

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Tajikistan Ecosystem Restoration and Resilient Agriculture (TERRA) Project

Region

Tajikistan

GEF Project ID

11398

Country(ies)

Tajikistan

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies):

IFAD

GEF Agency ID

2000004738

Executing Partner

Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Multi Focal Area

Submission Date

10/18/2023

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Land Degradation Neutrality, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Land Degradation, Focal Areas, Sustainable Land Management, Ecosystem Approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Agriculture, Forest, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Community-based adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Biomes, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Participation, Local Communities, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Awareness Raising, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Training, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Adaptive management

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

60

GEF Project Grant: (a)

8,019,178.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

761,822.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

Total Co-financing

8,781,000.00	11,978,050.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
200,000.00	19,000.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
219,000.00	9,000,000.00
Project Tags	
CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No	

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan is comprised primarily of fragile mountain ecosystems of global importance covering more than 90% of the country. A significant portion of upland and alpine areas, up to a third of the country, are used for pasture. Overall, however, only a small portion of the country’s land area is able to sustain crops. These production areas underpin the livelihoods for the majority of the population, but are also prone to degradation, soil erosion, and deforestation, with impacts to biodiversity and livelihoods as a result. Tajikistan is also considered highly vulnerable to climate change, posing additional risks for agriculture and pastoralism dependent communities.

The Tajikistan Ecosystem Restoration and Resilient Agriculture Project (TERRA) has been proposed to address key policy and coordination objectives adopted by the Government of Tajikistan, in order to comprehensively address the nexus of land management, biodiversity conservation, and climate related challenges particularly in important production areas in the southwest of the country. Tajikistan’s agriculture and land management sectors are undergoing a transition to improve coordination in delivery models and improve management outcomes on the ground. The Government of Tajikistan recognizes this transition needs to happen in an inclusive, responsible manner to ensure long-term environmental protection, improve livelihoods, and achieve lasting resilience of agroecosystems. The project aims to trigger wide-scale adoption of efficient land management and restoration practices, while integrating approaches to conserve biodiversity, changing the overall trajectory from ecosystem degradation to sustainable management of agroecosystems, production landscapes, and natural areas.

The objective is to generate multiple environmental and socio-economic benefits by applying integrated landscape management approaches for restoration of degraded grassland ecosystems in the Lower Panjriver sub-basin in Khatlon province – a global priority area for ecosystem restoration, and important production area where trends in land degradation and overall ecosystem health are deteriorating^[1]. The effort will result in multiple land degradation neutrality (LDN), biodiversity, as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation benefits through integrated landscape management (ILM) approaches – in

areas of high priority for biodiversity conservation^[2]. As a result, 14,000 ha of ecosystems will be restored, 117,000 ha of landscapes will be brought under improved management practices, ecosystem management plans implemented for a further 1.3 million ha, protected area management effectiveness enhanced in 128,700 ha of existing reserves – resulting in the sequestration of 3.1 million tCO₂-eq and supporting improved/sustained livelihoods for 315,000 people.

[1] Strassburg, Bernardo BN, et al. 'Global priority areas for ecosystem restoration.' *Nature* 586.7831 (2020): 724-729, <https://edepot.wur.nl/535069>

[2] For example, pastures and croplands are under the Ministry of Agriculture; state forest fund – the Forestry Agency; protected areas and KBAs – the Committee for Environmental Protection; water management – the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To generate multiple environmental and socio-economic benefits by applying integrated landscape management approaches for restoration of degraded grassland ecosystems in the Lower Panj river sub-basin.

Project Components

Component 1. Enhancing the enabling environment for ecosystem restoration

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
485,000.00	390,250.00

Outcome:

- 1.1 Enhanced governance of ecosystems tackling drivers of LD and biodiversity loss
- 1.2 Improved capacity of executing partners

Output:

- 1.1.1 Policy framework for land degradation, biodiversity, protected areas, and integrated ecosystem management reviewed and enhanced
- 1.1.2 National platform for inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for land degradation, biodiversity, protected areas, and ecosystem management strengthened at all levels
- 1.1.3 In-depth stocktaking of existing data and metrics carried out for LDN Baseline Assessment, PA management effectiveness, and ecosystem management plans - targets set and action plans developed
- 1.2.1 Capacity building to restore degraded ecosystems and report to global frameworks (e.g. development of protected area management plans; review of legislation) is conducted
- 1.2.2 Study and Action Plan on participation in international carbon trading system developed and key stakeholders informed
- 1.2.3 Study on the economic viability of reforestation, agroforestry, and alternative cropping practices is conducted for different agro-climatic conditions

Component 2. Reversing land degradation and promoting ecosystem restoration

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
6,882,312.00	10,232,020.00

Outcome:

- 2.1 Strengthened ecosystem, integrated land management, and agrobiodiversity conservation in targeted regions
- 2.2 Improved landscape-level ecological integrity, soil organic carbon, and land productivity in major ecosystem functional types using integrated ecosystem management plans
- 2.3 Enhanced resilience of sustainably managed ecosystems

Output:

- 2.1.1 Registry of genetic resources (database) developed and digitized
- 2.1.2 Genetic banks (seeds and seedlings funds) are established
- 2.1.3 Economic valuation of ecosystem services conducted
- 2.1.4 Protected areas management plans developed and implemented, SMART patrol system piloted
- 2.2.1 Gender [responsive](#) Forest management plans developed (JFM)
- 2.2.2 Transhumance routes are mapped using GIS tools and verified on ground
- 2.2.3 Integrated, [inclusive, and gender responsive](#) community-based ILM and ecosystem management plans developed
- 2.3.1 Investments to support ILM and ecosystem restoration undertaken in collaboration with all community participants ([including women](#))
- 2.3.2 Capacities of local communities improved, including women, men, and youth, in ILM and ecosystem management

Component 3. Project learning and knowledge management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
310,000.00	899,700.00

Outcome:

3.1 Successful knowledge management

Output:

3.1.1 Project knowledge outputs documented and learning initiatives undertaken involving women, men, and youth from local communities

3.1.2 Learning activities conducted with key government executing departments reflecting gender and youth considerations

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
70,000.00	50,000.00

Outcome:

4.1 M&E framework established (including Gender Action Plan)

Output:

4.1.1 Mid-term review and Final evaluation are conducted

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1. Enhancing the enabling environment for ecosystem restoration	485,000.00	390,250.00
Component 2. Reversing land degradation and promoting ecosystem restoration	6,882,312.00	10,232,020.00
Component 3. Project learning and knowledge management	310,000.00	899,700.00
M&E	70,000.00	50,000.00
Subtotal	7,747,312.00	11,571,970.00

Project Management Cost	271,866.00	406,080.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	8,019,178.00	11,978,050.00

Please provide justification

The PMC amount included reflects the close project execution relationship between CASP+ and TERRA, and the numerous expected synergies and benefits this will entail. Grant funds for the CASP+ project have not yet been released due to GCF fiscal constraints, although the investment has been approved and currently operational with the IFAD loan, which is providing a limited funding for CEP PMC. This financial constraint has therefore limited the Government of Tajikistan's ability to confirm PMC funding.

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Situation and Context

Tajikistan is the smallest of the Central Asian republics with a population of 10 million people^[1]³, almost three quarters of which are residing in rural areas^[2]⁴. It is also the most mountainous of the Central Asian countries, with upland and mountainous regions occupying almost 90% of the land area. With much of the population residing in rural areas, agriculture represents a key economic backbone for the country, particularly with regard to livelihoods. The agricultural sector accounts for approximately one quarter of overall economic output (measured through GDP) but employs almost two thirds of the work force^[3]⁵. Paradoxically, while almost 75% of the population lives in rural areas and is involved in some way in agricultural production, only 6% of the land is considered arable – key factors underlying the high levels of soil erosion and land degradation affecting the country.

Political and economic transition since the fall of the Soviet Union, along with the decades long conflict across the southern border in Afghanistan and macroeconomic pressures from neighboring China and Russia, has impacted Tajikistan in many ways, including how natural resources are used and managed. Acute energy and food shortages in the early days of independence contributed to a sharp decline in forest cover, due largely to the cutting of trees and shrubs for fuel along with intensified agricultural production and increasingly uncontrolled livestock grazing in forested areas and on common alpine pastures. Forests with a high degree of endemism once covered 25% of the country, but today forests in Tajikistan account for just 3% of landcover. Exponential development in neighboring China and resulting export markets has also impacted land use and the management of natural resources in the country.

Although Tajikistan has experienced rapid economic growth since independence in 1991, including a more than doubling of GDP and a threefold reduction in poverty, it has not been immune to economic trends and the significant global financial downturns of 2009, 2014, and most recently with the global COVID pandemic. During the 2014 financial crisis, remittance returns into the country from the Tajik diaspora working abroad, particularly in Russia, reached a peak of 44 percent of the country's GDP. Tajikistan continues to be one of the most remittance-dependent countries of the world, and as of 2021 this component of the economy accounted for over one quarter of GDP, with almost half of all households having at least one family member working abroad^[4]⁶.

