



Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management  
(CACILM)

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April 2006

CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework  
Project Document

Asian Development Bank

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CACILM	–	Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management
CACs	–	Central Asian countries
CIDA	–	Canadian International Development Agency
CMPF	–	CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework
EA	–	Executing agency of Global Environment Facility
FAO	–	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	–	gross domestic product
GEF	–	Global Environment Facility
GM	–	Global Mechanism of the UNCCD
GTZ	–	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
IBRD	–	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IA	–	Implementing agency of GEF (WB, UNDP, UNEP)
ICARDA	–	International Center for Agricultural Research on Dry Areas
IFAD	–	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LD	–	land degradation
M&E	–	monitoring and evaluation
NAP	–	national action plan or program
NGO	–	nongovernment organization
NPF	–	national programming framework
OP	–	Operational Program
PDF	–	Project Development Facility
SDC	–	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SLM	–	sustainable land management
SLMIS	–	sustainable land management information system
SPA	–	Strategic Partnership Agreement for UNCCD Implementation in the Central Asian Countries
SRAP-CD	–	Sub-regional Action Programme for Central Asian Countries on Combating Drought and Desertification
UNCCD	–	United Nations Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification
UNDP	–	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	–	United Nations Environment Programme
WB	–	World Bank

## CONTENTS

	Page
I. CACILM MULTICOUNTRY PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK SUMMARY	1
A. Background	
1. Rationale	1
2. Dimensions of Land Degradation in Central Asian Countries	2
3. Institutional Responses	6
B. Objectives	17
C. Approach	17
1. Creating Enabling Conditions for Sustainable Land Management	18
2. Promoting Integrated Land-use Planning and Management	19
3. Adoption of SLM Practices Based on Biogeographic and Community Priorities	20
4. Formulation and Implementation of Ecosystem and Landscape Protection Activities	20
5. Broad Stakeholder Participation	21
D. Outcomes	21
E. Activities	22
1. National Programming Frameworks – Program Areas	22
2. Multicountry Activities	27
3. Program Coordination	31
4. CACILM Phases	31
5. CACILM Activities to be Funded by GEF	32
6. Additional Ongoing Activities under the CACILM Umbrella	32
F. Key Indicators, Assumptions, and Risks	43
II. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP	44
A. Country Eligibility	44
B. Country Drivenness	44
III. GEF PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY	46
A. Conformity with GEF Operational Program and Strategic Priorities	46
B. Benefits from GEF Support	47
1. Without GEF Scenario	47
2. GEF Alternative	48
3. Benefits from GEF Alternative	48
C. Sustainability	49
D. Replicability	49
E. Stakeholder Involvement	49
F. Monitoring and Evaluation	52
1. Overall Structure	52
2. Principal Components at the National Level	52
3. Principal Components at the Multicountry Level	53
4. Compatibility with Other M&E Systems	54
5. Evaluation	54
IV. FINANCIAL MODALITIES AND COST EFFECTIVENESS	55
A. Financing Plan and Cofinancing Sources	55
B. Incremental Cost Analysis	57
1. Global Benefits	57
2. Incremental Costs	57
C. Cost Effectiveness	60

V.	INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT	61
A.	Core Commitments and Linkages	61
B.	Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration among IAs and ExAs	61
C.	Program Implementation Arrangements	64
	1. Roles and Responsibilities	65
	2. CMPF Operational Guidelines and Procedures	65
	3. GEF Submission and Approval Procedures	67
	4. Individual Projects	68
	5. Project Development Assistance	68
	6. Project Eligibility Criteria	68

## ANNEXES

A.	CACILM Multicountry Program Logical Framework
B.	Estimated Costs
C.	Work Plan
D.	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
E.	Public Participation Plan
F.	Incremental Cost of the Program under GEF Alternative
G.	Background and Context
H.	Country Maps
I.	Letters of Endorsement from GEF Focal Points and UNCCD National Focal Points
	Kazakhstan, GEF Focal Point
	Kazakhstan, UNCCD Focal Point
	Kyrgyz Republic, GEF Focal Point
	Kyrgyz Republic, UNCCD Focal Point
	Tajikistan, GEF Focal Point
	Tajikistan, UNCCD Focal Point
	Turkmenistan, GEF Focal Point
	Turkmenistan, UNCCD Focal Point
	Uzbekistan, GEF Focal Point
	Uzbekistan, UNCCD Focal Point
J.	CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project
K.	Concepts for Projects Under Preparation to be Submitted for Approval by GEF CEO (GEF-3 Replenishment)
	1. Rangeland Ecosystem Management, Kazakhstan
	2. Integrated Agricultural Management and Land Improvement, Kyrgyz Republic
	3. Mountain Pasture Management in Susamyr Valley, Kyrgyz Republic
	4. Rural Development, Tajikistan
	5. Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan
	6. Capacity Building and On-the-ground Investments in Integrated and Sustainable Land Management, Turkmenistan
	7. Achieving Ecosystem Stability on the Exposed Aral Seabed and the Kyzylkum Desert, Uzbekistan
	8. Land Improvement, Uzbekistan
	9. CACILM Multicountry Capacity Building

- L. National Programming Frameworks for Sustainable Land Management
  - Kazakhstan
  - Kyrgyz Republic
  - Tajikistan
  - Turkmenistan
  - Uzbekistan
- M. Indicative Letters on Cofinancing

## TABLES

- 1. GEF Projects in Central Asia Addressing Land Degradation
- 2. List of Projects under CACILM Proposed to Receive Funding from the GEF-3 Replenishment
- 3. Indicative List of Projects under CACILM that May Request Funding under GEF-4 Replenishment
- 4. Indicative List of Projects under CACILM that May Request Funding under GEF-5 Replenishment
- 5. Additional Ongoing Sustainable Land Management Activities under the CACILM Umbrella
- 6. Dates of UNCCD Actions by the Central Asian Countries
- 7. Types and Scope of Stakeholder Participation
- 8. Indicative Financing Plan Based on Current National Programming Frameworks and Development Cooperation Partner Estimates
- 9. Cofinancing Sources
- 10. Ongoing or Completed GEF Projects in Central Asia Addressing Land Degradation, Showing Linkages to CACILM
- 11. Project Eligibility Criteria

## FIGURES

- 1. Program Phases and GEF Replenishment Periods
- 2. National Monitoring and Evaluation System
- 3. Multicountry Monitoring and Evaluation System
- 4. CMPF Organizational Structure

## I. CACILM MULTICOUNTRY PROGRAM FRAMEWORK SUMMARY

### A. Background

#### 1. Rationale

1. Land degradation<sup>1</sup> is one of the greatest challenges facing the Central Asian countries (CACs) of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The loss of land productivity over the past two decades due to unsustainable land-use practices not only directly affects the well-being and livelihoods of one-third of the combined population of these countries, it has also resulted in large losses of foreign exchange earnings and threatens national food security. The situation is equally serious from an environmental viewpoint. The CACs contain unique dryland, mountain and riparian ecosystems of importance to global biodiversity. These are being degraded and lost as rural populations become more desperate to sustain their livelihoods and as a result of policies favoring unsustainable agricultural practices. Significant further progress in poverty reduction and natural resource conservation in the CACs will rely to a large extent on their ability to achieve growth in the agricultural sector—a major contributor to CAC economies—and, hence, on attaining sustainable land management (SLM).

2. Consistent with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), desertification is taken to mean “degradation of lands in arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid regions as a result of the effect of different factors, including climatic variations and human activity.” Dynamic interplay of anthropogenic factors with climatic variability is driving land degradation processes on the fragile drylands of Central Asia. Previously sustainable traditional agricultural practices have become less viable due to changing economic and political circumstances, including population growth and a trend toward more settled communities. It is now generally acknowledged that land and water management practices, which among other things have failed to consider climatic variation, are among the primary causes of land degradation in Central Asia. By definition, drylands have limited freshwater supplies, and climate variability also has an important but often subtle influence on desertification processes through its impact on the hydrological cycle, soils, and vegetation. In addition to seasonal variability of precipitation in Central Asia, wide fluctuations occur over years and decades, frequently leading to drought.

3. Central Asia is characterized on the eastern side by its mountain ecosystems, which are important as catchment areas for the major rivers that supply water for agricultural, municipal industrial, and other uses in these arid to semi-arid countries. The mountainous forest ecosystems of Central Asia play an extremely important role in preserving the water regimes of its rivers, serve as valuable and often unique habitats, and are a source of fuel, timber, and forest products for local populations. The Tien-Shan and Pamir mountain ranges are home to the world’s largest alpine glaciers and associated freshwater reserves. The economic and environmental functions of Central Asian ecosystems are threatened by their intensive use, and their deteriorating condition adversely affects the social and economic status of the local populations dependent on them for their livelihoods.

4. The western side of Central Asia consists mainly of arid lowland plains, characterized by various desert types. The main deserts are the Karakum, with a total area of close to 400,000 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>), of which 300–350,000 km<sup>2</sup> are in Turkmenistan (covering about 70% of

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<sup>1</sup> Land degradation is defined by GEF as “...any form of deterioration of the natural potential of land that affects ecosystem integrity either in terms of reducing its sustainable ecological productivity or in terms of its native biological richness and maintenance of resilience.” Cited in GEF. 2003. Operational Program on Sustainable Land Management (OP 15).

the total area of the country), about 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> about in Kazakhstan, and the remainder is in Uzbekistan; and the Kyzylkum, with total area of about 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> divided between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

5. Where irrigation is available in the western plains, agriculture is dominated by cotton in the foothills of the eastern mountains, and various food crops are grown under both irrigated and rainfed conditions, coupled with extensive livestock raising. Over the years poor irrigation practices have led to salinization of soils, waterlogging, and soil erosion. Soil erosion also has become a problem in rainfed farmlands. Overstocking of livestock has led to the degradation of both desert and mountain ecosystems used as pastures, while deforestation has accelerated considerably over the past decade. Some of these problems were inherited from the Soviet collective farm system, which did not foster sustainability. After the countries became independent more than a decade ago, land degradation problems worsened, because markets in other parts of the former Soviet Union dried up and both governments and rural residents became more desperate to maintain production.

6. The change to market economies has been generally hard on the land, and this has been particularly exacerbated by uncertainty over land ownership.

7. The resulting land degradation in the CACs has led to declines in agricultural yields of 20–30% across the region since these countries achieved independence. The annual loss of agricultural production due to salinization alone is worth an estimated \$2,000,000,000, or about 5% of the CACs' combined gross national product. In sum, the principal forms of land degradation currently experienced across the CACs include: (i) erosion, salinization, and water logging; (ii) deteriorating fertility of pasture land; (iii) decrease in fertility of the arable drylands of the steppes; (iv) decreased area and productivity of forests; (v) on-site and off-site impacts of mining operations; (vi) exacerbated risks from landslides and flooding due to poor watershed management; and (vii) reduced stability and functioning of desert, mountain, wetland, and riparian ecosystems. The full extent of these problems is not known with certainty, because national SLM systems are currently hampered by inadequate and incorrect means and methods for the assessment and monitoring of land degradation. Greater detail on the known extent of these problems in each country is given in the sections which follow.

## **2. Dimensions of Land Degradation in Central Asian Countries<sup>2</sup>**

### **a. Kazakhstan**

8. The total area of degraded lands in Kazakhstan, the largest of the CACs, is estimated to encompass roughly two-thirds of the country. The main zones of ecological stress and land degradation are in the Aral and Caspian regions in western parts and the abandoned cereal growing areas in the northern region of the country. The Aral Sea was once the world's fourth largest inland water body, but it has in recent decades shrunk to less than one-third of its former size and has been divided into the Large and Small Aral Seas, with the latter located within Kazakhstan. Special concerns in the Caspian Sea region include land contamination from inappropriate oil production practices and coastal flooding due to the still unexplained rise in the level of the sea. Radioactive pollution of soils at the former nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk poses another special challenge. Desertification is caused mainly by anthropogenic factors, such as excessive use of water for cotton production, inadequate drainage, and localized

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<sup>2</sup> The information in this section is adapted from the individual country reports on *Issues and Approaches to Combat Desertification*, prepared for the Subregional Partnership Building Forum for the Central Asian republics: Confronting Land Degradation through Enhanced Implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Tashkent in 2003.

overgrazing. Widespread desertification has been accompanied by the pollution of soils, ground and subsurface waters, and a decline in biological potential. Deficiency of water is one of the main causes of serious ecological and social strains in Kazakhstan. Further, droughts have become more common than in previous times, apparently as a consequence of global climate change, now occurring every third year on average in the southern parts of the steppe zone. Thus, the main areas to be addressed in controlling land degradation in the country are: preventing the spread of salinization and water erosion in the lower Aral Sea basin; special dryland management measures for the abandoned marginal cereal growing areas in the northern part of the country; and controlling pollution in the area of the Caspian Sea.

9. The main economic consequences of desertification and land degradation are: reduced agricultural yields and crop production; decreased cattle and camel stocks and declining profitability of animal husbandry; decreased export capacity of agriculture; stagnation of the agribusiness sector; and a sharp decrease in tax revenue from the agricultural and food processing sectors. The total annual economic loss due to a mixture of land degradation and poor agricultural management in Kazakhstan is estimated to be around \$700,000,000, with poor households paying the highest price.

#### **b. Kyrgyz Republic**

10. The major land degradation processes encountered in the Kyrgyz Republic include soil erosion, salinization, waterlogging, chemical pollution, and a deterioration of the composition and diversity of the vegetative cover on pasture lands. Degradation of natural resources is conditioned by geophysical and climatic characteristics in the different parts of the country, compounded by overexploitation and inappropriate use of a fragile resource base. Over 40% of the officially designated farmlands (9.2 million hectares of pastureland and 1.3 million hectares of arable land) have already been degraded. About 30% of the land used mostly as pasture is already desertified, with 27% in the middle stage of desertification, and 17% in the early stages of this process. Nearly 2,000 hectares of land are polluted with dangerous radioactive substances that will take centuries to reach safe levels, while more than 200,000 hectares of land are affected by residual agricultural chemicals. The proportion of potentially erosive lands across the whole country is 85%, which is mainly due to the mountainous terrain. In most parts of the country, the fertility of arable soil is considered to be 20–45% below its natural potential.

11. Although only 1.3 million hectares (7% of land area) is officially designated as suitable for agriculture, the actual area under cultivation is about 2.5 million hectares. Lands allocated to forestry comprise 13.3% of the country, though actual forested area stands at around 4.2%. The network of protected areas also has grown considerably in recent years, though on-the-ground management remains weak. Dependence on fuel wood as a key an energy source in rural areas is of increasing concern, and substitutes need to be found to prevent further deforestation. Pastures located near settlements are severely degraded by overgrazing, which contributes to wind and water erosion. The recent widespread emergence of small cattle ranchers has led to a transition in pasture management, with increasing pressure on pastures close to villages.

12. Lying at the headwaters of one of the region's two great rivers, the Syr Darya, the Kyrgyz Republic faces particular challenges relating to regional water management. It presently carries the major share of costs related to operation of dams, reservoirs, hydropower generation and the main water conveyance systems of the Syr Darya River Basin, the water supply storage functions of which primarily benefit the downstream states. The view in the Kyrgyz Republic is that the country receives limited and uncertain compensation from downstream countries for the operation and maintenance of these water supply systems and no support for management of the upper watershed.

13. While systematic data on the dimensions and types of land degradation or estimates of the associated economic costs are not yet available, there is clearly a high price paid by the country in terms of lost agricultural production. A World Bank study on the country's mountain and forest environment, for example, estimated the annual net benefits from restoring grassland pastures to their economic and ecological potential to be \$181,000,000.

#### **c. Tajikistan**

14. According to Tajikistan's National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, currently 98% of the country's agricultural lands are suffering from erosion, compared to 68% in 1973. The erosive processes, especially water and gully erosion, have been especially strong in the country's foothills. Human economic activity plays a significant role, especially through inappropriate agricultural practices on sloping lands that inevitably result in erosion. The process extends even to the flat lands of Fergana, Gissar, Vaksh Hissar, and Kafirnigan. Poor on-farm water management and land preparation explain the frequent coexistence of under-watering and waterlogging on adjacent lands. Both negatively affect the productivity of irrigated agriculture, for now dominated by cotton. Under rainfed agriculture, slopes of up to 25 degrees are widely used without any anti-erosion measures. All pasturelands are subject to erosion—with 89% of the summer pastures and 97% of winter pastures experiencing medium to strong erosion.

15. In recent years, one of the most powerful anthropogenic factors contributing to land degradation has been the felling of mountain forests and shrubs, which has reduced the biodiversity of mountain ecosystems and disrupted important watershed protection services. The illegal cutting of forests for fuel in the wake of energy supply disruptions in rural areas is widespread, especially on state forestlands, while reforestation, replanting and other amelioration measures have suffered from the severe budget cuts and political instability of the 1990s.

16. As for the economic costs of land degradation, there is no peer-reviewed study on this subject yet available. The closest approximation comes from estimates of changes in agricultural productivity. The National Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Mountain Area Development of Tajikistan at the end of the 1990s estimated that the decrease in the gross annual value of production of the four largest agricultural enterprises at that time was the equivalent of \$224,000,000. The annual production of major crops is commonly estimated to have decreased by as much as 50–60% during the last decade; land degradation is an important contributor to this serious trend.

#### **d. Turkmenistan**

17. The Karakum Desert occupies about 80% of the territory of Turkmenistan. The high aridity of the climate, soil types, and sparse natural vegetation, with high sensitivity to even small changes in the wind velocity, favor deflation processes characterized by: drifting sand and dust storms. The desertification and land degradation process is characterized by (i) reduction or loss of the vegetative cover; (ii) soil deflation in dry and desert lowlands; (iii) water erosion of hillsides; (iv) salinization of irrigated lands; (v) salinization of soils caused by lowering of the Aral Sea level; (vi) technogenic desertification; and (vii) waterlogging or salinization of pastures around the points of discharge of collector and drainage water. Flooding processes and salinization of lands opened for irrigated agriculture, together with pollution caused by oil and gas production, also have caused severe environmental degradation along the entire Caspian Sea coastal region of the country.

18. Land degradation results largely from improper land use, and inefficiency of irrigation water management has been the principal cause. Total water consumption in Turkmenistan has

been increasing, partly due to population growth but also because of the deteriorating irrigation system and opening of new land for grain production. Pastureland degradation also is no small problem in Turkmenistan, where animal husbandry faces the challenges of desert and semi-desert conditions, small reserves of fodder, the seasonal nature of their utilization over a considerable territory, large fluctuations in the fodder reserves over years and seasons, and inadequate water supply in a number of regions. Total annual direct economic losses from different forms of land degradation have been estimated to be around \$350,000,000 equivalent annually.

#### **e. Uzbekistan**

19. More than 85% of the territory of Uzbekistan faces desert or semi-desert conditions, including those lands lying in the Kyzylkum, the largest desert of Central Asia. Uzbekistan is perhaps the most vulnerable of the CACs with respect to water resources and irrigated agriculture, because it has the highest irrigated area (4.3 million ha), the biggest rural population (more than 14 million) and the highest population density of 49.6 persons per square kilometer (646 persons in Andijan). Being an arid country but large consumer of water derived from sources lying outside of its borders, Uzbekistan suffers heavily when water shortages occur, especially in drought years, such as 2000–2001. The drying of the Aral Sea and Amu Darya delta led to significant ecosystem damage and is considered to be the greatest human-caused disaster in Uzbekistan and of global significance. Land degradation is widespread everywhere in the country, but the most affected areas are concentrated in the districts of Bukhara, Navoi, and Kashkadarya and the lowlands of the Amudarya River basin, as well as in the Ferghana Valley and the so-called Hungry Steppe of the Syrdarya River basin. The most serious environmental problems threatening the country's natural resources are incremental soil salinization and water contamination, wind and water erosion, overgrazing, deforestation and loss of biodiversity, and the reduction of productivity of arable lands. Recognized proximate causes of land degradation include inappropriate land use, mainly unsustainable agricultural practices, insufficient maintenance of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, and excessive use of surface and marginal water. During the past 15–20 years, there also has been widespread degradation of pasturelands due to overgrazing, lack of pasture maintenance, and other anthropogenic factors.

20. Up to 53% of Uzbekistan's irrigated lands are exposed to varying degrees of salinization. Over 50% of farmland suffers from wind and water erosion, and continued losses of the most fertile topsoil layer are experienced annually. The role of inappropriate irrigation practices by far surpasses natural causes. Likewise, vegetative degradation is caused by livestock overgrazing, cutting of trees and shrubs for firewood, discharge of drainage water into desert depressions, and mismanagement of on-farm irrigation water. The drying of the Aral Sea and subsequent exposure of toxic materials on the former seabed, subsequently disbursed through dust storms, also constitutes a serious ecological and health problem for the country and region. Rainfed farming lands occupy about 4.5 million hectares, of which more than 80% are classified as poor, with total precipitation of only 250–350 mm. Land degradation has been a crucial factor in the decline in rural living standards due to loss of soil fertility and falling crop yields.

21. Land degradation's economic costs to the country are imposed at three levels: (i) at the field level, in terms of decline in productivity; (ii) at the national level, in terms of loss of productive capacity of the agricultural land and lower growth of the agricultural GDP and export earnings; and (iii) at the global level, in terms of negative impact on carbon sequestration and climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution of transboundary water resource flows. The deterioration of the production base due to a lack of upkeep of irrigation and drainage systems, huge water losses, severe soil salinization and declining crop yields, is estimated by the World Bank to cost the country approximately \$1,000,000,000 annually.

### 3. Institutional Responses

22. The global extent of land degradation, its transboundary nature, and its growing seriousness in recent years has prompted not only action by individual countries concerned but also international and regional activities to promote awareness and to overcome the problem. The main international response has been the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the result of efforts to address land degradation by the United Nations since the 1970s. It was adopted in 1994 and entered into force in 1996. The gravity of the situation caused the parties to the convention to form the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD in 1997, mandated to “increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms... [and to] promote actions leading to the mobilisation and channeling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or on concessional or other terms, to affected developing country parties.” GEF declared land degradation a focal area in 2002, and an Operational Program (OP 15) on Sustainable Land Management in 2003 to serve as a financial mechanism for the UNCCD’s implementation.

