



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land use in non-irrigated arid mountain, semi-desert and desert landscapes of Uzbekistan		
Country:	Uzbekistan	GEF Project ID:	4600
GEF Agency:	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	4649
Other Executing Partner(s):	State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-Cadastre	Submission Date:	August 18, 2011
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration:	60 months
Name of parent program: For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>	CACILM	Agency Fee:	231,360

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	FA Outcomes	FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative financing from relevant TF, (\$)	Indicative co-financing, (\$)
LD-3	Outcome 3.1: Enhanced cross-sector enabling environment for integrated landscape management	3.1 Integrated land management plans developed and implemented	GEFTF	0	1,000,000
LD-3	Outcome 3.2: Good management practices in the wider landscape demonstrated and adopted by local communities	3.2 INRM tools and methodologies developed and tested	GEFTF	1,998,600	6,020,000
LD-3	Outcome 3.2: Good management practices in the wider landscape demonstrated and adopted by local communities	3.4 Information on INRM technologies and good practice guidelines disseminated	GEFTF	200,000	800,000
Project management cost				115,000	410,000
Total project costs				2,313,600	8,230,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To promote integrated management of rangeland and forests at the landscape level (focus on non-irrigated, arid mountain, semi-desert, and desert landscapes) to reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and improve the socio-economic stability of communities.

Project Component	Grant type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Financing from TF, (\$)	Ind. co-financing, \$
Component 1 – field level investment to transform the baseline approach: Promising best practices on sustainable rangeland and forestry management and INRM planning up-scaled in target districts of Uzbekistan.	INV	Outcome 1.1: Improvement in the vegetative cover of approximately 6,000 ha of rangeland and 1,000 ha of forestry fund territory under enhanced land use management using sustainable INRM best practices with approx. 50,000 people with secure and sustainable livelihoods. (FA Outcome 3.2). Outcome 1.2: Enhanced mechanisms for cross-sector integrated planning of sustainable natural resources management at district level to improve vegetation and forest cover, decrease moving sands and erosion, reduce dust storms and other such events. (FA Outcome 3.2):	Output 1.1.1: Adequate inventory and classification of all types of lands in project sites (pasture, rain fed, dry land forestry, and others). Output 1.1.2: Promising good practices on pasture management and livestock husbandry, forestry and biodiversity management from Uzbekistan and the region, replicated and up-scaled in project site/s. Output 1.1.3: New and refined technical extension services at the existing and newly developed local institutions (information centre at the Ministry of Agriculture, Zoo-technical centres, Farmer's Associations, district forestry etc.). Output 1.2.1: Two (2) district level integrated land use plans have been elaborated by district authorities / local stakeholders, and being effectively applied to a landscape of approximately 30,000 ha. Output 1.2.2: One hundred and forty (140) district level stakeholders received training in the development and implementation of integrated land use planning and have knowledge / experience necessary to continue the application of such planning in the long term.	1,998,600	6,820,000

Project Component	Grant type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Financing from TF, (\$)	Ind. co-financing, \$
Component 2 – policy, legal and institutional mechanisms: An enabling cross-sector environment and in-country capacity (at system, institutional and individual levels) for applying integrated landscape management in arid mountain, semi-desert and desert areas of Uzbekistan	TA	Outcome 2.1: Enhanced policy, legal, and institutional framework for implementing integrated and sustainable management of rangeland and forests (<i>FA Outcome 3.1</i>)	Output 2.1.1: Updated or newly developed key sector policies and related strategic national planning documents associated to arid non-irrigated land use. Output 2.1.2: Linkages and synergies between the above sector policies and strategic planning documents to improve integration of effort by relevant national institutions. Output 2.1.3: Relevant legislative changes and regulatory instruments (see Output 2.1.1) developed and enacted on the basis of field experience gained in Component 1.	200,000	1,000,000
		Outcome 2.2: Adequate technical and managerial capacity for INRM at all levels of land use institutions for the development of policies, legislation and field operations (<i>FA Outcome 3.1</i>)	Output 2.2.1: National inter-ministerial land use coordination commission (coordinated by the State Committee for Land Resources and Cadastre) with appropriate set of documents defining institutional responsibilities for ensuring better integration of planning on forestry and rangeland. Output 2.2.2: Strengthened capacity of key institutions (Inter-ministry land use coordination commission, Dept. Livestock, Forestry Agency) Output 2.2.3: Long-term vocational and academic training curricula and programmes at professional colleges, lyceums, and universities to enhance national capacity to sustain the application of sound land use management.		
		Outcome 2.3: Improved access of policy makers to tested INRM best practices and methodologies for improved land management.	Output 2.3.1: Guidelines on good practices for sustainable natural resources management. Output 2.3.2: The methodology for carrying out Integrated Land Use Planning (ILUP) documented, published and disseminated to facilitate replication. Output 2.3.3: Mechanisms for practical dissemination and application of land use best practices and the ILUP methodology, utilizing the experience and methods developed under CACILM.		
Project management cost				115,000	410,000
Total project costs				2,313,600	8,230,000

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-Cadastre	Grant	6,039,000
		In-kind	671,000
Local Government	Two district authorities (Romittan and Farish districts)	In-kind	120,000
GEF Agency	UNDP Uzbekistan	Grant	700,000
Bilateral Agency	GIZ	Grant (direct co-financing in cash)	700,000
Total Co-financing			8,230,000

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES)

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country name/Global	Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c=a+b
UNDP	GEF TF	LD 3	Uzbekistan	2,313,600	231,360	2,544,960
Total GEF Resources				2,313,600	231,360	2,544,960

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1. THE GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES:

1. This project is in line with the objectives, outcomes and core expected outputs of the Land Degradation Focal Area for GEF-5, specifically with Land Degradation Objective 3 (LD-3). The requested GEF funds will play a catalytic role in mobilization and changing trajectory of large baseline investments from the Uzbek government towards up-scaling of integrated sustainable land management practices and creation of an enabling environment for relevant policy, legal, and institutional development.

2. The expected environmental benefits are:
 - Increasing soil carbon stocks and soil organic matter;
 - Carbon sequestration;
 - Decreasing soil erosion, landslides incidence and soil loss;
 - Reduction of sediment loads to rivers and streams, as well as siltation and damage to downstream water reservoirs.
 - Improved conservation prospects of globally important species and habitats harbored in arid mountain, desert and semi-desert areas affected by land degradation.
3. The project will be implemented within the framework of the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM).

A.2. NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS:

4. The project responds to the priority actions identified in the National Action Program to Combat Desertification (NAPCD, 2002). The NAPCD lists a number of key priorities, and the project will directly contribute to realizing some of these priorities. In particular, the project will address the following NAPCD general recommendations:
 - Improving land organization in order to prevent its degradation and secure environmentally and economically productive patterns based on landscape and environmental norms
 - Improving degraded rangelands and hayfields
 - Restoring forests and growing them on lands of the state reserve and other territories suitable for it
 - Fixing sands to protect rangelands, populated areas and economic facilities
 - Developing economic mechanisms for ensuring more sustainable use of natural resources
 - Establishing a legislative framework for securing the introduction of standards and norms of land use
5. The project objective is also a key priority identified by the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP, 1998) which emphasizes the protection of all biological resources including forests and pastures, as well as the restoration of structures and functions of degraded ecosystems. The project will also directly contribute to a number of other endorsed policy documents. The Government, in coordination with international organizations, is promoting a deeper understanding of the problems of living standards, and, in 2003, there were two initiatives on this topic namely, the World Bank's "Living Standard Assessment" and a UN research study on the "Connection between microeconomic policy and decreasing the levels of poverty in Uzbekistan". In 2003-2004, the Asian Development Bank provided technical support to develop "Strategies for improving living standards among the population of Uzbekistan" (also known as Living Standard Strategies, or LSS). On the basis of these documents the full Welfare Improvement Strategy (WIS) was developed. Within the WIS there is much emphasis on the need to transform the agricultural sector and achieve better livelihoods through improved and sustainable natural resource use. With the support of FAO, Uzbekistan has also prepared an initial National Forestry Plan which includes emphasis on the need to re-orientate and better integrate the forestry sector into rural community livelihoods.