Global Environmental Significance

The mountainous region of Central Asia has long been recognized as a global priority for conservation^[5], in particular the Pamir-Alai mountains of Tajikistan on the north-east margins of the project area where a number of priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are situated. While parts of 7 countries are included in the Central Asian Hotspot, all of Tajikistan as well as Kyrgyzstan are included within this highly important area for biodiversity. Numerous rare and threatened species are found here, ranging from the critically endangered even-fingered gecko only found in the Vakhsh River valley (southwest Tajikistan) within the project area, to the iconic snow leopard which ranges across the mountainous regions of Central Asia. The focus of a previous high profile GEF investment in Tajikistan, over half of the remaining snow leopard population (listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List) is believed to be found within the country. Although assessments are ongoing, KBAs at present cover 10% of the surface area of the country. Most of these important areas for biodiversity are located in proximity to agriculture and pasture lands, and are therefore largely unprotected and increasingly being degraded. The main threats to biodiversity in the country are:

- Conversion of natural habitats for agriculture and infrastructure – outside of reserves, much natural habitat in potentially arable areas has been converted to agriculture;
- Unregulated deforestation and tree cutting for fuelwood and timber;
- Overgrazing by domestic livestock, preventing habitat regeneration and converting natural pastures to degraded lands covered by weedy species;
- Unregulated fires, especially in drier desert areas; and
- Illegal poaching, including trophy hunting.

One of the reasons for high levels of species richness in Tajikistan is the diversity of habitats which exist, ranging from fertile valley bottoms to foothill semi-deserts to high-altitude meadows combined with unique alpine forests, with a vertical gradient of over 7000m within the country (please see Annex H). The key Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve and biodiversity hotspot is situated within the project area close to the southern border with

Afghanistan, which includes the biologically rich floodplain area of the Vakhsh River valley and an internationally important bird area (IBA). On the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites under consideration, this important protected area and KBA also includes the flood plain of the Panj River where diverse species of waterbirds and migratory species can be found in large numbers. Unique riparian “tugay” forest remnants are also found in this area. In addition, the nearby transboundary region of Tian Shan-Pamir Grasslands, including Mountain Steppe & Conifer Forests, contain important areas for endemic biodiversity which are under intense pressure due to increasingly intensive agriculture and grazing accompanied by growing human population density in this region^[6].

The project target area is focused on one of the most important agricultural regions of the country, and as a result very few of the unique lowland forests (including with regard to important crop wild relatives) and key wetlands remaining in the area have been protected, and existing protected areas are not effectively managed. The Government recognizes that achieving sustainable land management and agricultural production goals is deeply intertwined with biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, as well as climate adaptation. These interconnected objectives can become self-reinforcing, and this investment is designed to realize that ambition.

The key to addressing these challenges is through a concerted effort to tackle land degradation at the national level in order to achieve nature-positive outcomes for ecosystem restoration and resilience as well as sustainable agricultural production, and ensuring project execution reinforces these objectives. Overall, the project will support Tajikistan’s national-level implementation of the UNCCD Strategic Framework, with particular emphasis on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) as outlined in Objective 1, along with mitigating the effects of drought and enhancing ecosystem resilience as outlined under Objective 3. The main focus in addressing these challenges will be to support an integrated landscape management (ILM) approach within the project focal region, and build capacity in ILM amongst respective executing partners to support extending this practice nationally.

At the same time, the Government also recognizes the need for targeted investments in biodiversity conservation, and as such will also focus on five existing reserves and two Key Biodiversity Areas in project target areas (see Figures 5 and 6 respectively). Four of these

are IUCN Category IV nature management areas (forest and wildlife): the Nurek Reserve (a key watershed of the Nurek hydroelectric reservoir and irrigation scheme) as well as the Childukhtaron, Karatau, and Dashtijum reserves in the Panj River Valley and tributaries. In addition, the Dashtijum Strict Nature Reserve, contiguous with the wildlife management area of the same name, will also be a focus of project investments. These reserves are also part of a key transboundary conservation area with Afghanistan. The Dangara Massif KBA, a 40,000 – 60,000 hectare area of higher altitude grasslands in the north of the project area currently has no protected status. Developing a strategy for further evaluating the unique biodiversity of this area and working with executing partners to elevate the protected status of this area, will be included within the project framework.

Tajikistan has been recognized as an exceptional region for agrobiodiversity and center of origin for numerous important food crops, particularly in the project focal area in the lower Panj River valley (see Annex C) and surrounding mountain foothills. These include globally important crops such as wheat, barley, and onions, along with many domestic fruits and nuts such as apricots, cherries, apples, pears, pistachios, almonds, and walnuts, to name a few (Vavilov, 1926). Due to Soviet era restrictions and initial post-independence instability, only occasional research has been undertaken in this domain over most of a century. Although current studies are ongoing, the rich diversity of species already identified of importance to agriculture has led to the region being cited by a number of experts in the field as an “ancient primal garden”^{[7]9}.

Well over 4,000 plant species found in Tajikistan have now been listed – 1,200 of which are utilized in some way, with almost 15% of these used for food. A recent study, the first thorough analysis in almost a century, documented hundreds of crop wild relatives in the country, over 70 of which are close relatives of key globally important food crops (Kotowski, M.A., et al. 2022). These key genetic resources represent an important part of the unique biodiversity and natural heritage of Tajikistan, and are potentially of international importance for the long-term resilience of key crops and global agri-food systems under increasingly adverse climatic conditions. Actions to better understand these unique resources and deploy this knowledge effectively in sustainable land and ecosystem management strategies will be incorporated into the project design.

Key challenges and barriers to be addressed

The main environmental challenge this project will address, and one of the key long-term priorities for sustainable development in Tajikistan, is balancing the country's food production needs for a growing population on limited arable land which is increasingly impacted by degradation, soil erosion, and unsustainable land-use practices – with its commitments to meet key environmental goals, particularly to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) essential for supporting productive and resilient agroecosystems in the country while ensuring the conservation of globally important biodiversity and agrobiodiversity and the unique ecosystems upon which these species depend. The numerous negative effects flowing from increased degradation in agroecosystems with respect to biodiversity and land, and equally as importantly on livelihoods from declining pasture carrying capacity and falling crop yields, are further magnified by the effects of climate change. Increasing daily temperatures and rainfall variability are impacting ecosystem resilience, agricultural production, and livestock health from increasing heat stress and periodic drought. Meeting Tajikistan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets under the Paris Agreement, which in large part envisions restoration of the country's forest land, agricultural estate, and pastures, is in fact inseparable from meeting the country's evolving commitments to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and developing LDN targets under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The Government of Tajikistan recognizes that meeting this nexus of management challenges requires comprehensive, integrated approaches to support restoration in production landscapes and natural ecosystems. The Government is also well aware of the economic benefits which accrue from integrated, nature-based approaches to land management. Recent studies have estimated the net-worth of biodiversity, forests, and natural areas within the country derived from healthy ecosystems to be \$4.3 billion per year, more than half of the country's typical annual GDP^[8]^[10]. Protecting and enhancing these assets includes improving the carbon content and water holding retention within soils, as well as soil fertility and pollinator species which are essential to supporting agricultural productivity in the long run and short term^[9]^[11]. These approaches are well known to contribute significantly to sustainable livelihoods based on agriculture and pastoralism in rural areas, while generating synergies through nature's contributions to people by conserving biodiversity, improving LDN outcomes, and maximizing carbon retention^[10]^[12].

The planned project intervention will support the Government of Tajikistan in shifting its approach away from the current scenario where the actions of distinct administrative units are largely fragmented and disconnected from actions being taken with other departments. The project investment will facilitate a whole-of-government, indeed a whole-of-society, approach focused on improving outcomes in productive agricultural zones and natural ecosystems, while creating an enabling environment for inter-sectoral and bottom-up approaches to ecosystem management, planning, and restoration.

Important considerations for achieving project outcomes

Two key biomes reflect the majority of agricultural production areas in Tajikistan – montane grasslands & shrublands along with the temperate grasslands in the south-west of the country, where this project will be situated. These regions have significant potential to contribute to net-zero, nature-positive outcomes in Tajikistan which generate synergies between restoring land and conserving biodiversity, and enhancing nature’s contributions to people^[11]¹³. Increasingly intensive agricultural practices in these areas, however, have caused major environmental impacts, such as erosion of fertile topsoil and degradation of pasture lands, deforestation, and declining biodiversity. Although crop production and livestock herds have increased somewhat in recent years, this has come at a cost, and overall efficiencies and productivity remains low. Although there is a lack of reliable soil data, almost three quarters of Tajikistan’s limited arable cropland (both irrigated and rainfed) is considered to be affected in some way by soil erosion and degradation^[12]¹⁴. Moreover, degradation in grazing and pasture areas is affecting 85% of total pasturelands in the country^[13]¹⁵. Degradation in what is considered Tajikistan’s best farmland has to a large extent been a result of poor irrigation services and the policies driving these services^[14]¹⁶. High seepage losses and water logging from outdated irrigation infrastructure leads to high levels of soil erosion and salinization. Almost all irrigated areas show some signs of degradation, with 40% of this considered heavy^[15]¹⁷.

