

# Sustainable Forest and Rangelands Management in the Dryland Ecosystems of Uzbekistan

Edit and Submit CEO Endorsement

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10367

**Countries**

Uzbekistan

**Project Name**

Sustainable Forest and Rangelands Management in the Dryland Ecosystems of Uzbekistan

**Agencies**

FAO

**Date received by PM**

6/18/2021

**Review completed by PM**

**Program Manager**

Asha Bobb-Semple

**Focal Area**

Land Degradation

**Project Type**

FSP

**PIF** ☐

**CEO Endorsement** ☐

**Part I ? Project Information**

**Focal area elements**

**1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Yes

Please select a ?1? for the climate change mitigation RIO Marker.

Agency Response

**Project description summary**

**2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response

**3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

N/A

Agency Response

**Co-financing**

**4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

-The FAO letter does not correspond to the information entered in the portal. The portion of co-financing assigned as in-kind and cash is different. Please revise where appropriate.

Agency Response

**GEF Resource Availability**

**5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Please see comments below.

-Audits should be covered by the PMC, please adjust.

-Please provide justification for the request for 3 vehicles. In keeping with GEF policy, these costs should be covered by co-financing in the first instance.

-We note that the M&E Expert is not included in the M&E Budget. Please clarify.

Agency Response  
**Project Preparation Grant**

**6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response  
**Core indicators**

**7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E?  
Do they remain realistic?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
6/25/2021:

-Please include below the core indicator table additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used.

-Please upload the FAO-Ex ACT tool for Core Indicator 6

Agency Response

**Part II ? Project Justification**

**1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
6/25/2021:

Yes

Please indicate the current context at it relates to COVID 19 impacts on Uzbekistan and the targeted project site.

Agency Response

**2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response

**3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?**

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/25/2021:

Thank you for the comprehensive information on the project interventions. Please see comments below.

-TOC- Please include assumptions in the Theory of Change. Please refer to STAP guidance.

-Given that a barrier identified was access to credit/finance by small farmers. What sustained mechanisms are being put in place to ensure small farmers are able to continue the SLM activities after the project has ended?

-Please indicate how the project can assist with green recovery in Uzbekistan. Please refer to the COVID guidance provided by the GEF.

Agency Response

**4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response

**5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response

**6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response

**7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Not fully.

Please see comment above related to access to finance and sustainability.

Agency Response

**Project Map and Coordinates**

**Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Please include the required maps under Section 1b of the portal submission.

Agency Response

**Child Project**

**If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

**Stakeholders**

**Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase?  
Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response

**Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response

## **Private Sector Engagement**

**If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Please elaborate further on the profile of the private sector stakeholders involved in the targeted value chains, beyond the small farmers.

Agency Response

**Risks to Achieving Project Objectives**

**Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Not fully.

We note the inclusion of information on the risks of COVID to Uzbekistan in general. Please include in the risk table, the potential COVID related risks to the implementation of the project and the potential mitigation measures that will be implemented. These risks may include potential limitations in co-finance from the government, challenges with restrictions in mobility etc.

Agency Response

**Coordination**

**Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request



6/25/2021:

-A link should be made to the Drylands IP and specifically to the planned Regional Exchange Mechanism (REM) in Central Asia. We note the link CACILM, but we need to see credible efforts (not only a statement in the project document) to link the project to the Drylands IP.

#### Agency Response

##### **Consistency with National Priorities**

**Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Yes

#### Agency Response

##### **Knowledge Management**

**Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Yes

#### Agency Response

##### **Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)**

**Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response  
**Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response  
**Benefits**

**Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response  
**Annexes**

**Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
6/25/2021:

Not fully.

Agency Response  
**Project Results Framework**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response  
**GEF Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response  
**Council comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response  
**STAP comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response  
**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response  
**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response  
**CSOs comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

**Status of PPG utilization**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

Yes

Agency Response

**Project maps and coordinates**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/25/2021:

No. Please include the maps under Annex D.

Agency Response

**Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

**Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

**Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
6/25/2021:

Not at this time. Please address the comments above.

**Review Dates**

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>First Review</b>	<b>6/25/2021</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		