**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)**
**PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT**
**TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND**

## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Project Title:** | Sustainable Management of Forests in Mountain and Valley Areas | | |
| **Country(ies):** | Uzbekistan | **GEF Project ID:** | 635216 |
| **GEF Agency(ies):** | FAO | **GEF Agency Project ID:** | 9190 |
| **Other Executing Partner(s):** | Main Forest Department (MFD), Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources | **Submission Date:** | 28 October 2015 |
| **GEF Focal Area (s):** | CCM, LD, SFM | **Project Duration(Months)** | 60 |
| **Integrated Approach Pilot:** IAP Cities: IAP Commodities: IAP Food Security: Corporate Program: | | | |
| **Name of parent program (if applicable):** | n/a | **Agency Fee (US$):** | 302,767 |

### A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAMME STRATEGIES

| **Objectives/Programs** (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Program) | **Trust Fund** | **GEF Project Financing ($)** | **Co-financing ($)** |
|---|---|---|---|
| CC-M 2, Program 4 - Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest, and other land-use, and support climate smart agriculture | GEFTF | 1,457,861 | 6,000,000 |
| LD 2, Program 3 - Landscape Management and Restoration | GEFTF | 666,821 | 2,000,000 |
| SFM 3: Restored Forest Ecosystems: Reverse the loss of ecosystem services within degraded forest landscapes | GEFTF | 1,062,341 | 5,000,000 |
| **Total project costs** | | 3,187,023 | 13,000,000 |

### B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

**Project Objective:** ***to introduce sustainable forest management in Uzbekistan, thereby sequestrating carbon and improving the quality of forest and tree resources.***

| **Project Component** | **Financing Type** | **Project outcomes** | **Project Outputs** | **Trust Fund** | **GEF Project Financing ($)** | **Confirmed Co-financing ($)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Component 1: Information systems for sustainable forest management. | TA | Outcome 1: An operational National Forest Assessment and Monitoring System | Output 1.1 An harmonized methodology for data collection;<br><br>Output 1.2 A trained cadre of technicians to undertake the data collection and information management;<br><br>Output 1.3 An equipped forest assessment section in MFD;<br><br>Output 1.4 A geo-referenced database;<br><br>Output 1.5 A Forest information and monitoring system. | GEFTF | 350,000 | 2,000,000 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Component 2: Multifunctional forest management leading to carbon sequestration, an improvement in forest and tree resources, and other benefits. | TA | Outcome 2: At four diverse locations across Uzbekistan, Sustainable Forest Management practices generate sustainable benefits such as carbon sequestration and improve the livelihoods (i.e. increase in income, change in type and quantity of forest products obtained from target areas, increase in productivity from sustainable forestry and multi-benefit industrial plantations) of at least 500 households in local communities | Output 2.1 Sustainable management of mountain forests in the Ugam Chatkal National Park is operationalized, directly improving the livelihoods of at least 60 households;<br><br>Output 2.2 Sustainable management of high value pistachio and other native drought-resilient forest on land that is currently used for wheat farming and livestock grazing in the Jizzak Region is operationalized, directly improving the livelihoods of at least 250 small farmers;<br><br>Output 2.3 Sustainable management of valley forests and shelterbelt forests in the Ferghana valley is operationalized, improving the livelihoods of at least 150 farmers;<br><br>Output 2.4 Sustainable management and multi-benefit generation from riparian forests (tugay) is operationalized, improving the livelihoods of at least 100 farmers (co-financed). | GEFTF | 2,085,260 | 7,500,000 |
| Component 3: Ensuring sustainability and upscaling sustainable forest management - with carbon sequestration. | TA | Outcome 3: The policy and enabling framework is conducive to state and private investment in SFM. | Output 3.1 Capacity inside MFD for forest information management is enhanced;<br><br>Output 3.2 Awareness and support for improved land tenure is created;<br><br>Output 3.3 A Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) for the forestry sector or pistachio forest sub-sector, including a national measuring, reporting and validation (MRV) system;<br><br>Output 3.4 An amendment to forest legislation legalizing long term leases of forest fund land;<br><br>Output 3.5 The National Forest Program is approved;<br><br>Output 3.6 Lessons and best practices from Component 2 are institutionalized in policy or programs. | GEFTF | 350,000 | 1,500,000 |
| Component 4: Monitoring, evaluation and | TA | Outcome 4: Project implementation based on RBM and lessons | Output 4.1 A set of manuals or guidelines, for use by forestry managers and technicians, that | GEFTF | 250,000 | 1,500,000 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| knowledge-sharing | | learned/good practices documented and disseminated | capture and describe the improved practices, measures and technologies;<br><br>Output 4.2 Project Monitoring & Evaluation Plan and system, in place;<br><br>Output 4.3 Project Mid-term and Final Evaluations;<br><br>Output 4.4 A Communication Strategy is develop and implemented. | | | |
| | | | | **Subtotal** | 3,035,260 | 12,500,000 |
| | | | | **Project Management Costs (PMC)** | 151,763 | 500,000 |
| | | | | **Total Costs** | 3,187,023 | 13,000,000 |

