



# PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Chu and Talas River Basins		
Country(ies):	Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	5167
Other Executing Partner(s):	UNOPS, UNECE	Submission Date:	25 February 2013
GEF Focal Area (s):	(select)	Project Duration (Months)	36
Name of parent program (if applicable):	NA	Agency Fee (\$):	95,000
For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>			
For SGP <input type="checkbox"/>			

### A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK<sup>2</sup>:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
IW-3 (select)	GEFTF	1,000,000	5,538,000
(select) (select)	(select)		
Total Project Cost		1,000,000	5,538,000

### B. INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To promote joint management of the shared water resources of the transboundary Chu and Talas River Basins, including developing the Chu-Talas Commission.						
Project Component	Grant Type <sup>3</sup>	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
Component 1: TDA including climate scenario analyses to inform adaptive integrated management of the Chu-Talas shared water resources.	TA	(i) Science based consensus among the countries on major transboundary problems of the basin; (ii) Understanding of the transboundary implications of the shared nature of the Basin's water resources; (iii) An improved knowledge of the consequences of extreme weather situations (iv) Capacitated local stakeholders ready to	(1) Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Chu and Talas River Basins. (2) Scenarios of Water Futures with a focus on climate variability and transboundary issues. (3) Seminars for stakeholders on adaptive management.	GEFTF	300,000	1,780,000

<sup>1</sup> Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework](#) when completing Table A.

<sup>3</sup> TA includes capacity building, and research and development.

		minimize negative consequences for economic sectors as well as the environment in the basin.				
Component 2.: Building the foundation for broadened and improved bilateral water cooperation	TA	(i): Visioning process and agreement on priorities for action opens the way for systematic cooperation in the integrated management of the transboundary Chu and Talas River Basins. (ii): Strengthened collaborative mechanism for bilateral cooperation framework for the further improvement of joint management of the Chu and Talas basins. (iii): Steps taken for the involvement of stakeholders in the decision making process. (iv): Project experiences and lessons disseminated globally and regionally	(1) A Strategic Action Program (SAP) formulated (Horizon 5 years) addressing main issues of transboundary concern and containing concrete actions (legal, policy, institutional reforms, and investments). (2) As a part of SAP a document proposing changes in the Statutes of the Commission and establishment of the subsidiary joint expert body and functioning Environmental expert group under the Commission with clear mandate and work plan established. (3) Establishment of functional and active Inter ministerial committees in each recipient country, or strengthening of existing inter ministerial coordination mechanisms (4) Twinning and experience sharing exchange with another transboundary basin, strategy for replication of best practices in the Chu Talas basins. (5) A Stakeholder involvement, gender mainstreaming and outreach communication strategy. (6) Project web page (following IW LEARN standards) created on the Commission website, international waters experience notes with best practices from the project produced, use of GEF 5 IW tracking tool and participation at GEF IW conferences and other IW LEARN activities ensured. 1% of the project total	GEFTF	200,000	1,658,000

			budget will be used for these types of activities as required by GEF.			
Component 3: Strengthening capacity of water resources monitoring in the Chu and Talas River Basins.	TA	(i) Improved basis for the dialogue on transboundary water management on the basis of a better understanding of the quantity and quality of water resources, and their variability, in the two basins. (ii) Consensus on joint monitoring activities between the two countries. (iii) Countries capacities build for improved coordinated monitoring.	(1) A training programme for staff responsible for operational water quantity monitoring developed and equipment for the training made available. (2) Training on water quantity monitoring and data exchange organized for Kyrgyz and Kazakh staff. (3) Capacity building for joint water quality monitoring. Kazakh and Kyrgyz laboratories will be strengthened with equipment (co-financing) and further training with the objective to make a joint field study and assessment. (4) Formalisation of agreement on coordinated monitoring and data exchange in the two basins.	GEFTF	400,000	1,600,000
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
		Subtotal			900,000	5,038,000
		Project Management Cost (PMC) <sup>4</sup>		GEFTF	100,000	500,000
		Total Project Cost			1,000,000	5,538,000

### C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan	In-kind	1,500,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	SDC	Grant	1,000,000
Private sector	Coca Cola EDM	Grant	238,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Asian Development bank	Grant	1,000,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	OSCE	Grant	200,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	UNECE	In-kind	100,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	300,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	tbd	In-kind	1,200,000
<b>Total Cofinancing</b>			<b>5,538,000</b>

<sup>4</sup> To be calculated as percent of subtotal.

