



GEF-6 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey ('CACILM2')			
Country(ies):	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Turkey	GEF Project ID: ¹	9094
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	635622
Other Executing Partner(s):		Submission Date:	22 February 2017
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Areas	Project Duration (Months)	60
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of Parent Program	[if applicable]	Agency Fee (\$)	978,719

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
LD-1 Program 1 (select) (select)	Agro-ecological intensification	GEFTF	2,000,000	12,215,749
LD-1 Program 2 (select) (select)	SLM for climate-smart agriculture	GEFTF	2,000,000	12,225,749
LD-3 Program 4 (select) (select)	Scaling up SLM through the landscape approach	GEFTF	1,672,458	9,982,600
LD-4 Program 5 (select) (select)	Mainstreaming SLM in development	GEFTF	1,801,250	10,544,174
(select) CCM-2 Program 4 (select)	Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest, and other land use, reduce emissions from land degradation, and support climate smart agriculture	GEFTF	3,400,951	19,916,774
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
Total project costs			10,874,659	64,885,046

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

¹ Project ID number remains the same as the assigned PIF number.

² When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#) and [CBIT programming directions](#). GEF6 CEO Endorsement /Approval Template-August2016

Project Objective: To scale up integrated natural resources management (INRM) in drought prone and salt affected agricultural production landscapes in the Central Asian countries and Turkey						
Project Components/ Programs	Financing Type³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
1. Multi-country collaboration and partnership to foster the implementation of cost-effective INRM, focusing on drought-prone and salt-affected production landscapes	TA	<p>1.1. Enhanced knowledge of the costs of land degradation and benefits of INRM, drought preparedness and biosaline agriculture to national economies and the region as a whole informs policy and investment decisions at all levels, including NAP processes</p> <p>1.2. Enhanced interstate dialogue, multi-country collaboration and information sharing to promote investment for INRM scaling up</p>	<p>1.1.1 Harmonized approach across countries for valuation of ecosystem services at various scales</p> <p>1.1.2 Identification of incentives to scale up INRM (e.g. PES schemes)</p> <p>1.2.1 Multi-country platform for knowledge consolidation and harmonization on INRM to support national advisory and climate information services, including early warning systems</p> <p>1.2.2 Multi-scale and participatory approaches in place for assessing land degradation and SLM trends, and for assessing/monitoring impacts of management practices on ecosystem services, biodiversity, and livelihoods (vulnerability)</p> <p>1.2.3. Targeted knowledge and communication products prepared for wide dissemination on the multiple benefits of INRM in selected production landscapes</p>	GEFTF	1,242,817	5,725,958

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.
GEF6 CEO Endorsement /Approval Template-August2016

3.Upscaling of climate-smart agricultural practices in drought-prone and/or salt-affected production landscapes	Inv	3.1. Upscaling of a proactive drought risk management (DRM) approach and innovative integrated natural resources management (INRM) technologies in selected production landscapes / land use systems (e.g. pastoral, agro-sylvo-pastoral, tree-based, irrigated, rainfed, home gardens)	<p>3.1.1 At least 2 multistakeholder land-use plans for selected production landscapes per country</p> <p>3.1.2 At least 2 specialized institutions / advisory service providers per country with increased capacities to enhance skills of stakeholders for wide adoption of proactive risk management approach and drought mitigation technologies</p> <p>3.1.3 Upscaling of 5-6 innovative drought mitigation technologies in selected production landscapes on 239,500 ha of land (at least 15 drought-tolerant species and 5 habitats, 7.4 million tCO₂e captured / avoided, 15 % crop water productivity / irrigation efficiency)</p> <p>3.2.1 Guidelines for development of catchment salinity management plans developed and piloted in each country for sustainable and biodiverse aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems</p> <p>3.2.2 At least 2 specialized institutions / advisory service providers per country with increased capacities to enhance skills of stakeholders for wide adoption of salinity mitigation approaches and technologies</p> <p>3.2.3.Upscaling of 5-6 best practices for</p>	GEFTF	5,378,470	31,632,523
---	-----	---	---	-------	-----------	------------

			combating salinization, while ensuring biodiversity conservation and sustainable use on 95,500 ha of land (at least 15 salt-tolerant species, 1.2 million tCO2e captured / avoided, 15% crop water productivity / irrigation efficiency			
4. Monitoring and evaluation	TA	4.1. Project implementation based on adaptive results-based management, monitoring, and reporting for enhanced impact and visibility	4.1.1 M&E system established to measure project progress and impacts in terms of multiple global environmental benefits (GEBs), social and economic benefits. 4.1.2 Midterm and terminal evaluations carried out and reports available	(select)	1,583,012	4,611,094
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
Subtotal					10,356,815	59,223,678
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴				(select)	517,844	5,661,368
Total project costs					10,874,659	64,885,046

C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Please include evidence for co-financing for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Recipient Government	Government of Kazakhstan	In-kind	16,640,546
Recipient Government	Government of Kyrgyz Republic	In-kind	0
Recipient Government	Government of Tajikistan	In-kind	1,465,000
Recipient Government	Government of Turkey	In-kind	900,000
Recipient Government	Government of Turkey	Grants	1,100,000
Recipient Government	Government of Turkmenistan	Grants	6,000,000
Recipient Government	Government of Uzbekistan	Grants	23,780,000
Others	ICBA	In-kind	250,000
Others	ICBA	Grants	310,000

⁴ For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

Private Sector	Zoi	In-kind	50,000
Donor Agency	GIZ	Grants	909,500
(select)	ICARDA	In-kind	1,000,000
(select)	ICARDA	Grants	700,000
GEF Agency	FAO	Grants	11,780,000
Total Co-financing			64,885,046

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee ^{a)} (b) ²	Total (c)=a+b
FAO	GEF TF	Kazakhstan	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	900,624	81,056	981,680
FAO	GEF TF	Kazakshstan	Climate Change	(select as applicable)	900,624	81,056	981,680
FAO	GEF TF	Kyrgyz Republic	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	180,125	16,211	196,336
FAO	GEF TF	Tajikistan	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	268,846	24,196	293,042
FAO	GEF TF	Turkey	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	178,975	16,108	195,083
FAO	GEF TF	Turkmenistan	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	2,688,464	241,962	2,930,426
FAO	GEF TF	Uzbekistan	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	1,455,424	130,988	1,586,412
FAO	GEF TF	Uzbekistan	Climate Change	(select as applicable)	2,500,327	225,029	2,725,356
FAO	GEF TF	FA set-aside	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	1,801,250	162,113	1,963,363
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
Total Grant Resources					10,874,659	978,719	11,853,378

a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#)

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁵

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	<i>hectares</i>
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	<i>298254 hectares of demonstration areas</i> <i>2590770 hectares of upscaling area</i>
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	<i>Number of freshwater basins</i>
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	<i>Percent of fisheries, by volume</i>
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	<i>8.6 million tons CO_{2e} over a 20 years capitalization phase in demo areas</i>
		<i>69.7 million tons CO_{2e} over a 20 years capitalization phase in upscaling areas</i>
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	<i>metric tons</i>
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	<i>metric tons</i>
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	<i>ODP tons</i>
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries:</i>
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries:</i>

⁵ Update the applicable indicators provided at PIF stage. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period.

