



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2021 – Revised Template



Period covered: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Central Asia
Country (ies):	Uzbekistan
Project Title:	Sustainable Management of Forests in Mountain and Valley Areas in Uzbekistan (FSP)
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/UZB/004/GFF
GEF ID:	9190
GEF Focal Area(s):	Multifocal area (LD, CCM,SFM)
Project Executing Partners:	State Committee on Forestry (SCF) of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Project Duration:	5 years
Project coordinates: (Ctrl+Click here)	<p>Syrdarya Forestry Organization:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Malik area (40°46'25.08 N; 68°38'55.98" E) 2) Gulistan area (40°32'38.46" N; 68°54'35.56" E) 3) Shirin area (40°13'24.42" N; 69° 04'23.96" E) 4) Boyovut-3 area (40°23'45.66" N; 68°49'55.51" E) <p>Pop FO</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cosmos-2 area (40°57'37'6.23" N; 70°47'53'58.55" E) 2) Margizor are (40° 48'24.18" N; 71° 01'57.66" E) nursery <p>Kitab FO</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mingchinor-1 area (39°15'32.58" N; 66° 54'48.96" E), 2) Mingchinor area, 2nd bypass, 3rd block (3915'34.32" N; 66° 54'5.22" E) 3) Makrid area (39°11'46.80" N; 66°44'44.28" E) Nursery 4) Matmon area (39°13'30.29" N; 67°16'15.05" E) <p>Dekhkanabad FO</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Kansay area (38°14'5,50" N; 66°40'52,33" E), 2) Takhta area (30°13'5.86" N; 66°37'55.19" E), 3) Obod-2 area (38°33'2.40" N; 66°32'25.62 E)

Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	December 5, 2017
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	01-Mar-2018

Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	28-Feb-2023
Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) ²	N/A
Actual Implementation End Date³:	N/A

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	3, 187,023 USD
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc⁴:	18,666,151 USD
Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m):	\$1,855,580
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2021⁵	10,249,500 USD

Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:	April 7, 2021
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	29 August 2020
Actual Mid-term review date:	October-December 2021
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)⁷:	Yes x or No
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	N/A
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):	Yes or No x

¹ As per FPMIS

² In case of a project extension.

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

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

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

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

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

Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁸	Yes or No x
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Ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	MS
Overall implementation progress rating:	MS
Overall risk rating:	Low

Status

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

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Manager / Coordinator	Kakhkharov, Olimjon, Project technical Coordinator/Advisor, FAOUZ	Olimjon.Kakhkharov@fao.org
Lead Technical Officer	Pechacek, Peter, Forestry Officer, FAOSEC	peter.pechacek@fao.org
Budget Holder	Gutu, Viorel, Sub-regional Coordinator, FAOSEC	viorel.gutu@fao.org
GEF Funding Liaison Officer	Gonzalez, Hernan, Technical Officer, CBC, HQ	hernan.gonzalez@fao.org

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

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

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

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
Objective(s): to introduce sustainable forest management in Uzbekistan, thereby sequestering carbon and improving the quality of forest and tree resources						
Outcome 1: An operational Forest Inventory (FI) and Monitoring System	FI and monitoring system in place	Inefficient, methodologically inappropriate, spatially, temporally and thematically incomplete system for FI and monitoring	FI and monitoring system in place	FI and monitoring system in place and generating coherent information for planning and decision making at the Leskhoz level	<p>Components of the system are in place. However they were not activated yet, because the process of data collection and evaluation has not started yet due to: 1) CoViD-19 situation in 2020. 2) Low participation and no initiative of O'rmonloyikha. 3) Unmet 2020 KPIs of National Consultants, which have hampered handover to O'rmonloyikha. 4) Delays related to the recruitment of the international consultant Mr Adolt for 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purchase of tools and materials for effective operation of the GIS laboratory completed during reporting period and installed, and Data Center and GIS lab are in operation. - Inputs for Manual I – compilation of base map production methodology prepared. - Inputs for Manual I – Working instructions for CE survey prepared. 	MS

