

GEF-8 WORLD BANK PCN STAGE/GEF DATA SHEET

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Blueing the Caspian Sea	
Region	GEF Project ID
Regional	11429
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Regional	FSP
Azerbaijan	
Kazakhstan	
Turkmenistan	
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
World Bank	P181526
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
UNEP	GEF Agency
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	10/18/2023
Project Sector (CCM Only)	
Taxonomy	
Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Fisheries, International Waters, Marine Protected Area, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, Learning, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Communications, Strategic Communications, Local Communities, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Participation, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Capacity Development, Knowledge Exchange, South-South	
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
11,743,120.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
1,056,879.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
12,799,999.00	53,000,000.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
183,489.00	16,512.00

PPG total amount: (e+f)

200,001.00

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

13,000,000.00

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)

Problem and issues to be addressed:

The Caspian Sea is the largest enclosed water body on earth, containing some 44 percent of all inland waters on the globe, bordering Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan. It extends over several climatic zones due to its north-south orientation and represents an ecosystem with around 400 endemic species. The biodiversity of the Sea’s aquatic environment represents a unique combination of ecological processes and systems, which is the product of thousands of years of isolation from the world’s oceans; it is, thereby, one of the most valuable natural heritages in the world.^[1] However, since the early 2000s, the water levels in the Caspian Sea have dropped considerably. The impacts of climate change and the use of water for human activity have been exacerbating this water loss, with an estimated 8 to 30 meters of water loss by 2100.^[2]

Over time, the Caspian Sea’s ecosystem resilience has been diminished due to the cumulative effects of human development and climate change impacts. This includes overfishing and the separation of the Caspian Sea fish from their spawning rivers through dewatering and damming of the rivers; introduction of invasive species that modify the appearance and functions of the water system; input of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and platinum monosulphide (PTS) from agricultural activities; chronic low-level pollution from oil and gas exploration and transport activities; and increasing impact of climate change on the fluctuating water level, living resources, and coastal areas of the sea. The water level decline poses great challenges to the wellbeing of the coastal populations and the region’s economic development, in particular to shipping infrastructure. To address the impacts of climate change, more adaptation measures are needed, with adaptation measures also providing co-benefits for economic and social development. The project will also include such adaptation measures for all three countries to address this.

Environmental degradation and climate change are negatively affecting the diverse and unique biodiversity of the Caspian Sea. A total of 112 plant species and 240 animal species have been noted by the Caspian Coastal Site Inventory (CCSI) and included in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 2006 Red List and National Red Books.^[3] Fisheries are particularly affected, especially sturgeon catches, which have decreased from 27 thousand tons to less than one thousand tons from the late 1970s to 2007 in

the region, with a current moratorium on commercial sturgeon fishing.^[4]⁴ The consequent damage to the livelihoods of the coastal communities is considerable, harming socioeconomic outcomes.

Pollution into the Caspian Sea is degrading the marine environment and is affecting the livelihoods of coastal populations. Research has shown that the marine environment of the southern basin is under serious threat due to the entry of pollutants (industrial and municipal sewage, marine and coastal litter, and agricultural pesticides) as well as the effects of climate change and drought, which impact the livelihoods of those dependent on fishing and aquaculture.^[5]⁵ Every year, it is estimated that one million tons of oil are leaking into the Caspian Sea. This pollution is exacerbating existing issues, such as invasive species, fluctuations in water levels, eutrophication, and declining coastal habitats that are detrimental to the marine environment.^[6]⁶ This harms the coastal environment, fish populations, biodiversity, and the well-being of the sizable coastal populations of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan, while also reducing the prospects for economic diversification due to diminishing natural assets.

The health of the Caspian Sea is crucial for developing the region's blue economy as a critical avenue for economic diversification. Unsustainable use of natural capital has affected prominent sectors, reducing opportunities for economic diversification. For example, unsustainable fishing, including poaching, has decreased the number of workers employed in, and the value of, fisheries exports. To illustrate, Azerbaijan's fisheries exports were valued at nearly US\$6 billion in 2009 but decreased drastically to only US\$24,000 in 2013, further reducing the country's economic diversification.^[7]⁷ Improving the marine environment of the Caspian Sea represents a development opportunity for these countries as it will help develop new blue economy sectors such as tourism, aquaculture, and shipping – sectors that can boost economic diversification and coastal socioeconomic outcomes. Crucially, the development of the blue economy can also aid in reducing prominent regional disparities by providing economic opportunities to coastal populations.

Convinced of the need to address the rapidly emerging challenges to the health of the Caspian Sea, the five riparian states agreed in 1995 to develop the Caspian Environment Program (CEP). The program aims to halt the deterioration of the environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea and promote sustainable development in the region. In a joint venture with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the World Bank, and with the financial support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the program was launched in 1998.

In 2006, the Caspian states signed the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention). The Tehran Convention serves as an umbrella legal instrument to protect the Caspian environment from all sources of pollution and support the preservation, restoration, and protection of the Caspian Sea species and habitats. To reach these objectives, the Convention applies internationally acknowledged environmental principles, including the precautionary principle, the polluter pays principle, and the principle of access to information. The Convention includes provisions for sustainable and rational use of living resources, environmental impact assessment and environmental monitoring, and research and development. Further to the general obligations of the Tehran Convention, the littoral states are required to take all appropriate measures to achieve these objectives individually or jointly and to cooperate with international organizations.

