



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2023

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Europe and 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:	Forestry Agency under Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change
Initial project duration (years):	5 year
Project coordinates: <i>This section should be completed ONLY by:</i> a) Projects with 1st PIR; b) In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.	<i>The same as reported in PIR 2022 and can be found at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qHJeri5clIz1hBsrlJKx-LcoZEX1QKdYHOFYUsIHEYk/edit#gid=0</i>

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	December 5, 2017
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	01-Mar-2018
Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	February 28, 2023
Revised project implementation End date (if approved) ²	February 28, 2025 (As per the Decision of the SC meeting, held on 16 June 2022, NTE has been extended)

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 3, 187,023
Total Co-financing amount (USD)³:	USD 18,666,151
Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):	USD 2,788,043
Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)⁴:	USD 2,559,643
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023⁵	USD 16,289,600

¹ As per FPMIS

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

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

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

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

M&E Milestones

Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	16 June 2022
Expected Mid-term Review date ⁶ :	June 2021
Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):	October 2021
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date ⁷ :	September 2024
Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)	Yes, attached as Annex

Overall ratings

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

ESS risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	Low
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Status

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

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Coordinator (PC)	Kakhkharov, Olimjon, Project technical Coordinator/ Advisor, FAOUZ	Olimjon.Kakhkharov@fao.org
Budget Holder (BH)	Gutu, Viorel, Sub-regional Coordinator, FAOSEC	viorel.gutu@fao.org
GEF Operational Focal Point (GEF OFP)	Jakhongir Talipov, GEF OFP	jahongir.talipov@eco.gov.uz
Lead Technical Officer (LTO)	Pechacek, Peter, Forestry Officer, FAOSEC	peter.pechacek@fao.org
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	Kaan Evren Basaran, REU GEF Support Specialist	kaan.basaran@fao.org

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

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

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

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

<i>Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.</i>							
Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators⁸	Baseline	Mid-term Target Mid-term Target⁹	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress¹⁰ since project start Level (and %) at 30 June 2023	Progress rating¹¹
to introduce sustainable forest management in Uzbekistan, thereby sequestering carbon and improving the quality of forest and tree resources	Outcome 1: Forest Inventory and Monitoring System (FIMS) operational	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	- All necessary equipment and software to be able to carry out regular Forest Inventory Survey as part of the Forest Inventory and Monitoring System in the O'rmonloyikha institution procured. Installation of equipment and softwares and opening the Data Centre was completed; - Remote sensing mapping completed, Kompsat satellite images used and evaluated at forestry level, baseline data for forest and non-forest land mapping obtained, base maps created for 4 forestry organizations;	MS

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

⁹ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

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

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

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Received a preliminary overview of the land use – land cover situation of the respective forestries (Dekhkanabad, Kitab, Pop and Syrdarya) by means of visual interpreting high-resolution images in the Open Foris Collect Earth program (4.5k plot interpretations); - LoA signed with Ormonloyikha for the elaboration of pilot multi-purpose forest management plans; - Ormonloyiha institution created database that replenishes information on the different sections of forest inventory system on the level of forestry; - Field Map software trainings conducted on calculating forest inventory statistics; - Methods for calculating forest inventory statistics (total and forest stand/pasture unit-wise) developed. Together with the Urmonloyikha and the Forestry Agency, preliminary work was carried out to organize data collection and quality control (validation). The starting points in the Kitab and Dekhkanabad FOs for the field teams have been determined and organizational issues have been resolved for the field team. Taking into account the inaccessibility of the territories. In the field, the transfer of embedded information from tablets to the main server of the Ormonloyikha was tested. Navigation paths for the advancement of 4 field teams were determined. Testing of field map software for field data collection was carried out. 	
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	<p>Outcome 2: SFM operationalized at 4 demonstration sites by 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>During the period of the project implementation, SFM introduced (as a co-financing) in semi-demonstration areas on the 57.347 ha, which will lead to sequestration of 1,720,410 tons CO₂ annually. Including Kitab FO- 12,250 ha, Dekhkanabad FO- 26720 hectares, Pop FO- 16352 hectares, Sirdarya FO- 2025 hectares.</p> <p>The adopted documents within the framework of the project contributed to the development of the forestry sector, improved the well-being of more than 10 thousand people, increased the participation of the local population in sustainable forest management, more than 2 thousand women got the opportunity to work in the forest sector. LoA signed with Ormonloyikha Design Institute for Elaboration of Multifunctional FMP for 4 pilot sites. Currently, structure of the FMPs is being developed.</p>	<p>MU</p>
	<p>Outcome 3: The forest policy and its 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 Lack of long-term leases for sustainable use of FF land</p>	<p>NAMA for the forestry sector including MRV in place 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>	<p>Recruitment of IC on NAMA has been initiated and documents are being submitted by IC to HR IC on Land Tenure recruited and commenced his tasks.</p> <p>SFM practices and principles have been introduced in the Concept on the Development of Forestry Sector of Uzbekistan until 2030, which is approved by the Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan</p>	<p>S</p>
	<p>Outcome 4: Project implementation</p>	<p>M&E system is in place to support</p>	<p>No system in place</p>	<p>Implemented project based on adaptive</p>	<p>Project delivers expected results and</p>	<p>Gantt Chart prepared on quarterly basis and submitted for the review of AFAOR</p>	<p>S</p>

	based on result based management (RBM) and lessons learned/good practices documented and disseminated	adaptive results-based management and monitoring of upscaling resulting from the project.		results based-management	shares best practices	6 month-report and PIR submitted in a timely manner and uploaded into FPMIS	
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Measures taken to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings on Section 2