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW

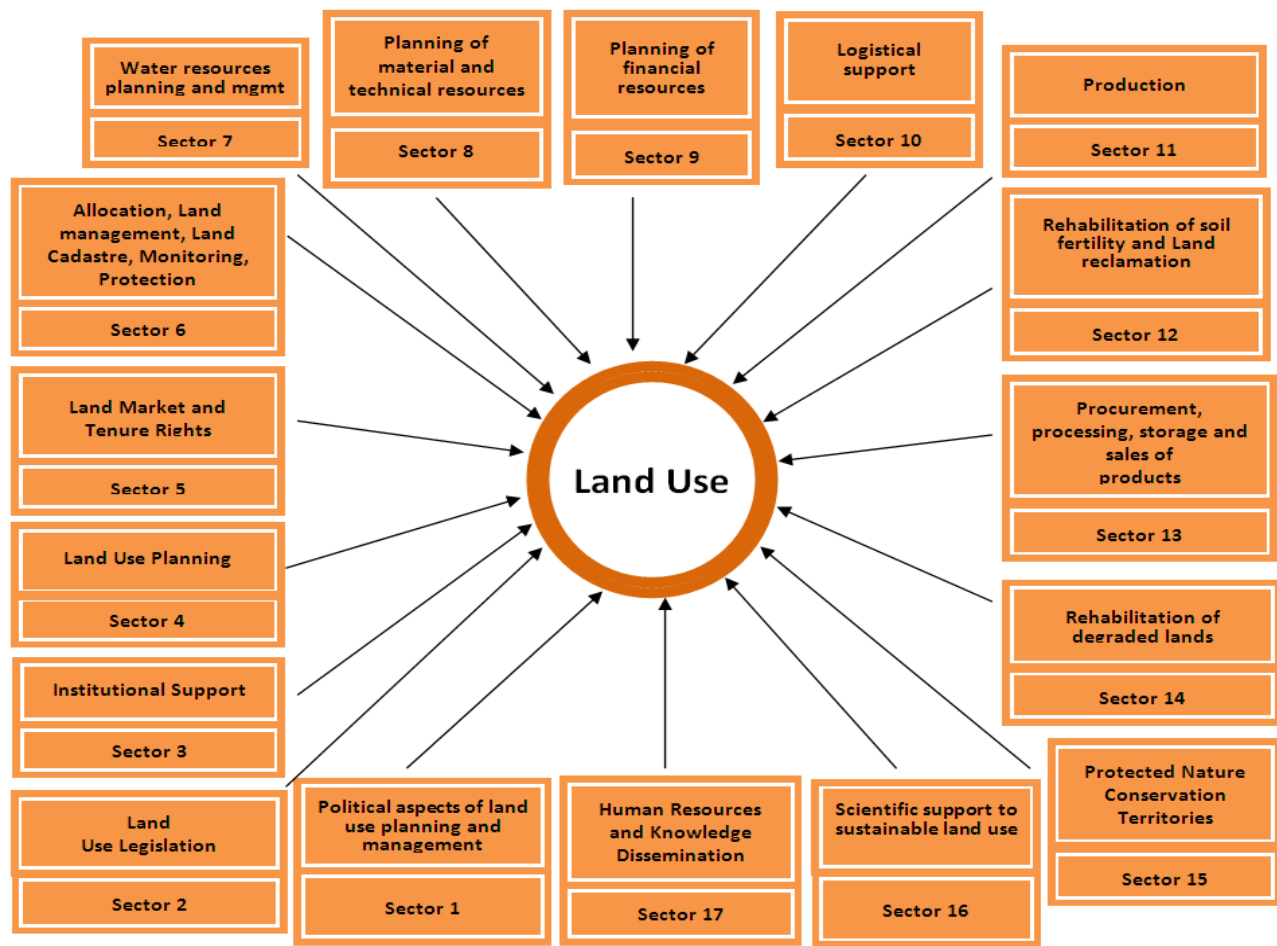
B.1. DESCRIBE THE BASELINE PROJECT AND THE PROBLEM THAT IT SEEKS TO ADDRESS:

6. **Background:** The Republic of Uzbekistan is a dry country with a total area of approx. 44.5 mln ha, comprised mainly of mountains (20%) and arid/ semi-arid areas (70%), with the rest being intensely irrigated valleys along its 2 major rivers (Syr Darya and Amu Darya). The largest desert in Central Asia, the Kyzylkum, covers the greater part of the lowlands and plains to the west and south of the country. Uzbekistan also experiences high solar radiation. This, combined with its landlocked situation and topographic relief, results in a severe continental climate with large diurnal and seasonal variations in temperature. Average precipitation in the desert is less than 200 mm per year. It reaches about 400 mm in the foothills and can go above 800 mm at altitudes between 1,000m and 4,000m.
7. The population of Uzbekistan is estimated at 28 million and the annual growth rate is 2.3%, which is one of the highest in Central Asia. More than half of the population of Uzbekistan is considered rural and is employed in the agricultural sector which accounts for about 33% of gross national product (GNP), about 38% of employment, and about 40% of export income. Total agricultural land occupies 28.5 million hectares (or 63% of total land area). This includes 23.4 million hectares (or 52%) that can be considered poor or low-productive pastureland, and 4.2 million hectares of arable land (approximately 11%). Due to its arid climate, arable agricultural output is almost entirely dependent on irrigation.
8. **Threats:** Owing to its geographical and climatic characteristics, Uzbekistan is highly susceptible to environmental degradation. According to the UNEP aridity index¹, most of Uzbekistan's territory, except for the foothills and mountains, is classified as a drought zone and is therefore very susceptible to land degradation and desertification. Winds as low as 6-10 meters per second can cause sand and dust storms, and in flat regions there are between 10 to 30 dust storm days per year. Land degradation in

¹ The UNEP aridity index is based on the ratio of rainfall to potential evapotranspiration (Middleton & Thomas, 1992, 1997).

arid lands has clearly accelerated since the collapse of the Soviet Union. This is in part due to the fact that since independence reform has mainly been oriented towards the irrigated agricultural sector as this generates the largest proportion of GDP and directly supports livelihoods of the largest proportion of the population. This means that support towards maintaining or improving effective land use within non-irrigated arid lands has been limited. The results are clearly evidenced by a whole set of land degradation problems:

