

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	9421
Project Name:	Demonstration of Non-thermal Treatment of DDT Wastes in Central Asia
Countr(ies):	Regional, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Demonstration of Non-thermal Treatment of DDT Wastes in Central Asia

Country

Regional, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan

GEF ID

9421

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

UN Environment Regional Office for Europe: Sub-regional Office for Central Asia; Chemicals branch; State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic; and Fondation Suisse de Deminage (FSD)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/8/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 4th PIR

Objective

National and regional capacity for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of hazardous waste including DDT and other POPs in place in both countries in line with the requirements of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

16,480,800.00

Cumulative Disbursement

3,730,036.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 2/13/2020	Agency Approval 3/2/2020
Implementation Start 9/16/2020	First Disbursement 10/4/2020
Expected MTR 9/28/2023	Actual MTR 9/28/2023
Expected Completion 12/31/2027	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

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

During the fourth year of PIR reporting, the project has focused mainly on achieving agreement and approval for an extensive project revision to facilitate containment of the DDT waste as per the internationally recognized technologies, and a no-cost extension for project execution until June 30, 2027.

As reported in previous PIR cycle, due to serious concerns raised by the project countries regarding safety and practical feasibility of cement kiln co-processing, it was decided early 2024 that containment of the project waste remained the only way forward as a last resort disposal option in line with the General Technical Guidelines of the Basel Convention. Overhaul of the project scope/ project revision, the development of a MoU with UNOPS for the implementation of all planned technical works and the selection of a new National Delivery Partner in Tajikistan was completed in the reporting period. The Project and budget revision was approved by Extraordinary SC Meeting on 12 July 2024. Subsequently an amendment of the Europe Office's Internal Cooperation Agreement with the GEF Unit ICA was signed on 26 September 2024.

The Project Regional Steering Committee was organized in January 2025 to introduce the Technical partner UNOPS and to agree with the countries on proposed changes required for the implementation of the containment disposal option. UNOPS was further introduced to project partners during country missions to Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic in March 2025 and on 26 May 2025 the MoU between UNEP and UNOPS was signed. In Tajikistan the selection of a new National Delivery Partner (Peshaf) started after FSD discontinued its cooperation with the project early 2025.

Throughout the fourth year of PIR reporting, the project's capacity building activities continued being implemented. This included under Component 1, Outputs 1.1 and 1.2, under which the project progressed with activities, including immobilization trials together with bio and phytoremediation trials, site investigation activities at Suzak A. Under Output 1.3 work continued with UNOPs in order to agree an MOU under which CIIP/CEP Government entity would be subcontracted to undertake field operations. As part of this due diligence was conducted as to the fiduciary suitability of the organization, including that a valid HACT assessment was available. Assessment of the technical ability of the entity is to be undertaken jointly by UNOPs and ROE and an assessment of the type of activities that CIIP/CEP would be suitable for, in addition to further mitigation measures (agreed during a high level project meeting in March 2025), to ensure that ESM of works is established.

Component 2: In Kyrgyzstan Ozone Centre progressed with the legal update and waste strategy development. An action plan was submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers in March 2025. Updated legislation has been

submitted and is partly approved in the Kyrgyz Republic. As the PCA with Peshaf was not in place work in Tajikistan was on hold and will progress in coming reporting period.

Regarding financial progress, the reported expenditure for the period was \$510,206 against the forecasted expenditure of \$639,533. The principal explanation is the delay in preparation of the agreement with UNOPs and its implementation. In addition, disbursement was delayed due to the change in national delivery partner in Tajikistan. The Executing agency is coordinating closely with the Implementing agency and project partners to improve the physical and financial progress of the project in the coming year.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Overhaul of the project scope/ project revision, the development of an MoU with UNOPS for the implementation of all planned technical works and the selection of a new National Delivery Partner in Tajikistan took more time than anticipated. Balancing and managing expectations of national partners, particularly those in Tajikistan. This is done through close coordination between various stakeholders.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

A stakeholder and gender analysis were prepared during the PPG phase of the project and the Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan are included in the Project Document. In line with the Institutional Arrangements of the original project document, national NGOs are engaged with the project execution through the project's National Delivery Partners. In line with the MTR advise to engage more directly with relevant NGOs from project countries, the project has selected the Tajik NGO Peshaf to become the new National Delivery Partner in Tajikistan after discontinuation of the cooperation with the former National Delivery Partner (FSD).