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 1: Forest Inventory and Monitoring System (FIMS) operational	Conducting PTF Meeting to discuss the issues emerged under component 1	Project Team	10 September 2023
Outcome 1: Forest Inventory and Monitoring System (FIMS) operational	Organization of a meeting for the Service provider (Ormonloyikha) to provide guidance on LoA	Project Team, LTO	15 August 2023
Outcome 2: SFM operationalized at 4 demonstration sites by generating sustainable benefits such as carbon sequestration and improved livelihoods of at least 500 local households	Organization of a meeting for the Service provider (Tashkent State Agrarian Universiy) to provide guidance on LoA	Project Team, LTO	20 August 2023
Outcome 2: SFM operationalized at 4 demonstration sites by generating sustainable benefits such as carbon sequestration and improved livelihoods of at least 500 local households	Organization of a meeting for the Service provider (Green World Future to provide guidance on LoA	Project Team, LTO	25 August 2023

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

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

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
Outcome 1: An operational Forest Inventory (FI) and Monitoring System	FI and monitoring system in place	FI and monitoring system in place	Information collected on 4 pilot sites for Forest Inventory. Preliminary Field Map Project was created and tested during the training conducted by Ormonloyikha On June 23, 2023.	
Output 1.1: Harmonized methodology for data collection.	Harmonized methodology for SFM data collection Leskhoz level field maps	Methodology for data processing/analysis/generation (Manual II) including to predict timber volume for standing trees	- draft version of the Guidelines for field data collection and field mapping is in progress. - A working group was created, a technical discussion was held to review forest inventory materials, needs assessed; - Methods for calculating forest inventory statistics (total and forest stand/pasture unit-wise) is under development. .	
Output 1.2: trained cadre of technicians to undertake the data collection and information management	X number of technicians in SCF, Uzlesproject and the Cadastral Unit trained	Training and capacity development in field methods (data collection and mapping)	On June, 2023, 20 technicians from 4 pilot sites have been trained on GIS technologies and use of equipment procured for establishment of FIMS	

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

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

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

Output 1.3: Geo-referenced database	A geo-referenced database for forested land	Data processing/analysis/generation at forest-enterprise level in a central database including spatial data	- Spatial and geo-referenced data collection Implemented and the data entered into the database (Server) to work with maps (remote sensing)	
Output 1.4: Forest information and monitoring system	Forest information and monitoring system covering FF land as well as other forested land	Data storage and processing	Data storage equipment installed to Ormonloyikha and all required data for FI stored in the previous reporting period.	
Outcome 2: SFM operationalized at 4 demonstration sites generating sustainable benefits such as carbon sequestration and improved livelihoods of at least 500 local households	SFM operationalised at X sites covering X ha of land leading to sequestration of X tCO ₂ eq.	SFM operationalized at 4 demo sites covering 50 000 ha of land	SFM introduced (as a co-financing) in semi-demonstration plots on the areas of 57, 347 hectares, which will lead to the absorption of 1,720,410 tons. CO ₂ annually. The adopted documents (approved by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan envisages extending of lease of FF land from 10 years to 50 years) within the framework of the project contributed to the development of the forestry sector, improvement of the well-being of more than 10 thousand people, increased the participation of the local population in sustainable forest management, more than 2 thousand women got the opportunity to work in the forest sector.	
Output 2.1: Sustainable management of mountain forests in Dekhanabad	SFM practices for high mountain forest covering X ha of land leading to improvement of livelihoods of at least X households.	SFM covering 15 000 ha of land	FMP structures for Dekhkanabad FO are being developed.. SFM introduced (as a co-financing) in semi-demonstration plots on the areas of 12, 250 ha of Dekhkanabad FO. FMP structures for Kitab FO has been prepared and sent for translation into English for further submission to LTO of the Project	