**D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES (\$) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>**

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b) <sup>2</sup>	Total (\$) c=a+b
UNDP	GEFTF	International Waters	Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan	1,000,000	95,000	1,095,000
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				1,000,000	95,000	1,095,000

<sup>1</sup> In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

<sup>2</sup> Indicate fees related to this project.

**E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)<sup>5</sup>**

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant:

	<u>Amount Requested (\$)</u>	<u>Agency Fee for PPG (\$)<sup>6</sup></u>
• No PPG required.	_____	_____
• (upto) \$50k for projects up to & including \$1 million	<u>50,000</u>	<u>4,750</u>
• (upto)\$100k for projects up to & including \$3 million	_____	_____
• (upto)\$150k for projects up to & including \$6 million	_____	_____
• (upto)\$200k for projects up to & including \$10 million	_____	_____
• (upto)\$300k for projects above \$10 million	_____	_____

**PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF PROJECT ONLY**

Trust Fund	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
<b>Total PPG Amount</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

MFA: Multi-focal area projects; MTF: Multi-Trust Fund projects.

<sup>5</sup> On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

<sup>6</sup> PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the GEF Project Grant amount requested.

## **PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION<sup>7</sup>**

### **Project Overview**

**A.1. Project Description. Briefly describe the project, including ; 1) the global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline , the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up**

#### **1) the global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed**

1. The main environmental problems are caused by previous Soviet and continued policies to give priority to the use of water for irrigated agriculture without taking into account the consequences for water quality and water ecosystems. The main barrier addressed by this project is the domination of the irrigation sector in water management. It will be important to increase the understanding of the environmental consequences and to involve environmental authorities and a broader set of stakeholders in the management of water. The main environmental problems are destruction of water-related eco-systems and decreasing biodiversity as well as increased incidents of floods, incidents of mud flows and other types of erosion.

2. The overuse of water is also a problem, in particular during very dry years. An improved understanding of the availability of water resources (in the short as well as long term) need to be developed. Opportunities for a more efficient use of water further need to be examined. Limited access to important data and lack of analyses of these data is a serious concern.

#### **2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects**

3. The Agreement on the Use of Water Management Facilities of Interstate Use signed in 2000 by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan provides a platform for bilateral water cooperation. The joint funding and management of water infrastructure on the Chu and Talas rivers is sustainable and based on significant funding from the two countries. However, there is a need to broaden the scope of cooperation as well as involving a broader group of stakeholders as well as other sectors than irrigation in water management. In particular, cooperation should be expanded to include the protection of eco-systems, optimization of water use and flood management, in more general terms integrated water resources management. The future engagement of environmental authorities in the bilateral cooperation is a priority. The involvement of stakeholders in the discussions and management of the transboundary basins is an additional key challenge.

4. The bilateral agreement from 2000 focuses on the joint management of a number of dams and canals used by both countries but also gives the opportunity to broaden cooperation in the direction of IWRM. It would be positive to negotiate a new, more comprehensive agreement addressing more explicitly a broader set of issues, but it has been concluded that for political reasons the existing mechanism for water cooperation is to be preferred in the broadening of bilateral water cooperation.

5. Even if all externally funded projects, including the baseline projects have been small and their scope restricted, their effectiveness has been high due to coordination through a Donor Coordination Group (DCG) cooperating with the Commission. UNECE is presently chairing the DCG.

6. There are several projects managed with the involvement of UNDP and UNECE that can be referred to as baseline projects. These projects have had the general objectives to establish the Chu-Talas Commission and to support its development as well as to promote IWRM approached and principles in the beneficiary countries.

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<sup>7</sup> Part II should not be longer than 5 pages.

7. Certain problems have been resolved with the support of donor-supported projects such as the establishment of the Chu-Talas Commission for the implementation of the Agreement from 2000 (budget of the ECE, ESCAP, OSCE project 100,000 EURO). The approval of its Statutes in 2006 has been a sustainable achievement as the Commission has regularly met more than yearly since the first meeting in July 2006. The bilateral Secretariat has also been functional since 2006 with funding of Secretariat staff coming from external projects.