23. There has been mounting concern and intensified action by governments and the international community alike with regard to land degradation in the CACs. With large portions of their arable land degraded to some extent, all CACs had ratified or acceded to UNCCD by 1997 and developed national action plans or programs (NAPs) to combat this problem. As a group, the CACs then developed a Sub-regional Action Program for Central Asian Countries on Combating Desertification and Drought (SRAP-CD). Difficulties in implementing both the national plans and the subregional program led the Global Mechanism of UNCCD to spearhead the formation of a partnership of development cooperation partners to support the formulation and carrying out of a sustainable and coherent strategy for UNCCD implementation in all five countries. This partnership led to the establishment of the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM).

#### a. National Actions

24. The CACs had all formulated NAPs in the spirit of UNCCD by 2000.

25. Related actions by the CACs also included:

- (i) signing the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;
- (ii) developing national environmental action plans (NEAPs), which sought to address priority environmental problems;
- (iii) approval of the Agreement on Joint Actions for the Aral Sea Issues Solution and Environmental Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Development of the Aral Sea Region;
- (iv) signing the Nukus Declaration, with priorities on the Convention on Sustainable development for the Aral Sea basin and assistance to the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development;
- (v) joining the Central Asia Regional Environmental Center;
- (vi) signing the Agreement of Cooperation in the field of Environmental Protection and Sustainable Environmental Management (1998);<sup>3</sup> and
- (vii) including land degradation issues in poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs).

26. Implementation of the NAPs, however, generally had only limited success for several reasons:

- (i) Lack of a participatory approach, with NAPs prepared mostly by technical experts without broad consultation;

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.johanesurgsummit.org/html/pre\\_process/aspacific\\_prep1/central\\_asia\\_asia\\_original\\_cooperation.ht](http://www.johanesurgsummit.org/html/pre_process/aspacific_prep1/central_asia_asia_original_cooperation.ht).

- (ii) NAPs lacked a strong problem analysis that clearly identified the root causes of land degradation;
- (iii) Inadequate discussion of policy implications, such that the NAPs had little influence in government policy setting exercises;
- (iv) Weak linkages with national planning or budgetary processes, which created funding constraints; and
- (v) Lack of structured interaction between governments of the CACs and development cooperation partners, due to lack of familiarity by governments with development cooperation partner procedures and requirements.

#### **b. Multicountry and Regional Actions**

27. In view of some of these shortcomings and the fact that desertification and drought are cross-border problems that sometimes warrant joint actions, the governments of the CACs developed the SRAP-CD within the UNCCD context, which was initiated by a joint ministerial declaration in September 2003. It identified six priority areas for possible joint or national pilot implementation: (1) monitoring and evaluation of desertification processes, (2) improved water use in agriculture, (3) agroforestry and management of forest resources and watersheds, (4) pastureland management, (5) biodiversity conservation and development of eco- and ethno-tourism, and (6) capacity building of local communities. The program emphasizes synergy of any proposed measures with other environmental conventions and contains a menu of project ideas suitable for implementation in all CACs.

28. Implementation of a Regional Environmental Action Plan (REAP) was initiated with support from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) after an official request of ministers of environment of the CACs in February 2000 and approved by the ICSD of Central Asia in September 2001. The REAP is meant to address five priority areas: (i) mountain ecosystems degradation (led by Tajikistan), (ii) air pollution (led by Uzbekistan), (iii) land degradation (led by Turkmenistan), (iv) water pollution (led by Kazakhstan), and (v) waste management (led by the Kyrgyz Republic). It is supporting development of strengthened institutional structures for environmental management at the regional level.

29. In cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Asia-Pacific and funded by GEF through UNEP, a Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) analysis was conducted for Uzbekistan examining especially the widespread salinization problems of that country and drawing conclusions applicable to such conditions throughout the CACs.

#### **c. GEF**

30. As noted, to improve GEF's contribution to addressing globally significant land degradation problems, GEF designated land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, as a discrete focal area in 2002. In 2003, the new focal area was operationalized, and linked to GEF's designation as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD through creation of Operational Program (OP 15) on Sustainable Land Management, with the dual strategic priorities of capacity building and implementation of innovative and indigenous SLM practices.

31. GEF has been providing incremental cost financing for land degradation problems as a cross-cutting issue since its establishment in 1991. In the CACs, GEF's total portfolio to date is \$159,121,000 covering 60 activities. In the relevant focal areas, GEF—in collaboration with its implementing agencies—has invested a total of \$83,357,000 in 26 projects, \$33,700,000 of which is for national projects and \$49,657,000 for regional/global projects (Table 1). There are 12 projects under the biodiversity (BD) focal area, 6 projects under land degradation (LD), 7

Table 1: GEF Projects in Central Asia Addressing Land Degradation

	Project Title	Geographic Coverage	GEF Agency	Type	GEF Support (\$)	Status
<b>A. Land Degradation</b>						
1	Forest Protection and Reforestation	Kyrgyz Republic	IBRD	FSP	5,000,000	CEO Endorsed
2	Disaster Hazard Mitigation Project (DHMP)	Kyrgyz Republic	IBRD	MSP	1,000,000	CEO Approved
3	Support to the Implementation of the Regional Environmental Action Plan in Central Asia Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains – and Integrated and Transboundary Initiative in Central Asia (Tranches 1 and 2)	Regional (5 CACs)	UNEP	MSP	1,000,000	CEO Approved
4	Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA)	Regional (Taj/Kyr)	UNEP	FSP	6,650,000	PDF-B CEO
5	Enabling Sustainable Dryland Management Through Mobile Pastoral Custodianship	Global (Uzb)	UNEP	FSP	7,725,000	CEO Endorsed
6		Global (Kyr)	UNDP	MSP	1,000,000	CEO Approved
	<b>Total – Land Degradation</b>				<b>22,375,000</b>	
<b>B. Multifocal</b>						
1	Drylands Management Project	Kazakhstan	IBRD	FSP	5,360,000	CEO Endorsed
2	National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental Management	Kazakhstan	UNDP	EA	200,000	CEO Approved
3	National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental Management	Kyrgyz Republic	UNDP	EA	195,000	CEO Approved
4	National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) Community Agriculture and Watershed Management	Tajikistan	UNDP	EA	199,000	CEO Approved
5	National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental Management	Tajikistan	IBRD	FSP	4,500,000	CEO Endorsed
6	National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management	Turkmenistan	UNDP	EA	200,000	CEO Approved
7	Global Environmental Management	Uzbekistan	UNDP	EA	200,000	CEO Approved
	<b>Total – Multifocal</b>				<b>10,854,000</b>	
<b>C. Biodiversity</b>						
1	Integrated Conservation of Priority Globally Significant Migratory Bird Wetland Habitat	Kyrgyz Republic	UNDP	FSP	8,847,000	CEO Endorsed
2	In-Situ Conservation of Kazakhstan's Mountain Agrobiodiversity	Kyrgyz Republic	UNDP	FSP	3,023,000	CEO Endorsed
3	Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation	Tajikistan	IBRD	MSP	775,000	CEO Approved
4	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Gissar Mountains of Tajikistan	Tajikistan	UNDP	MSP	1,000,000	CEO Approved
5	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Globally Significant Biological Diversity in Khazar Nature Reserve on the Caspian Sea Coast (Resubmission)	Turkmenistan	UNDP	FSP	1,429,000	Council Approved
6	Establishment of the Nuratau-Kyzylkum Biosphere Reserve as a Model for Biodiversity Conservation	Uzbekistan	UNDP	MSP	750,000	CEO Approved
7	Conservation of "Tugai Forest" and Strengthening Protected Areas System in the Amu Darya Delta of Karakalpakstan	Uzbekistan	UNDP	MSP	995,000	CEO Approved
8	In Situ/On Farm Conservation and Use of Agricultural Biodiversity (Horticultural Crops and	Regional (5 CACs)	UNEP	FSP	6,093,000	CEO Endorsed

	Project Title	Geographic Coverage	GEF Agency	Type	GEF Support (\$)	Status
	Wild Fruit Species) in Central Asia					
9	Development of the Econet for Long-term Conservation of Biodiversity in the Central Asia Ecoregions	Regional (5 CACs)	UNEP	MSP	775,000	CEO Approved
10	Central Asia Transboundary Biodiversity Project	Regional (Kyr/Kaz/Uzb)	IBRD	FSP	10,495,000	CEO Endorsed
11	Strengthening the Network of Training Centers for Protected Area Management through Demonstration of a Tested Approach	Regional (Kaz)	UNEP	MSP	1,000,000	CEO Approved
12	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Kazakhstan Sector of the Altai-Sayan Mountain Ecoregion	Kaz	UNDP	FSP	2,421,000	Pipeline
<b>Total – Biodiversity</b>					<b>37,603,000</b>	
<b>D. International Waters</b>						
	Water and Environmental Management in the Aral Sea Basin	5 CACs	IBRD	FSP	12,525,000	Council Approved
<b>Total – International Waters</b>					<b>12,525,000</b>	

CACs = Central Asian countries; CEO = chief executive officer; FSP = full-size project; GEF = Global Environment Facility; IBRD = International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; MSP = medium-size project; PDF = Project Development Facility; UNDP = United Nations Development Programme; UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme.

projects under the multifocal area, and one in international waters (IW). The linkages between these projects and the CACILM program are discussed in the section on Core Commitments and Linkages.

#### d. Global Mechanism

32. One of the barriers to effective NAP implementation was the ad hoc nature of development cooperation partner responses to addressing the problem. In this regard, in 2001, the GM entered into negotiations with ADB, CCD Project of GTZ, and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to formulate a sustainable and coherent strategy for UNCCD implementation in the CACs. As previously mentioned, the result was the formation of the Strategic Partnership Agreement for UNCCD Implementation in the Central Asian Countries (SPA) designed to enhance collaboration between the CACs and their external partners. The membership has been expanded to include the International Center for Agricultural Research on Dry Areas (ICARDA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNDP, and UNEP. The World Bank has also applied to join.

33. Negotiations with FAO are expected to be concluded in 2006 for bringing that organization on board as well. This will ensure that the SPA will become a partnership of all of the main external actors active in the CACs.

34. In July 2003, the GM convened (and SPA cofinanced) a forum in Tashkent on partnership building for the CACs to address land degradation and poverty. The result was a plan of action that included a strategy to capitalize on the new opportunities presented by GEF's OP 15. There was agreement at the forum to establish in each CAC a Working Group on Partnership Development for UNCCD Implementation. These national working groups are

composed of representatives of key government ministries and agencies, local authorities, research institutes, and civil society, and at least one bilateral or multilateral partner, thus broadening stakeholder participation in UNCCD implementation. They have served as the core planning bodies for development of the NPFs in each country.

#### **e. Development of CACILM Modality**

35. Following the Tashkent forum, extensive stakeholder consultations were undertaken by a mission to all CACs by development cooperation partners, culminating in a GM- and ADB-sponsored workshop in Almaty in February 2004, attended by country delegations and the international community. The workshop identified the key elements for a Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) and led to the setting up of the multicountry CACILM Task Force, comprising UNCCD Focal Points and SPA members, to facilitate its development. ADB, as the lead GEF agency for CACILM, chairs the Task Force. The objective of CACILM is to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach to SLM in the CACs. Its activities are to be implemented over a 10-year period, 2006–2015.

36. CACILM was submitted as a Concept Note to the GEF Secretariat and was admitted into the GEF pipeline in May 2004. A PDF-B proposal was developed with strong CAC and partner inputs to elaborate the design of CACILM. After review at a GM-ADB workshop, the proposal was submitted to the GEF Secretariat and approved in February 2005. The PDF-B phase was cofinanced by ADB and GM.

37. The PDF-B phase of CACILM produced four outputs: (i) national programming frameworks (NPFs) for each country, including a prioritized program of projects and technical assistance and related concept papers; (ii) the CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework (CMPF) and supporting GEF documentation, prepared as a multicountry CPP in accordance with GEF guidelines on application of programmatic approach (this document); (iii) mechanisms for consultation and coordination within and among countries that enhance the participation of stakeholders, provide efficient and effective mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of CACILM, and enhance harmonization of funding agencies; and (iv) increased awareness and commitments by national stakeholders and development cooperation partners.

38. The underlying focus of the CACILM approach is to maintain substantive country ownership and drivenness, expand and deepen stakeholder participation, and facilitate an action-oriented and transparent dialogue with development partner agencies. The keys to achieving this are the Working Groups on Partnership Development for UNCCD Implementation (hereafter termed national working groups), conceived in 2003 at the partnership building forum in Tashkent. They actively coordinate and monitor activities in consultation with the development partners and consultants/experts; and through their membership, broaden the participation of all stakeholders in CACILM. Their role includes guiding the preparation of various analyses by experts and endorsing these reports, coordinating planning and consultation workshops and meetings, and facilitating approvals by government of official documents. Under CACILM, the national working groups are directly responsible for preparation of the NPFs, which are based on the UNCCD NAPs through a process of review, updating, and problem analysis.

39. Additional details on the development of CACILM are given in Annex G.

#### **f. National Programming Frameworks**

40. The NPFs are the essence of the CMPF. The preparation of the NPFs involved completion of a situational analysis, which identified the root causes and assessed the nature and extent of land degradation. This analysis examined the ecological, institutional, and economic dimensions of land degradation in each country. A synthesis of the main observations and results of the situational analysis was fed into an options analysis, which generated an integrated set of priorities for sustainable land management.

41. As part of the NPF preparation process, national multistakeholder workshops were held in each country. After the first national workshops, the national working groups, along with consultants, prepared the first draft of the NPFs. The draft NPFs were reviewed at a second national workshop in each country during October and November 2005. A third round of national workshops was held in February-March 2006 to further refine and endorse the NPFs. Throughout this process, ADB conducted country-level missions and provided overall technical backstopping to ensure that the NPFs were comprehensive in their scope of actions and rigorously prepared.

42. The NPFs are directed at combating land degradation to ensure livelihood improvement, social and environmental security, and poverty reduction. The formulations include a program logical framework, which outlines the goal, outcomes, activities, risks and assumptions. The national programs include activities grouped into seven areas: capacity building, sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest and woodlot management, sustainable pasture land management, SLM research, integrated resource management, and protected area management and biodiversity conservation. In Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, additional activities are proposed for ecological remediation in the region of the Aral Sea. The NPFs also provide for program coordination as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

43. The NPFs for each CAC have been developed along similar lines, based on a five-point programmatic approach. The activities to be carried out in each country are grouped under nine program areas, as shown in the section on Activities below. Describing the necessary policy, legislative, and institutional conditions for SLM, the NPFs:

- (i) elaborate an approach to mainstreaming SLM into national development planning and budgetary processes;
- (ii) recommend effective mechanism(s) for broad stakeholder participation in the formulation, design, and implementation of activities;
- (iii) identify the priority problems and constraints to SLM;
- (iv) identify the priority investment and technical assistance requirements and their sequencing;
- (v) identify and match the ongoing and planned investment and technical assistance programs of external agencies to the individual national needs; and
- (vi) specify a monitoring and evaluation system that will identify objectives, milestones, and indicators to measure progress against benchmarks for SLM and resource mobilization.

44. Implementation in all NPFs is divided into three phases: 1 July 2006–31 December 2008; 1 January 2009–31 December 2013; and 1 January 2014–30 June 2016.

45. Given the diverse physical conditions and governance approaches across the CACs, each NPF focuses on different aspects of land degradation and ways to overcome the problem specific to country conditions and needs, as shown in the following summaries. The complete NPFs are contained in Annex L.

## 1. Kazakhstan

46. The NPF for Kazakhstan is based on the experience gathered by various national and international organizations since the country's independence, in implementing land management and environmental protection programs and in the country's interaction with international conventions. It builds on lessons learned and increased capacity over this period. It addresses needs not adequately addressed in other programs, and it enhances coordination, mainstreaming, and multilevel stakeholder involvement, which have been identified as preconditions for the success of SLM.

47. The underlying causes of the land degradation problems are found in national policy, legal, and institutional framework; lack of economic incentives; insufficient knowledge and capacity of immediate land-users and responsible officials; and weak monitoring and land management-related research.

48. The overall goal of the NPF in Kazakhstan is to ensure that SLM creates sustainable incomes for local land users and those in processing industries; contributes to the country's welfare, including the prevention of natural disasters; and provides environmental benefits of domestic and global importance. The program will result in ecologically sustainable, economically viable, and socially acceptable land and natural resource-use practices, ensuring improved living standards and poverty reduction, particularly among rural populations, who are vulnerable to degradation of the lands on which they rely for sustenance.

49. The outcomes at the end of the 10-year CACILM program on SLM in the country are expected to include the following:

- (i) SLM will be an inclusive part of the government's policies, supported by an appropriate legal and institutional framework that provides economic incentives for sustainable practices and allocates significant funds for SLM;
- (ii) SLM will be integrated into land-use planning and practice based on effective stakeholder participation and capacity building;
- (iii) An improved land degradation monitoring system will provide an up-to-date basis for decision making;
- (iv) Research and development of technologies will be oriented to the needs for SLM;
- (v) Major land-use practices will be more sustainable and provide short- and long-term benefits for the user as well as for the society in the country, and in specific cases for the global society;
- (vi) The protected area system will play an important role in SLM;
- (vii) Urban infrastructure and industrial development will be based on the principles of efficient use of land resources and minimizing adverse impacts; and
- (viii) The Aral Sea crisis will be under control and negative consequences mitigated, including the maintenance of the northern Aral Sea at a high level and improved and secure water inflow, the spread of natural vegetation, and creation of woodlots for fuelwood supply and improvement of grazing grounds.

50. The program areas consist of specific technical assistance and on-the-ground investment activities. Each of these projects will adapt Program-wide approach to monitoring and evaluation to reflect its specificity and establish its own set of criteria and established indicators measured against a baseline. Overall cost of the program is estimated at \$647,613,000, of which the Government will contribute \$294,310,000.

## **2. Kyrgyz Republic**

51. The Kyrgyz Republic's NPF is a comprehensive program to address the serious challenge of land degradation and the need for sustainable management of land, water, and natural resources in the country. Earlier post-independence efforts to control land degradation did not succeed because of lack of a coherent and cross-sectoral approach, weak policy and institutional framework, lack of management capacity, and inadequate resources. The overall result has been loss of ecological and economic productivity of land. Attaining SLM will involve overcoming the weaknesses in current land management practices, such as:

- (i) weak system of expansion and transfer of technology, knowledge, and market information;
- (ii) continuation of monoculture, without crop rotation or exploitation of diversification opportunities, such as growing legumes;
- (iii) inadequate access to markets and credit support;
- (iv) lack of private sector involvement in service provision;
- (v) slowdown of agricultural research due to decline in research infrastructure; and
- (vi) lack of enabling incentive framework.

52. The NPF takes into account the lessons from this situation in specifying a set of priorities for action that include measures to:

- (i) strengthen policy, legislative, and institutional frameworks aimed at creating an enabling environment for SLM, including at the local level;
- (ii) build the capacity of the major agencies responsible for planning and implementing activities on land resource management; and
- (iii) promote systemic and sustainable improvements of land, water, and natural resource management through project investments, within the framework of local programs of social and economic development, and national strategies for poverty reduction and growth.

53. The indicative cost of the program is \$68,345,000, with much of the costs to be financed by grant resources from potential donor agencies, and incremental costs requested mainly from GEF.

## **3. Tajikistan**

54. The Tajikistan NPF provides a road map to counter and reverse the decline in land productivity and the degradation of land ecosystems that have occurred particularly during the last 15 years. The NPF is the result of a review and analysis that builds on earlier attempts to make a synthesis of the problem, in particular the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification prepared in 2000–2001 as part of Tajikistan's activities under UNCCD.

55. The overwhelming need is to pursue and improve the process of land reform as a principal driver of SLM of irrigated lowlands, and extend the process to other lands. It is essential to fill several gaps in the enabling environment, the most important of which are:

- (i) incomplete policies on management of pasturelands, other rainfed lands, and forests;
- (ii) incomplete management of information relating to the conditions of land;
- (iii) the need to pursue and deepen the land reform process;
- (iv) insufficient, although improving, collaboration among the key government agencies charged with land administration and management;
- (v) weak research environment; and
- (vi) poor translation of SLM priorities into regular budgets and official investment programs.

56. The overall objective of the reform and investment program formulated in the NPF is to help restore, sustain, and enhance the productivity of Tajikistan's land resources. The 10-year investment program envisages a total investment of about \$87,760,000 by the Government and development cooperation partners (including cofinancing by GEF) to complement investments made by the program's target beneficiaries. This amount is expected to increase over time as more activities are added to the program under specified eligibility, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation rules.

#### **4. Turkmenistan**

57. The Turkmenistan NPF develops further the National Action Plan prepared to meet the country's obligations under UNCCD and takes into account the subsequently-approved National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). The NPF strengthens planned NEAP interventions by addressing factors that are inhibiting land and water users from adopting more productive and sustainable agricultural and pastoral management systems, the lack of which jeopardizes both economic development and preservation of the resource base. It aims to mainstream SLM into the economy as implied in the NEAP and to reduce the transaction costs of gaining development cooperation partner support.

58. The country has the financial means to make significant investments in support of this program as it is doing under the NEAP. However, there is a lack of data, experience, and consensus on how to modernize agricultural infrastructure to improve water-use efficiency or to supervise use of the fragile rangelands for livestock. Furthermore the economic policies, legislative acts, administrative regulations, institutional arrangements, and land-use rights are still evolving unevenly from those in place during the Soviet period and this is a serious problem that will take time and patience to solve with the assistance of CACILM interventions.

59. The program outlined in the NPF addresses primarily the very poor water-use efficiency of agricultural systems in various integrated ways on a significant pilot basis to demonstrate the benefits and justify the investments and a process of change required to achieve a more sustainable system of land use. The program will:

- (i) facilitate the development systems of livestock, pasture, and water management better suited for a market economy;
- (ii) encourage resource extraction enterprises to take more responsibility for desertification processes they are causing and that constitute serious disturbances in a mostly sandy fragile desert landscape;
- (iii) facilitate the development of community and local government activities to manage forests and special reserves in a more sustainable way, and the

- involvement of the private sector now investing in “green belts” around large cities;
- (iv) investigate the links between land degradation and poverty to inform policy development, responding to reports that these processes are causing out-migration from degraded irrigation areas and creating a class of livestock owners not able to escape from the degrading environment around many settlements; and
  - (v) strengthen research capacity to react to possible changes in water quality and quantity from the Amu Daya and from climate change.

60. In addition, the program seeks to improve the capacity of national institutions to integrate SLM considerations into their operations and budgets and to improve the incentives for land and water users to manage their resources in a productive and sustainable way.

