



**Conservation and sustainable management of lakes, wetlands, and riparian corridors as pillars of a resilient and land degradation neutral Aral basin landscape supporting sustainable livelihoods**

**Part I: Project Information**

**GEF ID**

10356

**Project Type**

FSP

**Type of Trust Fund**

GET

**CBIT/NGI**

**CBIT No**

**NGI No**

**Project Title**

Conservation and sustainable management of lakes, wetlands, and riparian corridors as pillars of a resilient and land degradation neutral Aral basin landscape supporting sustainable livelihoods

**Countries**

Uzbekistan

**Agency(ies)**

UNDP

**Other Executing Partner(s)**

State Committee on Ecology and Environment Protection

**Executing Partner Type**

Government

**GEF Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Species, Threatened Species, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Biomes, Wetlands, Lakes, Desert, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Forest, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Pasture Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Communications, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Education, Type of Engagement, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Partnership, Private Sector, Capital providers, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Trade Unions and Workers Unions, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Innovation

**Rio Markers****Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 0

**Submission Date**

6/10/2021

**Expected Implementation Start**

1/1/2022

**Expected Completion Date**

12/31/2026

**Duration**

60In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

337,532.00

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

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
BD-2-7	Outcome 8: The area of protected areas under effective and equitable management is significantly increased	GET	1,200,000.00	5,520,000.00
BD-1-1	Outcome 4: Loss, fragmentation, and degradation of significant natural habitats, and associated extinction debt, is reduced, halted or reversed, and conservation status of known threatened species is improved and sustained, including through monitoring, spatial planning, incentives, restoration, and strategic establishment of protected areas and other measures.	GET	526,484.00	1,000,000.00
LD-1-4	Objective 1: Support on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN	GET	1,826,484.00	53,070,000.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>3,552,968.00</b>	<b>59,590,000.00</b>

## B. Project description summary

### Project Objective

To enhance the resilience and sustainability of landscapes and livelihoods in the Aral basin, and progress toward Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), through integrated management of land, lake, wetland, and riparian ecosystems, with engagement of private sector and local communities.

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing (\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b>
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1. Coordinated water management as basis for LDN and conservation	Technical Assistance	<p><b>Outcome 1.</b> Improved water management for resilient ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Water saving agriculture demonstrated on 112,180 ha of irrigated agricultural land, for reduced land degradation</li> <li>Recommendations for sustainable water management measures developed for 1,050,910 ha of irrigated agricultural land</li> <li>-Water levels in 957,260 ha of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs: lake, wetland and riparian ecosystems) sufficient to maintain extent of current ecosystem and ensure natural restoration.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Output 1.1</b> Revised norms of volume and timing of water supply through key hydrotechnical facilities developed and adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Multi-stakeholder Task Force and Multi-stakeholders Committee set up with presence of relevant ministries and water users</li> <li>-Ecologically-justified science-based norms of water volumes and supply timing developed for key areas important for agriculture and KBAs</li> <li>-New ?Concept on Water Release to Lakes, Wetlands and Riparian Zones? developed</li> <li>-Finalized agreement between the State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Water Resources drafted and formally approved, norms of volumes and timing of water supply consulted and adopted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 1.2.</b> Integrated Water Management Framework and LDN-compatible and climate-smart water management plans designed in 4 priority districts based on Output 1.1 and used as input to Output 2.1.</p>	GE T	605,920.00	40,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2. Sustainable land management for Land	Investment	<p><b>Outcome 2.</b> Practical improvement in soil and vegetation condition management and new livelihood opportunities created for local communities in line with LDN checklist:</p> <p>-90,000 ha of pasture and -10,000 ha of tugai and turanga forests managed sustainably with communities in 4 priority districts.</p> <p>-1,500 ha of degraded land restored.</p>	<p><b>Output 2.1</b> LDN progress assessment for Karakalpakstan completed; regional LDN targets confirmed, future actions developed and monitoring systems proposed; LDN action plan updated.</p> <p><b>Output 2.2</b> Integrated land-use spatial planning in 4 priority districts developed and under implementation in line with LDN principles,</p> <p><b>Output 2.3</b> Improved management of pasture land by local communities in 4 priority districts</p> <p><b>Output 2.4.</b> Innovative land restoration supported at most degraded areas</p> <p><b>Output 2.5.</b></p> <p>Community forest use in riparian corridors in 4 priority districts developed and under implementation.</p>	GET	870,620.00	8,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3. Conservation of globally significant Aral basin biodiversity	Investment	<p><b>Outcome 3.1</b> Lake, wetland, and riparian corridor KBAs secured through strengthened protected area estate</p> <p>-5 new protected areas established covering net new 3,094,600 ha of protected territory</p> <p>-METT scores improved by at least 20% over baseline by end of project in 5 PAs covering 757,329 ha</p> <p>-Stable or improved trend of populations of globally significant biodiversity indicator species, such as Bukhara deer, Goitered gazelle, Central Asian tortoise, Sakar falcon, Greater spotted eagle, and other species within the expanded PA estate</p> <p>Outcome 3.2 Lake, wetland and riparian corridor biodiversity mainstreamed in sustainable land-use:</p>	<p><b>Output 3.1.1</b> Grounds established for protected area estate expansion securing the integrity of lake, wetland and riparian KBAs in Aral Sea region, through completion of feasibility studies, mapping and inventory, zoning regimes, management and financial planning</p> <p><b>Output 3.1.2</b> Improved management effectiveness of the existing PAs through PA regime compliance and enforcement, zoning, patrolling, research, species-focused conservation activities</p> <p><b>Output 3.2.1</b> PA buffer zones and corridors identified, planned and mapped through integrated district land use management plans (coordinated with Output 2.2) and implemented with supporting regulations</p> <p><b>Output 3.2.2</b> Training and capacity strengthening of local environmental inspectorates and border security</p> <p><b>Output 3.2.3</b> Sustainable livelihoods supported in KBA buffer zones and corridors (e.g. fast-growing plantations as alternative to logging; cattle grazing rotation and use of distant pastures).</p>	GE T	1,367,620.00	8,260,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4. International cooperation and knowledge management	Technical Assistance	<p><b>Outcome 4.1</b> Increased level of awareness and technical knowledge among local communities about LDN and key biodiversity values of the Aral Sea Region in connection with the water use patterns.</p> <p><b>Outcome 4.2</b> Uzbekistan's cooperation in the international environmental programming for the Aral Sea basin strengthened.</p> <p>-Uzbekistan present at least at 3 meetings of IFAS</p> <p>-Analytical reports available to support Uzbekistan in negotiations under Integrated Fund for Aral Sea (IFAS) and the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan (UN MPHSTF).</p>	<p><b>Output 4.1.1</b> Education and awareness raising campaigns for local resource users about key biodiversity values and sustainable land-use management regimes and regulations</p> <p><b>Output 4.1.2</b> Awareness campaign for sustainable water use targeting decision-makers at local and regional levels</p> <p><b>Output 4.2.1</b> The Government, scientific community and NGOs supported (e.g. through preparation of science-based technical papers, communications/negotiations with other Aral Sea basin countries, and international advice where relevant) in developing and negotiating decisions on the Aral Sea basin at the international level</p> <p><b>Output 4.2.2</b> Donor/private sector/Government platform on replenishing the UN MPHSTF functions resulting in agreed new projects/activities focusing on integrated approaches towards water resource management and climate-smart land and resource use.</p>	GE T	459,088.00	1,335,000.00

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing (\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b>
Component 5. Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	<b>Outcome 5.1</b> Project Results properly monitored and evaluated	<b>Output 5.1.1.</b> Set of monitoring and evaluation activities implemented	GET	81,720.00	75,000.00
<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>					<b>3,384,968.00</b>	<b>57,670,000.00</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>						
			GET	168,000.00	1,920,000.00	
			<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>	<b>168,000.00</b>	<b>1,920,000.00</b>	
			<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>	<b>3,552,968.00</b>	<b>59,590,000.00</b>	

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

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Water Resources	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	40,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	8,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	4,840,000.00
Recipient Country Government	State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection	Public Investment	Recurrent expenditures	680,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Forestry Management Units and Forestry Hunting Enterprises	Public Investment	Recurrent expenditures	1,800,000.00
Private Sector	Council of Farmers	Grant	Investment mobilized	4,000,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	270,000.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>59,590,000.00</b>

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

Investment mobilized: The Government components of the Investment mobilized represent relevant parallel investment and governmental finance channelled through the budgets of co-financing partners listed above. The Private Sector component of investment mobilized represents investments into SLM measures in the project areas, namely soft loans under the State Fund "On Additional Measures to Improve the Activities of Farmers, Dekhan Farms and Owners of Private Lands" managed by the Council of Farmers. Section VII "Financial Planning and Management" of the GEF-UNDP Project Document provides more information about parallel investments and cofinancing considered under different outputs. The co-financing commitments have been confirmed in writing as evidenced by the co-financing letters attached to the GEF-UNDP Project Document (Annex 20-separate attachment).

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

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>
UNDP	GET	Uzbekistan	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,826,484	173,516
UNDP	GET	Uzbekistan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,726,484	164,016
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>3,552,968.00</b>	<b>337,532.00</b>

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

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

PPG Required **false**

**PPG Amount (\$)**

100,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

9,500

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programmin g of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>
UNDP	GET	Uzbekistan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	100,000	9,500
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>100,000.00</b>	<b>9,500.00</b>

## Core Indicators

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
4,323,629.00	3,851,929.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
3,194,600.00	3,094,600.00	0.00	0.00

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)
<b>Akula National Park</b> Akdarya-Kazakhdar ya interfleuve	<b>125689</b>	<b>SelectHabitat /Species Management Area</b>	22,200.00	22,200.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Akula National Park</b> Akpetki	<b>125689</b>	<b>SelectHabitat /Species Management Area</b>	587,700.00	587,700.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Akula National Park</b> Central Kyzylkum	<b>125689</b>	<b>SelectNational Park</b>	1,100,000.00	1,000,000.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Akula National Park</b> South Ustyurt	<b>125689</b>	<b>SelectNational Park</b>	1,400,000.00	1,400,000.00		<input type="checkbox"/>

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)
Akula National Park Sudoche Lakes system	125689	SelectHabitat/Species Management Area	84,700.00	84,700.00		

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)
1,129,029.00	757,329.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Dengizkul State Refuge	125689	SelectHabitat/Species Management Area	50,000.00	50,000.00			22.00		
Akula National Park Kyzylkum State Reserve	125689	SelectStrict Nature Reserve	10,311.00	10,311.00			51.00		

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)
Akula National Park Lower Amu Darya State Biosphere Reserve	125689	Select Strict Nature Reserve	68,718.00	68,718.00			63.00		
Akula National Park Saigchy State Refuge	125689	Select Habitat/Species Management Area	1,000,000.00	0.00			0.00		
Akula National Park State complex (landscape) nature reserve (refuge) Saigchy	125689	Select Others		628,300.00			68.00		

**Indicator 3 Area of land restored**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1500.00	1500.00	0.00	0.00

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,500.00	1,500.00		

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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)
100000.00	100000.00	0.00	0.00

**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 that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)**

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

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)
90,000.00	90,000.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,000.00	10,000.00		

**Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)**

Title	Submitted

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	132795	132795	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (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 CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	132,795	132,795		
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	39,000	14,780		
Male	41,000	34,520		
Total	80000	49300	0	0

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

1a. *Project Description*. Elaborate on:

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

The land and water values of the Aral Sea Basin are set within the context of the well-known Aral Sea disaster that has occurred over the past 70 years. There have been no substantial changes in terms of the global environmental problems identified since the PIF was designed and approved. The existing problems and root causes have been analysed in more detail, and presented in the GEF/UNDP Project Document. The project's Theory of Change (ToC) summarizing the remaining barriers and proposed pathways to change, is presented in the GEF/UNDP Project Document.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects:

The overall body of work and regional efforts for restoration of the Aral Sea, coordinated through the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) has been considered as being the key baseline initiative, as indicated in the PIF. The baseline has been further elaborated during the PPG and a full account of the baseline projects and programmes is presented in the Annex 25 of the GEF/UNDP Project Document. The key baseline programmes and potential synergies with the project's interventions are presented below:

**The National Water Management Project (second phase 2020-2023)** in Uzbekistan aims to support the Ministry of Water resources in managing the water resources by strengthening its operational capacity at local and central levels, improving the legal framework of the water sector and reducing the risks of natural disaster. It is implemented by IFAS Agency in close cooperation with the Ministry of Water Resources. The second phase will be implemented during 2020-2023, funded by the Swiss government, with a total budget of 4.6 million Swiss francs ( approx. \$ 6.9 million). Both projects will target institutional and regulatory water framework. The GEF project will work on regulatory amendments and advocacy to prioritise adequate water releases to lakes, wetland and riparian areas in lower Amudarya reaches.

The current operational phase of the IFAS executed project **Creation of small local reservoirs in Amudarya delta Operational phase 2020-2025** is aiming at the restoration of the lakes and water bodies in Amudarya delta through engineering works. The project provides for the creation of a complex engineering structures in Amudarya delta and artificially flooded landscape ecosystems in adjacent territories of the dried Aral seabed with the view to restoring the natural ecological regime

throughout the whole South Aral Sea region, targeting Mezhdurechensk, Rybachye, Muynak and Dzhitirbas reservoirs, Mashankul, Ilenkul, Makpalkol and Dumalak lakes. The project is implemented in several stages. The estimated total amount invested during 2018-2019 is 361.9 billion Uzbek soums (approx.\$35.5 million). In 2020, within the framework of the project, the reconstruction of Moynaq Canal (2020) is being implemented with the support of the State budget and Aral Sea Trust Fund (\$8.3 million). The GEF project will be incremental to the current Government's efforts and will provide the necessary inter-institutional coordination, technical support and integrated water management frameworks and legal amendments that will lead to a guaranteed ecological flow to maintain these lakes and reservoirs and wetlands ecosystems.

Asian Development Bank project **Uzbekistan: Climate Adaptive Water Resources Management in the Aral Sea Basin Sector Project** ? this is a proposed \$ 150 million loan investments to deliver adaptive solutions by modernizing the irrigation and drainage system in selected subprojects in Amyudarya and Zarafshan River Basins in Uzbekistan. The opportunities for synergies will be explored, as both projects have planned activities in Amudarya River basin and there will be opportunities to collaborate on good practices in irrigated areas and support to improving water sector legislation.

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) project **Advanced ICT based Integrated Water Resources Management IWRM system in the Republic of Uzbekistan**- this is an initiative under preparation at the time of this GEF project submission. The total budget envisaged is US\$ 10 million, implementation period 2022-2025. The main project objective is to support the Ministry of Water Resources and provide ICT tools and advanced SMART technology to monitor the water releases to Amudarya delta water ecosystems. This is a continuation phase of the KOICA initiatives implemented during 2016-2020 to advance the automation of control processes at the level of hydrotechnical (hydraulic) facilities/structures, in terms of water monitoring and accounting, development of on-line information monitoring system of the water flow rates, volumes at water facilities. The synergy opportunities between the two projects are clearly related to the modernisation and optimisation of the hydrotechnical facilities in Amudarya basin, given the GEF contribution to the assessments of the existing hydrotechnical facilities and recommendations for modernisation and optimisation. UNDP will explore possibilities of cooperation and co-financing possibly during the project inception phase.

State Fund **On Additional Measures to Improve the Activities of Farmers, Dekhkan Farms and Owners of Private Lands?** based on the resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan April 26, 2018 No. PP-3680. The Fund is managed by the Council of Farmers. The Fund will spend \$38 million worth soft loans disbursed through three main banks: Microcredit Bank, Agro Bank and Halbank , in the form of soft loans (15% interest rate) supporting innovative activities in agriculture sector, introduction of new types of agricultural products and technologies, implementation of state programmes and other projects conducive to agricultural activities in the country. The Project will partner with the Council of Farmers in order to encourage investments from the Fund into LDN compatible Sustainable Land Management (SLM) measures.

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;

The project document follows closely the PIF main components, outcomes and outputs, which have remained the same. However, the wording of several outputs was slightly modified to better indicate the approach, activities and the number of hectares of targeted ecosystems (e.g. pastures, lakes, protected areas) which has been adjusted in order to reflect the official data.

PIF Outcomes/Outputs ( Component 1)	Project Document Outcomes/Output (Component 1)
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**Outcome 1.** Improved water management for resilient ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods:

- Water levels in 670,000 ha of irrigated agricultural land adequate for reduced land degradation.
- Water levels in 900,000 ha of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs: lake, wetland and riparian ecosystems) sufficient to maintain extent of current ecosystem and ensure natural restoration.

**Outcome 1.** Improved water management for resilient ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods:

-Sustainable water management demonstrated on 112,180 ha of irrigated agricultural land, resulting in reduced land degradation.

-Water levels in 957,260 ha of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs: lake, wetland and riparian ecosystems) sufficient to maintain extent of current ecosystem and ensure natural restoration.

The extent of irrigated area in the four targeted districts was adjusted from 670,000 ha (as per assumption at PIF stage) to 112,180 ha (representing the existent irrigated arable land in the 4 targeted district as per 2018 official data obtained from the Ministry of Water Resources).

However this is just an apparent reduction, as the project will set up prerequisites for sustainable water management regimes for the entire LADAB landscape. To this end, the project will develop: 1) First an Integrated Water Management Framework (i.e. an inter-institutional coordination framework and water use planning tool) which covers 1,050,910 ha i.e. the existent irrigated area in LADAB landscape. This framework document will be aligned with the IWRM principles and it is expected to improve the inter-institutional cooperation and agreements on balanced water allocation among different sectors, including the natural ecosystems and water depended bodies in LADAB area, covering approximately 957,260 ha.

2) Second, the project will select the irrigated areas in the 4 pilot pilot districts (i.e. covering 112,180 ha) for which it will go into a more in-depth assessments of the water use patterns and will develop 4 LDN compatible, Gender Sensitive, Climate Smart Integrated Water Management Plans encompassing concrete water saving measures at farm level.

The wording ? adequate water levels? (i.e. that allows for 40% reduction of humus and 25% lower salinity? as per the PIF definition) has been **replaced** with ? sustainable water management?, due to the fact that the PPG experts have considered the definition of ?adequate water level? provided in the PIF too ambitious for the project duration and scale. Instead, it is expected that as a result of a sustainable water management applied at 112,180 ha of irrigated areas (with cofinancing support) a 1% reduced salinized land per year, 10% reduction of water losses and a slight increase in soil bonitet//<sup>1</sup> could be attainable.

In addition, the area of lakes and wetlands was adjusted from 900,000 ha (at PIF stage) to 957,260 ha (PPG stage) in order to take into account the official data. This area includes all the lakes that depend on the irrigation system of LADAB landscape. The main water bodies and canals collectors as well as the total water requirements are shown in GEF/UNDP Project Document Annex 22: Target Landscape profile.

<p><b>Output 1.1</b> Revised norms of volume and timing of water supply through key hydrotechnical facilities developed and adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Multi-stakeholder task force set up with presence of relevant ministries and water users</li> <li>- Ecologically justified science-based norms of water volumes and supply timing developed for key areas important for agriculture and KBAs</li> <li>- Finalized agreement on norms of volumes and timing of water supply consulted and adopted by relevant authorities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Output 1.1</b> Revised norms of volume and timing of water supply through key hydrotechnical facilities developed and adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Multi-stakeholder Task Force and Multi-stakeholders Committee set up with presence of relevant ministries and water users</li> <li>-Ecologically-justified science-based norms of water volumes and supply timing developed for key areas important for agriculture and KBAs</li> <li>-New 'Concept on Water Release to Lakes, Wetlands and Riparian Zones' developed</li> <li>-Finalized agreement between the State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Water resources drafted and formally approved, norms of volumes and timing of water supply consulted and adopted.</li> </ul> <p>The project output was reworded to indicate several additions: (i) The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism includes a Task Force (formed by technical experts) and a Multi-stakeholder Committee (formed by the representatives of line ministries, agencies and international bodies) aiming at leveraging political support and reconciliation among multiple water users. (ii) The new 'Concept on Water Release to Lakes, Wetlands and Riparian Zones', will encompass guidelines and recommendations (based on the assessments) for revised water requirements, norms and necessary changes in the water releases to account for climate change induced water deficits and maintain the ecological integrity of the lakes and wetlands. (iii) A formal agreement between the State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Water Resource is necessary in order to agree on the increased water releases (to guarantee the minimum ecological flow) to lakes and wetlands especially during dry years.</p>
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<p><b>Output 1.2.</b> Integrated LDN-compatible and climate-smart water management plans designed in 4 priority districts based on Output 1.1 and used as input to Output 2.1</p>	<p><b>Output 1.2.</b> Integrated Water Management Framework designed for LADAB landscape and 4 LDN-compatible Gender Sensitive Climate-Smart Integrated Water Management designed in 4 priority districts based on Output 1.1 and used as input to Output 2.1</p> <p>The project output was reworded and the words ? Integrated Water Management framework ? were added to the Output title, reflecting the expanded scope of the project?s work under this output, which is now aligned with the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles.</p> <p>The PIF has initially foreseen the development of 4 Integrated Water Management Plans in the four targeted districts (Alat, Bukhara, Amudarya and Moynaq) in two provinces (Bukhara and Karakalpakstan).</p> <p>The GEF-UNDP Project Document has sequenced this work under two steps:</p> <p>Step 1: The proeject will develop an Integrated Water Management Framework, intended as a sustainable water management use planning tool designed to cover the entire 1,050,910 ha irrigated land in LADAB landscape (i.e. 3 provinces Bukhara, Khorezm and Karakalpakstan), aligned with the hydrographic area and irrigation system.</p> <p>Step 2: The project will then develop 4 Integrated LDN compatible Water Management Plans in 4 priority districts, covering 112,180 ha irrigated area, in the pilot districts, where the project will conduct a deeper water use analysis and will develop and implement concrete water management measures.</p> <p>The PPG experts estimate that implementation of efficient water use at the level of LADAB landscape (by replicating the good practices in the 4 pilot districts) could generate more significant water savings that could be re-directed to lakes and wetlands, in order to maintain the minimum ecological flow necessary for their ecological integrity.</p>
<p>PIF Outcomes/Outputs ( Component 2)</p>	<p>Project Document Outcomes/Outputs ( Component 2)</p>

**Outcome 3.1** Lake, wetland, and riparian corridor KBAs secured through strengthened protected area estate

- 5 new protected areas established covering net new 3,194,600 ha of protected territory
- METT scores improved by at least 20% over baseline by end of project in 5 PAs covering 1,129,029 ha
- Stable or improved trend of populations of globally significant biodiversity indicator species, such as Bukhara deer, Goitered gazelle, Central Asian tortoise, Sakar falcon, Greater spotted eagle, and other species within the expanded PA estate

**Outcome 3.1** Lake, wetland, and riparian corridor KBAs secured through strengthened protected area estate

-5 new protected areas established covering new 3,094,600 ha of protected territory

-METT scores improved by at least 20% over baseline by end of project in 5 existing PAs covering 757,329 ha

- Stable or improved trend of populations of globally significant biodiversity indicator species, such as Bukhara deer, Goitered gazelle, Central Asian tortoise, Saker falcon, Greater spotted eagle, and other species within the expanded PA estate

The project outcome is not changed. The number of hectares are different than the figures reflected in the PIF, adjusted according to the official data obtained from the State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection:

●The difference between the number of hectares of proposed new PAs (3,194,600 ha) in the PIF and the number of hectares of the proposed new PA in the project document (3,094,600 ha) is given by the official data on the actual territory of the Central Kyzylkum which covers only 1,000,000 ha (instead of 1,100,000 ha reflected in the PIF).

●The difference between the number of hectares of PAs under improved management effectiveness and METT score increase in the PIF ( 1,129,029 ha) and the number of hectares in the project document (757,329 ha) comes from the territory of Saygachy Refuge which, according to the recent official data, is covering only 628,300 ha (instead of 1,000,000 ha as reflected in the PIF).

<p><b>Outcome 3.2</b> Lake, wetland and riparian corridor biodiversity mainstreamed in sustainable land-use:</p> <p>80,000 people (incl 39,000 women) directly benefit economically from improved sustainability of livelihoods.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 3.2</b> Lake, wetland and riparian corridor biodiversity mainstreamed in sustainable land-use: 49,300 people (including 14,780 women) directly benefit economically from improved sustainability of livelihoods.</p> <p>In the GEF/UNDP project document the targeted total number of direct beneficiaries is conservatively estimated as being the sum of (i) approximately 10% of the total population employed in agriculture in the four priority districts that will benefit from improved pastures, forests land use regimes and will implement SLM measures (ii) number of people benefiting from training, awareness, and research activities implemented by the project (iii) number of people benefiting from the Micro-scheme support for farmers (Output 3.2.3).</p> <p>An assessment methodology will be developed by the project team at the inception stage for a more accurate estimation and monitoring of direct beneficiaries.</p>
<p>PIF Outcomes/Outputs ( Component 4)</p>	<p>Project Document Outcomes/Outputs ( Component 4)</p>
<p><b>Outcome 4.1</b> Increased level of awareness among local communities about LDN and key biodiversity values of the Aral Sea Region in connection with the water use patterns.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 4.1</b> Increased level of awareness and technical knowledge among local communities about LDN and key biodiversity values of the Aral Sea Region in connection with the water use patterns.</p> <p>The outcome was slightly reworded to reflect the focus on trainings aiming at improving the technical background of the local natural resource users and local managers on Land Degradation Neutrality; on Sustainable Land Management measures to advance towards land degradation neutrality; sustainable water management and water saving methods in irrigated and non-irrigated farming etc.</p>
<p>PIF Outcomes/Outputs (Component 5)</p>	<p><b>Project Document Outcomes/Outputs (Component 5)</b></p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>Outcome 5.1 Project result sproperly monitored and evaluated</p> <p>Output 5.1.1 Set of monitoring and evaluation activities implemented</p> <p>Component 5 ?Monitoring and Evaluation? was organized into a new and separate component to ensure correspondence with the GEF Budget template</p>

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

The project is expected to generate global environment benefits that correspond to two GEF focal areas, by tackling the underlying drivers of land degradation and biodiversity loss. Thus, the project takes strategic direction from the GEF-7 programming guidance for the land degradation and biodiversity focal areas. With respect to land degradation the project links directly to Uzbekistan's

commitment under the UNCCD to achieve its national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets (linked at the global level to the Sustainable Development Goals target 15.3) and has been designed in line with the UNCCD LDN Checklist. The project's Component 2 is programmed for a synergistic approach aligned with both LD Objective 1? Support on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN? and LD focal area Objective 2 ? Creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation? and BD focal area Objective 1 ?Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes?. Under Component 2 the project will promote LDN centered integrated and participative land use planning in production zones and will facilitate local communities and entrepreneurs access to affordable financing to restore and maintain soil productivity and promote biodiversity friendly agricultural practices.