Output 2.2: Sustainable management of mountain forests and improving the livelihoods of at least 200 farmers/houesholds in Kitab forestry	SFM practices for economic tree species covering X ha of land leading to improvement of livelihoods of at least X households.	SFM practices for economic tree species covering 20 000 ha of land	FMP structures for Kitab FO has been prepared and sent for translation into English. SFM introduced (as a co-financing) in semi-demonstration plots on the areas of Kitab FO- 26 720 hectares.	
Output 2.3: Sustainable management of valley forests and shelterbelt forests in Sirdarya forestry improving the livelihoods of at least 100 farmers	SFM practices for valley forests and shelterbelts covering X ha of land leading to improvement of livelihoods of at least X households.	SFM practices for valley forests and shelterbelts covering 1500 ha of land	FMP structures for Sirdarya FO has been prepared and sent for translation into English. SFM introduced (as a co-financing) in semi-demonstration plots on the area of 2025 hectares of Sirdarya FO.	
Output 2.4 Sustainable management of mountain forests and improving the livelihoods of at least 100 farmers in Fergana Valley, Pop forestry	SFM practices for forest covering X ha of land leading to improvement of livelihoods of at least X households.	SFM practices for forest covering 15 000 ha of land	FMP structures for Pop FO has been prepared and sent for translation into English. Under the developed Demonstration and semi-demonstration areas, lease contract have been introduced into practice and SFM introduced (as a co-financing) in semi-demonstration plots on the areas of 16,352 ha of Pop FO.	
Outcome 3: The policy and enabling framework is conducive to state and private investment in SFM	SFM principles integrated forest sector frameworks, policies and programs	NAMA for the forestry sector including MRV in place SFM principles integrated into key national forest policy frameworks and programs	SFM practices and principles have been introduced in the Concept on the Development of Forestry Sector of Uzbekistan until 2030, which is approved by the Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan	
Output 3.1: Capacity inside SCF for forest information management is enhanced	Training of X SCF staff at central and provincial level; provision of equipment related to GIS and to preparation of maps	Training of 25 SCF staff at central and provincial level; provision of equipment	On June 2, 2023, FAO, together with the Forestry Agency under the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Forestry Research Institute and the Urmonloyiha Design Institute, organized a training on the use of digital and geographic information (GIS) in the Tashkent region	

		related to GIS and to preparation of maps	technologies in the survey of forest areas. 20 Specialists from Kitab, Dekhkanabad, Pop and Syrdarya FOs took part in the field training.	
Output 3.2: Awareness and support for improved land tenure is created	Training and awareness raising of X forestry officials in the application of the Voluntary Guidance on Governance and Tenure (VGGT) and need for revision of the grazing ticketing system on FF land	Training on how to use VGGT	IC on Land Tenure, Bradley Paterson recruited to work on the Land Tenure and VGGT, and visited pilot Forest Organization and met with 120 local people	
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	NAMA for the forestry sector including MRV in place	NAMA for the forestry sector including MRV in place	Recruitment is under process.	
Output 3.4: Amendment to forest legislation legalizing long- term leases of forest fund land	Amendment to forest legislation legalizing long- term leases of forest fund land	Production of reports including internal activity and result reporting, forest area change reporting to central government and carbon stock change reporting in the framework of REDD	Result achieved 100%, which is reflected in previous PIRs	
Output 3.5: The National Forest Program is approved	The National Forest Program is approved	The National Forest Program is approved	Result achieved 100%, which is reflected in previous PIRs	

Output 3.6: Lessons and best practices from Component 2 are institutionalized in policy and/or programs	Number of lessons and best practices from Component 2 institutionalized in policy and/or programs Gender Action Plan (GAP)	5 lessons and BPs identified from Component 2 1 GAP developed	GAP developed for 2023 and agreed with Dono Abdurazzakova from REU Office.	
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.	Implemented project based on adaptive results based-management	Gantt Chart prepared on quarterly basis and submitted for the review of AFAOR 6 month-report and PIR submitted in a timely manner and uploaded into FPMIS	
Output 4.1: A set of manuals or guidelines, that capture and describe the improved practices, measures and technologies	Number of manuals and guidelines on SFM in different forest types	2 manuals and 2 guidelines developed and published	The structure of Multifunctional FMP is under development by Service Provider “Urmonloyikha” for their further to LTO for clearance. The definition of Forest Management Types prepared and commented by LTO. Currently it is under revision based on the comments of LTO	
Output 4.2: Project Monitoring & Evaluation plan and system in place	M&E system in place	M&E system in place and providing inputs to PIRs, PPRs and mid-term evaluation	Gantt Chart prepared on quarterly basis and submitted for the review of AFAOR 6 month-report and PIR submitted, cleared by all relevant specialists and uploaded into FPMIS	
Output 4.3: Project Mid-term and Final Evaluations	Mid-term and final evaluation reports	Mid-term project review recommendations implemented	MTR conducted. For results, please refer to section 7. <i>“Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision”</i>	
Output 4.4: A Communication and dissemination strategy is develop and implemented	Communication and dissemination plan Project website and social media pages X number of project newsletters	Communication and dissemination plan in place Project website and social media pages	Communication plan developed for 2023 and cleared by REU. Project website Activities related to the implementation of the SFM project in Uzbekistan are actively covered in social networks: through UN Uzbekistan’s pages on Facebook , Instagram and Twitter .	

