



473000, Астана қаласы, Жеңіс даңғылы, 31 үй

Тел.: 59-19-44, факс: 59-19-73

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473000, город Астана, пр. Победы, 31

Тел.: 59-19-44, факс: 59-19-73

№ _____

**Mr. Loup Brefort
Country Manager for
Kazakhstan
The World Bank**

Dear Mr. Brefort

The Ministry of Environment fully supports the proposed Forest Protection and Reforestation Project, and the request for GEF assistance to implement the project. The project is proposed for financing by a blend of GEF, IBRD, and Government financing. It is specifically highlighted in the 2004-2006 Country Partnership Agreement between the Government of Kazakhstan and the World Bank.

The objective of the proposed project is to develop cost effective and sustainable environmental rehabilitation and management of forest lands and associated rangelands, with a focus on the Irtysh pine forest, the dry Aral Seabed, and saxaul rangelands. The sustainable land management agenda is among the highest priorities of Kazakhstan, and the proposed project would address key elements within this agenda. We strongly believe that the project will bring domestic, regional, and international benefits. Looking forward for further fruitful cooperation.

Best Regards,

Minister

A. Samakova