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

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

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

<p>Outcome 2: SFM operationalized at 4 demonstration sites generating sustainable benefits such as carbon sequestration and improved livelihoods of at least 500 local households</p>	<p>SFM operationalised at X sites covering X ha of land leading to sequestration of X tCO₂eq.</p>	<p>SFM is not operationalised in the different types of forest ecosystems in Uzbekistan</p>	<p>SFM operationalized at 4 demo sites covering 84 735 ha of land</p>	<p>SFM operationalised on 84 735 ha at 4 demo sites leading to sequestration of 4 118 451 tCO₂eq and improved livelihoods of at least 500 local households of which at least 30% are female headed</p>	<p>SFM was introduced (as a co-financing) in 12 465 hectares (in 4 FOs), which will lead to the sequestration of 510 100 tons of CO₂ annually</p> <p>In particular, in Dekhkanabad forest organization 5125 hectares, 4750 ha in Kitab, 1730 ha in Pop, 860 ha in Sirdarya.</p> <p>SHARP survey documented 368 households out of which 260 households were involved in activities of SFM within 4 FOs, of which 122 women took part in gender and project activities.</p> <p>Guidelines for preparation of Multipurpose Management Plans for Sustainable Forest and Pasture Management in Uzbekistan prepared.</p> <p>Tender for procurement of planting materials for 3 demo sites (Dekhkanabad, Kitab and Pop) in FF was launched. Demo plots planned in 3 areas (Boyovut, Shirin and Guliston areas) to demonstrate SFM, however since the mentioned tender is in progress, demonstrations were not yet initiated .</p> <p>On September 15, 2020, water was supplied to the problem areas of the Dekhkanabad and Pop FO through 5 km long polyethylene pipes, which made it possible to install 40-ton reservoirs for storing water on the mountains slopes. It created opportunities to grow there plants, shrubs and trees adapted to local climatic conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Action plan for Pasture and Rangeland is developed, but needs substantial revision. - Trainings held on each pilot FOs on "Rational pasture management in accordance with the Law on Pastures and other legal acts." 	<p>MU</p>
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					<p>- Local women participated in Seminar on "Development of traditional crafts and income generating opportunities for rural women living in forest areas", held in Kitab Forestry organization.</p>	
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<p>Outcome 3: The policy and enabling framework is conducive to state and private investment in SFM</p>	<p>SFM principles integrated forest sector frameworks, policies and programs</p>	<p>Weak policy and legal framework for SFM and lack of management plans at local level to implement SFM</p> <p>Lack of long-term leases for sustainable use of FF land</p>	<p>NAMA for the forestry sector including MRV in place</p> <p>SFM principles integrated into key national forest policy frameworks and programs</p>	<p>Strong enabling environment facilitates upscaling of SFM and enhanced carbon sequestration on all forest land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender Action Plan (GAP) for SFC (2021-2022) was developed with concrete targets and indicators to measure the progress against the goals and tasks set in the Gender Strategy. - The achievements of the gender component of the SFM project were reflected in the regional FAO newsletter and available on FAO regional website. http://www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/ru/c/1339036/ - Amendment has been made to the forest legislation permitting the transfer of forest fund lands to long-term leases for up to 49 years. The project supported the amendment through its approval. It is worth to note that all related activities as envisioned in the Prodoc (i.e. a workshop and preparation of standards and guidelines) were not yet carried out. Since the legislation has been amended even without these project activities, they seem to be now obsolete and respective changes in the LFM should be proposed - Project team participated in all stages of the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Pastures”. In particular, in the development of: Article No. 5, Chapter 2. Regulation in the field of use and protection of pastures; Article 10, Chapter 2. Regulation in the field of use and protection of pastures; Article 13, Chapter 3. Pasture use; article number 29, Chapter 5. Final provisions. In addition, relevant proposals were presented when agreeing on the draft law as a whole. It is worth noting that although the said Law greatly contributes to the overall spirit of the project, it was not considered part of the Prodoc and related works by the project team were not under the project work plan. After several discussions held with ministries and agencies, it was decided to incorporate the National Forest Program into the Concept for the Development of the Forestry Sector until 2030. The Concept approved by the Presidential Decree dated October 6, 2020 No.PP- 	<p>S</p>
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					4850. The project recruited 2 consultants, who contributed to the facilitation of the revision. It is worth to note that this contribution did not include other associated results envisioned in the Prodoc (i.e. development of the production and financial plan, and analysis of obstacles), but the overall project result (i.e National Forest Program approved) has been already achieved	
Outcome 4: Project implementation based on RBM and lessons learned/good practices documented and disseminated	M&E system is in place to support adaptive results-based management and monitoring of upscaling resulting from the project.	No system in place	Implemented project based on adaptive results-based management	Project delivers expected results and shares best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project monitoring and evaluation system prepared. - PIR 2020 submitted to GEF Coordination Unit Six-months reports are submitted regularly to GEF CU. - MTR ToR and ToR for recruitment of MTR team prepared. Currently, International MTR consultant based on the results of VA is under selection process. - A communication plan has been developed. - On September 3-5, 2020, within the project, special workshops were held for women from the regions of Kashkadarya, Syrdarya and Namangan, where they learnt to produce non-wood crafts. The details of the trainings were covered by many Uzbekistan media outlets. Below are the links to the coverage: https://www.uzdaily.uz/uz/post/6582 https://uzreport.news/society/predstavitelstvo-fao-provelo-seminar-trening-po-povisheniyu-dohodov-selskih-jenshin https://uzreport.news/society/ormon-hududlarida-yashovchi-qishloq-ayollari-daromadlarini-oshirish-boyicha-o-quv-seminari - Several outlets made on the occasion, including: https://uzreport.news/society/zamonaviy-intensiv-niholxonalar-tashkil-qilinmoqda https://t.me/urmon_news https://uz24.uz/ru/articles/voda-v-otdalennie-rayoni - On October 6, 2020 Concept for the Development of Forestry in Uzbekistan until 2030 was approved by 	S

					<p>Presidential Resolution № 4850. This Concept was initiated by SFM project. Experts of the FAO Representation office in Uzbekistan made significant contribution to the development of the document.</p> <p>- Outreach activities included interview of project coordinator by Uzbekistan-24 national TV Channel for special comment on Presidential Decree № 4850 that was broadcasted within the «Новости-24» and «Ахборот-24» informational programmes: https://t.me/mtrkuzofficial/20073</p>	
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Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
<p>Outcome 1: An operational Forest Inventory (FI) and Monitoring System</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accelerating recruitment of the renewed team of the National consultants of Component 1 up to submission of the necessary documents to HR; 2. Integrating relevant undelivered KPIs of National consultants of Component 1 into already developed TOR for delivery of the forest management plans. 3. Takes necessary actions to integrate the technical Annex on implementation of the inventories developed by IC on FIMS&FI into the envisioned LoA, on FMPs to negotiate budget and the work plan with the O'rmonloyikha, and to submit the finalized LoA to the Procurement unit. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project Team 2. IC on FIM&FI 3. Project Team and LTO 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 9 July 2021 2. 9 July 2021 3. 20 August 2021
<p>Outcome 2: SFM operationalized at 4 demonstration sites generating sustainable benefits such as carbon sequestration and improved livelihoods of at least 500 local households</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accelerate selection of the SP for the contract on establishment of the demo sites. Replacing unsatisfactory work of consultants on action plans to implement already developed strategies for forest and pasture rehabilitation, establishment of nurseries, establishment of NWFP plantations, and oversight of all field implementations of these activities through LoA operational modality. Identifying suitable Service providers, to integrate the technical Annex developed by LTO into the envisioned LoA, to negotiate budget and the work plan with the selected Service provider, and to submit the finalized LoA to the Procurement unit.; 2. Based on the TOR developed by the IC on FIM&FI (see above), integrate already developed TOR for FMP into the technical Annex of LoA for development of the Management plans by the O'rmonloyikha (see above, since both activities are linked). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project team 2. LTO and Project team 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 16 July 2021 2. 30 July 2020

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

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

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴			Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR		
Output 1.1: Harmonized methodology for data collection.	Q3 Y3	Identified information and institutional needs for the preparation of forest inventory methodology at the forestry level	Draft methodology of forest organization base maps production available	Methodology of base maps production by remote sensing delivered in its final version. Base maps for the four leskhoz produced in their first, but not final version. Sampling design for the leskhoz-level forest inventory elaborated.	50%	Base maps are not in final versions because of late provision of Kompsat satellite imagery (at the end of the appointment of International RS consultant). National RS consultant has not been able to rerun the analysis himself (despite all approach is well documented and automation scripts available). In this respect, rehire of International RS consultant is proposed. Instructions for field data collection were not compiled by national FIMS&FI consultant, not even 6 months after the missing output was identified and formally requested. Finalisation of all tasks within Output 1.1 will be subject of LoA with O'rmonloyikha on development of the FMP, currently being formulated.
Output 1.2: trained cadre of technicians to undertake the data collection and information management	Q3 Y3	Two trainings were held with the participation of representatives of 4 Pilot Forest organizations 20 people educated and trained to work with remote sensing and using Collect Earth	No training in this period.	Training on base maps production was delivered in 2020. There were technicians to undertake the data collection and information management Pilot Forest organizations. 20 people educated and trained to	60%	Completion of the remaining trainings not finalized due to delays, but planned for 2021

				<p>work with remote sensing and using Collect Earth. Training in use of Field Map for Forest Inventory was delivered last year. Technically the training faced no obstacles or limitations. A last part of the Field Map training dedicated to Forest Inventory data evaluation can ideally be organised after data has been collected. Training on best IT&DB practices is being provided by the National DB&IT consultant, under the supervision of International FIMS&FI consultant. Training of field teams on the field data collection as part of the Forest Inventory will be possible after Output 1.1. has been delivered.</p> <p>(Technological preparation of field survey have been finished. The training on field data collection will be included in to LoA with O'rmonloyikha</p>		
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¹² Outputs as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