	X number of awareness/ outreach events organized	established Outreach event organised in connection with project launch	<p>During the reporting period the SFM project activities have been covered in local media outlets, TV Channels and online news entities. Below are the links to the most significant publications and video reports:</p> <p>1. FAO in cooperation with national partners in Uzbekistan organized trainings on using digital tools and GIS-technologies in forest areas survey. This was covered by TV channels and media outlets:</p> <p>http://nuz.uz/?p=1278364 https://yuz.uz/news/ozbekistonda-ormonlarning-raqamli-inventarizatsiyasi-joriy-etilmoqda https://yuz.uz/ru/news/fao-sposobstvuet-vnedreniyu-tsifrovoy-inventarizatsii-lesnx-xozyaystv-uzbekistana https://xs.uz/uzkr/98340 https://xs.uz/uzkr/98339 https://uza.uz/posts/489401 http://uzdaily.uz/uz/post/8198 http://uzdaily.uz/ru/post/77698 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GkSIGKGCQKcl0snQjkt0gWZyhLbOd2wt/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>The 6th issue of the FAO Uzbekistan Newsletter including articles on SFM activities was published in 2023:</p> <p>EN:https://www.fao.org/3/cc4244en/cc4244en.pdf RU:https://www.fao.org/3/cc4244ru/cc4244ru.pdf</p>	
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4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

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

Summary of progress:

- During the period of the project implementation, SFM introduced (as a co-financing) in semi-demonstration areas on the 57, 347 ha, which will lead to the sequestration of 1,720,410 tons. CO2 annually. Including Kitab FO- 12, 250 ha, Dekhkanabad FO- 26720 ha, Pop FO- 16352 ha, Sirdarya FO- 2025 ha, and 1200 households involved into the forestry activities under the semi-demonstration areas out of which 420 are women.
- Recruitment of IC on NAMA has been initiated and the process is under submission of documents by IC. Land Tenure have been recruited and proceeded with his tasks.
- Gender Action plan for 2023 developed and agreed with REU. Introduction of Gender Strategy activities to other Forest organizations of Uzbekistan is being carried out.

Challenges:

- Multiple changes in the structure, name and management of the "Urmonloikha" complicated the work of the project, frustrated the deadlines for the implementation of the tasks and field work. It affected directly to the implementation of the Component 2.
- Political transformation of the structure of ministries and departments, the State Committee for Forestry of the Republic of Uzbekistan was transformed into the Forestry Agency under the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change. This resolution changed the entire previous composition of organizations and departments with which the project worked.
- Carrying out a number of activities within the framework of the project was postponed to a later date in connection with the National Referendum on Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Presidential Elections of the country.
- Multiple changes in the structure of ministries and departments, as well as heads of departments - for example, the Chief Executive Officer of Service Provider "Urmonloikha" Design Institute leads to a major delay in the implementation of the Outcome 1, which is linked with Outcome 2 of the Project.

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

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR. For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	FY2023 Development Objective rating¹⁵	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating¹⁶	Comments/reasons¹⁷ justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	S	S	<p><i>The positive assessment of the project is based on the sustainability of the results achieved, which was facilitated by institutional changes in legislation developed by the project team and a number of important decisions taken by the Government of Uzbekistan, as well as comprehensive support from the State Forestry Committee. As a result, the positive results of the project on the allocation of forest land for long-term lease were implemented in all 96 forest organizations, more than 10,000 people got the opportunity to improve their well-being, including women.</i></p> <p><i>The concept for the development of the forestry sector until 2030, developed by the project team, made it possible to consolidate sustainable afforestation and reforestation in degraded and mountainous areas on an area of more than 150,000 hectares on a long-term basis.</i></p> <p><i>Under co-financing, Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) has been successfully implemented on over 57,000 hectares in pilot plots, which has contributed to a sustainable increase in carbon sequestration</i></p>
Budget Holder	S	MS	<p><i>The project team is working during the period of transformation of the ministries and government agencies of Uzbekistan. In particular, the Forestry Committee was transformed into an Agency under the Ministry of Natural Resources. Indeed this institutional reforms slow down the process of implementing the planned activities in the pilot areas and introduces changes in the timing of the project. In particular, financial indicators have improved significantly in terms of project financing by the pilot forest organizations and the Agency (former State Forestry Committee). However, activities related to the reporting period to the implementation of the 1st component have positive dynamic. Number of activities related to study tours on supporting reforestation has been funded to ensure the sustainability of the results, which favourably reflected in the quality implementation of the planned activities.</i></p>
GEF Operational Focal Point¹⁸	S	S	<p><i>In terms of co-financing of the project by the Agency (former SFC) and the pilot Forest Organizations, the positive thing is the fulfillment of the stipulated obligations, as well as the introduction of the principle of sustainable forest management.</i></p>