The project Component 3 is programmed for the BD focal area within its Objective 2 ?Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species?, with its spatial planning elements addressing Objective 1 ?Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes?. The main entry point to address direct drivers of biodiversity loss will be ?Improving Financial Sustainability, Effective Management, and Ecosystem Coverage of the Global Protected Area Estate? where the project will contribute to the achievement of global and regional targets for the targeted GEF 7 core indicators for the BD focal areas. Uzbekistan has a strategic national goal to increase its national protected area coverage from 12% of the national territory to 17% of the national territory by 2025. The proposed project will assist and support the implementation of this goal, particularly through increasing coverage of protected areas for lakes, wetlands and riparian corridors in the Aral Sea basin. The project will also work to strengthen the capacity of existing PA covering the most significant KBAs in the country.

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

The initial total cost of the project estimated at PIF stage was *USD 62,876,968*. At PPG stage, the total cost of the project is : *63,142,968 USD*.

The difference in co-financing amount results from the following changes:

1. Two of the anticipated co-financing commitments could not be considered at the time of CEO Endorsement Request namely the 2,000,000 USD from the German Federal Ministry for Environmental Cooperation and Development (GIZ)- due to the fact that their on-going project in Lower Amudarya Biosphere Reserve (which has been considered as potential co-financing source at the PIF stage) has ended in October 2020. And the 694,000 USD from the Government of Japan as this initiative will end in 2021 before the GEF project will become operational.

2. There has been an increase of the co-financing from the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection from 2,680,000 USD (at the PIF stage) to 5,520,000 USD (at the CEO Endorsement request stage). The increase has been deemed necessary after carefully considering the new PAs territory that will be officially designated and added to the national PA system and after reflecting on the costs with the project execution.

3. Similarly, there is a co-financing increase from UNDP Country office in Uzbekistan from 150,000 USD (at the PIF stage) to 270,000 USD (at the CEO Endorsement request stage) leveraged towards project management support.

Therefore, considering the revised financial commitments of the project partners, the total project co-financing will be at: 59,590,000 USD and total project cost: 63,142,968 USD This amount is financed

through a GEF grant of USD 3,552,968 and through USD 270,000 in cash co-financing to be administered by UNDP and through USD 59,320,000 USD in other co-financing. UNDP, as the GEF Implementing Agency, is responsible for the oversight of the GEF resources and the cash co-financing transferred to UNDP bank account only (Please see Section 3.4 in the Project Document ?Incremental Cost Analysis (Baseline vs Alternative Scenario) and Global Environmental Benefits).

At the time of this CEO Endorsement Request submission, in addition to the secured co-financing letters and revised co-financing commitments the UNDP country office and the Implementing Partner are actively exploring additional co-financing with some preliminary expression of commitment from the Asian Development Bank, within the framework of their upcoming initiative: ?Uzbekistan: Climate Adaptive Water Resources management in the Aral Sea Basin Sector Project? ? a proposed \$ 150 million loan investments to deliver adaptive solutions by modernizing the irrigation and drainage system in selected subprojects in Amyudarya and Zarafshan River Basins in Uzbekistan. The opportunities for synergies will be explored, as both projects have planned activities in Amudarya river basin and there will be opportunities to collaborate on good practices in irrigated areas and support to improving water sector legislation. In addition, preliminary discussions have been conducted with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), regarding potential synergies and co-financing opportunities within the scope of their project ? Advanced ICT based Integrated Water Resources Management IWRM system in the Republic of Uzbekistan- an initiative under preparation at the time of this GEF project submission. The total budget envisaged is US\$ 10 million, implementation period 2022-2025.

6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCEF);

Although the GEF/UNDP Project Document reflects no changes to the incremental/additional cost reasoning, there was a slight adjustment in the project?s approach under Component 1 and several adjustments to the targeted areas? size (as reflected under the sub-section 3 above, describing the alternative GEF based scenario) .

**Under Component 1**, the area of the total irrigated agricultural land in the four targeted districts was revised and adjusted according to the latest official data. Therefore the 760,000 ha irrigated areas to be covered by the integrated water management planning in the four districts (as reflected in the PIF) was adjusted to 112,800 ha of irrigated areas in the four districts (aligned with the most recent Ministry of Water Resources data). This is just an apparent reduction, as the project will nevertheless target a much broader area. The project will conduct a comprehensive assessment of water use patterns and will formulate recommendations for sustainable water management through the development of an Integrated Water Management Framework for the entire irrigated area of the LADAB landscape totalling 1,050,910 ha. This way, the project support to water management planning is aligned with the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles.

Therefore, the project?s strategy will involve an analysis of the water requirements of the irrigation system that serves the irrigated land in the entire LADAB landscape (stretching over 1,050,910 ha, covering three provinces) and the all the lakes/wetlands of the Amudarya mid and lower reaches (i.e. covering 957,260 ha) . According to Uzbekistan?s current water legislation, there are 13 Basin Irrigation System Administrations (BISAs) which largely overlap with the administrative territorial boundaries; however, the water supply systems follows the hydrographic boundaries and therefore, for meaningful results in terms of water saving in agriculture and optimized water releases to lakes and wetlands, the expert discussions at PPG stage advised that the project?s approach should cover the entire irrigation system and the hydrotechnical facilities that serve the lakes (KBAs/IBAs). Therefore,

the area estimated to be covered by the *Integrated Water Management Framework (under Output 1.2)* is broader than it was envisaged at PIF stage, (i.e. limited to the 4 districts). In the project document, the interventions under Output 1.1 and 1.2 will be covering approximately 1,050,910 ha of LADAB landscape irrigated agricultural land. However, the project will develop four Integrated Water Management Plans and will demonstrate concrete 'water saving agriculture' measures at farm level, on the irrigated areas that exist within the boundaries of the four targeted districts ( covering 112,800 ha).

In addition, under Output 1.1. sizable BD benefits are associated with the improved protection and management status on 957,260 ha of KBAs/IBAs, and stable status of many global Red List species. The project document reflects therefore an adjusted area of the lakes and wetlands territories within the LADAB landscape (served by the current irrigation system) of 957,260 ha instead of 900,000 ha as reflected in the PIF. The main water bodies and canals collectors as well as the total water requirements are shown in *Annex 22: Target Landscape profile*.

Under **Component 2**, the targeted areas remain the same, there are no changes in the number of hectares of pasture and forest land. The project will provide sustainable management models for at least 100,000 ha of pastures and forests. The project will demonstrate innovative restoration techniques on 1,500 ha of degraded agricultural land. Targeted support to forest and lake ecosystem restoration, in return, will remove the erosion risk of crop fields and pastures. Carbon benefits will accrue as soil carbon is restored and forest regenerates.

Under **Component 3**, the GEF/UNDP project document includes interventions for the expansion of PA estate by an increment of 3,094,000 ha totally or partially covering 9 KBAs (as opposed to 3,194,000 ha indicated in the PIF). The PA areas are adjusted to reflect the latest official data of the State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection. The difference in PA number of hectares comes from the slightly different official figure regarding the number of hectares of the proposed new National Park Central Kyzhylykum, (the territory of which is stretching over 1,000,000 ha instead of 1,100,000 ha as indicated at the PIF stage) therefore the total PA estate newly created will be 3,094,000 ha (*Please see GEF-UNDP Project Document Annex 10 GEF Core Indicators*). The GEF investment will significantly contribute to strengthening the management effectiveness of 757,329 ha of existing PAs . This figure is sized down from the 1,129,029 ha indicated in the PIF. The difference comes from the official statistics provided by the State Committee on Ecology regarding the territory of Saygachy State Refuge which according to the official data is 628,300 ha (sized down from 1,000,000 ha indicated in the PIF). The territory of the existing State Refuge Sudochye (50,000 ha) will not be counted in the project document, in order to avoid double counting (as it overlaps with the new proposed State Refuge Sudochye System of Lakes which includes the old Sudochye Refuge).

The project will contribute to the national effort towards meeting the Aichi Targets with its incremental effort at preventing the loss of natural habitats and reducing degradation and fragmentation (Aichi Target 5), strengthening management capacity, resilience and financial sustainability of projected areas ( Target 11), and restoration and building resilience of key ecosystems and habitats (Targets 10 and 15).The project has been designed using the UNCCD LDN Checklist (*please see GEF/UNDP Project Document Annex 28*). The ecosystem management benefits will be mostly associated with the rationalized and efficient use of water resources for improved management of land, forests, conservation-important lake, wetland and riparian ecosystems, combined with effective nature protection regimes. The wetlands ecosystems will be restored in a few years if a satisfactory water supply and appropriate biodiversity protection are established. The restoration of lake, wetland and riparian ecosystems will come as a natural result of the water discharge regime optimization that will not be under the project's control and won't be completed within the project lifetime

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

An updated description of the project's innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling-up is included in Section Results and Partnerships, sub-section 3.11 Innovativeness, Sustainability and Scaling-Up of the GEF-UNDP Project Document.

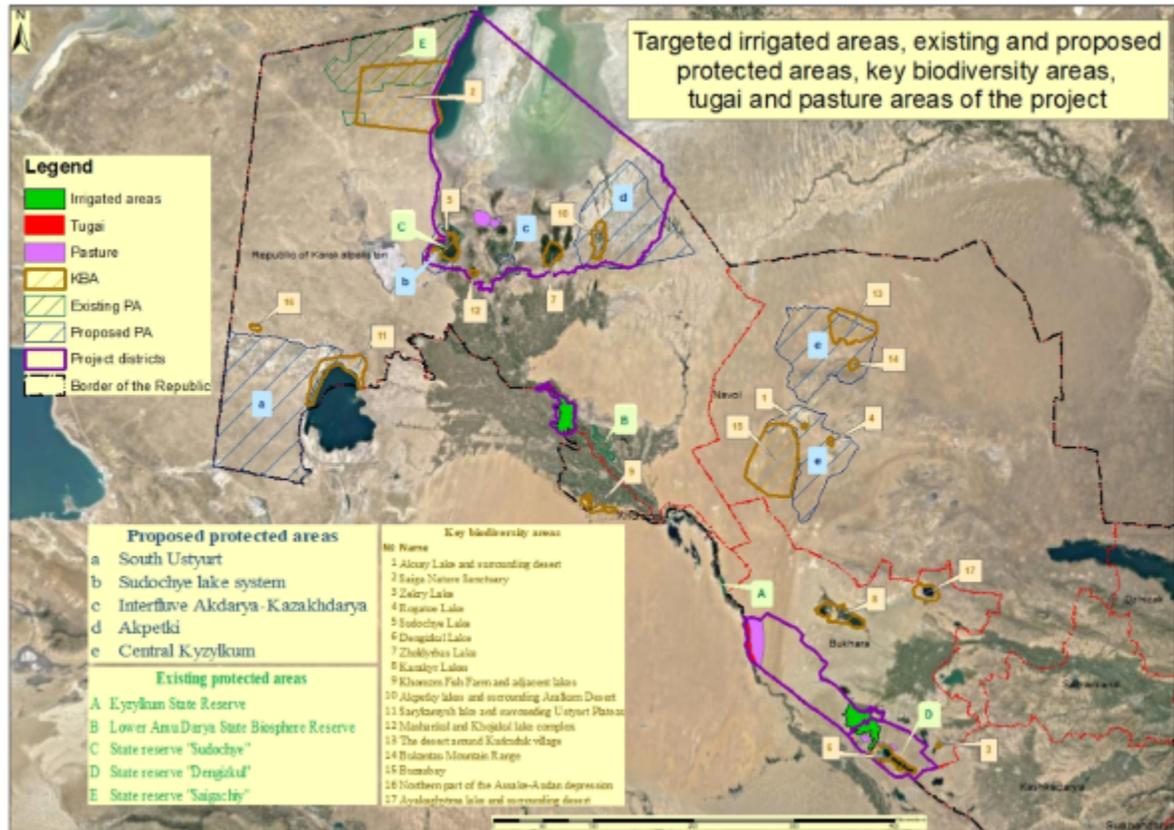
[1] Soil bonitet=Soil quality index, expressed in classes, relative to the soil with the highest potential fertility, the point of which is usually assumed to be 100% (LDN National Report, page 6)

### 1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

#### Annex E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please also see Annex 3 GEF/UNDP Project Document



Project sites	Centroid		Extent minimum		Extent maximum	
	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y
Alat district	39° 12' 53.22"	64° 7' 51.73"	38° 55' 47.6"	63° 37' 15.24"	39° 28' 41.52"	64° 39' 49.06"
Karakul district	39° 53' 4.98"	63° 2' 56.23"	39° 18' 46.63"	62° 21' 32.54"	40° 23' 22.16"	64° 1' 48.68"

Amudarya district	42? 5' 14.27"	60? 4' 39.19"	41? 53' 38.16"	59? 44' 15" 44.5"	42? 21' 14.07"	60? 15' 10.94"
Muynak district	44? 13' 35.14"	59? 30' 7.57"	43? 7' 20.65"	58? 10' 44.5"	45? 36' 18.68"	61? 16' 37.6"
Bukhara region	40? 8' 30.7"	63? 42' 59.4"	38? 55' 47.6"	62? 7' 19.33"	41? 25' 27.8"	65? 23' 0.54"
Khorezm region	41? 19' 50.5"	60? 56' 56.18"	40? 33' 42.35"	60? 3' 36.7"	41? 57' 13.84"	62? 25' 6.43"
Republic of Karakalpakstan	43? 25' 31.29"	58? 50' 8.98"	40? 57' 14.26"	55? 59' 47.89"	45? 36' 18.68"	62? 27' 45.57"

### 1c. Child Project?

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

### 2. Stakeholders

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

**Civil Society Organizations** Yes

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities** Yes

**Private Sector Entities** Yes

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

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

*Please see Annex 14 Stakeholders Engagement Plan of the GEF-UNDP Project Document.*

The successful implementation of the project will largely depend on the effective communication and coordination with the multiple project stakeholders, and the implementation of mechanisms to ensure the participation of these stakeholders. The key national and sub-national stakeholders include the State Committee on Ecology and Environment Protection, State Committee on Forestry, Ministry of Water Resources and their affiliated structures ( BISA/ISA), Ministry of Agriculture, International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), the Council of Farmers, Dekhan Farms and Owners of Household Lands, State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography and Cadastre, Academy of Sciences, local government institutions, NGOs (for example: Central Asia Regional Environmental Center CAREC, Khorezm Rural Advisory Support Service (KRASS) will be invited to partner with the project in order to deliver awareness and training sessions on water and land integrated management; the Hunarmand Association of Folk Artists, Craftsmen and Artists in Uzbekistan and the Business Women Association in Uzbekistan will be invited to join the project and deliver trainings at local level for rural women and youth on local handicraft production, medicinal herbs value chain, business

planning and women entrepreneurship, and support the organization of cultural exhibitions and access to markets and development partners).

The extensive stakeholders consultations and engagement that began during the PPG phase will be continued throughout the project implementation. Several mechanisms will be used by the project that include: a) Project Inception Workshop: the project will be presented to both direct stakeholders and the public; b) Project Board: comprised of representatives of the government agencies, the private sector, and academia, it will be responsible for approving the work plans, participating in the recruitment processes, and providing overall strategic guidance to the project; c) Project Management Unit (PMU): responsible for the implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan, gender action plan, grievance redress mechanisms, and M&E; the PMU will draft a COVID-19 Project Strategy which will include measures to mitigate implementation delays that could occur due to potential reinstatement of COVID-19 related restrictions, and safety measures will be discussed and agreed at the Inception Workshop d) Communication and Dissemination: The PMU hosted by the Implementing Partner and supported by the Responsible Party (CAREC/Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre) will implement the Knowledge Management Plan and Communication Plan and ensure communication with all the stakeholders through a variety of methods (meetings, virtual platforms (Zoom), Telegram, webpage, social media, etc.). The project generated knowledge products will be made publicly available through these media and communication tools. The project will hire the services of a Knowledge Management Consultants to undertake a systematization of the project's experience at the mid-point and at the end of the project to ensure its dissemination; e) Governance role for project target groups: project target groups will be represented on the Project Board as well as be engaged through Technical Advisory Groups (TAG); TAG members bring unique knowledge and skills, which complement the knowledge and skills of the formal board in order to more effectively direct interventions within the project; f) Gender Action Plan: will secure the involvement of both genders, especially women and youth; a Gender Expert/Advisor will be hired to review and update the implementation of the Gender Action Plan; g) Grievance Mechanism: this will be established and published so that all stakeholders are aware of its existence, documenting any potential grievances and ensuring they are addressed in a timely manner; h) Activities, Training, and Engagement Plans: these will employ a participatory approach that is rights-based and integrates the perspectives of all stakeholders using bottom-up approaches and integrating the different views of local stakeholders and beneficiaries; and i) Decentralized M&E: this will include meetings with the project target groups, interviews with direct beneficiaries, and meetings with special groups such as women to verify indicators.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

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

**Consulted only; Yes**

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

**Co-financier;**

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

**Executor or co-executor; Yes**

**Other (Please explain)**

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

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

Please see Annex 16 Gender Analysis and Action Plan of the GEF UNDP Project Document.

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

Yes

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

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

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

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

Yes

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

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

Since the adoption of the Decree on Dekhan Farms (a previous name for private farms) in 1992, the number of private farms and area allotted to them has increased rapidly in Uzbekistan. However, the rights of farm owners<sup>[1]</sup> are very limited and poorly protected, markets are under developed and, despite the current agriculture diversification efforts, the inputs and services still favor large agricultural producers that are following state orders. Within this context, there are some limitations to the willingness of small and mid-size farmers to invest in sustainable farming, land and water management that may be overcome by targeted incentives. Addressing land and water management in

Uzbekistan inherently requires the involvement of the private sector, as a large share of land and water users are private sector operators.

The project will support private sector, rural entrepreneurs and will work with the Council of Farmers, Dekhan Farms and Households to create awareness on the benefits of LDN compatible Sustainable Land Management (SLM) measures and jumpstart investments into sustainable pastures, forests management and land restoration measures (detailed in the GEF/UNDP Project Document under Outputs 2.3; 2.4 and 2.5). In addition, the project will work with other national counterparts to amend current Regulations and draft new provisions that will facilitate subsidies to farmers and agricultural producers who are applying SLM measures. The PPG interviews conducted with the representative of the Council of Farmers and with farmers in the field, highlighted that SLM measures such as pasture management and forest management, land restoration measures, are not a priority *per se* for investors and farmers, due to the lack of awareness on the benefits and Return on Investments (RoI) and lack of technical knowledge on the implementation of SLM measures. Based on the preliminary discussions and agreement with the Council of Farmers senior management, several activities are proposed in the GEF/UNDP Project Document under Output 3.2.3, in order to set up a Micro-scheme for supporting farmers' livelihoods and incentivise them to apply and invest in LDN/SLM measures. The Council of Farmers is managing a State Fund to support farmers, based on the resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan April 26, 2018 No. PP-3680 'On Additional Measures to Improve the Activities of Farmers, Dekhkan Farms and Owners of Private Lands?'. The Fund will spend \$38 million worth soft loans disbursed through three main banks: Microcredit Bank, Agro Bank and Halbank supporting innovative activities in agriculture sector, introduction of new types of agricultural products and technologies, implementation of state programmes and other projects conducive to agricultural activities in the country. In 2019, the loans were provided at a 50% refinancing rate of the Central Bank of Uzbekistan, at an interest rate of 7%. Since January 2020 however, the State compensation has been removed and loans are issued at an interest rate of 15%. Although the Fund does not target SLM measures in particular, these measures can be financed through the Fund. It is expected that the project's awareness raising efforts supported by the partnership with the Council of Farmers and its local branches spread over the entire country's territory, as well as the incentives provided through the Micro-scheme will increase the farmers' motivation and understanding of the benefits that sustainable agricultural practices can bring. The Micro-scheme for farmers will consist of a soft loan (from the Fund, disbursed via one of the local banks) and a contribution (grant) from the project (on-granting according to UNDP Rules for Low Value Grants). The contribution from the project could provide for technical assistance for the development of the business plans and bank applications and technical guidance for further implementation of SLM measures in the field as well as agriculture machinery and modern technology and equipment necessary to implement SLM measures in targeted areas.

Furthermore, the project will strengthen the economically active farmers' technical knowledge on rural entrepreneurship and farm business planning through several training seminars, while supporting their participation to other programmes. In this regard, the project may provide technical assistance to farmers, to complete farm business plans and fill in bank applications in order to access other form of microloans or soft loans issued by local financial institutions to implement sustainable irrigation measures and SLM measures, but also to purchase seeds, medicinal herb production, to set up handicrafts workshops, green houses with drip irrigation, fodder crop agriculture.

Awareness raising about Land Degradation Neutrality, Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and sustainable water management in the context of climate smart and water saving agriculture, are the project's entry points in engaging the private sector including financial entities and intermediaries, exploring available and potential new financing instruments and showcasing ecological and economic benefits of LDN/SLM measures that this project will promote. Innovative land degradation measures will be explored and pitched in front of potential investors ( GEF/UNDP Project Document Output 2.4). Awareness raising activities (largely grouped under GEF/UNDP Project Document Output 4.1.1) will aim at getting banks and other financial institution aware of the need to enable green investments, increasing their green lending and commitment towards responsible financing/green financing. The project will promote SLM measures to address water-land degradation NEXUS, linking 'water saving agriculture' with the survival of the chain of water bodies in the Aral Sea basin as a bastion of resilience and fight against the rampant land degradation, aridity and desertification. In this context, the project will support the awareness of potential investors and financial institutions on the ecological and economic benefits of the sustainable land and water management, showcasing the project's generated experience of investing in SLM.