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

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

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

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Output 1.3: Geo-referenced database	Q1 Y4	ToRs of consultants responsible for these tasks have been elaborated. Vacancy announcement will be conducted after clearance of LTO.	Server of the former TCP/UZB/3503 found and made available.	HW and SW procured and operational in Data Center of O'rmonloyikha.	20%	The databases have to be filled by field data, final version of base maps and later also by results. That is why the percent of completion is set to 25% only. The population of the existing databases with data will be done by O'rmonloyikha, as part of the LoA and its own workplan independent of this project.
Output 1.4: Forest information and monitoring system	Q2 Y5	Recruitment of consultants as well as tender required for procurement of IT equipment needed by the system is being launched.	All Consultants recruited, procurement of IT equipment in progress (hardware) and largely finalized (software).	Field Map projects prepared in draft versions after the Field Map training. HW, SW and SB in place and gradually being used for the purpose.	20%	The system can be brought to life by regular RS and field data collection and evaluation. Until today, the components of the system have still been idle. Activation through LoA with O'rmonloyikha.
Output 2.1: Sustainable management of mountain forests in Dekhanabad	Q2 Y5	<p>Following seminars and trainings have been conducted during the implementation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2-day informational workshop on project purposes among local stakeholders, reviewing management planning (26-27 November 2018); - Seminar on "Scientific basis for afforestation / reforestation, technology for creating pistachio plantations from planting material with a closed root system, pasture management", (December 20-21, 2018) - 2-day training on "Seed production, soil preparation, management of watersheds and pastures, as well as non-wood products" on 4 - 5 March 2019 for the representatives of 	<p>"Development of traditional crafts and income-generating for rural women living in forest areas" workshop conducted (September 3-5, 2019) in Dehkanabad FO.</p> <p>Key outcomes: 22 rural women from Kashkadarya and Syrdarya regions trained in all stages of environmentally friendly carpet weaving value chain with the use of local lamb wool (supply, processing, transportation and sale; processing of wool, spinning, knitting and dyeing); Rural women capacitated on GEWE, impacts of women's economic empowerment on themselves, their households, children and gains for the entire society. A three-year road map to establish a Center of handicrafts and carpet weaving developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidelines for preparation of Multipurpose Management Plans for Sustainable Forest and Pasture Management in Uzbekistan prepared. - SFM was introduced in forestry enterprise on the territory of 4 520 hectares, which will lead to sequester 226 000 tons of CO2 annually. - Tender for procurement of planting materials for demo sites in FF land was launched. - Concept proposal for NWFPs prepared and adopted by SFC. - Draft Action plan for Pasture and Rangeland is developed - During the reporting period, training held on "Rational pasture management in accordance with the Law on Pastures and other legal acts." 	25 %	<p>During the pandemic, PTF meeting developed Contingency plan to accelerate the works on deskwork mode. In result it has been achieved to elaborate Guidelines for Management plans. Nevertheless, COVID-19 affected to the implementation of activities of the project by not allowing to travel to the field. Major issue is lack of action plans to implement already developed strategies for forest and pasture rehabilitation, establishment of nurseries, and establishment of NWFP plantations. Implementation modality has been recently changed by the PTF from consultants to LoA to address lack of adequate technical deliveries by consultants.</p>

		<p>Dekhkanabad Forestry Organization, farmers and contractors</p> <p>Consultants have travelled extensively to identify and build relations with local communities and forestry organizations responsible for field implementation and monitoring. Mother tree plantations and plantations have been established, and innovative other concepts have been identified and validated.</p>	<p>Out of 4 mini tractor drivers one female driver from Dehkanabad participated in technical training and is currently managing SFM donated mini-tractor.</p>	<p>- Local women participated in Seminar on "Development of traditional crafts and income generating opportunities for rural women living in forest areas", held in Kitab Forestry organization on September 3-5, 2020</p>		
<p>Output 2.2: Sustainable management of mountain forests and improving the livelihoods of at least 200 farmers/households in Kitab forestry</p>	<p>Q2 Y5</p>	<p>- 2-day informational workshop on sharing information about project purposes among local stakeholders, identification of demonstration sites, reviewing management planning at Kitab Forestry organization and preparation of detailed Workplan for 2019, Kitab district, 29-30 November 2018.</p> <p>- Seminar on "Scientific basis for afforestation / reforestation, technology for creating pistachio plantations from planting material with a closed root system, pasture management", (December 20-21, 2018)</p> <p>- 2-day training on "Seed production, soil preparation, management of watersheds</p>	<p>Gender Expert conducted consultations with Kitab FO management and a G+FGD with 15 women from Matmon village, the most remote mountainous village to brainstorm additional income generation for them. The life in the village is quite challenging and the women are not employed into any formal jobs. They lead their multi-children HHs, through subsistence farming. It was agreed to organize a workshop on wool blanket production and knitting woolen outdoorwear for women from Matmon village in premises of Kitab FO. Facilitate purchase of equipment for the wool workshop in SFM project</p>	<p>- Guidelines for preparation of Multipurpose Management Plans for Sustainable Forest and Pasture Management in Uzbekistan prepared</p> <p>- SFM was introduced as a co-financing on the territory of 3 550 hectares, which will lead to absorption - 117 500 tons of CO2 annually.</p> <p>- Tender for procurement of planting materials for demo sites in FF land was launched.</p> <p>- Concept proposal for NWFPs prepared and adopted by SFC</p> <p>- Draft Action plan for Pasture and Rangeland is developed</p> <p>- During the reporting period, training held on "Rational pasture management in accordance with the Law on Pastures and other legal acts."</p>	<p>25 %</p>	<p>Same as above</p>