If multi-trust fund, breakdown of PMC across trust funds to be provided in small table here:

Up to $2 million, PMC cap is 10% of subtotal. Over $ 2million, PMC cap is 5%. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas (see table D). PMC to be charged proportionately to focal areas.

## C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE IF AVAILABLE, ($)

| Sources of Co-financing | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Amount ($) |
|---|---|---|---|
| National Government | Main Forestry Department | Grant | 7,250,000 |
| National Government | Main Forestry Department | In-kind | 500,000 |
| National Government | State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre | To be confirmed | 250,000 |
| GEF Agency | FAO | Grant | 1,650,000 |
| GEF Agency | FAO | In-kind | 250,000 |
| Bi-lateral agency | German Government (GIZ and ICI) | Grant | 2,600,000 |
| Civil Society | Farmer Councils, etc | In-kind | 500,000 |
| **Total Co-financing** | | | 13,000,000 |

## D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES ($) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, COUNTRY AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country Name/Global | Focal area | Programming of Funds | GEF Project Financing ($) (a) | Agency Fee ($) (b) | Total ($) (a + b) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FAO | GEFTF | Uzbekistan | CCM | - | 1,457,861 | 138,497 | 1,596,358 |
| FAO | GEFTF | Uzbekistan | LD | - | 666,821 | 63,348 | 730,169 |
| FAO | GEFTF | Uzbekistan | Multifocal Area | SFM | 1,062,341 | 100,922 | 1,163,263 |
| **Total Grant Resources** | | | | | **3,187,023** | **302,767** | **3,489,790** |

## E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

A PPG Grant is requested.

### PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

| Project Preparation Grant Requested: $150,000 | | | | | Agency Fee: $14,250 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country Name/Global | Focal area | Programming of Funds | (in $) PPG (a) | Agency Fee (b) | Total c = a + b |
| FAO | GEFTF | Uzbekistan | CCM | - | 72,666 | 6,903 | 79,569 |
| FAO | GEFTF | Uzbekistan | LD | - | 27,334 | 2,597 | 29,931 |
| FAO | GEFTF | Uzbekistan | Multifocal Area | SFM | 50,000 | 4,750 | 54,750 |
| **Total PPG Amount** | | | | | **150,000** | **14,250** | **164,250** |

## F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Provide the expected 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 | n/a |
| 2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes). | 120 million hectares under sustainable land management. | 121,750 hectares* |
| 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-Energy-Ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;<br>- 20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels | n/a |
| 4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path | 750 million tons of CO2 equivalent mitigated (include both direct and indirect) | 3.2 million $tCO_2eq$* |
| 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)<br>- Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury<br>- Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC) | n/a |
| 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<br>- Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries | n/a |

Note: * these figures are considered minimums. See Annex 1.

## ROJECT JUSTIFICATION

### oject Description

Global environmental problems, root causes and barriers to be addressed

eral introduction

The Republic of Uzbekistan is a Central Asian country that borders Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanin and Turkmenistan. Its total area is 447,400 km$^2$. Approximately four-fifths of Uzbekistan is occupied by desert ins; although the eastern and southeastern areas of the country include mountains and the foothills of the Tien Shan d Pamir-Alai mountains. The climate is characterized by continental and subtropical conditions. In the lowlands the nimum annual precipitation is 80 – 90 mm. However, rainfall generally increases with elevation in the east and southst, and in some places it exceeds 890 – 1,000 mm per year.[1] Most areas experience large diurnal and seasonal varians in temperature.