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? (Select)

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Fund) in Annex D.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF⁶

A.1. Project Description. Elaborate on: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area⁷ strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) [incremental/additional cost reasoning](#) and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, CBIT and [co-financing](#); 5) [global environmental benefits](#) (GEFTF) and/or [adaptation benefits](#) (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

There are no major changes with respect to the approved PIF. During project preparation, agreement was reached on the different outputs and activities that will be carried out under each component. Please see PRODOC, Section 2, pages 35 to 63. In addition, for the specific case of investment activities (i.e. Components 2 and 3), project sites were defined and specific project outputs and activities were agreed with the corresponding stakeholders (see Annex 5).

Finally, while the main structure of the log-frame was not changed, the wording of two Outputs has been modified to better reflect the activities that will be implemented to achieve the project outcomes. Components and Outcomes have remained the same. The changes are summarized in the table below:

Output as stated in approved PIF	Revised Output	Comment
1.2.2 Multi-scale and participatory approaches in place for monitoring of ecosystem services	1.2.2 Multi-scale and participatory approaches in place for assessing land degradation and SLM trends, and for assessing/monitoring impacts of management practices on ecosystem services, biodiversity, and livelihoods (vulnerability)	A preliminary inventory of knowledge platforms in use throughout the region has been included in Annex 4. New tools developed by FAO will be used to support scientific assessment of LD and SLM trends, as well as for monitoring expected impacts.
2.1.3 Participatory expert natural resources assessment and mapping (i.e. DLDD, SLM, vulnerability) for evidence-based decision-making	2.1.3: Participatory resilience assessment and mapping, and livelihood diagnostics (i.e. SHARP) to support evidence-based decision-making	Recent FAO field experiences with SHARP will be transferred to stakeholders to support decision-making.

A.2. Child Project? If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

⁶ For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF , no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question.

⁷ For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project’s consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target\(s\)](#) the project will directly contribute to achieving..

A.3. Stakeholders. Elaborate on how the key stakeholders engagement, particularly with regard to civil society organizations and indigenous peoples, is incorporated in the preparation and implementation of the project.

A large number of stakeholders were consulted during the preparation of the Project, both at regional, national and local levels, including at the Project sites (see PRODOC Annex 5). Building on CACILM-1 results and achievements, national partners welcomed the continued participation and support from international and regional organisations and initiatives, such as CAREC, GIZ, ICARDA, ICBA, SIC, UCA, WOCAT, ZOI, EASP, GWP, as well as ICSD and IFAS. The stakeholders in the table below have been identified as key actors in the Project.

The role of civil society organizations is also described in the table below. A significant amount of work in the project under Component 3 (Upscaling of climate-smart agricultural practices in drought prone and/or salt affected production landscapes) will be done through the use of civil society organizations and the private sector. At the local level, the Project is designed to enhance the capacity of communities dependent on natural resources in drylands to access new knowledge and implement best management practices. In this regard, these organizations will benefit from training (capacity building) and technology transfer, and will be used as a means to upscale appropriate technologies on the ground. For instance, under Output 3.2.1 (Guidelines for watershed/catchment salinity management plans), the project will develop training modules targeting different users, with particular attention to reaching female farmers, women’s cooperatives, NGOs that work with rural women, women’s self-help groups, and Farmer Field Schools (FFS). In addition, field level activities will support community exchange visits through e.g. Farmer Field Schools, and provide access to improved market information on value-chains.

Stakeholders	Roles in Project Implementation
Regional Institutions and Mechanisms	
Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD)	The ICSD provides the political support for the initiative at the multi-country level and will provide one of the platforms for promoting sustainable agricultural practices in the region. More specifically, it (through its Secretariat) will participate in and closely cooperate with the project’s Regional Steering Committee. It will contribute to (i) organization and coordination of the regional sustainable development and environment protection strategy for Central Asia; (ii) management of regional environment and sustainable development programs , action plans and projects; (iii) coordination of activities related to fulfilment of CA countries’ obligations related to environmental conventions and transboundary nature; (iv) support to harmonization of environmental legislation and methods; and (vi) support to regional information exchange and establishment of a regional database on environment and sustainable development.
Bioversity International	<p>Bioversity is a global research-for-development organization that delivers scientific evidence, management practices and policy options to use and safeguard agricultural biodiversity to attain global food and nutrition security, working with partners in low-income countries in different regions where agricultural biodiversity can contribute to improved nutrition, resilience, productivity and climate change adaptation. Bioversity is a member of the CGIAR Consortium and has a regional office in Central Asia.</p> <p>Bioversity will be involved in implementation of activities under component 3 related to agroforestry, distribution and multiplication of the local drought resistant species, and creation of nurseries for larger distribution of trees.</p>

Central Asia Regional Environmental Center (CAREC)	<p>Was founded by the governments of the five Central Asian countries, and the European Union and UNDP. It was created as a cooperation platform for sustainable development. The organization was vested with the authority to develop and implement the Central Asian Initiative on Sustainable Development. The EU and other international organizations supported the Centre's evolution as a regional platform for environmental cooperation.</p> <p>CAREC will support the project through the K-Link initiative.</p>
International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)	<p>Is an international, non-profit agricultural research center headquartered in Dubai. Originally focused on the problems of salinity and using saline water for irrigated agriculture, ICBA's focus has shifted to research innovations in the assessment of natural resources, climate change adaptation, crop productivity and diversification, aquaculture and bio-energy and policy analysis. It will support the project through its Central Asia office in Tashkent through support to crop diversification and use of more salt tolerant crops as well as use of halophytes in crop mixtures in areas with extreme salinization.</p>
International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)	<p>Focuses on resource-poor farmers related and their access to knowledge and new innovations related to: water harvesting – supplemental irrigation and water-saving irrigation techniques; conservation agriculture methods to reduce production costs and improve sustainability; diversification of production systems to high-value crops – horticulture, herbal and medicinal plants; integrated crop/rangeland/livestock production systems including non-traditional sources of livestock feed; and empowerment of rural women – support and training for value-added products. It will support the project through its Central Asia office in Tashkent.</p>
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	<p>IWMI is a non-profit, scientific research organization focusing on the sustainable use of water and land resources in developing countries. It is headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, with regional offices across Asia and Africa. IWMI works in partnership with governments, civil society and the private sector to develop scalable agricultural water management solutions that have a real impact on poverty reduction, food security and ecosystem health. IWMI, through its office in Uzbekistan, will support introduction of water-saving technologies in selected production landscapes and work with improving water management at demonstration sites.</p>
University of Central Asia (UCA)	<p>Is Central Asia's first regional university was founded with support from the Aga Khan Development Network. UCA's mission is to promote the social and economic development of Central Asia, particularly its mountain societies, while at the same time helping the different peoples of the region to preserve and draw upon their rich cultural traditions and heritages as assets for the future. It will support the project through its research programs and campuses in the region.</p>
National Ministries/Agencies/Groups	
Lead National Ministries/ Institutions	<p>The lead national institutions are the ministries/institutions of Agriculture and/or Water Resources (Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan); the Ministries of the Environment and/or Natural Resources (Tajikistan, Turkmenistan) and the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (Turkey).</p>
Other National ministries /Institutions	<p>These groups involved in the project are: basin water authorities, agricultural departments, irrigation and water management divisions, soils divisions or soil science societies, scientific research, monitoring, finance and economics and nature protection, etc. They have diverse roles in their respective ministerial and departmental bodies and in different countries.</p>

