

# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10299
Project Name:	Kazakhstan Resilient Agroforestry and Rangeland Management Project
Countr(ies):	Kazakhstan
Implementing Agency:	World Bank

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## I. Overview

### A. Description

Project name

Kazakhstan Resilient Agroforestry and Rangeland Management Project

Country

Kazakhstan

GEF ID

10299

Implementing Agency

World Bank

Executing Entity

Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, Forestry  
Wildlife Committee; Ministry of Agriculture, FAO

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

8/7/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 4th PIR

Objective

Objective: Restore land productivity in targeted degraded landscapes in the Republic of Kazakhstan This project is divided into 2 pillars with the following respective pillar objectives: Pillar 1-WB: aims to pilot agroforestry practices using a community-centered approach and to build government capacity for landscape management and restoration. Pillar 2-FAO: focuses on expanding the use of sustainable pasture management practices and technologies in targeted areas.

### B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

6,850,000.00

Cumulative Disbursement

4,292,205.00

### C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 4/13/2021	Agency Approval 6/14/2021
Implementation Start 6/14/2021	First Disbursement 8/27/2021
Expected MTR 10/20/2023	Actual MTR 11/10/2023
Expected Completion 9/30/2025	Actual Completion

## II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

### A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

Supervision mission was conducted during May 12-16, 2025. Implementation of project activities and disbursement are Satisfactory with all physical activities already fully completed. Disbursement reached US\$4.29m or 99 percent. The project is planned to close on September 30, 2025, no extension is planned. The following activities have been completed: (i) provision of technical equipment for forestry institutions of the Kyzylorda and Zhambyl regions for the conservation, reproduction of forests, and to assist agroforestry plots has been completed; (ii) Saxaul plantation around Kyzylorda city on area of 3,000 ha; (iii) gene bank in Schuchinsk; (iv) survey and design for saxaul plantations on DAS 50 000 ha; (v) Inventory for unrecorded forests has been successfully conducted, with an achievement of identifying 500,000 ha, surpassing the target; (vi) construction of nursery in Kazalinsk, and others. The project has also tested agroforestry techniques, showcasing both environmental and economic benefits, with the first yield of watermelon, pumpkin, melon etc. helping cover the operational costs for the agroforestry plot. As expected demonstration plots had different degree of success in different location. In Kyzylorda oblast demo plots achieved the most success due to proximity to the city and water resources. In Zhambyl oblast pilots were less successful due to various reasons that will be reviewed in ICR.

### B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The project experienced no significant challenges. Some implementation issues are related to the less successful than expected results of the demonstration plots in Zhambyl region. Those pilots didn't show good survival rates of trees planted as well as the expected level of organization of agricultural production. Some of the reasons for low performance include varied soil quality that was not accounted for (previously burnt areas from fires had sandy soil, tougher than clay) as well as weeds, and pest infestation including a number of rodents (hares, badgers, hedgehogs and others) that appeared in the area as plots were not fenced. Some farmers attribute the low yield to the inability to secure water resources from nearby lake or streams. Due to difficulties encountered, farmers' commitment turned out to be lower than expected and possible preventive measures were not implemented. These were pilot activities in the area and it was accepted that these pilots are more to draw some lessons with the objective to get experience and see what works.

### C. Stakeholder Engagement

Supervision missions did not record any significant E&S non-compliance issues. Similarly, serious environmental, health, and safety incidents were not recorded. Considering the above findings, the mission

endorsed the Environmental and social risk management performance of the Resilient Landscapes Restoration Project as Satisfactory (S) at the latest supervision. A number of activities including stakeholder consultations were conducted upon the project launch and during implementation, meetings with beneficiaries and local authorities are conducted in accordance with SEP. However, some recommendations were made to strengthen reporting of the the E&S risk management of the project and ensure well functioning of the Grievance Mechanism.

#### D. Gender Equality

The project made an effort to engage with female farmers, foresters, and beneficiaries. For example, a female engineer (Marjan) is part of state-owned enterprise and started an informal natural resource management group through a WhatsApp group which has over 256 forest users. While pay parity was established, there are some challenges for women's labor force participation in the forestry sector. Most women do not take up field work as it is strenuous, given foresters would need to live in harsh windy conditions and camp for weeks, hence end up taking administrative positions. Secondly, the forestry sector wages have been low and a deterrent, hopefully given recent wage rise, this may change. Overall, there is also a need to change mindsets and invite women out of the comfort of their homes. PIU includes progress under the gender action plan as per PAD, including women in the stakeholder engagement plan, labor management plan and has assigned responsibility to monitor and report progress on gender to the E&S specialist. There is also an opportunity to profile, Ms Kuikova Raushan Kuanyshbaevna, who is a female manager of the farm 'Shabar Bekbolat' and is one of the six beneficiaries receiving support for the agroforestry plots.

#### E. Knowledge Management

The clients attended the RESILAND program conference, held annually and presented their progress to other countries in the Central Asian region who are also implementing similar resilient landscape projects. Kazakhstan has been the first mover in the region, and is looked upto in terms of best practice, with lots to learn from. Most recent one was conducted on May 27-30, 2024, the 6th Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC) was held at the Hotel Royal Tulip in Almaty, Kazakhstan (<https://carececo.org/en/main/activity/mettings/caccc-2024/>) and discussed regional cooperation amongst ither agendas The indicative KM activities are going to be instrumental to contribute to the Component 2 of the Global Coordination Project. It is anticipated that lessons learned from this project will be collected, systematized and communicated regionally and globally. this GEF project is one of ten projects featured in the Learning report launched last month -Land Degradation Neutrality Knowledge Management and Learning Initiative Learning from the GEF portfolio of projects <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/publications/land-degradation-neutrality-knowledge-management-and-learning-initiative>. In addition, knowledge share is conducted with IUCN drylands initiative. Knowledge activities will include discussion and planning of scale-up of results of agroforestry demonstration plots that were setup and expect further progress by the closure of the project.

### III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	

Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

#### IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kyzylorda	44.8528	65.5092	1519922

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Zhambyl Oblsyy	44.3333	72.0833	152444

Location Description:

Activity Description:

#### V. ANNEX

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Document Category M and E Document	Title 10299-P171577-2025-ISR-PIR-WB-Kazakhstan
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