According to the World Bank, the population in 2013 was 30.24 million and the GNP per capita was $1880 (using las method, in current US$). GDP growth per annum averaged over 8% during 2011 – 2014, and was expected to conue at similar rates. Notwithstanding, Uzbekistan faces important socio-economic challenges with a poverty level of %, an average life expectancy of only 68, and severe security challenges in some neighbouring countries. In 2014, it ked 116$^{th}$ (out of 187 countries) on UNDP's Human Development Index.[2] Administratively, Uzbekistan is divided in-12 Regions, one Autonomous Republic (of Karakalpakhstan) and the Tashkent Municipality

sts and forestry

The Land Code (1998) classifies all land in Uzbekistan into eight categories, i.e.: forest lands (approximately 8-9 lion hectares[3]), agricultural land (approximately 20 million hectares), reserve land (approximately 12.6 million hecs), private lands, industrial land, recreational lands, heritage and architectural lands and water bodies. It is important ote that there may be some forest cover or trees in any of these eight categories - notably, it is considered that both icultural and reserve lands contain important areas of tree and forest cover.

Forest land - referred to as the "Forest Fund" - includes forest lands covered with forest, forest lands not covered n forests, and non-forest lands. Table 1, based on data for 2008 provided by Botman (2010), provides further data on various types of land use and land cover in the Forest Fund. From Table 1, it can be seen that in 2008 (the last year for ch official, comprehensive data is available) the Forest Fund covered 8.178 million hectares. Of this, only 3.9 million tares were considered forest lands, and of these, 955,600 ha were *not covered* with forest. In addition 4.239 million tares were considered 'non-forest land'.

Since 1998, the amount of land classified as Forest Fund has grown, hence official figures differ from year to . Moreover, the various initiatives to measure land use and land cover have used different methodologies and have different findings. The existing data on forest land, forest cover, and forest types are therefore inconsistent and conictory. During the preparation of this Project, the Main Forestry Department (MFD) communicated updated official res. Hence the overall Forest Fund is now estimated at approximately 9.75 million hectares, including 3 million ha ered with forests. This amounts to approximately 6.8% of the country's area.

| **l use type** | **Area (thousand ha)** | **Percent of Forest Fund** |
|---|---|---|
| *st lands* | *3,939.7* | *48%* |
| Covered by forest | 2,827.5 | 35% |
| Non closed up artificial (young) plantings | 155.9 | 2% |
| Forest nursery and plantation | 0.7 | 0% |
| Not Covered by forest | 955.6 | 12% |

ce: Keep Asia Green Volume IV "West and Central Asia", 2009. Don Koo lEe and Michael Kleine (editors). IUFRO World Volume 20-IV. Vienna, p.300, Evgeniy Botman. (Botman 2009)
http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/uzbekistan and http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi
1998 the amount of land classified as forests as grown, hence official figures from different years differ slightly.

| Land use type | Area (thousand ha) | Percent of Forest Fund |
|---|---|---|
| *Non-forest lands* | *4,239.1* | *52%* |
| Pasture | 1,598.9 | 20% |
| Waters | 62.9 | 1% |
| Sands | 96.1 | 1% |
| Other lands | 2,481.2 | 30% |
| ***Total area of Forest Fund*** | ***8,178.8*** | ***100%*** |

**TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF FOREST LAND BY LAND USE OR COVER**

6. The Forest Law approved in 1999 (and two subsequent amendments) provides the basis for forest management in Uzbekistan and specifies forestry functions, as well as specifying the competence of pertinent public authorities and the types of forestry use, among others. While forests are state-owned[4], they can in principle be transferred[5] to other physical and legal persons. In addition, the 'use' of forest land can be transferred through *constant* or *temporary* leases.[6] Notwithstanding, the vast majority of Forest Fund is directly managed by state agencies, notably MFD (see Table 2). Approximately 84% of Forest Fund is managed by the MFD, and the vast majority of this is managed by one of the 55 'Forest Organizations' that MFD had established across the country.[7] In addition, according to the Forest Law, citizens have the right to access and harvest medicinal plants, food plants, berries and mushrooms for their own needs.

| Managers of Forest Funds | Percentage |
|---|---|
| MFD | 84% |
| State Nature Protection Committee | 9% |
| Tashkent Region Hokimiyat (state agency) | 5% |
| Cooperatives/farmers/dekhan | 2% |
| Total | 100% |

