

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10367
Project Name:	Sustainable Forest and Rangelands Management in the Dryland Ecosystems of Uzbekistan
Countr(ies):	Uzbekistan
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Sustainable Forest and Rangelands Management in the Dryland Ecosystems of Uzbekistan

Country

Uzbekistan

GEF ID

10367

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

State Committee on Forestry; State Committee on land resources, geodesy, cartography and state cadaster

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/15/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 1st PIR

Objective

To promote SLM/SFM and landscapes restoration for achieving LDN commitments of Uzbekistan

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Unsatisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Unsatisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

4,135,750.00

Cumulative Disbursement

1,060,793.01

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

12/18/2021

Agency Approval

3/25/2022

Implementation Start

8/1/2022

First Disbursement

8/31/2023

Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 12/31/2026	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

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

According to the order of the Minister of Agriculture No. 2 dated January 8, 2024, National Project Coordinator (Project Team Leader) - Gafurov Nodir Kodirovich Administrative and Financial Assistant - Kuziboev Sukhrob National LDN-DSS coordinator - Khojiyev Anvarjon Makhmudovich National LD expert - Egamov Furkat Rustamovich National LDN consultant Egamberdiev Sanjar Translator - Koilova Ayna Alijon kizi, employees were hired for the project, and a vacancy announcement was made to attract international experts and a contract was signed.

Preliminary assessment work was carried out on 28.1 thousand hectares of land in the Jondor district and 3.7 thousand hectares in the Nurata district.

In April-May 2024, a list of land users of selected land plots in the Jandar and Nurata districts, as well as land plot maps, were developed, and project boundaries were determined. The number of contours of land plots selected for the project in the Jandar district of the Bukhara region is 6, the total area of the contours is 11,827 thousand hectares, and the number of landowners is 4, of which 3 are farms and 1 is a forestry organization.

In the Nurata district of the Navoi region, the number of contours of land plots selected for the project is 7, the total area of the contours is 1,111 thousand hectares, and the number of landowners is 3, of which 1 is a farm and 2 are forestry organizations.

In December 2024, a seminar on the advantages of integrated landscape management was held in Tashkent on the topic 'The role of LDN indicators (land cover, soil fertility) and their factors (soil erosion, soil salinity, soil carbon) and the Gender Action Plan' in coordination with FAO. With FAO support, the agreements have been signed with the Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemical Research and the State Project Institute 'Uzdaveroilya' on mapping the boundaries of public pastures (land plots) in Bukhara and Navoi regions. Based on these contracts, work was organized in stages.

In May 2024, a seminar was organized in the Bukhara region within the framework of the project on the topic 'Current State of Land Degradation, Desertification and Drought in the Regions and Combating Them.'

In March 2025, the Bukhara regional branch of the 'Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemical Research' acquired modern laboratory equipment for analyzing the composition of herbicides, pesticides, and other toxic substances in soil and plant products for 40 thousand US dollars, and in April 2025, a presentation of modern laboratory equipment was organized, which was widely disseminated through the mass media.

In October 2024, informational meetings were organized for central administrative and strategic planners of institutions of Bukhara and Navoi regions. A list of land users of selected land plots in the Jandar and Nurata districts was compiled, and a map of the boundaries of the project areas was compiled.

Seminars were held in the Bukhara region on the topic 'Current State of Land Degradation, Desertification and Drought in the Regions and Combating Them,' in the city of Tashkent on the topic 'The Importance of Strengthening the Rights of Pasture Land Owners (VGGT) and the Impact of LDN Indicators and Their Factors (Soil Erosion, Soil Salinity, Soil Organic Carbon (SOC)) on Decision-Makers' and 'Discussion of the draft Strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture on Gender Equality until 2030.' A methodological guide for the application of modern methods of monitoring pasture lands by remote sensing has been developed and will be approved.