National Academic and educational institutions	Research, universities, training centres and other institutions that train in agriculture, INRM approach, SLM policy, regulation and innovative practices and technologies, and conduct research, in particular participatory research and transfer and dissemination of technologies with local communities, women and other local stakeholders.
Government institution responsible for issues concerning women and/or gender equality	Kazakhstan: National Commission for Women, Family and Demographic Policy Kyrgyzstan: National Council on Gender and Development Tajikistan: Committee on Women and Family Affairs Turkmenistan: Women’s Union of Turkmenistan Uzbekistan: Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan
NGOs/CSOs/Local Level Agencies	
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)	The project will work with a range of NGOs in CA including CAMP Alatoo, Sarob, Rural Training Alliance, Ecoforum, etc.
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	The number and areas of interest of the public sector is diverse. They include a host of community based organizations (CBOs) such as water users associations, pasture users associations, forestry community, watershed /catchment committees, community-based seed enterprises and small machinery entrepreneurs, women initiative groups, etc.
Local Land User / Indigenous Organizations	There is a diversity of land user organizations in the participating countries. These include agriculturalists, forests owners/users, private farmers, livestock farmers, fishing and hunting farms, local self-governing structures, households and resource-poor small farm-holder communities in the harsh agro-climatic environments of the targeted countries.
Provinces, District and Local Governments in each country	Sub-national administrative regions and rural citizens’ assemblies/councils will support the implementation of the project in their respective local government areas. They are expected to provide an enabling framework for project implementation and monitoring to be successful at the local level and sustain local results after the end of the project.
Women’s groups	Each country has a diversity of women’s groups, including: national level NGOs as Business Women’ Associations (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), with long and intensive experience of working with rural women; local civil society organizations that represent the interests of and work with rural women, women’s rural collectives and cooperatives, female farmers’ organizations and rural women’s self-help groups, teachers unions in rural areas (which have a majority female membership), microcredit organizations that target female borrowers.
Private Sector	
Private agricultural farms and enterprises	Both partners and targets of the project, private agricultural enterprises will play a crucial role both scaling up technologies on the larger scale and strengthening the provision of necessary inputs for new technologies to be spread out in the region. They will host demonstration sites, thus securing the sustainability, and will provide investments into new crop varieties or production methods, as well as into new business resulting from introduction of non-traditional crops.

A.4. *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*. Elaborate on how gender equality and women's empowerment issues are mainstreamed into the project implementation and monitoring, taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.

Project preparation was supported by FAO's gender specialist for the region and therefore the resulting PRODOC is in line with FAO's Gender Policy and its Environmental and Social Standards. Agriculture and the rural sector in general play an important role in the economy of the Central Asian countries for sustainable poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, and national economic growth. Despite its large land surface, Central Asia makes up only 2 percent of the world's arable land. Compared to the world share of the rural population at 49 percent, Central Asia has a greater proportion at 58 percent. Although agriculture accounts for a relatively small portion of the GDP in each Central Asian country, it remains a major employer for the rural population (for example, in Kyrgyzstan, around a third of the working population is employed in the agricultural sector; the figure is over 40 percent in Tajikistan).

Women in Central Asia play an essential role in agricultural production and make up a substantial part of the agricultural labour force. In some countries, agriculture is the only labour market available to rural women and they are represented in greater numbers than women working in other sectors. However, despite women's important contributions to agriculture, they face a number of disadvantages as compared to men. Rural women typically work as unpaid family workers, performing tasks both within their households and on family farms or household plots. Their contribution is invisible in official statistics and is often undervalued by women themselves as they perceive it as continuation of their 'natural' role. Women also work as hired employees on smallholder farms, but are often paid only in-kind for their labour (for example, in by-products from agricultural production).

In part due to high levels of male labour migration from Central Asia, a large number of women who remain behind have become de facto household heads and farm managers, and yet they generally lack the legal status of farm owners (farms, livestock and agricultural equipment are typically registered to male family members). While women undertake much of the day-to-day farm work, they are generally not recognized as the key decision-makers and often have very limited access to information and knowledge concerning farming practices. The project will address these challenges and contribute to four of the five objectives of the FAO gender policy:

1. Women participate equally with men as decision-makers in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programs.
2. Women and men have equal access to and control over decent employment and income, land and other productive resources
3. Women and men have equal access to goods and services for agricultural development and to markets
4. Women's work burden is reduced by 20% through improved technologies, services and infrastructure

The project is also consistent with the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming (PL/SD/02. May 1, 2012). As noted in the attached work plan, a full gender analysis will be carried out during the project inception phase to reveal key gender disparities in access to critical resources, knowledge, opportunities and markets. Gender analysis will also inform specific recommendations and action for how to mainstream gender in planned interventions, to ensure that women and men benefit equally from the overall project, and gender-specific interventions, where necessary. Preliminary and rapid gender analysis has suggested the following actions and interventions that will be expanded during project implementation:

- Special actions will be taken to ensure the inclusion of women who face particular disadvantages (such as women in female-headed households) among project beneficiaries.
- Selection of agricultural production landscapes/land use systems include home gardens to ensure potential impacts of the project on household food security/nutrition and increase women's access to knowledge.

- Gender will be mainstreamed in the management arrangements of the project (for example, by introducing gender competency requirement into the TORs of the project personnel; inviting qualified female candidates; recruiting specialized staff with gender expertise; providing initial sensitization and awareness training at the project orientation stage, etc.) to advance women’s equal voice and representation in relevant institutions engaged with project preparation and ensure gender sensitivity and responsiveness.
- Multi-country collaborative work will include partnerships with regional, national and local organizations that are engaged in work to support rural women, through policy-making or direct support (Component 1).
- Efforts will be made to bridge the gap between existing national gender equality policy and strategy and policy, legal and institutional frameworks on INRM through an approach to resilience that takes gender differences into consideration (Component 2).
- During the process of up-scaling climate-smart agricultural practices, attention will be given to ensuring women’s equal participation in local planning processes, the selection of innovative approaches that are accessible to women as well as men, and measures to remove any impediments that female farmers may face in accessing advisory and extension services (Component 3).
- Gender sensitive indicators have been chosen for each project outcome/outputs and fully incorporated into the M&E system (Component 4).

