



## **Conservation and Sustainable Management of High-Value Arid Ecosystems in the Lower Amu Darya Basin**

### **Part I: Project Information**

**GEF ID**

10439

**Project Type**

FSP

**Type of Trust Fund**

GET

**CBIT/NGI**

**CBIT No**

**NGI No**

**Project Title**

Conservation and Sustainable Management of High-Value Arid Ecosystems in the Lower Amu Darya Basin

**Countries**

Tajikistan

**Agency(ies)**

UNDP

**Other Executing Partner(s)**

National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center, MSDSP, Caritas

**Executing Partner Type**

Government

**GEF Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Ecosystem Approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Agriculture,

Sustainable Pasture Management, Sustainable Forest, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Species, Threatened Species, Plant Genetic Resources, Crop Wild Relatives, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Forest, Drylands, Forest and Landscape Restoration, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approach, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Type of Engagement, Local Communities, Communications, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Awareness Raising, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Access and control over natural resources, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Innovation, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation

**Sector**

Mixed & Others

**Rio Markers**

**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

**Submission Date**

11/22/2021

**Expected Implementation Start**

7/1/2022

**Expected Completion Date**

6/30/2027

**Duration**

60In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

250,774.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
BD-1-1	Mainstreaming biodiversity across priority sectors	GET	1,001,530.00	12,990,995.00
BD-1-4	Mainstreaming with focus on genetic resources	GET	100,000.00	1,297,115.00
BD-2-7	Addressing direct drivers at protected areas	GET	901,529.00	11,693,867.00
LD-1-2	Ecosystem services with focus on SFM	GET	212,222.00	2,752,763.00
LD-1-3	Ecosystem services with focus on restoration	GET	212,223.00	2,752,776.00
LD-1-4	Reducing pressures from competing land uses	GET	212,222.00	2,752,764.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>2,639,726.00</b>	<b>34,240,280.00</b>

## **B. Project description summary**

### **Project Objective**

Secure high value arid ecosystem biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, while ensuring resilient and sustainable livelihoods in Tajikistan's lower Amu Darya landscape.

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing(\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b>
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1. Integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management in production landscape	Investment	<p><b>Outcome 1.</b> Biodiversity and LDN mainstreamed in land-use planning and management in 6 priority districts, as indicated by:</p> <p>- 472,007 ha of high value landscape under improved management to benefit biodiversity through implementation of spatial plans in 6 priority districts that incorporate biodiversity considerations and sustainable land management measures for LDN, including detailed geo-spatial data on PAs (excluding area of PAs, restored areas, and areas of improved pasture and forest management)</p> <p>- 23,900 ha of high value forest under improved management (degradation <b>reduced</b>)</p>	<p>1.1 Integrated spatial plans in 6 priority districts developed, approved and under implementation, with high value ecosystems mainstreamed, including high resolution maps of KBAs, PAs, transition zones, and surrounding land use, and gender-focused livelihood measures to support spatial plan implementation</p> <p>1.2 Dryland High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) guidelines and management plans developed, approved and operationalized in 4 priority forestry units, incorporating biodiversity considerations and provisions for joint forest management to support</p>	GET	1,134,680.00	14,777,625.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2. Protected Area Strengthening	Investment	<p><b>Outcome 2.</b> Conservation of arid Key Biodiversity Areas enhanced, as indicated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased level of spatial knowledge and understanding of PA land cover, land use, threats, and areas of potential conflict, through detailed, high resolution maps for 7 targeted PAs covering 157,671 ha</li> <li>- Management effectiveness of 7 priority PAs increased by 25%, as measured by METT, and degradation <b>avoided</b> in 157,671 ha of critical ecosystems</li> <li>- 3 or more PMRs covering 100 ha piloted</li> </ul>	<p>2.1 High resolution land-use maps for 7 PAs and buffer zones developed, and analysis of land-use conflicts, including gender aspects</p> <p>2.2 Management effectiveness of 7 legally recognized PAs increased, including gender considerations</p> <p>2.3 Legally recognized Plant Micro Reserves (PMRs) established in selected KBAs for the conservation of rare crop wild relatives and associated flora communities, under community-based management, and management operationalized, including gender considerations</p>	GET	952,000.00	12,259,678.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3. Knowledge Management and Learning	Technical Assistance	<p><b>Outcome 3.</b> Strengthened understanding among resource-users and decision makers regarding the existence and value of arid high value biodiversity in Tajikistan, as indicated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased awareness of decision-makers and local resources users regarding critical biodiversity conservation issues within the Lower Amu Darya landscape, including awareness of the LDN concept (assessed by survey)</li> <li>- 15 events or knowledge products that increase knowledge and understanding among key national stakeholders and partners of concepts related to SLM, KBAs, LDN, and the conservation of</li> </ul>	<p>3.1. Knowledge management, education and awareness campaign conducted targeting institutional-level key decision-makers and local resources users on key issues and approaches for conservation of globally significant biodiversity and PAs, including gender considerations</p> <p>Output 3.2. Capacity strengthening for LDN monitoring and implementation</p>	GET	315,320.00	4,060,632.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4. Project Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	<p><b>Outcome 4.</b> Project implemented in an accountable and transparent manner, with results documented and available to public, as indicated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project results are well documented, and information about project results is disseminated through multiple online channels, and through stakeholder meetings</li> <li>- Project implementation and results are objectively evaluated in a useful and transparent manner</li> <li>- Evaluation findings are clearly communicated, with relevant recommendations formulated to be concise, specific, relevant, and time-bound, with</li> </ul>	<p><b>4.1.</b> Project monitoring activities</p> <p><b>4.2.</b> Project evaluation activities</p>	GET	112,026.00	1,442,650.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>					<b>2,514,026.00</b>	<b>32,540,585.00</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>						
		GET	125,700.00		1,699,695.00	
<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>			<b>125,700.00</b>		<b>1,699,695.00</b>	
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>2,639,726.00</b>		<b>34,240,280.00</b>	

Please provide justification

**C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
GEF Agency	UNDP (TRAC)	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,035,280.00
Civil Society Organization	CARITAS Switzerland (CaCH)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Youth Ecological Center (YEC)	Grant	Investment mobilized	250,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Youth Ecological Center (YEC)	In-kind	Investment mobilized	350,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Biodiversity and Biosafety Centre (NBBC)	Grant	Investment mobilized	400,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Biodiversity and Biosafety Centre (NBBC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Forestry Agency under the GoRT (Leskhozoes)	Grant	Investment mobilized	400,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Forestry Agency under the GoRT (Leskhozoes)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	State Institution ?Specially Protected Natural Areas?	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	800,000.00
Recipient Country Government	State Institution ?Specially Protected Natural Areas?	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Recipient Country Government	National Academy of Sciences of the RT	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	400,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Academy of Sciences of the RT	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Beneficiaries	Pyanj District Administration (Local Hukumat)	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Beneficiaries	Pyanj District Administration (Local Hukumat)	In-kind	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Beneficiaries	Muminobad District Administration (Local Hukumat)	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Beneficiaries	Muminobad District Administration (Local Hukumat)	In-kind	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Beneficiaries	Farkhor District Administration (Local Hukumat)	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Beneficiaries	Farkhor District Administration (Local Hukumat)	In-kind	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Beneficiaries	Shamsiddin Shohin District Administration (Local Hukumat)	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Beneficiaries	Shamsiddin Shohin District Administration (Local Hukumat)	In-kind	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Beneficiaries	Baljuvon District Administration (Local Hukumat)	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Beneficiaries	Baljuvon District Administration (Local Hukumat)	In-kind	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	State Committee for Environmental Protection (CoEP)	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,705,000.00
Recipient Country Government	State Committee for Environmental Protection (CoEP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00
Donor Agency	International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)	Grant	Investment mobilized	17,900,000.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>34,240,280.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

Notes on Investment Mobilized: - In case of GEF approval, UNDP will be prepared to invest grant financing to support the project. - In case of GEF approval, MSDSP and Caritas will be prepared to invest grant financing to support the project, in their role as Responsible Parties. - In case of project approval, the NBBC is prepared to take on the main role of executing partner, with the investment of grant financing to ensure successful execution of the project and achievement of the objective. This includes specific support for the further development of the protected area system under Component 2, which the NBBC will be primarily responsible for. - In case of project approval, the Forestry Agency is prepared to contribute grant investment to support the integration of biodiversity conservation measures in the management of 5 priority forest management units under Output 1.2, and the restoration of HC VF under Output 1.4. - In case of project approval, the beneficiary local governments in the project's priority districts (Pyanj, Muminobad, Farkhor, Shamsiddin, and Baljuvon) are prepared to invest their grant resources to support project activities, particularly related to the development and revision of district spatial plans that mainstream biodiversity considerations under Output 1.1, as well as cooperation with local resource users to support the implementation of sustainable forest management (Output 1.2) and sustainable pasture management (Output 1.3). - In case of project approval, the State Committee for Environmental Protection, as the national Implementing Partner, is prepared to invest grant financing to support all aspects of the project results. - In case of project approval, IFAD is prepared to work closely with the project to support the development and implementation of sustainable pasture management plans that incorporate biodiversity in 5 joint priority districts, under the forthcoming IFAD CASP+ project.

**D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
UNDP	GET	Tajikistan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,003,059	190,291	2,193,350.00
UNDP	GET	Tajikistan	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	636,667	60,483	697,150.00
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>2,639,726.00</b>	<b>250,774.00</b>	<b>2,890,500.00</b>

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

**F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required **true**

**PPG Amount (\$)**

100,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

9,500

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
UNDP	GET	Tajikistan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	70,000	6,650	<b>76,650.00</b>
UNDP	GET	Tajikistan	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	30,000	2,850	<b>32,850.00</b>
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>100,000.00</b>	<b>9,500.00</b>	<b>109,500.00</b>

## Core Indicators

**Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
157,671.00	157,671.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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**Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
157,671.00	157,671.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park	125689	Select habitat/Species	14,600.00	14,600.00			38.00		
Childuktaron State Nature Reserve	167078	Management Area							

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Dashtidzhum Nature Refuge	125689 167081	SelectProtected area with sustainable use of natural resources	50,100.00	50,100.00			38.00		
Akula National Park Dashtidzhum State Nature Reserve	125689 167080	SelectStrict Nature Reserve	19,700.00	19,700.00			38.00		
Akula National Park Karatau Nature Refuge	125689 555571309	SelectProtected area with sustainable use of natural resources	14,400.00	14,400.00			39.00		
Akula National Park Khatlon Nature Refuge	125689 n/a	SelectProtected area with sustainable use of natural resources	6,000.00	6,000.00			34.00		

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Sary Khosor Nature Refuge	125689	167119	3,085.00	3,085.00			40.00		
Akula National Park Tigrova ya Balka Strict Nature Reserve	125689	1735	49,786.00	49,786.00			40.00		

**Indicator 3 Area of land restored**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
22650.00	121400.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

**Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
650.00	21,400.00		

**Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
22,000.00	100,000.00		

**Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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**Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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305850.00	595907.00	0.00	0.00
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**Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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250,500.00	472,007.00		
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**Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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**Type/Name of Third Party Certification**

**Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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48,000.00	100,000.00		
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**Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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7,350.00	23,900.00		
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**Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)**

Title	Submitted
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**Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated**

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
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Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	247682	6179759	0	0
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Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)	0	0	0	0
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**Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector**

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	247,682	6,179,759		
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2020	2022		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	10,000	50,000		
Male	10,000	50,000		
Total	20000	100000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

*1a. Project Description. Elaborate on:*

*1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);*

There have been no substantial changes in terms of the global environmental problems identified since the PIF was designed and approved, although they have been provided for in more detail on the Prodoc. Please see Prodoc Section II, para 9-24, (pp. 7-11) for the analysis of Threats, Root Causes, and Key Barriers; Prodoc Section II and the Theory of Change (Section III, paras. 9-31, p. 12); and the Prodoc Annexes 15-18 on the Development Context related to pasture management, forest management, and biodiversity.

*2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects;*

There have been no strategic changes to the baseline scenario or associated baseline projects since the PIF was designed and approved, except that the baseline has been elaborated on further. Please refer to Prodoc Section 4.3 on Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination, paras. 56-82, and the co-financing tables on the Prodoc front page, and please also see Table C above.

One additional baseline project has been identified, and is summarized in the table below. This additional baseline project will be linked with the project, with the proposed GEF project providing incremental investment beyond the scope of this baseline project. The CASP+ project includes activities to support the development and strengthening of climate-resilient pasture management plans. There are five overlapping priority districts between the two initiatives. During the project development phase an informal partnership between UNDP and IFAD was discussed, whereby the GEF-funded project will ensure the integration of biodiversity considerations within the sustainable pasture management plans to be supported by IFAD. The GEF project will also provide technical assistance for the development and strengthening of non-livestock based alternative livelihoods, which IFAD has limited ability to deliver. The GEF project will coordinate closely with the CASP+ project to ensure there are no duplication of activities, and that true synergies between the two projects can be realized.

Title	Purpose	Donor	Budget	National Partner	Execution Partners	Timeframe
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Community -based Agricultural Support Project ?Plus? (phase II) (CASP+)	<p><b>Project goal.</b> The goal of the project is to enhance climate-resilient livelihoods patterns for vulnerable households in climate change affected rural areas of Tajikistan.</p> <p><b>Project development objective.</b> Via climate-sensitive investments in climate change affected rural areas of Tajikistan, CASP+ will establish a transformative policy and investment framework leading to climate change resilient livelihood patterns for vulnerable households and to increased carbon sequestration.</p>	IFAD, GCF	\$75 million	Ministry of Agriculture, Committee for Environmental Protection	Ministry of Agriculture, Committee for Environmental Protection, multiple others	2022-2029
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3) *the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;*

The project design is closely aligned to the original PIF, and the structure of the project components closely resembles the PIF approved by the GEF. A description of the project components is provided in Section 4.1 'Project Description and Expected Results' of the GEF-UNDP Prodoc (pp. 14-21). Some changes were made to the project's outputs, which do not represent a departure from the project's strategy as defined in the PIF, nor will they have an impact on the funds originally budgeted. These changes are described as follows:

PIF Output	Prodoc Output	Explanation for changes
<p>1.1 Integrated spatial plans in 3 priority districts developed, approved and under implementation, with high value ecosystems mainstreamed, including high resolution maps of KBAs, PAs, transition zones, and surrounding land use</p>	<p>1.1 Integrated spatial plans in 6 priority districts developed covering 874,978 ha, approved and under implementation, with high value ecosystems mainstreamed, including high resolution maps of KBAs, PAs, transition zones, and surrounding land use</p>	<p>Area covered specified.</p>
<p>1.2 Dryland High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) guidelines and management plans developed, approved and operationalized in 2-3 priority forestry units covering 7,350 ha of HCVF (outside of PAs), incorporating biodiversity considerations and provisions for joint forest management to support sustainable livelihoods, including training of local resource users</p>	<p>1.2 Dryland High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) guidelines and management plans developed, approved and operationalized in 4 priority forestry units covering 45,300 ha of HCVF (including 21,000 ha of degraded forest) (outside of PAs), incorporating biodiversity considerations and provisions for joint forest management to support sustainable livelihoods</p>	<p>Number of priority forestry units and associated forest cover and forest degradation updated based on data gathered during the PPG process. Text ?including training of local resource users? shifted to output activities for brevity.</p>
<p>1.3 Sustainable pasture management plans that mainstream biodiversity in 2-4 priority areas in and around high value arid ecosystems (outside PAs) developed, approved and operationalized, covering 48,000 ha, plus 22,000 ha of degraded pastureland restored, including training of local resource users</p>	<p>1.3 Sustainable pasture management plans that mainstream biodiversity in 4 priority areas in and around high value arid ecosystems (outside PAs) developed, approved and operationalized, covering 200,000 ha (including 100,000 ha of degraded pastureland restored), including training of local resource users</p>	<p>Number of priority areas and associated hectares, including degraded hectares, updated based on PPG work.</p>

PIF Output	Prodoc Output	Explanation for changes
1.4 Key high value arid ecosystems in 3-4 sites (outside PAs) including 650 ha of degraded HCVF restored, including through reforestation under agroforestry using globally significant Red List fruit and nut species to support sustainable livelihoods	1.4 Key high value arid ecosystems restored in 4 sites (outside PAs) supporting 21,000 ha of degraded forest, including reforestation of 400 ha of degraded HCVF through agroforestry using globally significant Red List fruit and nut species to support sustainable livelihoods	Number of priority sites and hectares covered updated based on PPG work. Figure of total degraded forest area in priority areas added. Number of hectares to be reforested through project activities changed to 400 based on budget considerations and feedback from partners during PPG process.
2.1 High resolution land-use maps for 7 PAs and buffer zones developed, covering >150,000 ha, and analysis of land-use conflicts (for inputs to Output 1.1)	2.1 High resolution land-use maps for 7 PAs and buffer zones developed, covering 157,671 ha, and analysis of land-use conflicts	Specific number of PA hectares covered updated based on PPG work. Reference to Output 1.1. shifted to project activities for brevity.
2.2 Management effectiveness of 7 legally recognized PAs increased through investments in improved community participation and benefits, monitoring, enforcement capacity	2.2 Management effectiveness of 7 legally recognized PAs increased through investments in improved community participation and benefits, monitoring, enforcement capacity	No changes.
2.3 Legally recognized Plant Micro Reserves (PMRs) established in selected KBAs for the conservation of rare crop wild relatives and associated flora communities, under community-based management, and management operationalized.	2.3 Legally recognized Plant Micro Reserves (PMRs) established in selected KBAs for the conservation of rare crop wild relatives and associated flora communities, under community-based management, and management operationalized	No changes.
3.1. Knowledge management, education and awareness campaign conducted targeting institutional-level key decision-makers and local resources users on key issues and approaches for conservation of globally significant biodiversity and PAs, including strengthened capacity for LDN monitoring	3.1. Knowledge management, education and awareness campaign conducted targeting institutional-level key decision-makers and local resources users on key issues and approaches for conservation of globally significant biodiversity and PAs	No substantive change. Original PIF output 3.1 was split into two parts (current outputs 3.1 and 3.2), based on shifting the M&E aspects of PIF output 3.1 into a new component (Component 4) focused solely on M&E, as required.