The Tehran Convention has fostered transboundary environmental cooperation in the region. Achievements include the development of regional legal frameworks, which prescribe additional measures, procedures, and standards for the implementation of the Convention, and the development of an Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP), overseen by a Secretariat Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (WGMA), which involves identifying monitoring institutions, standardizing methods, and setting water quality criteria. The Caspian Environment Information Centre (CEIC) was established, and State of the Caspian Sea Environment reports were developed. Collaboration with Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM) has led to a Scientific Climate Change Conference in 2022. Annual Caspian Days take place in each Caspian littoral state to raise awareness of environmental problems among the coastal population. Efforts have also focused on updating the Strategic Convention Action Plan (SCAP) and aligning National Convention Action Plans (NCAPs) for improved Caspian Sea environmental protection.

The gaps for implementing these protocols are transboundary in nature and similar across Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. The gaps have been identified as a) insufficient policy harmonization, strategic planning, and transboundary collaboration around biodiversity conservation and pollution management, b) countries' limited capacity for pollution monitoring, and c) insufficient investment in biodiversity conservation. These gaps represent substantial barriers to implementing the Convention and its protocols.

Objectives: Strengthen the capacity of the participating countries to address pollution and improve biodiversity conservation in the Caspian Sea. The participating countries are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan.

Approach to deliver objectives: The project will have a transboundary approach for pollution management and biodiversity conservation. This approach is fundamental to the success of the project because the Caspian Sea is a shared system where one country's actions affect other countries sharing the system. Additionally, the project will be a key instrument to the implementation of the Tehran Convention, which is regional and requires the Caspian Sea countries to take actions at the regional/transboundary level. The first objective will be achieved by improving governments' knowledge, monitoring, and planning capacities, and facilitating policy synergies between the three countries. The second objective will be similarly achieved by improving knowledge, monitoring, and planning capacities, and facilitating policy synergies with a focus on coastal and marine biodiversity conservation, as well as improving protected area within the territorial waters of the three countries and fisheries value addition capacities of the three governments and local fishing communities. In order to attain both objectives it is planned to develop transboundary marine spatial planning within the territorial waters of the three countries and integrated coastal zone management capacities and plans. Both objectives will be supported by regional activities aiming to improve transboundary coordination on pollution mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

By strengthening the capacity of the participating countries to address pollution and improve biodiversity conservation in the Caspian sea, and assuming continued commitment of the governments to implement studies and plans' recommendations, several long term outcomes are expected: (i) healthier coastal and marine environments, (ii) improved resilience of coastal communities to future changes in pollution and biodiversity loss drivers, (iii) and blue economy development in the region.

Justification for an IW investment: The transboundary approach to pollution reduction and biodiversity conservation is explained by the shared/transboundary nature of the system that this project will address, i.e., the Caspian Sea. Within this system, one country's actions affect the other countries sharing this system. Furthermore, if biodiversity conservation and pollution management are carried out in isolation, the motivation to take action by the countries will likely be negligent and less impactful.

GEBs and other key expected results: GEBS include: (a) conservation of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) as identified for the Caspian Sea by the scientific experts from the Caspian Sea region with support of the CBD Secretariat^[1]. The EBSAs are special areas in the ocean that serve important purposes, in one way or another, to support the healthy functioning of oceans and the many services that it provides. The initial consultation with the participating countries were conducted to identify which EBSAs and what kind of conservation status can be granted however further consultation are needed in the PPG phase to agree the way forward. These correspond to GEF- 8 CI 1 (Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use, CI 2 (Marine protected areas created or under improved management), CI 5 (Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity), and CI 8 (Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels). Other key results are: (i) improved regional coordination on BD conservation and pollution mitigation; (ii) improved regional knowledge, monitoring and planning capacities, and policy synergies; (iii) improved national marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management capacities; and (iv) improved PA and fisheries value addition capacities.

GEF Core Indicator Targets:

- Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)

Target: 50,000

- Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)

Target: 10,000

- Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)

