | S                            |

| Project objective and Outcomes   | Indicator   | Baseline level   | Mid-term target   | End-of-project target   | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023  | Progress rating <sup>2</sup> |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|------------------------------|
|  | Technical documents and tools about biosafety legislation drafted and discussed   | No technical documents and tools available                                     | Draft technical documents and tools                                 | Technical documents and tools about biosafety legislation drafted and discussed   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An assessment and consolidation of developed recommendations on activities related to the LMO testing and transboundary movement have been done.</li> </ul>  | S                            |
| <p><b>Outcome 3: Administrative framework</b><br/>An operational institutional structure for effective decision making and an efficient system for administrative processing of requests</p> | Competent authorities nominated and relevant administrative system for handling requests established, including National Biosafety Commission | There is no administrative body for handling requests established              | Identification of responsible government structure                  | Competent authorities nominated and relevant administrative system for handling requests established, including National Biosafety Commission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agendas of workshops and consultations were prepared aimed at discussing adjustment of the biosafety administrative framework in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;</li> <li>Rules and procedures for the National Biosafety Commission have been developed and updated for the Biosafety Strategy;</li> </ul> | S                            |
|  | Guidelines drafted and procedures set for handling requests on administrative level   | No guidelines nor procedures set for handling requests on administrative level | Draft guidelines  | Guidelines drafted and procedures set for handling requests on administrative level   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terms of reference were prepared for hiring national consultants for development of manuals and guidelines. Expertise has been engaged and draft guidelines are in preparation.</li> </ul>   | S                            |
|  | Training organized for handling confidential information  | No trainings organized for handling confidential information                   | Training programme and dates according to project detailed workplan | Training organized for handling confidential information  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program of training and capacitation consultations on handling confidential information developed.</li> </ul>  | S                            |
|  | Trainings for RA and RM organized for technical and scientific staff  | No trainings on RARM organized for scientific staff                            | Training programme and dates according to project detailed workplan | Trainings for RA and RM organized for technical and scientific staff  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activity was mainly implemented in the previous years, having considered completed. Along with that the updates in the procedures of RARM for scientific staff and responsible authorities are regularly conveyed to the target audience during co-related meeting and training activities.</li> </ul>                       | S                            |
|  | Guidelines, checklists and technical tools drafted and made available for handling requests on scientific and technical level                 | No guidelines, checklists available  | Draft guidelines  | Conducting training on processing inquiries for the state of competent authorities  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terms of reference were prepared for hiring national consultants for development of manuals and guidelines. Expertise has been engaged and draft guidelines are in preparation.</li> </ul>   | S                            |

| Project objective and Outcomes   | Indicator   | Baseline level  | Mid-term target   | End-of-project target  | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023  | Progress rating <sup>2</sup> |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|
|  | Reference laboratory equipped   | No reference laboratory, laboratories in Tajikistan are not sufficiently equipped for LMO analysis  | List of equipment to be purchased, accreditation documentation                          | Reference laboratory equipped  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market analysis was conducted and a list of equipment for reference laboratory has been updated with regard to evolving effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the related change in transboundary supply chains and logistics. Given the fact that the main portion of funds suspended at the bankrupt bank, the NEA explores the reasonable ways to equip the relevant authorities with the capacity for LMO detection.</li> </ul>  | S                            |
| <b>Outcome 4:</b><br><b>Monitoring and enforcement</b><br><br>An operational and integrated system for post-release monitoring, enforcement and emergency response           | Trainings organized for post release monitoring and enforcement                       | No trainings organized for post release monitoring and enforcement  | Training programme and dates according to project detailed workplan                     | Trainings organized for post release monitoring and enforcement                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training in post-release monitoring and enforcement are projected for authorized staff.</li> <li>Specifics of monitoring at the national level were also discussed with the national specialists of regulatory bodies.</li> </ul>  | S                            |
|  | Technical guidelines for monitoring developed   | No guidelines available   | Draft guidelines  | Technical guidelines for monitoring developed  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terms of reference prepared to develop, update, collate and finalize the technical guidelines for post-release monitoring. Expertise has been engaged and draft guidelines are in preparation.</li> </ul>  | S                            |
|  | Emergency response plans developed  | No emergency response plan  | Draft emergency response plan   | Emergency response plans developed   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terms of reference developed, and preliminary consultations held with the responsible national counterparts on embedding biosafety requirements in emergency response plans. Expertise has been engaged to draft emergency response plans.</li> </ul>  | S                            |
| <b>Outcome 5:<sup>5</sup></b><br><b>Public awareness and participation</b><br>An effective platform for public dialogue, awareness raising and participation in the decision | National BCH updated and made available for public access                             | BCH was established in 2005-2006, but it needs updating. No manuals in local language how to use BCH  | Draft manuals, Training programme and dates according to project detailed workplan      | National BCH updated and made available for public access                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the reporting period, the project continued to offer consultation and hands on exercises on using BCH by different strata of stakeholders. As of reporting date, the national stakeholders and representatives of responsible agencies gained and improved their abilities in utilization of the global BCH and were introduced to the latest updates in the BCH portal.</li> </ul>   | S                            |
|  | Info days and trainings organized and informative and educational materials published | Only a few info days and trainings have been organized about biosafety and some publications have been published, but this is not sufficient for public awareness | Draft publications, Training programme and dates according to project detailed workplan | Info days and trainings organized, and informative and educational materials published | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As in previous periods each project workshop and training contained a component for increasing the audience's knowledge on individual provisions and procedures of the Cartagena Protocol, at the same time contributing to a better understanding of the specifics of applying certain procedures in the context of the national legal and administrative system. Resource materials - global training and information resources, modules, manuals - were made available to participants of project events in national language.</li> </ul> | S                            |