8. After the establishment of the Chu-Talas Commission in 2006 a follow-up project “Development of Cooperation on the Chu and Talas Rivers” (“Chu-Talas II”, implemented by OSCE and UNECE, budget 100,000 EURO) had as its objective to broaden the bilateral cooperation (the inclusion of additional jointly used hydrotechnical structures to the dams and canals mentioned in the Agreement), improve the understanding of the two countries on the available water resources as well as the access to information and develop plans for the future involvement of stakeholders. The GEF project will also benefit from the results of the project "Promoting Cooperation to Adapt to Climate Change in the Chu and Talas Transboundary Basin" (UNECE-UNDP-OSCE) which will end in 2013 and which is part of the programme of transboundary pilot projects on climate change adaptation under the UNECE Water Convention. The work in this framework has involved preparation of a baseline study report, climate modelling with a harmonized approach, hydrological modelling of the Kyrgyz part of the basins and well as preparation of an assessment of vulnerability to climate change, including identification of possible measures for adaptation to climate change.

9. Projects supported by the European Union, SDC and ADB have contributed to the common objective: to strengthen the Secretariat and the Commission. The support of the Secretariat by ADB and development of water flow monitoring supported by SDC are examples.

10. A project implemented by UNDP in the application of the IWRM in the Central Asian states (“Promoting IWRM and Fostering Transboundary Dialogue in Central Asia”, 2009-2013) with a total budget of 5,4M USD has also contributed to the development of water management in Kazakhstan as well as Kyrgyzstan and also to the bilateral cooperation in the basin (particularly monitoring and water-sharing arrangements). UNDP has supported Kazakhstan in the development of the “*National Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Water Efficiency Plan for Kazakhstan*” (\$2,900,000, UNDP, GWP, DFID, Norway). This project was the first in Kazakhstan to address specifically the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal for water supply and sanitation, and to introduce the principles of IWRM into national planning frameworks. Through the Every Drop Matters Regional UNDP-Coke Water Partnerships a number of projects on water management and drinking water have been implemented in Kazakhstan. Rural water supplies were improved through the EDM-1 programme (\$166.275, UNDP and Coca-Cola Company) and drip irrigation introduced in the EDM-2 phase (\$100,000, UNDP and Coca-Cola Foundation). The third UNDP-Coke partnership EDM-phase of \$180,000 encompasses three projects on sanitation and health, water quality, water management and climate change. In 2012, Kyrgyzstan has also joined EDM with a project titled “*Capacity building of the Government institutions and Civil Society Organizations for promotion of climate resilient and sustainable development planning involving all interest groups at local level*” with the funding in the amount of \$58,000.

### **3) the proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project**

11. Based on the above, the proposed GEF project will respond to the countries’ request and work with all partner organizations involved in the baseline projects through the following Activities, organized in 3 Components, 11 Outcomes and 13 Outputs.

#### **Component 1: TDA including climate scenario analyses to inform adaptive management of the Chu-Talas shared water resources.**

*Outcome 1:* Science based consensus among the countries on major transboundary problems of the basin.

*Outcome 2:* Understanding of the transboundary implications of the shared nature of the Basin’s water resources.

*Outcome 3:* An improved knowledge of the consequences of extreme weather situations.

*Outcome 4:* Capacitated local stakeholders ready to minimize negative consequences for economic sectors as well as the environment in the basin.

#### *Outputs and Activities*

(1) Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Chu and Talas River Basins.

The TDA will be prepared by national scientists and practitioners with international expert support, discussed in stakeholders' consultations and approved by the Chu-Talas Bilateral Commission. The TDA will include:

**A background description of the situation in the two basins and relevant information about the legal and institutional framework in the two countries.**

**Priority transboundary issues root and immediate causes identified governance, institutional and stakeholder analysis.**

12. The TDA will include the study of, and agreement on the "main drivers of change" and on the "indicators of current conditions (status indicators)".

13. The transboundary implications of the shared nature of the Basin's water resources as well as the need for joint action to resolve these concerns will be analyzed.

(2) Scenarios of Water Futures with a focus on climate variability and transboundary issues.