A.5 *Risk*. Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Project Risks are discussed in section 3.B of the PRODOC (pg. 65-67). The Project's potential risks, the risk rating and the mitigation strategy are provided in the table below as well as in the PRODOC, Annex 7 (pg. 121-123).

Risk	Level	Mitigation measure
1. No alignment of views and priorities between institutions and the main beneficiaries of current land and water resource use systems, with limited political support to advance women’s and men’s equal voice and access to resources and services in rural areas	Low	The establishment of mechanisms for INRM planning and SLM scaling up that incorporating the full range of land-use trade-offs, will inevitably reveal some initial divergence of views. FAO will provide a neutral and distributed platform for multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral dialogue with project partners, e.g. FAOSEC, ICBA, ICARDA, CAREC and CACILM-2, to reach consensus on key issues, and provide guidelines, extension materials, etc. The enabling environment for INRM will be strengthened to promote joint decision making across sectors. It will facilitate cooperation between national institutions and local communities, and strengthen the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of institutions to adopt gender-sensitive approaches and promote gender-sensitive technologies.

Risk	Level	Mitigation measure
2. Building of sufficient capacity and capability of existing national and regional institutions and local authorities will take too long to allow project sustainability	Low/ Medium	Need for strengthening cross-sectoral coordination and institutional capacity have been revealed in the CACILM and other projects in Central Asia for the last ten years. A novel approach to sharing of information and knowledge will be therefore promoted that will not require that a central hub be maintained, but will promote the building of networked institutional memories and INRM CoPs.
4. The catalytic effect of the project on SLM upscaling and investments at regional and national level is limited	Low	Linking a decentralized approach to multi-stakeholder INRM and SLM use plans and with incentive mechanisms, such as more inclusive value chains, PES schemes, etc. can catalyze investments from multiple sources, including local communities, national governments, NGOs, and international institutions.
5. Climate change impacts on land resources and management systems makes land degradation assessment and INRM/SLM Best Practices knowledge platforms quickly outdated.	Low	Climate change resilience measures will be included in national integrated NRM and SLM scaling up plans in terms of multi-criteria selection of SLM best practices for scaling up in each country using the RAPTA approach (component 2) complemented with the SHARP tool at the field and community level. In addition, the KM platform will be based on knowledge sharing and orchestration of existing platforms using new IT for enhancing cooperation and developing organizational capacities. The approach does not require the maintenance of a central knowledge hub, and the KM platform will be automatically updated as key partners gather and store new knowledge in their respective systems.

A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination. Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** will be the GEF Agency responsible for supervision and provision of technical guidance during project implementation. In addition, FAO will act as financial and operational Executing Agency, and will deliver procurement and contracting services to the project using FAO rules and procedures, as well as financial services to manage GEF resources through an agreement with the government.

Main project partners: The national lead institutions in the following table will be the centre of the project's work and operations as described below. They will be the lead government counterpart and the Project Executing Partners in close consultation with other line ministries, and district/oblast governments participating in field activities. As such, they will have lead technical responsibility for the project, with FAO providing administrative and procurement support to them.

Lead national institutions for CACILM-2.

Country	Lead institution
Republic of Kazakhstan	Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Energy
Kyrgyz Republic	Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation (MAR)
Republic of Tajikistan	Committee of Environmental Protection
Republic of Turkey	Ministry of forestry and water resources Ministry of food, agriculture and livestock
Turkmenistan	State Committee of Environment Protection and Land Resources
Republic of Uzbekistan	Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources Centre of Hydro-meteorological Services under the Cabinet of Ministers

The national lead institutions will carry out their responsibilities to support Project execution through the **National Project Coordinator (NPC)**. The NPC will be a senior staff member designated by the national lead institutions, and will be the lead person responsible for ensuring smooth execution of the project on behalf of the Government for each country. The NPC is not financed by the Project. The NPC is responsible to the Government for the successful implementation of the Project and the Project's impacts. The duties of the NPC include (i) acting as the responsible focal point at the political and policy level within the national lead institutions, and (ii) ensuring all necessary support input from Government personnel are provided by national lead institutions to enable the project to implement all of the proposed component activities; and (iii) reviewing and providing input to annual work plans and budgets in consultation/collaboration with the FAO representative; (iv) and to participate in the selection of recruitment of consultants. The Terms of Reference for the NPC can be found in Annex 5.

Regional CACILM Council (RCC): The RCC will act as the project steering committee and will be comprised of the GEF Focal Points and UNCCD Focal Points from all five CA countries and Turkey as well as FAO, represented by the FAO Lead Technical Officer. The Steering Committee may invite representatives from other organizations such as GIZ, ICARDA, ICBA, CAREC, WOCAT and UCA, among others, to participate in the meetings. The RCC will provide policy guidance, review results-based Annual Work Plans and Budgets and provide recommendations for resolving any constraints faced by the project. The RCC will be critical to ensuring:

- Close linkages between the Project and other ongoing projects and programmes relevant to the project;
- Sustainability of key Project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication; and,
- Effective coordination of other Government and regional partners work under this Project.

CACILM Secretariat: The CACILM Secretariat will function as the project coordination unit. The CACILM Secretariat will be based in Almaty, Kazakhstan, as agreed during the validation workshop carried out in October 2016. It will also act as secretariat to the RCC. The CACILM Secretariat will consist of the Regional Project Management Unit (PMU), the National Coordination Units, and the National CACILM Board.

The **CACILM Project Management Unit** will be led by the Regional Project Coordinator (RPC), a full-time Project position. The Secretariat will be comprised of a small core group of operational and technical staff, namely: the RPC; finance and administrative assistant, an M&E and communication and outreach expert. It will also include experts on policy and institutions, INRM, and gender and livelihoods on a part-time basis. One full time staff member will also serve as the Deputy RPC. The CACILM Secretariat staff will be recruited by the project and report to the BH, and will carry out its functions in line with FAO rules and regulations.

The following are some of the key functions of the CACILM Secretariat:

- to technically identify, plan, design and support all activities;
- to liaise with government and regional agencies and to advocate on behalf of the Project;
- to prepare the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B);
- to be responsible for day-to-day implementation of the project in line with the AWP;
- to ensure a results-based approach to project implementation, including maintaining a focus on project results and impact as defined by the RF indicators;
- to coordinate project interventions with other ongoing activities;
- to monitor project progress;
- to be responsible for the elaboration of FAO PPRs and the annual GEF PIR, and;
- to facilitate and support the midterm review and final evaluation of the Project.