**TABLE 2: MANAGERS OF FOREST FUNDS**

Forest Types and Location: Desert, mountain, valley and floodplain forest type[8]

7. Forests of Uzbekistan are divided into the following categories: desert-like plains, valley-tugai (floodplains) forests and mountain area forests. Table 3, based on data provided by MFD for 2011, provides information on the amount and types for each of these categories. As the table shows that 7.785 million hectares of the Forest Fund is desert-like forest. Of this, approximately 2.533 million hectares is actually covered in desert forest (mostly *saxual,* although large areas are also occupied by saltwort kandyms and tamarisks). Hence, in 2011, it was estimated that 87% of the 2.925 million hectares of the forest Fund actually covered in forest in Uzbekistan was desert-like forests.

| Forest Category | Forest lands covered by forests | Total Area |
|---|---|---|
| Desert-like plains | 2,533.2 | 7,785.5 |
| Mountain | 298.4 | 914.7 |
| Floodplain | 30.0 | 106.7 |
| Valley | 63.6 | 175.3 |
| **Total** | **2925.3** | **8,982.2** |

**TABLE 3: FORESTS OF UZBEKISTAN AS CLASSIFIED BY MFD (2011), IN THOUSAND HECTARES**

[4] Article 4 of the Forest Law

[5] Article 7 of the forest Law. However the required legislation to prescribe such transfers has not been issued, therefore transfer to legal and physical persons is not possible

[6] *Constant* leases can be assigned to forestry enterprises and establishments while *temporary* leases can be assigned to all other users, including local population and social groups. *Temporary* leases last between 3 and 10 years.

[7] Note, small areas of Forest Fund are also managed by the State Concern "Uzavtodor"; the State Committee on Geology; the Academy of Sciences and; the State JS Railway Company.

[8] Source: Botman, 2010

8. Mountain forests are found mostly on slopes of Western Tien Shan. Mountain vegetation has a zonal character and ranges from desert-like and dry steppes, through meadow steppes, bushes, deciduous and includes coniferous (juniper) forests, and ultimately subalpine and alpine meadows. Although relatively small in terms of area, the mountain forests of Uzbekistan are diverse by species composition and more than 100 tree and shrub species are found. The mountain forests can be classified by type such as juniper, pistachio, almond, walnut-tree, apple-tree, hawthorn, mixed forests, and shrubbery. The most important in terms of coverage area are juniper, pistachio and walnut.

9. Valley-tugai forests. The so-called tugai forest occurs naturally on islands and in strips in the river floodplains. The total area in the country is estimated at 103,300 ha. The largest concentrations of tugai forests can be found in the delta of the Amudarya River in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, as well as along the Syrdarya River, in the lower reach of the Chirchik River, and along the Zerafshan River near to Samarkand. In addition, traditionally, stretches of planted wind-breaks (mostly poplar) have played an important role in ecosystem protection and agriculture in valleys in Uzbekistan. These windbreaks have traditionally protected the high-value irrigated agricultural land near main rivers. The area of this productive and important land-use has shrunk in the past two decades from over 40,000 hectares to under 20,000 hectares.

10. To summarize:

- Data on forests, forest cover, forest land use has changed over the years, and there is much inconsistency across the various sources;
- Approximately 20% of the country, or 9 million hectares, is classified as Forest Fund, and this is mostly managed by the state forestry agencies. Of this, approximately 3 million hectares may actually be covered with forests;
- From the non-Forest Fund land, both agricultural and reserve land may contain considerable areas of forest. This land is not managed by forest agencies, it is not managed for forestry-related objectives, and data/information on the forests is not available.

Forest land degradation and the drivers of degradation

11. Forest degradation has been ongoing for at least one century in Uzbekistan. The most notable root causes have been (Botman, 2009) (i) the expansion of agricultural land (for example, irrigated land grew from 2.2 million to 3.6 million hectares during 1913 – 2008, which notably had a major direct impact on the limited amounts of tugai forest and; (ii) the increase in the livestock population (cattle, sheep and goats numbers grew between 300 - 400 % during the period 1916 – 2008). This has affected all forest land, notably desert and mountains, and has greatly reduced the possibility of natural succession or regeneration. Notably, this has greatly reduced the ability of forests to sequestrate carbon, and continuously leads to small carbon emissions.

12. Agricultural expansion is no longer a threat to remaining high quality forests. However, it does remain a barrier to the natural regeneration of forests and to the successful design and implementation of reforestation and afforestation schemes.