**A set of Scenarios of Water Futures with a focus on climate variability and on transboundary issues, and incorporating projections from numerical modelling and the new insights generated by an enriched knowledge base from the UNECE-UNDP-OSCE climate change adaptation project presently implemented. The Scenarios building exercise will be developed considering the identified "drivers of change", by national and international experts and will include stakeholder consultations.**

(3) Seminars for stakeholders on adaptive management.

On the basis of the TDA conclusions on extreme weather situations and following needs for joint action, a series of seminars will be organized for relevant stakeholders such as water user associations, farmers and decision makers on the local level.

## **Component 2: Building the foundation for broadened and improved bilateral water cooperation**

*Outcome 1:* Visioning process and agreement on priorities for action opens the way for systematic cooperation in the integrated management of the transboundary Chu and Talas River Basins.

*Outcome 2:* Strengthened collaborative mechanism for bilateral cooperation framework for the further improvement of joint management of the Chu and Talas basins.

*Outcome 3:* Steps taken for the involvement of stakeholders in the decision making process.

*Outcome 4:* Project experiences and lessons disseminated globally and regionally.

### *Outputs and Activities:*

(1) A Strategic Action Program (SAP) formulated (Horizon 5 years) addressing main issues of transboundary concern and containing concrete actions (legal, policy, institutional reforms, and investments).

(2) As a part of SAP a document proposing changes in the Statutes of the Commission and establishment of the subsidiary joint expert body and functioning Environmental expert group under the Commission with clear mandate and work plan established.

14. Once established, the environmental expert group will develop their draft work programme for the approval by the Commission. The environmental expert group will take active part in the work under all other components of the project.

15. Assistance to prepare for the implementation of selected components of the SAP may be supported within the framework of the project.

(3) Establishment of functional and active Inter ministerial committees in each recipient country, or strengthening of existing inter ministerial coordination mechanisms

(4) Twinning and experience sharing exchange with another transboundary basin, strategy for replication of best practices in the Chu Talas basins.

(5) A Stakeholder involvement, gender mainstreaming and outreach communication strategy.

(6) Project web page (following IW LEARN standards) created on the Commission website, international waters experience notes with best practices from the project produced, use of GEF 5 IW tracking tool and participation at GEF IW conferences and other IW LEARN activities ensured. 1% of the project total budget will be used for these types of activities as required by GEF.

### **Component 3: Strengthening capacity of water resources monitoring in the Chu and Talas River Basins.**

(Strong co-financing from external partners will be available for project implementation.)

*Outcome 1:* Improved basis for the dialogue on transboundary water management on the basis of a better understanding of the quantity and quality of water resources, and their variability, in the two basins.

*Outcome 2:* Consensus on joint monitoring activities between the two countries.

*Outcome 3:* Countries capacities built for improved coordinated monitoring.

#### *Outputs and Activities:*

(1) A training programme for staff responsible for operational water quantity monitoring developed and equipment for the training made available.

(2) Training on water quantity monitoring and data exchange organized for Kyrgyz and Kazakh staff. This training would be an important complementary activity to the on-going strengthening of the establishment of new hydroposts funded by the countries and donors.

(3) Capacity building for joint water quality monitoring.

On the basis of a previous UNECE project (<http://www.unece.org/env/water/centralasia.html>) establishing a set of agreed parameters for transboundary water quality analyses, Kazakh and Kyrgyz laboratories will be strengthened by equipment and further training with the objective to make a joint field study and assessment.

(4) Formalisation of agreement on coordinated monitoring and data exchange in the two basins.

The Chu-Talas Commission will define the parameters of monitoring and exchange of data in the two basins.

### **4) incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline**

16. The incremental reasoning at the basis of this base-line project is simple. The proposed project will expand the scope of previous projects as well as work in close cooperation with on-going and planned projects, and assist the countries to advance with regard to the implementation of the Agreement from 2000 and to move to concrete achievements in terms of cooperative frameworks and institutional set up, commitments to and implementation of priority actions as well as specific targets/indicators and strategic choices. Global benefits, as established in the International Waters Focal Area Strategy, will be accrued by facilitating a broader and more effective collective bilateral management scheme that will in particular foster the integrity of the basin ecosystems and of the services they provide.

17. The project has been designed with the purpose of harmonizing and coordinating within a common cooperative framework that can be provided by the Donor Coordination Group.