The CACILM Secretariat will also be supported by a series of international consultants to provide short term inputs to the Project. These include:

- 1 International INRM expert (for integrating resilience into policies and practices)
- 1 Drought risk management expert
- 1 Salinity management expert
- 1 international expert on valuation of ecosystem services
- 1 International gender expert
- 1 Livelihood & socio-economic expert
- 1 M&E expert
- 1 Value-chain expert

National Coordination Units (NCUs) will be responsible for policy mainstreaming in all participating countries and demonstration site activities where appropriate, and work under supervision of the regional CACILM Secretariat. The NCUs will work closely with local communities and other local stakeholders at demonstration sites. The NCUs will be supported by National CACILM Boards that will function as national steering committees. They will be chaired by the UNCCD focal points and include representatives from key participating sectors, such as agriculture, NGOs and other donors.

Each NCU will consist of the National Project Coordinator (NPC) funded by the government, as well as a Field Officer (FO) funded by GEF (full time in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, part-time in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan), other specialised national consultants that support demonstration site activities and local district/oblast staff seconded to the project. The FOs report to the Regional CACILM Secretariat.

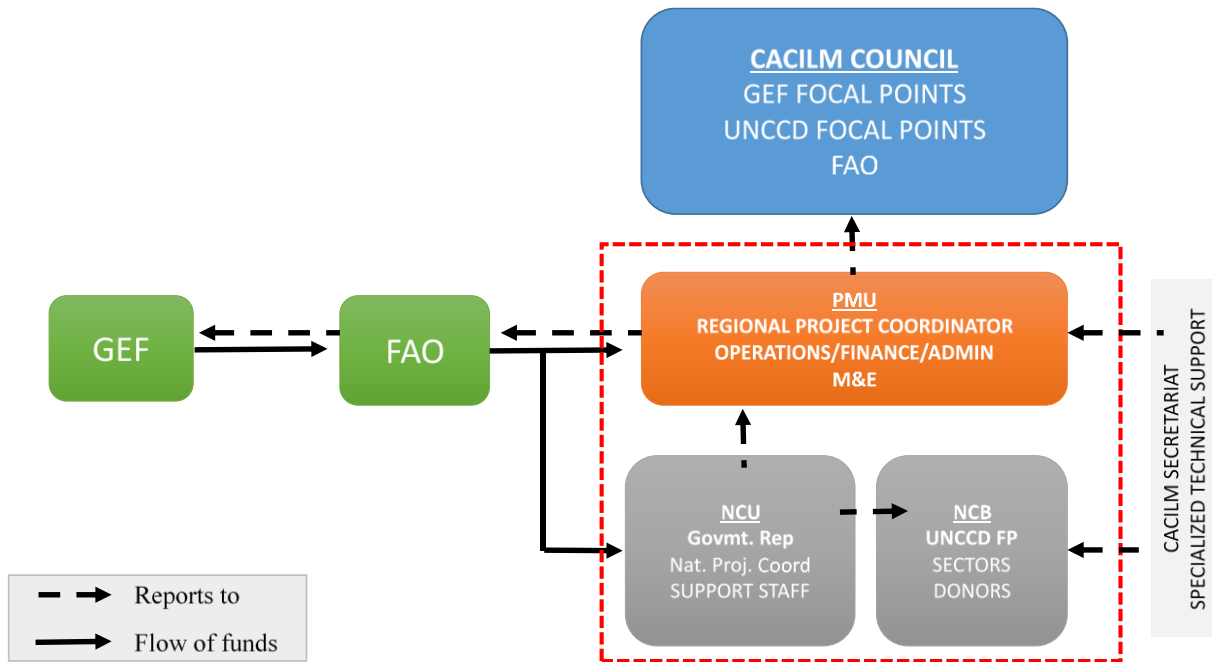
Regional Project Coordinator (RPC) will lead the CACILM Secretariat, be paid by the Project and work closely with the NPCs. The RPC reports to the BH on operational issues and to the LTO on technical issues. The RPC is a full-time position. The RPC will lead and organize the day-to-day execution of the project. The RPC will take the lead in communications with government and regional agencies, and advocacy. The RPC will also be responsible for providing technical advice and guidance in his/her area of technical expertise. The RPC will report on Project progress to RCC meetings, and will develop and submit semi-annual PPRs and annual PIRs. In addition to technical and substantive duties, the RPC will:

- Oversee creation of a participatory monitoring and evaluation system for the Project's work;
- Ensure real-time monitoring of Project progress and the alerting of the NPCs, BH and the LTO to potential problems that could result in delays in implementation;
- Help identify consultant candidates and work with the BH to ensure their timely recruitment;
- Ensure the Project's effective and efficient work with stakeholders in the pilot areas;
- Help organize and supervise consultant inputs;

- Oversee creation of the Project’s approach to managing and sharing knowledge, and to identifying and disseminating lessons learned;
- Communicate, advocate and engage in policy dialogue.

Field Officers (FO) will be responsible for the coordination and planning of all activities at the demonstration sites. The FOs are the Project’s key strategic mechanism for working with local communities and for building the capacity at district/oblast level. The FOs will take the lead in communicating with local governments, advising on the preparation of local workplans, designing and running trainings for district officers and local communities, and other local-level stakeholders, designing local-level activities, trouble shooting at the local level, ensuring Project inputs are delivered effectively to local governments.

CACILM-2 Project Organigramme



Other key partners. At the regional level, the project will receive political support as well support to upscale initiatives at the national level from the Interstate Commission of Sustainable Development (ICSD). Projects results will be reported to the semi-annual meeting of the commission; region-wide decisions on promotion of best SLM practices and lessons-learnt will be integrated into decisions of the ICSD; cooperation will be developed with Scientific-Technical Centers of the ICSD in countries. On technical issues, especially technical aspects of field implementation, the project will cooperate with regional officers of Centers of the Consultative Group for international Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to jointly implement field activities, synergizing with their current efforts (please kindly refer to project endorsement letters from partners). Agreements will be signed with various CGIAR institutions to cover up to 12 thematic areas outlined in the project document (please see budget). The project will cooperate with a number of donor organizations. At the project development stage, preliminary agreements were reached with GIZ, UNDP, WFP and other organizations to jointly implement activities at the regional and local level. For instance, synergies will be established with GEF “Support to the economic climate resilient livelihoods in agricultural communities in arid regions of Turkmenistan” project, implemented by UNDP office in Turkmenistan; in Kyrgyzstan, the project will work with WFP Climate adaption and risk mitigation

programme in Kyrgyzstan; at the regional level the project plans to cooperate with CAREC on strengthening the regional platform for dialogue on SLM issues and provide synergies with regional component of WB-run Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB) project and EU-funded project on regional dialogue on water-energy-ecosystems nexus in Central Asia, implemented with CAREC.