| Project objective and Outcomes | Indicator                     | Baseline level                                 | Mid-term target | End-of-project target         | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023 | Progress rating <sup>2</sup> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
|                                | Public opinion poll organized | No public opinion poll conducted in Tajikistan | N/A             | Public opinion poll organized | Completed  | S                            |



## 3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs

| Outputs/Activities <sup>3</sup>   | Expected completion date <sup>4</sup> | Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) | Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) | Progress rating justification <sup>5</sup> , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay  | Progress rating <sup>6</sup> |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Output 1:</b> Existing strengths and weaknesses identified                       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2022          | 100  | 100  | Completed.   | S                            |
| <b>Output 2:</b> Strategy to process developed                                      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2023          | 95   | 96   | Assessment of the current national legislation on biosafety has been conducted by national consultants in terms of relevance of Tajikistan's development policies (including updated perception of biosafety and biosecurity issues), programs and the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.  | S                            |
| <b>Output 3:</b> An approved National Strategy and Action Plan on Biosafety (NSAPB) | 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2023          | 96   | 98   | The draft Strategy on Biosafety is developed for submission to the relevant national authority for review and approval.  | S                            |
| <b>Output 4:</b> Implementing regulations developed                                 | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2023          | 75   | 80   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings were held with representatives of the Parliament to discuss amendments to the Law on Biosafety. Public hearings of the law were facilitated and conducted, during which comments were prepared on a number of principle articles on the biosafety decision-making system. Preparations for submission to the Parliament (fall session) and subsequent submission to the Government in accordance with national legal regulations, were completed.</li> <li>• Agendas have been prepared by the project team for the workshops aimed at discussing the Strategy with competent authorities.</li> <li>• In support of the processes of adoption of the national biosafety strategy, meetings with key stakeholders and the public were held to inform about the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in Tajikistan and the national biosafety system.</li> </ul> | S                            |
| <b>Output 5:</b> Technical documents and tools developed                            | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2023          | 70   | 75   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agendas have been prepared by the project team for the workshops aimed at discussing technical documents and tools to enable the national biosafety framework.</li> </ul>   | S                            |
| <b>Output 6:</b> Administrative body to handle requests established                 | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2023          | 70   | 75   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agendas of workshops and consultations were prepared aimed at discussing adjustment of the biosafety administrative framework in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.</li> </ul>  | S                            |

<sup>3</sup> Outputs and activities (or deliverables) as described in the project logframe (and workplan) or in any updated project revision.

<sup>4</sup> The completion dates should be as per latest workplan (latest project revision).

<sup>5</sup> As much as possible, describe in terms of immediate gains to target groups, e.g. access to project deliverables, participation in receiving services; gains in knowledge, etc.