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

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

¹⁷ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

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

			<p><i>It is worth noting the contribution of the project team to the development of the "Concept for the development of the forest industry until 2030" approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In accordance with the objectives of the project, a change was also made to the legislation regarding the extension of the lease term to 50 years, which ensured economic sustainability and contributed to a significant increase in private investment in the forestry sector.</i></p> <p><i>It is important to note that for the successful completion of the project, it is necessary to strengthen the measures for the completion of works of the component 1 and the development of the main document of the "Sustainable Forest Management Plan". Pay extra attention at the final stage on the expenditure of GEF funds in strict accordance with the objectives of the project</i></p>
Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	MU	MU	<p><i>The project team displays positive spirit. However, delays and technical shortcomings observed during the last two PIR periods persist unabated. Lack of adequate technical capacities is without change the main driving factor behind the rating. Recommendations of the PTF on the need for amendment of the existing LoA on Forest management inventories and plans, which were introduced during the last PIR period did not yet materialize. The said LoA seems to be the major blocking factor behind limited technical project performance. A new ad hoc PTF meeting was recommended, but is outstanding as of today. Given the significant impact of lacking and stagnating technical progress on activities under components 1 (currently about 30-40% achieved) and 2 (about 25 – 35% achieved), fast approaching NTE, which makes technical realization of outstanding activities in their original design nearly impossible and the fact that these both components are the technical backbone of the project (i.e. they comprise the bulk of the GEBs committed in the Prodoc, but all reported achievements in this regard are only in various stages of progress, such as under revision, submitted for translation, in draft, etc), technical assessment is at its lowest rating since the project inception.</i></p>
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	S	MS	<p><i>The project is facing difficulties as a result of institutional changes and lack of continuity in the structural capacities that the national counterparts are able to deploy in the relevant field. Stronger technical support is needed in order to ensure the required capacities are developed and the standards that are aimed for can be reflected during the implementation. Despite such external limitations, the project has achieved the implementation of a lot valuable activities and catalyzed large scale investments towards the improved management of forest resources. Good relations with the counterparts are established and the project's support and work are appreciated. Thus, with a stronger technical support, there is a lot of potential for achieving transformatory impact through establishment of intended capacities.</i></p>

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

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

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

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

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

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate:

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	Current ESS risk classification Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low Risk	Still valid.

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

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

6. Risks

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

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit

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

1	Government engagement in the Project at the highest level is insufficient to ensure mainstreaming, upscaling and replication. As a result, the enabling and institutional measures proposed by the Project will not be adopted.	H	Y	The Project has several strategies to mitigate this risk: (i) the early implementation phase focuses at the local level, so this period of time will be taken to advocate and build partnerships at high governmental level; (ii) the project will demonstrate the advantages of SFM in economic terms, which should attract high level government interest; (iii) the project will establish partnerships with many stakeholders and will create joint approaches to fostering high-level commitment.	2 draft Government Decrees were developed to demonstrate the benefits of SFM from an economic point of view.1. Decree of the President on the lease of forest fund lands for up to 50 years. This experience was replicated for 96 forestry organizations and involved more than 10 thousand people of the local population. Due to leased lands, the well-being of rural residents directly residing on the territory of forestries or near them has been increased. 2. Decree of the President on "The concept of development of the forest industry until 2030", which reflects the principles of SFM, gender equality and prospects for the development of the forest industry with replication of experience among the local population.	This experience lowered the current risk insignificantly
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2	The enabling legal and institutional framework is not sufficiently conducive to the Project Objectives, and is not modified/adopted in a timely way.	M	Y	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
3	Financially sustainable models of forest management cannot be identified/developed for Uzbekistan.	M	Y	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

<p>4</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>On track although actions delayed</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>To be seen, the contingency plan is in place since 1 month</p>	<p>On track</p>

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

FY2022 rating	FY2023 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Low	Low	

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

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

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
<p>Recommendation 1: It is recommended to continue using local species for plantations.</p>	<p>Project Team in coordination with LTO ensured to suggest Tashkent State Agrarian University (SP) to use local species for plantations while preparing TSs under the LoA</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: The main problem was turn-over of staff of the service provider which transferred trained staff. It is recommended to analyze the status of service provider. If their situation is okay then train staff to conduct data collection and initiate outdoor data collection and analysis. If the situation of service provider is not stable then find reliable service provider to conduct data collection and analysis.</p>	<p>The status of the SP analyzed. According to the President Decree, Service Provider's name changed from "O'rmonloyikha" SUE to "O'rmonloyikha" Design Institute by keeping the same functions and responsibilities. Therefore, trained staff of SP on Collect Earth, Field Map are still available to whom additional trainings on Data collection and analyses not required.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: It is recommended to make implementation cost effective by improving implementation speed. Assure that the service provider is in a position to provide trainings on time and also conduct data collection. Don't just wait for the fate of the service provider. If their situation is uncertain then find another service provider or hire individuals and train to collect and analyze data. Besides, improve monitoring and feedback mechanism i.e. monitor very frequently and resolve</p>	<p>By President decree, Service provider was re-established with the new name "O'rmonloyikha" design Institute. Therefore, newly established Ormonloyikha Design Institute is in a position to provide necessary training and necessary data.</p>