With a large segment of the population dependent on agriculture on limited arable land, there is a strong correlation between land degradation and poverty. The poorer the household, typically the more dependent they are on natural resources for livelihoods and the more vulnerable they are to environmental stressors – a strong contributing factor to migration. The recent IPBES Land Degradation and Restoration report^{[16]¹⁸} underscores the reality that unless concerted institutional, policy, and governance action addressing the root causes of degradation is taken, the above-noted impacts will worsen – creating additional downward pressure on the sustainability of production systems and natural areas, and further exacerbating the risks and impacts from climate change.

It is possible to reverse these detrimental environmental effects to land, biodiversity, and productive agroecosystems through direct engagement with agricultural communities and households. This involves better understanding the ecosystem-related disservices generated from unsustainable agricultural practices, along with the negative self-reinforcing consequences this often implies, and factoring this knowledge into production practices, while at the same time ensuring integrated ecosystem-based approaches to agrifood systems and broader landscape management^{[17]¹⁹}. Investments such as agroforestry practices adapted and tested across the Central Asian region have demonstrated improved production outcomes while halting and reversing land degradation^{[18]²⁰}. Coupled with comprehensive interventions at landscape scale through harmonized efforts from key policy and technical institutions, significant advances are possible to simultaneously achieve multiple global environmental benefits through integrated, ecosystem-based approaches and the restoration of land.

Intact forests are essential in this scenario, which are not only critical for biodiversity but also essential for many ecosystem services such as water cycle regulation, soil retention and erosion control, riverbank protection from flooding, and many other important functions for local people – including the source for numerous essential non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and fuelwood collection. While some of these valuable remaining forests are located in protected areas, such as Tigrovaya Balka, most have little or no formal protection and existing protected areas typically lack effective management and accompanying management plans. Moreover, opportunities for co-management with local stakeholders have typically not been explored. Reforestation and improved management practices represent an important national priority, along with enhancing natural restoration of forest areas through community collaboration. Preservation and restoration of these unique natural forested areas along with pasturelands on the margins of these

areas will, if managed effectively, generate numerous land, biodiversity, climate, and socio-economic benefits.

Tajikistan is considered highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, although its contributions to global emissions are vanishingly small. With projected increases in temperature significantly above the global average (IPPC AR6 Central Asia summary) there is a high likelihood that in the near future temperatures in Tajikistan will begin to regularly surpass 40°C – particularly in arable lowland regions, which will result in significant impacts to human health along with increasing heat stress to livestock and crops^{[19]²¹}. These spikes in temperature will also affect aridity and drought conditions, with concomitant effects on crop yields, production in rainfed pastures, the impacts of sand and dust storms, along with expanding arid areas and deserts.

The country's numerous mountain glaciers, and the regularity of waterflow from these areas, will also be affected by climate change. Glaciers are critical for retaining water and controlling river flows throughout the year and contributing to climate regulation. Flows in Central Asia's two main river systems, the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya – which provide irrigation and drinking water to a large portion of both Tajikistan's and Central Asia's population and eventually feed the Aral Sea a thousand kilometers to the west, are already being affected by changing meltwater flows from mountain glaciers and increasing water extraction downstream. Smaller tributary watersheds are currently at risk of completely drying during some parts of the year. At the same time catastrophic flooding risks are also increasing, with associated hazards such as landslides impacting lives and livelihoods.

Variable precipitation patterns and increasing average temperatures adversely impact agricultural and livestock productivity. Local farmers and herders have few tools to adapt to these changes, but among these include grazing livestock and collecting firewood and other resources within protected areas. In addition, the availability of water for livestock and crops, as well as human consumption, is becoming an increasing national priority. A recent simulation undertaken using the Climate Adaptation in Rural Development (CARD)^{[20]²²} tool forecasts that both irrigated and rain-fed production systems, along with fodder production in pasture areas, will be increasingly negatively impacted by the expected effects of climate change in Tajikistan and the Central Asian region over the coming years. Crop yields are initially projected to decrease moderately, then accelerating more severely over the coming two decades to 2050^{[21]²³}. Paradoxically, livestock producers with few options for adaptation often seek to increase their herds as a risk mitigation measure, resulting in overstocking and increasing degradation of natural pastures – further accelerating negative outcomes for sustainable land management. Government-led actions to address these challenges often lack coordination, and community-level response is also limited by poor access by farmers to up-to-date and reliable climate services (especially on agro-meteorology) to help inform local adaptation efforts. This is particularly important in the context of seasonal migrations over large areas and across different elevations in livestock pastures, as increasingly fluctuating climate patterns are resulting in changes to the traditional grazing calendar. This is information which is essential for local herders to ensure livestock health and survival.

^[1] Agency on Statistics under the President of Tajikistan. Yearbook “Population of Tajikistan as of 1 January 2022

^[2] Ibid.

- [3] Agency on Statistics under the President of Tajikistan. "Tajikistan in Figures" 2020, page 39
- [4] Personal remittances, received (percent of GDP), World Bank data, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS?locations=TJ>
- [5] <https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/mountains-central-asia-cartoon-summary-eng.pdf>
- [6] <https://www.oneearth.org/ecoregions/gissaro-alai-open-woodlands/>
- [7] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13593-022-00846-9>
- [8] Sixth National Report on Preservation of Biodiversity of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2019
- [9] Tripathi V et.al 2017. Biotechnological Advances for Restoring Degraded Land for Sustainable Development.
- [10] <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-021-01528-7>
- [11] <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-021-01528-7>
- [12] Systematic Country Diagnostic, World Bank, 2018
- [13] Tajikistan Case Study Policy Brief, Economics of Land Degradation, 2016
- [14] UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative in Tajikistan. 2012. The Economics of Land Degradation for the Agriculture Sector in Tajikistan – A Scoping Study. <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33636/TELDAST.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- [15] National Investment Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture Development (NIP) 2021-2030 for the Republic of Tajikistan, NRM rapid analysis.
- [16] <https://ipbes.net/assessment-reports/ldr>
- [17] Larbodière, L., Davies, J., et al. 2020. Common ground: restoring land health for sustainable agriculture. IUCN.
- [18] Ibid.
- [19] Climate Risk Country Profile: Tajikistan (2021): The World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/736661/climate-risk-country-profile-tajikistan.pdf>
- [20] An assessment tool that enables easy access to modelling results for crop yields under various climate change scenarios. Developed by the West and Central Africa Division of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) with funding from Phase II of the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP2).
- [21] Community-based Agriculture Support Programme 'plus' (CASP+), Project Design Report, IFAD/GCF.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The design of this investment in the Lower Panj River sub-basin, covering an area of 1.3 million ha (please see Figure 2, Annex C), closely aligns with Government priorities to adopt transformative actions for landscape management and restoration, shifting from a largely siloed administrative approach to one based on integrated landscape management (ILM) principles and strategies within key bioregions of importance for crop production and pasture. The project will address the challenges of fragmented planning and delivery

processes, and the ability of local stakeholders to effectively engage in landscape-scale restoration and biodiversity conservation, by improving inter-sectoral collaboration and delivering effective technical outreach and support on the ground.

The project will be developed along two main parallel axes. The first of these is focused on building both top-down policy tools and bottom-up engagement and extension mechanisms within Government to facilitate key inter-agency collaboration on actions to support improved ecosystem outcomes in target landscapes. This will include effective monitoring and data-driven integrated planning processes, while at the same time creating enabling conditions for enhancing community-based management of local resources within this framework. The second main axis focuses on a wide range of specific on-the-ground delivery actions in integrated landscape management, including practices to restore the health of land and soils, agroforestry, improving the management of KBAs and protected areas, actions to enhance drought resistance and resilient production in agricultural areas and open access pastures, improved forest management and re-forestation of key watersheds, and investments to enhance water use efficiency for agriculture and human consumption. Key actions that will be undertaken to address land degradation and contribute to national LDN ambitions include:

- Working with Government partners to improve policy coherence and the framework for coordinated implementation of ILM practices;
- Supporting the development of a national LDN strategy through engagement with, and support to, key executing partners;
- Engaging with Government partners to improve data collection and metrics in support of LDN practices, and knowledge generation on ILM;
- Implementation of community-based ILM plans, consistent with national LDN ambitions;
- Building capacity of women, youth, and men in local communities to define and implement actions to support integrated landscape management.