- widespread and accelerating erosion issues, including dune formation in deserts/ semi-deserts, sand/dust storms, moving sands, soil loss, and gulling in mountains and foothills
 - reduced productivity and degradation of pasturelands, due to overgrazing
 - deforestation and reduced availability of forest products, due to fuel wood felling and grazing pressure
 - reduced habitat and numbers of all wildlife, particularly rare and endangered species
 - reduced sequestration of carbon (in forests and grasslands)
 - changes in hydrology leading to increased number and severity of floods, mudslides and similar disasters
9. Though these environmental degradation trends are experienced mainly in arid areas, they have important and long term implications for overall national development, food security (particularly meat production), social stability, long term viability of land use in arid areas, and resilience to forecasted climate change. For example, food security could be significantly impacted by loss of productive pasture. The reduced productivity of pasture, and loss of crucial forest products, will worsen rural livelihoods leading to over exploitation of natural resources and further land degradation.
 10. The most important direct causes of land degradation are increasing levels of deforestation and overgrazing. In terms of forestry, it is estimated that in the last 100 years Uzbekistan has lost about 85% of its historical forest cover. Much of this loss initially occurred in lowland areas where riparian “Tugai” forests were cleared for expansion of irrigation in Tsarist and Soviet eras. More recently, the limited availability of energy sources in some rural areas and increased cost of energy and timber has negatively impacted remaining forests, both in areas under Forestry agency control and other areas. Officially, about 8% of Uzbekistan’s territory is currently forested. Of this forested area, only 2% is primary forest, 19% is planted and 78% is classified as “other naturally regenerating forest”. However, proper inventories of forest cover have not been undertaken in decades and much of the current data represents extrapolations of Soviet era figures and covers only state Forestry Fund territories. Thus, the level of deforestation is hard to accurately estimate. Moreover, many of the remaining natural forests are degraded to varying degrees by grazing, fuel wood collection, fire and disease. Efforts to undertake reforestation have been hampered by insufficient resources, inappropriate approaches and the impacts of overgrazing. Similarly, rangelands are affected by overgrazing. The breakdown of Soviet-era pasture management systems and the fodder supply chain has resulted in a reduction in the mobility of grazing, which is a vital component of sustainable pasture use in such arid environments. Imbalances in pasture loads are occurring with under-utilization of some areas, and severe local over-grazing of others. There is an increasingly sharp imbalance between the availability of summer and winter feed, resulting in severe overgrazing of some winter pastures.
 11. In addition, the forestry and extensive rangeland sectors are competing for land use, as is the case in Central Asia in general. Forestry Fund land (of which the majority is desert, dry steppe or un-forested foothills) is mostly used as livestock pasture. Livestock is the greatest threat to forest regeneration both inside and outside Forestry Fund land. Forestry and rangelands are also closely linked with other sectors. For example, extensive rangelands are dependent on irrigated agriculture for fodder and its current lack is a major limiting factor that leads to overgrazing in autumn, winter, and early spring. Another example is the link between forestry and energy needs of the rural population in arid areas for fire wood (for heating and cooking). However, fire wood remains unconsidered by energy policy and is not part of any stated management objective for forestry.
 12. Thus, arid lands under use in Uzbekistan face a significant and growing threat of degradation as forestry and extensive pastures compete for land use, with significant direct implications for local rural populations, significant national implications for food security and long term sustainable development, and global implications because of the impact on biodiversity.
 13. However, since independence Uzbekistan has made a sustained effort to reform its agriculture and land use sectors, based on a gradual process of transition from the Soviet model towards a free market based one. Additionally, the GoU, with donor support, has pursued various pilot efforts to test new approaches to land management. There is clearly in recent years an increasing government awareness of the economic, food security and environmental significance of land use in non-irrigated areas, and a commitment to addressing them.



Graph 1. Inter-sectoral connections of land use with other sectors of economy and stakeholders.

14. Land use relationships are regulated by the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Orders and Decrees of the President, Decrees of the Cabinet of Ministers, territorial state agencies (Sector 1 above). Legislation is developed by the State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre and Ministry of Justice, approved by Oliy Majlis of Republic of Uzbekistan (Sector 2). Institutional support includes establishment of optimal management structures, which coordinate land use by ministries and agencies, governmental and civil organizations. Tasks of Sector 3 are direct functions of Government and relevant Ministries and Agencies. Land use planning is a function of Government, Ministry of Economy, and the State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre (Sector 4). Establishment of land market / tenure rights are under authority of Government and function of the State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre (Sector 5). Activities of Sector 6 are the exclusive functions of the State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre. These activities are sponsored from state budget according to Land Code of Uzbekistan. Allocation and withdrawal of land allotments and land management is a prerogative of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, and is carried out through issuing relevant Decrees based on Land legislation (Land Code of Uzbekistan). Tasks under Sector 7 are functions of Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Republic of Uzbekistan. Planning and use of water resources is carried out in strict coordination with land use planning. Needs of applied model of land use should be supported with required material and technical resources (Sector 8). Needs in material and technical resources are calculated based on data from governmental accounting and evaluation of lands, which are prepared by the State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre. Planning of material and technical resources for agricultural production is a function of Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.
15. Financing of land use is a function of Ministry of Finance, and the source is the state budgetary financial support though other sources are possible (Sector 9). Realization of tasks in Sector 10 is a function of Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, banks, maintenance services, agricultural enterprises. Implementations of tasks in Sector 11 are a function of agricultural enterprises.
16. Tasks of Sector 12 on rehabilitation of land productivity are the function of Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, its department on land reclamation and rehabilitation of soil fertility. Control functions on rehabilitation of land productivity are carried out by the State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre and the State Committee on Nature Protection of Uzbekistan. Assessment of land use effectiveness is influenced not only by rational land use and rehabilitation of its

productivity, but the extent of effective sales of products from these lands (Sector 13). Product sales (profit as an integrated indicator of production) is a main factor during assessment of land use effectiveness and sustainability.

17. Effective realization of production is a task of agricultural enterprises, local authorities, territorial branches of Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, procurement/storage and insurance companies. Tasks of Sector 14 and 15 are functions of Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre, the State Committee on Nature Protection, the State Hydro-Meteorological Organization. Within Sector 16 tasks are functions of the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre, Ministry of Higher, Secondary Specialized and Professional Education, Scientific-research Institutes and Scientific-production and Project Institutes.
18. Within Sector 17, specialists on land use are mainly trained at the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and melioration (Land Management department). Realization of tasks of this sector is a function of Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher, Secondary Specialized and Professional Education, Goskomzemgeodezkadastr (the State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre), Goskompriroda (the State Committee on Nature Protection), local authorities, NGOs, local communities.
19. **Baseline Projects:** Since independence the agricultural reform process in Uzbekistan has gone through 3 basic phases. The first phase was aimed at allowing the most productive users of land, the small peasant (dekhkan) farmers to become established and thus the “Law of Peasant Farms” was adopted in July 1992 which led to a rapid increase in the number of registered dekhkan farms from less than 2,000 in 1990-1991 to nearly 200,000 in 2006. The second phase involved the change of large soviet era state and collective farms to a form of agricultural cooperative (shirkat). The third phase, which was initiated in the late 1990’s, was aimed at breaking the shirkat’s into small and more efficient “private” enterprises and was instigated through the passing of new legislation in 1997-8 on the *Land Code*, *On the Agricultural Cooperative*, *On the Farmer Enterprise*, and *On the Dekhkan Farm*. Numerous decrees and resolutions were issued to introduce mechanisms to regulate land use and land tenure within the context of these changes to national laws, including: “National Programme on advancing economic reforms in agriculture for the period 1998-2000” (Main clauses on improved use of land resources, conservation, improvement and rehabilitation of soil fertility), Concept of Land Resources Management in Uzbekistan (2005-2010), “National Programme on establishment of single comprehensive strategy on development of Uzbekistan for 2007-2011”, Concept of single comprehensive strategy on territorial development of Uzbekistan for 2007-2011 (agro-industrial part), Decree of the President on development of set of measures on improvement of meliorative condition of lands for 2008-2012, Concept on Livestock sector development in Uzbekistan till 2012, and Action Programme on environmental protection in Uzbekistan for 2008-2012. Furthermore, in recognition of the urgent need to improve land use planning the government issued a decree in October 2004 to establish a new institution “the State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre” tasked with bringing about a more integrated approach to the planning of land use on national level. Under this institution, a Coordinating Council, responsible for implementation and monitoring of the National Program for Land Monitoring in Uzbekistan (2011-2015, annual investment value – USD 4.1 mln.) was established from relevant representatives of more than 15 ministries and departments. The legal and institutional framework of this National Program will be a part of the baseline for this project. In this context the project will use the setting-up of the Coordinating Council as the starting point for development of integrated land resource management planning at a landscape level but try to improve its practical application in order to increase practical impact in the field (i.e. amongst other things, support decentralization of planning and a more “bottom-up” process rather than the existing highly centralized approaches). Relevant ongoing efforts of the Government towards integration of SLM into the processes of national planning and strategic development are summarized in the table below:

Table 1. Ongoing integration of some SLM activities into the processes of national planning and strategic development.

Activities	Sector-wide plans and programs	Source of finance	Responsible executive agency
State regulation of land use relations	According to the Programme of economic reforms in agricultural sector	-	Oliy Majlis, President of Uzbekistan, Cabinet of Ministers.
Land Use Planning	Programme on development of national economy	State Budget	Ministry of Economy, State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre
Land Evaluation	Plan of State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre	State Budget	State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre
Land survey (allocation and withdrawal of lands, maintaining land cadastre, organization of land use, land use monitoring, protection)	Plan of State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre	State Budget	State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre

Activities	Sector-wide plans and programs	Source of finance	Responsible executive agency
Development of the system on registration of land use rights in the country (3 phases: 1998-2000, 2002-2003, and 2006-2007)	TACIS Programme «Registration of land in Uzbekistan»	EU / Uzbek Government	State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre
Rehabilitation of degraded lands	UNDP Project on rehabilitation of degraded lands in Karakalpakstan and Kyzylkum desert, 2008-2013	GEF/UNDP, Uzbek Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources
Environmental Protection	Programme of activities on environmental protection for 2008-2012	State Budget	State Committee on Nature Protection
Scientific research in the area of SLM	Plans on research work by local universities and Scientific-research institutes in land management and use	State budget, contractual	Departments of universities
Human resources development in land use knowledge dissemination	National programme on education of Uzbekistan	State budget	Ministry of Higher Education

The main sources of financing sustainable land management activities in Uzbekistan are summarized below:

Table 2. Main sources of funding of SLM activities in Uzbekistan.