Target: 20,000

- Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management

Target: 1

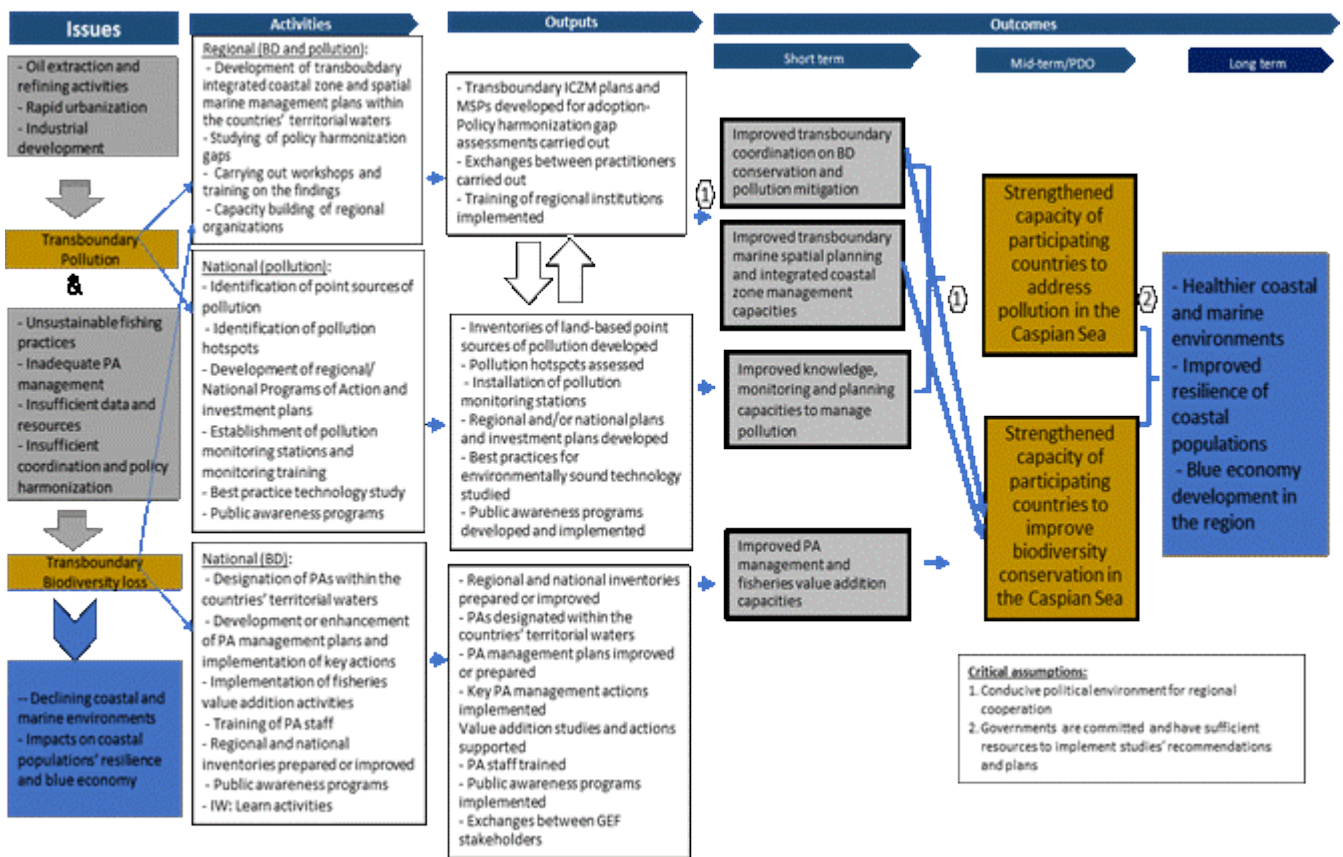
- Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

Target: 200,000 of which 100,000 female

Direct beneficiaries are coastal communities of the three countries benefitting from reduced pollution and improved biodiversity conservation actions.

Project support to climate change adaptation: Enhanced biodiversity conservation capacities will help reduce climate change impacts on change in species composition and reduction of habitat. The approach will be ecosystem/ basin wide in the light of climate change impacts' intersectoral and transboundary nature. Specific resilience-enhancing measures will be identified and reflected in the project documents as they are further elaborated.

Project Theory of Change



Component description:

The project will be implemented in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan by UNEP over a five-year period. It will be financed by a US\$12 million GEF grant. The following components will be financed:

Component 1. National and Regional Policy and Institution Strengthening (US\$1.6 million). This component will finance technical assistance, workshops, and other capacity building measures to improve policy harmonization and regional cooperation on pollution management and biodiversity conservation in the Caspian Sea. The project will finance the development of ICZM plans and MSPs within the territorial waters of the three countries in a coordinated effort between the countries' governments through workshops and training sessions. It will also seek to improve harmonization of policies to address gaps and facilitate knowledge sharing among the countries through assessments to identify areas for harmonization, exchanges between practitioners on best practices for addressing pollution and biodiversity, and signing of memoranda of understanding to harmonize regional policies on biodiversity conservation and pollution management. The capacity of regional institutions will be strengthened to ensure effective collaboration between Caspian states. Overall, the activities foreseen under this component will help to better address marine pollution stressors leading to biodiversity loss. The activities will also include gender considerations, seeking to ensure that men and women benefit equally from capacity building and dissemination, and that gender is an aspect of the policy discussions on biodiversity and pollution management. The project will also promote a gender-inclusive approach in its stakeholder engagement. Project deliverables will be developed through consultation with stakeholders and communicated via IW:Learn exchanges and public awareness programs in the three countries financed under components 2 and 3. The following outputs are expected:

- a) Workshops and training sessions of regional institution for ICZM plans and MSP application implemented

- b) Transboundary ICZM plans and MSPs within the three countries' territorial waters developed for adoption
- c) Exchanges between practitioners on best practices for pollution and biodiversity management
- d) Transboundary policy harmonization gap assessments carried out
- e) Transboundary MoU development on biodiversity and pollution
- f) Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use - Indicator: 50,000 hectares protected areas created or under improved management / Indicator: 200,000 direct beneficiaries, of whom 100,000 females.
- g) Policy harmonization gap assessments on biodiversity conservation and pollution management, and memoranda of understanding to harmonize regional policies: One shared water ecosystem under new or improved cooperative management (Caspian Sea)