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[1] The state owns the land and grants farmers a time-bound right to use the land

**5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives**

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

An updated description of Risks is included in the Annex 7 of the GEF/UNDP Project Document 'UNDP ATLAS Risk Register'

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability/ Likelihood	Risk management measures	Risk Owner
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1	<p>(SESP)  <b>Risk 1.</b> The Project supported Integrated Water Management Framework for LADAB landscape could result in limitation of access to water resources.</p> <p><i>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P5</i></p> <p><i>SESP principle 2 Human Rights, P6</i></p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</i></p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P11</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P13</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P14</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.2</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.4</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>As per the ESMF (Annex 30 project Document) the risks will be managed through the implementation of an <b>appropriately scoped/scaled SESA approach</b> (with a subsequent ESMF if considered necessary per the SESA for compliance with the SES and national law); implementation of the Stakeholders Engagement Plan, Process Framework, Gender Action Plan and Grievance Redress Mechanism.</p> <p>A SESA approach will be applied to the development of the Integrated Water Management Framework, such that potential social and environmental downstream impacts arising from the development of subsequent (i) guidelines on revised irrigation norms, (ii) Integrated Water Management Plans at district level, (iii) policy directions, are considered as an explicit part of plans/policy/guidelines development. This will encompass potential climate change risks on water allocation among multiple water users including potential safety risks water users and potential limitation on livelihoods.</p> <p>Under Output 1.2, the project will leverage the stakeholders engagement (as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan)</p>	<p>Project Manager and PMU Staff  UNDP  Administrative/Financial Associate</p>
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2	<p><b>Risk 2:</b> The modification of land use and natural resources management regimes through the planning/implementation of sustainable land management (SLM) measures (e.g. forests, pastures, agricultural lands), envisaged to be implemented in support of long-term sustainability could affect access and use of resources by local communities, including the rural poor and women.</p> <p><i>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P5</i></p> <p><i>SESP principle 2 Human Rights, P6</i></p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</i></p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P11</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P13</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P14</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.2</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.4</i></p>	Environmental Social	I = 3 L =2	<p>The risks will be managed through the implementation of <b>Targeted assessments</b> (please see ESMF Annex 30 Project Document) for all these outputs. The project will develop these plans by <b>applying targeted feasibility/risk assessments</b> (including climate-related risks and vulnerabilities) and site-specific screening, in the targeted areas in order to identify, prevent and mitigate potential economic displacement and negative impact on the critical habitats. Site specific measures will be designed as needed and included in these plans.</p> <p>The land use plans, pasture management plans as well as forest management plans, are expected to ensure livelihood improvements and environmental sustainability during and beyond the project period. If confirmed via site-specific screening during implementation (as per the ESMF), then the risk of economic displacement will be managed by integrating all elements of a <b>Livelihood Action Plan</b> into the respective plan for the given site. The <b>LDN Principles</b> will be applied to all these plans: land use, water use and</p>	Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate
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3	<p><b>Risk 3:</b> Project developed plans, once implemented, may have a negative impact on the use of natural resources and/or the critical biodiversity habitats and species.</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.1</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.2</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.3</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.6</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.7</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM 1.9</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM 1.10</p> <p>SES Standard 1; 1.11</p> <p>SES Standard 8; 8.6</p> <p>Standard 2; 2.3</p> <p>Standard 3; 3.6</p> <p>SES Standard 8 Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency 8.2</p>	Environmental Social	I = 3 L =2	<p>The risks will be managed through <b>the Site-specific screening</b> (as envisaged by the SES measures included in these plans) (please see ESMF Annex 30 Project Document) for all these outputs.</p> <p>The pastures and forests and land use management plans include the management measures that have been identified via the targeted assessments at the selected sites level during the development phase of these plans.</p> <p>Now, during the implementation phase of the plans, the targeted sites will be individually screened with the SESP and based on the results, appropriate site-level assessment ( potential ESIA) will be conducted, in order to identify, prevent and mitigate potential negative impacts on the critical habitats .</p> <p>These assessments, would not result in the ESMP because the Pastures/Forests and Land Use plans would already encompass the necessary mitigation measures and would act as ESMPs.</p> <p>Competitive low-value grants will be issued to local entrepreneurs and small and midsize</p>	Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate
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4	<p><b>(SESP)</b></p> <p><b>Risk 4:</b> Expansion of PAs system could lead to potential limitations or restrictions of the use of natural resources. Strengthening management of existing PAs, such as improved PAs zoning, strengthening the sanctuaries? protection regimes, and/or creation of ecological corridors could further restrict access to and use of biodiversity resources by local communities, affecting livelihoods.</p> <p>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P5</p> <p>SESP Principle 2 Human Rights, P6</p> <p>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</p> <p>SES Principle 3, Gender, P11</p> <p>Principle 5, Accountability, P13</p> <p>Principle 5, Accountability, P14</p> <p>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.2</p> <p>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.4</p>	Environmental Social	I = 3 L =3	<p>The risk management measures will be implemented <b>through the Process Framework, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan and project level GRM.</b> ( Please see Annex 14 Stakeholder Engagement Plan ? it includes a template for the Process Framework).</p> <p>The <b>Process framework</b> is embedded in the project strategy and is part of the project?s work on the new PAs (Output 3.1.1.) and existing PAs (Output s 3.1.2 and 3.2.1).</p> <p>The PF will engage local population in the targeted areas. These local meeting will create awareness on the work on PAs and will address and reconcile any real or perceived economic limitations that the new PA legal mandate may impose.</p> <p>Evaluation of the necessity of <b>potential compensatory mechanisms</b> and eligibility criteria, describing the measures that will assist the potential affected persons to improve their livelihoods will be identified as the result of these assessments and discussions.</p> <p>The project manager will ensure that</p>	Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Finan cial Associate
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5	<p><b>(SESP)</b></p> <p><b>Risk 5:</b> Land restoration measures intended to reduce threats to critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas could potentially end up harming them.</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.1</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.2</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.6</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.7</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.8</p> <p>SES Standard 8 Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency 8.2</p>	Environmental Social	I = 3 L =2	<p>The risks will be managed through site specific screening for land restoration activities.</p> <p>The project will apply site specific <b>feasibility/risk assessments</b> (including climate-related risks and vulnerabilities) and if needed an appropriately scoped ESIA will be applied, to identify, prevent and mitigate potential negative impacts on the critical habitats . The land restoration measures are expected to ensure livelihood improvements and environmental sustainability during and beyond the project period.</p> <p>The <b>qualified project's experts</b> ( Riparian Forest Engineer, Hydrologists, Pasture Agronomist, Crop irrigation specialists, Conservation biologists) will work with the safeguards experts/company to properly identify risks and proposed management measures. The Project Community Outreach Experts will facilitate local consultations with community representatives on the proposed SLM measures, targeted locations and necessary assessments.</p> <p>The project is aiming at demonstrating sustainable</p>	Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate
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6	<p><b>(SESP)</b></p> <p><b>Risk 6.</b> The project activities focused on re-planting (native) tree species along riparian forests strips could have unforeseen ecological consequences.</p> <p>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.8</p>	Environmental Social	I=2 L=2	No measures needed as the risk is Low.	Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate
7	<p><b>(SESP)</b></p> <p><b>Risk 7</b> The project supported demonstration activities may inadvertently be implemented at/in proximity of significant cultural and historical significance sites.</p> <p>SES Standard 4; 4.1; 4.2</p>		I=2 L=2	No measures needed as the risk is Low	Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate

8	<p>(SESP) <b>Risk 8</b></p> <p>Small scale construction site associated with the monitoring station in South Ustyurt and installation of observation towers in the existing PAs may have negative impact on critical habitats and species.</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.1</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.2</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.7</p> <p>Standard 3 Community Safety</p> <p>3.1 3.2 3.3</p> <p>SES Standard 7 Labor and working condition; 7.1</p>	Environmental Social	I=3 L=2	<p>The project will apply site-specific <b>screening and appropriately scoped ESIA (as per ESMF Annex 30)</b> to infrastructure development to identify, prevent and mitigate potential impacts on ecologically sensitive habitats through the construction process or ongoing use.</p> <p>The risks will be mitigated through site-level procedures according to SES requirements. Where risks cannot be avoided, management measures will be put in place prior to the start of the relevant activities. Infrastructure development will be designed in an ecologically sensitive manner and apply best practices in low-impact, ecologically sensitive design and construction. Moreover, project infrastructure will be developed/scoped in accordance with specific national legislation and norms. Additional restrictions may apply for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that constructions are located at least 100 meters away from the existing streams, rivers, water sources and no discharge from such establishments should follow their path into nearby water bodies.</li> <li>- Minimize area of ground clearance. Avoiding sensitive alignments, such as</li> </ul>	Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate
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9	<p><b>(SESP)</b></p> <p><b>Risk 9:</b> Enforcement of PAs regime and/or wildlife corridors, following applicable environmental norms and legislation could pose risks of conflicts between rangers and local communities engaged in traditional livelihoods and practices.</p> <p>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P2</p> <p>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P7</p>	Environmental Social	I=3 L=3	<p>The Management measures will be addressed through <b>Trainings and Grievance and Redress Mechanism.</b></p> <p>In addition, the project will ensure that management measures <b>will be included in the new PAs management plans</b> (corresponded to IUCN II and IUCN IV categories ) to be further embedded under in the corresponding PAs Management Plans. The project?s qualified experts, including the Capacity Development experts, local coordinators, technical support staff and ministry counterparts will work with the Local Advisory Committees and facilitate the assessments, local dialogue and round table meetings that the process involves.</p> <p>In addition, the project will trainings/capacity building (<b>Output 3.2.2</b>) for PAs personnel, border inspectors, local police and central and local authorities with an emphasis on human rights principles (in line with the SES).</p> <p>Some of the trainings will target specifically community outreach related topics , and addressing illegal activities "<i>Interaction with local communities</i>"</p>	Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate
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<p>1 0</p>	<p><b>(SESP)</b></p> <p><b>Risk 10:</b> Government resource management authorities may not have the capacity to fulfill all aspects of their mandate, and rural resource users may not have the capacity to claim their rights, which could potentially lead to the violation of human rights.</p> <p>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P2</p> <p>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P3</p>	<p>Environmental Social</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 3</p>	<p>The risks will be managed through <b>Trainings/capacity building</b> project activities (<b>Output 4.1.1</b>) as well as targeted trainings for local natural resources users (embedded under <b>Output 3.2.3</b>). The project will be working closely with all stakeholders to support government natural resource management authorities and institutions to meet their obligations, and with resource user rights holders to claim their rights.</p> <p>As with the previous risks, the project will be working closely with all stakeholders to support government natural resource management authorities and institutions to meet their obligations, and with resource user rights holders to claim their rights. This will be accomplished through multiple stakeholder consultation sessions during all relevant aspects of the project to ensure that all parties are aware of and understand the relevant obligations and rights.</p>	<p>Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate</p>
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<p>1</p> <p>1</p>	<p><b>(SESP)</b></p> <p><b>Risk 11:</b> The expected project impacts of the conservation of endangered and threatened species, restoration of degraded land, and sustainable management of forest and pasture resources could be sensitive to changing climatic conditions in the future.</p> <p><i>SES Standard 2 Climate Change Vulnerability, 2.2</i></p> <p><i>SES Standard 2 Climate Change Vulnerability, 2.4</i></p>	<p>Environmental Social</p>	<p>I=3</p> <p>L=2</p>	<p>The management measures will be implemented <b>through the project's activities.</b> The various project's assessments will be informed by the existing climate risk profile/studies (elaborated within the framework of other projects) and through the project's own land/water and climate risk assessments (<b>Output 1.1.</b>).</p> <p>Initial climate related risks assessments will also be considered in the implementation of all the envisaged plans and SLM measures, included among the project activities.</p> <p>Attention to the current and potential impacts of climate change has been built-in to all aspects of the project. The project work will link the provision of adequate supply of water to lakes, wetlands and riparian zones to ?water saving agriculture? measures, aligned with the prevent-reduce-restore LDN philosophy.</p> <p>A large a multidisciplinary team of specialists will ensure that the partners and stakeholders will apply the best available climate change forecasts data for Uzbekistan's lower Amu Darya basin, and will ensure that all project activities and plans</p>	<p>Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate</p>
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<p>1 2</p>	<p><b>Risk 12:</b> Project activities involving local/field interventions and close engagement with local communities may inadvertently contribute to the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>Standard 3 Community Health, Safety and Security, 3.4</p>	<p>Environmental Social</p>	<p>I=3 L=2</p>	<p>The risk will be mitigated through <b>adequate safeguards</b> such as: (i) clear procedures in place in case of COVID19 reinstatement of restrictions, approved during project inception (ii) use of protective equipment, maintaining social distancing and using remote methods of engagement whenever possible (iii) if adequate safeguards cannot be put in place, activities that entail close local communities engagement will be put on hold if necessary, and work programme/budget will be revised as needed. wherever possible on-line meeting platforms will be used and travel decreased. All project meetings will be organized mindful of government regulations and healthy standards and other appropriate safeguards (including those of UNDSS).</p>	<p>Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate</p>
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1 3	<p>(SESP)</p> <p><b>Risk 13:</b> The project may inadvertently contribute to potential perpetuation of discriminations against women. There are lingering disparities between men and women, particularly in rural areas and in the patriarchal cultures of some of the ethnic minority communities, which could be inadvertently replicated.</p> <p>-</p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</i></p>	Social	I=3 L=2	<p>The management of this risk will be done through the implementation of the <b>Gender Action Plan (GAP)</b> and will be monitored by the project specialized experts.</p> <p>The project design has consistently mainstreamed gender sensitive approaches and has created opportunities for tackling women's needs, ranging from designing tailored training activities to organizing dedicated segments of radio programmes for women farmers. The project will provide ample opportunities for women to learn about LDN and SLM measures and resilient livelihoods and integrate best practices into their farm practices. Though the training programs and Farmer Field Schools, women will also be able to access the capacity building and training required to practice climate-resilient agriculture, as well as to diversify their livelihoods in more resilient ways. The project will ensure gender balance in all project activities (e.g. seminars, community level events) including in the membership of different decision-making bodies ( Working groups; Project Boards; Evaluation Committees) including access to project financial assistance (grant</p>	Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate
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<p>1 4</p>	<p><b>(SESP)</b></p> <p><b>Risk 14</b> The project may fail to ensure that labor rights, especially of vulnerable groups, are respected by local subcontractors. There could be risk of forced child labor at project sites.</p> <p><i>SES Standard 7; 7.1</i></p> <p><i>SES Standard 7; 7.3</i></p>	<p>Social</p>	<p>I=3</p> <p>L=2</p>	<p>The <b>management measures will be devised on case by case basis</b>. The project will ensure that national working standards (Labor Code) are respected for all the project activities. The requirements of this Standard are to be applied in an appropriately-scaled manner based on the nature and scale of the project, its specific activities, the project's associated social and environmental risks and impacts, and the type of contractual relationships with project workers.</p>	<p>Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate</p>
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1 5	<p><b>SESP</b></p> <p><b>Risk 15.</b> Expansion of PAs system and/or improved zoning could lead to risk to endangered species.</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.1</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.2</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.6</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.7</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.8</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM 1.4</p>	Environmental	I=3 L=3	<p>Project activities will be carefully planned in consultation with relevant experts and local communities (Output 3.1.2).</p> <p>The project experts will analyse available baseline, and will build on the knowledge generated by other donor implemented projects (e.g. GIZ project ? Mapping natural resources along Amudarya banks in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan? ) and will develop and analyse scenarios for optimal number of species in the core areas and will support the delineation of a feeding corridor that could expand the current core zones and subsequent amendments to PA management and monitoring program.</p> <p>The project will explore opportunities to establish collaboration agreements between Lower Amudarya Biosphere Reserve and research organizations to study dynamics of restoration of vegetation and wildlife, within the context of the reserve. At the same time, the project will conduct.</p>	Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate
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1 6	<p>COVID 19 related risks to the project implementation:</p> <p>Project delays due to COVID 19 reinstated restrictions</p>	<p>Financial Operational Organizational</p>	<p>The project implementation may be affected by delays, as was the case with other projects, affected by the restrictive measures implemented since the COVID-19 outbreak</p> <p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p>During the Inception Phase, the project will develop a COVID-19 Strategy and agree on the measures to mitigate any implementation delays that may result due to potential reinstatement of the COVID-19 related restrictions. UNDP issued corporate guidance on ?Managing programmes and projects in the age of COVID-19?. These guidelines may be included in the Project COVID-19 Response Strategy. This Strategy will be presented and approved at Inception Workshop along with the main health safeguards that will be implemented during the implementation to protect people and environment and prevent the virus spread (i.e. use of masks, social distancing, remote meetings whenever possible; remote field monitoring as much as possible). The risk to the project posed by potential reinstatement of restrictions (travel; lockdown, others) will be mitigated through several steps that could include (but will be not limited to) : (i) Re-assessment of the COVID-19 restrictions on the AWP implementation (ii) Create/activate stakeholders and key project partners Telegram/Zoom group and move all the meetings online (iii) if activities will</p>	<p>IP UNDP CO Project manager PMU staff Administrative/Financial Associate</p>
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1 7	<p>The Implementing Partner has no previous experience with UNDP project and programming rules and procedures and this may pose a risk to project implementation e.g. limitations of the IP's institutional mandate; project implementation delays; ineligible expenditures; lack of timely reporting.</p>	<p>Financial Operational Organizational</p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p>HACT micro-assessment showed that the IP has no former experience with UN/UNDP or other donor related projects. Although the core capacities of Implementing Partner are sound, the human resources are limited (enabling environment and technical capacity). Several risks related to the internal control framework have been brought to the front by the HACT micro assessment although the overall risk remain in the Low category.</p> <p>The risk management measures will include the following: (i) During the Inception phase, discussions among UNDP and IP will bring any additional clarity (as needed) to the NIM implementation arrangements re-assessing any risks of IP's institutional capacity limitations and implementing appropriate mitigation actions. (ii) The RP will be engaged following NIM rules; (iii) The project staff will be recruited. UNDP will hire an Administrative/Financial Programme Associate paid from TRAC funds, to support the PMU primarily with financial reporting, M&amp;E, NIM rules and procedures. (iv) A number of internal trainings will be organized by UNDP Country Office starting with the Inception Phase in order to help the project personnel get</p>	<p>IP Head RR UNDP DRR UNDP Programme Specialists/ UNDP CO staff UNDP GEF RTA Project Manager M&amp;E consultant</p>
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1 8	<p>Limited cooperation among government agencies with mandate for water management and biodiversity conservation limits the delivery of results under Component 1. There is a risk that the project expectations regarding the inter-institutional cooperation and agreements for reconciliation of water distribution among different sectors are over-ambitious.</p>	Political/Organizational	I=3 L=3	<p>The risk will be managed by continuous monitoring (and re-assessment as needed) of project progress while enlisting the support of high-level decision makers and UNDP senior management. In addition, this risk will be managed through the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, with meaningful engagement, and consultation, as required. The Multi-Stakeholder Water Management Task Force will include the project experts and technical personnel of partner institutions effectively working on the technical assessments. In addition, the project will be strengthened by a Multi-Stakeholder Committee which will include representatives of line ministries, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), Amudarya Basin Water Organization (BWO), the relevant Basin Irrigation System Authorities (BISAs): Amu-Bukhara BISA; the Left-bank Amudarya BISA and Nukus Hydro unit (Niznedaryinskiy department under BWO Amudarya), water users (WUAs), women farmers representatives, NGOs and academia to coordinate the work and leverage the needed political support.</p>	<p>RR UNDP DRR UNDP Programme Specialists/ UNDP CO staff IP Head Project Manager PMU</p>
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1 9	The general level of awareness and understanding of land degradation issues in the region is not sufficient.	Environmental Financial Operational Organizational Political Regulatory Strategic Other	I=3 L=3	Ample education and awareness events will target decision makers at the local and national levels, as well as local natural resource users, in order to raise their awareness and technical knowledge about the key biodiversity values and regulations, and the sustainable land management (SLM) measures ecological and economic benefits.	Project Manager and PMU Staff UNDP Administrative/Financial Associate Communication Specialist
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1 9	With no significant changes in the agricultural and land use baseline, the project effort towards biodiversity conservation in the lake, wetland and riparian complexes might have a relatively negligible impact.	Organizational Political	I=4 L=3	<p>The project will enlist the support of senior UN/UNDP management to facilitate high level national dialogue in order to mobilize resources and secure political support that are necessary for the full achievement of the project outcomes and objective.</p> <p>This risk will be further managed through the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and management measures will be developed with full, meaningful engagement, and consultation.</p> <p>Furthermore, a set of organizational, technological and agrotechnical measures will be adopted by the project, including the creation of multi-stakeholders mechanisms for landscape planning and management in order to strengthen the community and local stakeholders? involvement.</p> <p>A set of manuals and guidelines will be developed and institutionalised for integrated land use planning, sustainable pastures and forest management to achieve LDN expected to lead to a change in how land resources are managed. The project will work together with FAO/GEF LDN Project in order to link regional LDN measures to national LDN platform and</p>	RR UNDP DRR UNDP Programme Specialists/ UNDP CO staff IP Head Project Manager PMU
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20	<p>There is a risk that the expected co-financing of the government partners for SLM measures will not materialize</p>	<p>Financial Operational Organizational Political</p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p>This risk will be mitigated through continuous monitoring by the Project manager and will be addressed through enlisting support of high level decision makers in the government partner institutions, with the support of UNDP RR/DRR and IP Head. In addition, during the inception period, the UNDP CO and IP will re-confirm the partnerships and co-financing as well as the targeted areas selected for demonstration activities (SLM). UNDP RR/DRR will support engagement with high level decision makers in Ministry of Agriculture and State Committee on Forestry.</p>	<p>RR UNDP DRR UNDP Programme Specialists/ UNDP CO staff IP Head Project Manager PMU</p>
21	<p><b>RISK SCREENED IN THE PROJECT'S AREA OF INFLUENCE</b></p> <p>The presence of a cement factory in the project's area of influence (near the core area of the Amudarya Biosphere Reserve) could negatively affect project's activities.</p>	<p>Operational</p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p>The current PAs zoning and the anthropogenic activity that has potential detrimental environmental impact will be analyzed. An assessment of the operations of the cement factory that is located in the proximity of the core zone will be conducted and necessary regulatory measures and/or potential improved delineation of core area on the ground will be enforced/applied.</p>	<p>Project Manager PMU</p>

## 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

Institutional arrangements are described in Section V Governance and Management Arrangements in the GEF/UNDP Project Document. The coordination with key stakeholders their roles and responsibilities in the project implementation is described in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (GEF/UNDP Project Document Annex 14). Synergies with other existing projects are indicated under GEF/UNDP Project Document/ Annex 25 List of Baseline Programmes and Projects.

The project will coordinate with other initiatives that at the time of CEO ER development are in the form of proposals submitted for funding. For example, the Green Climate Fund proposal ? Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to Increase resilience of Uzbekistan Communities to Climate Change Induced Hazards? to be implemented by UNDP, with a total budget of nearly 10 million is aiming at improving hydro-meteorological observation network as well as building the capacity to model hazards, combined with information on vulnerability and exposure and analyse risks as part of an integrated monitoring forecasting. The GEF project will coordinate with the GCF project and will explore ways of sharing knowledge and information on vulnerability to climate change induced risks.

Similarly important especially with regard to promoting innovation, would be coordination and exploration of synergies with the project proposal ? Supporting an inclusive transition to a green economy in the Agri-food Sector and development of a ?climate smart? Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System ? UAKIS? submitted for EU funding, to be implemented by UNDP, with a budget of 5 million EUR aims at promoting green investments across-agri food value chain through policy interventions and innovative services for climate smart investment in agriculture. The GEF project has a focus on promoting innovative land restoration measures and will coordinate with the EU project with the aim of exchanging knowledge and information on innovative business models in agriculture for a sustainable agri-food sector, contributing to promoting post COVID-19 green transformational recovery pathways.

In addition, the project will coordinate with other GEF funded initiatives, such as the FAO/GEF regional project ?Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM 2)? with a budget of \$ 10,874,659, aiming at scaling up integrated natural resource management in drought prone and salt affected production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey. In Uzbekistan, the focus is on increasing resilience to climate change and promotion of best practices in Sustainable Land Management (SLM) into national sector policies and programmes, capacity development for drought and soil salinity monitoring and management and climate smart agriculture. The project will coordinate with CACILM-II on knowledge exchange and awareness raising, to promote scaling up of the good practices demonstrated by the project, on the

integrated land-water management and biodiversity friendly and LDN compatible agricultural practices and land use planning.

The project will work closer with the GEF/FAO project ID 10367 ? Sustainable Forest and Rangelands Management in the Dryland Ecosystems of Uzbekistan?(\$ 3.776,941), implemented in partnership with the State Forestry in Uzbekistan, aiming at strengthening LDN enabling framework, integrating LDN principles in policies and regulatory frameworks and developing an LDN Action Plan. The opportunities for cooperation between the two projects exist at least at two levels (i) the LDN compatible SLM measures, implemented by the project in 4 target districts will be upscaled through the LDN Action Plan, developed under FAO project, and through different FAO platforms and (ii) the regional LDN targets for Karakalpakstan will be better aligned with the LDN national voluntary target, through the FAO supported LDN enabling environment (Output 2.1, UNDP-GEF Project Document); (iii) joint UNDP-FAO community outreach sessions will be organized in Bukhara region under awareness raising component (Output 4.1.1., UNDP-GEF Project Document).

#### **7. Consistency with National Priorities**

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

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

The project is consistent with the national priorities and the project's design is aligned with the country's international commitments under the main UN Environmental Conventions. Uzbekistan ratified the UNCCD on October 31, 1995 and it is among the countries that has an LDN National Voluntary Target linked to the SDG global target 15.3. The voluntary National LDN Target adopted by Uzbekistan is ?By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world?. The project supported sub-national LDN Targets in Karakalpakstan will contribute to achieving the LDN national targets. In addition, Uzbekistan has made a commitment to the Bonn Challenge, pledging to restore 0.5 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, to which the project contributes. Uzbekistan has been party to the CBD since July 7, 1995. On 11 June 2019 the Government of Uzbekistan approved the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for 2019-2028, which provides for the implementation of the afforestation activities of the dried bottom of the Aral Sea with an increase in the forest area to 1.2 million hectares.

The project has been designed in full alignment with NBSAP 2019-2028 and contributes to the groundwork necessary to achieve the post-2020 biodiversity priorities, chiefly among which are the expansion of the PAs system and capacity development for effective PAs management and the biodiversity mainstreaming across production sectors. It contributes directly to the national strategic goal to increase the PAs system coverage from 12% of the national territory to 17% by 2025. The project will assist and support the implementation of this goal, particularly through increasing coverage of protected areas for lakes, wetlands and riparian corridors (effectively covering 9 KBAs/IBAs) in the Aral Sea basin and through promoting biodiversity friendly production practices in buffer and production areas. The project will also work towards strengthening the capacity of existing PA in the country. The project will therefore align with the national SDG Agenda and will contribute to implementation of six (6) of the national SDGs targets<sup>[1]</sup> under the SDG 15 ? Life on Land.

Owing to its sustainable land and water management and climate resilience focus, the project further aligns with Uzbekistan's five-year plan, Uzbekistan's Development Strategy for 2017-2021, which has five priority areas including: a) system of state and public construction, b) rule of law and judicial system reform, c) economic development and liberalization, d) development of social sphere, and e) security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance and balanced foreign policy. Climate change, including adaptation, features prominently in the government's priority on economic development and liberalization, indicating strong political support. Uzbekistan's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) (2017) sets climate change adaptation as a priority in several areas. This includes considering adaptation in the agriculture, water management, and social sectors, as well as applying ecosystem-based adaptation to efforts such as mitigating the impacts of the Aral Sea disaster and adaptation of strategic infrastructure and production facilities.

The project further aligns with the Presidential Decree June/2019 No. UP-5742 "On measures for the efficient use of land and water resources in agriculture" which approved the forecast indicators of measures taken to improve efficiency of agricultural land use for the next decade. Another important strategic plan for land use to which the project will contribute is the adopted Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 23, 2019, No. UP-5863 "On Approving the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030," which formally approved the strategic priorities of the agricultural sector. The adopted Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 23, 2019, No. 4424 "On additional measures to increase the efficiency of forest use in the country" has approved the Forestry Development Program in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2024, which provides for the creation of forests on the lands of the forest fund in the context of regions in 2020-2024 on an area of 22,780 thousand ha.

The project aligns with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 30, 2019 No. UP-5863 "On approval of the Concept of environmental protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan 2030", which defines the priority areas of state policy in the field of environmental protection for the specified period. The Concept provides for: afforestation of the dried-up seabed of the Aral Sea with local tree and shrub vegetation on 30% of the territory (by 2021) up to 60% of the territory (by 2030); reduction of pollutant emissions into the air by 10%; an increase in the territory of the forest fund covered with forests in the country to 4.5 million hectares, including in the Republic of Karakalpakstan to 2.5 million hectares. The measures implemented within the framework of the project are aligned with the Sub regional Action Programme for Central Asian Countries on Combating Desertification within the UNCCD Context. The project aligns fully with the State Program approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 18, 2017, No. PP-2371 "On the State Program for the Development of the Aral Sea Region for 2017-2021," clause 62, section VIII "Combating desertification and water resources management", and "Creation of forest plantations on an area of 20.0 thousand hectares of the drained seabed of the Aral Sea".