	<p>and pastures, as well as non-wood products" held in March 6-7, 2019 for the representatives of Kitab Forestry Organization, farmers and contractors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training on "Techniques of planting mother tree plantations", held on April 2-3, 2019 for the representatives of Kitab Forestry Organization, farmers and contractors - Practical seminar training on "The role of Management Plan in Forestry Activities", held on April 22-27, 2019 - Workshop on "Pasture Management" held on April 25, 2019 in Tashkent. - Workshop on validation of visit suggestions with project team, co-financing partners, and forestry organizations organized in Tashkent, 17 June 2019. <p>Consultants have travelled extensively to identify and build relations with local communities and forestry organizations responsible for field implementation and monitoring. Mother tree plantations and plantations have been established, and innovative other concepts have been identified and validated.</p>		<p>Seminar on "Development of traditional crafts and income generating opportunities for rural women living in forest areas", held in Kitab Forestry organization on September 3-5, 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar held on 3-5 September, 2020 with the participation of local women on "Development of traditional crafts and income generating opportunities for rural women living in forest areas" 		
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<p>Output 2.3: Sustainable management of valley forests and shelterbelt forests in Sirdarya forestry improving the livelihoods of at least 100 farmers</p>	<p>Q2 Y5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2-day informational workshop on sharing information about project purposes among local stakeholders, identification of demonstration sites, reviewing management planning Gulistan, 1-2 November 2018. - Workshop on "Shelterbelt establishment", Tashkent, 19-20 November 2018. - 2-day training on "Shelterbelt establishment, creation of walnut plantation, seed production, soil preparation, and using non-wood products", Syrdarya, 28 February - 1 March 2019 for the representatives of Syrdarya Forestry Organization, farmers and contractors - Training on "Techniques of planting mother tree plantations", held on April 11-13, 2019 for the representatives of Syrdarya Forestry Organization, farmers and contractors - Practical seminar training on "The role of Management Plan in Forestry Activities", held on April 22-27, 2019 - Workshop on "Pasture Management" under 	<p>The project selected 100 hectares on the territory of 4 farms for the implementation of the system of forest strips, conducted training courses and seminars with the participation of more than 40 specialists, households and farmers, of which 12 are women. In the end of November, 2019 Gender Expert conducted a needs assessment in Syrdarya region FO to explore a potential for diversifying income generation opportunities for local rural women through developing traditional crafts based on available non-timber resources. There were barriers and bottlenecks to start the initiative identified during group discussions with rural women and community advisors from Gulistan and Boyovut districts: the distance to the potential workshop site (FO old premises) is quite far for the majority of women's residential areas. Syrdarya FO management is keenly interested to develop production of wool blankets initiative from locally available lamb wool and manage the value chain. The rural women from low-income and other socially vulnerable layers from neighboring communities will be provided with jobs. Upon COVID_19 lockdown more exploration in the FO neighborhood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidelines for preparation of Multipurpose Management Plans for Sustainable Forest and Pasture Management in Uzbekistan prepared - Demo plots established in 3 areas (Boyovut, Shirin and Guliston areas) to demonstrate SFM. In total (including co-financing) SFM was introduced on the territory of 482 hectares, which will lead to sequestration of 24 100 tons of CO2 annually, which also includes 115 hectares of forest shelter belts - Tender for procurement of planting materials for demo sites in FF land was launched. - Concept proposal for NWFPs prepared and adopted by SFC - Local women participated in Seminar on "Development of traditional crafts and income generating opportunities for rural women living in forest areas", held in Kitab Forestry organization on September 3-5, 2020 	<p>35 %</p>	<p>Same as above</p>
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		<p>Project "Sustainable management of forests in Mountain and Valley areas in Uzbekistan" (FSP), held on April 25, 2019 in Tashkent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop on validation of visit suggestions with project team, cofinancing partners, and forestry organizations organized in Tashkent, 17 June 2019. <p>Consultants have travelled extensively to identify and build relations with local communities and forestry organizations responsible for field implementation and monitoring. Mother plantations and plantations have been established, and innovative other concepts have been identified and validated.</p>	to identify more women in need for capacity development on local crafts.			
Output 2.4 Sustainable management of mountain forests and improving the livelihoods of at least 100 farmers in Fergana Valley, Pop forestry	Q2 Y3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2-day informational workshop on sharing information about project purposes among local stakeholders, identification of demonstration sites, reviewing management planning at Pop Forestry organization and preparation of detailed Workplan for 2019, Pop district, 8-9 November 2018. 	<p>A three day workshop conducted to capacitate 23 Pop FO rural women in washing, disinfecting, scratching the raw sheep wool available locally. The women learned to make cotton cases, quilt them and produce quilted wool blankets and belts.</p> <p>The ready produce is environmentally friendly, very light, warm, has a whole number of healing qualities. The unique</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidelines for preparation of Multipurpose Management Plans for Sustainable Forest and Pasture Management in Uzbekistan prepared - SFM was introduced as a co-financing on the territory of 1 650 hectares, which will lead to sequestration of 82 500 tons of CO2 annually. - Tender for procurement of planting materials for demo sites in FF land was launched. 	35 %	Same as above

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar on “Scientific basis for afforestation / reforestation, technology for creating pistachio plantations from planting material with a closed root system, pasture management”, (December 20-21, 2018) - day training on "Seed production, soil preparation, management of watersheds and pastures, as well as non-wood products" in 2019, Pop district, 20-21 February 2019 for the representatives of Pop Forestry Organization, farmers and contractors - Training on "Techniques of planting mother tree plantations", held on April 9-10, 2019 for the representatives of Pop Forestry Organization, farmers and contractors - Practical seminar training on "The role of Management Plan in Forestry Activities", held on April 22-27, 2019 - Workshop on "Pasture Management" held on April 25, 2019 in Tashkent. - Workshop on validation of visit suggestions with project team, cofinancing 	<p>feature of the proposed methodology for wool washing is that it does not engage toxic, heavy and expensive chemicals and detergents; the process does not require considerable amounts of water which is crucial for water deficient areas.</p> <p>Potential marketing and sales strategies were discussed. GEWE awareness raising, introduction to entrepreneurship and business plan development sessions were also included to the agenda Pop FO management will support the new income generation strategy through hiring several trained women as seasonal workers while the entire value chain is developed and becomes earning profit for both the women and the FO.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept proposal for NWFPs prepared and adopted by SFC - Draft Action plan for Pasture and Rangeland is developed - During the reporting period, training held on "Rational pasture management in accordance with the Law on Pastures and other legal acts." - Local women participated in Seminar on "Development of traditional crafts and income generating opportunities for rural women living in forest areas", held in Kitab Forestry organization on September 3-5, 2020 		
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		<p>partners, and forestry organizations organized in Tashkent, 17 June 2019. Consultants have travelled extensively to identify and build relations with local communities and forestry organizations responsible for field implementation and monitoring. Mother tree plantations and plantations have been established, and innovative other concepts have been identified and validated.</p>				
<p>Output 3.1: Capacity inside SCF for forest information management is enhanced</p>	<p>Q3 Y3</p>	<p>Practical seminar training on "The role of Management Plan in Forestry Activities" held on April 22-27, 2019</p>	<p>Prepared 46 SCF staff at central and provincial levels</p> <p>Online training on base map conducted in June 2020.</p> <p>GIS-related equipment procurement completed. Most of the items have been delivered</p>	<p>For reporting period, online training on base map conducted in 2020 with the participation of O'rmonloyikha institute and its representatives.</p> <p>Procurement of necessary equipment and tools completed, and installed in Ormonloyikha</p> <p>More than 10 online training seminars were held with the participation of more than 200 specialists from the State Forestry Committee, the State Committee for Ecology, the Ministry of Agriculture, students of the Agrarian University in the areas of forestry, nature protection and biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>50%</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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Output 3.2: Awareness and support for improved land tenure is created	Q3 Y3	For the reporting period of 2018-2019, project events shown in more than 60 programs on TV, published on the Internet and print media. The audience of 100 forestry enterprises of SFC, ministries and departments, NGOs and international organizations (ICARDA, UNDP, TIKa, USAID USA) is reached. Communications Specialist started in June 2019	No progress to date	In 2021, the Project Activities covered over 60 TV programs, published on the Internet and in print media. The audience reached 600 people from SFK forestry enterprises, ministries and departments, NGOs and international organizations (ICARDA, UNDP, TIKa, USAID).	50%	N/A
Output 3.3: A Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) for the forestry sector or pistachio forest sub-sector, including a national measuring, reporting and validation (MRV) system	Q1 Y4	Planned for a later stage of the project as per the ProDoc	No progress to date	ToR for IC on NAMA developed by LTO and recruitment of IC on NAMA is in process.	10%	N/A
Output 3.4: Amendment to forest legislation legalizing long-term leases of forest fund land	Q3 Y3	Number of proposals have been made to the draft Presidential Decree on Amendments to the Legislation which legalizes the long-term lease of forest land. Project specialists contributed to the development of Presidential Decree on the	Project team facilitated the adoption of a Presidential Decree in which the lease term of FF land extended up to 49 years The Law "On Pastures" has been adopted, according to which associations of pasture users will be created, which will regulate the	Completed	100%	N/A