18. The project formulation and the design of incremental activities has involved, amongst others, three major steps: an assessment of the national water management related actions which are ongoing or planned, including the on-going

work under the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue on IWRM;

an in depth review of the situation of the bilateral transboundary cooperation including the efforts of various donors in support of the Chu-Talas bilateral commission, and

conceptual design of the project as an expansion of the “Baseline Project” to aim for (for the first time in Central Asia) a water management cooperation that also involve environmental authorities.

## **5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)**

19. More than 2 million people, in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, lives in the territory of the Chu and Talas river basins. The majority of the population are engaged in agriculture. Most of the agricultural production is dependent on irrigation, thus the water resources of the water resources of the Chu and Talas basins (average annual flow 6.6 and 1.6 km<sup>3</sup>, respectively) are critically important. Irrigated land in the two basins encompass 480,000 ha in Kyrgyzstan and 330,000 ha in Kazakhstan.

20. Overall the availability of water resources in the two basins is decreasing. Political, legal and economic factors are bottlenecks for an increased reliability and efficiency of water use. The same factors also limit the integration of various aspects of water management: the use of water for drinking and sanitation, environmental aspects with the trend that less water is made available for the stability of water ecosystems. Deteriorating eco-systems, in particular in the upstream parts of the basins lead to increased incidents of erosion and mudflows.

21. Infrastructure for irrigation needs to be better maintained and cooperation structures such as water user associations need to be developed further.

22. Water quality in the two basins is of high importance, in particular with the low prevalence of centralised water supply. From available data it seems that water quality is reasonable but with increasing animal production and little information on pollution from sanitation a better understanding on the water quality dynamics needs to be developed.

23. As a response to these challenges the project will support the development of a more structured approach of governance to water management on the national as well as transboundary levels.

24. The management of water resources in Central Asia is dominated by men. Steps towards a more balanced representation will be taken in the framework of the project by aiming for a representation of women in meetings and seminar organised and among consultants hired of at least 30%.

## **6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up**

25. The project will build on the positive experiences from the sustainable cooperation that is the result of the implementation of the bilateral Agreement from 2000. Applying a broadened interpretation of the existing agreement is a new approach that will avoid political bottlenecks frequently linked to high-level negotiations.

26. A broadened bilateral water cooperation has good chances to become sustainable as the bilateral cooperation presently is regular and sustainable.

27. One of the main problems addressed by the project is to overcome the recurrent problem of water management in Central Asia that environmental issues are not taken into account. The demonstration of a working model within the region for the involvement of environmental interests in the management of water resources will be looked upon with considerable interest by other countries and stakeholders.

### **A.2. Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders (including civil society organizations, indigenous people, gender groups, and others as relevant) and describe how they will be engaged in project preparation:**

28. The project will contribute to an increased involvement of important stakeholders, in particular environmental authorities that have so far only been marginally involved in the bilateral water cooperation. This is a significant step for the region where water management is dominated by agricultural and energy sectors.

29. In addition to close cooperation with water and environmental authorities in the two countries, the project will also involve the following key stakeholders: Water user and farmers' associations, local and regional authorities, NGOs, scientific and educational institutions. Support to the establishment of a transboundary water council for the two basins is planned in a parallel project.

30. While both countries are Parties to the Aarhus Convention (UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters), the level of public participation in the decision making on environmental and natural resource issues needs to be developed. Efforts are, however, being made to involve stakeholders in water management. Kazakh authorities have established basin councils in all of its basins and this process is developing also in Kyrgyzstan.

31. The proposed project will act within a context where the principles of stakeholder involvement, while fully recognized by the national laws, are not yet translated into daily practice and at all levels – the water sector being no exception; civil society and public participation are still in an early stage of development. Furthermore the private sector does not participate to the policy development process. The project will strive to set an example and a higher standard of stakeholder involvement practice in water and natural resources management, which is considered an essential element of the success of the project itself.

**A.3 Risk. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable):**

32. The main project risk is the relative weaknesses of the water and environmental authorities in Kyrgyzstan as well as Kazakhstan. The political instability in Kyrgyzstan is also a factor to take into account. However, in both countries there is a common understanding on the institutional level as well as among leading decision makers that the further development of the bilateral cooperation is of significant practical as well as political importance. The previous projects have worked very well and UNDP/UNECE is a trusted partner with well-established contacts in the two countries. For example, the political events in 2010 in Kyrgyzstan did not hinder the work of projects supporting the bilateral cooperation nor on the national level apart for a certain time delay.