<p>issues timely. Develop realistic work plan and implement effectively. Mobilize students, NGOs and other grassroots level organizations for awareness generation and in plantation activities for massive plantation to cover the targeted areas</p>	
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>It is recommended to continue consider plantation season (during rainy days) while developing annual work-plan. Plantation should be planned for the rainy season.</p>	<p>The Project Team and LTO ensured plantation season during development of plans of the project.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>It is recommended to improve implementation speed. It is also recommended to improve monitoring of the project implementation and provide feedback for improvement. More effort is needed to increase involvement of local people in management of the forest fund lands in Syrdarya and Kitab forestry. Actions of recommendation 3 also helps to address this issue.</p>	<p>The Country Office’s M&E focal point is being supported by PMO upon requests for submission of data and information by established deadlines.</p> <p>Monitoring of the project is being conducted by M&E specialist of the CO regularly.</p> <p>The project team contributed to the adoption of Presidential decree, where the lease period to use FF land extended from 10 to 50 years. Local households will be able to use FF with the lease period of up to 50 years. Based on the Decree, 1200 households were involved into the forestry activities under the semi-demonstration areas out of which 420 women in the areas of firewood pistachio, almond and medicinal plantations. The women are involved into the field works as well as collecting, drying and storing medicinal plantations</p>
<p>Recommendation 6:</p> <p>It is recommended to extend the project period by at least one year</p>	<p>The recommendation submitted to Steering Committee and based on which NTE extended until February 2025.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7:</p> <p>It is recommended to continue study tour and knowledge exchange visits in the second half of the program if funding is available</p>	<p>Study tour will be conducted on Gender equity area to the developed country. The country of the Study tours is under development by re-hired Gender expert and after which will be submitted.</p>

<p>Recommendation 8:</p> <p>It is recommended to immediately initiate development of training manuals and NAMA.</p>	<p>Candidate found and he is under submission of documents to HR for further proceeding with the contract for IC on NAMA. The training and manual will be developed once international consultant on NAMA is fully on board.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9:</p> <p>It is recommended to mainstream the SFM in the Forestry sector policies and planning so that it will continue as its regular activities. FAO country Office needs to continue lobbying with the SFC for including SFM in Forestry sector planning guidelines, and also in policies.</p>	<p>Further discussion and meeting will be conducted with SFC to ensure inclusion of SFM in the forestry sector policies and planning.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10:</p> <p>Explore more donors to support implementation of SFM activities in wide areas of Uzbekistan in the future</p>	<p>The Project team/FAO CO will explore possible ways to attract donors to support SFM activities in wider areas of Uzbekistan in the future in collaboration with State Forestry Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan</p>
<p>Recommendation 11:</p> <p>It is recommended to develop exit strategy including information on potential ways or supports to continue results of this project after the close of the project.</p>	<p>The Exit Strategy will be prepared before the end of the project</p>
<p>Recommendation 12:</p> <p>The project contributes in biodiversity conservation, economic development through economic trees, with economic development also contributes to zero hunger, contribute in carbon action by sequestering carbon, with gender action plans to gender equity. Hence it is</p>	<p>FAO can support the government in the development of such programs based on request and resource availability. However, this is outside the scope of the project framework and workplan.</p>

<p>recommended that FAO and SFC should work with other relevant institutions to develop programs for achieving these SDGs in the forestry sector i.e., through integrated SFM programs.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 13:</p> <p>It is recommended to monitor the project implementation very closely so that problems could be addressed timely.</p>	<p>The CO together with the Regional Evaluation Specialist in REU will work on a monitoring tool which can support monthly activity tracking. The AFAOR will define roles and responsibility in the periodic update of the data. The FAO CO M&E focal point will be supported by PMO upon requests for data and information by established deadlines. Currently all necessary Gantt Chart and other tools developed and information is submitted to the M&E specialist to monitor the Project.</p>
<p>Recommendation 14:</p> <p>It is recommended to consider gender equity and GAP while planning annual work plan and implementing the project activities.</p>	<p>Gender expert hired in 2023 contributed into WP while preparing it and developed GAP for 2023..</p>
<p>Recommendation 15:</p> <p>It is recommended to diversify income generation and alternative livelihood programs and cover more women in those programs. PMO should work with the Gender and livelihood experts to revise the GAP for confirming the potentiality of the proposed activities and revise as per need</p>	<p>Gender specialist conducted trainings on income generation and alternative livelihood programs and ensured. GE also prepared GAP for 2023, which was cleared by Dono Abdurazzakova from REU.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16:</p> <p>It is recommended to analyze the situation of the institute and if risk still exists then better to explore alternatives to execute the activities that were assigned</p>	<p>O'rmonloyikha Design Institute (LoA signed with this Institute) has been re-established with the slightly different name, but with the same functions and capacities. Further activities will be conducted by SP in a prescribed manner.</p>

to it.The recommendation no. 3 also contribute to this issue.	
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Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize	No
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8. Minor project amendments

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

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework			
Components and cost	Project budget has been revised. The changes made due to the lack of allocated budget to accomplish the activities under Component 1	N/A	CHRIS DIRKMAAT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OCB
Institutional and implementation arrangements	-	-	-
Financial management	-	-	-
Implementation schedule	Project NTE has been extended	2 years	MTR Report, Management Response and SC meeting held on June 16, 2022
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	-	-	-