The above actions will be mainstreamed with efforts to improve biodiversity outcomes in line with national strategies and the Global Biodiversity Framework. The project will:

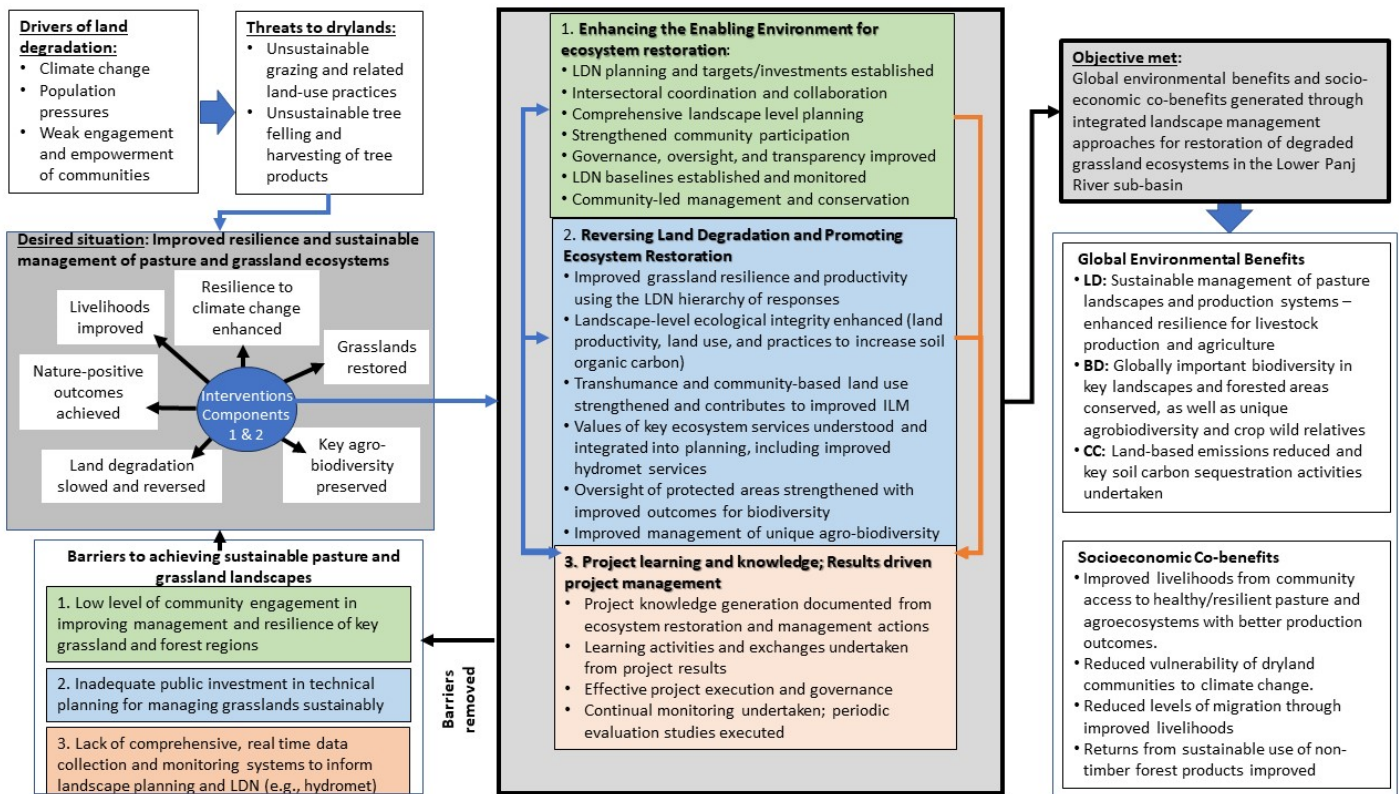
- Undertake biodiversity conservation and management status assessments in protected areas and KBAs – including threats to the long-term resilience of biodiversity;
- Conduct agrobiodiversity assessments, and develop sustainable use plans in close collaboration with farmers and local communities;
- Define key ecosystem service functions from these areas essential for durable agricultural production;

- Establish a baseline for protected area management effectiveness tracking (based on METT-4[1]²⁴);
- Develop management plans;
- Launch implementation of the plans, gradually enhance management effectiveness in collaboration with local stakeholders, and improve long-term resilience of ecosystems.

As noted above, existing protected areas typically lack effective management and accompanying management plans. The overall rationale for the project is predicated on the assumption that local community stakeholders and technical experts in key Government departments and agencies recognize that fragmented, business-as-usual management practices in both production systems and natural areas of importance to biodiversity are no longer an option in the region. Land resources, forests, soils, biodiversity, and agrobiodiversity are increasingly being eroded – key ecosystem-based assets which underpin the health of natural ecosystems and the resilience of agricultural and livestock production over the long term. The fundamental need for improved governance and integrated management practices for these key resources at landscape scale represents the primary logic pathway for this project. Specifically, the knowledge and capacities of local producers will be strengthened in the management of productive agroecosystems, and in particular the natural ecosystem functions upon which they depend, through the adoption of sustainable production practices.

The theory of change for this proposed investment, therefore, may be summarized as follows (please refer to Figure 1 below): **IF** key investments are made in (i) improving government coordination in ecosystem level management, (ii) developing bottom-up integrated community-based ecosystem management plans, and (iii) empowering local communities to make informed decisions related to agricultural practices and jointly manage the natural resources base upon which they depend for their livelihoods, **THEN** degraded ecosystems and habitats will become more resilient – generating multiple global environmental benefits in the process along with direct co-benefits for local communities. The durability of these outcomes will be enhanced through cultivating and documenting the knowledge gained through implementation, both in outcomes from on-the-ground practices as well as improved governance, along with interactive learning processes and events amongst communities and with key government stakeholders.

Figure 1: TERRA Theory of Change



Component 1 Enhancing the enabling environment for ecosystem restoration. To tackle these challenges, the proposed project will deploy an iterative approach from the bottom up as well as from the top down to enable conditions needed for inter-governmental collaboration to support the practice of integrated landscape management in target agroecosystems and key areas essential for biodiversity. The following main institutional barriers for (and drivers of) land degradation will be addressed through improved inter-sectoral coordination, harmonization of land-use management practices on the ground, and the promotion of synchronized efforts to promote ecosystem restoration – in order to halt and reverse land degradation and achieve land degradation neutrality.

- Enhancement of coordination, planning, decision making, and governance of ecosystems at national and regional levels;
- Improvements in executing agency capacity to collect and analyze data (e.g., soil quality, genetic resources, PA management effectiveness, etc.) to continually inform the actions of project executors on the ground and local communities.
- Empowerment of local stakeholders, including women, men, and youth, to engage with Government technical staff and make informed decisions about their livelihoods and effectively respond to climate risks within a comprehensive ecosystem and land management framework;
- Adoption of community-based management plans for agroecosystems, agrobiodiversity, and natural areas;
- Improved access to finance, data, and information by local communities through investments into monitoring and community-based ecosystem planning.

The project will leverage ongoing Government reforms to shift towards the use of natural, ecosystem-based boundaries for defining priorities for investment^{[2]25}, which will be used to establish a governance framework for all relevant stakeholders for enhanced ecosystem management. The proposed project will capitalize on this institutional effort to ensure comprehensive approaches to sustainably improving productivity in pasture/cropland agroecosystems, reforestation and integrated forest management in key upland and riparian forest areas, enhancing the protection and oversight of KBAs and protected areas, improved water-use efficiency, and overall promote the deployment of effective integrated ecosystem management models on the ground.

Component 2 – Reversing land degradation and promoting ecosystem restoration. In parallel with consolidating a whole-of-government approach under Component 1, the project will also deliver a range of scalable agroecosystem and land restoration practices on the ground through Component 2. The benefits from these will extend well beyond improvements in vegetation cover or net primary productivity, or numbers of hectares restored. The target production and catchment areas provide essential ecosystem services to local communities that sustain livelihoods, food security, and livestock health as well the preservation of biodiversity. Key focus areas will be upland pastures, which account for the majority of local nutrition needs^{[3]26}, and adjoining forested or forest management areas which are essential for maintaining unique biodiversity and agrobiodiversity including a wide range of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) along with fuelwood, and play an important role in underpinning livelihoods in rural communities and as a source of income for forest-based enterprises^{[4]27}.

Depletion and degradation of pastureland and forest/woodland areas represents a major threat to achieving the global environmental benefits (detailed in the core indicators table below) and equally important socio-economic outcomes expected from this investment. The economic co-benefits include improved livelihoods, job creation, and potential new income streams^{[5]28, [6]29}. The practices to be deployed include a range of agroecological and agroforestry approaches designed to support protection of soils, nutrient cycling, and soil water-holding retention which are crucial to agricultural productivity in the long run and short term – while concomitantly delivering land restoration benefits. These approaches will be mainstreamed with broader landscape level ecosystem-based conservation and restoration efforts, designed to deliver benefits for biodiversity and agrobiodiversity while at the same time ensuring synergies between conserving biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people, such as through pollination, genetic resources and seed banks, NTFPs, surface waterflow regulation, and carbon retention in soils and above-ground biomass. The establishment of genetic resources and seed banks is crucial. This initiative will have a long-term impact on scaling up ecosystem restoration approaches by providing sufficient seeds, seedlings, and planting materials for replication and use in afforestation, reforestation, and pasture improvement, thereby contributing to the long-term sustainability

of these efforts. Supported by harmonized institutional delivery mechanisms through Component 1, the following main technical barriers for tackling land degradation challenges on the ground will be addressed through improved delivery of the following effective agroecosystem and land management practices [\[7\]³⁰](#):

- Integrated ecosystem restoration approaches using the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) hierarchy of responses implemented in key target catchment areas and districts;
- Improved climate-smart farming and soil fertility management practices integrated within overall landscape management strategies;
- Approaches to maintain diversity of production systems (e.g. crop and production diversification, agroforestry, crop rotation, seed banks and registries to maintain genetic diversity, and inter-cropping);
- Conservation agriculture, integrated soil nutrient management, pastureland rehabilitation, and minimum tillage approaches (including crop modeling and precision agriculture);
- Forest regeneration and restoration of habitats/ ecosystems in production landscapes;
- Training and capacity building and peer-to-peer approaches for improved farming, herding, and land management practices;
- Financing and incentives adopted to link smallholder outputs to local and potentially regional markets to diversify and improve livelihoods from sustainably managed landscapes;
- Developing protected area management plans and improving the effectiveness of PA governance;
- Degraded ecosystems/habitats of high value for biodiversity in key target areas within production landscapes and protected areas brought under effective management and restored, including upland forests, wetlands, and riparian zones;
- Preparation of ecosystem service valuation assessments in key target landscapes;