61. The first two phases of the 10-year program are budgeted to cost approximately \$27,095,000.

## **5. Uzbekistan**

62. The Uzbekistan NPF presents a menu of projects to achieve more productive and integrated management of land resources to reduce rural poverty and ensure sustainable ecological and economic benefits on local, national and global levels. It proposes ways to reduce constraints to stakeholder involvement, particularly of the most vulnerable population groups, addresses how to achieve fair and sustainable land and water use, and suggests how to maintain the quality of natural resources to ensure a secure environment for current and future generations.

63. The overall goal of the national program is to combat land degradation through the strengthening and mainstreaming of SLM approaches (SLM) among all land management stakeholders. Attaining this goal will result in stabilized/improved ecological integrity and better rural living standards in Uzbekistan.

64. Uzbekistan’s vision for the end of the 10-year national program on SLM includes the following:

- (i) strong institutional and human resource capacity among all land management stakeholders to actively engage and participate in coordinated approaches to improving SLM;
- (ii) a strong policy, regulatory, and economic incentive framework designed to facilitate and integrate SLM practices in all sectors within the context of the country’s sustainable development plan;
- (iii) improved ecological viability of degraded ecosystems whether agricultural land, pasturelands, forests, or such critical areas as the Aral Sea, with resultant local and global benefits;
- (iv) improved economic productivity of land, managed with SLM approaches, and improved livelihoods of population groups directly dependent on the land, (agricultural land, pasturelands, forests, and Aral Sea region); and
- (v) a robust and capable monitoring and evaluation system for SLM, including improved capacity to undertake targeted research for further SLM activities.

65. The total cost of the 10-year program is estimated at \$510,629,000.

### **g. Preparation of the CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework**

66. As previously indicated, the CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework (CMPF)—this document—was prepared under the direction of the CACILM Task Force. A draft outline was presented to the Almaty Task Force Meeting in June 2005 and was approved at the Tashkent Task Force Meeting in November 2005. Under ADB's leadership, the first draft was prepared and circulated to the Task Force in early February 2006. The first draft of the CMPF was reviewed at the Bishkek Task Force Meeting in February 2006. The Bishkek Task Force Meeting approved the list of projects under CACILM to be funded from the GEF-3 resources and provided guidance for further revision and preparation of the CMPF documentation.

### **h. Mechanisms for Consultation and Coordination**

67. Efficient and effective mechanisms for national and multicountry consultation and coordination were developed as follows:

- (i) During the CACILM design phase, the national working groups conducted a multistakeholder process in the development of the NPFs. Three multicountry workshops were held in each country to develop, review, and approve the NPFs. It is expected that future consultation at the national level will occur through the National Coordination Councils (successors to the current working groups), which will convene multistakeholder meetings.
- (ii) At the multicountry level, three multicountry workshops were held to bring together key sectoral interests and civil society from each country. Future consultation at the multicountry level will occur through the CACILM Steering Committee (successor to the Task Force), which will convene multicountry meetings. In addition consultation and coordination will occur through the implementation of multicountry activities.
- (iii) Existing development cooperation partner coordination arrangements were reviewed at the multicountry level, including SPA, the CACILM Task Force, and other mechanisms. The CMPF includes provision for the establishment of a multicountry secretariat as a long-term replacement of these functions provided through the CACILM Task Force at the multicountry level, and national secretariats supporting national coordination councils at the national level. SPA will continue to function, with the Global Mechanism as the overall coordinator, as a forum for development cooperation partner consultations and coordination.
- (iv) Appropriate and effective arrangements for improved coordination among development partners and harmonization of their programs at the country and multicountry levels comprises a basic tenet of the CMPF, and strong efforts will be made through consultations, teleconferences, and workshops as continued features of its implementation.

### **i. Increased Awareness and Commitments**

68. CACILM has raised awareness of the need for a coordinated approach to combating land degradation and increased commitments by national stakeholders and development cooperation partners to SLM in the CACs.

69. At the national level, this has have been accomplished mainly through national workshops and meetings with key stakeholders—at the national and local government levels, and among the private sector, NGOs, and local communities—to disseminate information and discuss the CMPF concept, the advantages and disadvantages, and the responsibilities of national stakeholders and development cooperation partners. The NPFs, which *inter alia* seek to institutionalize sustainable land management, are one visible result.

70. At the development cooperation partner level, negotiations during multicountry workshops and CACILM task force meetings have sought increasing commitment by development partners to support the NPFs and commitment on programming and finances.

## **B. Objectives**

71. The logical framework for the CMPF (Annex A) articulates the objectives, outcomes, and activities for the partnership and associated program. The overall objective of the CACILM partnership framework is the restoration, maintenance, and enhancement of the productive functions of land in the CACs, leading to improved economic and social well-being of those who depend on these resources while preserving the ecological functions of these lands in the spirit of UNCCD. This objective is to be achieved largely through the successful implementation of national programs of the CACs that were developed using a framework formulated under CACILM. The CMPF supports the implementation of the national programs in a way that ensures comprehensive and integrated approaches to SLM in the region.

## **C. Approach**

72. Despite substantial variability of physical conditions and differences in the speed of economic transition observed among the CACs, the barriers to SLM are similar in all of them. This argues strongly for a coordinated multicountry approach to their removal. Some of the major barriers relate to: (i) policies, regulations and other incentives for agriculture, land use, irrigation, drainage and other water management issues; (ii) government inability to adopt and implement SLM; and (iii) inadequate or inappropriate responses to ecological problems.

73. At the agricultural policy level, reforms and incentives are needed in several areas if the sector is to progress and reverse current unsustainable patterns. The most basic policy measure is land reform, a gradual privatization and increased security of land tenure for farmers and pastoralists. National water policies are needed to encourage more integrated water management approaches, grater water-use efficiency and greatly improved management irrigation drainage. Second, the continuing top-down directives on what crops may be grown need to be replaced by freedom to respond to market demands. Third, freedom at the product distribution level is needed, to end restrictive marketing and controlled pricing. Finally, there has to be better access to production factors, including credit, inputs, and extension services. At the regional level, existing water sharing arrangements are clearly inadequate and need further attention (though CACILM actions should result in improvements with respect to transboundary land and water management concerns, they lie outside of the program's immediate scope).

74. The present policy, regulatory, and incentive environment does not provide sufficient reason for land management agencies to invest in enhancing and maintaining land productivity. Consequently, land has been allowed to degrade rather than to be nurtured. SLM is insufficiently woven into the fabric of economic decision making and into the budget process.

75. Government inability to adopt and implement SLM derives primarily from these policy and institutional shortcomings. Common to all five countries is a relatively weak capacity of central and local governments to formulate and monitor integrated sustainable land-use development initiatives. SLM practices are not being adequately promoted. Everywhere, the public is affected by the fortunes of the farming sector but is not widely involved in influencing the pattern of land management.

76. Finally, in all five countries, maintenance of ecosystem and landscape integrity tends to be considered far too narrowly as synonymous with protected area management or not considered at all. Agricultural reform needs to be accompanied by strongly supportive environmental legislation in order to meet SLM goals. At present, environmental laws across the CACs suffer from inadequacy, inconsistency, and weak implementation. Some areas of particular concern to SLM include weak progress in addressing forest degradation and deforestation, water pollution in its many forms, impacts of water mismanagement on ecosystem integrity, and natural resource management and biodiversity conservation in general.

77. The approach adopted by CACILM to overcoming these types of barriers consists of five elements:

- (i) creating enabling conditions for SLM;
- (ii) promoting integrated land-use planning and management;
- (iii) adoption of SLM practices based on biogeographic and community priorities;
- (iv) formulation and implementation of ecosystem and landscape protection activities; and
- (v) broad stakeholder participation.

### **1. Creating Enabling Conditions for Sustainable Land Management**

78. During the years of economic transition in Central Asia, there has been a growing understanding of the roles of different actors in a mixed market economy. For instance, there is increasing realization that the role of government is no longer to make production decisions but to create conditions under which individuals or households make those decisions for their own benefit without adverse repercussion for the rest of the society. Emerging a little more slowly is clarity about the conditions under which continued management of some land resources by the state continues to be appropriate and necessary.

79. In each country the NPFs identify a number of actions needed to encourage SLM. They typically relate to policy, legislative, institutional, and planning and budget considerations. CACILM recognizes that many land degradation problems have been caused by unsustainable water and irrigation management practices. Sustainable land management reforms need to include an integrated package of land use, water and irrigation management policy reforms.

80. In policy, the NPFs aim at ensuring that the traditional and understandable emphasis in the dry environments of Central Asia on the management of irrigated lands does not come at the cost of neglecting other classes of lands and the ecological linkages that unite them. The dismantling of collective farms has exposed the gaps in the authorities' ability to formulate and implement policies for lands previously under *kolkhoz* or *sovkhoz* management. Pasturelands are the most striking case of this lack of readiness. The NPFs conclude that the management of pasturelands and woodlands requires more consideration than received so far and deliberate attention to energy provision (especially in energy deficient Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan) and watershed management.

81. In the area of legislation, the NPFs highlight the inconsistencies between old legal structures and new laws that bypass them and often establish new bodies. Clear delineation of roles and responsibilities of the new and old entities is a priority. Throughout Central Asia, land management has been handicapped by a proliferation of mandates and not enough reconciliation and simplification. In some cases, the proliferation coexists with legislative gaps (e.g., to facilitate the use of credit or to remove certain market barriers).

82. All countries of Central Asia have embarked on large-scale restructuring of the previously collectivized agriculture sector. The type, speed, and depth of the land reform has become a major determinant of land use and a potential ally of renewed and sustained investment in land productivity. All national programs recognize the need for land reform not only to increase farm production but also to improve land sustainability. The land reform needs to be carried out with attention to streamlining the sometimes hastily drafted new legislation and increasing the efficiency of land administration.

83. The collapse of public service delivery systems, without their replacement by alternative systems, presents an obvious challenge as does the shortage or absence of financial intermediaries to provide credit to support small business development and help diversify the rural economy; and lack of market information and other limitations that constrain agricultural production from accessing world and neighboring-country markets.

84. Each national program recognizes the importance of integrating SLM into the policy, budgeting, investment, and monitoring mainstream. Until now, such integration has been incomplete or absent. While the technical aspects of land degradation are known to sectoral ministries as are standard technical responses, the responses have rarely been coordinated across disciplines, adapted to the fast-changing structure of each country's economy, or informed by the management and technical advances taking place internationally.

85. NPFs see the principal institutional challenges to SLM as: (i) a higher profile to be given to SLM in national institutions; (ii) improved mechanisms of cross-sectoral coordination structured around national steering committees and mechanisms of institutional cooperation between institutional cooperation between specialized state services, local administrations and elected local-self governments; (iii) active involvement of local administrations and civil society in SLM through linkages with the NPF processes; and (iv) clearer delineation of the regulatory functions of agencies responsible for land, water, and forestry management.

86. The translation of land management policies (with their gaps and weaknesses) into budgets has traditionally been structured around agriculture production targets rather than SLM objectives. The public expenditure procedures are evolving in each of the CACs, and CACILM offers a good opportunity to add to this evolution and achieve a better fit between the objectives of SLM and budget allocations. In all national programs, the capacity building components envisage (i) mainstreaming SLM into key strategic and budget-guidance documents, such as poverty reduction strategies; and (ii) removing conflicting signals resulting from the coexistence of several mechanisms influencing budget allocations.

## **2. Promoting Integrated Land-use Planning and Management**

87. After decades of overseeing a command-based agriculture sector, it is not surprising that current administrations have little experience in designing and implementing land-use initiatives based on SLM and voluntary participation of largely independent (no matter how weak they still are) land managers. All tiers of government need training and exposure to international

practices of integrated land-use development in which attention to the empirical and technical foundations of proposed interventions is supplemented by an understanding of the social context, appreciation of the role of financial and nonfinancial incentives, capacity to work with multiple partners, and experience of project monitoring and evaluation. All NPFs recognize that the capacity of the agencies and stakeholders concerned with land and water management needs strengthening and may require area-based pilot projects aimed at testing participatory mechanisms, local-level planning, coordination, and implementation.

88. Land management in all the CACs has been handicapped by the fragmentation of responsibilities for the monitoring and management of data relating to land management. In a number of cases, duplication of monitoring responsibilities and superficial efforts coexist with temporary abandonment or absence of other relevant data. Data collection routines have changed little despite major changes in the field realities, and insufficient use has been made of the information generated by development projects implemented in recent years. Thus, the reform of SLM data management, both at the macroeconomic and local or project levels, features in most of the NPFs.

89. Among the barriers to SLM mainstreaming, NPFs identify the dearth of SLM research that meets the needs of land managers under the new structure of land ownership or custodianship, and is more management-oriented and informed by the best international practices. Pilot testing and dissemination of good practices feature in all NPFs.

### **3. Adoption of SLM Practices Based on Biogeographic and Community Priorities**

90. NPFs recognize the need to make on-the-ground SLM investments integrated in design and content, but they also recognize the merit of grouping investment interventions by biogeographic features. Depending on these features, NPFs envisage rehabilitation investments targeting mainly irrigated lowlands, rainfed lands, or pasturelands or forest lands as well as area-based investments where several biogeographical categories can be targeted simultaneously. These are described in greater detail in the Activities section below.

91. Community priorities also must be considered both in setting priorities for interventions and in the implementation approaches adopted. In addition to ecological considerations, the rationale for interventions should also include the potential level of social benefits that could be generated. The final mix of investment and the scale of investments within each biogeographic category must be anchored on estimates of the social as well as ecological benefits. Social benefits are expected to increase with the size of the population affected and its initial poverty or vulnerability profile. The NPFs contain detailed information about the spatial pattern of poverty or living standards in the five CACs.

### **4. Formulation and Implementation of Ecosystem and Landscape Protection Activities**

92. In general (but not in all cases), key ecosystems in the CACs continue to deteriorate and fragment with adverse local and global environmental consequences and livelihood repercussions. The NPFs underline the importance of creating mechanisms that integrate ecosystem and landscape considerations into the design of investment projects. Thus, the NPFs call for attention to ecosystem integrity, the critical volume of rehabilitation activities, involvement of local communities in ecosystem protection, and novel ways of financing such protection activities. These activities are also seen as supporting existing protected areas.

## 5. Broad Stakeholder Participation

93. Strong and broad stakeholder involvement is an essential element of CACILM. The public participation plan (Annex E) illustrates the wide range of stakeholders at the national and multicountry levels, their roles, interests in the CMPF, and possible conflicts. Stakeholders can be grouped into those at the CACILM partnership level, the national government level, and the project level. Details of these different groups of stakeholders and an outline of mechanisms to be used to ensure their involvement are given in Section III E.

### D. Outcomes

94. The anticipated outcomes of the 10-year program under the CMPF in each CAC can be divided into six groups:

- (i) Favorable environment for SLM investments in CACs, supported by SLM mainstreaming and improvements in policies, regulations, and land administration;
- (ii) Improved capacity of the institutions in the CACs to adopt integrated land-use planning and management;
- (iii) Rehabilitation and improved productivity of selected lands, thereby leading to improved livelihoods, foreign exchange earnings, and food security, and providing indirect protection to threatened ecosystems;
- (iv) Enhanced protection of ecosystem integrity and landscapes;
- (v) Broader involvement of civil society and other stakeholders in SLM in the CACs; and
- (vi) Long-term harmonized commitments of financial and human resources through mainstreaming of SLM in donor programs for Central Asia.

95. At the multicountry level, there will be long-term, sustained harmonized commitments of financial and human resources through mainstreaming of SLM in development cooperation partner programs for the CACs.

96. Global environmental benefits are expected to include:

- (i) protecting threatened ecosystems of global significance;
- (ii) decreasing the basis for transboundary dust and sandstorm events;
- (iii) decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration; and
- (iv) improved management of transboundary waters.

97. The sustainable land-use practices that will result from policy and institutional strengthening, coupled with on-the-ground investments under the GEF scenario, will not only result in a reversal of desertification in targeted locations in accordance with the goals of the UNCCD, but also will improve the conservation of biodiversity, in accordance with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and achieve increased carbon sequestration, or reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, in accordance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Stemming desertification and restoration of vegetation on denuded and degraded areas with appropriate species should reduce further habitat loss, protect ecosystems and landscapes, and improve biodiversity and carbon sequestration. The increased vegetative cover and the adoption of more sustainable agricultural and land management practices—e.g., low

tillage agriculture—should help stabilize soils, reduce erosion, improve water retention, reduce the increasing trend toward desertification, and increase the capture and storage of carbon. Improved water management of irrigated lands and lessened soil erosion should improve the quality and in-stream flows of transboundary rivers.

98. Further details are given in the CACILM multicountry logical framework, Annex A.

## **E. Activities**

99. The CMPF is structured around two basic sets of activities that will take place over a 10-year period: (i) implementation of the NPFs; and (ii) multicountry activities, as presented in the program's logical framework (Annex A). The NPFs contain proposed national and local projects that fall within one or more of nine program areas described in paragraph 102. The complete programming frameworks for each country are provided in Annex L.

100. During the GEF-3 Replenishment, eight projects will be initiated from the NPFs and two multicountry activities will take place. These 10 activities have been agreed by all cooperating partners and approved by the CACILM task force. They are listed in Table 2. Details of the projects are contained in Annexes J and K. The eight NPF-based projects cover priority problem areas in the respective CACS: rangeland ecosystem management in Kazakhstan, integrated agricultural development and mountain pasture management in the Kyrgyz Republic, demonstrating local responses to land degradation in Tajikistan, a set of capacity building and on-the-ground projects toward SLM in Turkmenistan, and achieving ecosystem stability in degraded lands and land improvement in Uzbekistan.

101. The two multicountry projects planned are central to a successful outcome of the overall CMPF programmatic approach. These are the CMPF Support Project and the Multicountry Capacity Building (MCB) Project. There are considerable economies of scale and other efficiencies gained by organizing these activities at the multicountry level. The CMPF Support Project will provide essential support services to NPF implementation through three types of multicountry activities: (i) sustainable land management information system, (ii) knowledge management and dissemination, and (iii) sustainable land management research. In addition, it will support CACILM program coordination at the multicountry and national levels. Capacity building, while a core activity of the NPFs, is considered sufficiently important to warrant focused attention through a separate multicountry project. The MCB Project will comprise three sets of activities: (i) national capacity building activities, (ii) multicountry training activities, and (iii) land-user and community mobilization.

### **1. National Programming Frameworks – Program Areas**

102. The activities and projects within the national programming frameworks are organized into nine program areas:

- (i) capacity building for strengthening the enabling environment,
- (ii) capacity building for integrated land-use planning and management,
- (iii) sustainable agriculture – rainfed lands,
- (iv) sustainable agriculture – irrigated lands,
- (v) sustainable forest and woodland management,
- (vi) sustainable pastureland management
- (vii) integrated resource management,
- (viii) protected area management and biodiversity conservation, and
- (ix) Aral Sea region remediation.

**a. Capacity Building for Strengthening the Enabling Environment**

103. This group of activities includes interventions intended to generate a policy, legislative, and budget environment conducive to SLM. There are variations of emphasis in each CACILM country, as the following examples show.

104. In the area of policy and policy coordination:

- (i) Preparation of concept papers for key government stakeholders on SLM as a distinct approach with a review of the linkages to agriculture, water resource management, irrigation, environment, poverty reduction, and sustainable livelihoods.
- (ii) Proposals for an integrated package of land use, water, and irrigation management policy reforms directed at both poverty reduction and environmental improvement..
- (iii) Proposals for incorporating SLM into key strategic and planning documents and frameworks, such as poverty reduction strategy papers and support for the actual incorporation.
- (iv) Support for SLM-relevant policy development and its articulation accompanied by targeted capacity development, pilot projects to test policy options, and in-depth studies on specific policy issues.
- (v) Assessment of explicit or implicit subsidies that currently encourage unsustainable practices in land and water management.
- (vi) Proposals for policy modifications that incorporate pro-sustainability and pro-environmental conservation and biodiversity incentives.
- (vii) Formulation of management regimes encouraging a mix of private and state investment in managing certain classes of pasturelands and woodlands.
- (viii) Improved policy coordination among agencies responsible for different aspects of agriculture, land administration, water resource management, irrigation management, and environmental management to ensure that these agencies do not act at cross-purposes.
- (ix) Greater collaboration among focal institutions for environmental and land concerns, building on the results of national capacity self-assessment as a common platform for policy advocacy and actual reforms.

105. In the area of legislative and regulatory action:

- (i) Elimination of inconsistent, ambiguous, or redundant provisions relating to land use, water use, and irrigation management; greater clarity about jurisdiction; proposals and action in support of greater enforceability.
- (ii) Increasing the security of land tenure by simplifying land registration procedures; provision of adequate cadastral support and curbs on the use of discretionary powers in land allocation; actions leading to greater transferability of land-use entitlements; and ideally, full ownership of land with suitable guarantees against abuse, concentration of ownership, and exclusion.
- (iii) Improving the knowledge of the rural clientele of their legal rights and obligations relating to land and water use.

106. In the area of institutional strengthening:

- (i) Streamlining responsibilities for land and water management among key technical agencies) and eliminating overlaps and conflicting mandates.

- (ii) Support for a national management and coordination mechanism dedicated to mainstreaming SLM.
- (iii) Active involvement of local government administrations in SLM through sensitization and linkages with national SLM programs.

107. In the area of budget support:

- (i) Inclusion of the NPF by key technical ministries, acting in a coordinated way, in their budget requests.
- (ii) Inclusion of the NPF in each country's medium-term budgetary framework, or a similar rolling indicative plan of expected public expenditure commitments.
- (iii) Inclusion of NPF investment proposals in each country's public investment program as either a subgroup of selected sectors, such as agriculture, or as a distinct category.

#### **b. Capacity Building for Integrated Land-use Planning and Management**

108. NPFs recognize the need to build technical and managerial capacity for integrated land use planning and management across different categories of stakeholders and across disciplines. Following are examples of such activities:

- (i) Greater domestic ability to formulate SLM cofinancing proposals that are consistent with the direction of SLM policies—i.e., reflect stakeholder aspirations and are based on adequate socioeconomic assessment—and improved ability to evaluate the technical and financial merits of these proposals.
- (ii) Greater domestic ability to monitor the performance of SLM projects, and develop and use monitoring and evaluation procedures adapted to the needs of different SLM initiatives.
- (iii) Training in project administration procedures used by international financial and bilateral agencies.
- (iv) Incorporation of SLM considerations into national or local natural disaster preparedness plans and programs.
- (v) Training in the formulation of community-based watershed development projects.
- (vi) Area-based pilot projects aimed to test participatory mechanisms, local level planning, coordination, and implementation capabilities.
- (vii) Piloting and promotion of land-use extension activities oriented to land conservation and rehabilitation.
- (viii) Organization of demonstration activities and dissemination of successful SLM practices.
- (ix) Formulation and implementation of research targeting SLM.