Component 2. Pollution Management (US\$4.9 million). This component will finance technical assistance, goods, training, and workshops to address the gap in data and information for effective pollution management in the Caspian Sea. The project will develop inventories of land-based point sources of pollution, assessments on pollution hotspots in line with Moscow Protocol and global conventions, and an estimation of economic loss due to pollution in the Caspian Sea. The component will also finance the development of regional and/or National Programs of Action (NPAs) and investment plans for pollution mitigation. These will help overcome identified gaps in policy harmonization and legislation and determine project support in pollution monitoring (such as goods, training, and technical assistance, and pollution monitoring stations) to address the financial gaps to pollution management. Within these activities, the equal benefit of men and women, as well as the promotion of women in training and public awareness programs, will be a key consideration. To improve capacity and address data gaps, the component will finance the development of best practices for environmentally sound technology in accordance with regional conventions. Additionally, to boost public knowledge on pollution issues in the Caspian Sea, the component will assist in developing initiatives for increasing public awareness in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. Project deliverables will be developed through consultation with stakeholders and communicated via IW: Learn exchanges and public awareness programs. The following outputs are expected:

- a) Inventories of land-based point sources of pollution developed
- b) Pollution hotspots assessments and estimation of economic loss of pollution
- c) Investment in pollution monitoring (goods, training, and technical assistance), including pollution monitoring stations
- d) Gender Sensitive Regional and/or NPAs and investment plans for pollution prepared and taken up by participating countries.
- e) Best practices for environmentally sound technology development: During project preparation, the team will explore potential engagement with the private sector in the development of environmentally sound technologies to be taken up by participating countries
- f) Public awareness programs on pollution in the Caspian Sea, including on gender mainstreaming and women empowerment, developed and implemented

Component 3. Biodiversity Management (US\$4.9 million). This component will finance technical assistance, works, goods, and workshops for addressing biodiversity loss. The component will finance actions in support of PA designation and management within the three countries' territorial waters, including enhancement of existing, and development of new PA management plans, workshops, training, and implementation of key management plans' actions. As with component 1 and 2, the equal benefit of men and women will be a key consideration for the training of PA staff, as well as the public awareness programs, to ensure equal benefit and opportunity to advance gender outcomes in the region.

The project will also support fisheries value addition activities for fishing communities and the use of Nature-based Solutions (NBS) for addressing biodiversity loss and fisheries' habitat improvement. Regional and national inventories of threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna will be prepared or improved as needed, and a review will be conducted of the conservational status and conservation regulations of said species in the three countries to address data gaps. Furthermore, an estimation of the economic losses of biodiversity loss in the Caspian Sea will be conducted. The component will also finance national public awareness programs on biodiversity loss in the Caspian Sea and GEF IW: Learn activities (1 percent of the GEF Grant amount), including knowledge exchange between a range of actors to stimulate conversation and capacity between, and beyond, GEF funded activities. Project deliverables will be developed through consultation with stakeholders and communicated via IW:Learn exchanges and public awareness programs. The following outputs are expected:

- a) Regional and national inventories of threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna prepared or improved;
- b) Review of threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna conservation status and conservation regulations carried out
- c) Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use within the territorial waters of the three countries - Indicator: 10,000 hectares of protected areas created or under improved management
- d) PA management plans improved or prepared and taken up by participating countries, and key PA management actions implemented
- e) Marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas), including NBS - Indicator: 20,000 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices
- f) PA management plans improved or prepared, and key PA management actions implemented
- g) PA staff trained on Nbs, aquaculture, management of PA, & pollution prevention
- h) Estimation of economic losses due to biodiversity loss & Fisheries value addition studies prepared and proposed actions supported
- i) Public awareness programs implemented on biodiversity loss in the Caspian Sea
- j) IW:Learn activities implemented

Component 4. Project Management (US\$0.6 million)

Sub-component 4.1: Project Coordination (US\$0.5 million). This sub-component will finance operating costs, goods, and consulting services required for project coordination, including the costs of a Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) within the UNEP Tehran Convention Secretariat, a Regional Steering Committee, and technical groups.

Sub-component 4.2: Monitoring and Evaluation (US\$0.1 million). The PCU will coordinate M&E, knowledge management, and learning activities and prepare semi-annual progress reports, which it will submit to the countries' governments and the World Bank, containing information on project progress as measured by the results framework. Progress reports will also report on gender participation, citizen engagement, grievance redress, and compliance with World Bank E&S Standards (ESS) and highlight any implementation risks and issues. The PCU will carry out mid-term and completion assessments where the achievement of project outcomes and impacts will be assessed. The M&E system will be anchored in the project's results framework, which includes annual outcome and result targets. Knowledge management and learning activities will be organized to share lessons from the project with national, regional, and global stakeholders.