PIF Output	Prodoc Output	Explanation for changes
3.2. Coordination with other initiatives, and project M&E	Output 3.2. Capacity strengthening for LDN monitoring and implementation	See Output 3.1 above ? split from PIF output 3.1, based on separation of M&E aspects into Component 4.
<i>No component 4</i>	Output 4.1. Project monitoring activities	Split from PIF output 3.2, as required to separate M&E activities into stand-alone component.
<i>No component 4</i>	Output 4.2. Project evaluation activities	

*4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;*

There have been no changes since the PIF was designed and approved in terms of strategic alignment with the GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation Focal Area strategies, and Dryland Sustainable Landscape Impact Program. Please see Section III. ?Strategy? of the Prodoc (pp. 12-13), including the description of the project Theory of Change.

*5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;*

There have been no changes since the PIF was designed and approved in terms of overall planned financial input. Planned overall co-financing has risen, although some of the organizations have changed and the amounts of grant and in-kind co-financing have changed. Please refer to the co-financing tables on the Prodoc front page and please also see the previous Table C in this CEO Endorsement Request.

*6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and*

There have been no substantive changes in the expected global environmental benefits since the PIF was designed and approved. The project?s quantitative contributions to the GEF?s Core Indicators are summarized in Section I.F. above, and further detailed in the Core Indicators Worksheet in Annex 7 of this CEO Endorsement request. There have been some changes (increases) in the project?s core indicator results, relating to the area of degraded land restored, area of pasture to be addressed, and number of direct beneficiaries:

- Core indicator 3: The area of land restored has been significantly increased from 22,650 ha to 121,400 hectares. This change is primarily due to an increase in the area of pastures to be addressed under Output 1.3, which was increased from 70,000 ha to 200,000 ha during the PPG phase, based on a

more detailed assessment of the targeted pasturelands, and the potential synergies from project partners.

- Core indicator 4: The area of landscape under improved practices has been significantly increased from 305,850 ha to 595,907 ha. This change is primarily due to an increase in the number of priority districts (from 3 to 6) to be supported in relation to spatial planning, under Output 1.1. This was due to a more detailed analysis for the identification of priority districts, and efficiencies identified through the budgeting process undertaken during the PPG. A further adjustment that falls under this core indicator is that the area of HCVF to be addressed under Output 1.2 was increased from 8,000 ha to 45,300 ha, based on updated data and further analysis on forest cover in priority forest units to be supported by the project.

- Core indicator 11: The number of direct beneficiaries has been significantly increased from 20,000 to 100,000. This change is due to a more detailed analysis of the priority districts (from 3 to 6), area of priority pasture areas (from 70,000 ha to 200,000 ha) to be addressed under Output 1.3, and detailed information on the population of people living in these areas.

The project will also contribute to a variety of adaptation co-benefits. There is an increasing scientific and political recognition of the important linkages between the intactness and functioning of ecosystems, and their ability to regulate climate and to be resilient to current and potential future climate impacts (for example, see *Rockström, J., Beringer, T., Hole, D., Griscom, B., Mascia, M.N., et.al. 2021. Opinion: We need biosphere stewardship that protects carbon sinks and builds resilience. PNAS September 21, 2021 118 (38) e2115218118; <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2115218118>*). Adaptation benefits from the proposed project will include outcomes such as increased resilience to land slides and erosion resulting from extreme climate events, reduced severity and frequency of wildfire, increased resilience of local agricultural livelihoods, and increased water regulation of vegetated slopes. Specifically: Under Output 1.1, ecosystem-focused spatial planning will support the intactness of ecosystems, increasing their ability to adapt to climate extremes and changing climate zones over time. Also under this output, the project will work with local resource users to strengthen livelihood options that support the implementation of spatial plans, which will include climate resilient livelihood options (i.e. adoption of climate resilient agricultural varieties, deployment of water efficient irrigation technologies). Under Output 1.2, the improved management of forest resources will consider potential future climate impacts, and will strengthen the resilience of forest ecosystems to climate extremes and climate shifts, as well as improved resilience to forest fire. Output 1.3 will include adaptation benefits for livestock-based livelihoods through increasing access to water resources (i.e. establishment of dispersed watering points, and small scale infrastructure to increase pasture access), and reduced degradation of pasturelands, which will increase their resilience to climate-related changes. This output also includes activities to generate local benefits through promotion of alternative climate-resilient livelihoods. Output 1.4 includes the restoration of both forest and pasture ecosystems, including strengthening rare wild crop wild relatives, which will also increase resilience to climate shifts. Outcome 2 involves the strengthening of the PA system in the priority project target areas, which inherently provides adaptation co-benefits as it will support the maintenance of intact ecosystems, which are more climate resilient than degraded ecosystems. At the same time, the project aims to specifically invest in improved ecological monitoring in these areas to improve knowledge and scientific data about how climate change may be affecting the high-value dry forest ecosystem of the

Lower Amu Darya. Under Component 3 the project will increase awareness of LDN, and improve capacity to monitor LDN in Tajikistan. These actions have direct adaptation co-benefits, as there are strong linkages between land degradation and climate, through factors such as drought, erosion, flood, increased soil temperature, and reduced precipitation. For example, a recent analysis by FAO highlighted the fact that a total of almost 2 million hectares of grassland, 200,000 ha of croplands, and 12,000 ha of forest in Tajikistan have declining or stressed productivity ?partially correlated with negative precipitation trends in the southeast of the country? (FAO, 2021. ?*Overview of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in Europe and Central Asia: LDN in Tajikistan?*).

7) *innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.*

There have been no changes to these aspects of the project since the PIF was designed and approved, though each of these aspects has been given further consideration, and more comprehensive detail and analysis has been provided. An updated description of the project?s innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling-up is included in Section 4.6. of the Prodoc on ?Innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling up? (paras. 107-109, pp. 36-38).

#### **1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

**Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.**

Please see Annex E of this CEO Endorsement Request for maps that indicate the Key Biodiversity Areas and PAs addressed under the project, and the priority districts to be addressed by the project across the lower Amu Darya landscape. Additional maps indicating KBAs and PAs for priority districts are available in Prodoc Annex 3.

#### **1c. Child Project?**

**If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.**

N/A

#### **2. Stakeholders**

**Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:**

**Civil Society Organizations** Yes

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities** Yes

**Private Sector Entities** Yes

**If none of the above, please explain why:**

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

Please see Annex 11 of Project Document.

Table 4. Stakeholder Engagement for the Proposed Project (Annex 11)

Stakeholders	Role and Engagement Mechanism
<p>State Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP)</p>	<p><u>Roles and Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>The Committee for Environmental Protection is the main specialized government body responsible for implementation of the state policy on environmental protection in Tajikistan. The role of the Committee is to ? (a) regulate nature conservation functions and activities, (b) develop and implement nature protection and forestry policies, (c) regulate the use and management of natural resources, and (d) develop medium and long-term state programs for nature protection and sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p><u>Engagement Mechanism:</u></p> <p>The Committee will play an oversight and guidance role in the project particularly as it pertains to conservation and sustainable management of key biodiversity areas and specially protected natural areas (SPNAs), as well as ecosystems resilience and connectivity outside/surrounding areas. This will be achieved through representation (Chairman) on the Project Steering Committee and consultation with officials from the local branch offices.</p> <p>Ensures coordination with other agencies/ministries/stakeholders. Will be contributing and overseeing preparation of land inventory in the targeted landscape and ILUPS (<b>Component I</b>), GHG system at project sites; matters related to reporting to UNCCD, UNFCCC, CBD; ensure investment / co-financing for <b>Component III</b>, and re-alignment of investment programs so that that sufficient funding is available for restoration, and sustainable food protection, during and after project end.</p> <p>The agency will ensure the integration of project results / products into national programs to protect the environment and sustainable use of natural resources, combat land degradation, reduce soil degradation, reduce the level of biodiversity degradation, and develop a strategy methodologies and other necessary documents for the use and restoration of peat soils. The agency will support the approval of by-laws and regulations necessary to put in place mechanisms to promote sustainable use of peatlands, combat land degradation, and reduce GHG emissions.</p> <p>Coordinate the work of national parks and reserves to restore degraded land and reduce the loss of biodiversity. The agency will ensure the development, coordination and implementation of a project replication strategy. A key contributor of government co-financing.</p>

<p><i>Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MoEDT)</i></p>	<p><u>Roles and Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MoEDT) is responsible for drafting and implementing state strategy, policy and regulations to do with socio-economic development in all sectors, including the environmental area.</p> <p><u>Engagement Mechanism:</u></p> <p>The Ministry will be represented on the Project Steering Committee of the project to ensure effective consultation related to project activities pertaining to the development incentives for alternative livelihood opportunities to reduce the impacts on grasslands and forestry, and generally mechanisms for joint natural resources management between communities and resource managers in and around key biodiversity areas. Preparation of national recommendations based on analysis of international instruments and trends of economic development. The Ministry will play a role in developing economic instruments to stimulate development of environmentally friendly businesses in rural areas.</p>
<p><i>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</i></p>	<p><u>Roles and Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture formulates and executes state policies for agricultural production and rural development, including ? (a) improving legislation on environmental management, forestry code, regulatory and legislative standards for the extraction of natural resources, etc, (b) improving methods for environmental impact assessment in the evaluation of development projects in rural areas, taking into account the value of agricultural biodiversity and adaptation to climate change, (c) improving programs of state control over operation systems, improving the system of permits and license for natural resources, as well as introducing new mechanisms for environmental expertise in evaluating development project landscapes and territories. The Ministry also Chairs the Network of Stakeholders on Sustainable Pasture Management ? a platform for sharing best practices, lessons learnt, knowledge management and policy change.</p> <p><u>Engagement Mechanism:</u></p> <p>The Ministry will be represented on the Project Steering Committee to ensure effective consultation relating to project activities pertaining to ? Pasture Reclamation Trust, Pasture User Unions, and on sustainable pasture management in general (Component 1, Output 1.3). The Ministry will also play a key role in facilitation of local efforts to conserve and use agrobiodiversity sustainability in light of climate change, and improvement of extension services to rural farmers focusing on conservation of ?traditional crops using traditional knowledge? (Component 3, Output 3.1).</p>

<p><i>Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MEWR)</i></p>	<p><u>Roles and Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>- The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources is tasked with the formulation and implementation of national energy and water related policies. Particular activities of the Ministry relevant to proposed project include ? (a) design, revision and regular update of national strategies for energy and water resources management, (b) drafting respective laws and by-laws for the improvement and development of energy and water sector-based projects, (c) monitoring the implementation of national development programs and action plans on renewable energy sources, as well as participating in the strategic development project on hydropower plants construction.</p> <p>- <u>Engagement Mechanism:</u></p> <p>- The Ministry is the focal agency for the implementation of the National Water Sector Reform Programme with a comprehensive component on irrigation sector development. The Reform programme is part of the overall agricultural sector reform agenda, and includes establishment of River Basin Organizations (RBOs) with one planned for Vakhsh River Basin that also covers Pyanj sub-river basin that serve few of the target KRBs of the proposed project. The project will collaborate with the Ministry and RBOs to develop water resources management plans with information on water resource needs (water points for livestock in pasture areas, agricultural lands, demonstration sites) in the framework of an overall river and sub-river basin management plans development.</p>
<p><i>Agency on Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography</i></p>	<p><u>Roles and Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>- The Agency develops and implements land policy and manages the process of land reform and land-use planning. The Agency is responsible for ? (a) the introduction of functional zoning on the basis of the value of land, development of new mechanisms under the terms of land use, introduction of new economic methods, (b) manage land reforms and the privatization process, and (c) introduction of territorial inventory of land-based GIS maps, training of specialized service providers, the inventory of land-based GIS.</p> <p><u>Engagement Mechanism:</u></p> <p>The Agency will serve as a reference to and provide guidance on matters relating to land use and land use planning. The Agency will support mapping, geo-referencing and recording of existing agrobiodiversity in Tajikistan. Specifically, the Agency will participate in ? (a) implementation of Component I (Output 1.1) with regards to development and approval of integrated spatial plans in 3 priority districts, (b) implementation of Component II (Output 2.1) in development of high resolution land-use maps for 7 Protected Areas and buffer zones, as well as (c) benefit from implementation of Component 3 (Output 3.1) in producing related GIS maps and integrating related knowledge products in various knowledge platforms.</p>

<p><i>Forestry Agency</i></p>	<p><u>Roles and Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>The role of the Forestry Agency is to: (i) prepare and administer state forest policy and regulations; (ii) plan and manage state forests and forest resources (including reforestation and seed harvesting); and (iii) oversee hunting activities; There are three departments, of which the Department for Forestry, Fauna and Flora Protection and Hunting is most concerned with this project.</p> <p><u>Engagement Mechanism:</u></p> <p>The Forestry Agency will play an active role across each component of the proposed project. Its subsidiary institutions such as State Forest Institution and the Scientific Institute of Forestry will provide technical support in designing some of the important aspects of restoring high value arid ecosystems and high conservation value forests. Altogether the agency and its institutions will be supported ? (a) in the development of guidelines and management plans for HCVE, approve and operationalize them within their units (Component I, Output 1.2), (b) in implementation of agroforestry and sustainable livelihood activities (Red list fruit and nut species) (Component I, Output 1.4), as well as (c) participate in development and implementation of Joint Forest Management plans in target sites (Component I, Output 1.2). Through its related departments (Fauna and Flora Protection and Hunting), the Agency will be supported to improve Protected Area biodiversity conservation, enforcement mechanisms against poaching and illegal hunting, and engage with surrounding communities in monitoring and safeguarding measures (Component II, Output 2.2). The Agency will also guide and endorse establishment of Plant Micro-Reserves in target sites within KRBs (including PAs), and define with the proposed project related conservation and restoration priorities/objectives on the part of PMRs.</p>
<p><i>National Agency on Hydrometeorology (Hydromet)</i></p>	<p><u>Roles and Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>- The Agency on Hydrometeorology (Hydromet) is responsible for the environment-, climate- and hydro-meteorological-related monitoring. It is the agency responsible for formulating and informing the Government and local authorities on short-term weather forecasts. The scope of activities of the Hydromet are broad and include: (a) observation and data collection on hydro-, meteorological- and climate-related regimes, (b) observation over the extreme weather events and other hydrometeorological disasters, and (c) archiving historic and present data and analyses of the patterns and tendencies; and serving as a National Focal Point under the UNFCCC and provides technical support and policy advice to the Committee for Environmental Protection for its implementation progress.</p> <p><u>Engagement Mechanism:</u></p> <p>- The Agency will support efforts to provide communities with better knowledge and information about the effects of climate change and establish early warning/rapid response systems to deal with climatic shocks and the overall impacts of climate change on agrobiodiversity. It will link project efforts to Tajikistan's commitments to international conventions. Specifically, the Agency will be consulted on the selection of priority sites for high value arid ecosystems, dryland HCVEs and PMRs on climatic conditions, restoration potential, information on disaster related climatic/weather events in and around KRBs.</p>

<p>National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center (NBBC)</p>	<p><u>Roles and Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>- The NBBC is responsible for coordination of activities on implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan within the framework of the UN Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD), and other tasks in the field of ecology, nature protection and sustainable development. Some specific tasks of the NBBC are as follows: (a) creation of information database, data bank on diversity of flora, fauna, ecosystems, (b) coordination of activities on creation of mechanisms on sustainable conservation and use of biodiversity, (c) coordination of activities on creation of ecological network of the country, and (d) public involvement in the issues of biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>The NBBC has strong engagement frameworks with the State Committee for Environmental Protection, Forestry Agency, State Committee for land use, geodesy and cartography, Academy of Sciences, related line ministries and agencies and other nature protection bodies; and works in close cooperation with CBD Secretariat, UNDP, World Bank UNEP, WWF, IUCN, GEF, EU and other development partners and organizations. The NBBC has also mandate to develop and implement projects with international donor funds on biodiversity conservation in cooperation with international organizations.</p> <p><u>Engagement Mechanism:</u></p> <p>The NBBC has been identified as the lead Executing Agency of the proposed Project and will take overall responsibility for coordinating, monitoring progress and reporting on the project activities. The Center is the direct beneficiary of capacity building efforts across all Components of the project, specifically under Component III (Output 3.1). Specifically, the NBBC will have greater role in direct implementation of Outputs 1.2 and 1.4 of Component I, and all outputs of Component II. For the remaining outputs, the NBBC will collaborate with specialized agencies and/or experienced I/NGOs to implement, for example, sustainable pasture management and joint forest management activities, as well as contributing to knowledge management platforms.</p>
<p><i>National Centre for Genetic Resources (NCGR)</i></p>	<p><u>Roles and Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>- The NCGR is responsible for ? (a) establishing the national gene-bank, (b) data collection, description, analysis, catalog composition and preparation for storing, and (c) knowledge building, including training of specialist biologists. The Centre also supports <i>ex situ</i> conservation of plant species and genetic diversity.</p> <p>- <u>Engagement Mechanism:</u></p> <p>- The NCGR will be consulted by the proposed Project on selection and choice of key plant species that are important from biodiversity and conservation points of view and on defining designated purposes of Plant Micro-Reserves. The NCGR will also advise on the use of indigenous species if needed under agroforestry, pastures, HCVF, nursery development, fast growing trees and shrubs, buffer zones development (Component I and II). On the part of knowledge building, the NCGR will benefit from the project experience and its end results (Component III, Output 3.1).</p>

*State Institution for Specially Protected Natural Areas; and Protected Area Units (Specially Protected Natural Areas) ? National Nature Parks and Reserves, Regional Landscape Parks.*

Roles and Responsibilities:

- The State Institution for Specially Protected Natural Areas is responsible for conservation, restoration and sustainable use of flora and fauna within specially protected natural areas. The objective of protected areas is to conserve biodiversity and to provide a way for measuring the progress of such conservation. Subsequently, the range of natural resources that any one protected areas may guard is vast. The State Institution along with SPNA units are also responsible bodies under the Committee for Environmental Protection that conducts unified policy on behalf of the government in the area of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, forests development, and etc.