#### **c. Sustainable Agriculture – Rainfed Lands**

109. In large parts of arid Central Asia, cropping is impossible without irrigation. Nonetheless, significant areas do exist where rainfed farming is viable under average rainfall conditions, either without supplementary irrigation (e.g., in the north of Kazakhstan) or with it (as is common in the mountainous parts of Central Asia where simple gravity systems are common). Pasturelands that are overwhelmingly rainfed are dealt with separately below.

110. Management of rainfed agriculture lands in the CACs has been marked by significant soil erosion (wind erosion in the shallow soils of northern steppes and mainly water erosion on inappropriately cultivated sloping lands in the lower mountains). NPF activities with a primary focus on rainfed lands include:

- (i) demonstration and dissemination of soil conservation farm practices for sloping lands;
- (ii) demonstration and application of low-tillage farming;
- (iii) introduction of water harvesting and soil moisture conservation technologies in the context of watershed development;
- (iv) support for water users associations and farmers' organizations as clients and facilitators of technological and management change in mainly rainfed areas;
- (v) support for SLM-oriented agricultural extension for mainly rainfed areas;
- (vi) community-based rural development in the uplands with a mix of soil-conservation, water-management, and woodlot interventions;
- (vii) community-based rural development in the uplands, combining SLM with diversification, such as through fish culture or biogas production;
- (viii) rehabilitation and expansion of perennial tree plantations and improved market access for the produce; and
- (ix) conservation and promotion of indigenous tree crops.

#### **d. Sustainable Agriculture – Irrigated Lands**

111. Large-scale irrigation command areas in lowlands continue to dominate agricultural development in the CACs. The physical conditions of irrigated lands are closely linked to the structure of land management (rapidly changing in the wake of *kolkhoz* demise), and the state of the irrigation infrastructure, which has seriously deteriorated in many areas and is often economically marginal or nonviable.

112. Poor on-farm water management, high conveyance losses, inadequate drainage, and under-priced water are among the immediate causes of degradation of irrigated lands, in which salinity, waterlogging, and water erosion are common results.

113. NPFs take note of ongoing irrigated land rehabilitation projects and build on their most important elements, among which are:

- (i) Support for continued and deepened land and water reforms involving irrigated lands.
- (ii) Support for water users' associations as a vehicle of improved water management in post-*kolkhoz* conditions, and improvement of access to market for their production.
- (iii) Demonstrations and dissemination of land rehabilitation technologies and practices and support for agriculture extension with a focus on improved management of irrigated lands.
- (iv) Demonstrations of techniques for increasing irrigation efficiencies.
- (v) Rehabilitation of the drainage infrastructure as part of ongoing reform of irrigation and drainage water management improvements, including service pricing.

114. Related activities arising from the NPFs include the following:

- (i) Development of alternative livelihoods for populations currently dependent on the least efficient and most costly (and unsustainable) irrigation water supply.
- (ii) Introduction and promotion of less water-demanding crops.
- (iii) Restoration of native lowland vegetation on areas of degraded irrigated land that are not economical to rehabilitate.
- (iv) Restoration of vegetation along riverbanks as a flood mitigation and landscape enhancing measures.

#### **e. Sustainable Forest and Woodland Management**

115. The loss of forests and woody vegetation is seen as a major livelihood and ecological concern in the CACs of global environmental significance, with signs of localized improvement only in parts of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. In the mountainous parts of the CACs, the loss of woody vegetation has been exacerbated by disruption and high cost of winter energy supplies, and loss of control over grazing. The NPFs suggest that the approach to forest management so far has not adapted itself to post-Soviet changes in societies and field realities.

116. The types of activities envisaged in the NPFs are as follows:

- (i) Reform of forest management and its reorientation from mainly a technical and protection activity to a more community-oriented activity.
- (ii) Updating knowledge about the state of the forest resources and overcoming the temporary suspension or abandonment of forest inventory work.
- (iii) Development and introduction of improved management regimes for those parts of the forest estate previously managed by *kolkhozes* or *sovkhozes*.
- (iv) Incorporation of forest management expertise into community woodlot development and forging state-community forest maintenance partnerships.
- (v) Community-based action to make cheaper and sustainable winter energy available in locations not connected to centralized grids or gas networks.
- (vi) Increasing the economic motivation of communities and private sector to undertake reforestation, including benefits related to electricity charges.

#### **f. Sustainable Pastureland Management**

117. Pastures occupy the largest areas of productive lands in the CACs. Major changes in livestock management practices have followed the dismantling of the state and collective herds. This and other factors have resulted in reduced livestock mobility overall, failure to observe prescribed pasture rotation, and serious overgrazing around settlements and other accessible areas. The biological and economic productivity of pastures has been declining in most parts of the CACs.

118. Following are some relevant activities envisaged by the NPFs:

- (i) Development of pastureland regulations and policy elements (e.g., taxation) that adequately take into account the new pattern of livestock ownership.
- (ii) Implementation of the land reform in pasturelands.
- (iii) Strengthening the administration system of pasturelands by local governments and improved access to markets for cattle breeding production.
- (iv) Implementation of pastureland rehabilitation and rational use projects that are informed by ecosystem conservation and carbon-sequestration considerations.

#### **g. Integrated Resource Management**

119. The work undertaken by several development cooperation partners in the CACs suggests that in many locations (e.g., watersheds, valleys, and villages and their surroundings), SLM requires simultaneous work on several land-use fronts to realize the synergies often present. The integrated approach normally requires attention to community mobilization, participatory planning, good coordination, and reliable and timely monitoring.

120. The NPFs identify several integrated projects that include the following activities:

- (i) Investments in improved or increased inputs for income-generating activities, including cropping and horticulture, and for processing and distribution of farm output.

- (ii) Adoption of long-term measures to conserve and increase productivity of nearby lands through such activities as planting fruit trees, woodlots, fodder production, water harvesting, and soil moisture conservation.
- (iii) Small packages of infrastructure improvement, selected and implemented by the local communities (e.g., drinking water supply, local power distribution or repair, and repair of access tracks).
- (iv) Delivery of improved on-farm practices and materials, such as seeds and breeding services, by local technical and research institutions working closely with partner organizations of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR, led in Central Asia by ICARDA).
- (v) Training local development committees or similar organizations in local planning and implementation of livelihood and land management and conservation measures.
- (vi) Applied and adaptive research.

#### **h. Protected Area Management and Biodiversity Conservation**

121. The NPFs call for a shift of approach to addressing desertification, including a rethink of the notion that all desertification is bad. Some “deserts” are highly productive ecosystems more socially and globally valuable in their undeveloped state than otherwise. NPFs encourage greater sensitivity to this issue in area development planning and in policy in general.

122. NPFs also warn against a current tendency of policy makers to confine land conservation to protected areas to the detriment of conservation efforts outside these designated areas. Fortunately, CACILM offers scope for synergy. The NPFs support a closer linkage between protected area management and activities in surrounding lands. They favor implementation of integrated resource management in key buffer zones, based on a technical and socioeconomic review of local conditions and participatory development of appropriate management regimes.

123. The NPFs support measures that capitalize on and further enhance the value of the biodiversity in the CACs. Some measures, such as conservation and commercial development of native fruits or berries, may be implemented under other program components (e.g., rainfed agriculture development). Separate attention might be required for tapping the potential of medicinal plants and developing recreational and ecotourism opportunities.

#### **i. Aral Sea Region Remediation**

124. Addressing the root causes of the Aral Sea crisis would require behavioral changes in the main water-consuming countries of a magnitude and speed that are probably unattainable (though some transboundary water management improvements—including increased in-stream flows and reduced salinity of drainage water—are expected as a result of CACILM interventions). But targeted investments are still needed to mitigate the consequences of what has already happened in the areas around the former Aral Sea region. Activities are expected to be implemented only in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the two countries most immediately affected by the Aral Sea decline, and will largely build on the pilot and other efforts in the area, such as the Revegetation of the dried-up Aral Sea (GTZ), Conservation of Tugai Galley Forest in Southern Aral Sea (UNDP/GEF), Drainage and Irrigation Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Wetlands Reclamation (World Bank) and others.

### **2. Multicountry Activities**

125. As noted above, two multicountry projects (CMPF Support Project and Multicountry Capacity Building [MCB] Project) will be implemented with support from the GEF-3 Replenishment. These are central to a successful outcome of the overall programmatic

approach. The projects were identified, not only for their essential contributions to SLM and intrinsic value-adding features, but also to take advantage of economies of scale and cost efficiency. The CMPF Support Project will provide essential support to NPF implementation through three multicountry activities: sustainable land management information system, knowledge management and dissemination, and sustainable land management research. In addition, it will support coordination at the multicountry and national levels. Capacity building, while a core activity in two program areas of the NPFs, is considered sufficiently important to warrant focused attention through a separate project. The MCB Project will comprise three sets of activities: (i) national capacity building activities, (ii) multicountry training activities, and (iii) land-user and community mobilization.

126. The CMPF Support Project is necessary to ensure that the strategic objectives of CACILM as well as a coherent planning and coordination of the CACILM initiative are achieved. Without support for continuation of multicountry activities, the national activities will revert to independent, uncoordinated projects, with the resulting loss of economies of scale and increased transaction costs for donor agencies. It also will help to ensure coordination of GEF and non-GEF activities in land degradation within the region. In the absence of such multicountry efforts to strengthen national capacities, the likely result would be loss of motivation and political will. Apart from the multi-agency nature of the national working groups, the tendency toward narrow participation by stakeholders in the planning and implementation of sustainable land management activities would continue. Though development cooperation partners have now become engaged in a partnership of external agencies focusing on land degradation, the Support Project is needed to insure that there are adequate incentives for the further expansion and engagement with Central Asian partners in addressing land degradation.

#### **a. Capacity Building**

127. NPFs have established a need for all five CACs to acquire sufficient capacity to mainstream SLM and do it well, to tackle the variety of legal, regulatory, and policy preconditions of SLM, and make land management an integrated endeavor in which different disciplines, institutions, and stakeholders have a contribution to make. Depending on the scale of the capacity-building tasks in each CAC and the importance attached by different development cooperation partners to realizing economies of scale in assisting these tasks, they will be supported as either national or multicountry activities. Of different program areas receiving support under the CMPF program, capacity building tends most closely to reflect differences in the speed and nature of reforms in each country, and for this reason, where capacity building is to be financed as a multicountry activity, implementation within each country will reflect the specifics of that country and local priorities.

128. The activities will be carried out through the Multicountry Capacity Building Project. Without this project many of the benefits of the Partnership will not accrue. Individual countries will be left to find alternate resources to fund their proposals for building capacity and strengthening of sustainable land management institutions. This will result in a fragmented approach to capacity building that is inconsistent with the CMPF and the NPFs. A country-by-country approach would carry a disproportionately high administrative cost. In many cases countries are proposing similar types of activities that would benefit from a common approach at the multicountry level. In addition, there are specific training activities that are best implemented at the multicountry level. These factors combined with the cost effectiveness of administering a single project, argue for a multicountry approach to capacity building.

#### **b. Sustainable Land Management Information System**

129. All NPFs highlight a poor state of land degradation monitoring and information. Much of the data reported in the NPFs requires updating or validation and the picture of the current state of land resources contains serious gaps. It is widely agreed that environmental monitoring and information systems, affected by budget cutbacks and ill adapted to the changing policy and institutional environment, do not function well and in some cases do not function at all. Also, there is near absence of socioeconomic data in the M&E systems. These weaknesses of monitoring and information are widely recognized by the scientific community in the CACs. There is no shortage of interest among national institutions in making up for the post-independence scaling down of monitoring activities, but proposals for improving this state of affairs have been largely uncoordinated, often driven by equipment-related concerns, and lacking a unified vision of SLM monitoring requirements.

130. To counter the weak data situation and lack of coordination, CACILM proposes to develop a sustainable land management information system (SLMIS). Importantly, SLMIS will be directly linked to the performance monitoring system to ensure that important sustainable land management indicators are systematically tracked. Monitoring and evaluation at the level of CMPF will consolidate and analyze both the multicountry activities and the results of national reporting for dissemination to all CACILM stakeholders.

131. The system will be managed and administered at the multicountry level by the CACILM secretariat, with implementation at the national level taking account of each country's capacity and specific needs. A common set of indicators will be developed and monitored in each country. In the first instance, the system will be directed toward monitoring the performance indicators in the NPF and CACILM logical frameworks. Ultimately, the system will be used for mutually beneficial collaboration among the CACs toward reduction of agricultural land degradation and for trade development.

132. The SLMIS will be developed taking into consideration current international efforts toward the harmonization of data and information management. One of these efforts is the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) project. The LADA project aims to assess causes, status, and impact of land degradation in drylands in order to improve decision making for sustainable development in drylands at local, national, subregional, and global levels. LADA responds to the needs of all stakeholders concerned by land degradation, and in particular the ones involved in the implementation of the action programs of UNCCD. The LADA project's purpose is to develop and test an effective assessment methodology for land degradation in drylands: by marshalling the extensive knowledge and varied expertise already available worldwide; by creating a new, more interactive, and comprehensive framework of assessment methods; and by capacity building and testing this framework in real-world situations.

133. CACILM intends to adopt the LADA methodology, approach, and indicators. CACILM will work with FAO in design, development, and deployment of the SLMIS. A distinct and separate set of activities is planned for development of SLMIS under CACILM. However, it is anticipated that there will be considerable synergy between SLMIS and the LADA project.

### **c. Sustainable Land Management Research**

134. Sustainable land management (SLM) is a broad discipline. The adoption of SLM strategies and programs needs to be supported by demand-driven land-use research as well as dissemination of existing and future research results to the target audiences in all the CACs. CACILM's strategic research will (i) help to better understand the policy and institutional failures that drive land degradation, and (ii) facilitate the calibration and adoption of innovative SLM practices and technologies. The proposed research program takes into consideration the need for substantive stakeholder involvement and for the right mix between research directed at

quick-yielding results as well as that addressing long-term issues, such as soil erosion or loss of soil fertility.

135. The NPFs have identified a number of common areas for further applied research to support SLM in the CACs: (i) improved agronomic and soil and water conservation practices; (ii) diversification of cropping and livestock production systems to increase incomes, (iii) germplasm collection and improvement, particularly for stress tolerance to drought, salinity, and extreme temperatures; (iv) improved water-use efficiency and allocation; (v) better rangeland, feed, and livestock management; (vi) better forest and woodlot management; and (vii) affordable, rapid, and reliable methods of land degradation assessment and monitoring. In addition, some planned research activities target particular causes of land degradation, such as structure of financial and other incentives, climatic factors (reduced rainfall), poorly structured agricultural growth policies, inappropriate or inefficient land-use technologies or practices, and unsuitable land tenure and ownership arrangements.

136. It is anticipated that the multicountry SLM research program would be planned and coordinated by a qualified regional center but implemented through national centers. This will build upon and strengthen local capacity and help to ensure that information on best practices and success stories can be made available easily to local land users and policy makers with suitable arrangements made, however, for a rapid transfer of the results to CACILM partners.

137. The SLM research program will create a multicountry prospectus to guide such activities throughout the 10-year period of CACILM.

#### **d. Knowledge Management and Information Dissemination**

138. To ensure effective sharing of knowledge, CACILM will establish a knowledge management system to process knowledge efficiently and effectively, and to capitalize quickly on the skills and knowledge in different countries and in different SLM areas. The knowledge management processes are categorized in four stages: (i) knowledge creation and capture, (ii) knowledge sharing and enrichment, (iii) information storage and retrieval, and (iv) knowledge dissemination

139. CACILM will create and capture knowledge in all its operations, projects, and activities. Explicit knowledge will be captured in the form of documented outputs generated during each project's implementation. Initially, CACILM will develop a SLM network and work with key individuals and organization to establish a SLM community of practice. The SLM community and practice and SLM network will provide a forum where new ideas on development issues are exchanged, debated, and made more relevant before their dissemination within and outside CACILM. Advantage will be taken of opportunities for knowledge sharing and enrichment, including seminars, workshops, and meetings among CACILM stakeholders.

140. Knowledge capture and knowledge sharing activities will be supported by CACILM LEARN, which will foster structured learning, information sharing, collaboration, and replication across the CACILM portfolio. At local, regional, and global scales, CACILM LEARN stakeholders will be able to adapt and apply learning, information skills, and tools obtained through CACILM LEARN to advance and sustain the benefits of their respective SLM projects. Partners/stakeholders will access information and data across the CACILM project portfolio, sharing information and communication technology (ICT) tools to improve SLM.

141. CACILM LEARN will actively promote effective SLM through information sharing and targeted learning in support of its SLM strategic priorities. Personal interactions and international exchanges through an accessible ICT infrastructure will foster inter-project learning among all stakeholders across Central Asia. Experiences resulting in good practices and lessons learned will be transferred horizontally across projects, and fed back from the CACILM

secretariat M&E unit to projects in preparation and those underway. Structured learning and information exchange will create enduring *in situ* capacity to sustain SLM benefits well beyond project life. Information products generated by projects and through these exchanges can be readily discovered, accessed, and applied to improve SLM across Central Asia.

142. A knowledge management plan will be developed, which will include the overall plan for knowledge generation, knowledge capture, knowledge sharing, knowledge and information storage, and knowledge dissemination. Taking into account the special needs of the CACs and the CMPF, the plan will be based on the experiences the CACILM development cooperation partners. The knowledge management plan will also draw on the experience of other SLM knowledge management initiatives and expects to share knowledge with other SLM knowledge management systems.

143. In addition, a bilingual (Russian and English) website will be developed and administered by the CACILM secretariat. CACILM also expects to establish a project library and e-learning center. CACILM-supported investment projects are also effective for disseminating knowledge by using good practices to address certain development issues.

144. It is anticipated that CACILM will generate publications that synthesize the results of the individual activities. For example, a publication to demonstrate the current baseline with respect to land degradation and state of sustainable land management practice might be developed in collaboration with the SLMIS. In addition, new knowledge products that will address issues of global and multicountry importance will be commissioned.

### **3. Program Coordination**

#### **a. Multicountry Level**

145. To coordinate the program's implementation, a CACILM steering committee will be established, with responsibility and authority for the overall management of CACILM's implementation. Membership will comprise representatives of the CAC governments, GEF implementing and executing agencies, bilateral agencies, and other participating international organizations. The CACILM secretariat will, *inter alia*, support the steering committee in managing the overall implementation of projects and activities included in the CMPF.

#### **b. National Level**

146. At the national level, the national coordination councils will coordinate the overall country-level implementation of projects and activities mandated by the NPF, supervise activities that are direct responsibility of the councils, monitor performance of all project and activities and report to the CACILM steering committee, and review and endorse proposals for consideration by the steering committee. National secretariats will be created to support the councils in implementation of NPF projects and activities. Further details of these multicountry and national entities are contained in Section V (Institutional Coordination and Support).

### **4. CACILM Phases**

147. The CMPF and the NPFs outline a 10-year program of activities for sustainable land management in each country. These activities have been planned in three phases:

- (i) Phase I : Inception – 1 July 2006 to 31 December 2008;
- (ii) Phase II: Full Implementation – 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2013;
- (iii) Phase III: Consolidation – 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2016.

148. The inception phase is designed to build the capacity for sustainable land management in the CACs. The key activities will include

- (i) building the capacity of key institutions responsible for planning and implementing land management interventions;
- (ii) initiation of measures to strengthen the policy, legislative, and institutional frameworks in each country to create conditions conducive for sustainable land management;
- (iii) design, development, and operationalization of a land management information systems for evaluation of changes in land degradation status;
- (iv) establishment of land degradation baseline, using specific land degradation indicators;
- (v) design and development of sustainable land management research program, with initiation of initial research activities;
- (vi) initiation of new on-the-ground project investments directed towards specific land management improvements, particular demonstration and pilot projects;
- (vii) establishment national level program coordination and management units, with necessary capacity building in finance and administration; and
- (viii) design, development, and operationalization of project monitoring and evaluation systems.

149. The full implementation phase will focus on on-the-ground investments in sustainable land management. The key activities will include

- (i) ongoing implementation of existing on-the-ground investments;
- (ii) initiation of new on-the-ground investment projects;
- (iii) continued efforts to strengthen the policy, legislative, and institutional frameworks in each country;
- (iv) continued capacity building in key institutions, particularly with respect to those required to support implementation of on-the-ground investments;
- (v) monitoring and reporting of changes in the status of land degradation;
- (vi) sustainable land management research and reporting of results;
- (vii) enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of program coordination and management; and
- (viii) periodic dissemination of the results of CACILM activities.

150. The consolidation phase will focus on finalizing institutional arrangements for integration of sustainable land management in government planning and budgeting processes, as well as dissemination of CACILM results. The key activities will include

- (i) ongoing implementation of continuing on-the-ground investments;
- (ii) ongoing implementation of continuing SLM research projects;
- (iii) ongoing monitoring and reporting of changes in status of land degradation;
- (iv) integration of the CACILM SLM activities into government planning and budgeting systems;
- (v) preparation of CACILM final project reports; and
- (vi) final dissemination of the project results.

## **5. CACILM Activities to be funded by GEF**

### **a. Relationship of CACILM Phases to GEF Replenishment Cycles**

151. CACILM's first submission to GEF is for the CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework and for projects be funded from the GEF-3 Replenishment and scheduled to begin in phase 1. CACILM will make further submissions to be funded from the GEF-4 Replenishment for projects that may begin in Phase I or Phase II of CACILM. CACILM will make further submissions for projects to be funded out of the GEF-5 Replenishment for projects that will

begin later in Phase II. Figure 1 shows the relationship between CACILM phases and the GEF Replenishments.

**Figure 1: Program Phases and GEF Replenishment Periods**

Year / Semester	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
Phase I: Inception																						
Phase II: Full Implementation																						
Phase III: Consolidation																						
GEF-3 Replenishment																						
GEF-4 Replenishment																						
GEF-5 Replenishment																						
CACILM Submission for GEF-3																						
CACILM Submissions for GEF-4																						
CACILM Submissions for GEF-5																						

#### **b. Proposed Funding of Activities by Replenishment Cycle**

152. The CMPF is being submitted to GEF Council for approval of its overall programmatic approach. Over its 10-year planning horizon, the CMPF is anticipated to require \$100,700,000 in funding from three GEF replenishments: \$20,700,000 (GEF-3), \$40,000,000 (GEF-4), and \$40,000,000 (GEF-5). GEF-4 and GEF-5 allocations will be dependent on the level of GEF replenishment and development of the RAF. PDF-B funding of \$700,000 has already been approved by the GEF Secretariat from GEF-3 resources and utilized during the CMPF design phase.