Gender strategy. The project will conduct gender gap assessments to identify relevant gender gaps and address and monitor them as part of the project. Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan rank low on gender equality across socio-economic dimensions based on the Global Gender Gap Index in 2022. The Caspian Sea region as a whole is assessed to have 69 percent parity between men and women, with Azerbaijan ranking 101st in the world in the index and Kazakhstan ranking 65th. A ranking for Turkmenistan is not available due to data constraints. The project will conduct gender gap assessments to identify relevant gender gaps and address and monitor them as part of the project. Other gender-disaggregated results and outcomes will also be monitored. Furthermore, throughout various capacity-building programs and events of the project, provisions will be made to ensure the equal participation and benefit of women. By recognizing the multifaceted gender dimensions in components 1, 2 and 3, the project will contribute to fostering a more equitable and gender-sensitive approach to biodiversity and pollution management, ultimately advancing gender equality within the participating countries.

Stakeholder roles and responsibilities and socio-economic benefits: The project will be implemented by UNEP through its Tehran Convention Secretariat PCU as noted. The key stakeholders of the project, namely the relevant ministries of the three countries, will lead all project activities in their capacity as decision makers and technical professionals. Under Component 1, the governments will participate in workshops, training sessions, and exchanges, and take active role in the formulation and adoption of ICZM plans and MSPs. Under Component 2, they will contribute information to and endorse inventories, assessments, and plans, and participate in training and awareness programs. Under Component 3, the governments will contribute information to inventories and studies, lead the PA designation process, and participate in exchanges. The governments will also be represented in the Regional Steering Committee and provide technical specialists to the technical groups. Other stakeholders will be local coastal communities, who will benefit from fisheries value addition activities and actively participate in the development of ICZM plans and MSPs.

Durability, innovation, and scale-up potential: The project's strong focus on capacity enhancement through training, analysis, development of national and transboundary plans, designation of protected areas, and policy harmonization will ensure the durability of project outcomes. Further, the project will provide the three countries with fundamental tools that will inform and direct their financial allocations to address pollution and biodiversity loss. The project is expected to support the identification of state of the art technologies and best practices for addressing pollution and biodiversity in the context of the Caspian Sea, which could be scaled-up and replicated to additional transboundary systems in the region and the World. Further, the approach to addressing chemical pollution, which is the focus of this project, could be replicated to additional pollution sources, and the designation and strengthening of protected areas could be scaled up to additional protected areas in the Caspian Sea

Citizen Engagement. The project will ensure engagement and participation of relevant stakeholders at the local, national, and regional levels through training sessions, capacity building, and the participatory development of national strategies, policy harmonization, and coastal and marine management plans. The project will foster citizen engagement by reiterating and emphasizing the role and value of local, national, and regional stakeholders in project activities. Furthermore, incorporating stakeholder engagement into national strategies and investment plans will aid in ensuring that stakeholder viewpoints are addressed. A stakeholder engagement plan outlining various actions and mechanisms for achieving stakeholder dialogue and engagement will be prepared for the project.

[1] World Economic Forum. (2023). Global Gender Gap Index 2022

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

Strengthen the capacity of the participating countries to address pollution and improve biodiversity conservation in the Caspian Sea.

Project Components

Component 1: National and Regional Policy and Institution Strengthening

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,700,000.00	10,000,000.00

Outcome:

outcome 1.1.1: Improved marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management capacities

outcome 1.1.2: Improved regional coordination on BD conservation and pollution mitigation

Output:

Output 1.1.1: Transboundary ICZM plans and Marine Spatial Plans developed for adoption within the territorial waters of the three countries

Output 1.1.2: Exchanges between practitioners carried out on best practices on pollution and biodiversity,

Output 1.1.3: Workshops and training sessions of regional institution for ICZM plans and MSP application implemented

Output 1.1.4: Transboundary policy harmonization gap assessments carried out

Output 1.1.5: Transboundary MoU development on biodiversity and pollution

Output 1.1.6: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use - Indicator: 50,000 hectares protected areas created or under improved management / Indicator: 200,000 direct beneficiaries, of whom 100,000 females

Output 1.1.7: Policy harmonization gap assessments on biodiversity conservation and pollution management, and memoranda of understanding to harmonize regional policies: One shared water ecosystem under new or improved cooperative management (Caspian Sea)

Component 2: Pollution Management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
4,700,000.00	20,000,000.00

Outcome:

outcome 2.1.1: Improved knowledge, monitoring, and planning capacities to manage pollution

Output:

Output 2.1.1: Inventories of land-based point sources of pollution developed

Output 2.1.2: Pollution hotspots assessed

Output 2.1.3: Investment in pollution monitoring, including pollution monitoring stations

Output 2.1.4: Gender Sensitive Regional and/or national program of action developed and taken up by participating countries

Output 2.1.5: Best practices for environmentally sound technology developed and taken up by participating countries

Output 2.1.6: Public awareness programs developed and implemented, including on gender mainstreaming and women empowerment, developed and implemented

Component 3a (TA): Biodiversity and Fisheries Management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
2,350,000.00	10,000,000.00

Outcome:

outcome 3.1: Improved PA management capacities

Output:

Output 3.1.1: Regional and national inventories of threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna developed or improved

Output 3.1.2: Review of threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna conservation status and conservation regulations carried out