The seven target Protected Areas (SPNAs) under the proposed project are the following: (1) Khatlon Nature Refuge (IV), (2) Tigrovaya Balka State Nature Reserve (I), (3) Karatau Nature Refuge (IV), (4) Dashtidzhum National Nature Reserve (I), (5) Sari Khosor Nature Park (II), (6) Childukhtaron Nature Refuge (IV), (7) Dashtidzhum Nature Refuge (IV).

Engagement Mechanism:

- The State Institution for SPNAs and related SPNA units will be the beneficiaries of the approaches for reducing the loss of biodiversity and for improving sustainability of management of forest and pasture lands in and around Protected Areas (Component I, Outputs 1.2 and 1.4). They will be beneficiaries of improved management techniques and training programs, stakeholder engagement, and education and awareness activities (Component II, Outputs 2.2 and 2.3; Component III, Output 3.1). They will be beneficiaries for reducing land degradation across the target landscapes.

GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Roles and Responsibilities:

- The Small Grants Program (SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which is a corporate program of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), aligns its milestone strategies with those of the GEF and co-financing partners and provides a global portfolio of innovative, inclusive and effective projects aimed at solving environmental problems and sustainable development in the world. The SGP is currently being implemented with an Operational Phase-7 aligned with the Country Programme Strategy for the period 2020-2025. USD500,000 has been allocated of which 250K is committed for 2020, and another 250K for 2021. Top-up funding is pending in 2022.

The SGP supports non-governmental and community-based organizations in developing countries with grants of up to US\$50,000 in support of both GEF objectives and sustainable livelihoods. In the process of its work, the Small Grants Program implemented various initiatives of communities at the local level and made a significant contribution to global ecological activities and assisted Tajikistan in solving of serious environmental problems in order to achieve the objectives of the RIO Conventions, the main of which are the following: (a) biodiversity loss, (b) climate change, (c) land degradation and desertification (sustainable land management), (d) reduction of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and chemicals, and (e) degradation of international water resources.

- Engagement Mechanism:

There are multiple dimensions for synergies between the SGP and the proposed project, almost across all strategic initiatives noted in the Country Strategic Programme of the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme. Specifically, close collaboration is envisaged in the implementation of Component II (Output 2.1 and 2.2) and Component III (Output 3.1) of the proposed project with respective focus on agrobiodiversity and capacity development within KRBs/PAs and surrounding buffer zones. Despite the limited core funding of 500K by SGP, implemented initiatives provide scalable approaches in areas of conservation, improvement and restoration of mountainous landscapes and savannah/arid ecosystems. Specifically, the proposed project can benefit from lessons learned, successes and build on the following aspects of the current strategy:

- One of target landscape of the current SGP (7<sup>th</sup> Operational Phase), namely South Tajikistan pasture-agrarian arid landscape coincides with the target biodiversity area of the proposed project, and the 10% grant allocation (~USD50,000) of the SGP programme for that target area is potentially considered as scalable co-financing to the project;
- SGP activities have vast experience working with NGOs, private sector, local communities in and around biodiversity areas, and the Project will benefit from that experience in the course of cooperation and knowledge exchange with the SGP;
- SGP activities in the past have supported three Protected Areas in other regions;
- SGP has supported eco-tourism activities in biodiversity areas, and worked extensively with communities on disseminating knowledge and sharing environmental and economic benefits.

<p><i>Khatlon provincial, district and local authorities ?</i> Hukumats (Regional, district and sub-district/Jamoat level administrations)</p>	<p><u>Roles and Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>- The Hukumat ? Government branches at provincial (Khatlon), district and sub-district (Jamoats) levels have overall responsibility for the socio-economic development activities within respective territorial boundaries. The district level administrations also provide support for local economic activities and also regulate land use and supervise land use decision making at district level. District level administrations implement their support mostly through Jamoats (sub-district level Hukumats).</p> <p><u>Engagement Mechanism:</u></p> <p>- A representative of the Khatlon Hukumat (Provincial branch) will sit in the Project Steering Committee and will mediate two-way communication between national policy directives and local project activities and actions to ensure that there is good alignment between them. District authorities will play an important role in supporting project implementation in selected sites, in particular with regards to land use regulations, sustainable pasture management mechanisms, environmental safeguarding and enforcement mechanisms within KRBs and PAs. The district and Jamoat administrations will be partners in development of the mechanisms to reduce soil degradation and reduce biodiversity loss. They will be partners in developing mechanisms for using restored lands, play an advisory and coordination role at grass-roots level. Advisory and coordination roles.</p>
<p><i>Scientific Institutions and Academia, including but not limited to</i></p> <p>National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Botany, State Agrarian University, etc.</p>	<p>The Institute of Botany responsible for the study of life forms of plants to assess the status of agroecosystems. The National Academy of Sciences provides the scientific expertise and capability to underpin decisions and actions in the field of sustainable natural resource use.</p> <p>Scientific Institutions, such as Institute of Botany and National Academy of Sciences, will play a scientific advisory role in the project. They will play a role of providing scientific perspectives to project decisions and actions as well as being the beneficiary of a number of the project interventions. They will also provide recommendations to farmers of indicator species of plants that demonstrate resistance and ability to thrive in face of climate change.</p> <p>The key universities such as Tajik Agrarian University, Tajik Technical University, will be invited to key workshops and seminars to build knowledge on scientific aspects of project interventions. Protected Area Units and KRBs will be encouraged to develop internship programs for university students to build champions in the sphere of environmental protection, conservation, biodiversity and climate change.</p>

I/NGOs, including but not limited to:

Caritas  
Switzerland,  
Mountain Societies  
Development  
Support  
Programme  
(MSDSP),  
Regional  
Environmental  
Centre for Central  
Asia (CAREC),  
ACTED, Youth  
Ecological Center  
(YEC),  
Zan va Zamin  
(?Women and  
Land?),  
Welthungerhilfe  
(WHH), Public  
Association  
?Noosfera?, etc.

Roles and Responsibilities:

In the context of the proposed project, NGOs provide linkages between communities and government on issues relating to biodiversity conservation, building resilience in face of climate change, environmental protection, livelihoods development, and etc. NGOs provide a helping hand for local governments in their work with communities in all socio-economic spheres, and foster constructive engagement between communities and authorities.

To date, a series of NGOs have successful experiences and lessons learnt in areas related to proposed project's concept. In particular, the NGOs will be key for advancement of work in such areas as - conservation of biodiversity *reducing land degradation, sustainable pasture use, joint forest management, community engagement and mobilization, local development initiatives and planning, livelihoods support, supporting women groups, awareness raising, advocacy and knowledge building, supporting small-holder farmers, and etc.*

Engagement Mechanism:

NGOs named here are only an indicative list of possible NGOs and civil society organizations that may be consulted and invited to participate in implementation of selected project activities. In particular, selected NGOs will be invited to participate in implementation of Joint Forest Management mechanisms, establishment and development of Pasture User Unions, and development of knowledge platforms (based on experiences of the WB, GIZ, YEC, and etc.) (Component I, Outputs 1.2 and 1.3). NGOs will also be invited to support active community engagement and mobilization actions to foster sustainable mechanisms for joint resource use and benefits sharing between communities and KRBs (and PAs), joint safeguarding and enforcement mechanisms, awareness raising and advocacy (Component II, Output 2.2).

Experienced NGOs will be consulted to enhance available knowledge platforms, to conduct awareness raising and experience sharing, openly accessible to interested stakeholders (Component III, Output 3.1). NGOs will be the beneficiaries in using the knowledge and skills acquired from the project activities in aforementioned thematic areas. NGOs will also be consulted and invited to improve mechanisms that ensure active participation of women in the proposed project.

<p>Local population, land owners and land users, pastoralists, and small holder agricultural producers (communities in buffer zones, around SPNAs, in and around KRBs)</p>	<p>Local population, land owners and land users, pastoralists, and small holder agricultural producers (communities in buffer zones, around SPNAs, in and around KRBs) are holders of traditional knowledge at grass roots level on aspects of land degradation trends, agriculture and land cultivation, agroforestry, impacts of climate change, biodiversity conservation, plant protection, income generating activities and livelihoods in general. They will be the beneficiaries of sustainable livelihood and land restoration activities. They are considered key stakeholders for activities related to joint forest management (Committees), Pasture User Unions establishment and development, alternative livelihoods development, and other activities that involve community participation.</p> <p>The abovementioned groups will be involved in management and planning processes relating to all aspects of the project. They will provide feedback on local priorities and needs, and be part of decision-making processes. They will be consulted throughout project interventions in relation to potential conflict mitigation techniques on resource use at sustainable rates. They are direct beneficiaries of capacity development activities. Selected communities will be invited to participate in ?homologue? trials, in situ conservation efforts, and demonstration of agro-enterprise development based on local agrobiodiversity.</p>
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In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

The project stakeholder analysis and engagement strategy has been updated and more fully elaborated during the PPG phase. The project stakeholder analysis is summarized in Section 4.3 of the Prodoc, on ?Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination? (pp. 24-30), including Table 3 summarizing project stakeholders and their roles. A more detailed ?Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan? is included as Annex 11 of the Prodoc; this includes information on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, resource requirements throughout the project cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement, and coordination with other relevant initiatives including GEF projects. Section VII of the Prodoc on ?Governance and Management Arrangements? also provides detailed information on how stakeholders will be involved and consulted in project execution. The summary of stakeholders consulted during project development is also included in Annex 11 of the Prodoc. **During the project development phase the full range of stakeholders were consulted, and their inputs, priorities, and suggestions were incorporated in the project design. Stakeholder organizations were met on a one-on-one basis throughout the project development process, as outlined in Annex 11 of the Prodoc. In situations where it was not possible to meet in person, remote meetings and phone calls were used to consult with stakeholders about the project. Finally, the project stakeholder validation workshop was attended by more than 50 individuals representing stakeholder organizations from civil society, government, development partners, resource managers, and others. The workshop produced numerous qualitative comments that were further reflected in the project design.**

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;**

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes**

**Co-financier;** Yes

**Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;** Yes

**Executor or co-executor;** Yes

**Other (Please explain)**

### **3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.**

During the PPG analysis of the gender aspects of the project were significantly enhanced and further elaborated, to support implementation of both the GEF and UNDP gender mainstreaming policies and strategies. A gender expert was part of the PPG team, and produced a comprehensive gender analysis, including human rights aspects, and a project gender action plan was produced. These are included as **Annex 12** of the Prodoc. Gender aspects of the project are summarized in Section 4.4 of the Prodoc, on "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" (paras. 88-100, pp. 32-34). In addition, gender is addressed in the project's Social and Environmental Screening Protocol (Annex 6 of the Prodoc), with gender-related risks assessed. In addition to the Gender Action Plan included in Annex 12, gender considerations were mainstreamed in the project's work plan; for example, gender aspects were made explicit in activities under Output 1.1 relating to the development of gender-focused livelihood support technical assistance. The project Strategic Results Framework includes gender-disaggregated indicators.

**Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?**

Yes

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;** Yes

**Improving women's participation and decision making** Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women** Yes

**Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

### **4. Private sector engagement**

**Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.**

There have been no changes to the project's engagement with the private sector since the PIF was designed and approved. The description of the project's engagement with the private sector is included

in Section 4.3 of the Prodoc, on "Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination" (pp. 24-30), with a specific sub-section on "Private Sector Engagement", paras. 72-74; p. 27. The project's engagement with the private sector is also included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Annex 11 of the Prodoc.

## 5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

**Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):**

The risks to the project and the risks posed by the project (social and environmental risks) were updated and further elaborated during the PPG, following the updating of the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening template (SESP). Project risks are summarized in Prodoc Section 4.5 "Risks to project success and social / environmental safeguards", paras. 102-110, pp. 36-40, including a table summarizing risks and mitigation measures. Social and environmental risks are analyzed and assessed in the SESP, included as Annex 6 to the Prodoc. These risks, and associated mitigation measures, are detailed in the table in Annex 9: UNDP Risk Register. Furthermore, general project governance risk management procedures are detailed in Section XI. "Risk Management" (p. 65).

## 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

**Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

The project's institutional arrangements are described in Prodoc Section VII. "Governance and Management Arrangements" (pp. 51-46). Coordination aspects are also described section 4.3 "Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement, Coordination, and Socio-economic and Local Benefits" (paras. 80-82, pp. 30-31), and will include representation by other development partners on the Project Steering Committee. Coordination aspects are also described in the Stakeholder Engagement plan, as discussed in Section 2. above.

A summary of the institutional arrangements is provided below, from the Prodoc.

**Implementing Partner:** The Implementing Partner for this project is the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center (NBBC) under the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan. The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in the Prodoc.

**Responsible Parties:** Based on consultations between UNDP and the National Biosafety and Biodiversity Center (NBBC) under the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, which acts as the Implementing Partner, it has been agreed that the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP) and Caritas Tajikistan will be considered as Responsible Parties in support of the execution of Component 1 and portions of Components 2 and 3 of the project, per the breakdown indicated in the Prodoc (p. 57). An execution options analysis was carried out, discussed

and agreed with GEF Secretariat, explained in the UNDP audit checklist verified by IRH team and signed by the UNDP-GEF head. All PCATs and HACTs are available (per Annex 22 of the Prodoc). In line with UNDP POPP, RP agreements will be signed only after funds are approved and the Prodoc is signed by UNDP and the Government of Tajikistan. The Government of Tajikistan will sign a contract with the RPs, as specified in the UNDP POPP; there is no intention to deviate from POPP requirements.

**Project stakeholders and target groups:** The participation and contribution of stakeholders and key target groups is critical for the success of the project, for stakeholders at both the national and local levels. The project applies multiple strategies and mechanisms to ensure stakeholder engagement. First and foremost is the Project Board (as discussed in the Prodoc), involving the Committee for Environmental Protection of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan as the primary beneficiary, and UNDP as the Development Partner. UNDP and the Committee for Environmental Protection of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan have a long history of collaboration and successful project completion in Tajikistan, including multiple previous GEF-funded projects. The project will ensure gender balance and gender sensitivity are mainstreamed throughout all aspects of the project's stakeholder engagement approach. There are multiple stakeholder types at the local level in the planned project activity sites in the Lower Amu Darya Landscape. These include representatives of district and rural governments, administrations of PAs and forestries, community-based groups, individual and dekhan farms, agricultural businesses, and NGOs. The project will facilitate participatory planning processes and support the capacity development of local stakeholders and resource users, which will include private sector companies, local government representatives, PA managers, forest managers, and other site-specific key stakeholders. In addition, the project has multiple education and awareness activities planned that will engage local communities and stakeholders in addressing sustainable land management and conservation of biodiversity. Formal and informal partnerships will be developed and established with gender balance, and gender mainstreaming approaches in mind.

**UNDP:** UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member. A firewall will be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP and charged to the GEF Fee and any support to project execution performed by UNDP (as requested by and agreed to by both the Implementing Partner and GEF) and may be charged to the GEF project management costs (only if approved by GEF). The segregation of functions and firewall provisions for UNDP in this case is described in the Prodoc. The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A representative of the UNDP Country Office will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

**Project Board:** All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project. The roles and composition of the Project Board are further elaborated in the Prodoc.

**Project Management / Execution of the Project:** The Project Manager (PM) (also called project coordinator) is the senior most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The project manager typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers. The PMU will be located in the offices of the IP. A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative.

**UNDP project support:** The Implementing Partner and GEF OFP have requested UNDP to provide support services for the full duration of the project (see OFP execution support request letter), and the GEF has agreed for UNDP to provide such execution support services. As specified in the OFP Letter of Support to Request GEF Agency Execution Services for the project, "[The Government of Tajikistan as represented by the OFP] hereby requests UNDP, the GEF implementing agency for the aforementioned project, to also carry out selected execution services for the above project, on an exceptional basis." In line with agreements reached during the PPG, the GEF budget will not be charged for compensation to the UNDP Country Office. Any costs associated with rendition of execution support by UNDP Country Office will be borne by UNDP Country office itself (as in-kind contribution to the project). To ensure the strict independence required by the GEF and in accordance with the UNDP Internal Control Framework, these execution services will be delivered independent from the GEF-specific oversight and quality assurance services.