33. The low attention to environmental interests in the region is also a risk for the project as is the challenge to build an understanding and dialogue between water and environmental authorities in the two countries. The institutional culture in Central Asia is not conducive for close cooperation between institutions and integrated approaches. However, the discussions with partners in the development of this project have been positive in this respect.

**A.4. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives:**

34. This project proposal has been developed in close cooperation with the water and environmental authorities of the two countries as well as with other donors and projects – see table. The outline of the project has been presented and discussed with the Chu-Talas Commission during its meeting 15 September in Bishkek. In the Protocol of the meeting the outline was approved by the co-chairmen from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Consultations between different donors involved are on-going. The outcomes and results of completed project will be used as baseline for the present project.

Project Title	Countries	Implementing Agency and Other Executing Agencies	Stage of implementation
Improved Management of Water Resources in Central Asia. RETA 6486	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	ADB	Ongoing
Promotion of Interstate Water Management Cooperation on Transboundary Chui River	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	SDC	Ongoing

Transboundary Water management Central Asia	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	GIZ	Ongoing
Promoting IWRM and Fostering Transboundary Dialogue in Central Asia	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan	EU, UNDP	Ongoing
Promoting Cooperation to Adapt to Climate Change in the Chu and Talas Transboundary Basin	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	UNECE, UNDP, OSCE	Ongoing
Climate Risk Management in Central Asia	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	UNDP	Ongoing
Improvement of Water Resource Management in the Kyrgyz Republic	Kyrgyzstan	WB	Ongoing
On Farm Irrigation	Kyrgyzstan	WB	Ongoing
Development of cooperation on the Chu and Talas Rivers (Chu – Talas II)	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	UNECE, OSCE	Completed
Dam safety in Central Asia: Capacity building for regional cooperation (phase II)	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	UNECE, IFAS	Completed
Water Quality in Central Asia	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	UNECE, CAREC	Completed

**Description of the consistency of the project with:**

**B.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.:**

Country	Sustainable Development	Environment	Water
Kazakhstan	Program "Zhasyl Damu" 2010-2014	Strategic Action Plan of the Ministry of Environment Protection of Kazakhstan for the period 2011-2015 The Ecological Code of Kazakhstan (2007)	Ak-Bulak 2011-2020 The Water Code of Kazakhstan (2003)

Kyrgyzstan	Country Development Strategy 2007- (2007) Mid-Term Development Programme of the Kyrgyz Republic 2012-2014	National Environmental Action Plan (1995) Concept for environmental safety for 2007-2020 (2007)	Draft Water Strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic (2003) The Water Code for the Kyrgyz Republic (2005)
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35. Kazakhstan has acceded to 24 multilateral environmental agreements and is a party to the UNECE water convention. Two Governmental Program Documents, building upon the Strategic Plan for the Republic of Kazakhstan 2011-2015, have until now formed the basis for the sustainable development of the country. These were “The Concept of Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Sustainable Development till 2024” and “The Concept of Environmental Security of the Republic of Kazakhstan till 2015”. These two programs were however cancelled last year.

36. Kazakhstan is now, as part of its post-Rio development activities, preparing a strategy for the country’s transition to a “Green Economy”, under the leadership of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP). According to the statement of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Mr. N. Kapparov, at a MEP / UNDP workshop “Moving to sustainable development through a Green Economy” on September 18 in Astana the strategy will be developed by mid-2013.

37. In addition, practical activities related to environmental protection are detailed in the MEP Sectoral programme Zhasyl Damu (Green Growth) for 2010-2014. The Governmental Program Ak-Bulak for 2011-2020 supports the development of the country’s water supply and sewage systems.

38. Kyrgyzstan has acceded to 13 multilateral environmental conventions that are of importance for the development of national legislation and policies for protection of the environment and the rational use of natural resources. Kyrgyzstan is not a Party to the UNECE Water Convention.