13. The drivers of degradation, and the barriers to natural forest regeneration and to the successful implementation of reforestation and afforestation schemes, vary greatly from site to site and depend very much on the forest type. Notwithstanding, the forests in Uzbekistan face some common threats. It is important to note that these threats both continue to cause degradation and are a barrier to natural forest regeneration and to the successful implementation of reforestation and afforestation schemes. These common threats are:

- **Livestock raising in and near to existing forests.** This continues to degrade existing forest, and stops the regeneration/reforestation of new forest. This is a factor in almost all forests except the most remote and those with high levels of state protection;
- **The increasing demand for timber and wood-fuel.** Demand for wood fuel has notably grown since the break-up of the Soviet Union due to socio-economic reasons. There is also an increasing production of local timber, connected to the growing population and the increased prices for imported timber;
- **The unsustainable harvesting of non-wood forest resources**, such as grass, walnut, rose-hips. In places this is far above sustainable levels and direct affects forest quality. This is most notable in mountain areas. The

associated disturbance also reduces natural succession and regeneration;

- **Pests and disease**. Data provided by MFD suggests that in the five year period 1998 – 2002, over 94,000 hectares of forests were affected by pests and almost 35,000 hectares were affected by disease;
- Finally, climate change is expected to become an important challenge, notably to the mountain (juniper) forests as they are not able to adapt quickly enough to the changes.

14. Two examples of this ongoing forest degradation relate to wild pistachio forest and wind-breaks in the valleys. During 1998 – 2013, the area of wild pistachio declined from 31,274 hectares to 22,908 hectares. At the same time, the proportion of young and medium-aged trees declined sharply, revealing a dangerous ageing in the population. Also, since 1990, the area of valley forest/wind breaks has declined from 40,000 to less than 19,000 hectares, thereby contributing not only to forest degradation but also to the degradation of the land it was protecting.

Barriers to sustainable forest management and increased carbon sequestration

15. Sustainable forest management could reverse degradation, facilitate natural regeneration and lead to large areas being reforested and afforested. With sustainable forest management, forest cover in Uzbekistan could return to historical levels. Assessments suggest that such sustainable forest management would make strong ecological and economic sense as it would lead to multiple ecological, economic and global benefits, including for local forest users. This could include significant carbon sequestration.

16. There is a common set of ***barriers*** to this sustainable forest management for all land in Uzbekistan. These are:

- **Inadequate data on forests and forest cover**. The data on forest cover is inconsistent, unreliable, incomplete and out of date. There is no reliable data on forests outside the Forest Fund. This is a major barrier to effective national level planning and management, as well as to local level planning and management. This also strongly undermines the ability to report to the UNFCCC, and it undermines the preparation of CDM and NAMA in the forest sector;
- **Inadequate monitoring capacity**. National and local forest agencies lack the knowledge and equipment to undertake forest monitoring. They have almost no ability to monitor factors such as carbon, biodiversity and socio-economics. This is a barrier to local planning and management, as well as to the implementation of NAMA or CDM;
- **Incomplete forest management plans**. Firstly, most Forest Organizations 9(FO) do not have a current forest management plan. For those that do, in most cases these plans only address protection and replantation – they do not address many related issues such as carbon, biodiversity, NWFP harvesting, participation, innovative financing, etc. As a result, forest management does not aim to generate the full ecological, economic and social potential of forests. Moreover, the management planning process does not draw on international best practices, including in regards to stakeholder participation;
- **Short-term incentives prevailing over long-term objectives**. In many areas, forest users face short-term incentives to unsustainably harvest. This notably leads to the felling of valuable windbreaks and tugai forest in order to extend agricultural cropland and collect short term gains. This also leads directly to over-grazing in mountain areas. This is only partly caused by the land tenure situation (see next point);
- **Limited land tenure**. Currently, non-State forest users are limited to a ten-year lease. This acts as a barrier to non-state investors investing in any forest activity that requires more than ten years to be profitable. It notably makes any private investment in carbon sequestration on forest land very unprofitable;
- **Administrative attitudes**. Forest managers and decision-makers are conservative and generally unwilling to test and adopt new practices and measures;

17. In addition, there is a specific set of barriers facing private sector farmers who manage agricultural land that is contiguous to forests and suitable for forestry and could lead to significant carbon sequestration. In general, these farmers have very little site specific data regarding alternative crops and they do not have access to technology and information on alternative forestry practices. Moreover, the current extension system is not able to provide them with information and access to technology, and they face high entry costs and an associated high risk. As a result, many of these farmers continue to grow wheat and raise livestock, which are not very profitable in the long-term and contribute to land degradation.