		“Convention to Combat Desertification”.	issuance of tickets for grazing of the State Forest Fund			
Output 3.5: The National Forest Program is approved	Q2 Y2	It is planned to conduct an analysis of the National Forest Program in the second half of 2019 and the development of a new edition in 2020 by specialists from the State Committee and the project team.	<p>During the meeting was held on 11-12 November 2019 National Forest Program and the Concept for the Development of the Forestry Sector until 2030 have been reviewed and revised.</p> <p>Currently, National Forest Program has been reflected in the Development of the Forestry Sector until 2030 and agreed with relevant ministries and agencies of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the final version submitted to the Cabinet Minister for review and approval.</p>	“The Concept for the Development of the Forestry Sector until 2030” approved by the Presidential Decree dated October 6, 2020 No.PP-4850	100%	Completed
Output 3.6: Lessons and best practices from Component 2 are institutionalized in policy and/or programs	Q1 Y5	Planned for the 3 rd year of the project	<p>Gender Action Plan (GAP) for 2019-2021 developed by GE, discussed with State Forestry Committee management, and with FOs during the workshop on June 21, 2019. Final version of GAP endorsed by SFM management</p> <p>FOs appointed field Gender Coordinators (FGC) based on the detailed endorsed ToR: FGCs capacitated on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) during 4 workshops. Network of FGCs established through online group in Telegram App. and regular communication maintained.</p> <p>The FGCs’ status institutionalized by the special decree of the State Committee on Forestry with 30%</p>	<p>Gender Action Plan (GAP) for SFC (2021-2022) was developed with concrete targets and indicators to measure the progress against the goals and tasks set in the Gender Strategy.</p> <p>The achievements of the gender component of the SFM project were reflected in the regional FAO newsletter and available on FAO regional website. http://www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/ru/c/1339036/. As part of the SFC contribution in each FO, 3 employees (chief forester, cadastre specialist and gender specialist) are assigned to the project, financed from</p>	50%	N/A

			<p>salary increase provided by the FOs. Sex-disaggregated database of FOs' staff, seasonal workers, grazing tickets owners and farmers developed; FGCs trained on collection and maintenance of the database. The baseline information collected as of June 2019 status of FOs' HR and related community small holders to monitor GE</p>	<p>the farm of the State Forestry Committee's own funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the experience of the Turkish forestry companies on the water-saving technology proposed by the project team, nurseries for growing seedlings of trees and shrubs have been created in 44 forestry organizations. - The experience of the project on the creation of fuel wood plantations in the Syrdarya forest organization will be introduced in 60 farms of the State Forestry Committee 		
Output 4.1: A set of manuals or guidelines, that capture and describe the improved practices, measures and technologies	Q4 2020	For component 1, several recommendations are prepared for publication of guidelines for introducing GIS technologies into the forestry system.	In order to disseminate the best practices reflected in the approved Forest restoration concept, Nursery concept, Pasture Management Strategy, 4 brochures summarising key ideas of the documents have been published by "Print Media" and disseminated amongst National partners and pilot FOs	<p>Concept on NWFP developed and approved by SFC. The Concept disseminated amongst the Forest Organizations of State Forestry Committee for adoption and implementation. Followings prepared by the project, published, and transmitted to interested parties:</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture requested to publish the following products. It is worth noting that they were not approved in the Prodoc, nor were their technically cleared by FAO TO:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Recommendations for growing annual medicinal plants in Uzbekistan" 2. "Guide 	65%	Publication of all newly developed Strategies and Guidelines should be accelerated

				for specialists in the cultivation, procurement of medicinal and spicy plants" 3. "Materials of the scientific-practical conference on plants and increasing the export potential of the industry". Prepared for publication: "Dictionary of forestry terms".		
Output 4.2: Project Monitoring & Evaluation plan and system in place	Q3 Y3	The monitoring system by FAO is established on a continuous basis and monitored both at the local level and at the level of Sub-regional FAO Office in Ankara.	Monitoring is being conducted on a regular basis by FAO Country Office's Program associate	PIR 2020 and Six-month report cleared by LTO and submitted to GEF CU	50%	N/A
Output 4.3: Project Mid-term and Final Evaluations	Q4 Y3	Planned in August 2020	It is planned for August 2020. However, due to COVID-19 restriction and other constrains, it is requested to postpone it for 6 months	MTR ToR and MTR team ToR have been developed and agreed with GEF CU, LTO and OFP. VA is over. Shortlisting and evaluation process is ahead to hire the IC on MTR.	40%	N/A
Output 4.4: A Communication and dissemination strategy is developed and implemented	Q2 Y1	Communication consultant recruited in June 2019.	In June 2019, Sanobar Khudaybergenova, communication consultant was recruited to develop and lead communication activities. Communication strategy was developed for June 2019-December 2020 period. In accordance with FAO guidelines, it was decided to locate the project webpage inside corporate FAO.ORG website. However, due to the prolonged migration of corporate site from one platform to another (Drupal), the process has been delayed. Leaflets on project information has been published and disseminated	In September 2020, Guzal Fayzieva, National Communication Consultant was recruited to develop and lead communication activities. The main purpose of the Communication and Dissemination Strategy is to support the delivery of FAO's mandate by highlighting the substantive work being done under the project "Sustainable Management of Forests in Mountain and Valley Areas of Uzbekistan" (SFM) to target audience including	50%	Most of the works are done under this output as per the Timeline.