Furthermore, the project is fully aligned with Uzbekistan's focus on innovation, placed at the heart of its economic development in general and its efforts towards restoring land degradation in particular. The project will be aligned with the mandate of the International Innovation Center for Aral Sea Region, created by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 16, 2018 No. PP-3975 under the patronage of the President of the Republic Uzbekistan, with scientific and technical support from the Islamic Development Bank and the International center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA).

The project will further contribute to the operationalization of the Concept Aral Sea Region- Ecological Innovations and Technologies Zone is currently under approval by the intersectoral working group under the coordination of the Ministry of Innovations, members of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of Uzbekistan. The Concept is basically an action plan to transform the Aral Sea region into a zone of sustainable development based on environmental and ecological innovations and technologies. It will be initially implemented in Karakalpakstan (Moynaq district), creating experimental sites for innovative projects, then, it will gradually reach out to the entire Aral Sea region, building on the Human Security Principles underpinning the focus of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region (MPTF).

Finally, the project will be part of a number of initiatives that are supporting the country's strategy for a transition towards a green economy, approved by the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 04.10.2019 No PP-4477 and with initiatives that are part of a broader COVID 19 green

recovery effort. This Resolution was adopted primarily to ensure the fulfilment of the obligations under the Paris Agreement on climate change signed by Uzbekistan on April 19, 2017. The Resolution highlights the main objectives of Uzbekistan's transition to a green economy and includes improvements in energy efficiency and rational use of natural resources, "greening" the public investments and expenditures, as well as support to pilot initiatives that will pave the way towards green economy. According to the Resolution, by 2030 Uzbekistan aims, *inter alia*, at: (i) reduction of GHG emission per unit of GDP by 10% compared to 2010 levels; (ii) a twofold increase of energy efficiency indicators and a decrease in the carbon intensity of GDP; (iii) increase of renewable energy sources share up to 25% of the total volume of electricity generation; (iv) introduction of drip irrigation technology on 1 million hectares and increasing the surface of crops under efficient irrigation by 20-40%; (v) achieving Land Degradation Neutrality ; (vi) increasing agricultural productivity by 20-25%. Supporting the transition to a green economy and the country's post-COVID 19 green recovery is assisted by international development agencies. Supporting the transition to a green economy and the country's post-COVID 19 green recovery is assisted by international development agencies. The European Union in particular plans to enhance the support to green recovery by putting green growth at the center of the next EU Cooperation programme for the period 2021-2027. Renewable energy, sustainable agri-food sector and green investments will be among the key themes constituting the programme. In addition, this project is part of UNDP's approach to supporting the country's green recovery in three main directions: (i) accelerating transition towards the use of clean renewable energy (ii) support to reorienting business and finances towards green investment and policies that are promoting green jobs and (iii) support to sustainable agricultural practices and facilitation of innovative "climate smart" knowledge in agriculture sector, in partnership with the European Union.

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[1] <http://nsdg.stat.uz/en/goal/17>

## 8. Knowledge Management

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

*A comprehensive Knowledge Management Plan has been included in Annex 17 of the GEF/UNDP Project Document.*

The project's approach on Knowledge Management targets two levels of activities, strategies and products. First, in the country, at local and national levels, the project will actively contribute towards the development of a critical mass of understanding and awareness about prioritized gaps, as reflected by the baseline awareness questionnaires. The communication and capacity building activities will focus on the importance of sustainable water management, wetland ecosystem services, land degradation neutrality and biodiversity friendly production practices around protected areas and how these translates into global environmental benefits while sustaining local livelihoods. The second level is the regional level, where the project will act as an active contributor to supporting negotiations on sustainable regional water management, and will leverage the knowledge generated within the project, by actively supporting mainstreaming of integrated land-water approaches into regional programming.

The project knowledge management strategy builds on three key elements that foster learning and knowledge sharing, placed at the heart of the project's adaptive management and upscaling efforts at local, national and regional levels:

1. Learning from existing lessons and best practices,
2. Assessing and documenting results,
3. Knowledge sharing and communication.

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

### Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The budgeted M&E Plan is included in Section V of the GEF/UNDP Project Document.

The project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan is copied below.

GEF M&E requirements	Responsible Parties	Indicative costs (US\$)		Time frame
		GEF Grant	Co-financing	
<b>Inception Workshop</b>	Implementing Party  UNDP Country Office	\$15,000	\$ 15,000	Within 60 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
<b>Inception Report</b>	Project Manager	None	None	Within 90 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
<b>Monitoring of GEF core indicators and other indicators in project results framework</b>	Project Manager Project M&E expert Project Task Leaders	Paid through project components	Budgeted as part of co-financing under project components	Annually prior to GEF PIR
<b>GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)</b>	UNDP Country Office <sup>[1]</sup> UNDP/GEF RTA	None	None	Annually
<b>Monitoring all risks and safeguards (UNDP risk register)</b>	UNDP Country Office  Project manager	None	None	Quarterly, annually
<b>Supervision missions</b>	UNDP Country Office	None <sup>2</sup> <sup>[2]</sup>	\$5,000	Quarterly

<b>Update Mid-term GEF Core indicators and METT (at midterm)</b>	Implementing Partner Project Manager UNDP Country office	Paid through Component 3	\$5,000	Before mid-term review mission takes place.
<b>Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)</b>	UNDP Country Office UNDP/GEF RTA	25,660	\$10,000	2025
<b>Update GEF Core indicators and METT (at project end)</b>	Implementing Partner Project Manager UNDP Country Office	Paid through Component 3	\$5,000	Before terminal evaluation mission takes place
<b>Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)</b>	UNDP Country Office UNDP/GEF RTA	26,060	\$10,000	2026
<b>Project final workshops/conferences</b>	Implementing Party UNDP Country Office	15,000	15,000	At least two months before the end of the project
<b>Project final report</b>	Project Manager	None	None	Within two weeks from the final project workshop/conference
<b>TOTAL indicative COST</b> ( <i>Do not exceed</i> <i>5 % when GEF project grant up to USD 5 million.</i> )		<b>\$81,720</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	

#### 10. Benefits

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

The envisaged benefits to local and national stakeholders will be interconnected with the aggregated environmental benefits enabled by the project's features: (i) embedded integrated benefits and synergies across focal areas, (ii) mechanisms for integrated decision making and (iii) landscape-scale designed interventions.

The project incentivizes local actors away from destructive behaviour through engaging them in alternative economic activities, as well as biodiversity friendly livelihoods around protected areas. Adequate awareness, technical knowledge and access to funding are key to ensuring that stakeholders will be able to adopt innovative, environmental-friendly practices. The project therefore aims at increasing capacity of 300 public sector employees and PAs staff who will be trained in integrated water-land management and biodiversity management. Approximately 50 local farmers and pastoralists will benefit from the project's Micro-scheme support for livelihoods ( under Output 3.2.3) and it is estimated that their income will register at least 50% increase as a result of the implemented SLM measures. This is a conservative percentage, as income generation from recommended SLM measures (*captured under GEF/UNDP Project Annex 24*) will likely provide more benefits: e.g. according to past donor-supported projects[1], application of rotational grazing alone can provide an estimated net profit of up to \$16 per sheep ( after subtracting the costs per sheep of about \$8) ; similarly, planting drought resistant crops to enhance forage production and prevent erosion leads to a significant generation of profit estimated at \$243-\$341/ha from the third year onwards, made from selling of seeds and use of hay; whereas the income generation resulted from agroforestry measures as a land reclamation practice, varies e.g. maximal profit may be obtained from cultivation of Russian olive *Eleagnus angustifolia* due to annual selling of fruits (approx.. 3500 euro/ha within 7 years period); the firewood harvested from *Populus euphratica* can give a profit of 2300 euro/ha[2]

A conservatively estimated number of up to approximately 9700 local households (benefiting 48,500 people, considering 5 family members/household) are envisaged to take up SLM measures promoted and demonstrated by the project and have their livelihoods improved. This number represents 10% of the people employed in agricultural sector in the targeted districts, that are expected to benefit from the project's activities and the promoted SLM measures: rotational grazing, planting forest shelterbelts, innovative land restorations measures, sustainable irrigation and crop rotations to increase soil productivity. The project will further mobilize governmental funds in the form of subsidies for farmers applying SLM measures on degraded land (through amendments to the Concept ? On measures for the efficient use of land and water resources in agriculture?-June 2019) . Other forms of project support will be extended for alternative local income generating enterprises such as medicinal herb production, handicrafts workshops, green house agriculture, fodder crop agriculture- to provide some form of compensation to farmers/pastoralists who may lose an existing source of income from extensive livestock farming, due to the implementation of sustainable pasture management plans.

These measures will yield socio economic benefits and will contribute to the achievement of environmental benefits. Implementing pasture rotational grazing, letting land rest from grazing for a specific period, leads to increase in carbon sequestration in soil and vegetation; increase of pasture botanical composition which is expected to increase livestock welfare and milk production. Promoted use of manure as fertiliser to improve soil structure will reduce chemical use and agricultural expenses. These practices are also inferred to reduce hazards to soil, wildlife and human health. The benefits produced by the SLM interventions have the potential to reduce vulnerability to climate change, supporting multiple sources of food, energy and income thereby reducing community dependence on any single resource that might be affected by climate change. For example, various and innovative measures of restoring degraded land in targeted districts and supporting local communities' alternative income from vegetable gardens, fruit tree cultivation, rustic poultry, basketry etc contribute to both food security and income diversity. Rehabilitation of water pumps and wells will ensure crop productivity which is especially important considering the past decade's increase incidence of drought. Furthermore, tree planting and ecosystem protection activities in forests and pastures contribute to increase soil productivity and decreased soil salinity, thus providing ecosystems goods and services that further mitigate the negative effects of climate change. Replication and scaling up embedded in project design will ensure multiple benefits occurring during and soon after the project will end, through the formed partnerships that leveraged the resources of multiple sectors such as private companies, research institutes, NGOs, other donors.

The mechanisms for integrated decision making that the project will promote under GEF/UNDP Projects Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 2.2 and community outreach/collaborative approaches in support of PAs management under 3.2.2 will provide opportunities to reduce conflicts among resource users and/or overlaps in institutional mandates. General agreements on potential trade-offs promoted through an integrated and participatory manner, provide the platform for improved environmental and socio-economic benefits. In addition to agricultural activities, as it has been demonstrated by many other projects, during participatory mechanisms, farmers use these opportunities to talk about water, climate, sanitation and social issues and by so doing they are able to engage local authorities as partners in different other proposals for rural development. Finally, the project's focus at landscape-level in Lower Amudarya and Aral Sea Basin (LADAB) landscape and on the implementation of multiple interventions within a spatial unit, allows for generating more synergistic benefits. Healthy ecosystems will ensure resilience of the region to climate and human threats, and the maintenance of ecosystem services for local communities.

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[1] Examples recorded in UNCCD/WOCAT database

[2] <http://www.fao.org/3/i7318en/I7318EN.pdf>

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

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

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification\*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
<b>Medium/Moderate</b>			

#### Measures to address identified risks and impacts

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

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

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

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

In line with UNDP's human-rights based approach, the project directly empowers right holders in the persons of farmers, owners of production lands, and communities so that they are the principal facilitators and decision makers for the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management (SLM) objectives in the production landscapes which they inhabit in the Lower Amudarya and Aral Sea Basin (LADAB) landscape that they inhabit. The project fully supports UNDP's commitment to a human-rights based approach, and supports the universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, but particularly in the case of this project, for the people living in the LADAB landscape. The project does this broadly by supporting the sustainable use of natural resources, including access to and use of biological and land resources necessary for the rural communities, including the rural poor, in the project's geographic scope. In addition, the project will ensure and support the human rights principles of participation, inclusion and non-discrimination.

The objective of the project is to enhance the resilience of the ecosystems and livelihoods in Lower Amudarya and Aral Sea Basin (LADAB) through land degradation neutrality (LDN) compatible integrated land-water management in the productive landscapes around PAs and KBAs/IBAs. The project design has been based on comprehensive stakeholder engagement and it is aligned with the LDN Checklist developed by the UNCCD (*please see Annex 28*), which embeds (*inter alia*) Criterion C, Promotion of inclusive governance, fully incorporated in the project design, through the integrated land use planning under Component 2, which is about ensuring that the rights of land users are respected while enabling them to derive maximum long-term benefits from use of ecosystem products and services.

The benefits produced by the Sustainable Land Management (SLM) interventions have the potential to reduce vulnerability to climate change, supporting multiple sources of food, energy and income thereby reducing community dependence on any single resource that might be affected by climate change. For example, various and innovative measures of restoring degraded land in targeted districts and supporting local communities' alternative income from vegetable gardens, fruit tree cultivation, rustic poultry, basketry etc will contribute to both food security and income diversity. Rehabilitation of water pumps and wells will ensure crop productivity which is especially important considering the past decade's increase incidence of drought. Furthermore, tree planting and ecosystem protection activities in forests and pastures contribute to increase soil productivity and decreased soil salinity, thus providing ecosystems goods and services that further mitigate the negative effects of climate change. Replication and scaling up embedded in project design will ensure multiple benefits occurring during and soon after the project will end, through the formed partnerships that leveraged the resources of multiple sectors such as private companies, research institutes, NGOs, other donors.

Finally, the mechanisms for integrated decision making that the project will promote under Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 2.2 and 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 will provide opportunities to reduce conflicts among resource users or overlaps in institutional mandates. General agreements on potential trade-offs promoted through an integrated and participatory manner, provide the platform for improved environmental and socio-economic benefits and for the participation of all the representatives of local communities, including of the poor and marginalised. In addition to agricultural activities, as it has been demonstrated, during participatory mechanisms, farmers use these opportunities to talk about water, climate, sanitation and social issues and by so doing they are able to engage local authorities as partners in different other proposals for a more inclusive rural development.

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

The project incorporates gender considerations in the project design to ensure that there is equal opportunity for female participation and realization of benefits under the initiative as presented. Formalized structures and measures or legal amendments developed within the project framework will explicitly reflect the role of women in all tiers of biodiversity/ resource management addressing specifically existing disparities faced by women and girls in terms of (amongst other things) access to economic participation and participation in decision making and trainings.

Within the national context, women generally share the responsibility for resources management and this is particularly visible at the household level. Owing to their active resource management roles, the project targets women participation in processes associated the conservation, sustainable use of water and forest resources and the delivery of ecosystem services. In this regard, water and soil resource management, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as sustainable production technologies and practices are expected to be achieved with their equal participation. The project integrated gender-based analysis into its designed and targeted the involvement of women, male and female youth within consultation processes meant to inform final project design.

There are numerous ways in which gender dimensions are relevant to the project. The project addresses multiple types of agricultural land use, all of which have important gender dimensions, as they relate directly to the sustainability of local livelihoods. The project will work to improve the sustainability of livestock grazing in and around KBAs. Although women are not typically directly involved in livestock grazing, they can be involved in decision-making about grazing plans, and in the processing of livestock products. The project will also work on improving land and water management in key areas. Women do typically have a more direct role and higher level of involvement in the production of food crops.

In further consideration to the roles and priorities of both men and women, the project has granted women greater opportunities to actively participate in governance bodies that will be set up by the project. The project promotes activities that close gaps resulting from gender equity issues since women in Uzbekistan generally, but more acutely in the rural communities, are more constrained by traditional gender roles and by the lack of access to financial resources and capacity-building to improve their livelihood.

The project will ensure that the activities relating to improved land and water management, such as local trainings and local decision-making mechanisms have appropriate and adequate gender representation. The project will also be working on the improvement management of protected areas and will also ensure the engagement of women in decision-making bodies related to protected areas, such as local management boards. The expected project provision of gender-disaggregated data, specifically, the distribution of project benefits based on sex, will assist in the monitoring of the effectiveness of addressing equality gaps through project programming. The project has mainstreamed a gender responsive engagement in its strategy (*please see Annex 16 Gender Analysis and Action Plan*) and will put in place a grievance redress mechanism, as described in the Annex 14

(Stakeholders Engagement Plan) and in line with the UNDP SES protocols. Furthermore, the project's implemented measures will yield environment and socio economic benefits for more than 10,000 people of which approximately 30% will be women.

The safeguards to be applied to ensure that gender considerations continue to be a part of the project delivery approach include the contribution of gender and community outreach specialists, continued targeting and engagement of women stakeholder groups through the project participation plan, and the mandatory utilization of gender assessments to guide all significant project deliverables. It is the aim of the project is to achieve the categorization of 'Gender Responsive' according to UNDP's gender results effectiveness scale (i.e., the results addressed differential needs of men or women and equitable distribution of benefits, resources, status and rights but do not address root causes of inequalities in their lives).

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

The four components of the project have been designed within available GEF and co-financing framework to address the corresponding drivers of land, water degradation and biodiversity decline, which are directly linked to the diminishment and loss of lake, wetland and riparian biodiversity in LADAB landscape. The project will deliver Global Environmental Benefits using a participatory approach that ensures promotion of women, youth and vulnerable groups and equitable participation opportunities. This will result in the establishment of an integrated water management framework linking water saving agriculture on 1,050,910 ha of irrigated land, with the sustainable management of minimum and maximum ecological flows to 957,260 hectares of lakes, wetlands and riparian zones; participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) measures applied to 100,000 ha of pastureland and tugai and turanga forest ecosystem, halting habitat degradation. Extended PAs national system that will include 9 additional KBAs/IBAs, through the legal designation of 3,094,600 ha new PAs which, coupled with an expected 20% increase in the management effectiveness of the existing PAs and a guaranteed minimum ecological flow, will cumulatively result into stabilized population of key indicator species and the ecological integrity of a chain of watered lands along the Aral coastline, crucial for preventing desertification and loss of biodiversity.

The environmental sustainability of the project results will be ensured by strengthened capacities in biodiversity management and LDN compatible SLM and increased awareness and understanding of local authorities, water managers, PAs staff, national government employees, state forestry enterprises, extension services, local natural resource users. In addition, the project will develop and institutionalize appropriate methodologies and tools, plans, guidelines and manuals to ensure sustainability of environmental results. For example, efficient water use on 112,800 ha of irrigated land will be achieved through four LDN compatible, climate sensitive Integrated Water Management Plans in the targeted districts (within Component 1). Furthermore, the project's supported Institutional Agreement (between State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture) as well as the legal amendments to the Water Code will ensure that 957,260 ha of natural ecosystems (lakes, wetlands, riparian zones) in Amudarya Basin will survive, by being supplied with the minimum ecological flows that will account for the predicted water deficits induced by climate change. Within Component 2, approximately 5,629,217 ha will be under LDN compatible, participatory integrated spatial and land use planning in 4 districts, setting up a new standard in land use planning in Uzbekistan. Approximately 100,000 ha of pastures and forests ecosystems will be put under improved management practices, through sustainable management plans embedded into the 10 years Strategy of the Forestry Enterprises, for sustainability of results. Under Component 3, approximately 9 additional KBAs/IBAs will be under increased protection through designation of new PAs covering 3,094,600 ha, ensuring stabilization of key indicators species; on the same time the existing 757,329 ha of PAs will be under improved management through increased capacities of PAs managers, local inspectors and border officers. Expanded information management systems will provide reliable and real-time information to support decision-making.

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

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

- a) The project deploys multi-stakeholders participatory mechanisms that increases accountability. Good examples of participatory mechanisms are demonstrated within the framework of Output 1.1 and 1.2 , through the inter-institutional coordination/stakeholders participation framework to improve efficiency of water use on irrigated lands and to provide for a more equitable distribution of water among multiple users (Output 1.1. and Output 1.2). Other project activities are leveraging stakeholders? engagement for improved land governance and an accelerated transition towards land degradation neutrality in Karakalpakstan (Output 2.1). The project will further promote stakeholders? accountability through participatory land use planning envisaged under Output 2.2., by facilitating active local community engagement including rural poor, actively promoting participation of women, youth and disadvantaged groups. Similarly, the project supported sustainable pasture management regimes (Output 2.3), designation of new PAs (Output 3.1.1), promoting community supported improved biodiversity friendly agricultural practices (Output 3.2.3) and training initiatives (Output 4.1.1 ) these are all major project milestones, implemented with embedded mechanisms for meaningful participation of all the stakeholders affected, particularly those at risk of being left behind.
- b) The project ensures that everybody has access to information, through transparency of all the programmatic interventions, provision of timely and accessible information regarding supported activities (primarily captured under Component 4) but also through partnerships such as with the Council of Farmers (Output 3.2.3) the project will strengthen its community outreach, including consultations on potential environmental and social risks and impacts and necessary management measures that will be implemented based on local consensus. Transparency and access to information will empower stakeholders to accelerate transition towards accountable decision making processes and more sustainable livelihoods.
- c) The project ensures that all the stakeholders can communicate their concerns and have access to rights-compatible complaints redress processes and mechanisms. In cases where there is a risk of economic displacement, such as the activities leading to designation of new PAs and ecological corridors, the Process Framework will be deployed, in an inclusive and participative manner, supported at local level by project experts and Local Advisory Committees including representatives of local self-governing bodies, CBOs and local NGOs in order to ensure inclusiveness The project will ensure that in all interactions with stakeholders (consultations, meetings, web sites) information is available on how to access complaints processes. The Project?s Stakeholder Engagement Plan will ensure the stakeholder?s are engaged and informed about all activities. In addition to the UNDP Stakeholder Response Mechanism<sup>[1]</sup> which is embedded in all UNDP projects, this project will set up the project- level Grievance Redress mechanism(GRM) and will designate the Project Board/Local Project Coordination Committees, included in the Project Management Arrangements (please see Section VI project Document) as the project-GRM to ensure first of all that all the people and communities are informed of project-level grievance entry points and avoid/minimize risks of retaliation and reprisal against people who may seek information on project activities or express concerns and/or access project level grievances.
- d) The project will monitor environment and social risk management measures through effective and where possible, participatory engagement of the stakeholders. In addition, the LDN monitoring mechanism in Karakalpakstan (Output 2.1.) will ensures adherence to the LDN principles (e.g. Human rights, Good governance, Participatory processes; Balanced economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability) further strengthening accountability.