## 7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC
- National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD
- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury
- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD
- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC

- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC
- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD
- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC
- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC
- Others

The project remains fully consistent with national priorities as originally outlined in the PIF. The project supports national priorities relating to the UNCBD, UNCCD (including the national LDN target, once the national LDN target setting process has been completed), and UNFCCC. The project's contribution to these multilateral agreements is outlined in Section II of the Prodoc, paras. 25-28 (pp. 11-12).

### **8. Knowledge Management**

**Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.**

The project has been designed to address Knowledge Management through multiple approaches, and with Knowledge Management elements integrated throughout the project. Components 3 and 4 of the project encompass a variety of activities that support Knowledge Management (as described in paras. 50-54), but Knowledge Management activities are also distributed throughout Component 1 and 2 of the project. For example, Output 1.1 relating to district spatial planning includes a consultative process whereby the project will engage stakeholders and support the dissemination of good practices relating to the integration of biodiversity and SLM considerations in spatial planning processes. Under Output 1.2 the project will support the training of local resource users in implementation of biodiversity friendly community-based forest management approaches. Output 2.2 includes a variety of knowledge management activities, but in particular, the project will support PAs to improve their ecological monitoring, ensuring that biodiversity and ecosystem data are properly managed and integrated with national data management systems. The project results framework also includes Knowledge Management indicators, including indicator 10 (relating to the level of spatial knowledge and understanding of SPNAs), indicator 13 (relating to the level of target audience awareness regarding LDN), indicator 15 (relating to training), and indicator 16 (relating to the number of knowledge documents disseminated through global knowledge networks).

### **9. Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Describe the budgeted M and E plan**

The budgeted M&E plan is included in Prodoc Section VI. "Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan" (pp. 48-50), which also refers to the Prodoc Section V Project Results Framework (pp. 39-47). Component 4 of the project is specifically dedicated to project M&E. The budgeted M&E plan and Component 4 of the project are also consistent with the Total Budget & Work Plan in Prodoc Section IX (pp. 61-64).

<b>Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget:</b>			
<b>GEF M&amp;E requirements</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Indicative costs (US\$)</b>	<b>Time frame</b>
Inception Workshop	Implementing Partner Project Team	\$10,000	Within 60 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
Inception Report	Project Team	None	Within 90 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
M&E of GEF core indicators and project results framework	Project Team will oversee national institutions / agencies charged with collecting results data	\$10,000 (\$2,000/yr)	Annually prior to GEF PIR. This will include GEF core indicators, including METTs.
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	Regional Technical Advisor UNDP Country Office Project Team	None	Annually (between June-August)
Monitoring all risks (UNDP risk register)	UNDP Country Office Project Team	None	Ongoing
Monitoring of safeguards, stakeholder engagement plan, and gender action plan	UNDP Country Office Project Team	None	Ongoing
Lessons learned and knowledge generation / project completion report	Project Team	\$6,826	At project completion
Project completion workshop	Project Team	\$5,000	In final 6 months of project.
Supervision missions	UNDP Country Office	None	Annually
Oversight / troubleshooting missions	RTA and BPPS / GEF	None	Troubleshooting as needed
Mid-term GEF Core indicators and METT or other required Tracking Tools	Implementing Partner Project Team as part of PIR at MTR	None	Before MTR mission takes place
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)	Independent evaluators	\$40,100 <i>(international consultants, local consultants, travel, interpretation and translation of documents)</i>	~30 months after project inception workshop, +/- 3 months (estimated 4th quarter 2024, assuming Q2 2022 start)

Terminal GEF Core indicators and METT or other required Tracking Tools	Implementing Partner and Project Team as part of preparation of documents for TE	None (covered under previous line items above)	Before terminal evaluation mission takes place
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	Independent evaluators	\$40,100 <i>(international consultants, local consultants, travel, interpretation and translation of documents)</i>	3-6 months before project completion (estimated 1st quarter of 2027, assuming Q2 2022 start)
<b>Total Indicative Cost</b>		\$112,026 <i>(4.2% of GEF grant)</i>	

## 10. Benefits

**Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF)?**

The socioeconomic and local benefits generated through the project are described in Section 4.3 of the Prodoc ?Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement, Coordination, and Socio-economic and Local Benefits?, paras. 86-87 (pp. 31-32). Beneficiaries are also included in the discussion on project stakeholders in the same section of the Prodoc (paras. 70-71), and in Annex 11 of the Prodoc, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The project is expected to have a minimum of 100,000 direct beneficiaries, which will primarily be private sector smallholders engaged in livestock husbandry for their main source of livelihood. This will be tracked through indicator 3 of the project Strategic Results Framework, including gender disaggregated reporting. The type and number of beneficiaries will be specifically analyzed at the project mid-term and project completion, as budgeting provisions have been made under Component 4 of the project for this specific type of analysis as part of the project?s aggregation of results data for regular reporting under the annual PIR.

## 11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

**Overall Project/Program Risk Classification \***

<b>PIF</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement/Approva I</b>	<b>MTR</b>	<b>TE</b>
<b>Medium/Moderate</b>			

**Measures to address identified risks and impacts**

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

**Project Information**

<b>Project Information</b>	
1. Project Title	<i>Conservation and Sustainable Management of High-Value Arid Ecosystems in the Lower Amu Darya Basin</i>
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	<i>UNDP PIMS Project ID# 6453; GEF PIMS Project ID #10439</i>
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Tajikistan
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design / Prodoc
5. Date	September 27, 2021

**Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability**

**QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?**

*Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach*

To support and mainstream UNDP's human rights-based approach the project works with local resource users and communities as rights holders to support their role as the principal decision makers for mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable land management across the pasture and forest lands of the Lower Amu Darya landscape. The project fully support's UNDP's commitment to a human-rights based approach, and supports the universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, but particularly in the case of this project, for the people living in the Lower Amu Darya landscape in southwestern Tajikistan. The project does this broadly by supporting the sustainable use of natural resources, including access to and use of biological and land resources necessary for rural communities, including the rural poor, in the project's geographic scope. In addition, the project will ensure and support the human rights principles of participation, inclusion and non-discrimination. During the project development process consultation sessions and meetings were undertaken to engage with key stakeholders in order to fully understand the challenges, barriers and risks related to the project, and how these can be addressed through the project design and implementation. These consultations strengthened and ensured the transparency and legitimacy of the proposed project activities, notwithstanding that during project implementation, activities should be adapted to ensure that the human rights of stakeholders are preserved and/or reinforced. In line with national law and UNDP principles, the project design seeks to uphold the centrality of human rights to sustainable development, poverty alleviation and ensuring fair distribution of development opportunities and benefits. The project will mainstream the human-rights approach by ensuring a participatory and inclusive approach (both of different sectors and of local people) in project implementation, with capacity support as needed to assist duty bearers to fulfil project roles, ensuring the meaningful participation of stakeholders and not discriminating on any grounds including race, gender, minority status, age, religion etc. In addition, the project will adhere to UNDP policies on monitoring, evaluation, audits and transparency in project implementation.

More specifically, the project will carry out the following activities that support UNDP's human rights-based approach:

- ? Throughout all project activities the principles of participation and inclusion will be applied. In practical terms, this means, for example, that all stakeholders will be consulted in planning the details of project activities for the project workplans. Stakeholder groups will be fully represented in the project steering committee, which will have oversight of the project, and provide strategic guidance on project implementation.
- ? In all aspects of the project the project will ensure that local communities have meaningful means of raising any concerns, to UNDP or to respective resource management authorities, including government institutions, that are involved in the project. During the project inception phase the project will specifically communicate to all stakeholders and involved communities the specific mechanism and means for raising concerns or grievances to UNDP or to government representatives when activities may adversely affect them.
- ? The project supports the equality aspect of human rights particularly through supporting the implementation of UNDP's gender mainstreaming policy, as further described in the following question of this SESP.
- ? Under activities such as integrated land use planning under Output 1.1, and pasture restoration under Output 1.3, the project will work with local communities to increase participation and equality in planning how communities will sustainably use their pasture resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods.
- ? Under Outputs 1.1 and 1.2, activities related to sustainable forest management will include extensive communication with local resource users, and will incorporate mechanisms to ensure participation and support equality in the planning and sustainable use of forest resources, including community-based forest management approaches, supporting sustainable livelihoods.
- ? Under Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 the project will work with PA management staff and with local communities to increase the engagement and participation of local communities in the management of PAs. The project will work with PAs staff to increase the capacity to engage and educate local community members living near PAs.
- ? Under Output 2.2 the project will support the implementation of human rights standards in laws through improving the management of PAs to ensure the inclusion and implementation of human rights principles.
- ? Under Output 2.3 the project will work with local communities to establish Plant Micro Reserves with community-based monitoring and enforcement mechanisms that incorporate human-rights based approaches, including participation, inclusion, and equality.

*Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment*

The proposed project is in line with and supportive of both the GEF's and UNDP's gender mainstreaming policies. A comprehensive gender analysis was carried out during the PPG phase, which provides the basis for a project's Gender Strategy and Action Plan. The methodology for development of a Gender Action Plan comprised of the following three main steps:

Step 1: Desk study and review of available literature, reports and documented lessons learnt from development partners, such as IFAD, ADB, WB, GIZ, FAO, UN Women, UNEP and Oxfam GB. The published reports from those agencies and organizations represent most recent data and analysis of gender aspects in various sectors of Tajikistan with particular focus on rural development, including (a) land resource use and management, (b) natural disasters risk management and mitigation, (c) water resources management, (d) pasture management and animal husbandry, (e) forest resources management, and (f) community resilience to climate change.

Step 2: Analysis of district level sex-disaggregated data, including data from National Statistics Agency on the main socio-economic development indicators in target areas of the proposed project. Those include gender disparities in employment, land and property ownership, general access to resources and economic assets, share of seats in local governments, impact of customary rules and traditions on lives of women and related deprivations.

Step 3: Consultations with the project stakeholders, development partners and independent gender specialists. The PPG Group members have carried out bilateral and individual discussions on how related gender disparities are addressed in the context of the proposed project.

Some of the **national level** findings from gender analysis that are relevant to the project design and that were consequently addressed by the Gender Action Plan include the following:

Share of female employees working the Government Bodies estimated at 31.6% as opposed to male employees ? 68.4%. There has generally been observed a consecutive growth of women proportion at managing positions in the national parliament from 19.6% to 24.2% (national level data).

Share of women entrepreneurs on the basis of certificate and patent is estimated at 18.5% and 26.9% respectively at national level. The share of women-headed dehqan farms is estimated at 22.1% (national level data).

The employment rate was significantly higher among men than among women (59.5 percent and 40.5 percent, respectively). However, according to LFS-2016 data regarding the unemployment rate and other aspects of underemployment, the women in the Republic of Tajikistan were in a much better situation than men. At the same time, the number of women among individuals outside labor force significantly exceeded the number of men ? 1, 806, 249 women vs. 1,125,857 men respectively (national level data).

Two out of five women (41%) in Tajikistan suffer from anemia. Most of these women (32%) were classified as having mild anemia; 8% of them had moderate anemia and less than 1% severe anemia (national level data);

The national laws and policies provide all citizens equal property ownership rights, including land use rights, access of men and women to natural resources, however in practice such ownership, use and access rights are still relatively constrained for women. This is in part shaped by the customary rules and norms, traditional role of women in society, and in particular in rural Tajikistan.

The district level findings can be summarized as follows:

? Even though significant gender-sensitive reform of the Land Code was carried out and efforts are being made to increase women's access to land, in practice land certificates are traditionally most often registered only in the name of a male head of household, and the number of women-headed dehqan farms is significantly lower compared to men (22.1% women, 77.9% men in 2019). Farms headed by women, in many cases, perform better than those headed by men. Official data provides that female-headed dehqan farms record higher rates on yields of raw cotton, potatoes, grapes, etc. Despite the given state, practically in the field most agricultural workers are women (~75%), and women are *de facto* managers of agricultural production in a household with absent male labor migrant.

? Rural women typically have triple work burden: employment for income, household management and child care responsibilities, and growing food for consumption (due to male labor migration);

? Women traditionally are not involved in livestock grazing. but can be involved in decision-making

*Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience*

The project objective is fundamentally and directly in support of the principle of mainstreaming environmental sustainability. The project objective is to *Secure high value arid ecosystem biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, while ensuring resilient and sustainable livelihoods in Tajikistan's lower Amu Darya landscape.* The project has been designed to address the key threats and barriers related to the loss of biodiversity and degradation of land resources in the Lower Amu Darya landscape. The project's innovative strategy leverages Key Biodiversity Areas within the wider landscape as the focal points for integrated sustainable land use management, with biodiversity benefits from mainstreaming. This approach is coupled with the use of protected areas as key mechanisms for conserving the most critical ecosystems within the wider landscape. The Lower Amu Darya landscape presents an important opportunity to demonstrate in Central Asia how dryland pastures and forests in foothill regions can be managed in an integrated manner, mainstreaming biodiversity into sustainable management of natural resource use, supporting sustainable rural livelihoods. This will be achieved through securing ecosystem services, and increasing resilience to climate change. The total area of pasture land in Tajikistan - including grasslands, alpine meadows, woodlands and wetlands - used for livestock grazing is estimated at 3.9 million ha. Most of these pastures are located in hilly and mountainous areas above 2,000 m. In Khatlon province, approximately 357,000 ha of territory is grassland (14% of area). Traditionally pastures have formed the basis of Tajikistan's livestock sub-sector and have been utilized for centuries through an altitude- and season- based transhumance grazing system. In recent times, much of the pastures at lower elevations (<1,500 m) have been used for year-round grazing by local communities whose access to more distant pasture lands has been restricted due to changes in tenure arrangements as a result of population increase in most places. The project will demonstrate in Central Asia that livelihoods can be improved with sustainably managed livestock production systems, while conserving biodiversity and ensuring the maintenance of critical ecosystem services.

The project will be implemented within the context of the UN programming frameworks driven by the Government, particularly the UN Development Assistance Framework for 2016-2021 (UNDAF), which includes *Outcome 6 People in Tajikistan are more resilient to natural and man-made disasters and benefit from improved policy and operational frameworks for environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources.*

The UNDAF strategic results framework includes indicators to track progress toward this outcome, including:

- o *Indicator 6.1 Number of new green jobs created, environmentally sustainable livelihoods promoted through management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste, disaggregated by sex (Baseline 300 jobs; Target: at least 5,000 green jobs to be created by 2020)*
- o *Indicator 6.3 Percentage of land covered by forest (Baseline 3%; Target 3.1%)*
- o *Indicator 6.8 Proportion of rural communities with increased capacity to manage shocks and risks (Baseline: to be determined by WFP in 2015; Target: An increase from the baseline of 20%).*

The UNDAF outcomes are further elaborated in the Country Program Document (CPD) (2016-2022), which includes *Output 6.1: Effective legislative, policy and institutional frameworks in place for conservation, sustainable use, access and benefit sharing of natural resources management, biodiversity, ecosystems?* and *Output 6.3. Strengthened livelihoods through solutions for disaster and climate risk management?* The CPD includes more specific results indicators as well, including:

- ? *Indicator 6.1.2: Integrated land use planning and sustainable forest management applied across Protected Areas system; Baseline: None; Target: Largely*
- ? *Indicator 6.3.1: Number of people benefitting from disaster response and recovery and disaster and climate-resilient livelihoods, sex- disaggregated; Baseline: 0; Target: 100,000 (40,000 women)*

The project directly supports the achievement of Aichi Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained. Through the landscape approach it substantially contributes to the following Aichi Targets:

- ? Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- ? Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- ? Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has

**Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders**

Through its various activities the project promotes accountability to project partners and stakeholders.

- ? The project applies multiple stakeholder participation mechanisms that increases accountability. Under Output 1.1, the project will establish multi-stakeholder working groups to consider and develop integrated approaches to spatial planning in the 6 priority districts. Additional examples of participatory mechanisms are community-based management mechanisms (Pasture User Unions) for pastures (under Output 1.3), forests (community-based forest management approaches) (under Output 1.3), and protected areas (under Output 2.2). Through all of these mechanisms the project will facilitate active local community engagement including rural poor, actively promoting participation of women, youth and disadvantaged groups.
- ? The project ensures that everybody has access to information, through transparency of all the programmatic interventions, provision of timely and accessible information regarding supported activities (primarily under Component 3), and the project includes specific community outreach activities, under Outputs 2.2 and 2.3. Project consultations and communications with stakeholders will include discussions on potential environmental and social risks and impacts and necessary management measures that will be implemented based on local consensus. Transparency and access to information will empower stakeholders to accelerate transition towards accountable decision making processes and more sustainable livelihoods.
- ? The project ensures that all the stakeholders can communicate their concerns and have access to rights-compatible complaints redress processes and mechanisms. In cases where there is a risk of economic displacement, such as the activities on sustainable pasture and forest management, Targeted Assessments will be deployed, in an inclusive and participative manner, supported at local level by project experts and Local Advisory Committees including representatives of local self-governing bodies, CBOs and local NGOs in order to ensure inclusiveness. The project will ensure that in all interactions with stakeholders (consultations, meetings, web sites) information is available on how to access complaints processes. The Project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan will ensure that stakeholders are engaged and informed about all activities. In addition to the UNDP Stakeholder Response Mechanism[1]<sup>1</sup> which is embedded in all UNDP projects, this project will set up the project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and will designate the Project Steering Committee included in the project management arrangements (please see Section VI project Document) as the project-GRM to ensure first of all that all the people and communities are informed of project-level grievance entry points and avoid / minimize risks of retaliation and reprisal against people who may seek information on project activities or express concerns and/or access project level grievances.
- ? The project will monitor environment and social risk management measures through effective and where possible, participatory engagement of the stakeholders. In addition, the LDN monitoring mechanisms to be implemented (Output 3.2.) will ensure adherence to the LDN principles (e.g. Human rights, Good governance, Participatory processes; Balanced economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability) further strengthening accountability.

**Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks**

<p><b>QUESTION 2:</b> What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?</p> <p>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</p>	<p><b>QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?</b></p> <p>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</p>			<p><b>QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High</b></p>
<p><b>Risk Description</b> (broken down by event, cause, impact)</p>	<p><b>Impact and Likelihood</b> (1-5)</p>	<p><b>Significance</b> (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)</p>	<p><b>Comments</b> (optional)</p>	<p><b>Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High</b></p>

<p><b>Risk 1.</b> The project-supported integrated sustainable district spatial land use plans in the Lower Amu Darya landscape could result in limitation of access to natural resources. Other modifications of land use and natural resources management regimes through the planning and implementation of sustainable land management measures (e.g. forests, pastures), envisaged to be implemented in support of long-term sustainability could affect access and use of resources by local communities, including the rural poor and women.</p> <p><i>Principle 2 Human Rights, P5</i></p> <p><i>Principle 2 Human Rights, P6</i></p> <p><i>Principle 3, Gender, P10</i></p> <p><i>Principle 3, Gender, P11</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P13</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P14</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.2</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.4</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project will support the development and implementation of integrated sustainable district spatial land use plans (Output 1.1) based on stakeholder consultations, spatial analysis of data including remote sensing data, and inputs from sub-landscape level forest and pasture management plans.</p> <p>Additional resource management plans will be modified under Output 1.2 (forest management plans) and Output 1.3 (pasture management plans). The targeted areas and recommended SLM measures have been identified during the PPG stage and locations described in the Prodoc.</p> <p>When modifying existing resource use and management regimes, there is always a possibility of some</p>	<p>As per the ESMF (Annex 7 project Document) the risks will be managed through the implementation of <b>Targeted assessments</b> (please see ESMF Annex 7 Project Document) for all these outputs.</p> <p>The Targeted Assessments will be applied to the development of the plans under Outputs 1.1 such that potential social and environmental downstream impacts arising from the development of the (i) spatial land-use plans at district level; and (ii) relevant policy directions, are considered as an explicit part of plans / policy / guidelines development. Targeted Assessments will be applied to the plans under Outputs 1.2 and 1.3 to identify, prevent and mitigate potential economic displacement. Site specific measures will be designed as needed and included in these plans. This will encompass potential climate change risks related to biodiversity conservation and the existing boundaries of protected areas, and potential limitations on livelihoods. Site specific measures will be designed as needed and included in these plans.</p> <p>Under Output 1.1, the project will leverage the stakeholders engagement (as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan) with the support from the multi-stakeholder project steering committee and representatives of line ministries, representatives of provincial and district authorities, partner civil society organizations, and Pasture User Associations. Under Output 1.2 and 1.3, the project will also ensure stakeholder engagement (as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan), with support from community-based organizations (i.e. Pasture User Associations) and civil society organizations (i.e. national and local NGOs) that will be involved in execution of the activities. The land use plans, pasture management plans, and forest management plans will be designed to ensure livelihood improvements and environmental sustainability during and beyond the project period.</p> <p>If identified via site-specific screening during implementation (as per the ESMF), then the risk of economic displacement will be managed by integrating all elements of a <b>Livelihood</b></p>
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<p><b>Risk 2:</b> Project developed plans, once implemented, may have a negative impact on the use of natural resources and / or the critical biodiversity habitats and species.</p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.1</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.2</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.3</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.6</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.7</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM 1.9</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM 1.10</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM; 1.11</i></p> <p><i>Standard 8; 8.6</i></p> <p><i>Standard 2; 2.3</i></p> <p><i>Standard 3; 3.6</i></p> <p><i>Standard 8 Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency 8.2</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=2</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project's work under <b>Output 1.2</b> will result in approximately [<math>&gt;200,000</math>] ha of pasture land under sustainable land management. Under <b>Output 1.3</b> the project's work will result in approximately 45,300 ha of forest land under sustainable forest management. Under <b>Output 2.2</b> the project will improve the management plans of 7 existing PAs covering 157,671 ha, including the incorporation of community-based management mechanisms.</p> <p>The risks considered are related to potential inadequate planning and implementation of biodiversity conservation and SLM measures. For example, the pasture management plans developed under Output 1.2 may inadvertently result in the spread of invasive species. In</p>	<p>The risks will be managed through <b>the site-specific screening</b> (as envisaged by the SES measures included in these plans) (please see ESMF Annex 7 Project Document) for all these outputs.</p> <p>The pasture management plans, forest management plans, and PA management plans will include management measures developed through a participatory, multi-stakeholder process, based on the best available science, environmental data, technical expert inputs, and modern and internationally-recognized good practice sustainable forest and land management measures (e.g. pasture rotational grazing).</p> <p>During the implementation phase of the plans, the targeted sites will be individually screened, scoped to the site level, with the SESP and based on the results, appropriate site-level assessment will be conducted, in order to identify, prevent and mitigate potential negative impacts on the critical habitats. These assessments would not result in the ESMP because the land use, pasture and forest management plans will themselves be written to encompass the necessary mitigation measures and would act as ESMPs.</p> <p>The project's deployment of qualified technical experts and specialists (conservation biologists, foresters, pasture agronomists, ecologists, safeguards specialists / company etc.) will ensure that (starting with the design / development phase) these plans will encompass best practices and guidelines and specifications for the most effective and equitable biodiversity conservation approaches and scientifically supported SLM measures that pose no harm to environment and that are cost effective, resource efficient, and climate resilient.</p> <p>UNDP has extensive experience in successful demonstration and promotion of biodiversity conservation and sustainable and climate resilient land management practices, which will be used through this project.</p>
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<p><b>Risk 3:</b> Improved management of the PA system could lead to potential limitations or restrictions of the use of natural resources. Strengthening management of existing PAs, such as improved PA zoning, strengthening protection regimes, and / or creation of ecological corridors could further restrict access to and use of biodiversity resources by local communities, affecting livelihoods.</p> <p><i>Principle 2 Human Rights, P5</i></p> <p><i>Principle 2 Human Rights, P6</i></p> <p><i>Principle 3, Gender, P10</i></p> <p><i>Principle 3, Gender, P11</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P13</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P14</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.2</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.4</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>Part of the project's PA work, under Output 2.2, is targeting the improvement of the management of 7 existing PAs:</p> <p>Tigrovaya Balka SNR - 49,786 ha</p> <p>Dashtijum SNR - 19,700 ha</p> <p>Dashtijum Refuge - 50,100 ha</p> <p>Sary Khosor Natural Park - 3,085 ha</p> <p>Childukhtaron Reserve - 14,600 ha</p> <p>Karatau Reserve - 14,400 ha</p> <p>Khatlon Refuge - 6,000 ha</p> <p>The work is focusing on improved management effectiveness of the existing PAs through PA regime compliance and enforcement, zoning, patrolling, research, and species-focused conservation activities.</p>	<p>The risk management measures will be addressed by the <b>Process Framework</b>, embedded in the project strategy and is part of the project's work on existing PAs (Output 2.2). The <b>Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan</b> and <b>project level GRM will complement the Process Framework.</b> (Please see the ESMF, which includes a template for the Process Framework).</p>	<p>The Process Framework will engage local populations in the targeted areas. Local meetings will create awareness on the work related to PAs and will address and reconcile any real or perceived economic limitations that the new PA legal mandate may impose.</p>	<p>Evaluation of the necessity of potential compensatory mechanisms and eligibility criteria, describing the measures that will assist the potential affected persons to improve their livelihoods will be identified as the result of these assessments and discussions.</p>	<p>The project manager will ensure that Information and guidance to local communities about the UNDP conflict resolution and grievance mechanism is provided.</p>	<p>During the consultations, the project team and local community outreach individuals will ensure that any potential risk of economic displacement in the affected communities, resulting from the improved management of existing PAs will be mitigated through the <b>Process Framework for 7 existing PAs:</b></p>	<p>Tigrovaya Balka SNR</p> <p>Dashtijum SNR</p> <p>Dashtijum Refuge</p> <p>Sary Khosor Natural Park</p> <p>Childukhtaron Reserve</p> <p>Karatau Reserve</p> <p>Khatlon Refuge</p>	<p>If economic displacement risks cannot be addressed by the Process Framework during implementation (as per the ESMF), then the risk of economic displacement will be managed by integrating all elements of a <b>Livelihood Action Plan</b> into the respective plan for</p>
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<p><b>Risk 4:</b> Land restoration measures intended to reduce threats to critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas could potentially end up harming them. In addition, the project activities focused on re-planting (native) tree species to restore dryland HCV forest could have unforeseen ecological consequences.</p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.1</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.2</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.6</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.7</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.8</i></p> <p><i>Standard 8 Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency 8.2</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=2</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>Under Output 1.2 and 1.4 there are activities related to the restoration of degraded pastureland (100,000 ha), and degraded forest land (400 ha). Pasture restoration activities primarily focus on support for natural regeneration through implementation of sustainable pasture management measures.</p> <p>Forest restoration activities foresee working with forest management units to support them in fulfilling their restoration plans through planting 200 ha of native forest (distributed across 4 sites), as well as planting of 200 ha of local climate resilient species for agroforestry to restore degraded land. Under Output 1.4 the project will provide technical assistance and possibly biological materials (tree seedlings) for reforestation activities, and there may a risk posed by the chosen tree</p>	<p>The risks will be managed through <b>site specific screening</b> for land restoration activities.</p> <p>The project will apply site specific <b>feasibility / risk assessments</b> (including climate-related risks and vulnerabilities) to identify, prevent and mitigate potential negative impacts on critical habitats. The land restoration measures are expected to ensure livelihood improvements and environmental sustainability during and beyond the project period.</p> <p>The qualified project experts will properly identify risks and proposed management measures. The project will facilitate local consultations with community representatives on the proposed SLM measures, targeted locations and necessary assessments.</p>
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<p><b>Risk 5.</b> The project supported field activities may inadvertently be implemented at / in proximity of significant cultural and historical sites.</p>	<p>I=2 L=2</p>	<p><b>Low</b></p>	<p>The project sites (i.e. KBAs, PAs, forest management units, and immediately surrounding areas) for the project activities have been carefully selected during the PPG based on several criteria, including their biological and ecological values, existing threats, and potential benefits from project activities.</p>	<p>No measures needed as the risk is Low.</p>
<p><i>SES Standard 4; 4.1;</i></p>			<p>Under Output 1.1 the project will support local resource users, particularly women, in strengthening sustainable alternative livelihoods. Under Output 1.2 the project will work with forest management units and local resources to support biodiversity friendly, sustainable forest management, including implementation of Joint Forest Management approaches, fast-growing wood lots, and creation or expansion of tree nurseries. Under Output 1.2 the project will work with forest management units and local resources to support biodiversity friendly, sustainable forest management, including implementation of Joint Forest Management approaches, fast-growing wood lots, and creation or expansion of tree nurseries.</p>	

<p><b>Risk 6.</b> Establishment of small scale PA infrastructure (monitoring field stations, PA management infrastructure, or ecotourism infrastructure) in the existing PAs may have negative impact on critical habitats and species, and / or communities and project workers.</p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.1</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.2</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.7</i></p> <p><i>Standard 3 Community Health, Safety and Security 3.1; 3.2; 3.3</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=2</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project will support the improvement of various forms of PA management infrastructure, potentially including items such as walking paths, gates, signboards, monitoring field stations / ranger stations, boundary markers, and fencing under Output 2.2. Monitoring field stations will serve as infrastructure for scientists and reserve inspectorates. There is a risk of temporarily disturbing the habitat of various species, although the risks are very limited given the small-scale of the activities. There is also some risk that the establishment of any such infrastructure, such as signs, gates, pathways, etc. could be poorly designed or built in a way that could endanger community members or users. For example, an entrance gate could inadvertently shut on someone passing through or a</p>	<p>The project will apply <b>site-specific screening (as per ESMF, Annex 7)</b> to infrastructure development to identify, prevent and mitigate potential impacts on ecologically sensitive habitats through the implementation process or ongoing use. Where risks cannot be avoided, management measures will be put in place ? in the appropriate form for SES compliance (e.g. site-specific ESMP) ? prior to the start of the relevant activities.</p> <p>Based on the remoteness of the area and the relatively low levels of population in the vicinity of the PAs, any potential impact on local communities is considered moderate / limited and manageable following SES requirements for safeguards triggered (Standard 1; Standard 3).</p> <p>As a precautionary measure, the contractual terms (aligned with the SES requirements) will fully integrate regular step-by-step monitoring of each phase of the building, and only proceed to the next stage when no harm is confirmed. The contractor will be required to follow the safeguards management plan and measures that have been prepared, in accordance with the ESMF. In case any of the contractor?s activities go off track, the contracts will have a clause for the subcontractor to rectify (on its own account) any deviation from the targeted result that the TOR envisage.</p> <p>To manage health and safety risks of any project activities and physical outputs, structural elements will be designed, constructed, operated and decommissioned in accordance with national legal requirements, good international practice, and any relevant international obligations and standards by competent professionals and certified or approved by competent authorities or professionals. Structural elements of any infrastructure that may pose any health and/or safety risks shall: (i) be designed and constructed by qualified engineers and professionals, (ii) be certified and approved by independent professionals not involved in the design process, (iii) include appropriate plans for construction supervision and quality</p>
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<p><b>Risk 7:</b> Enforcement of PA management and / or forest management regimes, following applicable environmental norms and legislation, could pose risks of conflicts between rangers and local communities engaged in traditional livelihoods and practices.</p> <p><i>Principle 2 Human Rights, P2</i> <i>Principle 2 Human Rights, P7</i> <i>Principle 3, Gender, P12</i> <i>Standard 3 Community Health, Safety and Security, 3.8</i> <i>Standard 7 Labour and Working Conditions, 7.1, 7.6</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>Enforcement issues of environmental regulations in existing PAs (Output 2.2) or enforcement of forest management regimes (Output 1.2) may lead to conflicts between rangers and local community members or among different local community members.</p> <p>When working in developing countries there exists a risk that the entity responsible for PA management (be it governmental authority or community organization) does not have the full capacity necessary to fulfill their duties in terms of governance, administration, and management of natural resources. The enforcement personnel need to be appropriately trained to implement legal enforcement and manage relationship with local residents.</p>	<p>The management measures will be <b>trainings aligned with / based on the SES</b> (built into the project's design) and the <b>Grievance Redress Mechanism</b> (in the SEP).</p> <p>In addition, the project will ensure that management measures (addressing SES requirements) will be included in PA management plans as noted in the Project Document (Output 2.1). The project's qualified experts, including capacity development experts, local coordinators, technical support staff and ministry counterparts will work with the local community groups to facilitate assessments, local dialogue and round table meetings that the process involves.</p> <p>The project has been designed to deliver trainings / capacity building (Output 2.2) for PA personnel with an emphasis on human rights principles (in line with the SES).</p> <p>Furthermore, the project will facilitate regular meetings between PA managers, ranger patrol staff, communities, and inspectorates, through support for community-based management mechanisms, aiming to address ongoing threats in a collaborative manner (Output 2.2).</p>
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<p><b>Risk 8:</b> Government resource management authorities may not have the capacity to fulfill all aspects of their mandate, and rural resource users may not have the capacity to claim their rights, which could potentially lead to the violation of human rights.</p> <p><i>Principle 2 Human Rights, P2</i> <i>Principle 2 Human Rights, P3</i></p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>There is a risk that institutional government duty-bearers related to the management of high value dry lower Amu Darya ecosystems and land resources do not have the capacity to meet their obligations. In addition, by the same principle and rationale of the fact that the project will be working on natural resource management issues in rural and remote areas, there is a risk that resource users and other rights holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights. Such resource users living in rural and remote areas may not be fully educated and informed about what their rights are (in this case, in relation to usufruct or other natural resource-related rights), or the procedures to claim those rights. There is a risk that rights holders may not have the legal, self-organizing, or financial means to claim their rights. The risk</p>	<p>The risks will be managed through <b>trainings / capacity building</b> project activities (<b>Output 2.2</b>) as well as targeted awareness raising activities for local natural resources users (<b>Output 3.1</b>). As with the previous risks, the project will be working closely with all stakeholders to support government natural resource management authorities and institutions to meet their obligations, and with resource user rights holders to claim their rights. This will be accomplished through multiple stakeholder consultation sessions during all relevant aspects of the project to ensure that all parties are aware of and understand the relevant obligations and rights.</p>
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<p><b>Risk 9:</b> The expected project impacts of the conservation of endangered and threatened species, restoration of degraded land, and sustainable management of forest and pasture resources could be sensitive to changing climatic conditions in the future.</p>	<p>I=3 L=2</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>Adverse impacts of extreme climatic events and long-term shifts in ecosystem types (drought; windstorms; seasonal floods; glacial melt) can affect the project's interventions in the field and the livelihoods of local communities living in the target areas.</p>	<p>The management measures will be implemented <b>through the project's activities</b>. The various project assessments will be informed by the existing climate risk profile / studies (elaborated within the framework of other projects).</p>
<p><i>Standard 2 Climate Change Vulnerability, 2.2</i></p>				<p>Initial climate related risks assessments will also be considered in the implementation of all the envisaged plans and SLM measures, included among the project activities.</p>
				<p>Attention to the current and potential impacts of climate change has been built-in to all aspects of the project. The project will support and secure resilient ecosystem services derived from high value lower Amu Darya dryland ecosystems, including biodiversity-related ecosystem services, and pasture and forest resources, aligned with the prevent-reduce-restore LDN philosophy.</p>
				<p>A large multidisciplinary team of specialists will ensure that the partners and stakeholders will apply the best available climate change forecasts data for Tajikistan's lower Amu Darya landscape, and will ensure that all project activities and plans take potential future climate impacts into consideration.</p>
				<p>The development of the integrated LDN compatible sustainable district spatial plans, and sustainable pasture and sustainable forest plans (Outputs 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3) will adhere to the LDN principles, and will by default, embed climate resilience measures. The awareness raising activities will include information on climate risks for livestock herders (Output 3.1).</p>
				<p>The project will support species and habitat inventories and will identify potential gaps in the existing system of PAs in order to effectively conserve biodiversity, considering the potential for ecosystem change and ecological shifts due to climate change impacts (Output 2.1). As part of the project's work on strengthening the management effectiveness of PAs it will also strengthen environmental monitoring</p>