<sup>6</sup> To be provided by the UNEP Task Manager

| Outputs/Activities <sup>3</sup>  | Expected completion date <sup>4</sup> | Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) | Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) | Progress rating justification <sup>5</sup> , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay  | Progress rating <sup>6</sup> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Output 7:</b> Guidelines and procedures for administrative handling of requests developed                       | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2023          | 70   | 71   | A group of experts hired to update and develop guidelines and procedures for the administrative processing of requests for staff of competent authorities;   | S                            |
| <b>Output 8:</b> Staff trained to handle confidential information in requests                                      | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2023          | 71   | 75   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of reference were prepared for hiring national consultants for development of manuals and guidelines. Expertise has been engaged and draft guidelines are in preparation.</li> <li>• Program of training and capacitation consultations on handling confidential information was developed.</li> </ul>  | S                            |
| <b>Output 9:</b> Technical experts trained in RARM   | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2022          | 100  | 100  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed.<br/>To regularly update the procedures, the terms of reference were prepared to offer training and consultation advice on the procedures of RARM for scientific staff and responsible authorities.</li> </ul>  | S                            |
| <b>Output 10:</b> Checklist and technical tools developed and made available                                       | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2023          | 55   | 60   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of Reference developed for preparation of the checklist and technical tools. Expertise has been engaged and draft tools are in preparation.</li> </ul>  | S                            |
| <b>Output 11:</b> Equipping reference laboratory   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2023          | 85   | 85   | Study/needs assessment conducted for procurement of laboratory equipment / arranging the reference laboratory.   | S                            |
| <b>Output 12:</b> Staff trained in post-release monitoring and enforcement   | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2023          | 85   | 85   | Training in post-release monitoring and enforcement was held for designated for authorized staff.  | S                            |
| <b>Output 13:</b> Developing technical guidelines for monitoring   | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2023          | 70   | 75   | Procedures for monitoring biosafety were discussed with competent authorities.   | S                            |
| <b>Output 14:</b> Developing emergency response plans  | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2023          | 45   | 60   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of reference prepared for national consultants to develop an emergency response plan, taking into account national capabilities and internationally recognized norms and regulations; expertise has been engaged and the plan in preparation.</li> <li>• Agenda prepared for a workshop on developing emergency plan, including assignment of responsibilities for emergency response procedure.</li> </ul> | S                            |
| <b>Output 15:</b> A mechanism for public access to information and information sharing set up via the national BCH | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2023          | 95   | 98   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the reporting period, the project continued offering training on using BCH by different strata of stakeholders. The process continues till the end of the project and beyond. All the required tools have been developed,</li> </ul>   | S                            |

| Outputs/Activities <sup>3</sup>  | Expected completion date <sup>4</sup> | Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) | Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) | Progress rating justification <sup>5</sup> , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay  | Progress rating <sup>6</sup> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Output 16:</b> A platform for enhancing public awareness and education on biosafety issues in place | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2023          | 85   | 90   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support awareness raising on biosafety for various strata of the population, a TV and Radio company was engaged. A series of TV broadcasts and debates were facilitated with the engagement of decision makers, scientists and specialists addressing such topics as national legal framework on biosafety, scientific laboratory research of LMOs, import and export of GMOs and customs controls, biodiversity and biosafety information exchange, and the impact of LMOs on the planet and people. The recordings of the broadcasts will be handed over to national Universities to support thematic lecture activities.</li> </ul> | S                            |
| <b>Output 17:</b> Organizing public opinion poll   | -                                     | 100  | 100  | Completed. The public opinion poll on biosafety conducted among the population at Dushanbe, Khatlon, Rasht, Sughd and GBAO.  | S                            |

#### 4. Risk Rating

##### 4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

Please refer to the **Risk Help Sheet** for more details on rating.

| Risk Factor  | EA's Rating | TM's Rating |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Management structure – Roles and responsibilities | L           | M           |
| 2. Governance structure – Oversight                  | L           | L           |
| 3. Implementation schedule                           | M           | M           |
| 4. Budget  | L           | L           |
| 5. Financial Management                              | L           | L           |
| 6. Reporting   | L           | M           |
| 7. Capacity to deliver                               | L           | L           |