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

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

<p><b>Risk 1.</b> The Project supported Integrated Water Management Framework for LADAB landscape could result in limitation of access to water resources.</p> <p><i>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P5</i></p> <p><i>SESP principle 2 Human Rights, P6</i></p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</i></p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P11</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P13</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P14</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.2</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.4</i></p>	<p>I=3</p> <p>L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project will support the development of an Integrated Water Management Framework IWMF (<b>Output 1.2</b>) based on assessments (partly done under Output 1.1.) covering the entire irrigated system in the Lower Amudarya and Aral Sea Basin (LADAB) landscape; The framework will include recommendations for efficient water use in irrigation sector, application of cropland farming methods that do not deplete soil quality. The IWMF will further recommend the institutional arrangements for inter-sectorial coordination and consensus regarding water requirements and adequate water norms and timing of water releases through the hydrotechnical facilities.</p>	<p>As per the ESMF (Annex 30 project Document) the risks will be managed through the implementation of an <b>appropriately scoped/scaled SESA approach</b> (with a subsequent ESMF if considered necessary per the SESA for compliance with the SES and national law); implementation of the Stakeholders Engagement Plan, Process Framework, Gender Action Plan and Grievance Redress Mechanism.</p> <p>A SESA approach will be applied to the development of the Integrated Water Management Framework, such that potential social and environmental downstream impacts arising from the development of subsequent (i) guidelines on revised irrigation norms, (ii) Integrated Water Management Plans at district level, (iii) policy directions, are considered as an explicit part of plans/policy/guidelines development. This will encompass potential climate change risks on water allocation among multiple water users including potential safety risks water users and potential limitation on livelihoods.</p> <p>Under Output 1.2, the project will leverage the stakeholders engagement (as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan) with the support from the Multi-Stakeholder Committee and representatives of line ministries, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), Amudarya Basin Water Organization (BWO), the relevant Basin Irrigation System Authorities (BISAs), Water Users Associations (WUAs).</p>
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<p><b>Risk 2:</b> The modification of land use and natural resources management regimes through the planning/implementation of sustainable land management (SLM) measures (e.g. forests, pastures, agricultural lands), envisaged to be implemented in support of long-term sustainability could affect access and use of resources by local communities, including the rural poor and women.</p> <p><i>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P5</i></p> <p><i>SESP principle 2 Human Rights, P6</i></p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</i></p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P11</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P13</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P14</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.2</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.4</i></p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 2</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project will develop several land, water and natural resources planning tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>4 Spatial Integrated Land Use Plans</u> in 4 priority districts Amudaya and Moynaq districts in Karakalpakstan and Alat and Karakul districts in Bukhara region, under <b>Output 2.2.</b></li> <li>- Under Output 1.2 the project will develop <u>4 Integrated Water Management Plans</u> in the priority districts (Output 1.2)</li> <li>- <u>pasture management plans in the four targeted districts</u>, on 90,000 ha in the PA/KBA/IBAs production zones under <b>Output 2.3.</b></li> <li>- <u>4 community-based forest management plans</u> in key areas of riparian corridors for approximately 10,000 ha tugai and turanga forests, and the implementation of proposed activities will be done in collaboration with the state forestry enterprises and local communities under <b>Output 2.5.</b></li> </ul> <p>Most of these targeted areas and recommended SLM</p>	<p>The risks will be managed through the implementation of <b>Targeted assessments</b> (please see ESMF Annex 30 Project Document) for all these outputs.</p> <p>The project will develop these plans by <b>applying targeted feasibility/risk assessments</b> (including climate-related risks and vulnerabilities) and site-specific screening, in the targeted areas in order to identify, prevent and mitigate potential economic displacement and negative impact on the critical habitats.</p> <p>Site specific measures will be designed as needed and included in these plans.</p> <p>The land use plans, pasture management plans as well as forest management plans, are expected to ensure livelihood improvements and environmental sustainability during and beyond the project period.</p> <p>If confirmed via site-specific screening during implementation (as per the ESMF), then the risk of economic displacement will be managed by integrating all elements of a <b>Livelihood Action Plan</b> into the respective plan for the given site.</p> <p>The <b>LDN Principles</b> will be applied to all these plans: land use, water use and pastures/forests use plans. The adherence to these principles and the screening against the <b>LDN Checklist (Annex 28)</b>, among which Criterion C "Promotion of Inclusive Governance?", will provide for mitigation of potential economic displacement.</p> <p>With respect to gender, a <b>Gender Analysis</b> has been undertaken (as required), and a <b>Gender Action Plan</b> developed. The project will hire a gender expert that will supervise the implementation of the Gender Action Plan</p> <p>Part of the <b>Stakeholders Engagement Plan</b> a project-level <b>Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM)</b> will be established and published so that all stakeholders including remote</p>
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<p><b>Risk 3:</b> Project developed plans, once implemented, may have a negative impact on the use of natural resources and/or the critical biodiversity habitats and species.</p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project's work under <b>Output 1.2.</b> will result in approximately 112,180 ha of irrigated land under sustainable water management; Under <b>Output 2.3</b> the project is using GEF resources to develop sustainable management plans for 90,000 ha of pastures; Under <b>Output 2.5</b> the project will plan the sustainable management of 10,000 tugai and Tauranga forests.</p>	<p>The risks will be managed through <b>the Site-specific screening</b> (as envisaged by the SES measures included in these plans) (please see ESMF Annex 30 Project Document) for all these outputs.</p>
<p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.1</p>			<p>It is expected that these plans will be funded and implemented by the government.</p>	<p>The pastures and forests and land use management plans include the management measures that have been identified via the targeted assessments at the selected sites level during the development phase of these plans.</p>
<p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.2</p>			<p>Under <b>Output 3.2.3</b> some of the SLM demonstration activities contained in these plans will be implemented through micro-grants to local farmers.</p>	<p>Now, during the implementation phase of the plans, the targeted sites will be individually screened with the SESP and based on the results, appropriate site-level assessment (potential ESIA) will be conducted, in order to identify, prevent and mitigate potential negative impacts on the critical habitats. These assessments, would not result in the ESMP because the Pastures/Forests and Land Use plans would already encompass the necessary mitigation measures and would act as ESMPs.</p>
<p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.3</p>			<p>The risks considered are related to potential inadequate implementation of water and SLM measures e.g. although the water management planning will indicate the technology to be used and will recommend SLM practices (such as crop rotation; biodrainage; agroforestry measures) in order to reduce water wastage and improved resource efficiency, there is the risk that these measures will lead to increase of natural</p>	<p>Competitive low-value grants will be issued to local entrepreneurs and small and midsize farmers. A screening mechanism will be built into selection process to ensure due diligence is applied for private sector partnership and businesses being supported by the project (Output 3.2.3).</p>
<p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.6</p>				<p>The project's deployment of qualified specialists (hydrologists, pasture agronomists; conservation biologists engineers, safeguards specialists/company etc.) will ensure that (starting with the design/development phase) these plans will encompass best practices and guidelines and specifications for the most efficient irrigation technology and scientifically supported SLM measures that pose no harm to environment and that cost effective, resource efficient and climate sensitive.</p>
<p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.7</p>				<p>UNDP has accumulated solid experience in successful demonstration and promotion of biodiversity friendly land and water management and climate smart irrigation technology, which will be</p>
<p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM 1.9</p>				
<p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM 1.10</p>				
<p>SES Standard 1; 1.11</p>				
<p>SES Standard 8; 8.6</p>				
<p>SES Standard 8; 8.5</p>				
<p>SES Standard 8; 8.2</p>				
<p>Standard 2; 2.3</p>				
<p>Standard 3; 3.6</p>				

<p><b>Risk 4:</b> Expansion of PAs system could lead to potential limitations or restrictions of the use of natural resources. Strengthening management of existing PAs, such as improved PAs zoning, strengthening the sanctuaries? protection regimes, and/or creation of ecological corridors could further restrict access to and use of biodiversity resources by local communities, affecting livelihoods.</p> <p>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P5</p> <p>SESP Principle 2 Human Rights, P6</p> <p>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</p> <p>SES Principle 3, Gender, P11</p> <p>Principle 5, Accountability, P13</p> <p>Principle 5, Accountability, P14</p> <p>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.2</p> <p>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.4</p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project <u>will establish five (5) new protected areas (Output 3.1.1)</u> with a total area of 3,094,600 ha: the National Park "South Ustyurt", the National Park "Central Kyzylkum", the Reserve "Sudoche Lakes System State Wildlife Sanctuary"(on the basis of the existing refuge with an area of 50,000 ha), the refuges "Mejdurechye of Akdarya-Kazakhdarya" and "Akpетки". Local communities in the project area could face economic displacement due to the expansion of the PAs system (new PA designation). Certain land use activities would likely be prohibited or restricted as part of these processes.</p> <p>Another part of the project?s PAs work is targeting the <u>improvement of the management of 5 existing PAs</u> i.e. Kyzylkum State Reserve; Lower Amudarya Biosphere Reserve; State Integrated Sanctuary Saygachy; Dengizkul Lake State Refuge; Sudochye Refuge <b>(Output 3.1.2)</b>. The work is focusing on improved management effectiveness of the existing PAs through PA regime compliance and enforcement, zoning, patrolling, research, species-</p>	<p>The risk management measures are listed in the ESMF (Annex 30/Project Document) and will be implemented <b>through Process Framework, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan and project level GRM.</b> ( Please see Annex 14 Stakeholder Engagement Plan ? it includes a template for the Process Framework).</p> <p>The <b>Process framework</b> is embedded in the project strategy and is part of the project?s work on the new PAs (Output 3.1.1.) and existing PAs (Output s 3.1.2 and 3.2.1).</p> <p>The PF will engage local population in the targeted areas. These local meeting will create awareness on the work on PAs and will address and reconcile any real or perceived economic limitations that the new PA legal mandate may impose.</p> <p>Evaluation of the necessity of <b>potential compensatory mechanisms</b> and eligibility criteria, describing the measures that will assist the potential affected persons to improve their livelihoods will be identified as the result of these assessments and discussions.</p> <p>The project manager will ensure that Information and guidance to local communities about the UNDP Conflict resolution and grievance mechanism is provided.</p> <p>The formal process of the new PAs designation will not commence before/unless securing consensus with the local communities over the PAs border, management arrangements and monitoring measures (please see Annex 14 Stakeholders Engagement Plan / Process Framework Template; and Annex 6, SESP) .</p> <p>During the consultations, the project manager supported by the project?s field coordinators and local community outreach consultants will ensure that any potential risk of economic displacement in the affected communities, resulting from the designation of new PAs will be mitigated through the <b>Process Framework for 7 PAs:</b></p>
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<p><b>Risk 5:</b> Land restoration measures intended to reduce threats to critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas could potentially end up harming them.</p>	<p>I=3 L=2</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p><b>Output 2.4</b> comprises a suite of measures to restore degraded land on 1,500 ha and on sustainable forest management through assisted regeneration. Under Output 2.4, activities may include the transformation of degraded arable or pasture lands to fodder or pasture areas by biodrainage, planting licorice and alfalfa, implementation of smart irrigation techniques that improved its condition; integrated innovative agroforestry measures through the cultivation of perennial crops, primarily trees (including fruit trees) and shrubs together with interplanted arable crops.</p>	<p>The risks will be managed through site specific screening for land restoration activities.</p>
<p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.1</p>			<p>The likelihood of the risks from targeted project interventions is rated ?moderately likely? but given that the objective of the project is to enhance the environmental and social qualities of these areas, the risk of negative and environmental impacts is considered limited in scale and manageable through applicable standard practices, use of native species and/or previously tested methods . Although the environmental risks are considered moderate, limited in scale and with the</p>	<p>The project will apply site specific <b>feasibility/risk assessments</b> (including climate-related risks and vulnerabilities) and if needed an appropriately scoped ESIA will be applied, to identify, prevent and mitigate potential negative impacts on the critical habitats . The land restoration measures are expected to ensure livelihood improvements and environmental sustainability during and beyond the project period.</p>
<p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.2</p>				<p>The <b>qualified project's experts</b> ( Riparian Forest Engineer, Hydrologists, Pasture Agronomist, Crop irrigation specialists, Conservation biologists) will work with the safeguards experts/company to properly identify risks and proposed management measures. The Project Community Outreach Experts will facilitate local consultations with community representatives on the proposed SLM measures, targeted locations and necessary assessments.</p>
<p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.6</p>				<p>The project is aiming at demonstrating sustainable agricultural practices around Protected Areas (PAs) or Key Biodiversity Areas (outside PAs). These demonstrative activities will be agreed with the local authorities, respective land managers and project specialists. The project design includes activities with no or minimal risk to the critical or sensitive habitats. The technologies envisaged to be implemented by the project have been previously tested by various donor supported initiatives including UNDP: e.g. efficient irrigation technologies (drip, sprinkler etc.); land stabilization (planting of trees); wells rehabilitation; use of organic fertilizers.</p>
<p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.7</p>				
<p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.8</p>				
<p>SES Standard 8 Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency 8.2</p>				

<p><b>Risk 6.</b> The project activities focused on re-planting (native) tree species along riparian forests strips could have unforeseen ecological consequences.</p> <p>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.8</p>	<p>I=2 L=2</p>	<p>Under Output 2.5 the project will provide technical assistance and biological materials (tree seedlings) for the afforestation activities, and there may a risk posed by the chosen tree species having unforeseen ecological consequences. The project team will work with the partner local forestry services and qualified project experts to ensure ecologically appropriate locations for planting trees, and will use native species (this is the purpose of the activity). The relatively small area of tree planting means that any ecological impact will be with a limited impact in case of a potential adverse effect. The overall environmental impact ? considering the benefits of the planted trees ? is expected to be positive. The purpose of the activity is to restore areas of forest that have been degraded.</p>	<p>No measures needed as the risk is Low.</p>
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<p><b>Risk 7.</b> The project supported demonstration activities may inadvertently be implemented at/in proximity of significant cultural and historical significance sites.</p> <p>SES Standard 4; 4.1; 4.2</p>	<p>I=2 L=2</p>	<p><b>Low</b></p>	<p>The project sites for <b>Outputs 1.2; 2.3; 2.4; 2.5</b> have been carefully selected during the PPG based on several criteria chiefly among which is the land condition and water irrigation system and proximity to PAs. There is very low risk that these sites be overlapping with cultural and/or historically significant sites. However, the sites will be validated during the project inception/in the first year, based on agreements with the forestry enterprises and local communities.</p>	<p>No measures needed as the risk is Low.</p>
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<p><b>Risk 8.</b> Small scale construction site associated with the monitoring station in South Ustyurt and installation of observation towers in the existing PAs may have negative impact on critical habitats and species.</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.1</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.2</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.7</p> <p>Standard 3 Community Safety</p> <p>3.1 3.2 3.3</p> <p>SES Standard 7 Labour and working condition; 7.1</p>	<p>I=3</p> <p>L=2</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project will support the construction of a field station in South Ustyurt (new PA) under Output 3.1.1. This base will serve as a field infrastructure for scientists and reserve inspectorate after the protected area become operational. There is a risk of disturbing the habitat of the Ustyurt ram and Goiterred gazelle during the construction works (although these are very limited). In addition, under Output 3.1.2 the project will support the installation of observation towers for monitoring of birds but also of any fire hazards enabling rapid interventions. There is a limited risk of habitat disturbance at site.</p>	<p>The project will apply site-specific <b>screening and appropriately scoped ESIA (as per ESMF Annex 30)</b> to infrastructure development to identify, prevent and mitigate potential impacts on ecologically sensitive habitats through the construction process or ongoing use.</p> <p>The risks will be mitigated through site-level procedures according to SES requirements. Where risks cannot be avoided, management measures will be put in place prior to the start of the relevant activities.</p> <p>Infrastructure development will be designed in an ecologically sensitive manner and apply best practices in low-impact, ecologically sensitive design and construction. Moreover, project infrastructure will be developed/scoped in accordance with specific national legislation and norms. Additional restrictions may apply for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that constructions are located at least 100 metres away from the existing streams, rivers, water sources and no discharge from such establishments should follow their path into nearby water bodies.</li> <li>- Minimize area of ground clearance. Avoiding sensitive alignments, such as those which include ecologically sensitive areas.</li> <li>- In order to safeguard the loss of the aesthetic values of the landscape, use of ecofriendly design, local architecture and materials will be encouraged.</li> </ul> <p>Observation towers should maintain adequate distance from the nesting areas and canopies</p> <p>Design of the observation towers should be ecofriendly, with the use of local materials</p> <p>Installation of appropriate and adequate number of signages.</p> <p>Based on the remoteness of the area the relatively low levels of population in the vicinity of the PAs, any potential impact on local communities is considered</p>
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<p><b>Risk 9:</b> Enforcement of PAs regime and/or wildlife corridors, following applicable environmental norms and legislation could pose risks of conflicts between rangers and local communities engaged in traditional livelihoods and practices.</p> <p>SES Principle Human Rights, P2 2</p> <p>SES Principle Human Rights, P7 2</p> <p>SES Standard Community Health, Safety and Security, 3.8 3</p>	<p>I=3</p> <p>L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>Enforcement issues of the <u>environmental regulations in the new PA (Output 3.1.1)</u> or enforcement of <u>wildlife corridors/buffer areas regime (Output 3.2.1)</u> may lead to conflicts between the rangers and the local community or among different local community members.</p> <p>When working in developing countries there exists a risk that the entity responsible for PA management (be it governmental authority or community organization) does not have the full capacity necessary to fulfill their duties in terms of governance, administration, and management of natural resources. The enforcement personnel need to be appropriately trained to implement legal enforcement and manage relationship with local residents.</p>	<p>The Management measures will be addressed through <b>Trainings and Grievance and Redress Mechanism.</b></p> <p>In addition, the project will ensure that management measures (addressing SES requirements) <b>will be included in the new PAs management plans</b> (corresponded to IUCN II and IUCN IV categories ) as noted in the Project Document ( Output 3.1.1). The project's qualified experts, including the Capacity Development experts, local coordinators, technical support staff and ministry counterparts will work with the Local Advisory Committees and facilitate the assessments, local dialogue and round table meetings that the process involves.</p> <p>In addition, the project will trainings/capacity building (<b>Output 3.2.2</b>) for PAs personnel, border inspectors, local police and central and local authorities with an emphasis on human rights principles (in line with the SES).</p> <p>Some of the trainings will target specifically community outreach related topics , and addressing illegal activities "<i>Interaction with local communities</i>" (<i>opportunities for engaging local population in biodiversity conservation, joint patrolling of territories, protection of key sites</i>)- Output 3.2.2. The training will include a specific module for rangers, on Local Communities and Cultures, in order to strengthen understanding on community rights and needs; respect to human rights and empowering communities to manage and protect wildlife and critical habitats.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project will facilitate <b>regular meetings between PA managers, ranger patrol staff, communities, inspectorates, border security</b> in or in the proximity of the core areas to analyse trends in monitoring and legal compliance, aiming at addressing ongoing threats in a collaborative manner, including issues related to cross-border migration of wildlife (Output 3.2.2).</p>
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<p><b>Risk 10:</b> Government resource management authorities may not have the capacity to fulfill all aspects of their mandate, and rural resource users may not have the capacity to claim their rights, which could potentially lead to the violation of human rights.</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>There is a <u>risk that institutional government duty-bearers</u> related to the management of high value Aral basin ecosystems and land resources do not have the capacity to meet their obligations.</p>	<p>The risks will be managed through <b>Trainings/capacity building</b> project activities (<b>Output 4.1.1</b>) as well as targeted trainings for local natural resources users (embedded under <b>Output 3.2.3</b>). The project will be working closely with all stakeholders to support government natural resource management authorities and institutions to meet their obligations, and with resource user rights holders to claim their rights.</p>
<p>SES Principle Human Rights, P2</p>	<p>2</p>			
<p>SES Principle Human Rights, P3</p>	<p>2</p>		<p>In addition, by the same principle and rationale of the fact that the project will be working on natural resource management issues in rural and remote areas, there is a risk that <u>resource users and other rights holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights</u>. Such resource users living in rural and remote areas may not be fully educated and informed about what their rights are (in this case, in relation to usufruct or other natural resource-related rights), or the procedures to claim those rights. There is a risk that rights holders may not have the legal, self-organizing, or financial means to claim their rights. The risk is assessed based on situation and context that the project will be working in. The fact that there is limited capacity on both the part of the government and rights holders is an inherent element to working on sustainable livelihoods in developing countries.</p>	<p>As with the previous risks, the project will be working closely with all stakeholders to support government natural resource management authorities and institutions to meet their obligations, and with resource user rights holders to claim their rights. This will be accomplished through multiple stakeholder consultation sessions during all relevant aspects of the project to ensure that all parties are aware of and understand the relevant obligations and rights.</p>

<p><b>Risk 11:</b> The expected project impacts of the conservation of endangered and threatened species, restoration of degraded land, and sustainable management of forest and pasture resources could be sensitive to changing climatic conditions in the future.</p> <p><i>SES Standard 2 Climate Change Vulnerability, 2.2</i></p> <p><i>SES Standard 2 Climate Change Vulnerability, 2.4</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=2</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>Adverse <u>impacts of extreme climatic events</u> (drought; sand and windstorms; seasonal floods) can affect project?s interventions in the field and the livelihoods of local communities living in the target areas.</p>	<p>The management measures will be implemented <b>through the project?s activities</b>. The various project?s assessments will be informed by the existing climate risk profile/studies (elaborated within the framework of other projects) and through the project?s own land/water and climate risk assessments (<b>Output 1.1</b>).</p> <p>Initial climate related risks assessments will also be considered in the implementation of all the envisaged plans and SLM measures, included among the project activities.</p> <p>Attention to the current and potential impacts of climate change has been built-in to all aspects of the project. The project work will link the provision of adequate supply of water to lakes, wetlands and riparian zones to ?water saving agriculture? measures, aligned with the prevent-reduce-restore LDN philosophy.</p> <p>A large a multidisciplinary team of specialists will ensure that the partners and stakeholders will apply the best available climate change forecasts data for Uzbekistan?s lower Amu Darya basin, and will ensure that all project activities and plans take potential future climate impacts into consideration.</p> <p>The project will calculate the <b>minimum ecological flow</b> needed for the survival of the last remaining wetlands of Amudarya delta taking into account the predicted climate induced water deficits. This will provide scientific based evidence for adequate policy and institutional provisions for sustainable management of maximum and minimum ecological flows to lakes, wetlands, and riparian zones. (<b>Output 2.1</b>)</p> <p>The <b>hydroclimatic modeling</b> (under <b>Output 1.1</b>) and water use trend analysis will provide scientific evidence for the <b>revised irrigation norms</b> that accounts for climate change (<b>Output 1.2</b>). The project supported <b>Integrated Water use and Climate Resilient Plans (Output 1.2)</b> are developed based on the latest climate data. The development of the <b>Integrated LDN compatible Land Use Plans</b></p>
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<p><b>Risk 12:</b> Project activities involving local/field interventions and close engagement with local communities may inadvertently contribute to the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>Standard 3 Community Health, Safety and Security, 3.4</p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>Activities at local level are based on participatory approaches, and most of the times will include meetings and local consultations. There are a number of training workshops and awareness events, round table meetings etc.</p>	<p>The risk will be mitigated through <b>adequate safeguards</b> such as: (i) clear procedures in place in case of COVID19 reinstatement of restrictions, approved during project inception (ii) use of protective equipment, maintaining social distancing and using remote methods of engagement whenever possible (iii) if adequate safeguards cannot be put in place, activities that entail close local communities engagement will be put on hold if necessary, and work programme/budget will be revised as needed. Wherever possible on-line meeting platforms will be used and travel decreased. All project meetings will be organized mindful of government regulations and healthy standards and other appropriate safeguards (including those of UNDSS).</p>
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<p><b>Risk 13:</b> The project may inadvertently contribute to potential perpetuation of discriminations against women. There are lingering disparities between men and women, particularly in rural areas and in the patriarchal cultures of some of the ethnic minority communities, which could be inadvertently replicated.</p> <p>-</p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</i></p>	<p>I=2 L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The Project could potentially perpetuate discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities. In the pilot farmers associations and livestock farming sector, women account for around 51-52% of the population. They are mainly engaged in housekeeping, teaching, and administrative support services. Many more women form part of the unpaid family labor in home farming and lease of agricultural lands.</p>	<p>The management of this risk will be done through the implementation of the <b>Gender Action Plan (GAP)</b> and will be monitored by the project specialized experts.</p> <p>The project design has consistently mainstreamed gender sensitive approaches and has created opportunities for tackling women's needs, ranging from designing tailored training activities to organizing dedicated segments of radio programmes for women farmers. The project will provide ample opportunities for women to learn about LDN and SLM measures and resilient livelihoods and integrate best practices into their farm practices. Though the training programs and Farmer Field Schools, women will also be able to access the capacity building and training required to practice climate-resilient agriculture, as well as to diversify their livelihoods in more resilient ways. The project will ensure gender balance in all project activities (e.g. seminars, community level events) including in the membership of different decision-making bodies ( Working groups; Project Boards; Evaluation Committees) including access to project financial assistance (grant scheme). Gender considerations will inform any community level vulnerability analysis linked to local infrastructure or demonstration plot development through consultation regarding needs and preferences on types of training and investment. The project will also gather gender-disaggregated data for evaluation purposes and use gender sensitive indicators (particularly around beneficiaries) to facilitate planning, implementation and monitoring. Complaints will be addressed through the project level Grievance redress mechanism.</p>
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<p><b>Risk 14.</b> The project may fail to ensure that labor rights, especially of vulnerable groups, are respected by local subcontractors. There could be risk of forced child labor at project sites.</p> <p><i>SES Standard 7; 7.1</i></p> <p><i>SES Standard 7; 7.3</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate[2]</b></p>	<p>Uzbekistan ratified all ILO main conventions. The information on the ILO website with regard to application of labor standards in Uzbekistan reveal that forced and child labor in Uzbekistan cotton field continue to fall.[3]<sup>3</sup></p>	<p>The <b>management measures will be devised on case by case basis.</b> The project will ensure that national working standards (Labor Code) are respected for all the project activities. The requirements of this Standard are to be applied in an appropriately-scaled manner based on the nature and scale of the project, its specific activities, the project's associated social and environmental risks and impacts, and the type of contractual relationships with project workers.</p> <p><b>The management procedures will be that specific requirements of the terms and conditions of the employment will be established,</b> that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comply with minimum age requirements set out in International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions or national legislation (whichever offers the greatest protection to young people under the age of 18) and keep records of the dates of birth of all employees verified by official documentation</li> <li>- Check the activities carried out by young workers and ensure that children under 18 are not employed in hazardous work, including in contractor workforces. Hazardous work will normally be defined in national legislation and will be likely to include most tasks in construction and several in agriculture.</li> <li>- Assess the safety risks relating to any work by children under 18 and carry out regular monitoring of their health, working conditions and hours of work</li> <li>- Ensure that any workers aged 13-15 are only doing light work outside school hours, in accordance with national legislation, or</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Risk 15.</b> Expansion of PAs system and/or improved zoning could lead to risk to endangered species.</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.1</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.2</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.6</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.7</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.8</p> <p>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM 1.4</p>	<p>I=3</p> <p>L=3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The proposed zoning activities in the existing PAs may end up posing a risk to endangered species. For example the project will support the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection to carry out the preparatory works to re-define the core area in Lower Amudarya Biosphere and to find other suitable habitats for Bukhara deer and relocate part of the population.</p> <p>In Kyzylkum State Reserve, the project will establish feeding corridors for Bukhara deer.</p> <p>Currently the available tugai areas decreased at such a rate that the habitat no longer has the carrying capacity for the population of Bukhara deer and the importance of an adequate ecological flow to allow for regeneration of tugai areas is crucial. Bukhara deer population is currently at 1233 individuals. It is estimated that approximately 80-100 individuals will be relocated by end project (based on the results of a study commission by GIZ and Zukkov Foundation[4]<sup>4</sup>).</p>	<p>Project activities will be carefully planned in consultation with relevant experts and local communities (Output 3.1.2).</p> <p>The project experts will analyse available baseline, and will build on the knowledge generated by other donor implemented projects (e.g. GIZ project ? Mapping natural resources along Amudarya banks in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan? ) and will develop and analyse scenarios for optimal number of species in the core areas and will support the delineation of a feeding corridor that could expand the current core zones and subsequent amendments to PA management and monitoring program.</p> <p>The project will explore opportunities to establish collaboration agreements between Lower Amudarya Biosphere Reserve and research organizations to study dynamics of restoration of vegetation and wildlife, within the context of the reserve. At the same time, the project will conduct</p>
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<b>QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?</b>				
<b>Low Risk</b>	?			
<b>Moderate Risk</b>	X			
<b>Substantial Risk</b>	?			
<b>High Risk</b>	?			
<b>QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)</b>				
Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects				
<b><u>Is assessment required?</u></b> <b><u>(check if ?yes?)</u></b>	x			<b>Status?</b> <b>(completed, planned)</b>
if yes, indicate overall type and status		X	Targeted assessment(s)	Completed during PPG: gender analysis, stakeholder analysis
		x	SESA	Planned during implementation: to be determined based on site-specific screening
		x	ESIA	Planned during implementation: to be determined based on site-specific screening
<b>Are management plans required? (check if ?yes)</b>	X			