			<p>during every training and field trainings to the local community and representatives of various ministries and agencies.</p> <p>As for the social media accounts, FAO projects are not allowed to open separate social media accounts because of one corporate social media account policy, the project activities were decided to be highlighted through UN in Uzbekistan's social media. Communication priorities and channels were identified to disseminate the information to various stakeholders including national partners, policy makers, and rural population near project demonstration sites as well as general public.</p> <p>The contact list of mass media representatives was formed for increased outreach. On 18 June 2020, the project team was interviewed on the discussion of strategy for the development of agriculture until 2030 in Uzbekistan. The interview was aired by Uzbekistan 24 national news channel during the prime time: https://youtu.be/WT9Y6uV50k A</p> <p>Upon adoption of presidential decree on additional measures to increase the efficiency of forest use in Uzbekistan, the project coordinator provided comments on</p>	<p>stakeholders, collaborating partners and beneficiaries, civil society and private sector entities, food and agriculture workers, global media. Communication activities are aimed at highlighting significant contribution of the SFM project into ensuring sustainable, non-depleting, multipurpose forest management, conservation and enhancement of productivity, sustainability and biodiversity of forests in Uzbekistan.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the activities of the SFM project were widely reported in the Uzbek and international media, national and private TV channels, radio, newspapers, magazines and news agencies. Below are links to the most significant publications and video reports:</p> <p>https://uzbekistan.un.org/ru/130414-fao-sposobstvet-cifrovizacii-lesnogo-khozyaystva-v-uzbekistane https://t.me/hududtv/8814 https://t.me/mtrkuzofficial/48768 https://t.me/mtrkuzofficial/26197 https://t.me/mtrkuzofficial/20073</p>		
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			<p>increasing the efficiency of forest use in Uzbekistan. The interview was aired at Uzbekistan 24 TV channel 9:00 PM news program on 23 August, 2019: https://youtu.be/u-5cUUBvDJ4</p> <p>Seminar on "Development of traditional crafts and income generating opportunities for rural women living in forest areas", was conducted in Dekhkanabad Forest organization on September 2-5, 2019. Press release was drafted and disseminated among local media. News article was published on the fourth page of "Dekhqonobod Ovozi", weekly print newspaper and the coverage from the event was aired by Kashkadarya regional TV. Along with it, radio interview with participants was aired by Uzbekistan 24 national radio channel: https://soundcloud.com/user-929662669/carpet-weaving</p> <p>Following the Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and Freiburg University, the team has visited Uzbekistan recently. The coverage of the visit was aired at Agrotourism program at Dunyo Bo'ylab national TV channel on 12 October 2019: https://youtu.be/46t_ssKzK5Y</p>	<p>https://t.me/mtrkuzofficial/33532 https://t.me/mtrkuzofficial/40558 https://t.me/c/1349311387/1718 https://youtu.be/eiWRUJiZv6U https://nuz.uz/obschestvo/1187506-v-syrdarinskoj-oblasti-pri-sodejstvii-fao-podnimutsya-lesnye-plantaczii.html http://www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/ru/c/1339036/ https://uza.uz/uz/posts/fao-tashabbusi-bilan-ormon-xozhaligi-davlat-qomitasining-gender-strategiyasi-ishlab-chiqildi_189903 https://uz24.uz/ru/articles/voda-v-otdalennie-rayoni http://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/post/54920 https://review.uz/oz/9jd</p> <p>During the reporting period, the SFM project activities were covered in the latest issue of the FAO Uzbekistan Newsletter, that was published on the FAO official website for the first time:</p> <p>http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4754en http://www.fao.org/documents/card/ru/c/cb4754ru</p>		
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			<p>Considering the importance of concept proposal for restoration of degraded forests, it was decided to highlight the topic in the media for enhanced attention. The training was covered by "Efirda biz" news program of Dunyo bo'ylab national TV channel, 18 October, 2019 @7 pm issue: https://youtu.be/LpaReStVdMM</p> <p>"Raising awareness of the researchers, professors and postgraduate students of the Tashkent state Agrarian University about international and local experience in forestry" held on September 30, 2019" was widely covered by the national media: Dunyo bo'ylab TV channel: https://youtu.be/JhTJEmGZi6Q</p> <p>Uzbekistan 24 national TV: https://youtu.be/JuJ8uUfdn84</p> <p>The coverage of SFM Steering Committee Meeting in Uzbek and Russia languages at UzReport TV was aired on 19 February 2020: https://youtu.be/92cOJsmbQaM</p> <p>To raise awareness about the importance of forests for biodiversity, the project organized tree-planting event among the local population including women and children at the demonstration sites.</p>	<p>Activities related to the implementation of the project in Uzbekistan are actively covered in social networks: through UN Uzbekistan's pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter</p>		
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			<p>The events were devoted to the International Day of Forests 2020.</p> <p>The news circulated in the air for 24 hours in Uzbek and Russian languages.</p> <p>Additionally, photo archive of the project was established. All seminars, trainings, meetings and tours conducted within the frame of the project were photo-documented.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the project also greatly contributed to quarterly FAO Uzbekistan newsletter with several articles in its each issue</p>			
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4. Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on Project Implementation

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

- Some Components of the FIMS are in place. For the reporting period, SFM was introduced (as a co-financing) in 10 202 hectares (in 4 FOs), which will lead to the sequestration of 510 100 tons of CO2 annually, In particular, in Dekhkanabad forest organization 4 520 hectares, 3550 ha in Kitab, 1650 ha in Pop, 482 ha in Sirdarya. Guidelines for preparation of Multipurpose Management Plans for Sustainable Forest and Pasture Management in Uzbekistan prepared.
- Tender for procurement of planting materials for 3 demo sites (Dekhkanabad, Kitab and Pop) in FF has been launched. SFM Demo plots were created in Syrdarya FO: forest shelter belts, nursery and fuelwood plantations in 3 districts (Boyovut, Shirin and Guliston areas) to demonstrate SFM.
- On September 15, 2020, water was supplied to the problem areas of the Dekhkanabad and Pop FO through 5 km long polyethylene pipes, which made it possible to install 40-ton reservoirs for storing water on the mountains slopes. It created opportunities to grow there plants, shrubs and trees adapted to local climatic conditions.
- Concept on Non-wood forest products developed and adopted by National partner, and disseminated amongst the Forest organizations for implementation
- Inputs for Manual I – compilation of base map production methodology prepared
- PIR 2020 submitted to GEF Coordination Unit. Six-months reports are submitted regularly to GEF CU.
- MTR ToR and ToR for recruitment of MTR team prepared. Currently, we are selecting International MTR consultant based on the results of VA.
- On October 6, 2020 Concept for the Development of Forestry in Uzbekistan until 2030 was approved by Presidential Resolution № 4850. This Concept was initiated by SFM project. Experts of the FAO Representation office in Uzbekistan made significant contribution to the development of the document.

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

- Major challenges include 1) CoViD-19 situation in 2020, 2) Delays in procurement of equipment for Component 1 and 2, and 3) failure of a study tour in the Czech Republic on GIS Technology. The latter is considered major challenge because the project lost some time by waiting for lockdown to be lifted.
- During the pandemic, PTF meeting developed Contingency plan to accelerate the works on deskwork mode. In result we have achieved to elaborate Guidelines for Management plans. Nevertheless, COVID-19 affected to the implementation of project activities by not allowing to travel to the demo sites.
- Lack of satisfactory technical deliveries across all National consultancies. Examples include under component 1 many KPI that were not delivered at all by the recruited consultants and changed TOR without authorization, and under component 2 VA for Forest Restoration and Rangeland and Pasture, which were published several times on relevant job sites with no result. Therefore, PTF members recommended to shift modality of

consultancy to LoA. The proposed solution may also support overcoming the language barrier, since English as initially envisioned communication language between the LTO and national consultants is not widely available in Uzbekistan.