Output 3.1.6: PA staff trained on Nbs, aquaculture, management of PA, & pollution prevention

Output 3.1.7: Economic losses due to biodiversity loss estimated & Fisheries value addition studies prepared and proposed actions supported

Output 3.1.8: Public awareness programs implemented

Output 3.1.9: IW:Learn activities implemented

Component 3b (INV): Biodiversity and Fisheries Management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
2,350,000.00	10,000,000.00

Outcome:

3.2 Improved PA management

Output:

Output 3.2.1: Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use within the territorial waters of the three countries - Indicator: 10,000 hectares of protected areas created or under improved management

Output 3.2.1: PA management plans improved or prepared and taken up by participating countries, and key PA management actions implemented

Output 3.2.3: Marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas), including NBS - Indicator: 20,000 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
100,000.00	1,000,000.00

Outcome:

M&E, knowledge management, and learning activities

Prepare semi-annual progress reports, and disseminate information on project progress as measured by the results framework

Report on gender participation, citizen engagement, grievance redress, and compliance with World Bank E&S Standards (ESS)

Output:

mid-term and completion assessments

Knowledge management and learning activities will be organized to share lessons from the project with national, regional, and global stakeholders

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: National and Regional Policy and Institution Strengthening	1,700,000.00	10,000,000.00
Component 2: Pollution Management	4,700,000.00	20,000,000.00
Component 3a (TA): Biodiversity and Fisheries Management	2,350,000.00	10,000,000.00
Component 3b (INV): Biodiversity and Fisheries Management	2,350,000.00	10,000,000.00
M&E	100,000.00	1,000,000.00
Subtotal	11,200,000.00	51,000,000.00
Project Management Cost	543,120.00	2,000,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	11,743,120.00	53,000,000.00

Please provide justification

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

The project will leverage the results of the GEF-financed Caspian Environment Programme (CEP), which was implemented by UNEP, UNDP, and the World Bank, and aimed to halt the deterioration of the environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea and promote sustainable development in the region. In 2006,

the CEP became part of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) - a regional agreement of all five states bordering the Caspian Sea on safeguarding the marine environment and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea. The Convention seeks to increase cooperation on pollution prevention and control, environmental impact assessments, monitoring and assessment, and institutional and scientific cooperation. Through its UNEP-based Secretariat, the Convention has facilitated the development of an Environmental Monitoring Programme, which identifies monitoring institutions, standardizes methods, and sets water quality criteria; establishment of a Caspian Environment Information Centre; preparation of State of the Caspian Sea Environment reports; and conferences and awareness raising programs. It has also updated the Strategic Convention Action Plan (SCAP) and aligned countries' National Convention Action Plans (NCAPs) to ensure improved protection of the Caspian Sea environment. The project will support the implementation of the following five regional Convention protocols with focus on improving capacity and enabling policies:

- I. Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents (Aktau Protocol)
- II. Protocol on the Conservation of Biodiversity (Ashgabat Protocol)
- III. Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (Moscow Protocol)
- IV. Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (EIA Protocol)
- V. Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment, and Information Exchange

The planned World Bank-financed Middle Trade and Transport Corridor: Opportunities and Challenges Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) and Kazakhstan Railway Maintenance Project will provide in-kind co-financing to the project. The ASA will analyze trade, infrastructure, and regional development challenges and opportunities to enable the development of a continuity plan for the Middle Corridor (a trade route that goes through the Caspian Sea and links cargo coming from western China and Kazakhstan to Azerbaijan and onwards to Europe via the Black Sea basin). The ASA will also analyze sea level changes. The data will be used to determine nature-based solutions for ecosystem management and B conservation, and also improve the capacity of regional and national governments for environmental management and for maintaining the stability of the Caspian ecosystem. If the ASA results in the development of investment projects in the Middle Corridor, these will likely co-finance and complement the GEF project's BD conservation and pollution reduction efforts. The Kazakhstan Railway Maintenance Project may rehabilitate Kazakhstan's railways up to Aktau Port on the Caspian Sea. Any project investment in assets and infrastructure bordering the Caspian Sea will be informed by, and contribute to the GEF project's BD conservation and pollution management activities. The three participating countries will provide in-kind financing (US\$4 million each) through consensus building activities, engagement with research institutes, mobilization of technical resources, and provision of administrative resources to the project.

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)
50000	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)
50000	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)
TBD		Others	50,000.00			

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)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10000	0	0	0

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
10000	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)
TBD		Others	10,000.00			

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total 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)
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Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
20,000.00			

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

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

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Marine 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)

Indicator 7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem	Caspian Sea			
Count	1	0	0	0

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Caspian Sea	1			

Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministeral Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Caspian Sea	1			

Indicator 8 Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Fishery Details

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	100,000			
Male	100,000			
Total	200,000	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)

Terrestrial PA target: to be confirmed based on a percentage of the coastal protected area of the three countries.

PA creation or under improved management target: target set as 10% of the Azerbaijan marine protected area established as part of the GEF-funded Gizilaghaj State Reserve.

Marine habitat target: based on 10% of the three countries' coastal areas (4,487 km in total, i.e., 400 km) and 500-meter reach into the sea and the coastal zone.