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

	<b>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b>	X	
	<b>2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks</b>	X	
	<b>3. Community Health, Safety and Security</b>	X	
	<b>4. Cultural Heritage</b>	?	
	<b>5. Displacement and Resettlement</b>	X	
	6. Indigenous Peoples	?	
	<b>7. Labour and Working Conditions</b>	X	
	<b>8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b>	X	

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

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

[3] [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_735883/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_735883/lang--en/index.htm)

[4] GIZ Report 'Overview of possible measures to prevent conflict between the Bukhara deer and the local population' 2019

#### Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
<b>Environment and Social Management Plan ESMF_Uzbekistan</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>Annex 6_UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure_SESP_Uzbekistan</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	

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

*Please see GEF-UNDP Project Document Section IV Project Results Framework*

<p><b>This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s):</b> Goal 1 ? End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 5 ? Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 6 ? Ensure access to water and sanitation for all and Goal 15 ? Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.</p>					
<p><b>This project will contribute to the National priority:</b> ?Promoting mechanisms/instruments of effective use of natural resources? and ?Support to population on adaptation to climate change, including in the Aral Sea region?</p>					
<p><b>This project will contribute to UNDP Global Strategic Plan Outcome 1:</b> Growth is inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded</p>					
<p><b>This project will be linked to UNDAF (2016-2020) Key Priority 2:</b> Environmental protection to ensure sustainable development ; and <b>UNDAF OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP 6:</b> By 2020, equitable and sustainable economic growth through productive employment, improvement of environment for business, entrepreneurship and innovations expanded for all.</p>					
<p><b>This project will be linked to the following output of the UNDP Strategic Plan:</b> Output 1.3: Solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste.</p>					
	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verifications and Assumptions
<p><b>Project Objective:</b> To enhance the resilience and sustainability of landscapes and livelihoods in the Aral basin, and progress toward Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), through</p>	<p><b>Indicator 1 (GEF 7 Core Indicator 1)</b> Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha) (sum of Indicator 16 and Indicator 17 below).</p>	<p>807.329 ha[1]</p>	<p>Flora and fauna Inventories and habitat mapping necessary for the preparatory work completed</p>	<p><b>3,851,929 [2]</b></p>	<p><b>Means for verification:</b> Annual monitoring (PIRs), project technical reports, METT scorecards validated by the project final evaluation. <b>Assumptions:</b> Interest from the central government, private sectors and farmers in biodiversity conservation;</p>

<p>integrated management of land, lake, wetland, and riparian ecosystems, with engagement of private sector and local communities</p>	<p><b>Indicator 2 (GEF 7 Core Indicator 4)</b> Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares, excluding PAs) (sum of Indicators 8,9,10)</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Baseline assessments and methodologies developed.</p>	<p>100,000 ha</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Field reports/field verification reports; Project midterm and final evaluation report; State Forestry Enterprises-approved pastures and forests management plans. <b>Assumptions:</b> Environmental/climate variability within normal range. Uptake of SLM practices and integrated land use planning. Existing interest from local communities to participate in project activities.</p>
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	<p><b>Indicator 3 (GEF 7 Core Indicator 11)</b> Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (#):  # of <u>public sector employees</u> with improved capacity for integrated landscape management and sustainable agricultural practices (gender disaggregated)  # of <u>local resource users and agricultural producers</u> with improved awareness and technical knowledge on SLM and sustainable water use and improved sustainability of livelihoods (gender disaggregated)  # <u>Micro-scheme beneficiaries</u>  # of <u>PAs staff</u> with enhanced individual capacity in biodiversity conservation and sustainable</p>	<p>N/A zero beneficiaries)</p>	<p><b>Total:</b> 20,130 (30% women)  <u>Public sector employee:</u> 30 public sector staff at national and local level of which at least 30% women  <u>Local resource users and agricultural producers:</u> Total 20,000 (at least 30%women)  <u>Micro-scheme beneficiaries:</u> Methodologies, calls for application, grants disbursements  <u>PA staff :</u> At least 100 PA staff with enhanced capacity (at least 30% women)</p>	<p><b>Total:</b> 49,300 (14,780women and 34,520 men)  <u>Public sector employee:</u> 100 public sector staff at national and local level of which at least 30% women (30 women; 70 men  <u>Local resource users and agricultural producers:</u> Total 48,500 (14,550 women; 33,950 men)  <u>Micro-scheme</u> 500 (150 women; 350 men)  <u>PA staff :</u> At least 200 PA staff with enhanced capacity (50 women and 150 men)</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Farmer and household surveys/interviews (unstructured and/or semi structured). Interviews with key stakeholders; project reports validated by midterm and final project evaluations; Number of staff employed by Ministry of Water resources (and affiliated structures) and other line ministries, number of staff of the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection, Committee on Veterinary Medicine and Livestock, Council of Farmers, benefiting from project activities through trainings, awareness, integrated land use planning, LDN target setting. Number of local resources users (farmers, water users) participating into project activities, benefiting from trainings, field farm schools, grants, support to local nurseries and basketry workshops, support to local orchards and agroforestry measures; land restoration activities and pastures and forest management planning.  <b>Assumptions:</b> Local resource</p>
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	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verifications and Assumptions
<p><b>Component 1:</b> Coordinated water management as basis for LDN and conservation</p> <p><b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Improved water management for resilient ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods:</p>	<p><b>Indicator 4:</b> Existence of formally approved institutional framework for integrated water management in Lower Amudarya and Aral basin (LADAB) landscape, operationalizing the revised, climate sensitive, norms, volumes and timing of water releases among multiple users in LADAB Landscape.</p>	N/A	<p>-Multi-Stakeholder Task Force and Multi-Stakeholder Committee set up</p> <p>-Baseline and problem assessments developed</p> <p>-Revised irrigation norms</p> <p>-<i>Concept</i> on Water Release to Lakes, Wetlands and Riparian Zones drafted</p> <p>Inter-institutional agreements drafted and submitted for discussions</p>	1 (Integrated Water Management Framework approved and under implementation)	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Project technical reports. Project reporting for Outcome 1 verified by official records. Field monitoring. Validated by Midterm and final GEF evaluation project reports.</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> Government has a keen interest to rationalize water use among different economic sectors and approve mandatory ecological flows to maintain ecological integrity of lakes, wetlands and riparian zone in Amudarya delta.</p>

	<p><b>Indicator 5:</b> Area of irrigated land (ha) under sustainable integrated water management planning in the targeted districts, resulting in: -1% reduced salinized land per year -10% reduced water losses -increase in soil productivity as measured by soil bonitet score</p>	0 ha	<p>Baseline assessments and methodologies developed Co-financing reconfirmed/mobilized for the Integrated Water Management Plans</p>	<p>112,180 ha covered by 4 LDN compatible, climate smart and gender sensitive Integrated Water Management Plans in the priority districts.</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Project technical reports. Expert project mapping, GIS referenced data; Ministry of Water Resources ameliorative expeditions data. Field monitoring. Midterm and Final GEF evaluation project reports. <b>Assumptions:</b> Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Agriculture remain committed to the pledged co-financing Integrated Water Management Plans will be officially approved Government has a keen interest to rationalize water use among different economic sectors and approve mandatory ecological flows to maintain ecological integrity of lakes, wetlands and riparian zone sin Amudarya delta.</p>
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	<p><b>Indicator 6:</b> Existence of legal tools enforcing minimum ecological flows, accounting for climate change, to Amudarya basin lakes, wetlands and riparian zones</p>	<p>N/A (norms are not observed)</p>	<p>Concept (Guidelines) on Water Release to Lakes, Wetlands and Riparian Zones</p> <p>Legal amendments drafted (based on the Concept)</p>	<p>Legal amendments to Water Code and related legislation adopted, guaranteeing the minimum ecological flows to Amudarya lakes, wetlands and riparian zones adopted</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Official records; Project reports. Project terminal evaluation report;</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> There is a stated and clear interest of the Government to reform water sector and ensure the guaranteed ecological flow to lower Amudarya delta. Project partners remain committed to the project objective</p>
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	<p><b>Indicator 7 (KM):</b> Level of information necessary for improved integrated water management considering the climate change impacts (e.g. revised water requirements in agriculture sector and correct estimation of ecological flows to maintain lakes, wetlands and riparian zones in LADAB landscape)</p>	<p>Poor integration of existing data sets on water requirements, water use patterns in different sectors Lack of information on actual ecological flows required by most of the lakes and wetlands to maintain ecological integrity, especially under climate change predicted deficits.</p>	<p>Detailed methodology and approaches for updating water management information in support of an improved, equitable share among multiple water users (sectors) and establishing and ensuring the required ecological flow necessary to maintain lakes, wetlands and riparian zones in Amudarya delta</p>	<p>(i) A new <i>Concept on Water Management and Release to Lakes, Wetlands and Riparian Zones</i> is shared with. and endorsed by, the Ministry of Water Resources by with water managers. (ii) Comprehensive inventory of water uses and water requirements in agriculture sector (iii) Plan of Investments for optimization of hydrotechnical facilities (iii) Researched water requirements for lakes, wetlands and riparian zones in Amudarya mid and lower reaches, is completed and accessible to end users and water managers in LADAB landscape</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Project reports; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE. <b>Assumptions:</b> Project does not encounter critical risk that will derail activities; Relevant water management related data can be achieved cost-effectively at landscape scale; There is a stated and clear interest of the Government to facilitate consensus among multiple water users and reform water management sector to include guaranteed ecological flows to lower Amudarya delta.</p>
<p><u>Outputs:</u> Output 1.1 Revised norms of volume and timing of water supply through key hydrotechnical facilities developed and adopted: Output 1.2 Integrated Water Management Framework designed for LADAB landscape and 4 LDN-compatible Gender Sensitive Climate-Smart Integrated Water Management designed in 4 priority districts based on Output 1.1 and used as input to Output 2.1</p>					
-	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Mid-term Target</b>	<b>End of Project Target</b>	<b>Means of Verifications and Assumptions</b>

<p><b>Component 2:</b> Sustainable land management for Land Degradation Neutrality in the target landscape</p> <p><b>Outcome 2.1.</b> Practical improvement in soil and vegetation condition management and new livelihood opportunities created for local communities in line with LDN checklist</p>	<p><b>Indicator 8 (GEF Core Indicator 4.1):</b> Area (hectares) of land under sustainable management regime, where degradation of pasture habitats is avoided.</p>	<p>Baseline will be assessed at inception stage.</p>	<p>Baseline methodologies, indicators and monitoring schemes developed; pastures inventories and assessments developed Expert mapping based on LDN avoid/reduce/restore hierarchy.</p>	<p>40,000 pastures under sustainable management plans, where degradation is avoided</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Field verification reports (based on the agreed monitoring scheme embedded into the plans) validated by Project terminal evaluation report; Pastures and Forests management plans integrated with the 10 years forest plan of the State Forestry State Forestry enterprises approved pastures and forests management plans</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> Environmental/climate variability within normal range. Uptake of SLM practices and integrated land use planning is optimal; Existing interest from local communities to participate in project activities. Co-financing materialized for the implementation of these plans.</p>
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	<p><b>Indicator 9 (GEF7 Core Indicator 4.1):</b> Area (hectares) of land under sustainable management regime, where degradation of tugai/tauranga forests habitats is avoided .</p>	<p>Baseline established at inception stage.</p>	<p>Baseline methodologies, indicators and monitoring schemes developed; assessments developed. Expert mapping based on LDN avoid/reduce/restoration hierarchy.</p>	<p>10,000 tugai/tauranga forest under sustainable regime, where degradation is avoided</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Field verification reports (based on the agreed monitoring scheme embedded into the plans) validated by Project terminal evaluation  <b>Assumptions:</b> There is interest among farmers (dekhan farms), forestry enterprises and pasture associations and local authorities to apply SLM measures and forest regeneration in the production zones. Co-financing materialized for the implementation of these plans.</p>
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	<p><b>Indicator 10 (GEF7 Core Indicator 4.1):</b> Area (hectares) of land where degradation of pastures is reduced.</p>	<p>Baseline established at inception stage.</p>	<p>Baseline methodologies, indicators and monitoring schemes developed; assessments developed. Expert mapping based on LDN avoid/reduce/restoration hierarchy.</p>	<p>50,000 ha under sustainable management regime</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Field verification reports based on the agreed monitoring scheme embedded into the plans validated by Project terminal evaluation report; State Forestry enterprises approved pastures and forests management plans.</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> Environmental/climate variability within normal range. Uptake of SLM practices and integrated land use planning is optimal; Existing interest and co-funding from local communities to participate in project activities. Co-financing materialized for the implementation of these plans.</p>
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	<p><b><u>Indicator 11 (GEF7 Core Indicator 3.1):</u></b> Area (ha) of degraded land restored for improved ecosystem services</p>	0 ha	<p>Baseline and methodologies developed. LDN <i>hot spots</i> identified, based on which the demonstration sites (proposed under Annex 24) are validated/replaced.</p> <p>Baseline methodologies, monitoring indicators developed; assessments developed;</p>	1,500 ha	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Field observation reports (based on an agreed monitoring methodology designed before the restoration works) validated by Project terminal evaluation report; State Forestry enterprises approved pastures and forests management plans.</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> Project restoration activities proposed can be implemented and there is interest among farmers (dekhan farms), forestry enterprises and pasture associations and local authorities to apply SLM measures and forest regeneration in the production zones</p>
	<p><b><u>Indicator 12 (GEF 7 Core indicators 6):</u></b> GHG emissions mitigated (tCO2-eq)</p>	0	No change (project outcomes and impacts not achieved at this stage)	132,795 tCO2-eq	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Field/plot surveys. Project reports. Updated GEF7 Core Indicator 6 FAO EX-ACT Tool</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> Project does not encounter critical risks that derail implementation.</p>

	<p><b>Indicator</b>  <b>13</b> : # of landscapes or jurisdictions with LDN voluntary targets</p>	0	1	1 (LDN targets set up and monitoring mechanisms for Karakalpakstan)	<p><b>Means of verification:</b>  UNCCD reports; LDN National Monitoring and Action Plan reports on LDN subnational target in Karakalpakstan; ; Project reports (including final evaluation report).  <b>Assumptions:</b>  Interest from the local/regional and central government, private sectors and farmers in achieving land degradation neutrality through a combination of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) measures.</p>
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	<p><b>Indicator 14 : (KM):</b> Existence of mandatory methodologies on LDN and SLM measures applicable for practical improvements of land management and land use planning</p>	N/A	<p>Environmental data collected, methodologies elaborated and first drafts of different knowledge products are discussed with local and national authorities and other key project partners Available UNCCD-promoted innovative LDN compliant land use planning module based on the results of the GEO-LDN Technology Innovation Competition (Output 2.2).</p>	<p>1 Manual with Guidelines on Establishing LDN sub-national targets (showcasing Karakalpakstan experience) 1 Manual with Guidelines on LDN compatible Integrated Land Use Planning 2 Guidelines on pastures and forest management planning to achieve LDN, for local natural resources users 1 LDN compatible GIS based Land Use Concept 1 available innovation land use planning module (promoted by UNCCD)</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Annual PIR reports validated through MTR and final evaluations; bilateral interviews.</p> <p><b>Assumption:</b> There is interest towards adopting KM tools generated by the project and change land use planning practices at local levels</p>
	<p><b>Indicator 15:</b> Status of integrated LDN compatible land use planning in LADAB landscape -</p>	No integrated LDN compatible land use planning in LADAB landscape	<p>Integrated land use planning inter-sectorial district level committees set up and criteria and methodologies defined for the assessments of arable lands and ecosystem services and degrees of degradation.</p>	<p>4 Integrated LDN compatible Spatial and Land use completed and under implementation for priority districts including identified PAs buffer zones and corridors for improved biodiversity integration.</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Project reports, monitoring visits and interviews with stakeholders; GIS analysis of targeted project intervention areas; Project supported expert mapping according to LDN avoid/reduce/restoration hierarchy. MTR and final evaluation reports;</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> Existing interest from the local/district level authorities to implement LDN centered integrated land use planning.</p>

<b>Outputs:</b> Output 2.1 LDN progress assessment for Karakalpakstan completed; regional LDN targets confirmed, future actions developed, and monitoring systems proposed; LDN action plan updated Output 2.2 Integrated land-use spatial planning in 4 priority districts developed and under implementation in line with LDN principles Output 2.3 Improved management of pastureland by local communities in 4 priority districts Output 2.4 Innovative land restoration supported at most degraded areas Output 2.5 Community forest use in riparian corridors in 4 priority districts developed and under implementation					
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Mid-term Target</b>	<b>End of Project Target</b>	<b>Means of Verifications and Assumptions</b>
<b>Component 3:</b> Conservation of globally significant Aral basin biodiversity  <b>Outcome 3.1</b> Lake, wetland, and riparian corridor KBAs secured through strengthened protected	<b>Indicator 16 (GEF 7 Core Indicator 1.1):</b> Terrestrial protected areas created for Conservation and sustainable use (ha)	829,036 ha[3]	Flora and fauna inventories and critical habitat mapping completed Baseline assessment developed Consultations with the local communities under implementation	3,094,600[4]	<b>Means of verification:</b> Updated government reports/ National communications to UNCBD Project evaluation reports; Field mission reports <b>Assumptions:</b> Interest from the central government, private sectors and farmers in biodiversity conservation; No major negative impact on the availability of the state budget for the protection and management of new and existing PAs.

area estate	<p><b>Indicator 17 (GEF 7 Core Indicator 1.2):</b> Terrestrial protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha)</p>	0 ha	<p>Flora and fauna inventories and critical habitat mapping completed Baseline assessments developed and/or validated Improved zoning supported by georeferenced data Methodology and /or TORs for improved PAs infrastructure completed</p>	757,329 ha[5] <sup>5</sup>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Updated government reports/ National communications to UNCBD Project evaluation reports; Field mission reports <b>Assumptions:</b> Interest from the central government, private sectors and farmers in biodiversity conservation; No major negative impact on the availability of the state budget for the protection and management of new and existing PAs.</p>
	<p><b>Indicator 18</b> Change in the capacity of the management of existing Protected Areas to implement effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable management measures</p>	<p>Lower Amu Darya State Biosphere Reserve (METT score: 63) Kyzylkum State Reserve (METT score:51)  Saigachy State Refuge (METT score: 68) Dengizkul State Refuge (METT score 22) State refuge Sudochye (METT score 37)</p>	<p>Lower Amu Darya State Biosphere Reserve (METT score: 70) Kyzylkum State Reserve (METT score:60)  Saigachy State Refuge (METT score: 71) Dengizkul State Refuge (METT score 34) State refuge Sudochye (METT score 56)</p>	<p>Lower Amu Darya State Biosphere Reserve (METT score: 76) Kyzylkum State Reserve (METT score:68)  Saigachy State Refuge (METT score: 76) Dengizkul State Refuge (METT score 40) State refuge Sudochye (METT score 65)</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Project technical reports GEF terminal evaluation report; Field mission reports; METT Scorecards <b>Assumptions:</b> At least baseline funding is maintained; Continued political will to strengthen governance of biodiversity and ecosystem services through effective management PA System</p>

<p><b>Outcome</b> 3.2 Lake, wetland and riparian corridor biodiversity mainstreamed in sustainable land-use:</p>	<p><b>Indicator 19:</b> Stable or positive changes in the population of globally significant biodiversity indicator species at the newly designated PAs</p> <p>- Ustyurt ram <i>Ovis vignei arkal</i></p> <p>? Goitered gazelle <i>Gazella subgutturosa</i></p> <p>? Kulan <i>Koulan equus hemionus</i></p> <p>? Marbled duck <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i></p> <p>? White headed duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i></p> <p>? Central Asian tortoise <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i></p> <p>? Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i></p> <p>? White eyed pochard <i>Aythya nyroca</i></p> <p>? Dalmatian pelican <i>Pelecanus</i></p>	<p>Baseline to be validated/completed at project inception</p> <p>-</p> <p>- <u>South Ustyurt National Park</u></p> <p>? Ustyurt ram <i>Ovis vignei arkal</i> (100 individuals)</p> <p>? Goitered gazelle <i>Gazella subgutturosa</i> (600 individuals)</p> <p>? Kulan <i>Koulan equus hemionus</i> 50 individuals</p> <p><u>Central Kyzylkum National Park</u></p> <p>? Marbled duck <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i> 20 nesting pairs</p> <p>? White headed duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> at 20 individuals</p> <p>? Central Asian tortoise <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i> at least 1 individual/hectare</p> <p><u>Sudochoye system of lakes Refuge</u></p> <p>? Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> at least 1 nesting colony</p> <p>? White eyed pochard <i>Aythya nyroca</i> 200 individuals</p> <p>? Saker falcon <i>Falco cherrug</i> occasional nesting (expected to increase to at least 1-2 nesting pairs)</p> <p><u>Akpetki</u></p> <p>? Dalmatian pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> 100 individuals;</p>	<p>Non-deterioration of baseline status</p>	<p>Increase relative to baseline. (to be refined by the new PAs management units).</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Field inventories; project reports validated by GEF MTR and GEF Terminal Evaluation</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> New threats do not emerge</p>
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	<p><b>Indicator 20:</b> Stable or positive changes in the population of globally significant biodiversity indicator species in the existent targeted PAs</p> <p>? Bukhara deer <i>Cervus elaphus bactrianus</i></p> <p>? Goiterred gazelle <i>Gazella subgutturosa</i></p> <p>? Saker falcon <i>Falco cherrug</i></p> <p>? Khiva pheasant <i>Phasianus colchicus chryzomelas</i></p> <p>? Saiga antelope <i>Saiga tatarica</i></p> <p>? Bustard-Hawbar <i>Chlamydotis undulata</i></p> <p>? White headed duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i></p> <p>? Pink flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i></p> <p>? White eyed pochard <i>Aythya nyroca</i></p>	<p>Baseline: as indicated in the METT scorecards</p>	<p>Midterm target: As indicated in the METT scorecards</p>	<p>End project target: As indicated in the METT scorecards</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> State Committee on Ecology and Environmental protection official records; National Reports to CBD METT scorecards monitoring validated by GEF MTR and GEF Terminal Evaluation</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> Project lifetime is sufficient to allow positive changes to be generated and monitored; New threats do not emerge.</p>
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	<p><b>Indicator 21 (KM):</b> Updated and accessible data on species and habitats, available for PAs managers and environmental inspectors, for improved biodiversity management .</p>	<p>Insufficiently developed data base in the PAs and environmental information on critical key species and habitats; Poor integration of existing data sets on biodiversity requirements in different sectors Poor PAs zoning and awareness and knowledge on the importance of integrating biodiversity into broader land use planning Poor knowledge and capacities of PA managers on the potential for sustainable biodiversity management, ecosystem services and ways to involve local communities and create additional income generating activities (aligned with applicable legislation)</p>	<p>Environmental data collected and methodologies elaborated. Assessments of ecological and cultural values; economic assessment of ecotourism potential in new and existing PAs</p>	<p>(i) Data base on species and habitats related to existing PAs improved and accessible; (ii) New environmental information collected through inventories at new designated PAs available; (iii) PAs managers have a better access to environmental information and improved based for research and knowledge management (iv) PA managers and local authorities and local resource users have access to data on economic potential of nature based tourism (ecotourism ) activities in buffer and production zones</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Monitoring via annual project reporting (PIRs) verification at MTR and final project evaluation; METT scorecards <b>Assumptions:</b> No major risk to project activities emerge. PAs inventories implemented as planned. Co-financing stable.</p>
	<p><b>Indicator 22 (KM):</b> Existence of capacity building for environmental inspectors and border officials, PAs staff in Biodiversity management trainings and community outreach events ;</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>15 trainings (30% female participants)</p>	<p>24 trainings and outreach events (30 % female participants)</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Monitoring via annual project reporting (PIRs) verification at MTR and final project evaluation; project reports; workshop proceedings; <b>Assumptions:</b> No major risk to project activities emerge</p>

	<p><b>Indicator 23:</b> Number of local communities supported agreements on PAs buffer zones and ecological corridors.</p>	0	1	2 i) agreements for suitable relocation of part of Bukhara deer population outside Lower Amudarya Reserve and ii) agreement on creation of an ecological corridor for Bukhara deer at the border with Kyzylkum State Reserve	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Monitoring via annual project reporting (PIRs) verification at MTR and final project evaluation</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> Local communities are interested to support biodiversity friendly agricultural practices in buffer zones (e.g. Kyzylkum Reserve and Lower Amudarya Reserve) and are open to cooperation with PAs staff in creation of ecological corridors for wildlife.</p>
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	<p><b>Indicators</b>  <b>24:</b>Farmers /producers? net income (differentiated by gender) from sustainable products (livestock, hay, seeds, dried fruits, medicinal plants, handicrafts) resulted from biodiversity friendly agricultural practices in PA buffer and production zones</p>	<p>Baseline will be assessed during the first year.  Net Income men: \$ X  Net income women: \$ X  Net income of at least 80% of participating farmers (male/female) documented at project inception (year 1)</p>	<p>Net Income men: \$X + 20%  Net income women: \$X + 20%  Participating farmers show at least 20% increase based on year 1 estimate.</p>	<p>Net Income men: \$X + 50%  Net income women: \$X + 50%  Participating farmers show at least 50% increase based on year 1 estimate.</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b>  Monitoring via Council of Farmers extension service; households survey; annual project reporting (PIRs) verification at MTR and final project evaluation; UNCCD/WOCAT knowledge platform project contribution (recorded socio-economic benefits);  <b>Assumptions:</b> No major risk to project activities emerge; climate change; markets available; proposed practices are cost effective, have low barrier for uptake especially among female farmers.</p>
<p>Output 3.1.1 Grounds established for protected area estate expansion securing the integrity of lake, wetland and riparian KBAs in Aral Sea region, through completion of feasibility studies, mapping and inventory, zoning regimes, management and financial planning  Output 3.1.2 Improved management effectiveness of the existing PAs through PA regime compliance and enforcement, zoning, patrolling, research, species-focused conservation activities, as detailed in the narrative for the project strategy  Output 3.2.1 PA buffer zones and corridors identified, planned and mapped through integrated district land use management plans (coordinated with Output 2.2) and implemented with supporting regulations  Output 3.2.2 Training and capacity strengthening of local environmental inspectorates and border security  Output 3.2.3 Sustainable livelihoods supported in KBA buffer zones and corridors (e.g. fast-growing plantations as alternative to logging; cattle grazing rotation and use of distant pastures).</p>					
	<p><b>Indicators</b></p>	<p><b>Baseline</b></p>	<p><b>Mid-term Target</b></p>	<p><b>End of Project Target</b></p>	<p><b>Means of Verifications</b></p>