For more information regarding coordination with other relevant GEF-financed project and other initiatives, kindly refer to section 1.C (Baseline Initiatives and Investments, pg 20-27; Component 1, pg 35).

Additional Information not well elaborated at PIF Stage:

A.7 Benefits. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The Project will generate global environmental benefits in the Land Degradation as well as Climate Change focal areas, which will be underpinned by socio-economic benefits to local communities at the selected Project sites. Key benefits are summarized in the table below:

Global and socio-economic benefits of the project.

Global Environmental Benefits	
Indicator	Target
Land under integrated management (ha) ⁸	298 254 ha of demo areas 2 590 770 ha of upscaling area
GHG emissions avoided or reduced (tons CO _{2e})	Demo areas: (8.65 million tons CO _{2e} over a 20 years capitalization phase); or 29.0 tons CO _{2e} per hectare ⁹ Upscaling area: 69.7 million tons CO _{2e} ; or 26.9 tons CO _{2e} per hectare
Area with improved irrigation efficiency (ha)	146 050 ha of demo area 1 215 605 of upscaling area
Socio-economic benefits	
Indicator	Target
Beneficiaries in pastoral, agro-sylvo-pastoral, tree-based, irrigated and, rainfed systems	665 294 people in demo areas 2 661 380 people in upscaling areas
Improvement in incomes from INRM (disaggregated by gender)	25%

GHG emission reduction estimates have been obtained using the FAO EX-Ante Carbon balance Tool. The project will have direct impact on 298,254 ha (demo areas) and could foresee a net carbon balance of -2.78 t CO₂-eq per hectare per year that are sequestered as opposed to the status quo. Over 20 years - when a new equilibrium in terms of soil and biomass carbon stocks will likely be reached – total benefits may account for 8.65 million tons of CO₂-equivalent. The main contribution comes from improved carbon stocks in agroforestry systems (around 3.5 million

⁸ This indicator refers to areas under land use plans that take an INRM approach.

⁹ According to the GEF CC-M Tracking tool, for LULUCF projects, lifetime length is defined to be 20 years, unless a different number of years is deemed appropriate.

tCO₂-eq), mixed systems (2.9 million tCO₂-eq), pastures (1.4 million tCO₂-eq), and cropland (0.8 million tCO₂-eq). Estimates will be revised during project inception as project beneficiaries are selected in each of the areas of intervention. The table above briefly summarizes main project impacts obtained using EX-ACT. See PRODOC for full details (pg. 61-63).

A.8 Knowledge Management. Elaborate on the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives (e.g. participate in trainings, conferences, stakeholder exchanges, virtual networks, project twinning) and plans for the project to assess and document in a user-friendly form (e.g. lessons learned briefs, engaging websites, guidebooks based on experience) and share these experiences and expertise (e.g. participate in community of practices, organize seminars, trainings and conferences) with relevant stakeholders.

Knowledge Management is at the core of the CACILM-2 project. Experiences from CACILM-1 confirm it operated based on a heavy partnership framework that was too complex and involved too many agencies and management structures, such as multiple layers of steering committees, multi-country and national secretariats and national coordination councils. The CACILM-1 Partnership was not sufficiently country driven and closely linked to international funding priorities and availability. At the same time, local NGOs and civil society organizations were minimally informed and involved in decision-making processes. The full dependency of the program on external support was a major cause of the lack of sustainability. CACILM-2 intends to learn from these lessons to design a lighter and more function-oriented partnership hub with a strong focus on knowledge management that receives sustained support from the CA countries and Turkey.

The Knowledge Management system is described in detail under Component 1 (Multi-country collaboration and partnership to foster the effective delivery of INRM, pg. 35-45). This multi-country component will bring together all target groups of the Central Asia region and Turkey under the auspices of ISDC and IFAS and provide a platform for:

- **INRM/SLM Strategic dialogue** - will involve establishment of communities of practice with political and decision making representatives of Central Asian countries and representatives of main donor organizations, such as GIZ. It will garner strategic support for INRM/SLM at the regional and national levels and ensure integrated implementation by countries of international obligations under various international and regional conventions (UNCCD, UNBD, UNFCCC, Convention on SD in CA) and initiatives on issues related to SLM and climate change.
- **Enhanced synergies of INRM/SLM interventions in the region** - will broaden the CACILM partnership and involve strengthening of synergies of INRM/SLM support from CA countries, donors, NGOs, civil society and the private sector across the region. It will support links and collaboration with the Knowledge Management platform of the DS-SLM project, the Eurasia Soil Partnership, and other international partners, forums and processes, with a view to developing a multi-country process and program, with the participation of ICSD, the Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre (e.g. CAREC), international research centers, such as ICBA and ICARDA, and development agencies, such as GIZ, aimed at the restoration of degraded lands in Central Asia and Turkey.
- **Exchange of knowledge, information and data** - is essential not only for monitoring of trends, but it will provide inputs for further interventions on scaling up and out of best practices, will assist in distribution of results of the interventions in understandable language and will provide the assurance that approaches are technically feasible and accepted by the counties.

More specifically, the component will generate policy relevant knowledge on the costs of land degradation and the benefits of INRM/SLM through collaboration with the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD). The ELD

methodologies will be harmonized across countries for valuation of ecosystem services at various scales. Total economic valuation will consider the externalities associated with land degradation (such as loss of productive land and productivity, loss of biodiversity and reduced CO₂e mitigated and increased vulnerability to drought), exacerbating the direct negative effects of land degradation. Awareness among national planners and decision-makers in CA countries and Turkey and identification of incentives to scale up INRM, such as environmental/watershed funds, insurance schemes to reduce risk of change, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes, are essential for reversing the trend of land degradation and achieving global, national and local benefits.

The component will establish an efficient multi-country INRM/SLM knowledge management platform that will be owned by the countries and support knowledge sharing at the regional level through communities of practice. It will provide practitioners across the region with guidelines, advisory services and knowledge products for harmonized planning and scaling up of INRM/SLM for a wider range of land uses. International expertise on salinity control and drought risk management, which has remained insufficiently utilized by CA countries until now will be mobilized. Strong partnerships will be built with other international processes, such as the UNCCD and WOCAT and CA regional programs (e.g. Aral Sea Basin program-3 and Central Asian Initiative on Sustainable Development) on combating desertification and climate change, as well as on food and water security, biodiversity conservation and sustainable rural livelihoods. These initiatives will provide the basis for country-driven shifts in national paradigms from unsustainable to sustainable land use by Government's agriculture, water resources and environmental sectors.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 Consistency with National Priorities. Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions such as NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.:

See Section 1.E (pg. 29-33) for full details on how the project aligns with national priorities, with FAO's strategic framework (including Central Asia Regional priorities), and Central Asia Country Programming Framework.