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

9. Stakeholders' Engagement

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

Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Forestry Agency (form. State Committee on Forestry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall coordination and organizational management of the project • Responsible for the success of the project to the government of Uzbekistan • Provides technical and logistic support, and is also a co-financing organization • Facilitates project impact assessment Operational Focal Point of the Project designated from the Ministry	<p>Actively engaged in the project activities, and regularly conducts Steering Committee meeting of the Project.</p> <p>Engaged in reviewing the PIRs and also actively participate in the SC meeting of the project.</p>	
Dekhkanabad, Kitab, Syrdarya and Pap Forest organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four forestry organizations of the SCF are partners in operational activities at the site level • These FOs are benefiting significantly from capacity building 	Active in participation of training, workshops and any activities held under the Project	
Center for Hydrometeorological Service (Uzhydromet)	Use of data obtained within the framework of the project as a result of forest inventory.	Benefits from capacity building.	
NGOs²³			
State Unitary Enterprise Ormonloyikha (This organization is under State Forestry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical partner to design and implement many of the project activities at the site level 	LoA signed with this Institute for elaboration of FMP for 4 FOs	This organization used to be NGO but the name changed from Ormonloyikha Institute to

²³ Non-government organizations

<p>Committee of Uzbekistan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote capacity-building, in particular in forestry planning, forest monitoring and carbon monitoring 		<p>“Ormonloyikha” Design Institute, but kept the same functions and responsibilities. At the same time became a government organization</p>
<p>Association of Women Entrepreneurs and its Local divisions (TBD)</p>	<p>Execution partner for strengthening local capacity of micro and small entrepreneurship (MSE);</p>	<p>Recipient of better information and capacity-building results</p>	
<p>District (Rayon) councils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical partner in defining strategies at the FO level (in particular on the availability of irrigated land, etc.) and in the implementation of project activities • Promote public awareness campaigns at the local level on SFM processes with a focus on women; • Participate in the selection of beneficiary households and allocation of mini-grants; <p>Promote relevant capacity building (including on socioeconomic and carbon sequestration issues)</p>	<p>Support to the pilot FOs from the administration point of view. At the same time the members of the SC meeting of the Project</p>	
<p>Local Self-governing communities/ Makhallya Foundation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation partner for local, participatory, forestry activities • Will contribute on the local level to public outreach campaigns on SFM 	<p>Support to the pilot FOs from the administration point of view. At the same time the members of the SC meeting of the Project</p>	

	<p>processes with special focus on women;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will participate in beneficiary household selection and mini-grants process; <p>Will benefit from related capacity building (including on socio-economic and carbon related issues)</p>		
Private sector entities			
Green World Future NCEO	LoA on elaboration of seed management		
Others²⁴			
Michael Sukkov Foundation	Potential co-financier Potential technical and operational partner	Participate in the SC meetings of the Project	
GEF Small Grants Programme	Collaborating partner on project sites to support living standards and reduce dependence on wood fuel.	Not active in the implementation of the project. 2 meetings held with this Programme to cooperate, however no interested shown from them	

²⁴ They can include, among others, community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous Peoples organizations, women's groups, private sector companies, farmers, universities, research institutions, and all major groups as identified, for example, in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and many times again since then

10. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) <u>during this reporting period.</u>		
Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Yes	In August 2022, as well as in June 2023, a Rapid Socio-Economic and Gender Study was conducted, which included a gender-sensitive impact assessment and analysis of livelihoods, vulnerabilities and stakeholders. The analysis was based on field surveys in four pilot forestries. In-depth interviews with gender coordinators and focus group discussions were held at both policy and community levels. management and staff of pilot forestry enterprises; workers involved in the cultivation and processing of DM and NWFP; male and female representatives of households in forest-dependent communities; leaders of local communities and local advisers on women's issues (consultants), etc. Based on the survey , the needs of forestry workers were identified and gender mainstreaming should be ensured throughout the implementation process.
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	Gender Action plan and Gender Strategy developed and approved by the Government.
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Introducing SFM, gender gaps are provided. In particular, women are involved in land leasing, pasture management, pistachio plantations and medicinal plantations
b) improving women's participation and decision making	No	
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	In order to ensure the sustainability of socio-economic benefits for women, the project created favorable conditions for the transfer of long-term lease (up to 50 years) of forest fund lands, monitoring of local women in order to study their needs and opportunities for home work, as well as partial employment, control over the provision of work in as temporary female workers for seasonal

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		work. Obtaining additional technical and advisory assistance from state forest organizations in organizing nurseries, plantations, collecting medicinal plants, harvesting fruits and vegetables.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	All reports including M&E reports
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	Gender specialist hired in August 2023 for the Project
Any other good practices on gender		Coordinators for gender issues were appointed from the representatives of 4 pilot forest organizations. According to the SFC order , 30% was added to their salary every month.