153. At this stage, approval is sought for \$20,000,000 in GEF-3 financing for CACILM program covering the first set of activities under the CMPF. This comprises an anticipated initial set of 10 projects (Table 2) approved by the CACILM task force (representing all five participating countries and their development cooperation partners). This includes the CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project, for which full documentation is provided (Annex J) and Council approval simultaneously sought. The remaining nine projects are presented at the detailed concept stage (Annex K) to indicate the degree of preparation and consensus already achieved. The projects cover all five CACs and will be implemented by ADB and UNDP as GEF agencies. Total confirmed cofinancing to complement the GEF-3 resources amounts to \$134,823,000. This resource envelope will cover the requirements of five full-size projects (FSPs) and five medium-size projects (MSPs).

154. Council approval is sought for (i) the structure of the CMPF and its associated program of activities, (ii) the Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project, and (iii) delegation of authority to the GEF CEO for approval of the four additional planned FSPs, which will be submitted subsequently when their preparation has been completed.

155. A further submission to and similar request for approval by GEF Council will be made early in the GEF-4 replenishment period for program activities of up to \$40,000,000 in GEF financing, subject to the status of the GEF-4 replenishment and development of the GEF Resource Allocation Framework. As with the current request, this submission will be fully approved by the CACILM steering committee (successor to the current task force) and will include an updated work and financing plan as well as appropriate project documentation. A preliminary indicative list of projects has been included (Table 3) for the GEF Council's information. The list includes a number of projects that anticipate GEF financing in 2007 and 2008. To accommodate these and other projects under preparation, approval is requested for GEF-4 pipeline entry under the Land Degradation focal area of an additional \$40,000,000 for the CACILM program.

156. A third and final request for additional funding of up to \$40,000,000 during the GEF-5 replenishment period also is planned (Table 4), subject to the status of the GEF-5 replenishment and development of the Resource Allocation Framework. This submission also will be fully approved by the CACILM steering committee and include a further updated work and financing plan as well as appropriate project documentation.

## **6. Additional Ongoing Activities under the CACILM Umbrella**

157. During development of the NFPs in each of the five CACs, a number of existing activities addressing land degradation (some with GEF funding) were folded under the CACILM umbrella. These are listed in Table 5 and total approximately \$93,000,000 in additional resources. Further detail on the relationship of past and current GEF-financed activities in Central Asia to CACILM is provided in Table 10.

**Table 2: List of Projects under CACILM Proposed to Received Funding from the GEF-3 Replenishment**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Partner(s)</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>Government/ Other</b>	<b>Development Partner</b>	<b>CACILM GEF-3</b>	<b>GEF Agency</b>
CACILM National and Multicountry Partnership and Framework Design and Preparation	April 2005 – June 2006	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	National WGs, ADB, GM, GEF, cooperation with all SPA/task force partners	1,750,000	550,000	500,000	700,000	ADB
Rangeland Ecosystem Management	July 2006 - June 2010	Kazakhstan	Ministry of Environment Protection, Ministry of Agriculture; NGOs , local communities, (GTZ CCD)	3,550,000	2,100,000	450,000	1,000,000	UNDP
Integrated Agricultural Development and Land Improvement	December 2006 – June 2010	Kyrgyz Republic	Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Industrial Processing; ADB	23,200,000	TBD	20,700,000	2,500,000	ADB
Mountain Pasture Management in Susamir Valley, Kyrgyz Republic	September 2006 – March 2010	Kyrgyz Republic	Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Industrial Processing; Chui Oblast, UNDP	1,950,000	170,000	805,000	975,000	UNDP
Rural Development	January 2007 – June 2010	Tajikistan	Ministry of Agriculture; State Committee on Land Management, ADB	25,188,000	4,338,000	17,350,000	3,500,000	ADB
Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan	July 2006 – March 2010	Tajikistan	State Committees on Environment and Forests and on Land Management, Tajik Forestry Research and Devel. Institute, UNDP	1,700,000	TBD	700,000	1,000,000	UNDP
Achieving Ecosystem Stability on the degraded land in Karakalpakstan and the Kyzylkum Desert	April 2005 – March 2010	Uzbekistan	Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Uzhydromet, Academy of Science, Goscompriroda, UNDP	3,810,000	114,000	2,696,000	1,000,000	UNDP
Land Improvement	January 2007 – December 2010	Uzbekistan	Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, ADB	79,400,000	15,600,000	60,800,000	3,000,000	ADB
Capacity Building and On-the-Ground Investments for Integrated and Sustainable Land Management	January 2007- December 2009	Turkmenistan	Ministry of Environment, GTZ, UNDP other partners to be identified	2,100,000	175,000	925,000	1,000,000	UNDP

<b>Title</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Partner(s)</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>Government/ Other</b>	<b>Development Partner</b>	<b>CACILM GEF-3</b>	<b>GEF Agency</b>
CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework Support (Submitted with CACILM Program for GEF Council Approval)	July 2006 – December 2008	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	National WGs, ADB, GEF, ICARDA, FAO, CCD Project of GTZ in cooperation with SPA partners	6,325,000	500,000	2,800,000	3,025,000	ADB
CACILM Multicountry Capacity Building Project	September 2006 – December 2008	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	National WGs, UNDP, GEF, ADB, CCD Project of GTZ, ICARDA, IFAD in cooperation with other SPA partners	6,550,000	500,000	3,050,000	3,000,000	UNDP
<b>All Projects</b>				<b>155,523,000</b>	<b>24,047,000</b>	<b>110,776,000</b>	<b>20,700,000</b>	

**Table 3: Indicative List of Projects under CACILM that May Request Funding under the GEF-4 Replenishment (Funding in \$)**

Title	Timeframe	Location	Partner(s)	Total Funding	Government/ Other	Development Partner	CACILM GEF-4	GEF Agency
Irrigation Ecosystem Management - Irrigation and Drainage II	Sept 2006 - Aug 2012	Kazakhstan	Ministry of Environmental Protection Ministry of Agriculture and Water - State Committee for Water Resources, WB	306,000,000	150,000,000	150,000,000	6,000,000	WB
Syr Darya Delta Control and Northern Aral Sea Preservation - Phase ii	July 2007 - July 2012	Kazakhstan	Ministry of Agriculture and Water - State Committee for Water Resources, WB	105,000,000	TBD	105,000,000	TBD	WB
IFAD Indicative Commitment*	July 2007 - July 2012	Kazakhstan	IFAD	9,000,000	TBD	9,000,000	TBD	IFAD
IFAD Indicative Commitment*	July 2007 - July 2012	Kyrgyz Republic	IFAD	8,000,000	TBD	6,000,000	2,000,000	IFAD
IFAD Indicative Commitment*	July 2007 - July 2012	Tajikistan	IFAD	8,000,000	TBD	6,000,000	2,000,000	IFAD
Second Land Improvement	January 2009 – December 2013	Uzbekistan	Min. of Agriculture and Water Resources, ADB	100,000,000	36,000,000	60,000,000	4,000,000	ADB
Enabling Sustainable Dryland Management through Mobile Pastoral Custodianship (UNDP - Includes Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan and 6 other non-CACs)	May 2005 – April 2009	Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan (and 6 other non-Central Asian countries)	Ministry of Agriculture, UNDP Note: 1/4 included in CACILM allocation.	4,000,000	TBD	3,000,000	1,000,000	UNDP
CACILM Multi-country Partnership Framework Support - II	January 2009 – December 2012	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	National working groups, ADB, GEF, ICARDA, FAO, CCD Project of GTZ in cooperation with SPA	6,000,000	1,000,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	ADB

Title	Timeframe	Location	Partner(s)	Total Funding	Government/ Other	Development Partner	CACILM GEF-4	GEF Agency
			partners					
CACILM Multicountry Capacity Building Project - II	January 2009 – December 2012	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	National working groups, UNDP, GEF, ADB, CCD Project of GTZ, ICARDA, IFAD in cooperation with SPA partners	5,300,000	1,000,000	1,800,000	2,500,000	TBD
Kazakhstan	January 2009 – December 2012	Kazakhstan	TBD	107,063,000	62,210,000	40,853,000	4,000,000	TBD
Kyrgyz Republic	January 2009 – December 2012	Kyrgyz Republic	TBD	16,546,000	2,542,000	10,004,000	4,000,000	TBD
Tajikistan	January 2009 – December 2012	Tajikistan	TBD	24,172,000	792,000	20,030,000	3,350,000	TBD
Turkemenistan	January 2009 – December 2012	Turkemenistan	TBD	12,650,000	2,650,000	4,000,000	6,000,000	TBD
Uzbekistan	January 2009 – December 2012	Uzbekistan	TBD	148,069,000	17,386,000	128,033,000	2,650,000	TBD
<b>All Projects</b>				<b>859,800,000</b>	<b>273,580,000</b>	<b>546,220,000</b>	<b>40,000,000</b>	

**Table 4: Indicative List of Projects under CACILM that May Request Funding under the GEF-5 Replenishment (Funding in \$)**

Title	Timeframe	Location	Partner(s)	Total Funding	Government/ Other	Development Partner	CACILM GEF-5	GEF Agency
CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework Support - III	January 2009 – December 2012	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	National WGs, ADB, GEF, ICARDA, FAO, CCD Project of GTZ in cooperation with SPA partners	4,600,000	1,000,000	1,600,000	2,000,000	ADB
CACILM Multicountry Capacity Building Project - III	January 2009 – December 2012	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	National WGs, UNDP, GEF, ADB, CCD Project of GTZ, ICARDA, IFAD in cooperation with SPA partners	4,007,000	1,000,000	1,416,000	1,591,000	TBD
Kazakhstan	January 2009 – December 2012	Kazakhstan	TBD	117,000,000	80,000,000	28,000,000	9,000,000	TBD
Kyrgyz Republic	January 2009 – December 2012	Kyrgyz Republic	TBD	18,649,000	2,700,000	11,000,000	4,949,000	TBD
Tajikistan	January 2009 – December 2012	Tajikistan	TBD	26,700,000	700,000	22,000,000	4,000,000	TBD
Turkemenistan	January 2009 – December 2012	Turkemenistan	TBD	12,345,000	2,630,000	605,000	9,110,000	TBD
Uzbekistan	January 2009 – December 2012	Uzbekistan	TBD	179,350,000	20,000,000	150,000,000	9,350,000	TBD
<b>All Projects</b>				<b>362,651,000</b>	<b>108,030,000</b>	<b>214,621,000</b>	<b>40,000,000</b>	

**Table 5: Additional Ongoing Sustainable Land Management Activities under the CACILM Umbrella (Amounts in \$)**

Title	Timeframe	Location	Partner(s)	Total Funding	Government/Other	Development Partner	GEF Agency
Drylands Management	June 2003 – May 2008	Kazakhstan	Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, WB	9,700,000	4,430,000	5,270,000	WB
Forest Protection and Reforestation *	July 2005 – June 2010	Kazakhstan	Forestry and Hunting Committee, Ministry of Agriculture, WB	63,800,000	28,800,000	35,000,000	WB
Community-Based Rangeland Management in Temir Village, Kyrgyz Republic	October 2004 - July 2007	Kyrgyz Republic	CIDA (200,000), GM (22,000)	222,000		222,000	
Management of natural resources including specifically conservation technologies and approaches and energy efficiency	January 2007- Dec 2009	Kyrgyz Republic	CAMP-ALATOO, GTZ-CCD, SDC	450,000	TBD	450,000	UNDP SGP - 100000
Jamoat Advisory Services	2005 - 2007	Tajikistan		135,000		135,000	
Pilot project Participatory Natural Resources Management in the Pamirs	Phase II: Jan 2007- Dec 2009	Tajikistan	Land Use committee Gorno Badkchan; GTZ,DED,UNDP Samll Grants, MSDSP	450,000		450,000	UNDP _SGP 100,000
Mechanized Afforestation of Former Aral Sea Bed	June 2006 – May 2008	Uzbekistan	Ministry of Agriculture and Water, other partners, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1,000,000		1,000,000	
Enhancing Living Standards in Karakalpakstan	July 2005 – June 2010	Uzbekistan	TBD and UNDP, EU Note: Local partners need to be identified.	1,400,000		1,400,000	

Title	Timeframe	Location	Partner(s)	Total Funding	Government/Other	Development Partner	GEF Agency
Enabling Communities in the Aral Sea to Combat Land and Water Resource Degradation through the Creation of 'Bright Spots' (RETA 6208)	2005-2007	Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Ministries of Agriculture, IWMI, ICARDA, ICBA, ADB	700,000		700,000	
Community Mobilization for Addressing Land Degradation (CETP)	May 2005 – April 2007	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	National UNCCD WGs, GM (100,000), UNDP (100,000)	200,000		200,000	
UNCCD Implementation in Central Asia (GTZ-CCD Project)	January 2001 – December 2009	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	National WGs, other partners at the national level, GTZ Note: To be divided by country/multi-country and defined.	3,750,000	TBD	3,750,000	
Subregional Training Program for SLM	2005 -2007	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	GM	77,000		77,000	
Improving Rural Livelihood through Efficient On-Farm Water and Soil Fertility Management in Central Asia (RETA 6136)	2004-2007	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and one none Central Asian country	Ministries of Agriculture, ICARDA, ADB	1,000,000		1,000,000	
Enabling Communities in the Aral Sea to Combat Land and Water Resource Degradation through the Creation of 'Bright Spots' (RETA 6208)	2005-2007	Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Ministries of Agriculture, IWMI, ICARDA, ICBA, ADB	700,000		700,000	
Integrated Water Resource Management (II <sup>nd</sup> Phase)	2005-2009	Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Ministries of Agriculture, IWMI, SDC	1,400,000		1,400,000	
Community action in integrated and market	2005-2007	Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan,	Ministries of Agriculture, ICARDA,	1,200,000		1,200,000	

Title	Timeframe	Location	Partner(s)	Total Funding	Government/Other	Development Partner	GEF Agency
orientated feed-livestock production in the Caucasus and Central Asia		Kazakhstan	Macaulay Land Use Institute, UK, University of Madison-Wisconsin, USA, ILRI, IFAD				
Genetic resources conservation, documentation and utilization in Central Asia & the Caucasus	2004-2007	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Ministries of Agriculture, ICARDA, ACIAR	420,000		420,000	
In-situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives for Uzbekistan	2004-2009	Uzbekistan	Ministries of Agriculture, IPGRI, UNEP-GEF	700,000		700,000	
Enhanced Use of Agro-biodiversity	2005-2010	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Ministries of Agriculture, IPGRI, UNEP-GEF	5,700,000		5,700,000	
Ecologically-based Participatory and Collaborative IPM Research and Capacity Building Program in Central Asia	2006-2009	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Ministries of Agriculture, Michigan State University, ICARDA, USAID	700,000		700,000	
<b>All Projects</b>				93,004,000	33,230,000	59,774,000	

## F. Key Indicators, Assumptions, and Risks

158. The indicators of program performance include both qualitative, such as presence or absence of appropriate policy, and quantitative measures, such as hectares or percentage of land managed sustainably, funds committed, etc.

159. Commitment of governments will be shown in recognition of NPFs in national poverty reduction or similar policies, and SLM-related activities incorporated in planning and regular budgeting; and in the establishment of policy frameworks for SLM across the different classes of land. Development cooperation partner commitment will be evident in the amounts provided and length of commitment to the program.

160. With regard to the success of interventions, the indicators are expressed in reductions in proportions of different classes of degraded land; percentage gains in productivity in the different land classes; improved watershed and transboundary river conditions, and in increased forest cover and biodiversity conservation areas. Related indicators include percentage increases in trained government personnel and extent of integrated land-use planning in relevant public investment projects.

161. Public participation will be indicated by increases in the number of private service providers, by the increase in household managed land, in funds for NGO involvement as facilitators of program implementation, and in the proportion of women represented in local bodies implementing SLM interventions.

162. The key assumptions concern

- (i) commitment—of central and local governments to remain committed to land reform, a coordinated approach to land management, and improved governance; and of donors to continue to place high priority on sustainable land management in the CACs and to be able to commit beyond their normal planning cycles;
- (ii) land reform—that it will continue and enable productivity improvement and that enough land will be made available and improved during the program to make a significant difference;
- (iii) SLM interventions—that anthropogenic problems are the main cause of land degradation and that SLM interventions will work and be transferable;
- (iv) protection of ecosystems—that the SLM interventions will allow increases in protected areas and that the ecosystems to respond to the management interventions; and
- (v) public participation—that reform and SLM interventions will provide wide public benefit and private profitability.

163. Details of the indicators, assumptions, and risks are shown in the CACILM multicountry logical framework, Annex A.

## II. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

### A. Country Eligibility

164. All five CACs are GEF-eligible. They have ratified UNCCD (Table 6) and designated focal points for national UNCCD implementation.

**Table 6: Dates of UNCCD Actions by the Central Asian Countries**

UNCCD Action	Year by Country				
	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyz Republic	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
Ratification of UNCCD	1997	1996*	1997	1996	1995
Adoption of UNCCD NAP	1997**	1999***	2000	1996	1999

Notes: \* Accession. \*\* Revised/updated in 2000. \*\*\* Formally approved in 2000.

NAP = national action plan or program; UNCCD = United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

### B. Country Drivenness

165. Drivenness by the CACs in matters of desertification and land degradation has been evident since the mid-1990s when they ratified and subsequently prepared UNCCD NAPs to prioritize and guide interventions to address land degradation (Table 6). The CACs also recognized the transboundary nature of their land degradations and the benefits of a multicountry approach in the development and adoption in 2003 of the Sub-regional Action Programme for Central Asian Countries on Combating Desertification and Drought (SRAP-CD), which focuses on country-level actions. The Programme serves both as evidence of country drivenness and conformity with eligibility criteria under the UNCCD, as well as a point of reference in devising effective national strategies to promote SLM. The CACs have also adopted national environmental action plans, in which land degradation is a prominent issue.

166. Drivenness at the multicountry level is seen in

- (i) adoption of the Regional Environmental Action Plan (REAP) by the CACs that is directed towards enhancing national capacities towards integrated ecosystems management and building regional capacity and cooperation;
- (ii) accession in recent years to the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (which entered into force in October 2001), by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan; and
- (iii) consideration of a multicountry environmental convention. The Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) under the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)—comprising the environment, economics and science ministers of the CACs—is considering the establishment of a “regional” convention on environmental management. If this moves forward, it could provide further context for regional cooperation on SLM. CACILM's country and multicountry activities will need to take appropriate account of this development.

167. Further evidence of drivenness at the national level is seen in the results of the stakeholder consultations held by SPA members prior to the Almaty workshop in 2004:

- (i) Governments recognize the need for institutional change, and the elevation of land degradation and SLM into higher levels of the government structure through

the reorganization of agencies or the establishment of special committees with broader economic and social development mandates. Environmental issues have been included in national poverty reduction strategies, and other national plans and strategies.

- (ii) Governments increasingly acknowledge the links between environmental degradation and poverty and that the state of land resources depends on the relationship with land users/owners. The importance of long-term land-use or ownership rights to provide the necessary incentive for rural dwellers to invest in the sustainable use of their land is increasingly being recognized. Legislation is being amended and strengthened accordingly.
- (iii) Working groups were established in each country and commenced functioning as national partnership mechanisms. While the composition varies, there is recognition that they should include representatives not only of technical agencies but also from nontechnical agencies of government, particularly the ministries of finance and economy, academe, civil society, and external agencies.

168. The Almaty workshop sought to reach a consensus on the vision of a joint initiative to combat land degradation (i.e., CACILM) and the necessary steps to move the process forward. In total, 70 participants from the CACs took part in the meeting, with country delegations including diverse government and civil society representation. SPA members and other development cooperation partners and international organizations also attended. CACILM was widely endorsed by the participants and actions were taken subsequently by ADB to elaborate the CACILM proposal for submission to the GEF Secretariat.

169. The national working groups were responsible for preparing the NPFs as the basis for national activities under CACILM. A series of multistakeholder meetings was held in each country to develop the NPFs in a participatory manner. The NPFs were then reviewed at national workshops in September–October 2005 and February–March 2006.

170. The NPFs define and describe the problems of land degradation specific to each country; they analyze the natural and human-made causes of land degradation in the unique historical and cultural contexts of each country; and present a prioritized program of projects and technical assistance, and related concept papers; and mechanisms for consultation and coordination at national and multicountry levels that will enhance participation of stakeholders and increase awareness and commitments by national and development cooperation partner stakeholders.

171. **Kazakhstan:** The Kazakhstan national working group is headed by the UNCCD National Focal Point and operates as a tool for inter-institutional coordination and intersectoral cooperation. It includes representatives of various ministries, state agencies, scientific institutions, and representatives of NGOs and international organizations. The group conducted two national workshops on NPF preparation in June and November 2005, respectively. A team of national and international consultants assisted in the formulation of the draft NPF.

172. **Kyrgyz Republic:** The Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Processing Industry (MAWRPI) will become the chairperson of the national coordination council upon implementation of CACILM in the country. The UNCCD National Focal Point will be the coordinator of NPF/CACILM activities and is presently the chairperson of the national working group. The latter comprises senior level representatives of all key ministries and departments, as well as regional and local governments, NGOs, and donor agencies. The group has held three meetings, in April and September 2005 and February 2006, respectively. The participants

in the last meeting considered the draft of the Kyrgyz Republic NPF, gave a number of comments for its improvement, agreed with its statement of priorities, and endorsed the NPF as well as the concept of the CMPF.

173. **Tajikistan:** The Tajikistan national working group is chaired by the UNCCD Focal Point, the Chairman of the State Committee on Land Management. Tajikistan hosted two national workshops to obtain stakeholders' inputs into NPF formulation. The CACILM process in Tajikistan brought together nearly all the principal development cooperation partners supporting SLM in the country and is now considered a unifying and central initiative targeting SLM.

174. **Turkmenistan:** The Turkmenistan national working group is composed of representatives of different ministries and institutions, NGOs, and international organizations. Since its establishment, the group has organized two national workshops and prepared the NPF. A national coordination council was established to provide a means of coordinating the activities of different ministries, scientific institutions, and the private sector, including NGOs, in the formulation of the NPF. It is intended that this council will be involved the coordination of the NPF during implementation.