Investments from state budget for general SLM activities	Investments allocated from the state budget for activities related to SLM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2007 - 476 milliard uzbek soums (~ 369 mln USD), • 2008 – 723,5 mlrd UZS (~519 mln USD), • 2009 – 997,2 mlrd UZS (~ 660 mln USD).
Fund on meliorative improvement of lands	The amount of allocated resources from state budget and other internal sources for improvement of meliorative condition of lands is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2008 - 75 mlrd UZS (~ 55 mln USD); • In 2009 – 132,7 mlrd UZS (~ 96 mln USD); • In 2010 – approx. 169,5 mlrd UZS (~ 112 mln USD).
Annual budget (and other non-budget income sources) of the State Agency on Forestry under Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources	State budget for development of forestry sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2007 – 4,506 mlrd UZS (~ 3,5 mln USD), • 2008 – 6,29 mlrd UZS (~ 4,5 mln USD), • 2009 – over 9 mlrd UZS (~ 6 mln USD) • 2010 – 11,881 mlrd UZS (7,8 mln USD). Additionally, annual income of the Agency from economic activity is 1,3-1,4 mln USD/year.
Annual budget of State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre	Allocation from state budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2007 – 4,995 mlrd UZS (~ 3,8 mln USD), • 2008 – 5,245 mlrd UZS (~ 3,76 mln USD), • 2009 – 7,431 mlrd UZS (~ 4,9 mln USD). Average annual budget is 4.9 mln USD.
Annual budget of the Center of hydro-meteorological service under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan (Uzgidromet)	Amount of investments from state budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2007 – 3,622 mlrd UZS (~ 2,8 mln USD), • 2009 – 6,302 mlrd UZS (~ 4,1 mln USD).

20. Additionally, the GoU, with donor support, has pursued various pilot efforts to test new approaches to land management. By far the most concerted and wide reaching efforts to date have been targeted towards the irrigated land use sector. However, many of these also have built capacity of direct relevance to improvement of land use in non-irrigated land (arid desert, steppe and mountain landscapes). For example, the EU / TACIS supported government programme of land registration, though focusing mainly on irrigated lands, has built the capacity and experience of the State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-Cadastre to undertake such registration throughout the country. This means there is a considerable basis of experience and capacity that the government and project can utilize and build upon in regard to proper registration and inventory of non-irrigated landscapes that are the focus of the project. Such activities are envisaged under components of government programmes (Land Evaluation Plan of State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-cadastre, Forestry territories inventory, national Forestry Programme) and are part of the baseline for the project.

21. There have also been significant efforts related to biodiversity conservation and, to a lesser extent, pasture management and forestry. These include pilot efforts to testing joint forest management, pasture/livestock management, community based tourism, and household scale energy efficiency/renewable energy technologies. For example, a joint forest management pilot scheme was initiated in Farish District (Djizak region) in 2002 that was trying to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of forestry by providing incentives to local populations to invest in forestation of state forestry land. An informal review this year found that these pilot schemes still survive, have resulted in significant changes in the areas rented and are moving into profitability as fruit and nut trees mature. However, such practices have been too small, and the policy / institutional environment too rigid, for wide scale replication to take place. Pasture management and sustainable livestock husbandry have been components of a number of UNDP GEF Biodiversity projects and the national SLM project within the context of the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) plus efforts by GIZ. In the context of these projects pilot efforts to introduce sustainable pasture management mechanisms and to maximize sustainable productivity have been tested with some promising results. New approaches to pasture use, particularly by the increasing number of livestock owned by private households, have been initiated – these have looked at approaches for improving the local capacity of both farmers and households to sustainable pasture use, and develop collaborative mechanisms (such as local pasture user commissions) in order to put such knowledge into practice. The Biodiversity Action Plan (updated in 2008 but not as yet approved) incorporated some of these experiences and aimed to have them replicated at a wider scale. A National Forestry Plan was developed in 2009, the first stage of which plans to make an inventory of forestry resources existing in the country. Based on the results of the inventory the second stage of the plan includes revision of institutional, financial and policy instruments necessary for sustainable management of forest resources. There is clearly therefore an increasing government awareness of the economic, food security and environmental significance of non-irrigated area's land use, and a commitment to addressing them.
22. Despite the above government and donor supported efforts, the process of degradation within the majority of arid and mountain landscapes is continuing, and in many cases is likely to accelerate. There remain major challenges both in pasture use and forestry sector over land tenure and user rights. This is a particularly stark issue in the pasture use context, as at this point in time, households are not recognized as land users and thus have no official pasture use rights, despite the fact that in many areas (including the project target district Farish) household livestock out-numbers those on official farms. Pasture land belonging to semi-state farms near settlements is by necessity utilized by communities but without any official tenure, regulation or systematic management. As the population of these settlements and their livestock continue to grow this is leading to increasing pasture degradation. In forestry territories the forestry agency has inadequate resources to systematically develop and manage them. Managerial, and material investments by local communities and the private sector has been severely restricted by the inadequate security of tenure and use rights, thus providing inadequate incentive for them to be involved. New effective approaches to land use, based on greater involvement of rural communities and land users, are unlikely to be replicated unless a suitable enabling environment for this is created, including slight but significant changes in tenure conditions,. Likewise, basic principles of sustainable land management in arid areas will not be embedded in national policies, strategic planning, legislation, regulatory mechanisms or institutional mandates, and will not be applied to practical land use management. Mechanisms and approaches tested by donor supported initiatives for allowing land users to undertake regional or district integrated land use planning will remain isolated examples.
23. The long-term solution proposed by this project is to change the trajectory of the baseline approaches towards investments into integrated landscape management, and put in place accompanying policy, institutional and methodological mechanisms for an integrated approach to the sustainable management of forests and extensive rangelands in non-irrigated landscapes in the arid mountains, semi-desert and desert landscapes of Uzbekistan, thereby securing the flow of multiple ecosystem services and ensuring ecosystem resilience to climate change. There are, however, a number of barriers to implementing this solution, as described below.
24. **Barrier 1:** Practical know-how barriers to change the baseline course of action and upscale successful SLM experience and lessons, alongside with limited practical capacity or experience to undertake district level integrated land use planning: A major practical barrier to the effective application of sustainable land use practices, particularly in the context of the low priority forestry and pasture use sectors, is the limited awareness of practical examples and experience of applying such practices in the field. There exist useful pilot initiatives on pasture management, joint forestry and community forest management, and application of district/ sub-district integrated land use planning. However, these have been tested only at very limited sites. Though they have shown that the fundamental principles are applicable to Uzbekistan, they have not been proven or tested sufficiently to ensure that adequate lessons have been learned for widespread application. It is critical to widen and better refine the practical application of new approaches to SLM, and to build the practical experience and know-how of key national and local authorities about how such approaches and practices can be most effectively applied in the field. This will allow for their up-scaling and widespread application. Currently, land use is seen in a very stratified, narrow way (arable land is just for crops, rangeland just for livestock production, etc). There is a need to demonstrate that multi-functional use (e.g., forestry can produce timber, fuel, fruit, NTFP's, grazing, hunting incomes, watershed protection, natural disaster risk

reduction, biodiversity conservation, etc) can be ecologically, economically and socially sustainable. Additionally, practical field experience needs to inform the required legal, institutional and policy reforms highlighted above.