The Project is in full accordance with key priorities that were articulated in the UNCCD NAPs (1999-2002) and Sub-regional Action Programme for Combating Desertification (SRAP-CD, 2003), and the objectives of the Central Asia Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM-1) in five countries of Central Asia. In each participating country, National Programming Framework (NPF-2006, 2009) on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) forms its strategic basis. In addition, the project supports alignment of the Central Asian Countries NAPs to combat DLDD with the UNCCD 10-year Strategy (2008-2018). This Project will address the targets, defined in renewed NPF-2009 CACILM-1:

- (i) Capacity building - strengthening enabling environment, coordination and multisectoral interactions, adaptation and mitigation of climate change consequences;
- (ii) Capacity building - integration of SLM into land use planning, management and budgeting in conditions of climate change;
- (iii) Sustainable pasture and forest management and carbon sequestration;
- (iv) Integrated resource management; adaptation of agriculture to climate change (climate resilience management)
- (v) Environmental rehabilitation of vulnerable ecosystems in the disaster risk region of the former Aral Sea

The project also builds on and supports the key priorities identified by the National Communications to the UNFCCC, and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) of the Central Asian countries, which emphasize reduction of GHG emissions from agriculture and other land uses, and the protection of all biological resources, including arable lands, pastures and forests, as well as the restoration of structures and functions of degraded and salt-sensitive ecosystems. The project will also directly contribute to a number of national and sub-regional policy documents, which emphasizes rural economic, water management and sustainable development, including national strategies and plans for poverty alleviation and the improvement of peoples' welfare.

The project is in full accordance with key national strategies of Turkey, such as the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) that underlines the importance of conservation and management of natural resources, including soil and water. It also fully responds to priorities in the UNCCD NAP (2015-2023) that emphasizes the importance of intersectoral coordination and collaboration in implementation of INRM/SLM and in the pursuit of a land degradation neutral country. The National Climate Change Strategy (2020-2020) and climate change NAP prioritizes greenhouse gas emission control in relation to land use and agriculture.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budgeted costs
Inception Workshop (IW)	CACILM Secretariat, supported by the LTO, BH, and GCU	Within three months of project start up	USD 50 000
Project Inception Report	CACILM Secretariat, LTO, BH, and GCU	No later than one month post IW.	USD 10 000
Field based impact monitoring	CACILM Secretariat, NCUs and other relevant agencies to participate.	Periodically - to be determined at inception workshop.	USD 100 000
Supervision visits and rating of progress in PPRs and PIRs	LTO, other participating units and GCU	Annual or as required	The visits of the LTO and the GCU will be paid by GEF agency fee. The visits of the NCUs and RPC will be paid from the project travel budget
Project Progress Reports	CACILM Secretariat, with inputs from NCUs, RCC and other partners	Semi-annual	USD 0 (as completed by the CACILM Secretariat)
Project Implementation Review report	CACILM Secretariat supported by the LTO and cleared and submitted by the GCU to the GEF Secretariat	Annual	Paid by GEF agency fee
Co-financing Reports	CACILM Secretariat, NCUs	Annual	0 (as completed by the CACILM Secretariat)
Technical reports	CACILM Secretariat, LTO& Participating Units	As appropriate	-
Mid-term Review	External Consultant, FAO Office for Evaluation in consultation with the project team including the GCU and other partners	At mid-point of project implementation	USD 50,000 for independent consultants and associated costs. In addition the agency fee will pay for expenditures of FAO staff time and travel
Final evaluation	External Consultant, FAO independent evaluation unit in consultation with the project team including the CACILM Secretariat and other partners	At the end of project implementation	USD 50,000 for external, independent consultants and associated costs. In addition the agency fee will pay for expenditures of FAO staff time and travel
Terminal Report	LTO, TCSR Report Unit	At least two months before the end date of the Execution Agreement	0 (as completed by LTO)
Total Budget			USD 260 000

PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)

A. GEF Agency(ies) certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies¹⁰ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Mr Daniel Gustafson, Deputy Director-General (Programme) and Officer-in-Charge, TCI and TC		22 February 2017	Giovanni Munoz Land and Water Officer	+90 312 3079508	giovanni.munoz@fao.org
Jeffrey Griffin Senior Coordinator GEF Unit Investment Center FAO					

¹⁰ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and CBIT
GEF6 CEO Endorsement /Approval Template-August2016

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

See PRODOC, Annex 1.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Comment	Response
Comments from STAP	
<p>STAP welcomes FAO's proposal "Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM2)". The proposal is logically designed and the different sections on the problem statement, objective, components, global environmental benefits, and the incremental cost reasoning are coherently linked. Additionally, the baseline activities are described thoroughly, and provide valuable details on how the proposed activities will build upon the CACILM1, FAO's knowledge products and tools (e.g. climate smart agriculture sourcebook), and link to FAO's partnerships with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, the Global Soils Partnership, among other initiatives. STAP appreciates the strong baseline including networks, information, tools and legislation, and the collaborative nature of the proposal. In the project preparation, STAP encourages the proponent to provide more detailed descriptions of the drivers of land degradation, the specific land degradation issues faced, and the institutional constraints.</p>	<p>Point taken. Additional information regarding the drivers of land degradation, specific issues faced in each country and institutional constraints has been provided in the PRODOC, Section 1, Table 1.</p>
<p>STAP appreciates the measures proposed. In assessing the value of ecosystem services STAP encourages the proponents to include consideration of the non-monetary values (e.g. cultural values). The project proponents may wish to refer to: Bateman, I.J. et al. "Economic Analysis for Ecosystem Services Assessments" (2011). Environ Resource Econ (2011) 48:177-218.</p>	<p>Point taken. Valuation of ecosystem services at various scales (Component 1, Outcome 1.1) will be done in collaboration with the Economics of Land Degradation and will consider non-monetary values as part of its economic valuation.</p>
<p>For component 3, STAP encourages FAO to strengthen the knowledge base of conservation agriculture in Central Asia by contributing to what practices work, under what conditions and for whom. The literature suggests that further learning is needed to understand conservation agriculture in the target region, given the challenges and opportunities that exist to further disseminate this practice in the region. (Refer to: Kienzler, K.M. et al. "Conservation agriculture in Central Asia - What do we know and where do we go from here?" (2012) Field Crops Research 132 (2012) 95-105.) Additionally, the project developers may wish to consult the following book detailing measurement and monitoring methods for water and land management in Central Asia to complement its tools and knowledge base: Mueller, L. et al. "Novel measurement and assessment tools for monitoring and management of land and water resources in agricultural landscapes in central Asia", 2014.</p> <p>STAP is pleased to see the intention to learn from experiences in other regions suffering similar challenges, such as Australia. However, it is not clear how this knowledge exchange will occur. Effective knowledge transfer will require a budgeted program of interaction between experts including field visits. STAP suggests that the</p>	<p>Points taken.</p> <p>Component 3 has been designed in close consultation with CGIARs that have tested and spearheaded conservation agriculture in Central Asia, and builds on the experiences of ICARDA, ICBA, Bioversity and IWMI. However, the project will learn not only from the rich experience base in the region, but will also take advantage of the partnership with Turkey to learn from their experience and transfer knowledge to the CA region. Annex 4 provides an inventory of INRM knowledge and data management platforms in the CA region that will be further explored.</p>