11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval, <u>during this reporting period.</u>	
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.	No
Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.	<p>The Communication Strategy of the project “Sustainable Management of Mountain and Valley Areas of Uzbekistan” (SFM) was prepared for the period of 2020-2023 and approved by FAO REU</p> <p>One of the biggest achievements of the reporting period was publication of the success story from Uzbekistan on “Empowering women from forest-dependent communities in Uzbekistan” in the op-ed style on behalf of Viorel Gutu, FAO Representative for Türkiye and Uzbekistan:</p> <p>https://www.fao.org/news/countries-good-practices/article/en/c/1639200/</p> <p>Through Uzbekistan good practice we celebrate and share knowledge of FAO working in countries to achieve the Four Betters in support of the SDGs. This story highlights our activities addressing gender equality and rural women’s empowerment in agrifood policies.</p>
Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	<p>The success story on Empowering women from forest-dependent communities in Uzbekistan was published on the FAO website on 18 May 2023 in 6 UN languages: https://www.fao.org/news/countries-good-practices/article/es/c/1639870/</p> <p>The story presents Uzbekistan’s best practice in promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the forest sector.</p>
Please provide links to related website, social media account	Activities related to the implementation of the SFM project in Uzbekistan are actively covered in social networks: through UN Uzbekistan’s pages on Facebook , Instagram and Twitter .

<p>Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.</p>	<p>During the reporting period the SFM project activities have been covered in local media outlets, TV Channels and online news entities. Below are the links to the most significant publications and video reports:</p> <p>1. FAO in cooperation with national partners in Uzbekistan organized trainings on using digital tools and GIS-technologies in forest areas survey. This was covered by TV channels and media outlets: http://nuz.uz/?p=1278364 https://yuz.uz/news/ozbekistonda-ormonlarning-raqamli-inventarizatsiyasi-joriy-etilmoqda https://yuz.uz/ru/news/fao-sposobstvuet-vnedreniyu-tsifrovoy-inventarizatsii-lesnx-xozyaystv-uzbekistana https://xs.uz/uzkr/98340 https://xs.uz/uzkr/98339 https://uza.uz/posts/489401 http://uzdaily.uz/uz/post/8198 http://uzdaily.uz/ru/post/77698 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GkSIGKGCQKcI0snQjkt0gWZyhLbOd2wt/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>The 6th issue of the FAO Uzbekistan Newsletter including articles on SFM activities was published in 2023: EN:https://www.fao.org/3/cc4244en/cc4244en.pdf RU:https://www.fao.org/3/cc4244ru/cc4244ru.pdf</p>
<p>Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details</p>	<p>Guzal Fayzieva, Communication specialist, e-mail: guzal.fayzieva@fao.org</p>

12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

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

No indigenous peoples identified in the project target regions in the project document

13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁵	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing ²⁶	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
State budget	Forestry organizations of State Forestry Committee	In kind	\$7 301 107	\$6 827 500	\$4 748 009	\$7 301 107
State budget	Syrdarya FO	In kind	\$2 594 819	\$1 380 000	\$1 123 773	\$2 594 819
State budget	Kitab FO	In kind	\$3 531 587	\$3 100 000	\$2 325 691	\$3 531 587
State budget	Dehkanabad FO	In kind	\$1 526 364	\$1 857 000	\$1 325 979	\$1 857 000
State budget	Pop FO	In kind	\$2 416 743	\$2 256 000	\$1 612 858	\$2 416 743
Ministry of Economic development of Germany	GIZ	Cash (in euro)	200 Euro, Equivalent to \$227,531 during CEO endorsement	200 000 Euro, equivalent to \$216,100 as of June 2023	200 000 Euro, equivalent to \$216,100 as of June 2023	200 000 Euro, equivalent to \$216,100 as of June 2023
Research Institute	ICRAF	In kind	\$15 000	\$15 000	\$0	\$15 000
FAO	FAO	Cash	\$953 000	\$553 000	\$608 000	\$953 000

²⁵Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other.

²⁶Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions)

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

FAO	FAO	In kind	\$100 000	\$85 000	\$0	\$100 000
		TOTAL	\$18 666 151	\$16 289 600	\$11 960 410	\$18 985 356

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

No changes as of now

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development Objectives Rating. A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”
Satisfactory (S)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major global environmental objectives
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected not to achieve most of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits

Implementation Progress Rating. A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the project’s approved implementation plan.	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

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

Annex 2.

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
Kansai/Dehkanabad	38.21448452	66.63199346	Dehkanabad	Nursery
Margizar/Pop	40.80388513	71.02859078	Pop	Restoration of degraded forests
Kosmos/Pop	40.95284255	70.8146763	Pop	Restoration of degraded forests
Betagali/Pop	41.19559722	70.55518056	Pop	Pasture
Shirin/Syrdarya	40.22240508	69.08629093	Syrdarya	Nursery
Gulistan/Syrdarya	40.546857	68.901441	Syrdarya	NWFP
Makrid/Kitab	39.196642	66.745737	Kitab	Nursery
Khazrati Bashir/Kitab	39.142369	66.80459	Kitab	Nursery
Youth park/Pop	40.785443	70.825268	Pop	Park
Kansai/Dehkanabad	38.21448452	66.63199346	Dehkanabad	Nursery

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