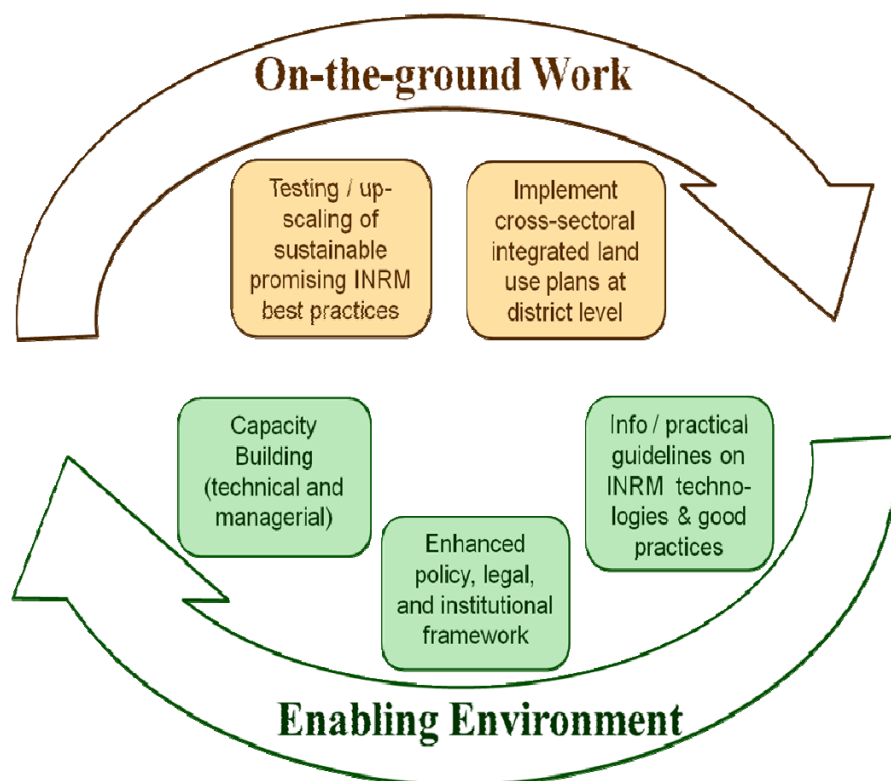
25. Though there is some legal and institutional basis for integrated land use or “territorial” planning, there are no established mechanisms and little practical experience in applying such planning at the district level. There is currently little recognition that integrated approaches are essential in order to maximize productivity while maintaining sustainability, and that mechanisms and institutional responsibilities for undertaking this effectively need to be clearly defined. There are no clearly established ways by which different sectors of land use are systematically planned over a defined time period. Planning is reactive (not directional), responding from year to year to output targets from central authorities that can rarely be met. If integrated planning occurs it is largely at the initiative of local district administration, and not part of standard district level procedures.
26. Furthermore, soviet-era economic and land use planning approaches tended to be highly centralized and narrowly focused on a sector basis. Following independence, there have been extensive reforms of institutions and in the process institutional responsibilities have become further blurred. At the same time, the relevant institutions have lost internal experience and capacity due to declines in government incomes and emigration. District authorities often have to incorporate cross-sector planning out of necessity to meet basic local needs from limited budgets (for example forestry may coordinate with communities regarding fuel wood supplies for winter) but they do not have a clear responsibility in this regard and limited resources and know-how on how to carry out such planning effectively.
27. Barrier 2: Inappropriate structure (institutional, legislative and policy); absence of mechanisms and experience to undertake cross-sector, integrated natural resource use planning: Though the GoU has undertaken major reforms in the agriculture sector, the majority have been targeted to irrigated agriculture. Land use in other sectors, such as extensive pasture, forestry, and other arid land use, have not undergone any comparable level of reform and remain, in practice, largely unchanged from the Soviet-era. The rangeland policy, for instance, dates back to the Soviet era and no longer fits the national development transition towards a free market system. In the new post-independence system this policy leads to poor land use practices because many of the conditions from Soviet times are no longer present², and it provide little or no scope for local land users and the private sector to play a constructive role. There is no strategic plan for the extensive rangeland sector relevant for the post-independence environment. Other more recent policies need updating because they have either not kept up with reforms in the agriculture sector and the general economy since independence or did not have sufficient institutional commitment at the time they were prepared to allow them to be implemented effectively. For instance the revised and updated National Biodiversity Action Plan prepared in 2008 has not been officially approved, does not have financing, and is not being implemented and the current National Forest Programme has not fully utilized the FAO supported Forestry Plan completed in 2010. Issues of cross-sectoral linkage and/ or competition (e.g., energy/fuel wood needs of local population and forestry, forestry and extensive grazing, fodder needs of extensive grazing and fodder supply by irrigated agriculture) are not recognized in the policies and strategic planning of these sectors, except perhaps at a very local level. Thus, there is a need to update sector policies related to land use in order to ensure real “buy in” and support.
28. There is a need for a reorientation of development objectives for arid desert, semi-desert and mountain land use, accompanied by a reorientation of policies, laws and institutional framework that govern use of these lands. There is a need to re-orientate from historical products such as Karakul sheep skins and wool (which were strategic priorities in Soviet times) towards meat production that directly meets needs of the current Uzbek economy. Institutions need to re-orientate from being the sole managers of land to being facilitators and providing a support system for non-state actors (farmers, local communities and households) to manage land. A classic example is leshoz which systematically fail to be able to implement their objectives. If mechanisms such as joint forest management with local households are present, much more can be achieved and there is mutual benefit for both leshoz and local population. Another example is the Karakul shirkats (farms) in desert areas that are essentially still state enterprises. As a result the Karakul shirkats do not have decision-making flexibility that would allow them to operate profitably or sustainably. State institutions need to disengage from direct management and take on a more regulatory/ facilitating role.

B. 2. INCREMENTAL COST REASONING AND THE ASSOCIATED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:

29. The GEF funded alternative will address the above outlined barriers to sustainable and integrated pasture and forest management in the desert, semi-desert and mountain landscapes of Uzbekistan. The GEF will invest in on-the-ground activities at selected districts to change the baseline course of actions, and support the institutional, policy and methodological mechanisms needed to sustain the new approach after the project end. The overall development goal towards which the project will contribute is a reduction in competing land use pressures on natural resources of arid landscapes in Uzbekistan.

² For instance, in the FSU there were transfers of animal feed between the republics. Thus, the problem of extreme fodder deficit in winter did not occur, whereas now this deficit leads to overgrazing of winter pasture. In addition, extensive livestock Kolhoz/ Sovhoz provided a support system for shepherds when in remote mountains or deserts (i.e., emergency services in case of injury, provision of good equipment, transport, rest periods, etc). None of these support systems exist anymore. As a result there tends to be over-grazing in accessible pastures and under-grazing in more remote areas.

The more specific project objective is to improve the sustainability of the two major forms of land use in these areas – rangeland and forestry – and to better integrate their development. Such integration is imperative for the sustainability of both land uses, and for the long term environmental and socio-economic stability of communities inhabiting these landscapes. The project will build upon existing government national programmes for land management by facilitating the development of integrated land use planning (ILUP) approaches, with emphasis on decentralization and bottom up planning as opposed to the existing highly centralized top-down system. This will include the wider application of sectoral good practices in pasture and forest management. Building upon the experience gained in the field and on the lessons learned from past and existing GEF funded initiatives and similar efforts, the project will create a more conducive policy and legal framework for sustainable and better integrated land use planning and management, and build national and local capacity for practical implementation of such planning in the field. Existing best practices and approaches will be replicated at a wider scale within selected representative districts.



30. Even though there exist isolated efforts to demonstrate sustainable rangeland and forestry management in arid areas of Uzbekistan, widespread adoption is not taking place mainly because the scale of these efforts has been too limited and the policy, legal, and institutional environment is not supportive. There is a need to adjust policy to make it clear that the objective of the state is to empower local land users (to be addressed by Component 2 of the project), secondly to modify legal and institutional frameworks accordingly (to be addressed by Component 2 of the project), and thirdly to demonstrate success of sustainable forest and rangeland management in the field (to be addressed by Components 1 of the project). Each of these 3 steps is dependent on the other i.e. to get acceptance for policy changes new approaches will have to be proven first at a field level.