Component 3 – Project learning and knowledge; Results driven project management. The success of this investment will depend significantly on the actions of an experienced, motivated team within the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) working seamlessly within the Committee for Environmental Protection and engaging across key government departments and ministries. This team will effectively be the “glue” to ensure that Components 1 and 2 are delivered as a coherent package, and fully mainstreamed within Government policies, plans, and operations. The following main enabling conditions for project success will be delivered through Component 3:

- Establish effective, transparent communication and project execution across key government departments and ministries;
- Project actions are to be continually informed by current data and information generated through improved monitoring capacity;
- Establish experience exchange networks on sustainable food production – support farmer, herder, and community networking **including gender and youth considerations**;
- Communication Strategy and KM strategy are developed and implemented;
- Improved local awareness of the importance of biodiversity and intact natural ecosystems in supporting sustainable agricultural production;
- Increased national awareness on sustainable food systems and landscape restoration practices;
- Project implementation based on RBM best practices, ensuring lessons learned/good practices are documented and disseminated;
- Project monitoring and evaluation activities undertaken based on IFAD and GEF Independent Evaluation Office standards and practices.

Project stakeholder engagement

As is common practice with every investment, IFAD is committed to ensuring meaningful, effective, and informed participation of stakeholders, particularly local agricultural and herder communities and respective associations, as well as Government institutions and authorities and key donors. **Notwithstanding the key institutions that will play important roles in this investment, a key component of the TERRA Project stakeholder engagement strategy is to ensure full participation of women and youth, beginning during the PPG planning stage and throughout project implementation. Many agricultural, herding, and land management activities in Tajikistan are often carried out by women, and including youth. It is therefore essential for project success that balanced engagement from participating communities is sought out and cultivated during planning and execution, cognizant of accepted cultural norms.** A preliminary consultative process to engage stakeholders in the early stages of design has been undertaken, and a much more comprehensive process of consultation will be launched during PPG stage. **Ongoing stakeholder** engagement will also be maintained throughout project execution.

The table below outlines key organizations contacted during the PIF development process, along with a brief description of their mandates. The main project executing agency will be the **Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP)** of the Republic of Tajikistan. The roles, responsibilities, and engagement mechanisms for project partners will be further defined during the PPG phase. A key expected outcome from the project will

be to improve (and where necessary – establish) mechanisms for inter-agency collaboration and ensure improved coordination of integrated landscape and ecosystem management efforts on the ground.

Organization	Organization's mandate
Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP)	Lead institution responsible for implementing national policy on biodiversity, the effective use of natural resources and protection of the environment, including hydrometeorology. This committee is responsible for developing national policy and reporting against Tajikistan's commitments to the UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD, and houses the NDA for the GCF and the GEF Focal Point. The mandate includes legal and regulatory systems for environmental protection, and units responsible for monitoring, analysis, environmental impact assessment, and inspections.
State Agency for Hydrometeorology (Hydromet)	Hydromet is responsible for coordination climate activities in the country. It houses the UNFCCC Coordination in Tajikistan and is responsible for compilation of data and preparing Tajikistan's GHG inventory (NDCs and INDCs). The Agency is part of CEP.
National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center (NBBC)	The Center is in charge of coordination of biodiversity conservation and is the national focal point of the UN Convention on Biodiversity. The Center is part of CEP.
Ministry of Energy and Water Resources	Executive body responsible for policy and regulation in the energy and water resources sectors, as well as promoting the use of renewable energy sources. The Ministry is the key organization for advancing integrated water resource management (IWRM) approaches.
Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation	The Agency is responsible for development of a unified state policy and regulation of land reclamation and irrigation.
Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)	Responsible for all aspects of the agrifood system in Tajikistan, including inputs (seed, fertilizers), development of value chains, agrarian reforms, and diversification of production while introducing innovations that have a minimal impact on land quality and the environment.
Pasture Meliorative Trust (PMT) under the Ministry of Agriculture	The mandate includes preservation and improvement of grazing ecosystems and infrastructure; implementation of government programs with the aim of effective pasture use and improvement, organization of transhumance routes, assessments.
Agency of Forest Management	Executive body responsible for forest management including legal and regulatory functions, wildlife management, protected areas, and reforestation. Local management is undertaken by "leskhoz", local forest management enterprises, guided by the Forestry Agency.
State Committee on Land Management and Geodesy	Primarily responsible for land tenure and registrations, cadasters, cartographic works including topographic and geodetic mapping, geospatial services and land-use monitoring.

Contributions to International Environmental Commitments

UNCCD: This planned initiative will assist with LDN strategy and target development – as to date Tajikistan has yet to develop an LDN national strategy with accompanying targets. This process will be undertaken in conjunction with the CASP+ and RESILAND Projects and move in parallel with project execution.

CBD: The project will contribute to a number of key actions agreed to under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), particularly Targets 8, 11, and 14 as well as improving overall access to data and information under Target 21. The development of a revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), with clearly defined quantitative indicators in line with the GBF, will also be supported – as well as support in finalization of the seventh National Report to the CBD. Moreover, national legislation for biodiversity conservation is not fully aligned with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) or the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). The proposed project will support the process of addressing this gap in improving alignment with other important environmental agreements.

Bonn Challenge: Tajikistan's commitment under the Bonn Challenge is to restore 66,000 ha of forestlands, one third of which has already been completed. The Astana Resolution signed in 2018 reinforced cooperation on landscape restoration in Central Asia. Under the State Programme on Development of the Forestry Sector for the period of 2022-2026, there is a target of 15,000 ha for reforestation that will further contribute to Bonn Challenge commitments. The proposed undertaking will support the Agency of Forest Management by conducting a study on the economic viability of different trees and endemic species compositions under different agro-climatic conditions and proposing implementation strategies and developing forest management plans in key target areas.

UNFCCC: Tajikistan has submitted three previous National Communications under the UNFCCC in 2002, 2008 and in 2014, while its fourth National Communication is under development. The country also submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) in accordance with the 2015 Paris Agreement,^{[8]³¹} which was updated in 2021. Unconditional target of the Republic of Tajikistan should not go beyond 21.32 to 24.87 MtCO₂^e emitted in 2030, whereas the conditional target would be an emission cap of 50 to 60% of GHG emissions occurred in 1990 and represents a limit of 17.76 to 21.32 MtCO₂^e emitted in 2030. The proposed project will contribute to achieving this goal by mitigating an additional estimated 3.1 million tCO₂^e.

GEF and GCF coordination in Tajikistan

Over the past two years, the GEF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) have been working together to support complementarity and coherence in efforts to assist developing countries and partners generate long-lasting results consistent with each country's sustainable development strategy^{[9]³²}. This initiative supports the recognition among countries that both the GCF as well as the GEF can mobilize resources to support investments that have benefits beyond (for example) a specific focus on climate change mitigation, and support addressing the integrated and systemic nature of environmental issues that countries face. The shared and mutually reinforcing visions of the GEF and GCF, therefore, can amplify impact of investments supporting climate finance with those supporting biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and land management – while promoting effectiveness and adhering to the highest international safeguards.

The coordinated approach in delivery between the CASP+ effort and the TERRA Project (outlined further below under Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Projects) supports many other examples underway in other countries seeking to advance coordinated investment between both the GEF and the GCF. This approach will facilitate synergies in implementing county ambitions under the Paris Agreement with those of Agenda 2030 and the Rio Conventions. Other examples of similar coordinated approaches include forest conservation efforts in the Amazon and Congo basins, coastal and marine resources management (e.g., in the Caribbean), private sector engagement under the GEF Challenge Program on Climate Adaptation, along with coordination in regional efforts to support work under the Great Green Wall initiative in the Sahel, and innovative programming in the Zambezi corridor in Africa – to mention a few.

Mobilizing joint support for implementation of national ambitions in Tajikistan under the Paris Agreement and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is also expected. Coordinated development and deployment of a country program that utilizes opportunities across the climate, biodiversity, and land degradation finance landscapes represents an important contribution to delivering on the Government's country strategies.

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National Policy and Legal Framework

Tajikistan’s ongoing efforts to harmonize key policies provides the overall context within which this project will operate. The table below describes the main Government policies which will be important to execution on the ground.