<p><b>Risk 10:</b> Project activities involving local / field interventions and close engagement with local communities may inadvertently contribute to the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p><i>Standard 3 Community Health, Safety and Security, 3.4</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>Activities at local level are based on participatory approaches, and most of the times will include meetings and local consultations. There are a number of training workshops and awareness events, round table meetings etc.</p>	<p>The risk will be mitigated through <b>adequate safeguards</b> such as: (i) clear procedures in place in case of COVID-19 reinstatement of restrictions, approved during project inception (ii) use of protective equipment, maintaining social distancing and using remote methods of engagement whenever possible (iii) if adequate safeguards cannot be put in place, activities that entail close local communities engagement will be put on hold if necessary, and work program / budget will be revised as needed. Wherever possible on-line meeting platforms will be used and travel decreased. All project meetings will be organized mindful of government regulations and healthy standards and other appropriate safeguards (including those of UNDSS).</p> <p>Under Output 3.1, project education and awareness raising activities will include dissemination of information regarding availability of vaccines. Through all aspects of the project the project team will partner with the government to improve the availability of covid vaccines in the entire lower Amu Darya landscape, but especially in relation to the specific communities where there is anticipated to be a higher level of project engagement.</p>
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<p><b>Risk 11:</b> The project may inadvertently contribute to potential perpetuation of discriminations against women. There are lingering disparities between men and women, particularly in rural areas, which could be inadvertently replicated.</p> <p>-</p> <p><i>Principle 3, Gender, P10</i></p>	<p>I=2 L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project could potentially perpetuate discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities. In the targeted project areas women are mainly engaged in housekeeping, teaching, and administrative support services. Many more women form part of the unpaid family labor in subsistence gardening / farming.</p>	<p>The management of this risk will be done through the implementation of the <b>Gender Action Plan (GAP)</b> and will be monitored by the UNDP Country Office gender expert.</p> <p>The project design mainstreams gender sensitive approaches and creates opportunities for tackling women's needs, such as ensure measures are in place to support women's participation in project meetings and workshops, and ensuring the inclusion of women-headed households in livelihood support activities. The project will provide ample opportunities for women to learn about LDN and SLM measures and resilient livelihoods and integrate best practices into their land-based livelihood activities (e.g. herding, gardening, orchards). Through the training and livelihood support programs women will also be able to access the capacity building and training required to practice climate-resilient agriculture, as well as to diversify their livelihoods in more resilient ways. The project will ensure gender balance in all project activities (e.g. seminars, community level events) including in the membership of different decision-making bodies (Working groups; Project Boards; Community-based management committees) including access to project livelihood technical assistance (Technical Assistance activity). The project will also gather gender-disaggregated data for evaluation purposes and use gender sensitive indicators (particularly around beneficiaries) to facilitate planning, implementation and monitoring. Complaints will be addressed through the project level <b>Grievance Redress Mechanism</b>.</p>
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**Risk 12.** Execution of the project's activities will involve employment of Tajik nationals, and potentially foreign citizens. In addition, the project will be cooperating with numerous public, private, and civil society organizations, companies, and other entities. It is possible that during the execution of project activities the project may fail to ensure that labor rights, especially of vulnerable groups, are respected by partner organizations, project beneficiary organizations, or local subcontractors. There could be risk of working conditions that do not meet national laws or international commitments and / or child labor within project-supported activities.

*Standard 7; 7.1*  
*Standard 7; 7.3*

I=3  
L=3

**Moderate**<sup>2</sup>

During the implementation of project activities there is a possibility of working conditions that do not meet national labor laws and international commitments. For example, when implementing project-supported sustainable pasture management plans (Output 1.3), local Pasture User Associations located in remote rural areas may employ children in tending livestock. In addition, for example, project partner organizations, such as protected area administrations (Output 2.2) or forest management units (Output 1.2) located in remote and rural areas could subject staff to hazardous working conditions, long-hours, or other conditions that may not meet international commitments. In addition, any individual, organization or company contracted by the project could

**The management measures will be devised on case by case basis**, as outlined in the ESMF. The project will ensure that national working standards (Labor Code) are respected for all the project activities. The requirements of this Standard are to be applied in an appropriately-scaled manner based on the nature and scale of the project, its specific activities, the project's associated social and environmental risks and impacts, and the type of contractual relationships with project workers.

<b>QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?</b>				
<b>Low Risk</b>	?			
<b>Moderate Risk</b>	X			
<b>Substantial Risk</b>	?			
<b>High Risk</b>	?			
<b>QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)</b>				
Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects				
<b>Is assessment required? (check if ?yes?)</b>	x			<b>Status? (completed, planned)</b>
if yes, indicate overall type and status		X	Targeted assessment(s)	Completed during PPG: gender analysis, stakeholder analysis, PA capacity needs assessment  Planned during implementation: targeted assessments based on site-specific screenings
		?	SESA	n/a
		?	ESIA	n/a
<b>Are management plans required? (check if ?yes)</b>	X			

If yes, indicate overall type		X	Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, others)	Completed during PPG: Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan  Planned during implementation: Process Framework, Livelihood Action Plan (if needed), others as needed per site-specific screening and assessment
		X	ESMP	To be determined during implementation based on site-specific screening
		X	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	Completed during PPG
Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?		Comments (not required)		
Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind				
<b>Human Rights</b>	X			
<b>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b>	X			
<b>Accountability</b>	X			
<b>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b>	X			
<b>2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks</b>	X			

	<b>3. Community Health, Safety and Security</b>	X	
	4. Cultural Heritage	?	
	<b>5. Displacement and Resettlement</b>	X	
	6. Indigenous Peoples	?	
	<b>7. Labour and Working Conditions</b>	X	
	<b>8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b>	X	

[1] <https://www.undp.org/accountability/audit/secu-srm>

[2] Recommended for the M&E activities and assessment of this risk at project site: FAO's [Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture](#) (2015) - an important resource for designing, assessing and monitoring projects that need to address the risks of child labour in agricultural production and pastoral activities.

#### Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
<b>6453_Annex</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement</b>	
<b>6_UNDP_SESP_TJ_LowerAmuDarya_20OCT21</b>	<b>ESS</b>	

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).**

Please see Section V. "Project Results Framework" of the Prodoc, pp. 39-47, of the Prodoc.

**Strategic Results Framework**

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
<p><b>Project Objective:</b>  <i>Secure high value arid ecosystem biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, while ensuring resilient and sustainable livelihoods in Tajikistan's lower Amu Darya landscape</i></p>	<p>1. Total area of landscapes under improved practices</p> <p><i>(GEF-7 Core Indicator 4; please note the explanation as per the Core Indicators table)</i></p>	0	0	<p>595,907 ha</p> <p>(Area of priority districts (874,978 ha) addressed through spatial planning (Output 1.1), less the forest area and pasture area restored (121,400 ha) covered under Outputs 1.2-1.4, and SPNAs (157,671 ha).)</p>	<p>Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.</p>	<p>- Project does not encounter critical risks that derail implementation</p> <p>- Land use data and corresponding mapping can be achieved cost-effectively at district scales</p>

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	<p>2. # direct project beneficiaries:</p> <p># of local resource users (pastures, and forests) with improved sustainability of livelihoods (gender disaggregated)</p> <p># of public sector employees with improved capacity for integrated landscape management and sustainable agricultural production management (gender disaggregated)</p> <p># of PA staff with enhanced individual capacity (gender disaggregated)</p> <p><i>(GEF-7 Core Indicator 11)</i></p>	N/A (zero beneficiaries)	<p><u>Total:</u> 25,000:</p> <p><u>Local resource users:</u> Total: 24,950 (12,475 men; 12,475 women)</p> <p><u>Public sector employees:</u> 20 public sector staff at landscape and national level (8 women, 12 men)</p> <p><u>PA staff:</u> &gt;30 PA staff with enhanced capacity (5 women, 25 men)</p>	<p><u>Total:</u> 100,000:</p> <p><u>Local resource users:</u> Total: 99,830 (49,915 men; 49,915 women)</p> <p>(The total population of 11 priority jamoats within the 5 priority districts under Output 1.3 is 127,212)</p> <p><u>Public sector employees:</u> 100 public sector staff at landscape and national level (40 women, 60 men)</p> <p><u>PA staff:</u> &gt;70 PA staff with enhanced capacity (15 women, 55 men)</p>	Project documentation of number of people involved in project activities, feeding into detailed analysis of project beneficiaries, to be conducted at mid-term and project completion.	<p>- No large-scale staff turnover in participating enterprises, government institutions, and targeted PAs</p> <p>- Rural residents with resource-dependent and livestock-based livelihoods will benefit from project outcomes</p>

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	<p>3. Species/ecosystem Indicators:</p> <p><u>Dry forest and associated ecosystems, flora:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wild almond sp. (<i>Amygdalus bucharica</i>)</li> <li>- Wild almond sp. (<i>Amygdalus vavilovii</i>)</li> <li>- Siever's wild apple (<i>Malus sieversii</i>)</li> <li>- Wild pear sp. (<i>Pyrus cajon</i>)</li> <li>- Tajik pear (<i>Pyrus tadshikistanica</i>)</li> <li>- Bukharan pear (<i>Pyrus korshinskyi</i>)</li> <li>- Wild hawthorn sp. (<i>Crataegus darvasica</i>)</li> <li>- Wild hawthorn sp. (<i>Crataegus necopinata</i>)</li> </ul> <p>(Monitoring plots to be identified during 1<sup>st</sup> year of project)</p> <p><u>Dry forest and associated ecosystems KBA trigger species, fauna:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Short-toed snake eagle (<i>Circaetus ferox</i>)</li> <li>- Yellow-eyed pigeon (<i>Columba eversmanni</i>)</li> <li>- Saker falcon (<i>Falco cherrug</i>)</li> <li>- Egyptian vulture (<i>Neophron</i></li> </ul>	<p><u>Dry forest and associated ecosystems, flora:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wild almond sp. (<i>Amygdalus bucharica</i>)</li> <li>- Wild almond sp. (<i>Amygdalus vavilovii</i>)</li> <li>- Siever's wild apple (<i>Malus sieversii</i>)</li> <li>- Wild pear sp. (<i>Pyrus cajon</i>)</li> <li>- Tajik pear (<i>Pyrus tadshikistanica</i>)</li> <li>- Bukharan pear (<i>Pyrus korshinskyi</i>)</li> <li>- Wild hawthorn sp. (<i>Crataegus darvasica</i>)</li> <li>- Wild hawthorn sp. (<i>Crataegus necopinata</i>)</li> </ul> <p>(Monitoring plots to be identified during 1<sup>st</sup> year of project)</p> <p><u>Dry forest and associated ecosystems, KBA trigger species, fauna:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Short-toed snake eagle</li> </ul>	No change (project outcomes and impacts not achieved at this stage)	<p><u>Flora:</u> Non-deterioration of baseline status</p> <p><u>Fauna:</u> Increase relative to baseline over a rolling 5 year period</p>	Annual flora and fauna monitoring from national partners (e.g. PAs) in key project sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project lifetime is sufficient to allow impacts to be generated and monitored</li> <li>- New threats do not emerge</li> </ul>

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
<b>Component 1: Integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management in production landscape</b>	<p>4. Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity</p> <p><i>(GEF-7 Core sub-indicator 4.1)</i></p>	0	<p>ILUP cross-sectoral working groups established; Criteria and methodologies defined for identification of important biodiversity areas, and biodiversity friendly land use (0 plans completed at mid-term)</p>	<p>Integrated land use plans with biodiversity-friendly and SLM land use measures developed, adopted, and implementation initiated for 6 districts covering 472,007 ha.</p> <p><i>(Area under biodiversity management excluding protected areas (Core indicator 1) and restored areas (Core indicator 3), targeted under Output 1.1, and excluding areas covered under Core Indicators 4.3 and 4.4)</i></p>	<p>Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.</p>	<p>- Project does not encounter critical risks that derail implementation</p> <p>- Land use managers and planners at all levels are open to project initiatives</p>

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	<p>5. Area of sustainable pasture management implementation, including (degradation <b>reduced</b>)</p> <p><i>(GEF Core sub-indicator 4.3)</i></p>	No sustainable pasture management in target areas	Sustainable pasture management <u>planning initiated with stakeholders</u> for >25,000 ha of pastureland in and around KBAs (excluding 50% (25,000 ha) degraded pasture, per indicator 6)	<p>Sustainable pasture management <u>under implementation</u> for &gt;100,000 ha of pastureland in and around KBAs (excluding 50% (100,000 ha) degraded pasture, per indicator 6)</p> <p><i>(Target based on 72,183 ha in 11 priority jamoats, and 138,500 ha of pasture within Farkhor, Shurobod, Baljuvan, and Dashtijum priority leskhozes = &gt;200,000 ha, excluding 100,000 ha of degraded pasture covered under indicator 6 below.)</i></p>	Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<p>- The project does not encounter serious local political challenges to supporting sustainable pasture management at the local level</p> <p>- Land use managers and planners at all levels are open to project initiatives</p>

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	<p>6. Area of degraded pastureland <b>restored</b> (condition improved)</p> <p><i>(GEF Core sub-indicator 3.3)</i></p>	0 ha	<p>Sustainable pasture management <u>planning initiated with stakeholders</u> to restore 25,000 ha of degraded pastureland in and around KBAs</p>	<p>Sustainable pasture management <u>under implementation</u> for 100,000 ha of pastureland in and around KBAs</p> <p><i>(72,183 ha in 11 priority jamoats, and 138,500 ha of pasture within Farkhor, Shurobod, Baljuvan, and Dashtijum priority leskhozses)</i></p>	<p>Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Degraded pastureland that is put under sustainable management will naturally regenerate over time</li> <li>- 50% of pastureland is degraded</li> <li>- Local resource users will be willing to implement sustainable pasture management plans</li> </ul>

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	<p>7. Area of high conservation value dry forest under improved management (degradation <b>reduced</b>)</p> <p><i>(GEF Core sub-indicator 4.4; and preliminary national LDN indicator: To conserve ecosystems and increase forest area up to 20% by 2030 compared to the baseline year (year to be identified). Finalization of national LDN targets expected April/May 2022.)</i></p>	0 ha	0 ha	<p>23,900 ha</p> <p><i>(45,300 ha of actual forest cover within Farkhor, Shurobod, Baljuvan, and Dashtijum priority leskhozoes, less the area of degraded forest covered under Indicator 8 below.)</i></p>	Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<p>- Implementing sustainable forest management measures will reduce degradation risks of undegraded forest</p> <p>- Forest management units will have the capacity to implement sustainable forest management measures</p>
	<p>8. Area of forest and forest land <b>restored</b> (under improved condition)</p> <p><i>(GEF Core sub-indicator 3.2)</i></p>	0 ha	<p>0 ha under improved condition;</p> <p>50 ha reforested</p>	<p>21,000 ha under improved condition (through implementation of improved forest management plans);</p> <p>400 ha of reforested</p>	Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<p>- Implementing sustainable forest management measures will support restoration through natural regeneration</p> <p>- Forest management staff will collaborate on reforestation activities to plant trees</p>

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	<p>9.a. Placeholder: National LDN indicator A (to be reviewed and confirmed at project inception phase) ? Preliminary national LDN indicator: To increase investments aimed at achieving LDN goals</p> <p><i>(Finalization of national LDN targets expected April/May 2022)</i></p>	N/A	[TBD]	[TBD]	Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	[TBD]
	<p>9.b. Placeholder: National LDN target indicator B (to be reviewed and confirmed at project inception phase) ? Preliminary national LDN indicator: To rehabilitate degraded and abandoned agricultural land by 2030</p> <p><i>(Finalization of national LDN targets expected April/May 2022)</i></p>	[TBD]	[TBD]	[TBD]	Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	[TBD]

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
<b>Component 2: Protected area strengthening</b>	10. Level of spatial knowledge and understanding of SPNA land cover, land use, threats, and areas of potential conflict	No detailed accurate maps with geo-spatial data for each of 7 SPNAs targeted by the project	Detailed high resolution land use maps for the 7 targeted legally recognized SPNAs including buffer zones, and the surrounding land use.	SPNAs and buffer zones included in 4 pilot districts integrated land use plans (under Output 1.1), as defined by recognition of SPNA boundaries in adopted district land use plans	Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved geospatial information about SPNAs will support improved spatial planning and management to enhance biodiversity conservation</li> <li>- Data will be available to developed detailed high resolution maps</li> </ul>