31. Two pilot districts, where demonstrations are to take place, are Farish Distict located in Djizak province, and Romitan district in Bukhara province. These districts were provisionally selected on the basis of the following reasoning: Firstly, they are representative of two of the main arid, non-irrigated, landscape areas which are the focus of the project and which cover the majority of Uzbekistan’s territory i.e. desert (Romitan district in the Kyzylkum desert) and steppe and foothills (Farish district); secondly, these two districts are representative of the typical socio-economic and land use situation of these two landscapes – Romitan contains large quasi-state livestock (Karakul sheep) farms and has very low population, while Farish has a much higher population and a much larger percentage of livestock and land use in the hands of the non-state sector; thirdly, UNDP and GIZ have past relevant initiatives in these two districts and thus existing on-ground knowledge, capacity and relationship with local district authorities and stakeholders which will greatly enhance implementation. On this basis the two above districts were selected but this will be further assessed and decided during the project PPG stage.

32. A comparison of the baseline scenario with the GEF Alternative scenario is presented below:

Current Practice	Alternative to be put in place by the project	Selected Benefits
Overgrazing – exceeding carrying capacity by 5 times resulting in increased erosion. – erosion resulting in formation of moving sands and dust storms in desert and semi-	Improved pasture management: - Rotational grazing to maintain pasture quality practiced by both shirkats and dekhans / households; - Decrease grazing rate of moderately degraded pastures ; - Increased fodder availability allows reduced use of autumn and winter pastures - Increased investments in repair and maintenance of key pasture use infrastructure (wells) allows greater	Pasture restoration and sustained use: - Decrease in moving sand and / or other erosion impacts (baseline level to be determined in preparation stage) - Improved vegetation cover of pastures (baseline tbd at preparation stage) - Reduced dust storms, mud slides and other such events (baseline tbd at preparation stage).

Current Practice	Alternative to be put in place by the project	Selected Benefits
deserts, topsoil loss and mudslides in mountains causing large damages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flock mobility - Positive economic incentives for sound pasture management by shirkats. - Improved land tenure arrangements for both shirkat and dekhans / households encourages long term sustainable pasture management - Restoration: Set aside and sowing with more productive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced Carbon emissions from above and below ground (estimates tbd during preparation state)
Felling for fuel wood; overgrazing in forest territories; limited and inefficient investments in forestry	<p>Sustainable forest management practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improved restoration and erosion control techniques widely applied - increased investment through widespread cooperative (joint) management best practices with local communities and private sector - better regulated and managed grazing in forest territories; - wood collecting pressures reduced; 	<p>Forest territories restored and sustainably used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decrease in moving sand and / or other erosion impacts (baseline level to be determined in preparation stage) - Avoiding emissions from forest degradation and Carbon on sequestration through Forest restoration (estimates tbd at preparation stage) - Increase in forest cover (target will be determined during the preparation stage)
Little systematic integration of land use planning at district level leads to pressures from competing resource use and missed opportunity for synergies.	<p>Improved integration of District level land use planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District authorities undertake systematic and integrated long term resource use planning - Land use best practices are applied across sectors <p>Synergies and integrated management approaches are applied across different land use sectors</p>	<p>Competitive pressures between land uses in desert, semi-deserts and mountain landscapes reduced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decrease in grazing pressure in forestry territories - Improved forest restoration in non-forest territories - Reduced fuel wood collecting pressure in forest and pasture. - Increased economic productivity of natural resource users

33. The project will consist of the following interlinked and interdependent components which address the barriers previously described:
34. Component 1 - Promising best practices on sustainable rangeland and forestry management and INRM planning implemented in target districts of Uzbekistan: As discussed previously there exist within Uzbekistan, and the region, a variety of land use good practices (joint forest management, pasture use commissions/groups, etc) applicable to desert, semi-deserts and mountain landscapes in the country which have shown promise. Some examples of such practices in the context of pasture land use include: long term pasture user rights for local populations, introduction of mechanisms for collaborative pasture use, capacity of communities and larger semi-state livestock farms strengthened in regard to applying grazing good practice (carrying capacity, grazing rates, rotation, etc), improved distribution and incentive for fodder production, joint state/private veterinary services, mid to long term strategic planning by large quasi-state livestock farms to improve economic viability and ensure investments (such as wells) necessary for sound management, simplified monitoring as basis for better regulation, more appropriate and applicable normative regulations, improved capacity and institutional clarity of regulatory bodies at district level to enforce land use norms, appropriate and pragmatic mix of financial and administrative penalties and incentives for regulating pasture land use. In the forestry land use context examples include: provision of secure long term user rights of forestry land and biodiversity resources by local population and adjusted incentives to ensure interest of local population in their sustained management (i.e. joint forestry management, community-based forest management), legal and administrative adjustments to allow and incentivize private forestry and biodiversity use, formalized systems for fuel wood planning and distribution, community and relevant state authority collaboration to address priority local environmental threats (to control / reduce / avoid economic damage from moving sands, gulying, land/mud slides, water catchment zones, etc), collaborative planning for local water catchment zones in arid mountains, etc.
35. However, the limited scope of these practices to date means there is little practical experience or know-how regarding their application. This is a significant practical barrier to their up-scaling and widespread application and thus the first outcome of this component is aimed at addressing this know-how gap. The expected outcome is “Application and up-scaling of promising sustainable INRM best practices at district levels (two districts to be selected in Djizakh and Bukhara provinces), and experience for further national replication gained”.
36. Up-scaling and dissemination will be achieved both through immediate and long term mechanisms. Immediate mechanisms will include the careful documentation of results and development of pragmatic replication materials, which will then be disseminated to key stakeholders through a systematic set of national, regional and local dissemination events, through the

media (for example thematic radio programmes aimed at rural audiences), and via the internet. Long term mechanisms will include a) field experience from this component being feed into the process of reforming the legal, institutional and policy framework, and the development of more integrated district level land use planning (see below), b) lessons and experience being fed into the long term technical and vocational training reforms which form a key aspect of the project capacity building efforts (Output 2.2.3).

37. The second expected outcome from this component is the development and initial implementation of 2 district level integrated land use management plans based on replicated best practices more widely tested as discussed above. In order to ensure that this is a locally driven process and that these plans have full ownership by all the district level stakeholders, the project will first undertake a process of building understanding about the benefits such planning can bring and the best means and approaches for under taking such planning. In particular this will involve the introduction of participatory approaches new to local authorities that will ensure full participation of key stakeholders and public. These include bottom-up land use planning processes that directly involve actual land users in the process of defining mid to long term land use goals and ensure that their inputs, agreement and role in implementation is clearly defined and transparent. The project will then provide a mainly facilitator role in the process of the actual plan development in order to ensure it has the required ownership (i.e. that actual land users, local authorities, and local representatives of ministries have been fully consulted and have given consensual support). Though this may be a more difficult approach than leading the process it is important in terms of building real consensus and commitment to practical implementation. Finally, the project will provide strategic support to the district stakeholders to initiate practical implementation of the plans and to build the experience within them and the public necessary to bridge the inevitable gaps between planning and reality.
38. Component 2 - An enabling cross-sector environment and in-country capacity (at system, institutional and individual levels) for applying integrated landscape management in arid mountain, semi-desert and desert areas of Uzbekistan: This component is targeted at addressing the issues and constraints described under Barrier 1 and knowledge management activities. This will be achieved through activities and outputs aimed at having the following three outcomes:
39. Firstly, an improved and better integrated policy, legal, and institutional framework for applying sustainable and better integrated land use management in arid mountain, desert and semi-desert landscapes of Uzbekistan. This will create a suitable enabling environment crucial for practical activities at the field level to succeed and for them to be adopted by district level authorities and land users.
40. Secondly, an adequate technical and managerial capacity at all levels to effectively develop and apply INRM approaches within policies, legislation and field operations. This is necessary in order to ensure the long term sustainable application of better land use practices, national policy and adaptive management. A better legal, institutional and policy framework alone will not have any benefits unless there is the technical and managerial capacity to see it applied and put into practice. To achieve such an improvement in sustainable land use capacity will require both a short term and a long term approach: firstly, to build adequate immediate capacity to initiate change, and secondly to help establish mechanisms that ensure the longer term development of relevant national capacity to continue to develop the sustainable management of arid desert, semi-deserts and mountain landscapes in the long term.
41. Finally, a compilation, processing, and dissemination of knowledge about integrated natural resources use planning with the aim to systematically bring together the results of the project and from them develop materials and tools which will provide a solid basis for national replication. The *expected outcome is therefore that* “information and practical guidelines on INRM technologies and good practices, based on the project experience, are available and improve opportunities for national replication”. Specific outputs include: Guidelines on good practices for sustainable natural resources management are available, based on practical experience gained under Component 1; The methodology for carrying out Integrated Land Use Planning (ILUP) developed under Outcome 1.2 has been documented, published and disseminated to facilitate replication; Mechanisms, such as district level resource and professional training centres, and the integration of materials into long-term vocational and academic training curricula programmes at professional colleges, lyceums, and universities (see Outputs 2.2.2, 2.2.3) are in place to ensure the practical dissemination and application of land use best practices and the ILUP methodology, utilizing the experience and methods developed under the CACILM.
42. The *primary global benefits* will be generated in terms of reduction and reversal in land degradation of arid areas in Uzbekistan (particularly pasture land and forestry), thereby increasing soil carbon stocks and soil organic matter; carbon sequestration; decreasing soil erosion, landslides incidence and soil loss; reduction of sediment loads to rivers and streams, as well as siltation and damage to downstream water reservoirs. *Secondary global benefits* will be generated for biodiversity conservation through improved conservation prospects of globally important species and habitats harbored in arid mountain, desert and semi-desert areas affected by land degradation.