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

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

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

	FY2021 Development Objective rating¹⁶	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating¹⁷	Comments/reasons¹⁸ justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	S	S	Given the coronavirus pandemic, there were delays in the implementation of the 1st component, the disruption of the study tour in the Czech Republic, the revision of the Annual Plan and coordination with the project partners. The pandemic has impacted the work of national and international consultants, reducing their effectiveness. For the second component, a high level of work in the pilot sites, involvement of the local population, a high level of the institutional potential of the project, during the reporting period, co-financing from the partners was completed, 3 employees were assigned in each forestry enterprise for the implementation of the project. Sustainable forest management has been successfully implemented in 50% of the project area. Modern resource-saving technologies have been introduced in 44 forestry enterprises.

¹⁶ **Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet.

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

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

¹⁸ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

Budget Holder	MS	MS	<p>Due to COVID-19 pandemic there were several issues regarding field visits, but despite of that, the project team achieved to implement several activities. PTF meeting was held to accelerate the implementation of the activities. Besides, during the Steering committee meeting the implementation of the project was positively marked. Due to some technical issues, there were delays in the implementation of the Component 1 activities, which significantly affected the component 2.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the MTR is delayed due to several reasons, which are not relevant to the project team, but the on time MTR could significantly contribute to the effective implementation of the project.</p> <p>In general, the project objectives are on track and implementation progress is on good pace.</p>
Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	MU	MU	<p>Delays observed during the last PIR period keep to persist. Lack of adequate technical capacities at individual level seems to be the main driving factors of the slow progress of the project. PTF members made therefore recommendations to accelerate deliveries through change of implementation modality from consultancies to LoAs for the most demanding technical works including on component 1 (altogether between 30-40% achievement) and 2 (altogether between 25-35% achievement). Both components are technically the backbone of the project. They include FMPs and rehabilitation activities, which comprise the bulk of the GEBs committed in the Prodoc</p>
GEF Operational Focal Point			

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

<p>FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>The project is nearing completion of its third year of implementation and shows operational delays that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The change in the approach from hiring individual consultants to contracting institutions should address some of the capacity issues highlighted in this and the previous PIR. Significant advance is expected over the upcoming year for components 1 and 2.</p> <p>The mid-term review is expected to take place during the second semester of 2021.</p> <p>A request is made to have the PTF as soon as the MTR is complete (ideally before the end of 2021) to ensure that an AWP is available before 2022 starts.</p>
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5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO

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

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

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

Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low risk	The risk is still low and no new risks emerged

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.

6. Risks

Risk ratings

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

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

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	The enabling legal and institutional framework is not sufficiently conducive to the Project Objectives, and is not modified/adopted in a timely way.	ML	Component 3 addresses weaknesses in the legal and institutional framework and will ensure that SFM adopted as an overarching strategy. Progress with strengthening the enabling environment for SFM will be continuously monitored by the Government and FAO, and strategic changes to the Project approach will be identified and implemented if necessary.	Straightforward discussions in Steering Committee Meetings including regular follow-up at highest level by project.	On track

²¹ GEF Risk ratings: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High

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

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
2	Financially sustainable models of forest management cannot be identified/developed for Uzbekistan.	ML	Fostering financial sustainability is a core strategy of the Project and includes creating incentives for SFM both among local land users, through improved land tenure arrangements, and among the FOs through identification of longer-term benefits from tree plantations, generated from harvesting of fruits and nuts, carbon sequestration, etc.	Project has identified incentives for local users: 1) project suggested to FOs project will purchase planting material for households to (enrichment) plant in degraded areas. 2) Project has worked towards increasing land lease period. 3) engaging local communities with Payment For Environmental Services schemes to co-monitor succession, potential diseases and pests, climatic events, fires, encroachment, etc.	On track although actions delayed

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
3	Forest conservation strategies proposed by the project will not be accepted by the population or will cause conflict with contractors who have occupied the same land plot for many years and do not allow anyone to use it.	L	Incentives for SFM and forest conservation will be created through income generation activities for local communities from harvesting of fruits, nuts and NWFPs. Stakeholder consultation and participatory mechanisms will be put in place to avoid conflicts between communities and other contractors.	Project restoration concept has identified several alternative livelihood options for women and men, including: nut and fruit orchards, handicraft production from non-wood forest products, beekeeping, and sheep wool processing and silk production. It has been approved to organise joint trainings with four pilot areas attending to share local best practices that also promote project global benefit objectives.	On track although actions delayed
	Climate change may lead to increased threats to forests through fire, pests, diseases and changing climatic conditions (temperature, precipitation).	MH	The timeframe for climate change means that it does not significantly impact forests during the Project implementation period. Further, the Project, by greatly increasing overall forest management capacity, will contribute significantly to enhanced climate change resilience of forest ecosystems in Uzbekistan.	Project (restoration concept) is proactive about climate change beyond project life cycle and therefore has suggested to FOs establish fire breaks between plots. Fire breaks can act also as ecological corridors or as grass production areas (harvested before dry). Concept also suggests integrated pest management to combat any pests (fungus, insects, etc.)	On track although actions delayed

	Risk	Risk rating²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
	Covid 19 pandemic and related safety measures adopted by GoU prevent field works that are at the heart of the project. Most of these field works are of seasonal nature.	S	Activities possible to carry out online were identified in an ad hoc developed contingency plan. Some activities originally planned for the period 2020 + were shifted for 2020 (if possible to carry them out online) to provide more space in the years to come for fielded activities that require physical presence on the ground	To be seen, the contingency plan is in place since 1 month	On track
	Technical capacities of national consultants are unusually weak. Deliveries (KPIs) are either not submitted or their technical quality is unacceptable despite of multiple revisions.	S	Shift to other implementation modalities such as LoAs or Service contracts	Currently no progress. The project team initiated discussion with the SFC to highlight the issue and come up with solutions	Agreed by the most recent TF meetings

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

FY2020 rating	FY2021 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
L	L	

**7. Adjustments to Project Strategy –
Only for projects that had the Mid-term review (or supervision mission)**

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

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented
Recommendation 1:	N/A
Recommendation 2:	N/A
Recommendation 3:	N/A
Recommendation 4:	N/A

Adjustments to the project strategy.

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

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

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

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

Change	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
<p>Project extension</p>	<p>Original NTE: Revised NTE:</p> <p>Justification:</p>

8. Stakeholders Engagement

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

If your project had a stakeholder engagement plan, specify whether any new stakeholders have been identified/engaged:

Khunarmand" association have been involved for the current seminar consultation of the Project, which is not in the list of Stakeholders of the project.