##### 4.2 Table B. Risk-log

| Risk  | Risk affecting:          | Variation respect to last rating |       |     |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |   |   | Justification   |   |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---|---|---|---|
|   | Outcome outputs / CEO ED | PIR 1                            | PIR 2 | MTR | PIR 3 | PIR 4 | PIR 5 | PIR 6 | PIR 7 | PIR 8 | PIR 9 | PIR 10 | PIR 11 | Δ |   |   |   |
| Risk 1. Insufficient collaboration between authorities  | Outcomes 1-5             | n/a                              | L     | L   | n/a   | L     | L     | L     | L     | L     | L     | L      | L      | ⊥ | L | =   | The national on-line platform on BCH serves as an additional tool for interdepartmental collaboration. The understanding of the BCH main purpose and technical knowledge on how to use its resources are being expanded under the project practical training and workshops. |
| Risk 2. Most important risk is mandating of trained technical staff in different positions other than biosafety facilities. | All outcomes & outputs   | n/a                              | n/a   | n/a | n/a   | n/a   | n/a   | n/a   | n/a   | L     | L     | L      | ⊥      | L | = | Maintaining the permanent cooperation with key scientific institutions and regulatory departments through consultation and involvement in project activities. |   |

|  |   |      |     |     |     |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Risk 3. Complex global and regional trends of financial crises 2015-2016 affected the national banking system, that became particularly apparent in key systemically important banks, including the project bank Tojiksodirobank. Since 2016 the project became experiencing significant challenges with accessing funds from national bank (ref. to the explanatory letter from Tojiksodirobank d/d June 9, 2016).</p> | <p>All outcomes &amp; outputs, specifically output 11</p> | n/a  | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | M | M | M | M | M | S | S | S | = | <p>In May 2021 the National Bank of Tajikistan announced procedures for liquidation of the OJSC "Tojiksodirobank", the project bank. To implement bank closure procedures, a commission has been established, as well as the order of payments set. The NEA negotiated with the commission on the order of receiving funds. In the meanwhile, as previously practiced, UNDP Tajikistan assists in payments on behalf of the project.</p> |
| <p><b>Consolidated project risk</b></p>  |   | n. a | L   | L   | n/a | L   | L | L | L | L | L | M | M | M | = | <p>The key project risks as identified are progressively monitored and mitigation measures put in place.</p>   |

**Table B.** Outstanding medium & high risks

List here only risks from Table A above that have a risk rating of M or worse in the current PIR

| Risk   | Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIR <sub>t-1</sub> , MTR, etc.)  | Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period   | Additional mitigation measures for the next periods                                    |                       |            |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------|------------|
|  |  |  | What   | When                  | By whom    |
| <p>Complex global and regional trends of financial crises 2015-2016 affected the national banking system, that became particularly</p> | <p>One of mitigation actions came out from the consultation between the NEA and UNEP was to use UNDP Tajikistan as an authorised body to make payment on behalf of the project. However, a significant amount is still in the accounts of Tojiksodirobank.</p> | <p>In May 2021, the National Bank of Tajikistan announced procedures for liquidation of the OJSC "Tojiksodirobank", the project bank. To implement bank closure procedures, a commission has been established.</p> | <p>Regular follow-up with the bank on the stage for disbursement of project funds.</p> | <p>September 2022</p> | <p>NEA</p> |