[9] FO is the local implementing arm of MFD.

18. Finally, there are two specific barriers to the sustainable management of valley forests and shelterbelt forests. These are (i) the current system of land lease, which doesn't recognize the value of shelterbelts as a tool against wind erosion and land salinization, and (ii) the current system of small land parcels, which does not facilitate planning and action at the appropriate scale.

1.2 Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

19. The principal activities in the baseline are implemented through the government structure and mostly by the MFD and its dependent agencies. In 2010, the State budget through MFD was 11.88 billion UZS (or approximately US$ 6 million). This figure had risen consistently from under 2 billion UZS in 2003. The vast majority of this budget is transferred directly to the Forest Organizations (FO) and is utilized for inventory, planning and management activities. This equate to an average of approximately $110,000 per annum for each of the FOs. In addition, each FO generates revenue through the sales of timber, nursery products, livestock products, NWFP. Nationally, this revenue was estimated at 1.3 billion UZS (or $650,000) for 2010.[10]

20. Separately, Ugam Chatkal National Park under Tashkent Region Khokimiyat is outside of the MFD remit. It is a relatively well financed operation with three management units – two FOs and one nature reserve as a core zone. One of the two FO has a reported budget from the state of $1.5 million per year, and generates an additional $1.2 million from local production activities. Based on these figures, the budget for Ugam Chatkal National Park overall could be well over $5 million per year, and similar to the MFD national budget.

21. In terms of forest assessments and monitoring, in the baseline the government is unable to devote adequate resources to this. Accordingly, in the baseline, data on forests, both at national and local level, will remain inconsistent, incomplete and out of date. (yes, awaiting information)

22. In terms of forest policy, government technical staff, with support from international partners, have prepared a draft National Forest Program. This Program supports improvements in the technical approach and sets out several important reform measures. The draft Program has been under review for several years. In the baseline it is unlikely to be approved, and even if approved, the required capacity and financial resources for its implementation are unlikely to be available.

23. In recent years, within the framework of the UNFCCC, government technical staff with international support have developed two major initiatives for carbon-related financing: a CDM proposal titled: "*Pilot Reforestation Activities in Two Selected Forest Management Area in Central Uzbekistan*" in 2008 and a NAMA proposal titled: "*Rainfed Mountain Belt Reforestation*" in 2012. Although these proposals are mostly adequate in technical terms, they are incomplete and not ready yet for approval by government. Moreover, they are not optimally designed in order to optimize potential under the UNFCCC. In the baseline they are very unlikely to become an important source of financing for sustainable forest management.

24. The baseline also includes a range of forest management activities, financed by the State, at the FO level. The majority of these forestry activities are implemented through the MFD. The major focus is on reforestation and afforestation for land protection. As stated above, each year an area of 40, 000 hectares is planted, of which over 80% is in desert areas, including in and near the Aral Sea. Another baseline initiative is the recently launched government programme to develop medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP). This will continue to be a priority, at least until the end of 2017. The MFD is the lead implementation partner. This programme should lead to a big increase in MAP production.

25. The baseline also includes several initiatives supported by FAO:

- FAO is to support the MFD with a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) on national forest and tree resources assessment and monitoring. This project, with a budget of approximately $400,000, is scheduled to run from late 2015 into 2017, and will strengthen the MFD's capacity to prepare national level assessments of forests and trees;
- With financial support from the Turkish Government through the FAO/Turkey Partnership Programme

[10] Source: *Financial Strategy for Forestry Sector of Uzbekistan*, circa 2012 (MFD/FAO)

(FTPP), FAO is implementing several initiatives with components in Uzbekistan. These include (i) "Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Mountain Watersheds in Central Asia and the Caucasus" (approximately $100,000 for Uzbekistan); (ii) a project on multifunctional forest management planning, including forest inventory ($500,000) and (iii) development of modern forest nurseries techniques ($500,000);
- FAO in Uzbekistan also has a related TCP on Organic Agriculture, and several related regional programs;
- The MFD, GIZ and Michael Succow Foundation have prepared the project "*Ecosystem based land and forest management of the tugai habitats of Amudarya river for improved livelihood of local communities and as adaptation strategy to climate change*" for funding through ICI. This €2 million project (due to start in late 2015) will build capacity, demonstrate approaches and implement reforestation along rivers.