B.3. DESCRIBE THE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT, INCLUDING GENDER DIMENSIONS:

43. The majority of the population lives in rural areas and over 80% of the country is arid with limited environmental and livelihood security. Within such areas the main livelihood options and land use opportunities are related to pasture, forestry

and biodiversity use. These are the areas that the project is targeting and thus the potential impact of the project on the socio-economic prosperity of rural Uzbekistan could be profoundly beneficial. It is very roughly estimated that about 10 million people living in arid and mountain landscapes would have their livelihoods made more secure if the project successfully achieves its outcomes, and the food security of the remaining population of the country (total population is about 28 million) would be improved. Due to the past highly centralized soviet managed economy in which all agricultural land was under state management, there is little recognition (particularly in arid and mountain landscapes which have not received the same levels of reforms as irrigated land use) of the role local household and private land users have to more productively use resources. Currently for example there is no recognition of household livestock owners as land users (although in many areas they own the majority of livestock) and little involvement of local communities in forestry. Unleashing the economic and productivity potential of rural populations by giving them secure rights to use pasture or forest lands, and by ensuring the state shares the benefits of that use sufficiently to provide adequate incentive to manage land productively and sustainably, could radically improve investments, productivity and the economy of arid and mountainous landscape areas. The pilot efforts to test joint forest management approaches clearly demonstrate that by recognizing the role local populations can play in managing land, and by adjusting the tenure and sharing of generated benefits (between state and local households) sufficient incentives can be put in place that bring about a significant investments by land users and real benefits that contribute positively to both the rural economy and state institutions budgets. Additional financial instruments such as tax and rent windows for those who make investments towards sustainable land use will also be tested and assessed to see what practical role they might play in increasing incentives towards sustainable use.

44. The benefits for rural communities of changes in tenure and user rights, access to state land, and introduction of sound land use management are considerable, both in direct economic terms and in terms of long term livelihood security. For example, estimates from the pilot joint forest management activities in Farish district indicated that households renting 2 or 3 ha of forestry land could, after 10 years, be generating annually up to USD 6,000 additional household income (i.e. about 3 times the average annual salary in Uzbekistan in 2010). This is in addition to the environmental economic benefits, which were not valued in the study. The potential economic impact of bringing more pasture into sustainable use, plus the more productive use of currently used pasture, will bring even greater benefits, both to the overall rural economy and the state. For example, provisional estimates from the UNDP/GEF SLM project suggest that improved grazing practices tested in project sites increases income per head of livestock by about 32%. A shift from “karakul” pelt to meat production in desert pasture areas (which is current official policy) would increase incomes per sheep by over 4 times (i.e. by about USD 36 / sheep) without incurring other economic or environmental costs.

Conversely, the potential impact of not undertaking the reforms and activities proposed by the project could be profoundly negative as further environmental degradation and land productivity declines would reduce livelihood options and increase vulnerability to short term economic shocks and longer term difficulties to adapt to a changing climate. Apart from livelihoods another important economic factor for most rural households, and one that relates particularly to women, is energy for cooking and heating. In large percentages of households this is primarily from biomass sources which have negative aspects not just in terms of deforestation, but also in terms of economic cost to households, and in terms of time, labor and health costs for the main users (women). The project will try to address issues related to both availability of fuel wood, efficiency of use and viable alternatives which should have significant socio-economic impacts and benefits, particularly for women. At a national scale the absence of concerted actions to avoid or redress land degradation of the majority of land use areas has significant implications for food production (particularly meat), productivity of sustainable economic activities such as karakul pelts and forest products, and economic costs of addressing environment related natural disasters such as landslides, moving sands and flooding.

B.4. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, AND MEASURES THAT ADDRESS THESE RISKS:

Risk	Level	Mitigation
Difficulty in ensuring enabling legal and institutional framework is modified adequately or in a timely manner	M	Inevitably, the fundamental changes in the roles of the state under a reformed pasture management, forestry and biodiversity utilization system will be difficult unless there is clear political understanding of the need to make such changes, and full commitment to making them. To some extent this understanding and commitment already has been built. However, in order to further mitigate this risk the project will undertake dedicated and carefully targeted awareness and capacity building at the outset of the project.
Building of sufficient capacity and practical know-how within essential state institutions and local authorities will take too long to allow project sustainability	L / M	One of the main lessons learned by UNDP and other development partners in Central Asia in the last 15 years is that it is harder, and takes longer, to change and reform existing institutions and mindsets than it does to build them from scratch. This has been a clear lesson from most of UNDP and other development actors’ initiatives in the area. Thus it is of paramount importance that in the project development phase a realistic timeframe for the systematic implementation of the various project activities is articulated and that expected outputs realistically reflect what past experience has proven feasible.
Engaging local stakeholders contains some risk in the context of existing mainly centralized approaches.	M	In seeking a collaborative management system the project is building on some existing local authorities experience (particularly in Djizak) and their existing responsibilities, backed up by existing policies that do open the door for more local engagement and participation. The project will seek to actively cooperate with local municipalities- that are composed of community representatives and are responsible for some aspects of

Risk	Level	Mitigation
		land management such as leasing pasture lands, collection of property and land related taxes and ensuring effective management of revenues. The Forestry Agency (within Ministry of Agriculture) has committed within its National Forestry programme to engage local communities and stakeholders in forest management and this is a positive development indicative of the government's opening up to new approaches involving community-based management.
Disagreements between user groups and the main beneficiaries of current resource use system	M	The establishment of new pasture, forestry and biodiversity user rights will inevitably cause some initial misunderstandings and potential disagreements. National and local state institutions and rural population have deeply ingrained understanding of such issues based on 60 years of soviet practice. Likewise communities themselves lack experience of collaboration both within and with each other. The project design incorporated at each level steps and changes that in total should mitigate this threat. Clear policy direction and institutional legal reforms will provide the appropriate environment, capacity strengthening will change existing mindsets, and on ground practical testing of approaches and good practice will put in place the necessary mechanisms for dispute resolution.
Climate vulnerability risks, such as seasonal drought in semi-desert areas.	M	During 2011-2014 UNDP will implement "Climate Risk Management in Uzbekistan" project, which is part of the on-going multi-country UNDP project "Central Asian Multi-Country Programme on Climate Risk Management (CA-CRM)". Based on the Cabinet of Ministers approval the project joins a number of relevant stakeholders to reduce climate-related disasters, initiate adaptation to climate change, and integrate climate risk management into the development policies and strategies of Uzbekistan at the national, sub-national and local levels. Moreover, one of the project focus areas includes climate-related disaster management with a particular focus on droughts.
New threats could emerge (such as insect infestations, disease caused by climate change, reduced water availability, etc.), or existing threats could increase beyond the projected levels (such as rate of population increase).	M	The project is designed to respond flexibly to threats and seeks to put in place processes and tools that will enable stakeholders to adapt SLM practices and practical management to the on ground situation. In short, it will build the adaptability of all levels (from land users, local authorities, up to national institutions) to respond to changing circumstances and threats.