|  |   |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>apparent in key systemically important banks, including the project bank Tojiksodirobank. Since 2016 the project became experiencing significant challenges with accessing funds from national bank (ref. to the explanatory letter from Tojiksodirobank d/d June 9, 2016).</p> | <p>In September 2018 the PIU held consultations with UNEP Task Manager regarding the issue. The decision was made to restructure the project funds and proceed with implementing capacity-building activities under the workplan, using the funds currently available through UNDP Tajikistan. These activities will include preparation as well of the “lessons learned” of the project, and development of the concept of future project on biosafety under the GEF-7 country portfolio.</p> <p>Along with that, the suspended funds in the Tojiksodirobank will be used for purchasing equipment for the laboratory once the situation in the bank improves.</p> | <p>With respect to previous guarantees of receiving project funds from the bank for procurement of laboratory, the current situation requires clarification due to the decision on bank liquidation, and the project will thus seek formal confirmation from the appointed commission about the prospects of the schedule, amounts, and conditions for receiving of project funds. Regular consultations will be maintained with UNEP to manage this risk, as needed.</p> <p>On August 3, 2022, a letter was sent from the NEA to OJSC "Tojiksodirobank" requesting update on the status of project funds. Given no response was received, on August 8, 2022, the Head of NEA Mr. Khisravshokh Shermatov met in person with the special representative of OJSC "Tojiksodirobank" Mr. Farrukh Nuriddinov to clarify the situation regarding the use of the remaining project funds. During the meeting Mr. Nuriddinov noted that the bank was officially declared bankrupt and at the moment has no opportunity to repay or return the funds on short notice. Along with that Mr. Nuriddinov assured, that the bank can pay the project funds in small instalments for the activities which are step-by-step implemented. In accordance with the instructions of the Government, the bank is obliged to repay all debts to depositors, and they follow the instructions of the Government on repayment of funds to individuals and legal entities, accommodating this process in stages. It is worth mentioning that OJSC "Tojiksodirobank" also has undisbursed funds to such organizations as UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, etc., and in relation to this, the bank representative assured, that they will repay debts to depositors through a stage-by-stage procedure.</p> <p>On September 5, 2022, the NEA Head, Khisravshokh Shermatov, met with Mr. Farukh Nuritdinov, Special Representative of the Bank, and during the meeting it was reconfirmed that CJSC "Tojiksodirobank" will return debts in accordance with the national legislation and procedures. Along with that the agreement was reached that the bank should resume disbursement of financial resources in small amounts from the beginning of 2023.</p> <p>Meanwhile, as previously practiced, UNDP Tajikistan assists in payments on behalf of the project, as a mitigation measure.</p> | <p>Negotiate with the bank disbursements per small amounts for implementation of project activities.</p> |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|

**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.  
**Significant Risk (S):** There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.  
**Medium 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 modest risks.  
**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 modest risks.

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 Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines.

Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate.

**5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment**

- Results framework
- Components and cost
- Institutional and implementation arrangements
- Financial management
- Implementation schedule
- 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

*[Annex document linked to reported minor amendment]*

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| <b>Minor amendments</b> | N/A |
|-------------------------|-----|

## 5.2. History of project revisions

| Version                   | Date       | Main changes introduced in this revision  |
|---------------------------|------------|---|
| Rev0 (CEO ED)             |            |   |
| Rev 1                     | 25.02.2015 | Project budget revision and workplan changes due to challenges in procuring international consultants   |
| Rev 2                     | 17.02.2016 | Project budget revision and workplan changes due to challenges in procuring international consultants   |
| Rev 3                     | 29.06.2017 | Challenges in accessing project funds as the Project bank was put under liquidation due to the financial crisis affecting payment of services   |
| Rev 4 (New PCA)           | 20.01.2020 | Due to challenges, project activities halted and the PCA expired, leading to the need for a new PCA to enable revision of milestones to enable delivery of set targets.   |
| Rev 5 (New PCA amendment) | 30.06.2023 | Due to challenges, project activities halted and the PCA expired, death of project director and finance contact (UNDP) due to COVID leading to the need for extending a PCA to enable revision of milestones to enable delivery of set targets. |



**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<br>Required field | Latitude<br>Required field | Longitude<br>Required field | Geo Name ID<br>Required field <i>if</i> the location is not an exact site | Location Description<br>Optional text field | Activity Description<br>Optional text field |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Dushanbe                        | 38°33'42.94"N              | 38°33'42.94"N               | n/a   | n/a   | n/a   |
| Khujand                         | 40°16'24.56" N             | 40°16'24.56" N              | n/a   | n/a   | n/a   |
| Panjakent                       | 39°29'29.71" N             | 39°29'29.71" N              | n/a   | n/a   | n/a   |
| Lakhsh                          | 39°13'16.57" N             | 39°13'16.57" N              | n/a   | n/a   | n/a   |
| Gharm                           | 39° 1'23.22" N             | 39° 1'23.22" N              | n/a   | n/a   | n/a   |
| Kulob                           | 37°55'15.25" N             | 37°55'15.25" N              | n/a   | n/a   | n/a   |
| Bohtar                          | 37°50'9.57" N              | 37°50'9.57" N               | n/a   | n/a   | n/a   |

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

*[Annex any linked geospatial file]*

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

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Tajikistan/@38.7719751,66.7529731,6z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x38b176737abcb3cd:0x25c331844f1988b5!8m2!3d38.861034!4d71.276093>