In addition, within the framework of the project, an interdepartmental Working Group was formed to ensure the implementation of sustainable land management (SLM) in the regions.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Although the project funds were allocated as grants, they are spent in a manner equivalent to the funds of budget organizations of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The main reason for this is that ministries do not have a mechanism for direct use of project grant funds, since it is a pilot project. It is necessary to develop a separate mechanism for the use of funds, develop a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers in coordination with the FAO GEF, and coordinate it with the relevant organizations. The project imposes a 37 percent tax on employees' salaries (25 percent social tax, 12 percent income tax), which, in turn, creates difficulties in hiring qualified personnel; The project has staff turnover due to low monthly salaries of employees; the project was initiated in 2021 and was supposed to be completed on December 31, 2026, but due to the project's late start (in January 2024), it is difficult to achieve the set results in a short time and complete the project within the specified timeframe.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Forestry Agency under the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan	Project implementing partner	FAO team regularly communicates with the Agency colleagues to update on the progress of the operational partner agreement (OPA) preparation
Government Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan	Project implementing partner	FAO team facilitates all OPA related activities and always communicates with MoA colleagues to support them and prepare for OPA implementation
Government Institutions	Soil Research Institute, Uzbekistan	LoA implementing partner	LoA on land degradation assessment and mapping is ongoing
Government Institutions	Uzdavyerloykha Land Design Institute	LoA implementing partner	LoA on development of land management plans for two project sites is ongoing
NGOs	Council of Farmers, Dekhkan Farms and Landowners of Uzbekistan (Farmers' Council)	Partner NGO for activities related to smallholders, farmers, local communities, FFS	The Council was invited to the 1 st PSC meeting and will be contacted for developing its field and participatory activities in two target sites in Bukhara and Navoi provinces
NGOs	Association of Women Agrarians	Partner NGO for gender mainstreaming and capacity building activities	This NGO has a good cooperation history with FAO. The project team will involve the Association in the course Gender Action Plan implementation.

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	The project actively supported development of the Gender Strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan for 2025–2030. The strategy was approved by the Minister of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, Mr. Ibromkhon Abdurakhmonov, on 30 April 2025. The strategy aims to ensure gender equality in all areas of agriculture, including decision-making, education, access to resources, and employment.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	See above info
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	Through supporting of three target value chains in beekeeping, dairy processing and medicinal plants
Any other good practices on gender		Summary of the "Gender Strategy 2025–2030 of the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan": The strategy aims to ensure gender equality in all areas of agriculture, including decision-making, education, access to resources, and employment. Despite progress, significant gender disparities persist in leadership roles, access to land and technology, and participation in scientific research and rural governance. The document outlines key objectives such as improving gender statistics, integrating gender perspectives in budgeting, and enhancing women's leadership and training opportunities. It proposes specific actions like creating gender coordinators, developing gender-sensitive policies, and allocating a minimum budget for gender equality efforts. The strategy emphasizes international cooperation, eliminating stereotypes, and increasing Uzbekistan's ranking in global gender equality indexes in agriculture.

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	For better knowledge sharing, the project prepared three manuals to support Farmer field schools on beekeeping, dairy processing and medicinal plants. All project events are accompanied by the press-releases and widely distributed among all stakeholders.
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	Good practices will be reported in the next report.
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	The project team prepared an introductory video about the project. This video has been widely demonstrated at various events convening a big number of relevant stakeholders. A request is sent for publication of the project information on the UNCCD Interregional Working Group Website "Central Asia – Russia" at www.land-irg.org .
Human-interest story: Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	Not available yet.
Please provide links to related website, social media account	https://t.me/LDN_Uzbekistan
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets	Decision support for mainstreaming and scaling up of sustainable land management – Uzbekistan (fao.org); https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	The project team currently works on including of the quantitative target indicators into the project results framework. Once finalized, it will be shared in the following report.
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	Many of the project activities have been postponed due to time required for clearance and signing of the OPAs with both OPs.
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Jonfor district, Bukhara province of Uzbekistan	40.112172	63.675992	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Jonfor district	40.051222	63.522844	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Jonfor district	39.810308	64.032858	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Jonfor district	39.79375	64.061622	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Jonfor district	39.793825	64.06805	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Jonfor district	39.790722	64.066781	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nurata district, Navoiy province of Uzbekistan	40.422736	66.210758	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nurata district	40.449819	66.102431	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nurata district	40.363656	66.016736	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nurata district	40.363361	66.017753	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nurata district	40.373189	66.009372	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nurata district	40.374367	66.008639	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nurata district	40.378456	66.004633	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	GEFID10367_2025PIR_FAO_Uzbekistan