Shared water ecosystem target: the Caspian Sea

Marine fisheries target: Specific figures for the current status of over-exploited marine fisheries in the Caspian Sea is not available. The indicator will be provided in the full project after collecting assessed information from: National Fisheries Authorities and Academic Research. The exact indicators will be provided during the project's preparation phase as they require further consultations with the countries.

The names, WDPA ID, IUCN category and areas of the existing terrestrial and marine protected areas that the project will work in to improve management effectiveness are not available at this stage. It is estimated that in addition to the core indicators above, the project will target about 30,000ha of terrestrial protected areas and 8,000ha of marine protected areas. The current estimates will be confirmed along with the exact names, WDPA ID, IUCN category during project preparation and included as part of the PAD.

Beneficiaries target: based on 5% of the three countries' coastal population. Female target: 50% of the total target.

GEF Core Indicator Targets:

- Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)

Target: 50,000

- Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)

Target: 10,000

- Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)

Target: 20,000

- Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management

Target: 1

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

Target: 200,000 of which 100,000 female

Direct beneficiaries are coastal communities of the three countries benefitting from reduced pollution and improved biodiversity conservation actions.

A. 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)

The project is aligned with the GEF-8 International Waters (IW) and Biodiversity (BD) Focal Areas. It will support the IW Focus Area Objective 1 (Accelerate Joint Action to Support a Sustainable Blue Economy) by supporting the collective management of Caspian Sea coastal and marine systems and policy, legal, and institutional reforms; assisting the three countries in addressing stressors leading to biodiversity loss and pollution; and supporting countries' sustainable blue economy opportunities. The BD Focus Area Objective 1 (Improve Conservation, Sustainable Use, and Restoration of Natural Ecosystems) will be supported by supporting the effective management and ecosystem coverage of PA systems within the territorial waters of the three countries, sustainable use of fisheries by supporting value addition activities, and biodiversity mainstreaming in marine spatial plans within the territorial waters of the three countries and integrated coastal zone management plans.

The project will contribute to meeting the objectives set forth in the World Bank Group's Country Partnership Frameworks (CPFs) of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, while supporting the National Development Strategy of Turkmenistan. The project aligns closely with the CPF of Kazakhstan for the Period FY20-25 (Report No. 143372) Focus Area 1 (Promoting Inclusive Growth), Objective 3 (Strengthen Connectivity Infrastructure and Regional Service Delivery for Better Local and Regional Integration) by increasing the capacity of regional and local institutions for development planning, coordination, and implementation; and Focus Area 3 (Securing Sustainable, Resilient, and Low Carbon Growth), Objective 7 (Preserve and Restore Natural Capital) by strengthening institutions' capacity for environmental planning, management, and coordination, strengthening systems and capacities to ensure compliance with environmental standards, and putting in place systems for restoration of degraded ecosystems. The project aligns with the CPF of Azerbaijan for the Period FY16-20 (Report No. 95860), Focus Area 1 (Public Sector Management and Service Delivery), Objective 1.4 (Contribute to Improved Quality of Environmental Assets) by supporting pollution management and reducing the number of people exposed to pollution hazards. For

Turkmenistan, the project will align with the Country Engagement Note under preparation and its proposed support to “Economic Diversification” and “Resilience to Climate Change and it will ensure alignment with the future WBG strategy for Turkmenistan. The project is aligned with the World Bank Regional Engagement Framework for Central Asia (REFCA, January 2023 Update), and its Pillar II (Regional Public Goods) focus on the Caspian Sea’s blue economy and the impacts of pollution and biodiversity loss on the region’s development.

The project will help address key gaps in the implementation of the Tehran Convention by building regional and national capacities for addressing marine pollution and biodiversity loss. In particular, it will support the implementation of the Convention’s Protocol on the Conservation of Biodiversity (Ashgabat Protocol) and the Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (Moscow Protocol), as well as the Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Cooperation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents (Aktau Protocol), Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (EIA Protocol), and Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment, and Information Exchange (under negotiations).

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets supported:

Target 1: by supporting participatory integrated BD-inclusive spatial planning within the territorial waters of the three countries

Targets 3+4: by designating PAs and putting in place PA management plans and capacities within the territorial waters of the three countries

Target 7: by identifying pollution sources and hotspots and developing plans to address them

Target 14: by harmonizing policies, regulations, and development processes for BD conservation and pollution mitigation in the Caspian Sea

Target 20: by supporting South-South exchanges between PA practitioners to enhance participating countries' capacity for PA designation and management

Target 21: by studying policy and regulation gaps for harmonization of BD conservation in the Caspian Sea and providing training to policymakers accordingly

Targets 22+23: by placing strong emphasis on participation of women and local communities in activities and policymaking-informing deliverables

B. 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: No

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: No

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

The PIF was developed on the basis of discussions with a range of stakeholders, primarily the representative of the ministries of ecology of the participating countries as well as stakeholders participating in the Tehran Convention process. The meetings with the the representative of the ministries of ecology of the participating countries were held: 1) in Dushanbe during the GEF Constituency meeting on May 18-20, 2023, online meeting on March 26, 2023, Vancouver GEF Assembly meeting in August 2023, and the GEF Extended Constituency Workshop in Skopje on October 2-5, 2023. Moreover, the consultations were held with the Tehran Convention Parties during the Caspian Ministerial consultation held on September 20-21, 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. In addition to the consultations with the country representatives, the following stakeholders were consulted via electronic means of the communication: 1) UNEP as an administrator of the Tehran Convention Secretariat, and 2) academic institutions and research organizations conducting studies and research related to environmental issues in the Caspian Sea region, such as national academies of science, national hydrometeorology services, and national institutes of oceanography.