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	<p>11. Terrestrial protected areas covering important dryland forest and associated Lower Amy Darya ecosystems under improved management effectiveness (degradation <b>avoided</b>)</p> <p>(GEF-7 Core Sub-indicator 1.2)</p>	<p>7 national level PAs covering 157,671 ha. Baseline METT score:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dashtidzhum State Nature Reserve: 38</li> <li>2. Dashtidzhum Nature Refuge: 38</li> <li>3. Childuktaron State Nature Reserve: 38</li> <li>4. Tigrovaya Balka Strict Nature Reserve: 40</li> <li>5. Sary Khosor Nature Refuge: 40</li> <li>6. Khatlon Nature Refuge: 34</li> <li>7. Karatau Nature Refuge: 39</li> </ol>	<p>7 national level PAs covering 157,671 ha. Mid-term METT score:</p> <p>(10% improvement)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dashtidzhum State Nature Reserve: 42</li> <li>2. Dashtidzhum Nature Refuge: 38</li> <li>3. Childuktaron State Nature Reserve: 42</li> <li>4. Tigrovaya Balka Strict Nature Reserve: 44</li> <li>5. Sary Khosor Nature Refuge: 44</li> <li>6. Khatlon Nature Refuge: 38</li> <li>7. Karatau Nature Refuge: 43</li> </ol>	<p>7 national level PAs covering 157,671 ha. End-of-project METT score:</p> <p>(25% improvement)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dashtidzhum State Nature Reserve: 48</li> <li>2. Dashtidzhum Nature Refuge: 38</li> <li>3. Childuktaron State Nature Reserve: 48</li> <li>4. Tigrovaya Balka Strict Nature Reserve: 50</li> <li>5. Sary Khosor Nature Refuge: 50</li> <li>6. Khatlon Nature Refuge: 43</li> <li>7. Karatau Nature Refuge: 49</li> </ol>	<p>Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components; completed METT scorecards, as verified by the MTR and TE.</p> <p>GEF-7 METT for each PA</p>	<p>- Without project interventions, degradation will continue in dryland forest and associated Lower Amy Darya ecosystems within PAs</p> <p>- Strengthening capacities of PAs at institutional and individual levels will contribute to reduced degradation</p> <p>- Project activities are sufficiently targeted to increase PA METT score</p> <p>- Project results, in terms of increase METT score, can be documented within the timeframe of the project</p>

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	12. Number and area of Plant Micro Reserves (PMRs) piloted  <i>(GEF-7 Core Sub-indicator 1.1)</i>	0 ha	2 PMR 30 ha	3 or more PMRs 100 ha	Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	- Plant Micro Reserves can be an effective mechanism for flora biodiversity in the context of Tajikistan  - Plant Micro Reserves can be legally implemented at the local level
<b>Component 3: Knowledge Management and Learning</b>	13. Level of target audience awareness regarding LDN	<i>To be assessed through survey during 1st year of project (to be conducted by independent 3rd party).</i>	<i>To be defined following baseline survey.</i>	<i>To be defined following baseline survey.</i>	Mid-term and project completion surveys of target audiences (to be conducted by independent 3rd party).	- Audience awareness regarding LDN can be meaningfully assessed  - Audience awareness regarding LDN can be meaningfully shifted through project activities  - Increasing awareness about LDN will support achievement of LDN outcomes on the ground

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	<p>14. Diagnostic, analytical, synthesis, communication products, events, and tools shared with country stakeholders (number)</p> <p><i>(Contributes to preliminary national LDN indicator: To broaden the integration of LDN into national policies and plans; finalization of national LDN targets expected April/May 2022)</i></p>	0 (N/A)	5 events held or knowledge products and tools disseminated to targeted audiences	15 events held or knowledge products and tools disseminated to targeted audiences	Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<p>- Project activities provide a valuable basis for the creation of diagnostic, analytical, synthesis and communication products and tools</p> <p>- Effective dissemination of knowledge products regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management</p>
	15. Participants trained in biodiversity conservation, SLM best practices or cross-cutting issues, and LDN monitoring (total number; % female)	0	10	50	Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	- Training participants will apply new knowledge in support of biodiversity conservation, SLM and LDN monitoring

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Mid-term Target</b>	<b>End of Project Target</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
	16. Number of knowledge documents disseminated through global knowledge networks and presentations made at international/regional (Central Asia) events to share knowledge outside Tajikistan	0	2 (1 per year)	5 (1 per year), including at least 2 regional (with Uzbekistan and/or Kyrgyzstan) events for dialogue addressing Amu Darya water management in the context of climate change	Monitoring via annual project reporting (i.e. PIR) by project team; Verification at mid-term review and terminal evaluation by independent external experts	- Exchange events and knowledge sharing is an effective means of knowledge transfer regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
<b>Cross-cutting:</b> <i>Gender mainstreaming during implementation</i>	17. Consistency of project gender mainstreaming approach with project plans	N/A ? Project not under implementation; project design includes multiple elements designed to mainstream gender	Gender mainstreaming action plan integrated in project workplan and under implementation	Gender mainstreaming carried out during project implementation, as indicated by: a. Project Board and local stakeholder working groups have gender balance and/or include a gender expert; b. Policies, laws, and regulations developed with project support include gender perspectives, as relevant c. Project events and activities (e.g. trainings) promote gender balance among invited participants, as feasible d. Project technical training activities proactively recruit participants to achieve gender balance e. Project education	Monitoring via annual project reporting (PIR) by project team; Verification at mid-term review and terminal evaluation by independent external experts	- All relevant stakeholders support or are in accordance with gender mainstreaming efforts undertaken by the project - There are not structural demographic issues that will hamper project gender mainstreaming efforts

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
<b>Cross-cutting:</b> <i>Co-benefit contribution to climate change mitigation</i>	18. Tons of GHG avoided / sequestered  (GEF-7 Core Indicator 6.1)	N/A (project activities not under implementation)	0 (project activities not yet at stage where GHGs avoided / sequestered)	6,179,759 t CO <sub>2</sub> e	EX-ACT calculation tool	- Per assumptions in EX-ACT tool  - Project activities are implemented in the manner foreseen in the areas planned

**ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).**

GEF Council and STAP Comments	Response	Adjustments Made
<p>Canada: ?We are concerned that Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and Women?s groups were not consulted during the project identification phase; we do acknowledge that the project does identify that all relevant stakeholders will be fully consulted during the next phase of project development, which will be conducted in a fully participatory manner and includes several gender-related project interventions, but would appreciate future projects of similar intent consult prior to project design/selection.?</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment. UNDP will endeavor to further engage IPLCs and women?s groups during the project identification phase. UNDP does have frequent and extensive consultations with IPLCs and women?s groups under various other projects and initiatives, and such contacts are significantly leveraged as a foundation as part of the project identification process.</p>	<p>None required.</p>

GEF Council and STAP Comments	Response	Adjustments Made
<p><u>Germany</u>: ?Germany would like to highlight that Tajikistan has a Pasture Management Networking Platform and suggests including this network in the proposal. Germany further suggests including the following projects that are relevant in this context: the Regional Programme for Sustainable and Climate Sensitive Land Use for Economic Development in Central Asia; and the Regional Project Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in High Mountainous Regions of Central Asia. Germany recommends strengthening local capacities by working with the forest research institute and the genetics research institute (re Barrier 3).?</p>	<p>Fully agree, adjustments made.</p> <p>It is our understanding that the two additional projects referenced were completed in 2020, and therefore are not specifically included in the ?baseline projects? section of the CEO Endorsement Request. However, the project development team has held discussions with GIZ in Dushanbe during the project development phase, and has worked to include relevant good practices and lessons learned from previous German-funded initiatives and projects.</p>	<p>Reference to Pasture Management Networking Platform included in the Prodoc.</p> <p>Notation made in Prodoc that project will work with these two local institutes to strengthen local capacity.</p>
<p><u>Germany</u>: ?Germany would like to emphasize the importance of increased interaction between NBBC and MoA. The project should foster inter-sectoral/ministerial dialogue and ensure that biodiversity is not limited to PA. Plans to mainstream biodiversity should align with the 2030 biodiversity framework and the new NBSAP - stressing links to agrobiodiversity and addressing biodiversity as a cross-cutting topic. Any information on biodiversity conservation should further be linked to IPBES? capacity building rolling plan and coordinated with the respective focal point in country (CEP).?</p>	<p>Fully agree. There has been progress on strengthening communication and coordination between NBBC and MoA during the PPG process, and this will continue during project implementation. The MoA participated in the project stakeholder validation workshop, and it is foreseen that the MoA will participate in the project steering committee.</p> <p>The project is fully aligned with the most recent Tajikistan NBSAP, as summarized in para. 25 of the Prodoc.</p>	<p>MoA is included as a member of the project steering committee, and will continue to be a key partner during implementation.</p>

GEF Council and STAP Comments	Response	Adjustments Made
<p>Germany: ?Germany would like to emphasize that most PA do not have any management plans. Such plans for the management and protection of biodiversity (or nation- wide standards) would have to be developed. The strong focus on PAs raise additional concerns: How is the interconnectedness with the adjacent landscape addressed? Which areas around the PA are targeted that are under administration of the MoA??</p>	<p>Fully agree, thank you for the comment. Baseline data collected during the PPG phase indicates that for all of the PAs targeted under the project, a management plan is being prepared, or has been prepared but is not implemented. This is one aspect of the PAs? management effectiveness that the project will be supporting under Output 2.2, which aims to improve the management effectiveness of the targeted PAs.</p> <p>The project strategy very intentionally aims to ensure that PAs are recognized within the wider landscape, and that appropriate spatial planning and land management measures are put in place that support the interconnectedness of PAs with the surrounding landscape. This element underpins the project?s strategy, which leverages KBAs as primary areas of intervention within the wider landscape (with particularly high priority on areas where PAs overlap with KBAs). For example, under Output 1.1. the project will work to create or strengthen district spatial plans in 6 priority districts, to ensure that PAs are clearly recognized, identified, and appropriate management measures are in developed to support PAs (e.g. zoning, green belts, buffer zones, corridors, etc.). To support this result, under Output 2.1. the project will first develop high resolution maps of PAs, based on various forms of geo-referenced data, including remote sensing data. The project?s integrated approach ? addressing forest and</p>	<p>The integration and interconnectedness of PAs within the landscape has been further developed during the PPG phase, and is further elaborated in Section III of the Prodoc on the project?s strategy, and Section 4.1 of the Prodoc on ?Project Description and Expected Results?.</p>

GEF Council and STAP Comments	Response	Adjustments Made
<p>STAP: ?STAP would like to see a more thorough description of the global environmental benefits related to biodiversity, and land management.?</p> <p>Review sheet: ?Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits, and are they measurable??</p> <p>STAP: ?These are missing in clear form and need to be articulated as part of the minor revision assessment.?</p> <p>Review sheet: ?Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits explicitly defined??</p> <p>STAP: ?Not yet?</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment. The global environmental benefits related to biodiversity and land management have been fully elaborated through the PPG process, and are highlighted at various points in the Prodoc, including in the incremental cost analysis table in Section 4.2 (pp. 21-24).</p>	<p>No further changes required.</p>
<p>STAP: ?Linking biodiversity to land degradation concerns in a neglected part of South Asia is a commendable feature of this proposal. It also builds on earlier work that has been done on the tributaries that fed the Aral Sea watershed in Central Asia by a variety of donors. The project has also noted a synergy with the Green Climate Fund's work in this area. Recent reading worth considering is provided below and a pdf provided in folder.</p> <p>Suggested reading: Jalilov, S.-M., Keskinen, M., Varis, O., Amer, S., &amp; Ward, F. A. (2016). Managing the water? energy?food nexus: Gains and losses from new water development in Amu Darya River Basin. <i>Journal of Hydrology</i>, 539(C), 648?661. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2016.05.071">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2016.05.071</a>?</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment, and the reference, which was reviewed during the PPG process. The project is closely coordinated with initiatives funded through the Green Climate Fund, including a proposed upcoming project overseen by IFAD, CASP+.</p>	<p>Information from reference article included in Prodoc Section II Development Challenge (including footnote citation).</p>

GEF Council and STAP Comments	Response	Adjustments Made
<p>Review sheet: ?What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used??</p> <p>STAP: ?Noted though in fairly generic terms rather than specifics.?</p> <p>Review sheet: ?What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience??</p> <p>STAP: ?Not clearly noted but could be handled by NBBC and NGO partners.?</p>	<p>Knowledge management aspects have been further developed during the PPG phase, and have been highlighted under Section II.8 of this CEO Endorsement Request form. This includes reference to the knowledge management indicators that have been included in the project results framework.</p> <p>Aspects related to the project's catalytic role (replication and scaling-up) have been updated under Section 4.6 of the Prodoc (para. 109, p. 38).</p>	<p>Knowledge management aspects further elaborated during PPG process.</p> <p>Information on replication and scaling-up updated during PPG process.</p>

### ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).

(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

\*Expected unspent budget balance USD \$4,438.62 (status on October 27, 2021).

The unused PPG funds will be returned to the GEF.

If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake exclusively preparation activities up to one year of CEO Endorsement/approval date. No later than one year from CEO endorsement/approval date. Agencies should report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

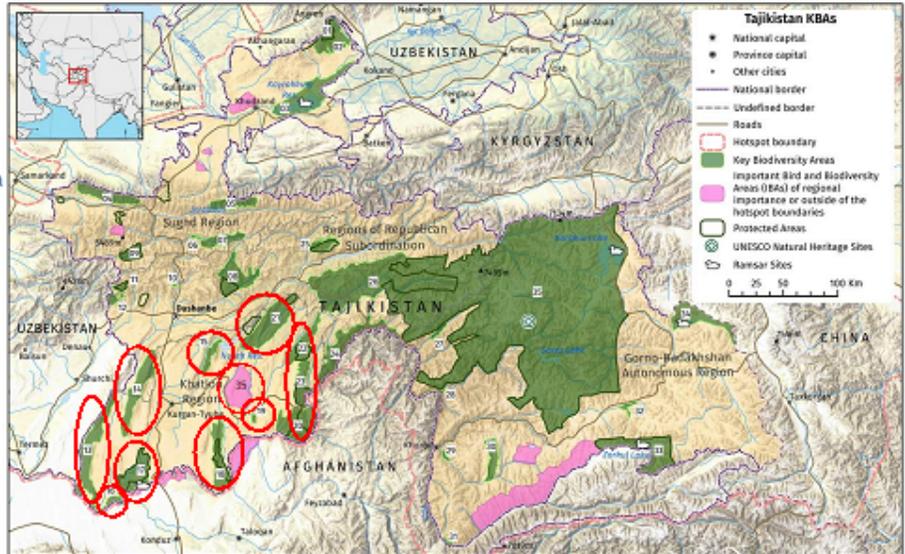
PPG Grant Approved at PIF: \$100,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (USD)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews	29,500.00	3,382.11	26,117.89
Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes	64,271.00	14,443.00	49,838.00
Inception & Validation Workshops (including travel and interpretation)	6,229.00	1,780.38	0.00
<b>Total</b>	100,000.00	19,605.49	75,955.89

### ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

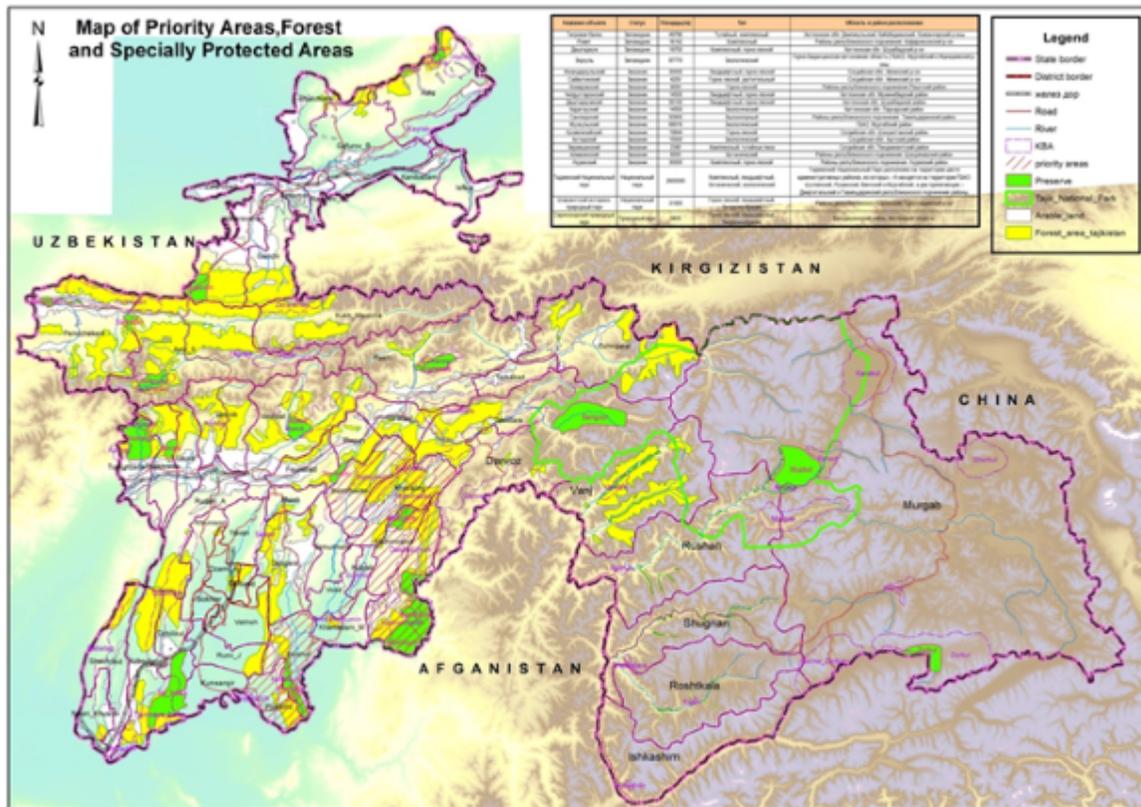
Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