In Kyrgyzstan a selection process to subcontract a national NGO is ongoing for partnership cooperation in the field of Awareness Raising and Campaigning.

The project has concluded a PCA with Seifullin University in Astana, Kazakhstan to implement the experiment for immobilization of POP in contaminated soils in both countries and fulfil bio and phytoremediation in Tajikistan.

The project contacted DND Biontech a prominent bioremediation company involved in FAO projects. The CEO of the company expressed interest in cooperation in Kyrgyzstan and participated in the regional Project Steering Committee in January in person.

In addition, under project's Gender guidelines, reference is made to the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) as the project's Grievance and Redress mechanism ([Report Wrongdoing | OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES](#)) and has been shared with the project stakeholders.

The 9421 Central Asia DDT Project needed to change its proposed DDT disposal technology two times. (Original Plan A: supercritical water oxidation (SCWO), Plan B: Co-processing in Cement kilns, and Plan C: Containment.)

Changing the disposal technology of the project was a time consuming process. Agreement with project countries on the final disposal technology and the subsequent processes to agree the required budget revision and non-cost extension of two years with the Implementing Agency took more time than anticipated.

As an alternative to the present project model of different disposal options planned in one Full Sized GEF project, the project could have been preceded by a Medium Sized GEF project with an exclusive focus on the technical feasibility of different disposal technologies in the region and national challenges related to their implementation. Such a smaller project could have also looked in detail at economic models for the application of the different technologies and the interest of key stakeholders such as technology providers and development banks to cooperate with the project. Letters of interest of key stakeholders following on from this MSP could have been a starting point of a Full Sized disposal project.

D. Gender Equality

The role of the project's Gender Equality Specialist is to provide guidance to all project partners on how to make sure that the project is implemented in line with Gender policies of GEF, UNEP, the National Delivery Partners and the approved project document. The project is executed in line with a Gender Equality policy brief and practical guidance for a Gender Equality approach throughout the project cycle including reporting instructions for the registration of gender disaggregated data. The guidance documents were developed by the Gender expert at the start of the project.

Due to departure of the project gender expert in 2024, a new Gender expert has been selected in March 2025. Robust activities and documents reviews have already been implemented by the new gender expert in coordination with project managers.

E. Knowledge Management

Under the knowledge management activities of the project, representatives of the two project countries participated in:

- Project Technical Meeting, organized in Astana Kazakhstan on 2 October 2024.
- Eurasian “Green Energy & Waste Recycling Forum 2024” organized in Astana Kazakhstan on 3 and 4 October 2024.
- 9421 Geneva Expert Meeting on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste in cooperation with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA’s) and capacity building programs organized in Geneva on 21 to 25 October 2024.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	As per the midterm review, an upward revision was proposed in the amount of DDT to be addressed. This proposal was accepted by the Project Steering Committee and the relevant logframe indicator has been updated. As the change is only to the value not changing the indicator itself, this is considered a minor amendment.

Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	While the executing agency is unchanged, the National Delivery Partner in Tajikistan has changed. FSD decided not to continue its cooperation with the project. The Tajik NGO Peshaf was selected to become the new National Delivery Partner in Tajikistan. At the same time the project is creating a larger role for national execution of project activities via the Tajik Committee for Environmental Protection's Committee Centre for Implementation of Investment Projects (CIIP).
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Vakhsh Polygon	37.71	68.92	

Location Description:

Vaksh Polygon

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Suzak A	40.99	72.9	

Location Description:

Suzak A

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category
M and E Document

Title
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