(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?

Yes

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

Yes

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
High or Substantial			

C. 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 (\$)
World Bank	GET	Kazakhstan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	903,317.00	81,298.00	984,615.00
World Bank	GET	Azerbaijan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	903,317.00	81,298.00	984,615.00
World Bank	GET	Turkmenistan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	903,317.00	81,298.00	984,615.00
World Bank	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters: IW-1	Grant	9,033,169.00	812,985.00	9,846,154.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						11,743,120.00	1,056,879.00	12,799,999.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

183489

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

16512

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
World Bank	GET	Kazakhstan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	14,115.00	1,270.00	15,385.00

World Bank	GET	Azerbaijan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	14,115.00	1,270.00	15,385.00
World Bank	GET	Turkmenistan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	14,115.00	1,270.00	15,385.00
World Bank	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters: IW-1	Grant	141,144.00	12,702.00	153,846.00
Total PPG Amount						183,489.00	16,512.00	200,001.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
World Bank	GET	Kazakhstan	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
World Bank	GET	Azerbaijan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
World Bank	GET	Turkmenistan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
Total GEF Resources					3,000,000.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	2,709,951.00	26500000
IW-1-1	GET	9,033,169.00	26500000
Total Project Cost		11,743,120.00	53,000,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	20000000
GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	20000000
GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	500000

GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	500000
Recipient Country Government	Azerbaijan	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4000000
Recipient Country Government	Kazakhstan	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4000000
Recipient Country Government	Turkmenistan	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4000000
Total Co-financing				53,000,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The planned World Bank-financed Middle Trade and Transport Corridor: Opportunities and Challenges Advisory ASA and Kazakhstan Railway Maintenance Project will provide co-financing to the project. The ASA will analyze trade, infrastructure, and regional development challenges and opportunities to enable the development of a continuity plan for the Middle Corridor. The ASA will also analyze sea level changes. The data will be used to determine nature-based solutions for ecosystem management and B conservation, and also improve the capacity of regional and national governments for environmental management and for maintaining the stability of the Caspian ecosystem. If the ASA results in the development of investment projects in the Middle Corridor, these will likely co-finance and complement the GEF project's BD conservation and pollution reduction efforts. The Kazakhstan Railway Maintenance Project may rehabilitate Kazakhstan's railways up to Aktau Port on the Caspian Sea. Any project investment in assets and infrastructure bordering the Caspian Sea will be informed by, and contribute to the GEF project's BD conservation and pollution management activities. The two sources are expected to provide co-financing in equal amounts (US\$20 million each).

In addition, Japanese TF for Middle Corridor PASA and the PROBLUE TF for Fisheries ASA will each provide \$500,000 in co-financing for this project. The PASA will analyze trade, infrastructure, and regional development challenges and opportunities to enable the development of a continuity plan for the Middle Corridor (a trade route that goes through the Caspian Sea and links cargo coming from western China and Kazakhstan to Azerbaijan and onwards to Europe via the Black Sea basin).

Additional potential co-financing sources are being explored through other WB projects under preparation. In Kazakhstan, the Bank is currently discussing a one-WBG support to the Kazakh Railways, in which MIGA contributes to debt restructuring and green CAPEX financing, IBRD will finance key infrastructure investments and support the long-term financial sustainability, and IFC will support private sector investments in logistics. The Bank's Railway Maintenance Project (request received) may rehabilitate Kazakhstan's railways up to Aktau Port on the Caspian Sea. In addition, in Azerbaijan, the Bank and the government are currently engaged in the dialogue to start preparation of the Azerbaijan Railways Logistics and Digital Transformation Project. The infrastructure component will also include modernization of the interface between railways and Alat port on the Caspian Sea.

Finally, the three participating countries will provide in-kind financing (US\$8 million each) through consensus building activities, engagement with research institutes, mobilization of technical resources, and provision of administrative resources to the project.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Angela Armstrong	10/12/2023	Paula Agostini		aarmstrong@worldbank.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Emin Garabaghli	Head of Division of International Cooperation	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan	10/17/2023
Saule Sabiyeva	Deputy Director of the Climate Policy Department	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan	10/17/2023
Nury Jumashov	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan	3/15/2024

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

Project coordinates: 41.9350° N, 50.6689° E

Maps:



Map denotes current protected areas in the Caspian Sea, once selection of protected areas in which the project will operate is finalized, coordinates will be updated accordingly.



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

Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS)

Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS)

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Taxonomy list:

Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Fisheries, International Waters, Marine Protected Area, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, Learning, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Communications, Strategic Communications, Local Communities, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Participation, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Capacity Development, Knowledge Exchange, South-South