Title	Description
National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030	This is the country’s key policy and strategy template, which provides the overall vision and guidance for development. All existing and new agricultural and environmental-related legislation and planning is undertaken in line with the objectives of this overarching policy framework.
Mid-Term Development Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2025	It concretizes the second stage of the NDS implementation (after 2016-2020), within which the continuity of development to be maintained, and the elements of a new growth model to be strengthened. The MtDP 2021-2025 defines priorities, goals, objectives and activities aimed at: 1) increasing the efficiency of the use of national resources; 2) strengthening the foundation of the institutional frameworks; 3) development of human capital and significant improvement in the quality of services in the social sector; 4) further development of the country's regions.
Water Sector Reform Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2016-2025	The Programme details proposed water sector reforms in all sub-sectors related to water use. These are based on the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and focus on taking into account social, economic and environmental interests through sustainable and balanced management and development of water resources. As an integral part of IWRM, the Water Sector Reform Programme introduced the river basin management approach to water resources management as one of the main

	principles of the water sector reform. This is supported by institutional reforms to the water sector, which addresses structural changes to current water sector organizations, and the establishment of new organizations at national, basin and sub-basin levels.
Strategy for the Development of the Forestry Sector for the period up to 2030	It serves as the basis for both sustainable forest management and for the successful integrated development of the entire forest sector. Its 2030 targets include to plant new forests on 15,000 ha, rehabilitate 30,000 ha of existing forests and carry out measures that support natural forest regeneration on 120,000 ha.
National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS) up to 2030	The Strategy underlines the risks associated with climate change and adaptation measures, and reducing the consequences of these risks for the population and key sectors of the economy. The Strategy therefore identifies adaptation needs and options by sector, favoring cross-sectoral adaptation options such as IWRM and ecosystem-based adaptation. The range of sectors addressed include agriculture, water and environment, but also social issues, such as gender and vulnerable groups.
2003 National Action Plan for Climate Change Mitigation	It outlines the priorities and measures to be undertaken by Tajikistan to address the problem of climate change, develop the capacity for further research and analysis of the climate system, and strengthen international cooperation and joint efforts to support emission mitigation efforts.

According to the Constitution of the Republic of the State of Tajikistan, forestry, pasture, and water resources are all owned by the state and are thereby subject to national forestry, pasture, and water laws. The management, usage, responsibilities towards, and user rights of these resources are all governed by these laws, as well as accompanying regulations. The main laws relevant to ecosystems management in Tajikistan are listed and described in the table below.

Legislation	Date of text (revision of text)	Description
Law No. 1618 “On pastoralism” (or, “Pasture Law”)	20 June 2019	Regulates public relations related to the management, use and protection of pastures. Lays the institutional foundations for community-based pasture management systems, with Pasture Users Unions (PUUs), now harmonized with the Land Code to clarify access rights and regulations on pasture use.
Law No. 761 “Forest Code”	02 August 2011 (Since 2018, required subsidiary regulations and by-laws have been adopted)	Stipulates that forest resources be managed and protected with the consideration of multifunctional values of forests, as well as recognition of production needs in the forestry sector. This Forest Code introduced the concept of sustainable management as a guiding principle and provides for the participation of local people in Joint Forest Management

		(JFM) and since. The State Forest Enterprises are now obliged to support JFM and report on its implementation.
Land Code (No. 56)	13 December 1996 (most recent amendment 2012)	Regulates land relations and is aimed at the creation of conditions for rational use and protection of land, reproduction of soil fertility, conservation and improvement of environment and transparency in land tenure.
Water Code of the Republic of Tajikistan (No. 34)	03 December 2009 No.36	States the general principles of water management. A revised version is being adopted, with the biggest shift towards emphasizing integrated water resource management (IWRM) and transition to river basin management approaches.

Addressing important gender considerations

As noted above, an important aspect of the TERRA Project will be engaging women (along with youth) in project delivery, particularly in project result areas focused on improving agriculture production outcomes and addressing land degradation as reflected in the Indicative Project Overview. This is also essential in order to address national development objectives. Recent studies in Tajikistan show that almost one third of extremely poor households in the country are led by women. The 2019 female Human Development Index (HDI) value for Tajikistan is 0.586 in contrast with 0.712 for males, resulting in a Gender Development Index (GDI) value of 0.823. In comparison, GDI values for Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are 0.957 and 0.939 respectively^{[10]³³}. Female headed households represent nine percent of all households in the country, but almost a third of these are considered poor. Women routinely face both implicit and explicit discrimination and inequality in virtually all aspects of social, economic, and political life, and are thereby typically unrepresented in decision making. It is also characteristic in the agricultural sector to have gender imbalances regarding access and control over crop or livestock related inputs and other productive resources, the use/management of natural resources, including decisions regarding financing or the proceeds from production. The majority of women often have no access to financial resources or collateral, and with regard to wages consistently earn less than their male counterparts. Cognizant of these challenges in Tajikistan, a detailed gender action plan will be developed during the PPG stage and mainstreamed into project delivery at output and results levels. This will be led by a gender and social development specialist on the PPG team, who will also develop a gender strategy - consistent with IFAD policy. This also ensures ongoing attention is directed to this important issue during implementation and as part of the ongoing knowledge, learning, and monitoring and evaluation processes – and mainstreamed into ongoing refinement of project actions on the ground.

Knowledge Management and Learning

A comprehensive knowledge and learning strategy will be developed during the PPG Phase. Key components this strategy will include are:

- Disseminating knowledge gained and outcomes on landscape-level actions to support resilient production practices, restore lands and soils, and improve outcomes or biodiversity;
- Leveraging previously generated knowledge in the country through the efforts of partner institutions such as FAO, the World Bank, and in particular the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT - SLM database);
- Improving the knowledge products generated through Hydromet monitoring and services, with effective outreach and early warning to local communities and improved integration with other information sources;
- Developing successful experience exchange networks on sustainable production and grazing practices – supporting women, men and youth farmers and adopting community networking and support practices;
- Cultivating and documenting successful practices of pragmatic, functional mechanisms for inter-agency coordination and collaboration;
- Creating a dynamic communication strategy for the TERRA Project – focused on increasing national awareness on sustainable food systems and landscape restoration practices, and their importance in supporting livelihoods, preserving nature, and supporting national development goals.

[1] <https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/thematic-areas/protected-areas-management-effectiveness-pame?tab=METT>

[2] For instance - river basins comprise complex systems that contain both societal and natural components. They include land, water, forests, wildlife, and complex ecosystem processes along with the unique services these ecosystems provide; they are inhabited by people and support traditional livelihoods and local culture.

[3] Tajikistan National Investment Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture Development (2021-2030)

[4] According to information from various sources, in Tajikistan, collection of over 80 species of medicinal plants generates income in the amount of 0.22 to 0.49 million USD per year.

[5] Joint Forest Management as an example.

[6] The local communities can generate additional income from the processing and marketing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs)

[7] Note: The Government of Tajikistan has mandated that all internationally financed investment activities must reflect 85% hard investments.

[8] <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Tajikistan%20First/INDC-TJK%20final%20ENG.pdf>

[9] [GEF/C.60/08](#)

[10] UNDP, Human Development Report, Tajikistan, 2020, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/TJK.pdf

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

Tajikistan has benefited from a rich baseline of donor supported initiatives. A diverse portfolio of previous and ongoing GEF funded projects exists, along with investments from the international donor community including IFAD, the European Union, FAO, the World Bank, the Swiss Development Agency, and the German Technical Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) – particularly focused around the water-energy-food nexus.

The TERRA project has a high level of complementarity with earlier as well as ongoing project investments, both in terms of approach and target geographies. The concurrent IFAD/GCF Community-based Agriculture Support Programme (CASP+)^[134] is an important component of this project landscape. The development of integrated community-based ecosystem management plans and investments in ecosystem restoration under the TERRA Project will focus on many of the areas being addressed within the CASP+ initiative, but will focus efforts beyond the climate-related investments to those delivering land, ecosystem-related, and biodiversity benefits as well – thus ensuring complimentary to the development goals of the Government of Tajikistan and objectives of the Committee on Environmental Protection executing this initiative (see below).

In addition to CASP+, the region-wide World Bank-led Resilient Landscape Restoration Project (RESILAND) is also beginning implementation^[235]. The Tajikistan component of this effort is also executed by CEP and targeted at other sub-basins in the country, such as Zarafshon, the Upper Pyandj, and Lower Kofarnihon river basins. All three initiatives will collaborate with CEP on developing LDN targets in the country, which will become a key component of the TERRA Project in terms of monitoring and tracking achievements in target areas. An important element of the proposed project is to work with the key donors involved to ensure seamless execution within CEP.

In addition to the above coordination efforts, the TERRA Project will draw on experience from a rich baseline of GEF-funded initiatives in Tajikistan and the region. For instance, experience from both phases of the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) over the past 15 years in demonstrating responses to arid climate land management, actions to safeguard livelihoods, and enhancing the functional integrity of ecosystems will be drawn upon. Experience from the previously mentioned Snow Leopard initiative under GEF 6 will also be important, as will the earlier Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods initiative led by the World Bank, along with its predecessor – the Community Agriculture and Watershed Management Project (CAWMP). A key project in this “landscape” is also the ongoing Conservation and Sustainable Management of High-Value Arid Ecosystems in the Lower Amu Darya Basin initiative, deploying similar strategies and approaches.