175. **Uzbekistan:** The Uzbekistan national working group consists of key interested ministries, departments, scientific research institutions, and development cooperation partners. The head of the WG is the national Focal Point of UNCCD. The NPF was developed gradually during consultations, discussions, and workshops of the group with local and international CACILM consultants, and with the involvement of the public and other stakeholders, followed by discussions at regional and local levels. Other stakeholders have been welcomed into the process, with consultations held periodically to ensure broad awareness and inclusion.

### III. GEF PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY

#### A. Conformity with GEF Operational Program and Strategic Priorities

176. During development of the NPFs, care was taken to ensure consistency with the GEF Operational Strategy, with Operational Program 15 Sustainable Land Management under the focal area of Land Degradation (OP15), and the strategic priorities in the GEF-3 replenishment period of targeted capacity building and implementation of innovative and indigenous SLM practices. Since CACILM will be implemented mostly during the period when the strategic priorities of GEF-F have come into effect, it is important that the program also is responsive to these. There are: (i) fostering system-wide change and removing policy, institutional, technical, capacity, and financial barriers to SLM; (ii) demonstrating and up-scaling successful SLM practices for the control and prevention of desertification and deforestation; (iii) generating and disseminating knowledge addressing current and emerging issues in SLM; and (iv) demonstrating cross focal-area synergies and integrated ecosystem approaches to watershed-based sustainable land management. The CACILM approach is fully consistent with and supportive of these priorities. CACILM is aimed at removing the major SLM barriers, devising innovative practices for SLM, disseminating relevant knowledge, and providing benefits across several GEF focal areas. It is expected that integrated ecosystem approaches will be adopted in the course of developing SLM practices because the ecosystem approach is now recognized as essential component of sustainable development—land degradation itself is defined by GEF OP 15 as a loss of ecosystem integrity. The individual project submissions will similarly align with GEF-3 and GEF-4 strategic priorities. Indeed, meeting provisions of GEF OP 15 is one of the eligibility criteria for projects.

177. The NPFs are also consistent with GEF guidance on the programmatic approach as contained in relevant GEF documents (*The Programmatic Approach: Current Understandings*;

12 April 2001, GEF/C.17.Inf.11: *Draft Discussion Note on the proposed pilot country partnership on sustainable land management*; 18 November 2003, GEF country-partnership 11-17-03.doc; *Ensuring that the CPPs Work*; 3 March 2005, GEF Memorandum to Land Degradation Task Force). In particular, the NPFs address the eight goals and objectives of the CPP concept paper (as described in the last mentioned document above):

- (i) Mainstreaming land management issues, including policy reforms, into country sustainable development priorities (e.g., poverty reduction strategy papers).
- (ii) Adoption of integrated and SLM practices, including water-use efficiency measures, as part of development programs.
- (iii) Promoting synergies between the environment and other sectors of the economy.
- (iv) Addressing the issue of cofinancing up front and at a programmatic level.
- (v) Reducing the transaction costs as the partners use streamlines and harmonized project cycle procedures to develop and approve partnership components.
- (vi) Strengthening the enabling environment for SLM.
- (vii) Scaling up viable traditional land management practices as well as innovative and cost-effective practices.
- (viii) Facilitating replication and sustainability of projects and programs.

178. The framework also allows and encourages the submission of projects in other GEF focal areas as long as the fit with the framework objectives is presented. The programming framework allows the countries to plan GEF initiatives strategically in the context of natural resources management.

179. The CACs acceptance of the GEF programmatic approach has been demonstrated through their commitments of human and financial resources to participating in the development of the CACILM PDF-B design phase, the NPFs and this multicountry partnership framework.

## **B. Benefits from GEF Support**

180. GEF support will allow the combined synergies of coordination among both CACs and development cooperation partners to be realized. CMPF activities at both national and multicountry level are centered around the strategic priorities of OP 15, in terms of capacity building toward mainstreaming of sustainable management practices and priorities into rural development, agricultural planning processes and land-related policy reforms; and the implementation of innovative sustainable land management practices. The outcomes of these activities will rebound to GEF in not only in benefits to the integrity of ecosystems (GEF OP 15), but also to biodiversity conservation (OPs 1, 3, 4 12, and 13), improved quality of transboundary rivers (OP 8), and (d) reduced global climate change (mainly OPs 5 and 6).

### **1. Without GEF Scenario**

181. The baseline situation with respect to land degradation in the CACs consists of the current institutional arrangements, human capacities, and land-use practices that contribute directly or indirectly to degradation of soil and biological resources, pollution and sedimentation of water bodies, diminishing carbon stocks, and loss of broader ecological services. It is recognized that certain ongoing efforts in some CACs are beginning to address policy and institutional weaknesses and mainstream SLM considerations into strategies and programs. However, not all CACs are equally represented, and the activities vary in their comprehensiveness, integration, quality of the process, and harmonization with development cooperation partners.

182. The baseline scenario assumes that, in the absence of GEF assistance, land degradation will continue to be addressed in the CACs primarily through a piecemeal

implementation of site-specific projects lacking clear connections to policy and institutional reforms needed to achieve broad-based and sustainable progress in promoting SLM. Outdated and inconsistent policies will continue to prevail, the ability to protect areas under threat and adopt mitigation measures for degraded areas will remain limited, and potential for wider environmental damage, typified by the Aral Sea crisis, will persist. Efforts will remain confined to the national level and ignore the possibilities of economies of scale and knowledge sharing that a multicountry approach engenders. Furthermore, while organizations will receive institutional development and capacity-building assistance, this will remain largely uncoordinated at both the organization and external funding agency level. There will be limited motivation for increased leadership and political will, especially where financial resources and incentives are limited. Apart from the multi-agency nature of the national working groups there will be narrow participation by stakeholders in the planning and implementation of SLM activities. While SPA will continue as a partnership of external agencies focusing on land degradation, there will be limited incentives for the further expansion of SPA and less motivation to refocus assistance programs on land degradation.

## **2. GEF Alternative**

183. The GEF alternative makes possible the development and implementation of sustainable land-use practices at the landscape level in each of the CACs. Availability of predictable, incremental grants helps remove critical barriers, allowing long-term planning and implementation of interventions to prevent and control land degradation. It encourages the development and harmonization of an appropriate policy and legislation framework, increased institutional cooperation and participation of key stakeholders, more effective focus and implementation of capacity building programs, and increased political awareness and commitment of budgetary resources. Thus, involvement of GEF through OP 15 is expected to be an important catalyst in overcoming the mainly political and financial barriers to effective action.

184. The CACILM partnership framework suggests a new approach to creating the conditions necessary to achieve the mainstreaming of land management considerations into sustainable development policies and programs at the national and sectoral levels and the strengthening of institutions crucial to implementation. It envisages a shift from the current project-by-project and technical orientation to a participatory, programmatic and multicountry mode to planning and implementation.

185. Under the GEF alternative, SPA would see an expanded membership, as already evident by the increasing interest and commitment of non-SPA agencies to participate in CACILM, either through the task force or as a SPA member. An expanded SPA would provide a much improved framework for mainstreaming land degradation into the programs of the external agencies, more effective collaboration and coordination among agencies, and a stronger incentive for the respective countries to develop more effective aid coordination mechanisms. Consequently, there would be an expanded program of activities—analyses and reforms leading to mainstreaming of SLM processes, needs assessments leading to capacity-building measures, and on-the-ground project investments—to address land degradation, and an increased level of loan and grant resources. There would be an integration of both GEF and non-GEF supported activities, providing stronger coordination and collaboration under the CACILM partnership.

## **3. Benefits from GEF Alternative**

186. The sustainable land-use practices that will result from policy and institutional strengthening, coupled with on-the-ground investments under the GEF scenario, will not only result in a reversal of desertification in accordance with the UNCCD, but also improve the

conservation of biodiversity, in accordance with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity; and carbon sequestration, or reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, in accordance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Stemming desertification and restoration of vegetation on denuded and degraded areas with appropriate species should reduce further habitat loss, protect ecosystems and landscapes, and improve biodiversity and carbon sequestration. The increased vegetation cover and the adoption of more sustainable agricultural and land management practices, e.g., low tillage agriculture, should help stabilize soils, reduce erosion, improve water retention, reduce the increasing trend toward desertification, and increase the capture and storage of carbon. Improved management of irrigated lands and lessened soil erosion should improve the quality of transboundary rivers.

187. There is already evidence of potential benefits in the programmatic and multicountry approach of the CMPF. The development of NPFs along common lines and the multicountry activities that will add the 'glue' for a coordinated program have already heightened awareness and commitment among the CACs toward finding solutions to their land degradation problems.

### **C. Sustainability**

188. The emphasis on policy, legislative, and institutional reforms to address the root causes of land degradation, the anticipated investments in institutional strengthening, and the investment in integrated approaches to land management will be specifically designed to achieve sustainability. In particular, it is expected that the adoption of more comprehensive and integrated approaches to addressing land degradation will result in more significant local and national benefits that would provide additional incentives to government, other stakeholders, and development cooperation partners to sustain activities beyond program duration. The long-term perspective of the 10-year program, the already high country ownership of CACILM, and the increasing interest and commitment of development cooperation partners provide a strong foundation for the achievement and sustainability of significant improvements in both land management and human welfare in the CACs. Over the longer term, with the progressive mainstreaming of SLM into the national policy, planning, and budgetary systems, there should be a diminishing need for GEF and other external resources.

### **D. Replicability**

189. The integrated approach under CACILM includes a blend of pilot demonstrations with policy and institutional reform that can be readily scaled up, adapted, and /or replicated within each country or in other countries affected by serious land degradation. The establishment of effective monitoring and evaluation systems will facilitate the identification of lessons learned and good practices. The multicountry and multi-development cooperation partner composition of the CACILM partnership and the development of appropriate dissemination mechanisms will ensure the sharing of knowledge and good practice is extended not only among the CACs but also in other countries.

### **E. Stakeholder Involvement**

190. Creation of a large and broad-based constituency for SLM that reaches deep into civil society is seen by CACILM and all NPFs as a necessary precondition of success in SLM. The principle that people should be fully involved in issues concerning them and the society in which they live is gaining currency in Central Asia and is applicable to land management as much as to other activities.

191. There are three levels of activities in the partnership framework—partnership, national, and project—each having a different stakeholder composition, as shown in Table 7. The public participation plan (Annex E) provides further details on the extent and types of stakeholders, their diverse interests in the CMPF, and their capabilities and roles.

192. At the CACILM partnership level, the major stakeholders are the CAC governments, SPA members, and other development cooperation partners. At the national level, the national coordination council in each CAC will coordinate the overall implementation of projects and activities mandated by the NPF. The stakeholders of these councils are varying mixtures of government, NGOs, and development cooperation partners, and strong efforts are being made to include nontechnical agencies, private sector, academe, and civil society.

193. At the project level, there is a very large number of stakeholders. A high percentage of people, from 43% in Kazakhstan to 75% in Tajikistan, depend on land for livelihood, and land degradation affects perhaps one third of the CACs' combined population, some 20 million full- or part-time farmers, pastoralists, and their families. Having lost much of their well-being and social safeguards after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, they are skeptical stakeholders. One of the Program's urgent tasks is to overcome this skepticism.

194. The central government agencies responsible for various aspects of land use and conservation (such as finance, economy, agriculture, forestry, land administration, environment, hydrometeorology, and disaster management) are clearly important stakeholders. Local institutions include first and foremost local governments, which benefit in different ways from different land-use reform measures. In locations where the functioning of local governments was seriously disrupted in the first decade of independence, alternative or parallel mechanisms of local consultation and decision making emerged in the early years of independence, especially in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic, such as village organizations or *jaamat* resource centers. Other stakeholders include interested nongovernment organizations and research institutions.

**Table 7: Types and Scope of Stakeholder Participation**

Mechanism	Main Functions	Stakeholders	Scope
CACILM Partnership	Institutional framework organizing support for actions agreed in CACILM (and UNCCD NAPs and SRAP-CD) addressing land degradation in the CACs.	CAC governments, SPA development cooperation partners, regional institutions such as ICARDA and ISDC, and other stakeholders.	Multicountry, but with emphasis on actions organized at the country or local levels.
National Coordination Councils	Entry point for undertaking national and local actions consistent with CACILM and UNCCD NAPs to address high-priority land degradation problems.	CAC governments, NGO and other stakeholders, interested development cooperation partners.	National, but with attention also given to actions at the sub-national level and with links through CACILM to multicountry knowledge management.
Project-specific Mechanisms (determined as a result of the stakeholder analysis, and appropriate to the enabling environment and capacities of relevant stakeholders in each given project)	To facilitate community organization, relationship-building, technical support, and other participatory activities.	Farmers and pastoralists; central and local government agencies, research and extension institutions, etc.	Projects in pilot areas, reflecting conditions over much broader areas; other activities national in scope.

CAC = Central Asian Country; CACILM = CAC Initiative for Land Management; ICARDA = International Center for Agricultural Research on Dry Areas; ISDC = Interstate Sustainable Development Commission; NAP = national action plan or program; NGO = nongovernment organization; SPA = Strategic Partnership for UNCCD Implementation in

the CACs; SRAP-CD = Sub-regional Action Programme for Central Asian Countries on Combating Desertification and Drought; UNCCD = United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

195. The NPFs envisage a widened role for NGOs and community-based organizations as facilitators, and stepped up information campaigns supporting various aspects of SLM at local levels (e.g., the implementation of land reform, ecosystem approach to land management, good practices, adaptation of selected traditional method of sustainable land use).

196. The means that will be used to achieve stakeholder involvement at the local and project levels include the following:

- (i) **Community Organizing.** Local partners will work with communities to help local residents identify, analyze, and solve issues through common goals and plans. The issues identified will extend beyond natural resource management issues to broader social and economic interests. These efforts will be important in building capacities within the community for collective action and management, as has been the case with the formation of farmer groups, forest protection committees, and inter-village networks. Community organizing efforts will help communities understand which issues they can resolve locally, as well as the importance of developing constructive working relations with public and private agencies.
- (ii) **Sustainable Livelihood Facilitation.** Improving farm management practices to increase food crop production and improve diversification of income sources has been identified as critical to sustaining farmer livelihoods. Programs to provide technical assistance in the form of farmer-to-farmer extension, on-farm experimentation, spreading agricultural and marketing knowledge, and training in order to strengthen farmer-based approaches to farm management will be undertaken. Similar approaches will be applied to other types of land-use activities (forests, pastures, etc.)
- (iii) **Relationship-Building.** This will involve a wide a range of primary and secondary stakeholders in identifying key issues and seeking ways to convene parties for collaborative analysis and action. Strategic planning meetings, workshops, seminars, and cross visits will be used to bring parties together. Official meetings will be organized to engage more prominent government officials, to garner broad political support, and to facilitate vertical linkages throughout administrative structures. Where there are weak or adversarial relations among stakeholders, innovative approaches will be used to build trust and facilitate constructive dialogue.
- (iv) **Participatory Research.** Integrating participatory research and other forms of joint fact-finding into the decision-making process is a key feature of program development. Needs assessments and conflict analyses will be undertaken to engage local communities in an analysis of community-land interactions. The findings of these studies will be shared at both local and regional levels to enhance mutual understanding of critical resource management issues, determine effective program approaches, and achieve new agreements. A range of participatory methodologies will be used to enhance primary stakeholder participation in analyzing community issues, assessing community needs, program planning, and evaluation of program impact.
- (v) **Capacity Building.** Capacity-building activities themselves will be used as a mechanism to catalyze stakeholder participation. Activities will be implemented to

increase participants' understanding and practical skills in conflict resolution, SLM education, participatory research methods, and project monitoring. Printed materials—such as research reports, workshop proceedings, and training materials, as well as accessible maps and posters designed to reach different audiences from policymakers to local villagers—will be used for dissemination of results, education and extension efforts, and for stimulating discussion and negotiation over management decisions.

## **F. Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **1. Overall structure**

197. The partnership assigns an important role to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) both at the NPF and CACILM framework levels. The former aims at monitoring the degree of success in reaching the objectives of national programs, the latter monitors and evaluates the achievements under multicountry activities. Annex D describes in detail the monitoring and evaluation plan.

198. The M&E system at the national level will target four types of variables:

- (i) land degradation and SLM indicators of the logical frameworks;
- (ii) compliance with environmental and social safeguards that may be prescribed by SPA members' cofinancing agreements;
- (iii) project implementation, including recording and tracking work plan progress, all project inputs, and all activities; and
- (iv) project finances, including annual disbursements, contracts awarded, and annual audited financial statement.

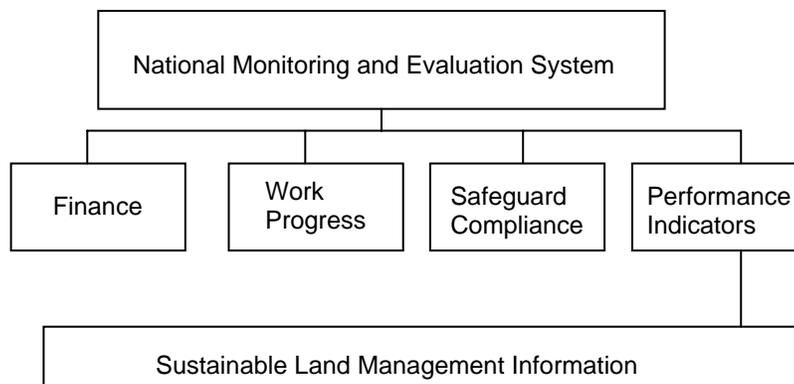
199. Monitoring and evaluation at the level of CACILM framework will consolidate and analyze the results of national reporting for dissemination to the members of SPA. In addition, it will monitor and evaluate multicountry activities.

### **2. Principal Components at the National Level**

200. At the level of national programs, the monitoring and evaluation system (Figure 2) will consist of:

- (i) project financial monitoring and capacity building to strengthen financial management performance of the national secretariats and the CACILM implementing agencies (as necessary).
- (ii) monitoring progress of project implementation and procedures and formats for reporting the monitoring results; and
- (iii) mechanisms for monitoring compliance with environmental and social safeguards, such as with environmental management plans and resettlement plans, that may be stipulated in SPA members' cofinancing agreements.

**Figure 2: National Monitoring and Evaluation System**



201. The M&E will also be supported by a sustainable land management information system (SLMIS), organized at the multicountry level but implemented in each country, directed toward monitoring the performance indicators in the NPF logical framework but with a wider applicability as a tool for long-term monitoring of SLM in each country and across the CACs.

202. The SLMIS will include

- (i) procedures, protocols, and guidelines for data acquisition, including all necessary survey instruments, sampling methods, analytical methods, and reporting formats;
- (ii) actual economic, social, and environmental data and information on NPF/CACILM projects;
- (iii) computer databases and analytical programs, including geographic information systems, for storing and analyzing data and information;
- (iv) computer-based systems, including geographic information systems, for presenting results and generating reports on the results of the program monitoring; and
- (v) routines for use by project implementing agencies and field monitoring teams in the collection and reporting of necessary economic, social, and environmental data and information.

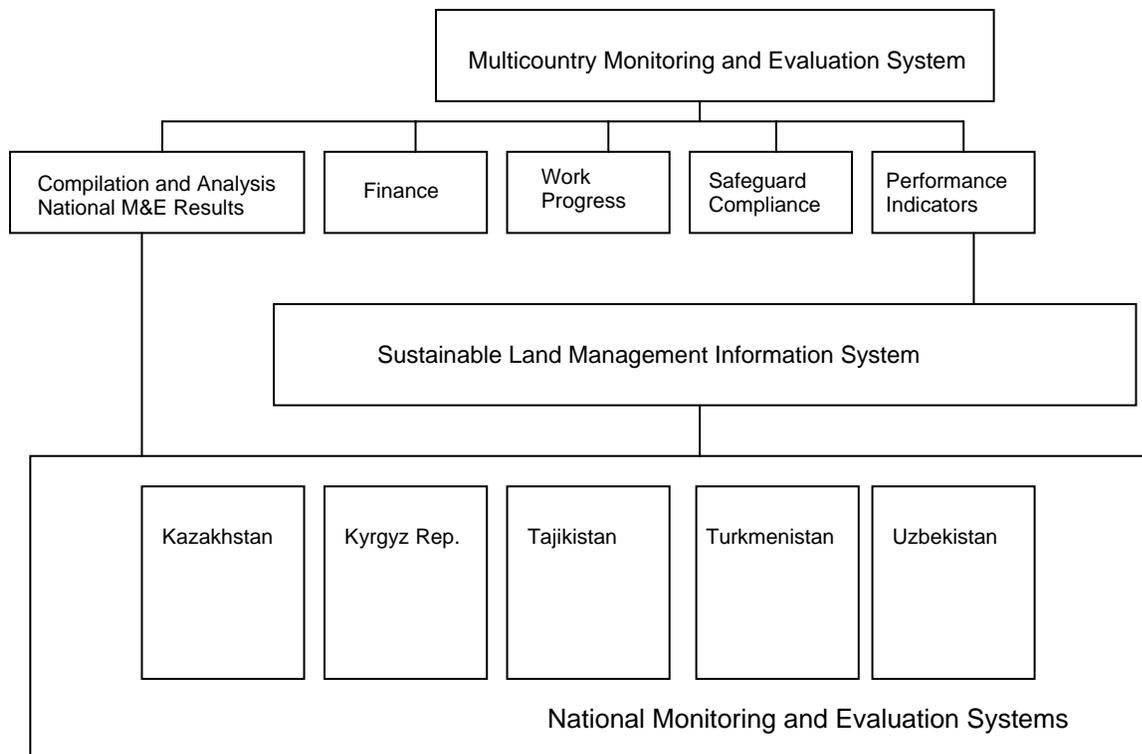
### **3. Principal Components at the Multicountry Level**

203. At the multicountry level (Figure 3), the M&E will include

- (i) compilation and analysis of the results of national monitoring and evaluation;
- (ii) monitoring and evaluation of multicountry activities, consisting of
  - monitoring programmed and disbursed amounts of SLM resources from development cooperation partners,
  - monitoring physical progress, and

- compliance of multicountry activities with environmental and social safeguards of financing partners;
- (iii) monitoring of performance indicators under the program logical framework, supported by the SLMIS. This component will also monitor the quality of the multicountry coordination process, i.e.,
  - completeness of the accounting for all development cooperation partner-funded SLM activities in the region, and
  - the quality of the shared understanding about the technical content of proposed SLM interventions; and
- (iv) exchange of ecological, economic, and social data, using computerized systems, for mutually beneficial cooperation and integrated management of natural resources.