**Map 1. KBAs and Associated PAs across the Lower Amu Darya landscape addressed under the project**

- ▶ 13. Tajik babatag - 85,000 ha
- ▶ 14. Gazimalik - 70,000 ha
- ▶ 15. Sarsaryak - 20,000 ha
- ▶ 16. Ayvaj - 22,000 ha
- ▶ 17. Tigrovaya Balka - 62,000 ha
- ▶ 18. Tajik Karatau - 60,000 ha
- ▶ 19. Khojumum in - 3,000 ha
- ▶ 20. Kushvoristan - 83,000 ha
- ▶ 21. Baljuvan - 94,000 ha
- ▶ 22. Muminabad - 46,000 ha
- ▶ 23. Dashtijum - 40,000 ha
- ▶ 35. Dangara - 69,441



**Map 2. Priority Districts to be Addressed within the Lower Amu Darya Landscape**



**Key Biodiversity Areas and Protected Areas in Project Scope, with Geo-coordinates**

KBA	Area (ha)	Global KBA Criteria	KBA Trigger Species	Associated PA (IUCN Category)	PA Area (ha)	Geographic Location (approx.)
Tajik Babatag	85,000	B1	<i>Calligonum griseum</i> , <i>Gypsophila tadshikistanica</i> , <i>Gypsophila vedeneevae</i> , <i>Stipa longiplumosa</i> , <i>Stipa ovzinnikovii</i> , <i>Tulipa tubergeniana</i> , <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i> , <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	No existing PAs for this KBA	N/A	37°29'14.4"N 67°52'13.1"E
Gazimalik	70,000	B1	<i>Allium gypsodictyum</i> , <i>Anemone bucharica</i> , <i>Circaetus ferox</i> , <i>Tulipa tubergeniana</i>	No existing PAs for this KBA; PA proposed	N/A	38°00'32.0"N 68°27'48.3"E
Sarsaryak	20,000	B1	<i>Salvia baldshuanica</i> , <i>Tulipa maximowiczii</i> , <i>Tulipa subpraestans</i> , <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i> , <i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	Khatlon Nature Refuge (IV)	6,000	38°15'49.1"N 69°09'07.3"E
Ayvaj	22,000	A1, B1	<i>Allium gypsodictyum</i> , <i>Alsophylax tadjikensis</i> , <i>Pseudoscaphirhynchus kaufmanni</i> , <i>Aspiolucius esocinus</i> , <i>Chlamydotis macqueenii</i>	No existing PAs for this KBA	N/A	36°57'50.2"N 68°02'32.0"E
Tigrovaya Balka	62,000	A1, B1, D1	<i>Cervus hanglu</i> , <i>Netta rufina</i> , <i>Pseudoscaphirhynchus kaufmanni</i> , <i>Columba eversmanni</i> , <i>Falco cherrug</i> , <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> , <i>Aspiolucius esocinus</i>	Tigrovaya Balka State Nature Reserve (I)	49,786	37°16'22.4"N 68°27'29.9"E
Tajik Karatau	60,000	B1	<i>Anemone bucharica</i> , <i>Ferula decurrens</i> , <i>Tulipa maximowiczii</i> , <i>Tulipa rosea</i> , <i>Tulipa tubergeniana</i> , <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i>	Karatau Nature Refuge (IV)	14,400	37°29'21.9"N 69°15'42.4"E
Khoja Mumin	3,000	B1	<i>Amygdalus bucharica</i> , <i>Crocus korolkowii</i> , <i>Ostrowskia magnifica</i> , <i>Rhus coriaria</i>	No existing PAs for this KBA; PA proposed	N/A	37°44'08.2"N 69°38'48.4"E
Kushvoristan	83,000	A1, B1	<i>Amygdalus bucharica</i> , <i>Amygdalus vavilovii</i> , <i>Crataegus darvasica</i> , <i>Ostrowskia magnifica</i> , <i>Rhus coriaria</i>	Dashtidzhum National Nature Reserve (I)	19,700	37°35'29.2"N 70°09'20.0"E

KBA	Area (ha)	Global KBA Criteria	KBA Trigger Species	Associated PA (IUCN Category)	PA Area (ha)	Geographic Location (approx.)
Baljuvan	94,000	A1, B1	<i>Crataegus necopinata</i> , <i>Iris hoogiana</i> , <i>Pyrus cajon</i> , <i>Pyrus tadshikistanica</i> , <i>Ranunculus baldshuanicus</i> , <i>Salvia baldshuanica</i> , <i>Tulipa praestans</i> , <i>Malus sieversii</i>	Sari Khosor Nature Park (II)	3,085	38°36'13.9"N 69°42'50.4"E
Muminabad	46,000	B1	<i>Arabidopsis bactriana</i> , <i>Crataegus necopinata</i> , <i>Ostrowskia magnifica</i> , <i>Tulipa praestans</i> , <i>Iris hoogiana</i> , <i>Ranunculus baldshuanicus</i> , <i>Pyrus tadshikistanica</i> , <i>Malus sieversii</i>	Childukhtaron Nature Refuge (IV)	14,600	38°17'18.4"N 70°09'11.7"E
Dashtijum	40,000	A1, B1	<i>Amygdalus bucharica</i> , <i>Amygdalus vavilovii</i> , <i>Arabidopsis bactriana</i> , <i>Ostrowskia magnifica</i> , <i>Swida darvasica</i> , <i>Ungernia tadshikorum</i> , <i>Rhus coriaria</i> , <i>Columba eversmanni</i> , <i>Falco cherrug</i>	Dashtidzhum Nature Refuge (IV)	50,100	38°00'55.97"N 70°12'45.91"E
Dangara Massif	69,441	IBA criteria A1, A3, A4i	<i>Ammoperdix griseogularis</i> , <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> , <i>Grus grus</i> , <i>Falco cherrug</i> , <i>Hippolais languida</i> , <i>Phylloscopus neglectus</i> , <i>Sitta tephronota</i> , <i>Irania gutturalis</i> , <i>Oenanthe picata</i> , <i>Oenanthe finschii</i> , <i>Oenanthe xanthopyrna</i> , <i>Emberiza buchanani</i> , <i>Emberiza stewarti</i>	Khatlon Nature Refuge (IV)	6,000	37°57'26.2"N 69°24'18.6"E

## ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing)
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		

		<i>Sub-component 1.1</i>	<i>Sub-component 2.1</i>	<i>Sub-component 3.1</i>				<b>Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]</b>
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<p><b>Furniture / Equipment</b></p>	<p><b>Output 1.1: \$89,680 for gender mainstreaming technical assistance for sustainable alternative livelihood support (equipment, materials and goods procured for support).</b>  Output 1.2: <b>\$60,000</b> for establishment of fast-growing woodlots (4@\$15,000 ea); <b>\$110,000</b> for creation and upgrading of nurseries for 4 priority forest management units. Output 1.3: <b>\$200,000</b> (5 priority districts @\$40,000 each) for pasture infrastructure to support implementation of sustainable pasture management plans (water points, fencing, livestock equipment, pasture access). <b>\$100,000</b> for fencing to support natural restoration of priority highly degraded areas and areas of high biodiversity importance (i.e. PMRs). Output 1.4: <b>\$320,000</b> for Tree planting materials and equipment for restoration of 400 hectares of</p>	<p>879,680</p>			<p>879,680</p>		<p>879,680</p>	<p>(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)</p>
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<p><b>Furniture / Equipment</b></p>	<p>Output 2.2: \$105,000 (7 PAs @\$15,000 each) to support strengthened monitoring and enforcement for effective PA management. \$210,000 (7 PAs @\$30,000 each) for improved PA management infrastructure (i.e. tourist paths, information boards, boundary demarcation, gates, solar power for administration buildings (for reliable power source), improvement of ranger stations, etc.). \$85,000 for investments to secure PMRs (3 sites @\$28,333 each or 5 sites @\$17,000 each) for fencing and basic infrastructure (info boards, gates, pathways) for PMR sites (\$15,000 to fence 100 ha + \$2,000 for signs, gates, etc.).</p>	<p>400,000</p>	<p>400,000</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>400,000</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>400,000</p>	<p>(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)</p>
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<b>Furniture / Equipment</b>	\$3,000 for communication equipment and A/V equipment for project team.						3,000	<b>3,000</b>	UNDP
<b>Furniture / Equipment</b>	\$5,000 (\$1,000/year for 5 years) for maintenance of computers, modems, and other IT equipment.						5,000	<b>5,000</b>	UNDP
<b>Furniture / Equipment</b>	\$5,000 for project office set-up.				-		5,000	<b>5,000</b>	UNDP
<b>Contractual Services ? Individual</b>	Output 1.2: \$70,000 for development of forest management guidelines mainstreaming biodiversity, technical backstopping for updating and revision of forest management plans for 4 priority forest management units, and implementation of community-based forest management approaches.	70,000			<b>70,000</b>			<b>70,000</b>	(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)

<b>Contractual Services ? Individual</b>	<p>\$105,200 for Project Manager and Project Assistant salaries: Project Manager @\$32,291/year NPSA contract; Project Assistant @\$23,111/year NPSA contract. Plus 5% annual inflation, and 3% annual performance bonus. (Combined with Budget Note #30, below. Total cost = ((((\$32,291 + \$23,111) * 1.05 * 1.03) * 1.05 * 1.03) * 1.05 * 1.03) = \$326,583).</p>						<p>105,200</p>	<p><b>105,200</b></p>	<p>UNDP</p>
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<b>Contractual Services ? Company</b>	Output 1.3: \$15,000 for development of guidelines for management of high biodiversity pasture areas in Tajikistan, and ensuring adoption by government pasture management institutions. \$20,000 for work to mainstream biodiversity consideration in sustainable pasture management plans for 4 priority districts. \$40,000 for implementation of sustainable pasture management in priority districts.	75,000		<b>75,000</b>		<b>75,000</b>	(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)
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<p><b>Contractual Services ? Company</b></p>	<p>Output 2.2: \$84,000 (7 PAs @\$3,000 each per year for 4 years) for community outreach and awareness raising regarding protected areas and biodiversity. \$28,000 (7 PAs @\$1,000 each for 4 years) for training PA staff on high priority capacity gaps. \$14,000 (7 PAs @\$2,000 each) for review and revision of PA management plans based on updated mapping and data to ensure optimum management, and incorporation of community-based management mechanisms. \$70,000 (7 PAs @\$10,000 each) for strengthening of community-based management approaches. \$25,000 for SWOT analysis of PA financing and completion of PA financial gap analysis for 7 PAs. Output 2.3: \$30,000 (3 sites @\$10,000 each) for community awareness raising and information dissemination about PMPs</p>	<p>297,000</p>	<p>297,000 0</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p>297,000 0</p>	<p></p>	<p>(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)</p>
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<p><b>Contractual Services ? Company</b></p>	<p>Output 3.1: \$25,000 for media campaign on LDN concept and LDN management approaches targeting national decision makers. \$25,000 for media campaign and education and awareness raising efforts on LDN concept and LDN management practices targeting local resource users. \$10,000 for stakeholder awareness baseline survey. \$10,000 for stakeholder awareness mid-term survey. \$10,000 for stakeholder awareness final survey. Output 3.2: \$25,000 for training land managers at national and sub-national levels on LDN monitoring methods. \$50,000 for implementation of LDN monitoring in project areas (remote sensing analysis, mapping, field work).</p>			<p>155,000</p>	<p>155,000</p>			<p>155,000</p>	<p>(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)</p>
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<p><b>International Consultants</b></p>	<p>Output 2.2: \$50,000 for consultancy to analyze economic values of ecosystem services in high biodiversity value dry ecosystems of a major river watershed (To be confirmed ? Yakhsu river) within the project geographic area.</p>		<p>50,000</p>		<p><b>50,000</b></p>		<p><b>50,000</b></p>	<p>(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)</p>
<p><b>International Consultants</b></p>	<p>Output 4.2: International evaluation experts to conduct mid-term review and terminal evaluation (12 weeks total @\$3,000/wk = \$36,000), including \$10,000 (2 consultants@\$5,000 each) for international airfare, per diems, visa, etc. (2 lump sum contracts for up to \$23,000 each). Total \$46,000</p>			<p>-</p>	<p>46,000</p>		<p><b>46,000</b></p>	<p>UNDP</p>

<p><b>Local Consultants</b></p>	<p>Output 1.1: \$44,000 to provide technical facilitation and backstopping on development of 6 district spatial plans . Output 1.4: \$20,000 to develop detailed forest maps for each of the four priority forestry units; \$19,000 to provide technical facilitation and backstopping on forest restoration for selection, planning and reforestation of 400 ha.</p>	<p>83,000</p>		<p><b>83,000</b></p>			<p><b>83,000</b></p>	<p>(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)</p>
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<p><b>Local Consultants</b></p>	<p>Output 2.1: \$25,000 for collection of geospatial baseline data for PAs and surrounding areas. \$25,000 for spatial analysis of protected areas land cover, ecosystems, critical habitats, land use, legal boundaries, etc. \$25,000 for production of high resolution maps of PAs and surrounding areas, with proposals for buffer zones, corridors, and other biodiversity-friendly land use planning outside PAs.</p> <p>Output 2.2: \$70,000 (7 PAs @\$10,000 each) for updating and strengthening of ecological monitoring program, data collection and data analysis.</p> <p>Output 2.3: \$20,000 (10 sites @\$2,000 each) for detailed botanical assessment and mapping of rare species in KBA sites and Red List plant species in priority districts. \$15,000 for facilitation of establishment of PMR sites through local stakeholder</p>	<p>195,000</p>	<p>195,000</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>195,000</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)</p>
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<b>Local Consultants</b>	Output 3.1: \$40,320 for development of communication strategy, and execution of communication strategy over 4 years.			40,320	<b>40,320</b>			<b>40,320</b>	(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)
<b>Local Consultants</b>	Output 4.1: \$10,000 for annual PIR results collation (\$2,000/yr). \$6,826 for project completion report. \$19,200 for national consultants supporting the mid-term review and terminal evaluation (60 days @\$200/day for evaluation consultant; 24 days @\$300/day for interpreter). Total \$36,026					36,026		<b>36,026</b>	UNDP

<p><b>Trainings , Workshops, Meetings</b></p>	<p>Output 1.1: \$6,000 for meetings and workshops on stakeholder consultative process for biodiversity mainstreaming in district spatial plans. \$5,000 for meetings and workshops for adoption of land use plans and implementation of preliminary measures by priority districts. Output 1.4: \$8,000 for meetings and workshops for stakeholder consultations and engagement to determine priority restoration sites in collaboration with local resource users. \$4,000 for meeting and workshops to determine priority sites for community agroforestry restoration plots.</p>	<p>23,000</p>		<p><b>23,000</b></p>		<p><b>23,000</b></p>		<p>(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)</p>
<p><b>Trainings , Workshops, Meetings</b></p>	<p>Output 2.1: \$10,000 for meeting and workshops for stakeholder consultation process on land use planning in and around PAs.</p>	<p>10,000</p>	<p><b>10,000</b></p>		<p><b>10,000</b></p>		<p><b>10,000</b></p>	<p>(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)</p>

<b>Trainings , Workshops, Meetings</b>	Output 3.1: \$20,000 for national workshops and conferences on LDN, integrated land management, sustainable land management, and related topics, based on project experience and to support project objectives.			20,000	<b>20,000</b>			<b>20,000</b>	(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)
<b>Trainings , Workshops, Meetings</b>	Output 4.1: \$10,000 for Project inception workshops (5 workshops (Dushanbe + 4 priority districts) @\$2,000 each). \$5,000 for project completion workshops.				-	15,000		<b>15,000</b>	UNDP
<b>Travel</b>	Output 1.4: \$4,000 for domestic travel for identification of natural plots for reforestation with priority crop wild relative species.	4,000			<b>4,000</b>			<b>4,000</b>	(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)

<b>Travel</b>	Output 3.2: \$100,000 for two trips for two people per year for knowledge sharing at regional and international workshops and conferences related to biodiversity conservation and land degradation - 20 international trips @\$5,000 each.			100,000	100,000			100,000	(NIM) IP / RP (Caritas and MSDSP)
<b>Travel</b>	Output 4.2: \$10,000 for local transportation (car rental, fuel, driver) for mid-term review and terminal evaluation.				-	10,000		10,000	UNDP
<b>Supplies</b>	\$5,000 for office supplies for project office (\$1,000/year).						5,000	5,000	UNDP
<b>Other Operating Costs</b>	Output 4.2: \$5,000 for translation of MTR and TE reports.				-	5,000		5,000	UNDP
<b>Other Operating Costs</b>	\$2,500 (\$500/year for 5 years) for office maintenance, phone service, electricity for office (NOT RENT).				-		2,500	2,500	UNDP
<b>Grand Total</b>		1,134,680	952,000	315,320	2,402,000	112,026	125,700	2,639,726	

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit a finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

**ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows**

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

**ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows**

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).