39. The development of principles for policies on environmental protection and sustainable development in Kyrgyzstan began in the middle of the 1990s with the adoption of the National Environmental Action Plan, the National Strategy for Sustainable Human Development, the Concept for Strengthening and Development of Environmental Protection and the approval of the first version of the Concept for Environmental Safety. The National Environmental and Health Plan is also an important political document in this sector that complements the National Environmental Action Plan with activities aiming to protect the health of the population against risks and threats from the environment.

*Management at transboundary level*

40. As a response to the challenge to manage jointly used water infrastructure and allocation of shared water resources between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan the governments of both countries signed an intergovernmental agreement in January 2000 between the Government of the Kazakh Republic and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Use of Water Management Facilities of Intergovernmental Status on the Rivers Chu and Talas. In 2006 the Chu-Talas Commission was established along with a Secretariat situated in Bishkek and Taraz. Since then 14 meetings of the Commission have been held.

41. The Chu-Talas water cooperation is an important example for the whole Central Asian region and it has a good visibility on the political as well as technical horizons. Support from various donors has been important but a strong ownership by the two countries and the financial capacity of Kazakhstan to provide co-funding of the jointly used infrastructure in Kyrgyzstan are key success factors.

42. The proposed project will build on a favorable environment, and support the countries in their efforts to develop the existing cooperative framework for the sustainable and integrated management of the shared water resources of the Chu and Talas river basins.

**B.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities:**

43. The proposed project is fully consistent with the long term goal of the International Waters focal area, i.e.: the

promotion of collective management for transboundary water systems and subsequent implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services.

44. Its specific objectives fall under Objective 3 of the IW Focal Area: Support foundational capacity building, portfolio learning for ecosystem-based, joint management of transboundary water systems. These processes include: establishment of national inter-ministry committees for project participation, development of Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses, third-party facilitation, stakeholder participation, and formulation of Strategic Action Programs (SAPs) with shared visions and agreed reforms and investments. These enabling activities also focus on capacity building and technical assistance for legal and institutional aspects of multi-level governance reforms for transboundary water systems so desperately needed not only at the transboundary level but also at the sub-basin, national, and local levels.

### **B.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing this project:**

45. UNDP's mission is to promote sustainable development, and the proposed project fits with UNDP's Strategic Plan 2011-2015, and the four development focus areas: (i) Poverty reduction and the MDGs; (ii) Democratic Governance; (iii) Crisis Prevention and Recovery and (iv) Environment and sustainable development.

46. The proposed project fits into UNDP's core Water Governance Programme, and adheres to the UNDP role as identified in the UNDAF Country Programme and Countries Programme Action Plans (CPAP).

47. For the transboundary freshwater ecosystems that are the focus of the GEF International Waters focal area, UNDP's mainstreaming environment and energy translates into efforts to incorporate transboundary water resource, fishery and other environmental issues into national (and regional) policy, legal and institutional frameworks.

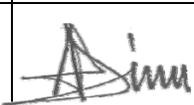
48. In follow-up to the adoption of the UNDP Strategic Plan by UNDP Executive Board, UNDP has taken further internal steps to operationalize the environment and energy mainstreaming elements of the Strategic Plan at a subsidiary level through both its Environment and Energy Group Strategy and Programme and through its Water Governance Strategy. The EEG strategy includes the key outcome, *Ecosystem Governance, Policies, Strategies and Plans at regional, national and sub-national levels*. The UNDP Water Governance Strategy includes as one of its three Strategic Priorities Regional and Global Cooperation and the associated Outcome, *Enhanced regional and global cooperation, peace, security and socio-economic development through adaptive governance of shared water resources*, and the principal Output, *Assist countries to develop and implement cooperation on transboundary waters through multi-country agreements on priority concerns, governance reforms, investments, legal frameworks, institutions and strategic action programmes*.

**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):**  
 (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
H.E. Nurlan KAPPAROV	Minister of Environment Protection	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN	29 NOVEMBER 2012
Mr. Sabir ATAJANOV	Director	STATE AGENCY FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND FORESTRY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	<b>22 NOVEMBER 2012</b>

**B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

<b>This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.</b>					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Adriana Dinu Officer-in-Charge UNDP-GEF		25 February 2013	Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP/GEF Regional Technical Advisor for RBEC	+421 2 5 9337 267	vladimir.mamaev@undp.org