**Figure 3: Multicountry Monitoring and Evaluation System**



#### **4. Compatibility with Other M&E Systems**

204. National and multicountry secretariats will ensure that the design of their M&E systems will be compatible with those of GEF and relevant donors. The secretariats will encourage project proponents to familiarize themselves with these requirements and reflect them in the logical framework on which their proposed M&E system will be based.

#### **5. Evaluation**

205. Overall program monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established GEF procedures and will be provided by the CACILM secretariat. The logical framework matrix in Annex A provides performance and impact indicators for program implementation and lists their corresponding means of verification. These will form the basis on which the program monitoring and evaluation system will be built. Independent M&E will be conducted at mid-term and end of phase 1 in order to track progress against the stated outcomes.

206. Individual projects under CACILM will prepare reports for implementing agencies as per their required guidelines. These will be collated by the CACILM secretariat on a biannual basis for wider distribution. An annual program implementation report (PIR) covering the CACILM program will be presented to the GEF replacing individual project's PIRs. This is necessary to ensure the cohesiveness of reports and enable program progress to be evaluated at an umbrella scale.

207. All project activities will be first evaluated by the executing agencies using their own existing evaluation procedures. In cofinanced projects, the cofinancing partners may use their own evaluation procedures and all project cofinancing agreements will ensure that such evaluations have unimpeded access to the results of NPF monitoring.

208. The M&E arrangements aim at ensuring that the results and insights generated by the M&E system reach the national stakeholders and development cooperation partners to ensure transparency. Besides agencies implementing and cofinancing the project in question, M&E reports will be submitted to the national coordination council for centralized use to facilitate program-wide M&E. The reports will also be available to all stakeholders in a systematic fashion.

#### **IV. FINANCIAL MODALITIES AND COST EFFECTIVENESS**

##### **A. Financing Plan and Cofinancing Sources**

209. Activities implemented under CACILM will be financed from the resources of the CACs and development cooperation partner members of the CACILM partnership, including GEF. A 10-year timeframe for funding commitments has been adopted to provide ample time for both the necessary policy and institutional adjustments and the achievement of concrete progress on the ground. The current financing plan for the full program is presented in Table 8.

210. The financing plan is based on (i) information provided in the NPFs for the CACs; (ii) cost estimates for implementation of the multicountry activities; and (iii) the current understanding of programmed development cooperation partner commitments. The financing plan assumes full implementation of the NPFs. However, it should be noted that a significant portion of government and development cooperation partner funding has not been programmed for the later phases of CACILM.

211. CACILM expects to receive GEF financing drawn from the GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5 Replenishments, respectively. The cofinancing arrangements associated with each replenishment are shown in Table 9. Cofinancing for GEF-3 activities is confirmed, while arrangements for GEF-4 are currently under discussion between the development cooperation partners and the CACs. Indicative letters on cofinancing are given in Annex M.

**Table 8: Indicative Financing Plan Based on Current National Programming Frameworks and Development Cooperation Partner Estimates**

	Country							
	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyz Republic	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan	Multicountry	PDF B Funding	Total
<b>Financier</b>								
Kazakhstan	294,310,000					1,000,000	100,000	295,410,000
Kyrgyz Republic		5,412,000				1,000,000	100,000	6,512,000
Tajikistan			5,830,000			1,000,000	100,000	6,930,000
Turkmenistan				5,455,000		1,000,000	100,000	6,555,000
Uzbekistan					89,100,000	1,000,000	100,000	90,200,000
<b>Partner</b>	333,303,000	48,509,000	66,080,000	5,530,000	401,529,000	16,166,000	550,000	871,667,000
ADB	*	20,700,000	17,350,000	*	100,800,000	1,700,000	500,000	141,050,000
UNDP	2,400,000	805,000	700,000	1,000,000	2,696,000	1,950,000		9,551,000
World Bank	241,800,000	*	15,000,000	*	*	*		256,800,000
UNEP	*	*	*	*	*	*		-
IFAD	9,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	*	*	400,000		21,400,000
FAO	*	*	*	*	*	300,000		300,000
CIDA	*	*	*	*	*	*		-
CCD - GTZ	*	*	*	*	*	3,750,000		3,750,000
SDC	*	*	*	*	*	*		-
ICARDA	*	*	*	*	*	800,000		800,000
GM	*	*	*	*	*		50,000	50,000
Other/to be obtained	80,103,000	21,004,000	27,030,000	4,530,000	298,033,000	7,266,000		437,866,000
<b>GEF (adjusted)</b>	20,000,000	14,424,000	13,850,000	16,110,000	20,000,000	15,616,000	700,000	100,700,000
<b>Total</b>	647,613,000	68,345,000	85,760,000	27,095,000	510,629,000	36,782,000	1,750,000	1,377,974,000
	1 Initial Estimate based on NPFs and Development Cooperation Partner Programmed Funding							
	2 Donor funding updated based on List of Approved Projects from GEF-3 Replenishment							
	3 GEF Adjustments made to reduce total GEF Funding to \$100,700,000.							
	Requests for Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan reduced to \$20,000,000							
	* To be determined							

ADB = Asian Development Bank; CIDA = Canadian International Development Agency; FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; GEF = Global Environment Facility; GM = Global Mechanism; GTZ = German Technical Cooperation Agency; ICARDA = International Center for Agricultural Research on Dry Areas; IFAD = International Fund for Agricultural Development; SDC = Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; UNDP = United Nations Development Programme; UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme.

Source: Draft final national programming frameworks; interviews with development cooperation partners.

## **B. Incremental Cost Analysis**

### **1. Global Benefits**

212. The global benefits are those associated with actions taken to (a) arrest and reverse land degradation in the CACs, i.e., mitigating the causes and negative impacts of land degradation on the structure and functional integrity of ecosystems (GEF OP 15), as well as actions that contribute to (b) biodiversity conservation (in the sense of GEF OPs 1, 3, 4 12 and 13), (c) improved quality of transboundary rivers (OP 8), and (d) reduced global climate change (mainly OPs 5 and 6). To a lesser extent, the program intersects also with OP 9 (integrated land and water multiple focal area).

213. Arresting and reversing land degradation in the CACs involves improved functioning of a very large area of land that includes some of the world's most important semi-dry and dry pasturelands and irrigated lowlands of great cultural and livelihood importance. Improved functioning of land involves reduced soil loss, improved physical biological and chemical properties of soil, and better nutrient and hydrological cycles that, combined, result in a durable improvement in productivity of these lands. The ensuing improvement of livelihoods has secondary positive repercussions on ecosystem conservation.

214. Biodiversity conservation involves actions that directly or indirectly contribute to safeguarding biodiversity, which includes species and biological communities of global importance. Regarding transboundary rivers, the most important benefits will be those relating to safeguarding the flow and improving the water quality of transboundary rivers of regional and global importance (especially the Syr Darya and Amu Darya) and the water storage facilities that inextricably link the water-abundant mountainous parts of Central Asia with the dry lowlands. A contribution to reducing global climate change will occur through greater carbon sequestration that will result from rehabilitation of degraded lands as well as greater resilience of the ecosystems to climate change.

### **2. Incremental Costs**

215. Quantification of the incremental cost of a 10-year multicountry program is possible only at a conceptual level. However, each activity to be cofinanced by GEF under the CMPF will be accompanied by a quantified incremental cost analysis.

216. The baseline against which incremental costs are estimated is the current land use under a partially and unevenly reformed policy and institutional environment of CACs that has crossed several important hurdles but is likely to stall with respect to land degradation in the absence of further purposeful and coordinated action, backed by investments. The baseline activities on which the CMPF will build can be described by reference to its expected outcomes.

Table 9: Cofinancing Sources				
Name of Cofinancier (Source)	Classification	Type	Amount (\$)	Status
<b>GEF-3</b>				
Kazakhstan	Government	Cash/In-kind	2,400,000	Confirmed
Kyrgyz Republic	Government	Cash/In-kind	470,000	Confirmed
Tajikistan	Government	Cash/In-kind	4,638,000	Confirmed
Turkmenistan	Government	Cash/In-kind	475,000	Confirmed
Uzbekistan	Government	Cash/In-kind	16,014,000	Confirmed
ADB	Executing Agency	Loan and Grant	100,950,000	Confirmed
UNDP	Implementing Agency	Grant/In kind	6,626,000	Confirmed
FAO	Executing Agency	Cash/In-kind	300,000	Confirmed
IFAD	Executing Agency	Grant	400,000	Confirmed
ICARDA		Cash/In-kind	800,000	Confirmed
GM	Executing Agency	Grant	50,000	Confirmed
GTZ	Bilateral Donor Agency	Grant	1,700,000	Confirmed
		<b>Total</b>	<b>134,823,000</b>	
<b>GEF-4</b>				
Kazakhstan	Government	Cash/In-kind	212,610,000	<i>Indicative Amounts. To be confirmed in GEF-4 Financing Plan</i>
Kyrgyz Republic+A1	Government	Cash/In-kind	2,942,000	
Tajikistan	Government	Cash/In-kind	1,192,000	
Turkmenistan	Government	Cash/In-kind	39,050,000	
Uzbekistan	Government	Cash/In-kind	17,786,000	
ADB	Executing Agency	Loan /Grant	60,000,000	
UNDP	Implementing Agency	Grant	3,000,000	
UNEP	Implementing Agency	Grant	-	
WB	Implementing Agency	Loan/Grant	255,000,000	
IFAD	Executing Agency	Loan	21,000,000	
Cofinancing to be Determined			207,220,000	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>819,800,000</b>	
<b>GEF-5</b>				
Kazakhstan	Government	Cash/In-kind	80,400,000	<i>Indicative Amounts. To be confirmed in GEF-5 Financing Plan</i>
Kyrgyz Republic	Government	Cash/In-kind	3,100,000	
Tajikistan	Government	Cash/In-kind	1,100,000	
Turkmenistan	Government	Cash/In-kind	3,030,000	
Uzbekistan	Government	Cash/In-kind	20,400,000	
ADB	Executing Agency	Loan /Grant		
UNDP	Implementing Agency	Grant		
UNEP	Implementing Agency	Grant		
WB	Implementing Agency	Loan/Grant		
GTZ	Bilateral Donor Agency	Grant		
Cofinancing to be Determined			214,621,000	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>322,651,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL GEF-3, GEF-4, GEF-5</b>			<b>1,277,274,000</b>	

ADB = Asian Development Bank; CIDA = Canadian International Development Agency; FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; GEF = Global Environment Facility; GM = Global Mechanism; GTZ = German Technical Cooperation Agency; UNDP = United Nations Development Programme; UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme.

217. With respect to the first outcome (creation of an environment favorable to SLM investment), all CACs have taken steps to create a legal and institutional basis for post-collective land use. This process varies in depth and quality, and progress is handicapped by weaknesses of land administration as well as economic transition difficulties. The large body of new legislative and regulatory provisions needs to be streamlined and internally reconciled and made better known among the rural constituency. Several elements of policy need to be developed further or revised. The process of SLM mainstreaming is yet to take place, especially in linking SLM firmly to budgets and public investment programs.

218. With respect to the second outcome (integrated land use planning and management), the need to overcome the legacy of narrow technical specialization in promoting agricultural development is better understood in CACs, in part as a result of development cooperation partner-financed rural development activities. The socioeconomic, vulnerability, and ecological perspectives are gradually finding their place in the formulation and implementation of projects. Stakeholder participation is slowly replacing command approaches and those with technical components only. However, the progress has been slow and largely driven by development cooperation partners.

219. The third outcome, the actual rehabilitation of degraded lands and introduction of SLM practices, has been closely connected in the irrigated lowlands with efforts to establish a sound approach to and capacity for management of the irrigation infrastructure. Some progress has been achieved but the reform efforts are seriously incomplete in some cases. Pastureland use practices remain poor and in mountainous areas, farming on sloping lands continues to exact a heavy environmental price.

220. Conservation efforts toward greater ecosystems integrity have been largely limited (due to considerable budget shortages in some CACs) to official protected areas and to policing access to and use of different classes of land. A more proactive approach is needed in order to identify opportunities for combining productivity improvements with achieving greater integrity of ecosystems and landscapes.

221. The changed political and institutional landscape of Central Asia has meant a changing role for land management stakeholders. The limited dialogue of a command economy is gradually being replaced by a more complex structure of decision making and broader stakeholder participation. Civil society is emerging as an indispensable part of the process. The breadth and quality of the process varies substantially among the CACs.

222. As to harmonized commitments of SLM in development cooperation partner programs in the CACs, the past decade saw a number of initiatives supported by development cooperation partners, linked to land and its management. These have helped integrate the CACs into the international environmental community, facilitate dialogue, and create new capacity, but they also exposed the limits of uncoordinated development cooperation partner approaches in a domain where such coordination is vital.

223. Under the baseline alternative, the trends summarized in the preceding sections are assumed to continue. Progress will be achieved in many areas but it will be slow, uneven, with reversals, and achieved without cost efficiency that normally comes with coordination. CACILM has already demonstrated initial benefits from such coordination: the national programs of the NPFs, once endorsed, represent a commitment to mainstream or institutionalize sustainable land management into policies, regulations, and budgets. On the development cooperation partner side, all the key donors will be able to focus on assisting the CACs to implement their

national programs without duplicating or wasting resources. The GEF alternative seeks to maintain this momentum to grasp the incremental benefits of reversal of land degradation that otherwise may either not occur or occur at a much slower pace—significant reductions in loss of vital soil in dust storms that create regional and even intercontinental hazards; reduction in soil and pesticide runoff into rivers that causes downstream and transboundary water quality deterioration; improvements in water availability that will in turn help to moderate the harsh climate associated with desertification; enable a reversal in the loss of carbon stocks, and hence a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, as agriculture becomes sustainable and forests regenerate; and reverse the loss of biodiversity that is inevitable with the present trend of habitat loss. The nature of expected incremental activities and incremental cost is summarized in Annex F.

### **C. Cost Effectiveness**

224. The potential to reduce the unit cost of achieving SLM objectives was among the principal reasons—if not the principal reason—for establishing the SPA and adopting the multicountry pilot partnership. In general, at country and regional levels, development and conservation activities cost less per unit when development cooperation partners, countries, and government agencies in each country work in unison than when they do not. The reasons for this are well known and start with a substantial reduction of unit fixed cost. Only one set of country and sector or subsector analyses is needed for all development cooperation partners and cofinanciers; other forms of duplication can also be reduced substantially. The monitoring and evaluation cost or the cost of developing and conducting training, to give another illustration, can be spread over many projects or countries. The second reservoir of cost savings lies in the deliberate role assigned to replication and learning from successful practice.

225. The close coordination of CMPF activities at multicountry and national levels is designed to slash duplication among development cooperation partners. The program's multicountry activities are the means of capturing other potential cost savings also.

226. The second and less obvious source of potential cost savings is a better allocation of responsibilities and timing of SLM investments at the national level, which is possible because of shared vision of the objectives of NPFs and improved understanding of their roles by different national stakeholders. Responsibility for implementation can be more appropriately assigned to agencies, and competition for the resources made more productive. The 10-year programming approach makes it possible in principle to phase investments largely on the basis of progress already made, rather than the need to seize the first available funding opportunity.

227. Even with the considerable scope for “achieving more with less” as described above, it is the quality of the design and implementation of individual projects that remains an indispensable component of the overall search for cost effectiveness. Here, the program creates the room necessary for development cooperation partners to use their own experience and apply procedures developed precisely to realize cost efficiency—whether it is through attention to procurement aspects of projects or access to international experience. Increasing national capacity to achieve cost efficiency in public investment projects will feature in some of the CACs' training programs.

## V. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

### A. Core Commitments and Linkages

228. The NPFs build on earlier attempts to systematically address land degradation. These efforts include, in particular, the NAPs and the 2004 Sub-regional Action Programme for the Central Asian Countries on Combating Desertification and Drought, which was formulated to give additional impetus to the implementation of national programs. In addition, the NPFs attempt to integrate the land degradation aspects of national environmental action plans.

229. Each NPF includes the gradual integration of SLM into the policy, budgeting, investment, and monitoring mainstream.

230. In all CACs, national programs and plans for implementation arrangements have been drawn up for government endorsement. One country, Turkmenistan, has already committed funding support to its national program.

231. Proposed commitments vary in nature among the CACs. In Kazakhstan, the NPF will be implemented in accordance with the National Program on Combating Desertification. In the Kyrgyz Republic, where the budget share of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Processing Industry is low and stagnant, nearly all the agricultural public investment program depend on donor funding. Thus, the NPF program is largely based on grants, with few projects requiring loan or credit financing. In Turkmenistan, the national program will resource parts of the National Environmental Action Plan related to sustainable land management.

232. The temporary national working groups for the national programming frameworks will, in all cases, be converted to national coordination councils (In Uzbekistan it will be called the national steering committee). Secretariats that supported them will become national secretariats (Coordinating Office in Uzbekistan). In at least two countries, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, the councils will be supported by a technical review panel, while in Uzbekistan a technical review and communication and awareness building committee will report to the national secretariat. In the Kyrgyz Republic, a national steering committee may be formed that would be called the Public Center on the Integrated Management of Land Resources.

233. CMPF is one of six country pilot partnerships (CPPs). The overall design of the CMPF has benefited from interaction and information exchange with other CPPs and the guidance provided by the GEF Secretariat. Lessons learned for other GEF activities in Central Asia, which are detailed in the CMPF, will help target and focus the proposed capacity building activities.

234. Mostly in addition to ongoing activities listed in Table 5, some SPA partners already have significant related programs being implemented in Central Asia or under preparation that can be shaped to fit within the next stage of CACILM programming and contribute to its objectives. For example, ADB has planned technical assistance activities at the country and regional levels amounting to more than \$2,000,000 in grant resources over the next two years that can be applied to this effort (in addition to its cofinancing of the PDF-B). Based on requests already received from CAC governments, project funding commitments from ADB to support sustainable agricultural development are expected to total approximately \$100,000,000 during the two-year CACILM inception period. GTZ has committed \$650,000 annually through its CCD project in the region, and other SPA partners also are expected to contribute substantially.

235. During CACILM development, discussions with GEF agencies on linkages between CACILM and ongoing and complete GEF SLM projects were held where possible. All GEF agencies active in the region are members of the CACILM steering committee, and this facilitates further discussions on the nature of possible linkages and complementarities as the various projects evolve. It is expected that these projects will contribute to achieving CACILM objectives particularly in terms of: improved decision-support systems in SLM, strengthened regional capacity, replication and scaling-up of best SLM practices, environmental monitoring and assessment, and dissemination of SLM knowledge. Similarly CACILM activities will have much to contribute to the attainment of benefits under ongoing GEF projects with land degradation dimensions. At this stage, however, only broad statements are possible because most CACILM projects have yet to be fully developed. The nature of these linkages with other GEF projects addressing land degradation in the CACs is indicated in Table 10.

**Table 10: Ongoing or Completed GEF Projects in Central Asia Addressing Land Degradation, Showing Linkages to CACILM**

Project Title	Brief description	Linkage
<b>A. Land Degradation</b>		
<p>1. Forest Protection and Reforestation (FSP)</p> <p><i>Coverage- Kazakhstan (included in NPF)</i>  <i>GEF Agency- IBRD</i>  <i>GEF Support – US\$5,000,000</i></p>	<p>The project seeks to develop environmental and economic services through more sustainable use, increased productivity and enhanced conservation of forest and associated rangeland resources, focusing in the northeastern pine forest and southern saxaul woodlands.</p>	<p>Opportunities will be sought for linkages between this and other projects in aspects dealing with the policy, legal, organizational, and information framework, which will require capacity building components, a major feature of CACILM.</p>
<p>2. Support to the Implementation of the Regional Environmental Action Plan in Central Asia (MSP)</p> <p><i>Coverage- Regional (5 CACs)</i>  <i>GEF Agency-UNEP</i>  <i>GEF Support-US\$1,000,000</i></p>	<p>Objectives of the project are (i) Strengthened political and institutional basis for regional cooperation and REAP implementation, (ii) Strengthened information support to decision-making process in environment for SD and IEM; (iii) Enhanced civil society (CS) participation to strengthen regional cooperation in environment for SD and IEM; (iv) Enhanced regional capacity for REAP implementation.</p>	<p>The project will complement CACILM by enhancing integrated ecosystems management; and specifically through its intention to support the SRAP-CD and its transboundary elements. Links with CACILM will be sought to assist (and to learn from) activities in the REAP support project related to strengthening the political and institutional basis for regional cooperation, strengthened information support, and strengthened regional capacity for REAP implementation.</p>
<p>3. Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains – and Integrated and Transboundary Initiative in Central Asia (tranches 1 and 2) (FSP)</p> <p><i>Coverage- Regional(Taj/Kyr)</i>  <i>GEF Agency- UNEP</i>  <i>GEF Support-US\$6,650,000</i></p>	<p>The project aims to develop and implement an integrated management system for the preservation and rehabilitation of the natural resources in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai mountain areas as a framework for sustainable land management and development of the natural environment and local populations living in the concerned mountain ranges and the adjacent lowlands.</p>	<p>The project will have important lessons for CACILM and these will be disseminated to the CACs through the CMPF Support Project. The Pamir-Alai project will contribute to achieving CACILM objectives in terms of improved decision-support systems in SLM, replication and scaling-up best SLM practices, environmental monitoring and assessment, and dissemination of SLM knowledge, and these will hence contribute to the multicountry dimension of CACILM. Like CACILM, the Pamir-Alai project approach uses direct short-term supportive measures while simultaneously developing policy options involving all stakeholders. The policy-related objective of the project—creation and institutionalization of a transnational regional policy dialogue and development of joint management plans and policy frameworks—suggests that the capacity-building activities of CACILM will be of assistance to that project by helping to create the enabling environment for such dialogue and plans.</p>
<p>4. Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) (FSP)</p> <p><i>Coverage-Global (Uzb; included in NPF)</i>  <i>GEF Agency-UNEP</i></p>	<p>LADA's objectives are: (i) to develop and implement strategies, tools and methods to assess and quantify the nature, extent and severity of land degradation and the overall ecosystem resilience of dryland ecosystems; and will build national,</p>	<p>CACILM intends to adopt the LADA methodology, approach, and indicators. CACILM will work with FAO in design, development, and deployment of the Sustainable Land Management Information System (SLMIS). A</p>