<p>publications of the (now completed) Cooperative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures (http://www.irrigationfutures.org.au/) could be a useful source of information on innovative irrigation technologies.</p>	
<p>Lastly, STAP welcomes FAO's proposal to apply the Resilience, Adaptation Transformation Assessment (RATA) Framework developed by the STAP and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) (The full documentation on the resilience framework can be found at: http://www.stapgef.org/the-resilience-adaptation-and-transformation-assessment-framework/) . STAP encourages the proponent to view the RATA approach as a key element to commence early in project design and development, and to recognize the findings as relevant across the whole project. Learnings from application of the RATA approach could inform all other project elements, particularly the identification of controlling variables and vulnerabilities, and thus the most effective interventions, and appropriate indicators for M&A. A minor point, STAP notes that the definition of resilience given in footnote 9 differs from that used in the RATA framework. It will be important to clarify terminology applied in assessing and managing resilience. At any time during the design of the project, STAP is pleased to provide further advice on the application of the resilience framework, and on other aspects of the proposal.</p>	<p>RAPTA (former RATA), was used for designing the project Theory of Change and discussed at two regional PPG consultations with CA countries and Turkey. RAPTA has also been integrated into the design of Component 2. The GEF/STAP Resilience-Adaptation-Transformation-Assessment (RAPTA) tool will provide an overarching framework to integrate resilience into INRM and will help with identifying controlling variables and thresholds in drought prone and salinity affected production systems. It will also help identifying possible interventions and policy options to enhance resilience, adapt or transform agro-ecosystems depending on the circumstances. RAPTA will be used to deliver Outcome 2.1:</p> <p>Outcome 2.1. Resilience integrated across NRM sectors and production landscapes. This outcome will encompass a decentralized approach to integration that will be promoted across governance levels as well as sectors. It uses the RAPTA Guidelines and will involve the following key steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further development of the theory of change of the project to determine what the key determinants and characteristics are of the drought and salinity affected production landscapes in Central Asia, including key drivers and thresholds 2. Development of a multi-stakeholder engagement plan 3. Detailed description of the key socio-ecological systems in CA, including the food security systems, and development of a conceptual model 4. Assessment of the systems, including general resilience and specified resilience, and identification of needs for adaptation and/or transformation 5. Identification of the most appropriate implementation pathways and actions on-the-ground that will inform interventions under Component 3.

	<p>6. Integration of changes into the legal, institutional and planning system through the wider consultations, involvement into discussions of the relevant authorities, academia and business circles.</p>
<p>Comments from Germany:</p>	
<p><u>Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:</u></p> <p>The regional GEF project proposal addresses an issue of utmost importance for tackling the challenges ahead in the fields of land management, biodiversity preservation and adaptation to climate change. It aims at “strengthening the multi-country collaboration and partnership”.</p> <p>However the financial allocation under GEF is very unequal – 0,18 Mio USD for Kyrgyzstan versus 4,06 Mio USD for Uzbekistan. Already during the planning phase this inequality led to tensions between the participating countries and in spite of all countries having signed the support letter for the project, there is a high risk that this asymmetry leads to “splitting” of the regional project during the implementation into country-segments not really willing to cooperate under these unequal terms. The Project proposal should specify how the danger will be mitigated during the implementation.</p>	<p>This point was duly noted and taken into consideration during project preparation. As informed during the June 2015 Council meeting, FAO would look for co-financing to support countries that have provided a smaller allocation to ensure that the project does not “split” due to the existin asymmetry in STAR resources allocated to the project. In this regard, FAO will provide roughly \$11.8 million in co-financing linked to the programs it currently runs in the region. Some of these funds will help support activities in the countries with smaller allocations to ensure the structural integrity of the program.,</p>

<p>The description of barrier 1 (“Inadequate regional mechanism for evidence based knowledge”) is based on a situation as it was at the end of CALCILM I. In the last two years a significant progress has been achieved in interconnecting and harmonizing the SLM knowledge platforms. Examples are the IFAD financed ICARDA regional knowledge management project (called CACILM II) or the multi-donor K-Link Approach (IT-solution for linking existing internet based platforms) developed in the framework of the Regional Programme for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia and adopted recently by the World Bank and also WOCAT is in the process of complete overhaul and modernization of their data base approach.</p> <p>The GEF Project should therefore put high emphasis on supporting these positive trends and on strengthening the existing initiatives and platforms and their linkages instead of establishing yet another “efficient multi-country knowledge platform” (Component 1, pg 12 of PIF). The core problem is not the lack of such platforms, but the fact that there are too many of them and that they are all too fragmented and isolated. Output 1.2 should be redesigned correspondingly.</p>	<p>Point taken. Please see Component 1, Outcome 1.2 (pg 39).</p> <p>After extensive discussions with GIZ and the CGIAR partners, and based on the review of existing knowledge platforms, including the ICARDA coordinated CACILM II Platform, the project proposes the use of the K-link approach and will focus on three types of activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Development of the platform for knowledge consolidation, based on K-Link and cofinanced by GIZ. 2- Multi-scale and participatory approaches in place for assessing land degradation and SLM trends, and for assessing//monitoring of impacts of management practices on ecosystem services, biodiversity, and livelihoods (vulnerability), and 3- The development of targeted knowledge and communication products prepared for wide dissemination on the required costs and multiple benefits of INRM in selected production landscapes. Local civil society stakeholders will be key actors in the dissemination and adoption of technologies (Uncer component 3)
--	--

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS¹¹

A. Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 210845			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Activity 1- Prepare component 1 (Multi-country collaboration and partnership to foster effective delivery of INRM)	43,600	28,205	8,620
Activity 2- Prepare component 2 (Integration of resilience into policy, legal and institutional frameworks for INRM)	19,200	20,100	3,600
Activity 3- Prepare component 3 (Upscaling climate-smart agricultural practices in drought prone and/or salt affected production landscapes)	8,000	8,365	16,496
Activity 4- Prepare component 4 (Monitoring and evaluation)	18,335	4,985	706
Activity 5- Stakeholder consultation	91,800	58,000	13,568
Activity 6- Preparation of full project document	29,910	16,500	31,700
Total	210,845	136,155	74,690

¹¹ If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities. Agencies should also report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

Not applicable