<p><b>Component 4</b> International cooperation and knowledge management</p>	<p><b>Indicator 25 (KM):</b> Improvement of environmental awareness of different stakeholders on biodiversity, integrated water management, integrated land management SLM and LDN and benefits for livelihoods:</p>	<p>Baseline will be reassessed at Inception stage.</p> <p>General level of awareness on the problems associated with unsustainable water use, land degradation, loss of biodiversity: 50%</p>	<p>Awareness raising activities under implementation</p>	<p>10% increase relative to baseline over a rolling 5-year period (target to be validated at inception stage)</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> End of project Awareness questionnaire validated by final project evaluation. Awareness and education events evaluation forms. Stakeholders' interviews. Exiting press releases and publications; Project reports.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 4.1</b> Increased level of awareness among local communities about LDN and key biodiversity values of the Aral Sea Region in connection with the water use patterns</p>	<p>(i)General level of awareness on the problems associated with unsustainable water use, land degradation, loss of biodiversity</p>	<p>Degree of Awareness of local communities on the importance and role of ecosystem services provided by wetlands and lakes to sustainable livelihoods: 27%</p> <p>Degree of Awareness of specialists and public sector employee on LDN: 30%</p> <p>Degree of awareness of local communities on importance of water saving technologies in irrigation sector: 55%</p>			
<p><b>Outcome 4.2</b> Uzbekistan's cooperation in the international environmental programming for the Aral Sea basin strengthened.</p>	<p>(ii)Degree of Awareness of local communities on the importance and role of ecosystem services provided by wetlands and lakes to sustainable livelihoods</p> <p>(iii)Degree of Awareness of specialists and public sector employee on LDN</p> <p>(iv)Degree of awareness of local communities</p>	<p>Degree of awareness and existence of sufficient technical knowledge on SLM at local community level: 44%</p>			<p><b>Assumptions:</b> Effective dissemination of knowledge products regarding integrated water and land management, LDN/SLM ecological and economic benefits. There is interest and active participation of local natural resources users and decision makers in the awareness raising events.</p>

	<p><b>Indicator 26 (KM):</b> Access to, and sharing of, environmental information by stakeholders</p>	<p>The environmental information needs are not identified. Poor existing level of information regarding integrated water management, LDN/SLM and biodiversity species and habitats, and importance of wetlands and lakes and riparian zones to environment and livelihoods.</p>	<p>Communication Plan and information objectives established and under implementation</p>	<p>Information on the knowledge generated within the project is accessible to different groups of stakeholders through different channels: (i) Printed and translated materials and information, brochures, available handbooks for farmers; (ii) Analytical reports available to support Uzbekistan in negotiations under Integrated Fund for Ara Sea (IFAS) and the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan (UN MPHSTF (iii) video documentary (iv) handouts and technical information disseminated during seminars(v) Project website and social media presence, blogs, moderated dialogues (vi) available knowledge shared on UNCCD/ WOCAT platform; CACILM II platform.</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Monitoring via PIRs (Annual project reports) validated by MTR and final evaluations; project reports; workshop proceedings; various questionnaires and interviews with stakeholders; contributions to WOCAT and CACILM II platforms; <b>Assumptions:</b> Effective dissemination of knowledge products regarding integrated water and land management, LDN/SLM ecological and economic benefits.</p>
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	<p><b>Indicator 27 (KM):</b> Number of awareness and training events raising awareness and strengthening technical knowledge level on integrated, biodiversity friendly land-water management and wetlands ecosystem services.</p>	0	<p>Training modules designed Methodology developed 10 trainings implemented Communication Plan under implementation 10 awareness events implemented</p>	<p>30 trainings 4 Farmers Field Schools 20 awareness events South-South exchange 5 water diplomacy seminars</p>	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Monitoring via PIRs (Annual project reports) validated by MTR and midterms and final evaluations; project reports; workshop proceedings; various questionnaires and interviews with stakeholders; <b>Assumptions:</b> No major obstacles to project implementation; Effective dissemination of knowledge products regarding integrated water and land management, LDN/SLM ecological and economic benefits.</p>
	<p><b>Indicator 28 (KM):</b> Number of regional water forums under IFAS, to which government counterparts and country representatives with strengthened technical capacities are participating</p>	0	1	3	<p><b>Means of verification:</b> Monitoring via PIRs (annual project reports), workshop proceedings; interviews with stakeholders. <b>Assumptions:</b> There is an active participation of the government into the project activities; there is no major obstacle to project implementation ; regional water negotiations forums are organized as planned.</p>

<p>Output 4.1.1 Education and awareness raising campaigns for local resource users about key biodiversity values and sustainable land-use management regimes and regulations</p> <p>Output 4.1.2 Awareness campaign for sustainable water use targeting decision-makers at local and regional levels</p> <p>Output 4.2.1 The Government, scientific community and NGOs supported (e.g. through preparation of science-based technical papers, communications/negotiations with other Aral Sea basin countries, and international advice where relevant) in developing and negotiating decisions on the Aral Sea basin at the international level</p> <p>Output 4.2.2 Donor/private sector/Government platform on replenishing the UN MPHSTF functions resulting in agreed new projects/activities focusing on integrated approaches towards water resource management and climate-smart land and resource use</p>					
<b>Component 5 Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<u>Indicator 28</u> Monitoring and Evaluation reports Evaluative knowledge available to project partners	N/A	? Midterm evaluation report  ? M&E activities	? Reports with monitored and evaluated project results (GEF midterm and final reports)  ? Quarterly monitoring activities (UNDP)	<b>Means of verification:</b> Project reports; <b>Assumptions:</b> No major obstacles to project implementation. Stakeholders are interested and willing to participate in the project activities.
<p><b>Output 5.1.1. Set of monitoring and evaluation activities</b></p> <p>- Monitored/evaluated project results, and evaluative knowledge incorporated in the project adaptive management</p>					

[1] Sum of existing PAs ( IUCN category managed) within the scope of the project: (i) Kyzylkum National Reserve (I) (10,311 ha); Saygachy Complex Landscape reserve (Ib) (628,300 ha); Lower Amudarya State Biosphere Reserve (I) (68,718 ha); Dengizkul Refuge/Zakaznik (IV) (50,000 ha); Sudochoye Refuge (IV) (50,000 ha)

[2] Sum of Indicator 16 (3,094,600 ha) + Indicator 17 (757,329 ha)

[3] Sum of existent PAs ( IUCN category managed) within the scope of the project: (i) Kyzylkum National Reserve (I) (10,311 ha); State Complex Landscape Sanctuary Saygachy (Ib) (628,300 ha); Lower Amudarya State Biosphere Reserve (68,718 ha); Khorezm National Nature Park (21,687 ha); Dengizkul Refuge/Zakaznik (50,000 ha); Sudochoye State Refuge (50,000 ha)

[4] Sum of : territories of the 5 new PAs created within the framework of this project: South Ustyurt National Park(II) 1,400,000 ha; Central Kyzylkum National Park(II) 1,000,000 ha; Sudochoye Lakes System State Wildlife Sanctuary (IV) 84,700 ha; Akdarya-Kazakhdarya interfleuve (IV) 22,200 ha; Akpetki (IV) 587,700 ha

[5] Sum of the existing PAs with improved biodiversity management capacities: Lower Amudarya State Biosphere reserve (I) 68,718 ha; Kyzylkum State reserve (Ia) 10,311 ha; Saygachy State Refuge (IV) 628,300 ha; Dengizkul State Refuge (IV) 50,000 ha ( \*Sudochoye State Refuge (50,000 ha) not counted in order to avoid double counting and overlapping with the newly created PA: Sudochoye Lakes System 84,700 ha)

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

*Please see GEF-UNDP Project Document Annex 18: Responses to comments from GEF Council and STAP*

<b>Reviewer's comments</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Reference in CEO Endorsement Document / GEF/UNDP Project Document</b>
<b>STAP Scientific and Technical Screening of the Project Identification PIF form</b>		

Overall assessment: *STAP welcomes the project to promote sustainable management of lands, wetlands and riparian corridors in Uzbekistan. STAP feels it is a well-defined project with very clear rationale for restoration in a region that suffered iconic environmental disaster following unsustainable economic policies. The project includes very good specification of measurable outcomes. In addition, it has a good narrative of an initial theory of change, with important recognition of sequencing and underlying assumptions. The project presents a clear recognition of the need for transformational change and long-term approach, including catalysing financing for restoration well beyond the period of project implementation. A thorough analysis of lessons from prior initiatives will be essential to the next stage of project development.*

Thank you for the recommendations. As suggested, the project has included an ample review of the lessons learned and knowledge generated by other projects under the Knowledge Management Plan . In addition, the final project strategy has consistently incorporated several SLM measures that were tested and shared via the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies WOCAT platform.

The project had consistently included in its final strategy design lessons drawn from previous projects such as the ?UNDP?GEF ?Achieving Ecosystem Stability in Aral Sea and Kyzylkum Desert? (SLM Project)?, the ?UNDP?GEF Project ?Biodiversity Tugai and Nuratau Biosphere Reserves??., the GIZ Rangeland Management Project, the UNDP GEF Project ?Reducing Pressures on Natural Resources from Competing Land Use in Non-Irrigated Arid Mountain, Semi-desert and desert landscapes (LAND project)? as well as other projects supported by World Bank, the EU,GIZ, ICARDA. In terms of Integrated Water Management, the project learns from EU funded initiative ? Sustainable management of Water resources in Rural Areas of Uzbekistan Technical capacity Building? and builds on the knowledge that has been generated by the project and trainings delivered to the water managers, Basin Irrigation System Authorities (BISAs) in the project targeted regions and water users. The project will build on GIZ work on basin level planning through the Project ?Water Management and Basin Organizations in Central Asia WMBOCA? and on other previous projects such as ?Incorporating environmental flows into water management in the Amudarya river delta?(2003-2007). The project further builds on the knowledge generated by the global project ValuES: Methods for integrating ecosystem services into politics, planning and practices (GIZ), which have demonstrated that acknowledgement of the values of ecosystem services brought to different sectors of economy and local livelihoods was key to identify trade-offs among multiple water users. As water wastage in agriculture is linked to water deficits to lakes, wetlands and riparian zones, GIZ project has emphasized the need of coordination and reconciliation among multiple water users, as being the challenge to be overcome, if minimum ecological flow necessary to survival of water-based ecosystem is to be achieved.

GEF/UNDP Project Document Annex 17 Knowledge Management Plan;

GEF UNDP Project Document Annex 24 Proposed Sustainable Land Management (SLM) measures

Other references to various GEF and non GEF projects have been made in the project document, under different Outputs:  
 - Output 1.1: World Bank BEAM hydroclimatic model  
 - Output 1.2: GIZ/CAREC Project ?Support of Water Management and Basin organizations in Central Asia  
 - Output 2.1 GEF FAO Project ? Sustainable Forest and Rangelands Management in the Dryland Ecosystems of Uzbekistan?  
 - Output 3.1.2: M. Zukkov Foundation - GIZ Project "Land use based on the

<p><i>What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used?</i></p> <p>KM section refers to retrospective capture of lessons but does not yet specify approaches to future sharing</p> <p><i>What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling up results, lessons and experience?</i></p> <p>Not detailed yet in this section, though theory of change gives this strong emphasis, recognizing massive scale of investment required to support transformation.</p>	<p>Thank you. We have carefully analyzed relevant programmes and projects and the final project strategy draws upon good practices promoted by these initiatives. The elements taken up and considered in the project strategy are detailed under the Project's Knowledge Management Plan. The project knowledge management strategy builds on three key elements that foster learning and knowledge sharing, placed at the heart of the project's adaptive management and upscaling efforts at local, national and regional levels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learning from existing lessons and best practices,</li> <li>2. Assessing and documenting results,</li> <li>3. Knowledge sharing and communication.</li> </ol>	<p>GEF/UNDP Project Document Annex 17 Knowledge Management Plan</p>
<p><b>Comments submitted by Council members on the GEF December 2019 Work Programme</b></p>		
<p><b>Germany</b></p>		

Germany requests to correctly and consistently applying technical and geographical terms pertaining to integrated water resources management in the PIF, as such terms are subject to scientific and international norms.

? The correct regional term is ?Aral Sea Basin,? which contains territories of five Central Asian (CA) states, Afghanistan, and a small part of Iran; the term ?Aral Basin? very frequently used in the PIF is therefore incorrect and should be adjusted.

? Integrated water resources management is founded upon the basin principle. Thus, River Basin Management (RBM) can be defined as the management of water resources of a basin as part of the natural ecosystem and in relation to their socioeconomic setting. It follows, then, that planning to draft ?[i]integrated LDN-compatible and climate-smart water management plans designed in 4 priority districts? (output 1.2.) fundamentally goes against the basin principle. Furthermore, it violates Uzbek law, which abolished water management according to administrative boundaries in 2003, instead implementing ten Basin Irrigation System Administrations

1. Thank you and we took note of the suggested corrections. The term *Aral Sea Basin* is used consistently throughout the project document

2. Thank you for this comment. We took note of your recommendations and carefully analyzed the current water legislation and the best possible approach aligned with IWRM principles.

According to the current water legislation, there are 13 Basin Irrigation System Administrations (BISAs) which largely coincide with the administrative territorial boundaries. The project strategy now applies the basin principle and takes into consideration that the water supply systems follows the hydrographic boundaries. Therefore, the project targeted area estimated to be covered by the *Integrated Water Management Framework* is broader than envisaged at the PIF stage (i.e. covering the pilot districts only) and it stretches over the three regions of LADAB landscape, covering the larger water supply system.

Within the broader Integrated Water Management Framework, the project will demonstrate sustainable water use measures in agriculture and will develop four *Integrated Water Management Plans* at the target districts level (Alat and Karakul in Bukhara region and Amudarya and Moynaq in Karakalpakstan region) covering a total of 112,180 ha irrigated agricultural land.

3. Thank you for the suggested correction. We applied the correct spelling in the final project strategy.

The correction of the term has been applied throughout the text, where relevant.

GEF/UNDP  
Project  
Document  
Output 1.2  
and GEF  
CEO  
Endorsement  
Request Part  
II/1.a.3 ?The  
proposed  
alternative  
scenario with  
a brief  
description of  
expected  
outcomes and  
components  
of the project?

Germany would like to underline that the PIF does not sufficiently mention the transboundary context of water management in Uzbekistan.

? The four pilot districts mentioned in the PIF are located in the Amu Darya Basin, which is, on a regional level and as part of the IFAS, managed by the Basin Water Organization Amu Darya. This organization then dispatches water to the national level in cooperation with the BISAs, which are under the auspices of the Ministry of Water Resources. The Basin Water Organization Amu Darya handles all data and reports on the availability of water, and coordinates via the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) with the other Amu Darya riparian neighbours, namely, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

? It is unclear to Germany, then, why Uzbekistan should require support in international negotiations within the IFAS, as put forth in output 4.2.1. of the PIF, seeing as Uzbekistan is already well-equipped to handle this task on its own.

Thank you for the comment and as suggested, the final project strategy is addressing in a clearer way the cross-border context, through IFAS support and close engagement of BWO and BISAs throughout the project implementation. The proposed alternative scenario takes into consideration the transboundary context of the water management in the Lower Amudarya and Aral Sea Basin (LADAB) landscape. Under Component 1, the project will establish a multi-stakeholder Task Force and Committee including representatives of line ministries, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), Amudarya Basin Water Organization (BWO), the relevant Basin Irrigation System Authorities (BISAs): Amu-Bukhara BISA; the Left-bank Amudarya BISA and Nukus Hydro unit (Niznedaryinskiy department under BWO Amudarya), water users (WUAs), women farmers representatives, NGOs and academia. The International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) will be one of the key partner of the project and potential member of the Board, advising on the transboundary dimension of the water management and helping to fully take into consideration the regional water management context and facilitate consensus on revised water norms and timing of water releases to Amudarya lakes and wetlands ecosystems under the project scope.

2. Thank you for the comment. The need for a strengthened technical capacity of the national institutions and representatives participating into the regional water programmes and negotiations has been carefully analyzed and confirmed during the PPG consultations.

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GEF/UNDP  
Project  
Document  
Component 1  
?  
GEF/UNDP  
Project  
Document  
Output 4.2.1

Germany urgently recommends acknowledging and integrating existing knowledge and tools into the project's approach: As stated on p. 33 of the PIF, "[i]t is for the first time in the history of Aral Sea basin planning, that conservationists and water managers agreed to come together to discuss needs of KBAs, needs of irrigated lands and other water uses, in an attempt to agree on optimized volumes and timing of water supply through the hydrotechnical facilities within the landscape. The integrated approach of conserving KBA ecosystem services for the benefit of the production landscape is highly innovative in the region."

In fact, the German technical cooperation implementing agency GIZ, commissioned by the Federal Foreign Office within the framework of the Berlin Process, has already successfully developed a basin planning methodology and basin management plans for four out of five CA countries: Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and only recently two in Uzbekistan. For the past three years, a methodology designed to apply a Strategic Environment Assessment to basin planning was developed for Uzbekistan and applied for the first time in CA in two river basin management

1. Thank you. The comment is fully taken into consideration. The PIF/project wording's message has been most likely to highlight the fact that this is the first intervention to establish an institutional framework linking LDN compatible "water saving agriculture" with the guaranteed ecological flow that will ensure ecological integrity of lakes, wetlands and riparian zones in lower Amudarya, aligned with IWRM principles. Under the KM Plan, the project is nevertheless fully acknowledging the previous initiatives successfully implemented in the region in a board review of the lessons learned that has informed the project's final design that have implemented integrated water management, IWRM based approaches, research into the optimization of water management among multiple users and minimum ecological flows.

The project document fully acknowledges the GIZ contribution to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Uzbekistan and provides an opportunity to build on previous GIZ generated experience. Under Output 1.2 the project document emphasizes the GIZ experience: "The project will build on the knowledge generated by other donor-led initiatives and approved basin planning methodologies, such as the Basin Planning Handbook developed within the framework of project Support of Water Management and Basin organizations in Central Asia (GIZ/CAREC)[1]. The IWRM based *Integrated Water Management Framework* will be aligned with the water management system that serves the entire LADAB landscape, which operates according to the hydrographic boundaries, covering all canals collectors as well as the hydrotechnical facilities that command the water releases in LADAB area".

GEF/UNDP  
Project  
Document  
Output 1.2

<p>Germany suggests specifying why certain regions were chosen for project implementation, as it remains unclear why Bukhara should be just as suitable as i.e. Karakalpakstan or Khorezm.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment. The targeted project site is represented by the LADAB landscape, which is administratively covered by portions of three provinces Bukhara, Khorezm and Karakalpakstan. The project is focusing on the Amudarya basin approximately from the Dengizkul Lake in the Alat District of Bukhara Province, downstream to the river's termination at the former Aral Sea, in Moynaq district, Karakalpakstan. The LADAB landscape was considered due to its agricultural land and because it is hosting the most vulnerable lakes, wetlands and riparian zones. The project is focusing on the implementation at landscape-level of multiple types of interventions within a spatial unit that allows for more synergistic benefits. The targeted districts were selected in order to be suitable for integrated approaches addressing Water-Land-Biodiversity, therefore these districts have different land use types (irrigated and non-irrigated agricultural land), various KBAs/IBAs and lakes and wetlands ecosystems. For example Bukhara hosts irrigated areas, degraded rangelands and it also hosts important KBAs/IBAs such as Dengizkul Lake.</p>	<p>GEF/UNDP Project Document, Annex 22, Target Landscape Profile. GEF/UNDP Project Document Annex 24 Proposed Sustainable Land Management measures. And GEF/UNDP Project Document Output 2.4.</p>
<p>Furthermore, Germany considers it unlikely that 10,000 ha of tugai forests could manageably be restored and would thus appreciate an explanation of the rationale behind this calculation.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment. The project's proposed 10,000 ha includes both tugai and Tauranga ecosystems. The selection of the targeted 10,000 ha of tugai and tauranga forest areas has been validated by the PPG expert team, based on their experience of many years of field observation and based on consultations with local forestry enterprises, local authorities and local communities on the targeted plots.</p> <p>The proposed measures for the sustainable management of tugai/tauranga forest ecosystems on approx. 10,000 ha are captured under the Annex 24 in the GEF/UNDP Project Document and have been discussed with the local forestry enterprises and representatives of local communities; it is expected that the project supported forest management plans for the 10,000 ha of tugai and Tauranga forests to be integrated in their existing forestry plans. Further validation of the measures proposed will take place during the first year of the project implementation.</p> <p>Apart of the measures proposed by the project document under Output 2.5, referring to the sustainable forest management, the state of tugai/tauranga ecosystems is expected to improve gradually even (or particularly) beyond the project life span, if sufficient amount of water will be released to the lakes, wetlands and riparian zones in the Amudarya mid and lower reaches. To this end, the project document is planning a series of interventions captured under Output 1.1.</p>	<p>GEF/UNDP Project Document Annex 24 (Table 1) and Output 2.5. In addition, the interventions captured under Output 1.1. are related to the gradual improvement of the lakes and wetlands and riparian zones hosting the tugai/tauranga ecosystems in Amudarya basin.</p>

<p>Unfortunately, Germany would have to object against the further implementation of nature reserves, since the existing bioserve created by UNDP at the lower Amu Darya in Karakalpakstan nature reserve has shown negative effects especially on Bukhara deer</p>	<p>Thank you, comment noted. The project's focus on the creation of new PAs has been decided after consultations with the national authorities at the time of PIF writing and more in-depth discussions during the PPG phase. The proposed PAs are fully aligned with the new NBSAP (2019-2028) targets. The IUCN categories and form of protections proposed in the project document will be further validated during the project implementation, based on the results of inventories, ecological assessments and local stakeholders and local communities consultations.</p> <p>In addition, meetings were held with Ms. Gritsyna Maria Alekseevna, project manager "Land use based on the ecosystem approach and conservation of ecosystems in the lower reaches of the Amudarya River" and Ms. Caroline Milow Programme Manager "Green Central Asia". Synergies were discussed and activities designed based on GIZ shared good practices. As a result the project document includes interventions in Lower Amudarya Biosphere Reserve that will optimize the number of Bukhara deer in relation with the ecological carrying capacity of the ecosystem; will improve zoning and EIA regulations for businesses operating in the protected area, and will support consensus with local communities over Bukhara deer relocation sites. Further cooperation opportunities were explored within the framework of upcoming GIZ initiatives in the region, and these opportunities will be further pursued during the project implementation.</p>	<p>GEF/UNDP Project document Output 3.1.1 and Output 3.1.2</p>
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[1] [http://www.cawater-info.net/bk/water\\_law/pdf/handbook-basin-planning-en.pdf](http://www.cawater-info.net/bk/water_law/pdf/handbook-basin-planning-en.pdf)

**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).  
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status  
in the table below:**

Project preparation activities implemented	GEF Amount \$		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount spent to date	Amount committed
Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews	47,100.00	40,464.33	0
Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes	45,900.00	50,039.09	0
Validation Workshop and Report	7,000.00	5,224.75	0

<b>Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>95,728.17</b>	<b>0</b>
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\*Budget balance USD 4,271.83 (status at 12 April 2021)

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

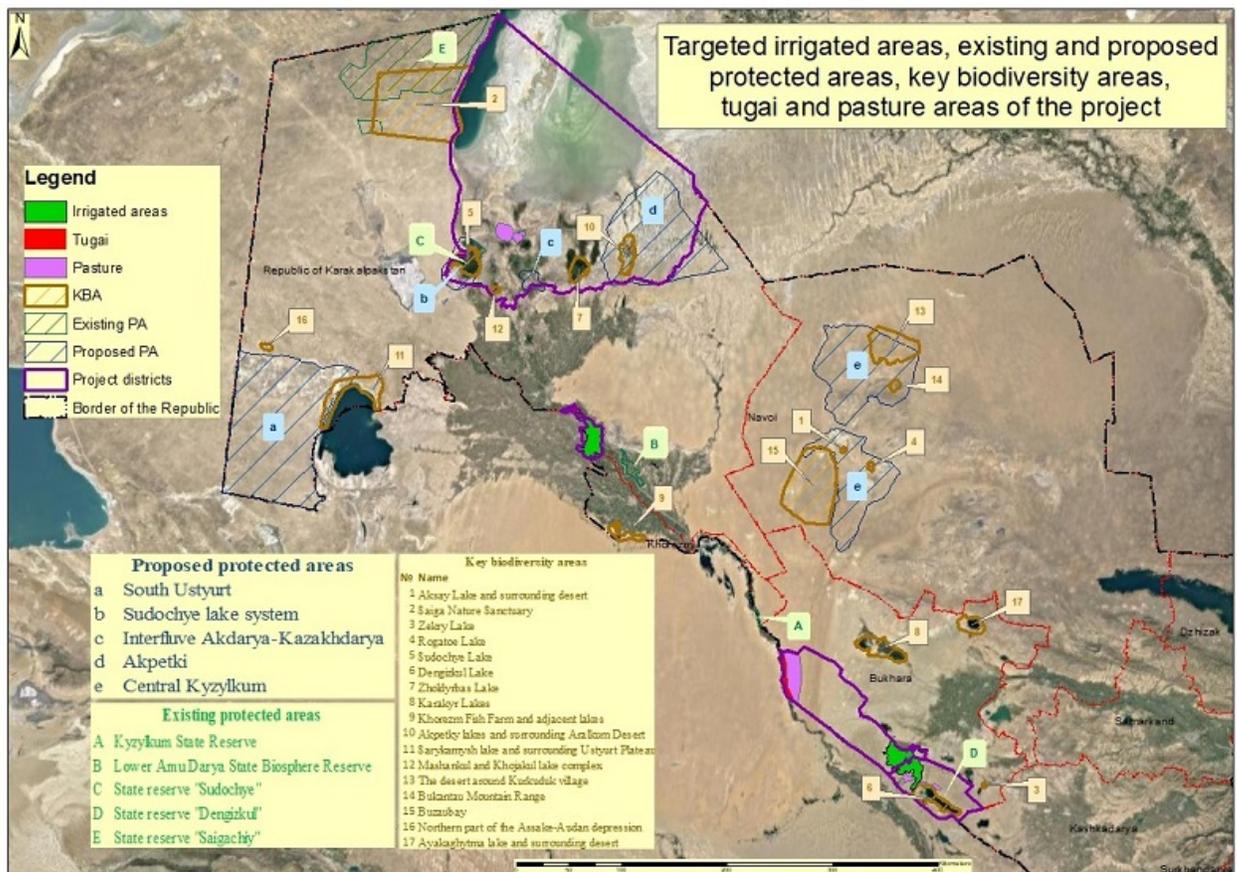
**The unused PPG funds will be returned to the GEF.**