An important aspect of the planned implementation modalities for TERRA will be close integration and collaboration with the CASP+ initiative. This is to ensure that the TERRA Project is able to leverage advances being made in the CASP+ initiative to significantly expand capacity for integrated ecosystem management planning and subsequent management efforts. Similarly, the CASP+ initiative will be well placed to take advantage of successful integrated ecosystem restoration planning efforts on the ground which will (inter alia) deliver improved pasture approaches, conservation agriculture techniques, and land management initiatives deployed in the TERRA Project. For instance, among a wide variety of project elements an important activity in CASP+ is to train a large cadre of government field staff involved in forestry and agricultural extension on participatory natural resource management approaches. In addition, CASP+ will also emphasize training in the use of remote sensing data and geographic information systems (GIS) that represent key technical management tools for successful integrated planning approaches at scale. The capacity and skills developed will be able to be deployed at relatively little additional cost in districts and villages where the TERRA Project will be active – including in other areas of the country as well. Concomitantly, the TERRA Project will develop expertise in successful integrated ecosystem restoration practice on the ground that will provide useful examples for extending the impact of CASP+ investments throughout the target districts in the southwest of the country. By leveraging the numerous important areas of complementarity between these initiatives, it is expected that many opportunities for extending the impact of both initiatives will be realized.

[1] Community-based Agriculture Support Programme ‘plus’ (CASP+) is a seven-year project that starts in Q2 2023. It will assist the country in moving towards climate-adaptive food systems and lowering emissions in sustainable development pathways, covering 21 districts with 650,000 direct beneficiaries.

[2] WB Tajikistan component of Resilient Landscape Restoration Project. Duration – 6 years, launched in 2022.

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
158700	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
30000	0	0	0

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)
Dangara Massif KBA		Habitat/Species Management Area	30,000.00			

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)
128700	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA 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)
Childukhtaron Reserve	167078	Habitat/Species Management Area	14,500.00						
Dashtijum Reserve	167081	Habitat/Species Management Area	50,100.00						
Dashtijum Strict Nature Res.	167080	Strict Nature Reserve	19,700.00						
Karatau Reserve	555571309	Habitat/Species Management Area	14,400.00						
Nurek Reserve	555571313	Habitat/Species Management Area	30,000.00						

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
14000	0	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Rangeland and pasture	14,000.00			

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

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

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)
117000	0	0	0

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)

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

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)
117,000.00			

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	3100000	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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 CO₂e (direct)	3,100,000			
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				

Anticipated start year of accounting	2025			
Duration of accounting	5			

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 CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (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 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	157,500			
Male	157,500			
Total	315,000	0	0	0

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

As detailed above, the TERRA Project will promote practices to restore key forested ecosystems, as well as riparian zones and wetlands, areas critical for biodiversity conservation but also for regulating surface water flows and mitigating potential impacts from flooding, predicated upon a whole-of-government approach to improve coordination and delivery on the ground. This harmonization of approach will in turn support and accelerate numerous actions of engagement with local communities to promote landscape management and bring communal areas under improved practices. Together, these actions will account for the area of land and ecosystems under restoration and area of landscapes under improved practices proposed, which in turn will deliver benefits for the conservation of threatened and endangered species, climate mitigation benefits, along with significant co-benefits – particularly improved sustainable livelihoods. These figures will be further refined during the PPG stage.

Investments will be made to improve government coordination in ecosystem management in the project target area, to support bottom-up integrated community-based ecosystem management plans in production landscapes (particularly pastures and rangelands), and to empower local communities to make informed choices related to agricultural and grazing practices and to co-manage natural resources of importance for livelihoods. This will lead to restoration of degraded areas and improvements to overall ecosystem resilience. The durability of these outcomes will be enhanced through improved governance of natural

resources,, interactive learning platforms between communities and project executors, as well as cultivation and documentation of knowledge gained through implementation.

Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation

Summarize risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases and what are the mitigation strategies the project preparation process will undertake to address these (e.g. what alternatives may be considered during project preparation- such as in terms of consultations, role and choice of counterparts, delivery mechanisms, locations in country, flexible design elements, etc.). Identify any of the risks listed below that would call in question the viability of the project during its implementation. Please describe any possible mitigation measures needed. (The risks associated with project design and Theory of Change should be described in the “Project description” section above). The risk rating should reflect the overall risk to project outcomes considering the country setting and ambition of the project. The rating scale is: High, Substantial, Moderate, Low.

Risk Categories	Rating	Comments
Climate	High	As noted above, Tajikistan is highly susceptible to the effects of climate change, and the proposed investment is to a large degree designed to address this challenge. Extreme climate-related events are possible, however, and the PMU will ensure that project actions are flexible enough to respond as needed.
Environment and Social	Substantial	Poverty levels are high in Tajikistan, and throughout the country the environment is increasingly under stress. The proposed investment is designed to address these challenges. Results will not be immediate (nor universal) but will define pragmatic solutions for over 300,000 beneficiaries in improving sustainable, resilient livelihoods.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Tajikistan has numerous development challenges, but has also benefited from relative stability.
Macro-economic	Substantial	Residing between China and Russia, the Central Asia countries must maintain healthy engagement with their superpower neighbors, which come with both benefits and costs

Strategies and Policies	Moderate	The Committee for Environmental Protection has both benefited from and helped lead the reform process within Government
Technical design of project or program	Low	Technical capacity is considered good in Tajikistan
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Moderate	Management capacity within CEP has improved over the past 12 years as executing partner in a number of GEF and other donor projects. Coordination with other government agencies will be key. IFAD will be part of the Project Steering Committee. While CEP has a good track record, a number of other major project Technical capacity is considered good in Tajikistan initiatives will be undertaken concurrently
Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement	Moderate	The Government of Tajikistan, as well as CEP, has developed significant experience working with external donor requirements and put in place necessary control measures, and developed a good track record of financial management and procurement procedures.
Stakeholder Engagement	Low	Preliminary stakeholder engagement has already been thorough and very positive at PIF stage, and a solid level of interaction has been established with the country executing agency. A mapping of detailed stakeholder consultation and strategy for engagement will be developed during project preparation.
Other		N/A
Financial Risks for NGI projects		N/A
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	It is expected that overall risks to project execution will be moderate, but at times could be substantial depending on context or conditions.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

This initiative is closely aligned with the vision and objectives of the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program, through restoration of important natural areas within a globally important hotspot for biodiversity. Although not a child project of this initiative, much of the underlying rationale in conceptualizing this investment is drawn from this Integrated Program. At the same time, the TERRA Project is also closely aligned with, and supports, implementation of the GEF Land Degradation Strategy. This initiative addresses all 4 priorities under the Strategy, including avoiding and reducing land degradation through SLM, reversing degradation through restoration and ILM, addressing desertification and drought issues (particularly in dryland pastures), and improving the enabling policy and institutional environment for LDN to flourish. Maintaining and improving conditions to enhance the conservation of biodiversity in southwestern Tajikistan is also an important element of this proposed investment, which will support implementation of the key GEF Biodiversity priority to improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems. Finally, this investment will support delivery of objective 1.4 of the GEF Climate Strategy, specifically through delivery of nature-based solutions that support sustainable land use and agricultural production with high mitigation potential.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: No

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

Stakeholder Consultations

Institution	Name and Title	Format	Date
Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP)	Mr. Bahodur Sheralizoda, Chairman of CEP; Mr. Dilovarsho Dustzoda, Head of the International Relations Department of CEP; Mr. Muhibullo Junaidov, Head of PIU under CEP; Mr. Turakul Murodov – Deputy Head of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under CEP	In person	21 November 2022
National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center under the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP)	Mr. Olimjon Yatimov, Director of Biodiversity and Biosafety Center under CEP, National Focal Point of UN Convention on Biodiversity; and Mr. Khisravshoh Sheramatov, Director of the National Center for Implementation Actions for Environmental Protection under CEP.	In person	21 November 2022
State Agency for Hydrometeorology (Hydromet)	Mr. Abdullo Kurbonzoda, Director of Agency of Hydrometeorology under CEP, National Focal Point of UNFCCC; Mr. Sheralizoda Nazrialo Sherali, Deputy Director, and Mr. Sattor Saidov, Head of the Center of Climate Change and the Ozone Layer Study under CEP	In person	22 November 2022
Water Resources Department of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources	Mr. Muslihiddin Kholiqov, Head of the Water Resources Department; and Mr. Shohrukh Rahmatzoda, Chief Specialist of the Water Resources Department of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources	In person	22 November 2022
IFAD Project Management Unit	Mr. Bahrom Mirzoalizoda, Director of the LPDP PMU and the relevant project staff	In person	22 November 2022
Agency of Forest Management	Mr. Davlatali Sharifzoda, Deputy Director of the Agency of Forest Management; and Mr. Zafarjon Khasanov, Advisor for economics and international relations of the Agency of Forest Management	In person	25 November 2022
Pasture Meliorative Trust under the Ministry of Agriculture	Mr. Safarali Nazarov, Head of the Pasture Meliorative Trust under the Ministry of Agriculture	In person	25 November 2022
Department of the Agency on Land Reclamation and Irrigation	Mr. Davlatmurod Khoshaev, Head of the Water Users Associations Support Department of the Agency on Land Reclamation and Irrigation	In person	25 November 2022

Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under CEP	Mr. Turakul Murodov – Deputy Head of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under CEP	In person	17 May 2023
National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center under the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP)	Mr. Olimjon Yatimov, Director of Biodiversity and Biosafety Center under CEP, National Focal Point of UN Convention on Biodiversity; and Mr. Khisravshoh Sheramatov, Director of the National Center for Implementation Actions for Environmental Protection under CEP	In person	17 May 2023
State Agency for Hydrometeorology (Hydromet)	Mr. Abdullo Kurbonzoda, Director of Agency of Hydrometeorology under CEP, National Focal Point of UNFCCC; Mr. Sheralizoda Nazrialo Sherali, Deputy Director, and Mr. Sattor Saidov, Head of the Center of Climate Change and the Ozone Layer Study under CEP	In person	17 May 2023

Field visits

Location	Beneficiary/local authority	Format	Date
Hamadoni and Vose districts, Khatlon region	Local municipality -Chairman of the Hukumat of Hamadoni district Mr. Odinazoda Bozorali Nemat)	In person	23 November 2022
	Forestry department of district - Director of the State Forestry Institution 'M.S.A. Hamadoni' Mr. Tabarov Jurakhon	In person	23 November 2022
	Pasture Users Union - Chairman of the PUU Nekbakht, Mehnatobod jamoat Mss. Qosimova Jumagul	In person	23 November 2022
	Pasture Users Unions/Village organizations - Chairman of the PUU “Barakat” Mehnatobod jamoat Mr. Shamsuddinov Rauf	In person	23 November 2022
Temurmaliq district, Khatlon region	Local municipality -Chairman of the Hukumat of Temurmaliq district Mr. Hasanzoda Sherali	In person	24 November 2022
	PUUs/VOs, particularly with women -Chairman of the PUU 'Tanobchii Bolo' Tanobchi jamoat Mr. Juraev Abdujaborov Haydar	In person	24 November 2022
	PUUs/VOs, particularly with women -Chairman of the PUU 'Obi Shirin' Kangurt jamoat Mr. Abduloev Haydar	In person	24 November 2022

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

No

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
IFAD	GET	Tajikistan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	1,098,956.00	104,401.00	1,203,357.00
IFAD	GET	Tajikistan	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM- 1-4	Grant	388,955.00	36,951.00	425,906.00

IFAD	GET	Tajikistan	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	6,531,267.00	620,470.00	7,151,737.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						8,019,178.00	761,822.00	8,781,000.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

200000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

19000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
IFAD	GET	Tajikistan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	27,408.00	2,603.00	30,011.00
IFAD	GET	Tajikistan	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-4	Grant	9,701.00	922.00	10,623.00
IFAD	GET	Tajikistan	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	162,891.00	15,475.00	178,366.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
IFAD	GET	Tajikistan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,000,000.00
IFAD	GET	Tajikistan	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
IFAD	GET	Tajikistan	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	5,000,000.00
Total GEF Resources					9,000,000.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	338,956.00	387984
BD-1-4	GET	760,000.00	
CCM-1-4	GET	388,955.00	402983
LD-2	GET	6,531,267.00	11187083
Total Project Cost		8,019,178.00	11,590,066.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	11678050
Recipient Country Government	Committee for Environmental Protection	Public Investment	Recurrent expenditures	300000
Total Co-financing				11,978,050.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Investment mobilized: IFAD's on-going project Community-based Agricultural Support Project 'plus' (CASP+) for 2021-2030 with an overall budget of USD 37.85 million from IFAD.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Juan Carlos Mendoza Casadiegos				juancarlos.mendoza@ifad.org
GEF Agency Coordinator	Janie Rioux				j.rioux@ifad.org
Project Coordinator	Walid Nasr				w.nasr@ifad.org
Project Coordinator	Roberto Longo				r.longo@ifad.org

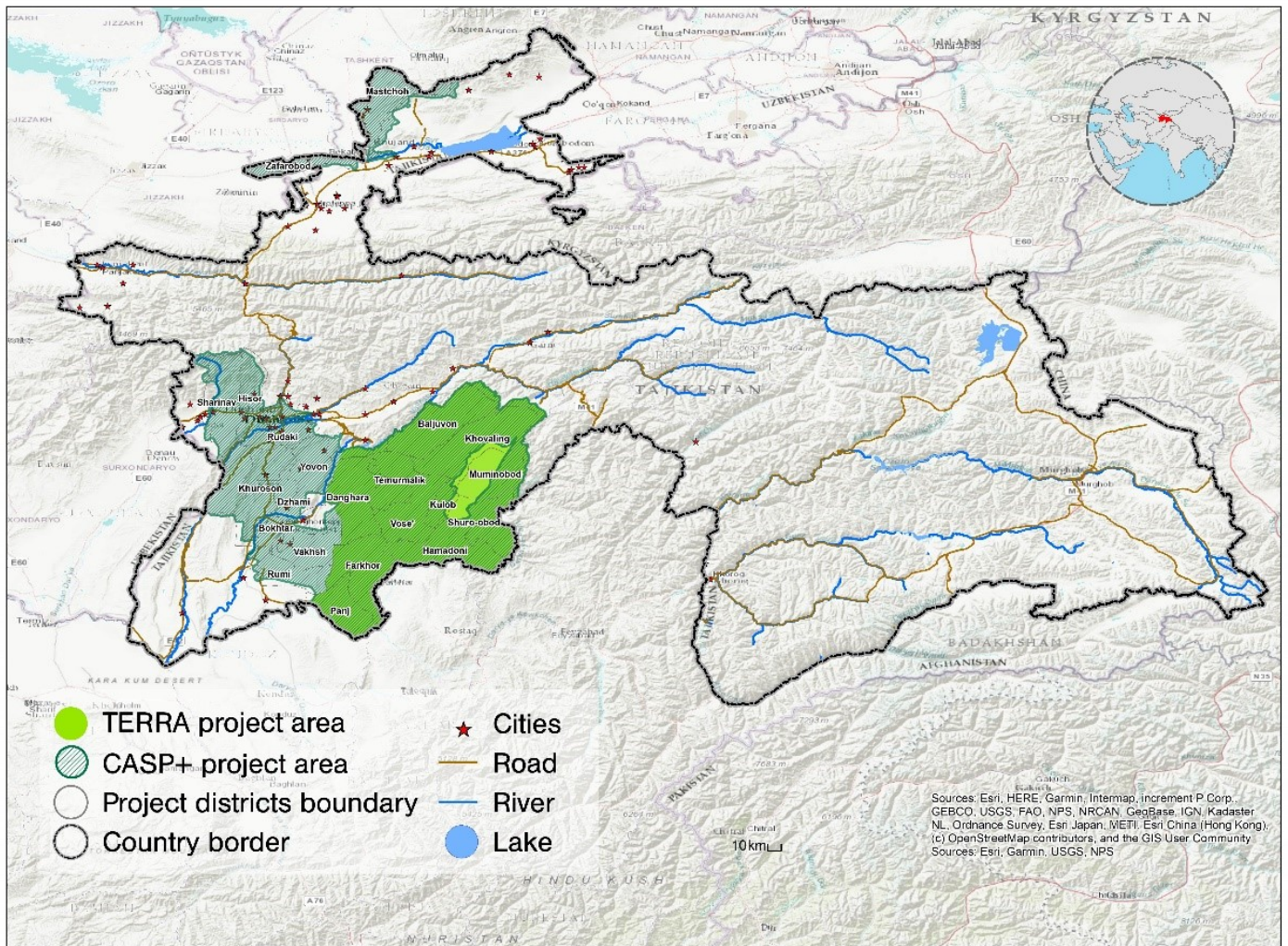
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Bahodur Sheralizoda	Chairman	Committee for Environmental Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan	5/6/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

Figure 2. TERRA project area and overlap with CASP+



Other maps are inserted in the PIF on:

Land use

Land productivity dynamics

Protected areas

Key biodiversity areas

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

Annex D-Environmental and Social Safeguards screen and rating-rev-8Nov23

SECAP ESC Screening GEF Tajikistan TERRA

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Principal Objective 2

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
Influencing Models	Transform policy and regulatory environments			
	Strengthen institutional capacity and decision making			
	Convene multi-stakeholder alliances			
	Demonstrate innovative approaches			
Stakeholders	Beneficiaries	Community groups		
	Local communities			
	Civil society	Community based organizations		
	Stakeholder engagement	Information dissemination		
	Type of engagement			Partnership
				Consultation
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity development	Training, extension		
	Communication	Awareness raising		
	Knowledge generation and exchange	Knowledge management		
	Learning	Theory of change		
		Adaptive management		

		Indicators to measure change	
Gender Equality	Gender mainstreaming	Beneficiaries	
		Women's groups	
		Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		Gender sensitive indicators	
	Gender results areas	Access and control over natural resources	
		Participation and leadership	
		Access to benefits and services	
		Capacity development	
		Awareness raising	
	Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	
Protected areas and landscapes			
Biomes			
Forests		Sustainable forest management	Temperate and alpine forests
			Forest inventories
			Reforestation
			Sustainable woodland management
Land degradation		Sustainable land management	Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded lands
			Ecosystem approach
			Community-based NRM
			Sustainable livelihoods
		Land Degradation Neutrality	Land productivity
			Land cover change
			Carbon stocks above and below ground
Climate change		Climate change adaptation	Community based adaptation
			Ecosystem based adaptation
		Climate change mitigation	Livelihoods
Integrated programs		Ecosystem Restoration	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use