B.5. KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT:

45. Stakeholders in the project include relevant institutions and individuals at all levels from national Ministries, regional and district governments, down to pastoralist farmers and rural communities. Key stakeholders and their roles differ in accordance with the different components of the project as they focus on addressing different barriers and issues within the planning and landscape management hierarchy. Component 1 of the project (The wider adoption of relevant best practices on integrated rangeland and forestry sectors and preparation of district level integrated land use planning within a representative sample of arid mountain, semi-desert and desert landscapes in Uzbekistan) mainly involves district stakeholders directly involved in land use i.e. forestry enterprises, shirkats, private farmers, local self-governing structures, and, most important of all, local communities and individual households. Local representatives of key national institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture, State Committee for Land Resources and Cadastre, State Committee for Nature Protection and the District Authorities will also be important players. It is critical that national institutions are fully supportive if district level planning is to work and for ensuring that best practices become common practice. Component 2 of the project (Enabling cross-sector environment and Knowledge management for integrated landscape management in arid mountain, semi-desert and desert areas of Uzbekistan) involves mainly stakeholders at the higher national level, including Ministry of Agriculture (specifically departments dealing with livestock, pasture and forestry), the State Committee of Land Resources and Cadastre, and the Karakul Sheep Association. Key stakeholders involved in the development of national policy such as the Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Finance and relevant departments of Cabinet of Ministers will also be important. Additionally, the inputs and feedback of practical management realities experienced by stakeholders in the field, such as the oblast and district authorities and the land users themselves (shirkats, forestry enterprises, farmers, communities, households) need to feed into the development of the national legal, policy and institutional environment.

B.6. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

46. The project falls under and is in conformity with the aims and priorities of the GEF regional SLM Initiative titled "Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management" (CACILM). Experiences and lessons learned will be actively incorporated from existing CACILM projects and activities, both in Uzbekistan, and the region. The project will build on and help consolidate a number of ongoing initiatives by the government and donor community in this context. In particularly the project will draw on the experiences and lessons learned by the GEF/UNDP SLM Medium Size project "Achieving Ecosystem Stability on degraded land in Karakalpakstan and the Kyzylkum Desert", the GIZ project on participatory pasture management in Farish Rayon, Jizzakh Oblast (both of which fall under the CACILM umbrella) and CACILM projects on livestock and pasture management in neighboring countries (particularly Kyrgyzstan). The results of these initial small/short duration projects, particularly in regard to understanding the key policy, legal and institutional barriers to effective on-ground land use, and the best practical approaches to achieving better land use management at field level, forms a crucial basis and

experience upon which this project has been designed, and on which it can further build. In particular the knowledge and experience gained by the GEF/UNDP SLM Medium Size project in regards to introducing sound rotational pasture practices, community pasture user commissions, pasture modeling and decision-support tools, integrated local level land use planning appropriate in the Uzbekistan context, etc. will be invaluable. Additional useful experience will be derived from the GEF/UNDP Projects “Establishing Nuratau Kyzylkum Biosphere Reserve as a Model for Conservation in Uzbekistan” and “Conservation of Tugai Forest and Strengthening Protected Areas System in the Amu Darya Delta of Karakalpakstan”. The project will also utilize relevant rural development experience and capacities of other UNDP projects in the country, including the following projects: “Support in enhancing of Local Governance System and Participatory Governance in Uzbekistan”, “Integrated Water Management and Water Efficiency Plan for Zarafshan River Basin”, “Capacity Building of the National Irrigated Land Reclamation Fund”, “Supporting Uzbekistan in transition to a low-emission development path”, and “Support to Innovation Policy and Technology Transfer”. Efforts in capacity building and knowledge management (component 2) are interconnected with the GEF/UNDP regional project on capacity building for sustainable land management. Coordination with this project will take place through the CACILM structures. A range of other development actors, in terms of land use, are important including FAO, ICARDA and others, and efforts to integrate and ensure coordination with them will be pursued during project development.

47. UNDP and GIZ have had a long and productive partnership in the context of the CACILM programme and, with the departure of ADB from the initiative, are the main international contributors to its implementation. Co-operation has ranged from co-management of projects (such as the CACILM Multi Country Capacity Building project) to technical exchange and collaboration (UNDP SLM projects in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan with relevant GIZ projects/initiatives such as their pasture management pilot projects in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, Pamir Natural Resources project in Tajikistan, etc). In the context of this specific project, GIZ’s experience and future activity on pasture management, within one of the selected pilot districts will be a key contribution to the achievement of the component 1 outcomes. GIZ will also be on the Steering Committee of this project and play an important role in the project implementation.
48. The State Committee for Land Resources and Geo Cadastre is mandated by the government to oversee and seek the improvement of land use in Uzbekistan (see background sections of the document). In particular under this institution, a Coordinating Council, responsible for implementation and monitoring of the National Program for Land Monitoring in Uzbekistan was established from relevant representatives of more than 15 ministries and departments. For this reason it has been selected by the government as the most suitable institution to execute and coordinate the implementation of this project in close partnership with all other government agencies responsible for land use planning.

C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY’S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

49. The project fully complies with the comparative advantages of UNDP in the GEF Agencies matrix approved by the GEF Council. UNDP is a strong partner in CACILM and is leading the implementation of 5 national projects in all Central Asian countries and one regional project on SLM Capacity Building. Nationally, UNDP and the Government have worked since 1993 on numerous environmental and energy initiatives including the National Capacity Self-Assessment, the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, Land Degradation Action Plan, and renewable energy issues. UNDP is currently supporting the government to implement 4 GEF financed projects (2 biodiversity, one SLM, and one on renewable energy).

C.1. INDICATE THE CO-FINANCING AMOUNT THE GEF AGENCY IS BRINGING TO THE PROJECT:

50. UNDP has brokered approximately US\$ 8.28 million for this project from multiple sources, to be confirmed during further project preparation. This includes a cash US\$ 700,000 allocation from UNDP core resources. UNDP will also provide in-kind through its broader economic and governance portfolio and through the range of technical staff working in the environmental field.

C.2. HOW DOES THE PROJECT FIT INTO THE GEF AGENCY’S PROGRAM (REFLECTED IN DOCUMENTS SUCH AS UNDAF, CAS, ETC.) AND STAFF CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW UP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

51. In the preparation of UNDAF, sustainable natural resources management has been recognized as a high priority area for UN support to the Government. The project fits the signed 2010-2015 UNDAF and contributes to the achievement of UNDP Outcome 3 – “Principles of sustainable development integrated into country policies and programs: Increased availability of institutional products and services for the conservation and sustainable and equitable use of natural and cultural resources”, which targets “Number of institutional innovations/changes towards more sustainable resource use increased in sectors of the national economy related to the resource use”.
52. The UNDP Country Office will assign six staff members to be responsible for the overall management and supervision of project implementation. From the programme side, the project will be under the overall supervision of the Deputy Resident Representative and Head of the Environment and Energy Unit, who has extensive experience in the environmental field and project management, mostly dealing with issues of sustainable natural resources management in Uzbekistan. Direct support

will be provided by an Environment Programme Associate and Environment Specialists with at least 7 years of experience in project management and environmental issues in Uzbekistan. Implementation support on Human Resources, Logistics, Procurement and Finance will be provided by four staff members – Head of Finance Unit, Admin/Logistics Associate, Procurement Officer and HR Associate.


PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT AND GEF AGENCY:

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE
Mr. Sergey Myagkov	Deputy Director	Center for Hydro-meteorological Services under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan	12/08/2011

B. GEF AGENCY CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, name	Signature	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Yannick Glemarec, UNDP Executive Coordinator, UNDP-GEF		October 24, 2011	Mr. Vladimir Mamaev	+421-2-59-337-267	Vladimir.mamaev@undp.org