Project Title	Brief description	Linkage
<i>GEF Support–US\$ 7,725,000</i>	regional and global assessment capacities to enable the design and planning of interventions to mitigate land degradation and establish sustainable land use and management practices.	distinct and separate set of activities is planned for development of SLMIS under CACILM. However, it is anticipated that there will be considerable synergy between SLMIS and the LADA project.
5. Enabling Sustainable Dryland Management Through Mobile Pastoral Custodianship. Global (MSP)  <i>Coverage- Kyrgyz Republic (included in NPF) GEF Agency-UNDP GEF Support – US\$1,000,000</i>	The project aims to enable sustainable land management in extensive rangelands by helping remove policy and capacity obstacles and to identify innovative practical ways in which sustainable drylands ecosystem management through livestock mobility can be made both viable and attractive.	The project has major components on helping remove policy and capacity obstacles to livestock mobility practices; links will be sought where practical with CACILM capacity-building activities.
<b>B. Multifocal</b>		
1. Drylands Management Project (FSP)  <i>Coverage- Kazakhstan (included in NPF) GEF Agency-IBRD GEF Support- US\$5,360,000</i>	Overall objective of the project is conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable utilization of natural resources in marginal cereal growing areas in the Shetsky Rayon of Karaganda Oblast in Kazakhstan.	This project will be relevant in formulating national integrated ecosystem management addressing land degradation interventions under the CACILM umbrella and will have lessons of importance in this regard for CACILM.
2. National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental Management (EA)  <i>Coverage- Regional (5 CACs; included in NPFs) GEF Agency- UNDP GEF Support Kazakhstan- US\$ 200,000 Kyrgyz Republic- US\$195,000 Tajikistan- US\$199,000 Turkmenistan- US\$200,000 Uzbekistan-US\$200,00</i>	Objective of the NCSA project is to determine the priority needs, and a plan of action, for developing each country's capacity to meet its commitments to global environmental management. It: (i) focuses on capacity related issues within each thematic area; (ii) assesses the capacities needed to address these in a synergistic fashion, (iii) strengthens the dialogue, information exchange, and cooperation amongst all stakeholders, provides and publishes deep analysis of the implications and impacts of global environmental commitments on each country's development, and develops a national implementation plan.	The NCSAs determined the priority needs and formulated plans of action for developing national capacity in each country to meet their respective commitments to global environmental agreements including UNCCD. The outputs from the NCSAs have provided guidance in the preparation of the NPFs and subsequently in the design of CACILM and especially its capacity building components. The NSCs provide invaluable baseline data on capacity for CACILM capacity-building activities.
3. Community Agriculture and Watershed Management (FSP)  <i>Coverage- Tajikistan (included in NPF) GEF Agency- IBRD GEF Support- US\$4,500,000</i>	The objective of the project is to help reduce rural poverty and improve livelihoods of rural communities in selected watersheds by supporting productive activities aimed at increasing incomes in a sustainable manner while reducing the pressure on the environment and ensuring the preservation of fragile mountain lands and ecosystems.	This project will be relevant in formulating national integrated ecosystem management addressing land degradation interventions under the CACILM umbrella and will have lessons of importance for CACILM.
<b>C. Biodiversity</b>		
1. In-Situ Conservation of Kazakhstan's Mountain Agrobiodiversity Kazakhstan (FSP)  <i>Coverage- Kazakhstan GEF Agency- UNDP GEF Support- US\$3,023,000</i>	The project focused on the conservation of key areas of mountain agro-biodiversity in two priority sites within Kazakhstan's Tien Shan Mountains by developing and applying new methods and tools for conservation.	Linkages with this project will be made in view of its applicability to the CACILM program area on protected area management and biodiversity conservation, especially in addressing biodiversity issues related to land degradation.
2. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Gissar Mountains of Tajikistan  <i>Coverage- Tajikistan GEF Agency-UNDP GEF Support-US\$1,000,000</i>	The project seeks to conserve the global biodiversity of the Gissar mountains by strengthening protected areas and increasing the security and sustainability of the livelihoods of the rural populations around them.	Linkages with this project will be made in view of its applicability to the CACILM program area on protected area management and biodiversity conservation, especially in addressing biodiversity issues related to land degradation.
3. Conservation of "Tugai Forest" and Strengthening Protected Areas System in the Amu Darya Delta of Karakalpakstan (MSP)  <i>Coverage-Uzbekistan GEF Agency-UNDP GEF Support- US\$995,000</i>	The project aims to strengthen the Karakalpakstan system of protected areas through the enhanced enabling environment and establishment of a multi-zoned National Park which demonstrates the collaborative conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Amu Darya Delta and provides lessons and best practices replicable throughout the national protected areas system.	The project is very relevant to the CACILM program area on protected area management and biodiversity conservation. Its lessons and best practices will be disseminated through CACILM and there are opportunities for collaboration in capacity building activities.

Project Title	Brief description	Linkage
4. In Situ/On Farm Conservation and Use of Agricultural Biodiversity (Horticultural Crops and Wild Fruit Species) in Central Asia (FSP)  <i>Coverage- Regional (5 CACs)</i> <i>GEF Agency- UNEP</i> <i>GEF Support- US\$6,093,000</i>	The purpose of the project is to provide farmers, institutes and local communities with knowledge, methodology and policies to conserve globally significant in situ/on-farm horticultural crops and wild fruit species in Central Asia.	Linkages with this project will be made in view of its applicability to the CACILM program area on protected area management and biodiversity conservation, especially in addressing biodiversity issues related to land degradation.
5. Development of the Econet for Long-term Conservation of Biodiversity in the Central Asia Ecoregions (MSP)  <i>Coverage- Regional (5 CACs)</i> <i>GEF Agency- UNEP</i> <i>GEF Support- US\$775,000</i>	Aim of the project is to elaborate and implement the scheme of econet development, based on a regionally unified and integrated information management system (GIS), combining existing data on biodiversity and natural resource (at the regional scale), existing system of protected areas, economic development, together with newly obtained data through limited targeted research to fill key gaps.	This regional project is under the CACILM umbrella as a component of the national programming frameworks in the program area on protected area management and biodiversity conservation.
6. Central Asia Transboundary Biodiversity Project (FSP)  <i>Coverage- Regional(Kyr/Kaz/Uzb)</i> <i>GEF Agency- IBRD</i> <i>GEF Agency- US\$10,495,000</i>	The project prepared management plans and investment programs for 4 protected areas (Pas); a social assessment to identify the impacts of PAs on local inhabitants and vice versa, and options for aligning conservation and economic activities, design of a public awareness component; institutional and legal assessments; assessment of training needs; detailed project costing.	Linkages with this project will be made in view of its applicability to the CACILM program area on protected area management and biodiversity conservation, especially in addressing biodiversity issues related to land degradation.
7. Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity in the Kazakhstani Sector of the Altai-Sayan Mountain Ecoregion (FSP)  <i>Coverage- Kazakhstan</i> <i>GEF Agency- UNDP</i> <i>GEF Support- US\$2,421,000</i>	This project is an integral element of a tri-national initiative represented by three complementary projects in Mongolia, Russia, and Kazakhstan. The overall goal of the Kazakhstan project will be to secure globally important biodiversity benefits through replicable and sustainable biodiversity conservation and efficient protected areas management in the Kazakhstani sector of the Altai-Sayan ecoregion.	Linkages with this project will be made in view of its model national approaches to sustainable biodiversity conservation and efficient protected area management, which are relevant to the CACILM program area on protected area management and biodiversity conservation.
<b>D. International Waters</b>		
1. Water and Environmental Management in the Aral Sea Basin (FSP)  <i>Coverage- Regional (5CACs)</i> <i>GEF Agency- IBRD</i> <i>GEF Support- US\$12,525,000 (completed)</i>	The project objective was to address the root causes of the overuse and pollution of water in the Aral Sea Basin, support the sustainable mgmt. and future development of its natural resources by formalizing, and then implementing the first stage of, a regional strategic action plan.	CACILM has learned from the problems encountered by the Aral Sea Water and Environmental Management Project. CACILM's multicountry approach is partly a response to the weak country ownership experienced during that project's implementation.

CACs = Central Asian countries; FSP = full-size project; GEF = Global Environment Facility; IBRD = International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; MSP = medium-size project; PDF = Project Development Facility; UNDP = United Nations Development Programme; UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme

## B. Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration between IAs and ExAs

236. Building on the strong foundation established through the CACILM task force and SPA, the CACILM partnership will endeavor to include all interested GEF implementing and executing agencies and their bilateral partners to maintain close coordination with both the UNCCD and GEF Secretariats. Consultations on the preparation of this proposal were held among SPA members and other development cooperation partners on several occasions. In addition, a revised draft was circulated to all members of the CACILM task force for further comment before submission to GEF.

237. Consultations with participating bilateral agencies increased in 2004 and 2005 and were formalized in a development cooperation partners' consultation in Rome in February 2006.

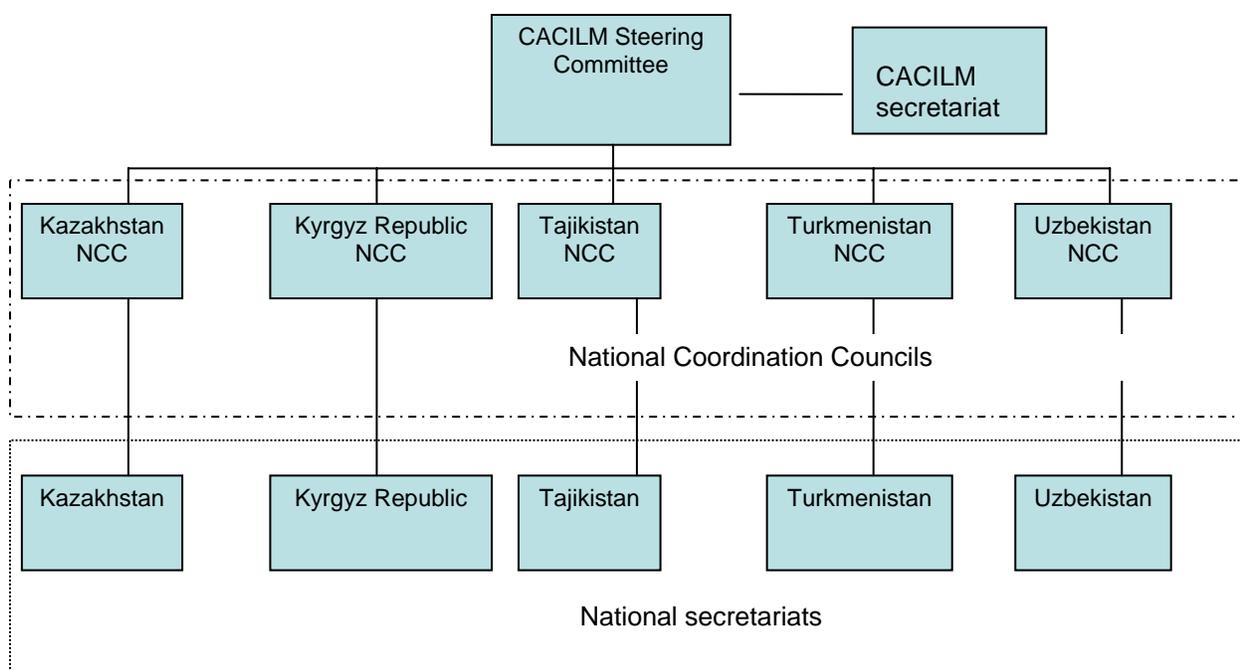
Possibilities of attracting additional development cooperation partners to SPA (e.g., the European Union's TACIS) continue to be explored.

238. ADB, as chair of the CACILM task force in the PDF-B design phase, has assisted national and regional consultations (mainly through meetings of the task force) and facilitated the articulation of national programming frameworks and responses by development cooperation partners. The country and development cooperation partners explored and agreed on the most effective collaborative mechanisms and leadership roles for the mobilization of resources, the monitoring and evaluation of CACILM, and reporting to the multicountry and development cooperation partners, including GEF. ADB expects to play a major role in these endeavors and especially in harmonizing funding activities to achieve the common goal of rolling back land degradation and improving rural livelihoods in the CACs.

### C. Program Implementation Arrangements

239. The proposed organization structure of the CMPF is provided below (Figure 4). This structure will replace the existing institutional arrangements, which include the CACILM task force, the national working groups, and the interim national secretariats.

**Figure 4: CMPF Organizational Structure**



#### 1. Roles and Responsibilities

240. ADB will be the GEF Executing Agency for CACILM. In this role, ADB will be responsible for the overall administration of CACILM and will operate the CACILM multicountry secretariat (the CACILM secretariat).

241. **CACILM Steering Committee.** The CACILM steering committee will be responsible for

- (i) overall direction of the CMPF;
- (ii) approval of changes to the CACILM work plan and financing plan;

- (iii) endorsement of proposals for submission to GEF;
- (iv) oversight of those multicountry projects and activities that are the direct responsibility of the steering committee;
- (v) monitoring performance of the multicountry projects and activities undertaken in the CMPF; and
- (vi) reporting to GEF on all project and activities undertaken by the CMPF.

242. The CACILM steering committee will consist of

- (i) representatives of the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan;
- (ii) GEF implementing agencies, World Bank, UNDP, and UNEP;
- (iii) GEF executing agencies, ADB, FAO, and IFAD;
- (iv) The Global Mechanism
- (v) bilateral agencies acting as CACILM implementing agencies or participating in projects or activities through cofinancing; and
- (vi) other international organizations participating in CACILM projects and activities.

243. **CACILM Multicountry Secretariat.** The CACILM secretariat will support the CACILM steering committee in the overall implementation of projects and activities mandated in the CMPF, including

- (i) monitoring the performance of all projects and activities undertaken;
- (ii) annual reporting to the CACILM steering committee CMPF implementation;
- (iii) providing secretarial and logistical support to CMPF meetings and workshops;
- (iv) supervision of specific activities that are the direct responsibility of the CACILM steering committee, and
- (v) providing CMPF guidance and assistance in the preparation of the project proposals.

244. **National Coordination Councils.** National coordination councils will be created in each country, consistent with the country's governmental administrative laws and procedures. Their composition will vary among countries, but basically consist of representatives of key government ministries, SPA, UNCCD Focal Point, representatives of NGOs, private sector, and civil society. The councils' main functions will be to

- (i) coordinate the overall implementation of projects and activities mandated by the NPF;
- (ii) supervise implementation of the activities that are the direct responsibility of each council;
- (iii) monitor the performance of all projects and activities and report to the CACILM steering committee; and
- (iv) review and endorse proposals for consideration by the CACILM steering committee.

245. **National Secretariats.** The national secretariats will support the national coordination councils in the overall implementation of projects and activities mandated by the NPF, including

- (i) monitoring performance of all projects and activities undertaken;
- (ii) annual reporting to the CACILM steering committee on NPF implementation;
- (iii) providing secretarial and logistical support to national coordination council meetings and workshops;
- (iv) supervision of specific activities that are the direct responsibility of the national councils, and
- (v) provision of guidance and assistance in the preparation of the project proposals.

246. CACILM implementing agencies are those government agencies, international organizations, and civil society organizations that will implement specific projects and activities under CACILM. Implementation of individual subprojects will be the responsibility of CACILM implementing agencies under the direction of the national coordination councils. These implementing agencies will be responsible for direct project implementation and reporting on project performance to the national coordination councils.

247. **Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA).** The SPA has played a valuable role in design and development of CACILM. Throughout the process, support and commitment by individual members has grown and the membership has increased. The SPA will continue to play a role in CACILM by providing a forum for the development cooperation partners to discuss implementation and funding issues.

## **2. CMPF Operational Guidelines and Procedures**

248. Each of the major bodies (i.e., CACILM steering committee, CACILM secretariat, national coordination councils, and national secretariats) will operate under a set of specific guidelines and procedures. These procedures will be developed by the CACILM secretariat under the direction of CACILM steering committee during first month of inception. In general, these guidelines and procedures will be based on ADB operational guidelines and procedures.

## **3. GEF Submission and Approval Procedures**

249. ADB is responsible for submission to GEF for the CMPF, and any amendments thereto. The total request is for \$100,700,000 in GEF cofinancing over a 10-year period. CACILM entered the GEF pipeline in 2004 for \$20,700,000, including \$700,000 PDF-B funding, to be financed from the GEF-3 Replenishment. During the life of CACILM, it is expected that an additional \$40,000,000 will be requested, with expected financing from the GEF-4 Replenishment and further \$40,000,000 for the GEF-5 Replenishment. It is understood that actual GEF-4 and GEF-5 allocations also will be dependent on the level of GEF replenishment and development of the Resource Allocation Framework.

250. For projects to be funded from the GEF-4 and GEF-5 Replenishments, approval of the CACILM steering committee is required prior to submission to GEF of individual projects.

251. Each GEF agency is responsible for submission to GEF of its individual projects. GEF agencies submitting CACILM projects to GEF will include a cover letter noting that the project is an approved project under the CMPF.

### **a. First Submission – GEF-3 Replenishment**

252. The CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework (CMPF) is being submitted to GEF Council for approval along with the first multi-country project for CACILM program support.

253. To support implementation of the program described in the CMPF, approval is sought for \$20,000,000 in GEF-3 financing for a first set of activities under the CMPF. This comprises an initial set of 10 projects approved by the CACILM task force and includes the CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project, for which full documentation is provided (Annex J). The remaining nine projects are presented at the detailed concept stage (Annex K) for GEF Council's information. The projects cover all five CACs and will be implemented by ADB and UNDP as GEF agencies. Council approval is sought for (i) the CACILM program as described in the CMPF; (ii) the Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project, and (iii) delegation of authority to the GEF CEO for approval of the four planned FSPs, which will be submitted subsequently when their preparation has been completed.

### **b. Second Submission – GEF-4 Replenishment**

254. A second submission will be made early in the GEF-4 Replenishment period. The complete submission will be approved by CACILM steering committee. This submission will include a work plan and financing plan as well as documentation on individual projects. One project in Kazakhstan on Integrated Ecosystem Management (World Bank) has already been identified for inclusion in the CACILM GEF-4 submission. This project was submitted for entry into GEF pipeline 22.

### c. Third Submission – GEF-5 Replenishment

255. A third and final submission will be made for the GEF-5 replenishment. This submission also will be fully approved by the CACILM steering committee. It will include a work plan and financing plan as well as documentation on individual projects.

#### 4. Individual Projects

256. Individual project proponents are responsible for project preparation. Project proponents are responsible for ensuring that individual projects meet the eligibility criteria (see Section 6 below).

257. After ensuring that the projects are part of the national program, the national coordination council will be responsible for recommending individual projects to the CACILM steering committee.

258. After ensuring the projects are consistent with the CMPF, the CACILM steering committee will decide on timing and mechanism for submission to GEF.

#### 5. Project Development Assistance

259. Proponents of individual projects will be encouraged to seek PDF funding for project development. The CACILM secretariat and national secretariat will provide advice, guidance, and where possible, support for project development and submission to GEF.

#### 6. Project Eligibility Criteria

260. The project eligibility criteria are detailed in Table 11. All projects requesting GEF funding under the CACILM umbrella must meet these criteria.

**Table 11: Project Eligibility Criteria**

Criteria for Proposed Projects	Comments
<b>Partnership Criteria</b>	
Membership in SPA – prior to submission to GEF	Shows commitment to partnership principles, good coordination and free exchange of information
Provisions of the SPA Memorandum of Understanding and Principles for Guiding Collaboration between SPA Members	Shows partner coordination and demonstrated adherence to partnership principles
Principles laid out in the 2003 Tashkent Platform	Shows relevance to agreed directions, including participatory principles and links to working groups
Key provisions of the CMPF and respective NPFs	Shows understanding of CMPF and NPF outcomes and approach to sustainable land management
<b>Cofinancing Criteria</b>	
Commitment of donor financial contribution	Applies to all projects proposing

Criteria for Proposed Projects	Comments
	development cooperation partner cofinancing
Commitment by government of financial contribution	Applies only to government investment projects, with at least in-kind contributions required for technical assistance projects
<b>UNCCD Criteria</b>	
Definitions and provisions of the UNCCD	All projects should demonstrate consistency with and contributions to UNCCD implementation
Provisions of the relevant NAP(s) and/or SRAP-CD	All projects should demonstrate consistency with and contributions to NAP and/or SRAP-CD implementation
Endorsement of the UNCCD National Focal Point after consultation with the national coordination council	Shows inclusion in the national program and consistency with NAP and SRAP-CD
<b>GEF Criteria</b>	
Provisions of GEF OP-15 or other Operational Program	Those applicable for the relevant replenishment period
Provisions of Draft GEF Country Pilot Partnership Framework	As amended over time
Approval of the GEF Operational Focal Point	Show inclusion in the national program and consistency with other GEF criteria
<b>Other Criteria</b>	
Agreement of national implementing agencies	May require other governmental approvals as well

CACILM = Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management; CMPF = CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework; GEF = Global Environment Facility; NAP = national action plan or program; OP = Operational Program; SPA = Strategic Partnership Agreement for UNCCD Implementation in the Central Asian Countries; SRAP-CD = Sub-regional Action Programme for Central Asian Countries on Combating Desertification and Drought; UNCCD = United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

261. In addition to the project eligibility criteria, CACILM project selection will be guided by additional considerations including:

- (i) **Participatory Nature:** Projects should demonstrate development and implementation through a participatory approach with strong ownership with all partners, including the government, the private sector, and civil society—including NGOs and the scientific community. The projects should also actively seek to address gender issues and facilitate the equitable distribution of benefits.
- (ii) **Sustainable Development Perspective:** Projects should be designed taking into account the need to reduce poverty and promote economic growth.
- (iii) **Capacity Building:** Projects should integrate capacity development needs as part of their planned activities.
- (iv) **Maximize Utilization of Regional Expertise:** Projects should aim at maximizing the utilization of local experts and institutions.
- (v) **High Rate of Replication:** Projects should be designed to ensure replication and dissemination of good practices and experiences.
- (vi) **Sustainability of Activities:** Projects should have activities whose benefits are sustainable beyond the life cycle of the interventions.

- (vii) **Promote Sharing of Experiences and Learning:** Projects should aim at promoting sharing of experiences, enhancing regional cooperation and collective learning.
- (viii) **Performance Criteria:** Projects should contain clear objectives, performance indicators and monitoring mechanisms.
- (ix) **Geographical Balance:** Balance between the five CACs should be sought.