If a stakeholder engagement plan was not requested for your project at CEO endorsement stage, please

- **list all stakeholders engaged in the project**
- Forests Projects Enterprise (FPE) of SCF
- Forest Cadastral Unit of SCF
- Forests Organizations (FO) of SCF
- Forestry Research Institute under SCF
- State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection
- Rayon Councils
- Local Self-governing communities/ Makhallya Foundation
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI)
- Business women Association and its local branches
- Michael Succow Foundation
- GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)
- Community leaders and individuals

- **please indicate if the project works with Civil Society Organizations and/or NGOs:**

Project team has engaged with local communities, local civil society organization (Makhallya Foundation), as well as research institutes (Forest Research Institute), other GEF agencies (UNDP), as well as project co-financing partners to verify and modify identified restoration approaches so that they are the best combination of global best practice. Moreover project is collaborating with NGOs "Eco Maktab" and "Green World Futures"

- **briefly describe stakeholders' engagement events, specifying time, date stakeholders engaged, purpose (information, consultation, participation in decision making, etc.) and outcomes:**

State forestry committee and its subordinate offices (representatives from 4 pilot sites), as well as representatives of Forestry Research Institute under SCF and State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection, Rayon Councils, Local Self-governing communities took part in the Steering Committee meeting held on April 7, 2021.

- **Please also indicate if the private sector has been involved in your project and provide the nature of the private sector actors, their role in the project and the way they were involved**

Forests Organizations (FO) of SCF, Forestry Research Institute under SCF, Business Women Association and its local branches, Community leaders and individuals involved in the seminar-consultation held on "Seminar on "Development of traditional crafts and income generating opportunities for rural women living in forest areas", held in Kitab Forestry organization on September 3-5, 2020

9. Gender Mainstreaming

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

Was a gender analysis undertaken or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages? Please briefly indicate the gender differences here.

- A rapid socio-economic and gender survey conducted at the Project preparation stage included an ex-ante and gender-sensitive impact assessment and analysis of livelihoods, vulnerability, and stakeholders. The analysis was based on the field research in four pilot areas identified for the Project, and visits to the FOs and forest-dependent communities in remote mountainous areas. In-depth interviews and focus group discussions were conducted both at policy and community level with: district municipalities/khokimiyat management; SCF and FOs' management and staff; workers in WP and NWFP cultivation and processing; female and male representatives from the households in forest-dependent communities; lessees and owners of grazing tickets; students of vocational colleges; local community leaders and community-based advisors on women's issues (maslakhatchi); representatives of private business, etc. Based on the survey, social benefits and gender sensitivity are to be ensured throughout the implementation process.

Does the M&E system have gender-disaggregated data? How is the project tracking gender results and impacts?

- Gender Strategy and a Gender Action Plan for 2021-2022 have been developed. The documents provide participation of 30% of women in all forest management processes. To date, the project has attracted more than 180 women (150 are planned in the project) in 4 pilot sites of the project. Components 1, 2 and 3 will address gender concerns reflected in Project implementation cycle with specific indicators included in the GAP.

Does the project staff have gender expertise?

- Gender Consultant was hired in 2019 and 2020 to develop and supervise GAP implementation, inclusive of gender awareness trainings for the staff.
- In each FO 4 gender specialists have been trained to work on gender issues of the project in the field.

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

- **closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;** Yes
- **improving women's participation;** in capacity building through trainings
- **improving decision making;** on the family and community, FO and Committee levels
- **generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.** Yes

10. Knowledge Management Activities

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

- 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.
- Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.
- 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 global environmental benefits. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.
- Please provide links to publications, leaflets, video materials, related website, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.
- Does the project have a communication and/or knowledge management focal point? If yes, please provide their names and email addresses

In accordance with the key communication, objectives to enhance the public discourse on of the main issues of forests in Mountain and Valley Areas in Uzbekistan, highlight the contribution of GEF and FAO as well as showcase the positive results of the project to demonstrate effectiveness, several products have been produced and disseminated among the key stakeholders. Among them are “Introduction into Gender Approach in Forestry” infographic in Russian, Uzbek and English languages; “Concept of Forestry Rehabilitation” publication; “Strategy of Pasture Management in Uzbekistan” publication; “National Inventory of Forests in Uzbekistan – Examination and Measurement Field Guide on Demonstration Sites”. FAO Bulletin 2019-2020

Moreover, over 600 forestry specialists enriched their knowledge within project’s knowledge dissemination activities, benefitting from three trainings conducted with attraction of international experts during the reporting period:

- "Gathering information for development of nurseries", held on September 23-24, 2019
- "Training on the Concept Proposal for the Restoration/Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests" held on October 14-18, 2019
- "Farm mini tractors and their implements" on 5-8 November, 2019

11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

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

If applies, 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 have an active participation in the project activities? How?

Not applicable to the project.

12. Innovative Approaches

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

- Pop, Kitab and Dekhakanabad FOs established water saving technologies based on the Turkish technology. This method State Forestry Committee adopted this approach and introduced in 44 Forest Organizations. As a result, SFC has achieved to grow more than 500 000 saplings
- 20 People trained online by the Czech specialists to FIELD MAP and Collect Earth.
- Technical training was held for 12 machine operators of four pilot sites of the project and 80 students of the faculty of mechanization of Tashkent State Agrarian University on modern tractors of the Indian company "Aisha International" and 7 innovative mechanisms for treating forest areas, controlling pests and forest diseases that were not used until this time in the forestry system of Uzbekistan.

Above mentioned innovations are being introduced in the field works, which will build the capacity of the local communities and specialists of Forestry Organizations of the State Forestry Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan to introduce new forestry approaches and technologies. This could be linked to Component 3 of the project on introducing best practices and approaches.

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

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

- **Are the outcomes/outputs still achievable within the project period.**

PTF meeting conducted on 2 April and 10 April, 2020. During the meeting, the approached to accelerate the activities of the project discussed. As a result of the meeting, Contingency plan developed, which reflects the activities to be during the COVID-19

- **Will the timing of the project MTR or TE be affected/delayed?**

It affected the procurement of equipment and its timely delivery. In turn, Consultants and the project team were not able to travel to the field.

- **What is the impact of COVID-19 on project beneficiaries, personnel, etc.**

The lockdown affected the normal working conditions of Forest Organizations and others. Training of the beneficiaries were not possible.

- **Are there good practices and lessons learned to be shared?**

In pandemic situation, we have learnt conducting training online trainings, meetings and other activities.

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

14. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁴	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2021	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
State budget	Forestry organizations of State Forestry Committee	In kind	18,666,151 USD	10,249,500 USD (Based on the letter of SFC dated January 29, 2021 No.02/13-402)	N/A	18,666,151 USD
		TOTAL				

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

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

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. **DO Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS)** - Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”); **Satisfactory (S)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings); **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits); **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)** - Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives); **Unsatisfactory (U)** - Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits); **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)** - The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.)

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