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

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

### Annex E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please also see Annex 3 GEF/UNDP Project Document



Project sites	Centroid		Extent minimum		Extent maximum	
	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y
Alat district	39° 12' 53.22°	64° 7' 51.73°	38° 55' 47.6°	63° 37' 15.24°	39° 28' 41.52°	64° 39' 49.06°
Karakul district	39° 53' 4.98°	63° 2' 56.23°	39° 18' 46.63°	62° 21' 32.54°	40° 23' 22.16°	64° 1' 48.68°
Amudarya district	42° 5' 14.27°	60° 4' 39.19°	41° 53' 38.16°	59° 44' 15°	42° 21' 14.07°	60° 15' 10.94°
Muynak district	44° 13' 35.14°	59° 30' 7.57°	43° 7' 20.65°	58° 10' 44.5°	45° 36' 18.68°	61° 16' 37.6°
Bukhara region	40° 8' 30.7°	63° 42' 59.4°	38° 55' 47.6°	62° 7' 19.33°	41° 25' 27.8°	65° 23' 0.54°
Khorezm region	41° 19' 50.5°	60° 56' 56.18°	40° 33' 42.35°	60° 3' 36.7°	41° 57' 13.84°	62° 25' 6.43°
Republic of Karakalpakstan	43° 25' 31.29°	58° 50' 8.98°	40° 57' 14.26°	55° 59' 47.89°	45° 36' 18.68°	62° 27' 45.57°

## ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)							Total (USD eq.)	Responsible Entity
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Sub-Total	M & E	PM C		(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Sub-component 1.1	Sub-component 2.1	Sub-component 3.1	Sub-component 4.1					
Furniture/ Equipment	Includes Cell phone contracts (\$500) and pro-rata (25%) call costs of the Field Coordinator in supporting implementation of outputs under Component 1 and internet land phone postal and pouch charges. Total costs: \$3,500	4,000				4,000			4,000	NIM / IP

<b>Furniture/ Equipment</b>	Includes Procurement of software, database and networking requirements in support of Output 1.1 and Output 1.2 (\$9,000)	9,000				9,000			9,000	NIM / IP
<b>Furniture/ Equipment</b>	Includes costs of biological materials for seed/plants nurseries		44,700			44,700			44,700	NIM / IP
<b>Furniture/ Equipment</b>	Includes cost of the Cell phone contracts (\$500) and call costs of the Field Coordinator in supporting implementation of all the outputs under Component 2 and internet land phone postal and pouch charges.		4,000			4,000			4,000	NIM / IP
<b>Furniture/ Equipment</b>	Includes costs related to the Procurement of software, database and networking requirements for Component 2		9,000			9,000			9,000	NIM / IP
<b>Furniture/ Equipment</b>	Includes costs related to the Cell phone contracts (\$500) and call costs of the Field Coordinator (Component 3) in supporting implementation of outputs under Component 3, and internet land phone postal and pouch charges -Total costs: \$3,500			4,000		4,000			4,000	NIM / IP
<b>Furniture/ Equipment</b>	Includes costs related to the IT database infrastructure for new and existing PAs. Total cost: \$30,000 (for 8 PAs)			30,000		30,000			30,000	NIM / IP

<b>Furniture/ Equipment</b>	Includes costs related to the Cell phone contracts (\$500) and call costs of the Field Coordinator (Component 3) in supporting implementation of outputs under Component 3, and internet land phone postal and pouch charges- Total costs: \$3,500				4,000	4,000		4,000	NIM / RP
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<p><b>Furniture/ Equipment - Vehicle</b></p>	<p>Includes costs of purchasing basic field and monitoring and inspection equipment to new PAs (Output 3.1.1) and existing PAs (Output 3.1.2) (Envisaged equipment for new PAs(3rd year): operational equipment GIS devices and field equipment (binoculars, camera traps, mobile communication devices; GPS navigators, power sources, generators, field uniforms and gear. Total cost: \$175,500; b) Identification boards for the new PAs (Output 3.1.1). Total cost: \$25,000; c) Monitoring and patrolling all-terrain (ATVs) (Output 3.1.1). Total cost \$40,000 (2x\$20,000); d) Monitoring and patrolling and field equipment for existing PAs (GIS devices and field equipment). Total cost: \$ 116,000; e) cost of procurement of two off-road vehicles for the largest two new PAs (South Ustyurt and Central Kyzylkum). Total costs: \$150,000 (2x \$75,000). Justification on the procurement for the vehicles is attached in Annex 27. Prior consultation took place with the GEF Secretariat on this issue.</p>			506,500	506,500			506,500	NIM / IP
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<b>Grants</b>	Includes total value of the grants delivered through the Micro-scheme support for farmers' livelihoods (Output 3.2.3), implemented through the MoU with the Council of Farmers			180,000		180,000		180,000	NIM / IP
<b>Sub-contract to executing partner / entity</b>	Direct Project Costs - Staff (funded by GEF)					-	35,530	35,530	UNDP

<p><b>Contractual Services ? Individual</b></p>	<p>Pro-rata (25%) cost of contractual appointments to provide technical targeted support to activities (all components) of : a) 4x Field coordinators (all Outcomes/Components). Pro-rata (25%) costs: \$60,000. Total costs: \$240,000 (60 months/\$1000/month) over 5 years.; b) 4x Task Leaders (all Outcomes/Components): Pro-rata costs (25%): \$72,000. Total cost: \$288,000 (60 months/\$1200/month) over 5 years. c) 1/3 of the cost (\$ 18,000) of a GIS specialist (to support wetlands, lakes and riparian zones mapping (Output 1.1) spatial land use planning (Output 2.2); PA mapping (Output 3.1.1); PA zoning (Output 3.1.1/3.1.2)- the total cost of \$ 54,000 is split between components 1-3 (36months/\$1500/month) over the first three years); d) pro-rata charge of 50% of the Project manager costs (i.e. \$45,000) split among components 1-4 : \$11,250 (50% cost: \$45,000/4=11,250).e) Innovation challenge. Total cost 60,000 USD.</p>	<p>161,250</p>				<p>161,250</p>		<p>161,250</p>	<p>NIM / IP</p>
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<p><b>Contractual Services ? Individual</b></p>	<p>Pro-rata (25%) cost of contractual appointments to provide technical targeted support to activities (all components) of : a) 4x Field coordinators (all Outcomes/Components). Pro-rata (25%) costs: \$60,000. Total costs: \$240,000 (60 months/\$1000/month) over 5 years.; b) 4x Task Leaders (all Outcomes/Components): Pro-rata costs (25%): \$72,000. Total cost: \$288,000 (60 months/\$1200/month) over 5 years. c) 1/3 of the cost (\$ 18,000) of a GIS specialist (to support wetlands, lakes and riparian zones mapping (Output 1.1) spatial land use planning (Output 2.2); PA mapping (Output 3.1.1); PA zoning (Output 3.1.1/3.1.2)- the total cost of \$ 54,000 is split between components 1-3 (36months/\$1500/month) over the first three years); d) pro-rata charge of 50% of the Project manager costs (i.e. \$45,000) split among components 1-4 : \$11,250 (50% cost: \$45,000/4=11,250).e) Innovation challenge. Total cost 60,000 USD.</p>		221,250			221,250		221,250	NIM / IP
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<p><b>Contractual Services ? Individual</b></p>	<p>Pro-rata (25%) cost of contractual appointments to provide technical targeted support to activities (all components) of: a) 4x Field coordinators (all Outcomes/Components). Pro-rata (25%) costs: \$60,000. Total costs: \$240,000 (60 months/\$1000/month) over 5 years.; b) 4x Task Leaders (all Outcomes/Components): Pro-rata costs (25%): \$72,000. Total cost: \$288,000 (60 months/\$1200/month) over 5 years. c) 1/3 of the cost (\$ 18,000) of a GIS specialist (to support wetlands, lakes and riparian zones mapping (Output 1.1), spatial land use planning (Output 2.2); PA mapping (Output 3.1.1); PA zoning (Output 3.1.1/3.1.2)). Total cost: \$ 54,000 split between components 1-3 (36months/\$1500/month) over the first three years; d) pro-rata charge of 50% of the Project manager costs (i.e. \$45,000) split among components 1-4: \$11,250 (50% cost: \$45,000).</p>			<p>161,250</p>		<p>161,250</p>		<p>161,250</p>	<p>NIM / IP</p>
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<b>Contractual Services ? Individual</b>	Pro-rata (25%) cost of contractual appointments to provide technical targeted support to activities (all components) of: a) 4x Field coordinators (all Outcomes/Components). Pro-rata (25%) costs: \$60,000. Total costs: \$240,000 (60 months/\$1000/month) over 5 years.; b) 4x Task Leaders (all Outcomes/Components): Pro-rata costs (25%): \$72,000. Total cost: \$288,000 (60 months/\$1200/month) over 5 years; c) pro-rata charge of 50% of the Project manager costs (i.e. \$45,000) split among components 1-4: \$11,250 (50% cost: \$45,000/4=11,250).				143,250	143,250		143,250	NIM / RP
<b>Contractual Services ? Individual</b>	Includes a) Partial cost (50%) of the Project Manager position. Total cost: \$45,000 (\$1500/monthx12monthsx5years); b) Full cost of a Project Financial and Administrative Assistant. Total cost: \$43,735 (\$728.91x12monthsx5years); c) Procurement Assistant (Total cost: \$ 43,735 (60 months/\$ 728.91/month)				-		132,470	132,470	UNDP

<b>Contractual Services ? Company</b>	(i) Includes pro-rata (25%) of a company to provide translation services (all Outputs). Total costs: \$6,000; (ii) cost of a consultancy company/experts for the development of SESA/ESIA, targeted screening and assessments as per SES requirements (Total cost 20,000 USD)	26,000				26,000		26,000	NIM / IP
<b>Contractual Services ? Company</b>	Includes a) Pro-rata (25%) translation costs. Total cost: \$6,000; b) Costs related to the organization of the regional LDN workshop. Total cost: \$30,000, during year 3.		36,000			36,000		36,000	NIM / IP
<b>Contractual Services ? Company</b>	Includes contractual costs of companies hired: a) for the construction of watch (monitoring) towers (Output 3.1.1 and Output 3.1.2). Total cost: \$90,000 (10 watch towersx9 PAs x\$1000/ tower) b) for the construction of a field monitoring station in Southern Ustyurt (Output 3.1.1). Total cost: \$50,000 c) rehabilitation/construction of wildlife watering infrastructure in Saygachy (Output 3.1.2). Total cost: \$80,000 (2 water wells x \$40,000) (d) pro-rata costs of translation services (\$6,000).			226,000		226,000		226,000	NIM / IP

<p><b>Contractual Services ? Company</b></p>	<p>Includes costs: a) contractual costs of a media company to implement the awareness campaign for decision makers in the water sector (Output 4.1.2.).Total cost: \$39,500 c) Pro-rata (25%) costs of a company offering translation services. Total cost: \$6,000; d) contractual costs of a capacity development company/NGO to design and deliver training modules on LDN/SLM sustainable water management; integrated water-land management; biodiversity friendly agricultural practices. Total costs: \$46,400.</p>				91,900	91,900		91,900	NIM / RP
<p><b>International Consultants</b></p>	<p>a) 1/5 of the costs (\$22,500) of the International Technical Advisor (ITA); Total cost 112.5k (150 days/\$750/day) during years 1-5; b) Full cost of an International Water modelling expert (Output 1.2) Total cost: \$21,000 (30 days/\$700/day) during years 1 and 2.</p>	43,500			43,500			43,500	NIM / IP

<p><b>International Consultants</b></p>	<p>a) 2/5 of the costs (\$45,000) of the International Technical Advisor (ITA); Total cost 112.5k (150 days/\$750/day) during years 1-5; b) Cost of the International LDN Expert (Output 2.1 and Output 2.2) Total cost: \$75,000 (100 days x \$750/day) during years 1 and 2; c) Full costs of an International Land Use Planning Expert (Output 2.2 and Output 2.1). Total cost: \$70,000 (100 days x \$700/day) during years 1, 2 and 3.</p>		190,000			190,000		190,000	NIM / IP
<p><b>International Consultants</b></p>	<p>a) 1/5 of the costs (\$22,500) of the International Technical Advisor (ITA), total cost 112.5k (150 days/\$750/day) during years 1-5.</p>		22,500			22,500		22,500	NIM / IP
<p><b>International Consultants</b></p>	<p>a) 1/5 of the costs (\$22,500) of the International Technical Advisor (ITA); Total cost 112.5k (150 days/\$750/day) during years 1 and 5; b) Costs of international experts to deliver presentations to events organized within the framework of Component 4. Total costs: \$16,100</p>			38,600	38,600			38,600	NIM / RP
<p><b>International Consultants</b></p>	<p>Includes costs of international GEF evaluation experts (mid term and terminal evaluations)</p>					42,000			NIM / IP

<p><b>Local Consultants</b></p>	<p>Contractual appointment of a team of local experts to provide professional, technical and scientific support to activities under Component 1 as follows: a) Watershed management expert (Output 1.1). Total cost: \$ 8000 (100 days/\$80/day) during year 1 and 2; b) 3 x Hydrologist (Output 1.1). Total cost: \$24,000 (100 days/\$80/day) during year 1 and 2; c) Forestry expert (Output 1.1). Total cost: \$ 4,800 (60 days/\$80/day) during year 1; d) 2x Environmental expert (Output 1.1). Total cost: \$ 16,000 (100 days/ \$80/day) during year 1 and 2; e) 2x Environmental economist (Output 1.1). Total cost: \$16,000 (100 days/\$80/day) during year 1 and 2; (f) 2x Ecologist/Fishery expert (Output 1.1). Total cost: \$ 16,000 (100 days/\$80/day) during year 1 and 2; g) 2x Water management/irrigation sector expert (Output 1.1). Total cost: \$16,000 (100 days/\$80/day) during year 1 and 2; h) Institutional development expert (Output 1.1). Total cost: \$3,200 (40 days/\$80/day) during year 2; i) Water engineer/monitoring expert (Output 1.1). Total cost: \$3,200 (40 days/\$80/day) during year 2; j) Legal expert (Output 1.1). Total cost: \$2,400 (30 days/\$80/day); k) 5x Irrigation and Crop</p>	<p>234,400</p>				<p>234,400</p>		<p>234,400</p>	<p>NIM / IP</p>
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<p><b>Local Consultants</b></p>	<p>Contractual appointment of a team of local experts to provide professional, technical and scientific support to activities under Component 2 as follows: a) Land use planning/LDN Karakalpakstan (Output 2.1). Total cost: \$8,000 (100 days x \$80/day) during years 1 and 2; b) Soil expert (LDN) (Output 2.1).Total cost: \$8,000 (100 days x \$80/day) during years 1 and 2 c)Forestry expert (LDN) (Output 2.1).Total cost: \$8,000 (100 days x \$80/day) during years 1 and 2. d)2x Pasture management expert (LDN) (Output 2.1). Total cost: \$16,000 (100 days x\$80/day) during years 1 and 2; e) Irrigation expert (Output 2.1). Total cost: \$ 4,000 (50 days x \$80/day)during years 1 and 2; f) Environmental economist (Output 2.1).Total cost:\$4,000 (50 days x \$80/day) during year 1 and 2; g) Institutional development (land governance) expert (Output 2.2).Total cost: \$4,000 (50 days x \$80/day) during year 1 and 2;h) 4x Land use planning expert (Output 2.2.)Total cost: \$32,000 (100 days x \$80/day) during year 1 and 2; i) 4x Pasture agronomist (Output 2.2, Output 2.3, Output 2.4). Total cost: \$48,000 (150 days x \$80/day) during years 1-5; j) 4x Agroforestry expert (Output 2.2, Output</p>		<p>236,000</p>		<p>236,000</p>		<p>236,000</p>		<p>NIM / IP</p>
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<p><b>Local Consultants</b></p>	<p>Contractual appointment of a team of local experts to provide professional, technical and scientific support to activities under Component 3 as follows:  a) Land use planning expert/PAs (Output 3.1.1 and Output 3.2). Total cost: \$4,800 (60 days x \$80/day) during year 1 and 2;  b) Conservation biologist/Botanist (Output 3.1.1 and Output 3.2.1). Total cost: \$4,800 (60 days x \$80/day) during years 1 and 2;  c) Conservation biologist/Ornithologist (Output 3.1.1 and Output 3.2.1). Total cost: \$4,800 (60 days x \$80/day) during years 1 and 2;  d) Conservation biologist/Wildlife specialist (Output 3.1.1 and Output 3.2.1). Total cost: \$4,800 (60 days x \$80/day) during years 1 and 2;  e) Limnologist (Output 3.1.1). Total cost: \$4,800 (60 days x \$80/day) during years 1 and 2;  f) Hydrologist (Output 3.1.1). Total cost: \$2,400 (30 days x \$80/day) during year 1;  g) Pasture agronomist (Output 3.1.1 and Output 3.2.1). Total cost: \$2,400 (30 days x \$80/day) during years 1-3;  h) Forestry expert/Riparian engineering (Output 3.1.1, Output 3.1.2; Output 3.2.1). Total cost: \$2,400 (30 days x \$80/day) during years 1-3;  i) Socio-economic</p>			<p>129,600</p>		<p>129,600</p>		<p>129,600</p>	<p>NIM / IP</p>
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<p><b>Local Consultants</b></p>	<p>Costs of the contractual appointments of local specialists in support of the outputs under Component 4: a) local expert to systematize project experience Total costs: \$10,000 (125 days x 80/day) during years 1-5; b) Communication specialist (Output 4.1.1/4.1.2). Total cost: \$16,000 (200 days x \$80/day) during years 1-5.</p>				26,000	26,000		26,000	NIM / RP
<p><b>Local Consultants</b></p>	<p>Includes costs of local M&amp;E experts supporting GEF evaluations (mid term and terminal evaluations)</p>						3,600		NIM / IP
<p><b>Trainings, Workshops, Meetings</b></p>	<p>Includes: a) Pro-rata costs ( \$20,000) of the awareness events (project awareness raising events on the integrated land-water management in the production zones and PAs surrounding geographies; water diplomacy conferences) b) Costs of integrated water management- related trainings (\$12,500) split between component 1 and Component 4;</p>	32,500				32,500		32,500	NIM / IP

<b>Trainings, Workshops, Meetings</b>	Includes a) Pro-rata costs ( \$20,000 ) of the awareness events ( awareness raising events on integrated land-water management in the production zones and PAs surrounding geographies; water diplomacy conferences; b) costs of LDN/SLM trainings (\$30,000) split between Component 2 and Component 4; c) Costs of local roundtable meetings on SLM (\$2,200) (Output 2.3; 2.4; 2.5).		52,200			52,200		52,200	NIM / IP
<b>Trainings, Workshops, Meetings</b>	Includes a) Pro-rata (25%) costs (\$20,000) of the awareness events ( awareness raising events on integrated land-water management in the production zones and PAs surrounding geographies; water diplomacy conferences); b) Costs of PAs trainings:\$24,500 (Output 3.2.2); c) costs of roundtable meetings with local communities (Output 3.1.1 and Output 3.1.2 Output 3.2.3). Total costs: \$ 4,800.		49,300			49,300		49,300	NIM / IP

<b>Trainings, Workshops, Meetings</b>	Includes: a) Pro-rata (25%) costs (\$20,000) awareness raising workshops, water diplomacy conferences; b) Partial costs of trainings on sustainable water management (\$20,000) (Output 4.1.1); c) Partial costs of trainings on LDN and Sustainable Land Management (\$20,000) (Output 4.1.1); d) Costs of farmer field schools (Total cost:\$4,168) (Output 4.1.1); e) Costs of local handicraft trainings (\$8,000) (Output 4.1.1);				72,168	72,168		72,168	NIM / RP
<b>Trainings, Workshops, Meetings</b>	Includes cost of project's inception workshop (\$15,000) and final conferences (\$15,000)						30,000		NIM / IP

Travel	<p>Includes: a) Travel costs (including accommodation, fuel, vehicle repair and maintenance costs, other vehicle costs, including car wash and incidental expenses) of national and international experts and government field staff in the collection of environmental information in support of Component 1 (Output 1.1 and Output 1.2). Total cost: \$51,600 (43 expertsx15 mission daysx\$80/day). b) Travel costs (including DSA and transport) of the international Water modelling expert (\$3,000) c) Travel costs (DSA, car hire, car subsidy, fuel, etc.) of the international Technical Advisor, Project Manager, Task Leader and Field Coordinator to support implementation of Component 1 (\$18,170).</p>	72,770							72,770	NIM / IP
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<p><b>Travel</b></p>	<p>Includes: a) Travel costs (including accommodation, fuel, vehicle repair and maintenance costs, other vehicle costs, including car wash) of project experts and government field staff in collection of environmental information in support of Component 2 (all outputs). Total cost: \$28,800 (30 experts x 12 mission days x \$80/day). b) Travel cost (including DSA and transport) of the International LDN expert (Output 2.1 and 2.2). Total cost: \$9,300 (\$220 x 15 mission days + \$6000 cost of flights) during years 1 and 2. c) Travel cost (including DSA and transport) of the International Land use Expert (Output 2.2 and Output 2.1). Total costs \$9,300 (\$220 x 15 mission days + \$6,000 cost of flights). d) Travel costs (DSA, car hire, car subsidy, fuel, etc.) of the international Technical Advisor, Project Manager, Task Leader and Field Coordinator to support implementation of Component 2 (\$11,070).</p>		<p>58,470</p>			<p>58,470</p>		<p>58,470</p>	<p>NIM / IP</p>
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<p><b>Travel</b></p>	<p>Includes: a) Travel costs (including accommodation, fuel, vehicle repair and maintenance costs, other vehicle costs, including car wash) of project experts and government field staff for the environmental information collection in support of Component 3 (Output 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.2.1) training delivery (Output 3.2.2) and cross-cutting micro-scheme support for livelihoods implementation (Output 3.2.3). Total cost: \$36,000 (25 experts x 18 mission days x \$80/day); b) Travel costs (DSA, car hire, car subsidy, fuel, etc.) of the international Technical Advisor, Project Manager, Task Leader and Field Coordinator to support implementation of Component 3 (\$11,470)</p>			<p>47,470</p>		<p>47,470</p>		<p>47,470</p>	<p>NIM / IP</p>
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<b>Travel</b>	Includes: a) Travel costs (including accommodation, fuel, vehicle repair and maintenance costs, other vehicle costs, including car wash) of project experts, volunteers, media, NGO staff and government field staff in supporting the awareness and education events (Output 4.1.1, Output 4.1.2, Output 4.2.2). Total cost: \$40,000 (approx. 1000 participants x \$40) b) Travel costs (DSA, car subsidy, fuel, etc.) of the international Technical Advisor, Project Manager, Task Leader and Field Coordinator to support implementation of Component 4 (\$9,370)					49,370	49,370		49,370	NIM / RP
<b>Travel</b>	Includes travel costs and DSA of M&E consultants (M&E).							6,120		NIM / IP
<b>Office Supplies</b>	Costs of office supplies in support of trainings, awareness activities across components					12,500	12,500		12,500	NIM / RP
<b>Other Operating Costs</b>	Includes the costs of the procurement of georeferenced digital aerial photography and satellite imagery, printing costs of the Integrated Water Management Plan in support of Output 1.1. and Output 1.2. Total costs: \$22,500	22,500					22,500		22,500	NIM / IP

<b>Other Operating Costs</b>	Includes costs related to the procurement of georeferenced digital aerial photography and satellite imagery, printing costs of Manual and Guidelines for Integrated Spatial and Land Use Planning; Printing costs of Manuals for LDN compatible pastures and forests management planning.		19,000			19,000			19,000	NIM / IP
<b>Other Operating Costs</b>	Includes costs related to the procurement of georeferenced digital aerial photography and satellite imagery, printing costs of the PA Management Plans			11,000		11,000			11,000	NIM / IP
<b>Other Operating Costs</b>	Includes the costs of a) Production, design and printing of the analytical reports (Output 4.2.1) b) Production, design and print of the information materials and costs of subscriptions and participation under different KM platforms (e.g. WOCAT) (Output 4.1.1).				21,300	21,300			21,300	NIM / RP
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>605,920</b>	<b>870,620</b>	<b>1,367,620</b>	<b>459,088</b>	<b>3,303,248</b>	<b>81,720</b>	<b>168,000</b>	<b>3,552,968</b>	

**ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet**

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

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

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

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

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