26. The Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) is a partnership between Central Asian countries and international donor community to combat land degradation and improve rural livelihoods and adapt to climate change. It covers the five central Asian countries, including Uzbekistan. The requested budget is over $1 billion for ten years, although commitments until now are considerably less. GEF has been a major supporter of CACILM, as have the Asian Development Bank, CIDA, GIZ, IFAD, SDC, FAO and UNDP. The strong complementarity of CACILM with the proposed Project means that CACILM is linked to the baseline, although it cannot be considered co-financing.

27. In the baseline, these forest management interventions have several weaknesses. Notably, these baseline activities do not address the barriers to sustainable forest management as set out in the previous section. Overall, the baseline activities are insufficient to counter the forest degradation that is occurring in forests across Uzbekistan.

1.3 Proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

28. As described in the above sections, Uzbekistan's rich forests represent a vast untapped potential in terms of sustainable production, including in terms of carbon sequestration. Moreover, there are vast areas of land in Uzbekistan that currently have little or no forest cover yet are suitable for forestry. If brought under sustainable forest management this land could make a major contribution to carbon sequestration as well as to the local economy. Finally, much of the existing forest is currently being degraded, thereby losing both its production and protection values.

29. The alternative proposed through this Project is to remove the barriers to sustainable forest management. This will contribute to the reversal of the current situation of degradation, and help switch forestry in Uzbekistan onto a path of increased forests, increased social and economic benefits from forests, increased carbon sequestration and an improved quality of existing forest.

30. The objective of the proposed Project is to introduce sustainable forest management in Uzbekistan, thereby sequestrating carbon and improving the quality of forest and tree resources.

31. To remove the barriers to sustainable forest management, the proposed Project has four Components and four Outcomes, as described in the following sections.

**Component 1: Information management systems for sustainable forest management.**

32. Under this Component, the Project will support the development of a system to provide reliable, up to date information on forests and forest cover and of trends at the national level, including appropriate attention to carbon. This system will support related processes to report to the UNFCCC and the UNCCD, and notably to the preparation of the UNFCCC national communications. This system will cover forests and trees both inside and outside of the Forest Fund. There is one outcome and five outputs under this Component:

*Outcome 1: An operational National Forest Assessment and Monitoring System*

33. **Output 1.1** An harmonized methodology for data collection. The Project will support development of this methodology. The methodology will be adapted to the capacity and needs and available resources. It will include a combination of remote sensing and ground-truthing. If necessary, the methodology will include ground-truthing at a network of fixed plots across the country. The methodology will be designed to ensure that the data collected is harmonized – i.e. it

is in a format and has a content to be directly useful for many stakeholders, including UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD, FAO/FRA.

34. **Output 1.2** A trained cadre of technicians to undertake the data collection and information management. Based on the selected methodology, local and national technicians will be trained in data collection and verification, database maintenance and database management, information management and communications.

35. **Output 1.3** An equipped forest assessment section in MFD. The Forest Cadastral Unit will be provided with the necessary equipment to establish and maintain an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive forest and tree resource data-base.

36. **Output 1.4** A geo-referenced database. In line with the methodology from Output 1.1, the data will be collected from across the country and encoded into the data base. The result will be the national forest and tree resources assessment. This will include data on carbon stocks. This database will be housed in the section strengthened under 1.3.

37. **Output 1.5** Forest information and monitoring system. After the initial assessment has been produced (Output 1.4), in line with the methodology from Output 1.1, monitoring will then be undertaken regularly and systematically. The database will be regularly and systematically updated. This will create the sustained monitoring system.

**Component 2: Multifunctional forest management leading to carbon sequestration, an improvement in forest and tree resources, and other benefits.**

38. Under this Component, the Project will work with MFD, FPE and five Forest Organizations to develop and implement strengthened forest management at four diverse locations across the country. The strengthened forest management will be leading to increased carbon sequestration as well as many other economic and ecological benefits. The forest management will include accurate forest inventorying at the FO level and the necessary actions to measure, report and validate (MRV) on carbon sequestration at the FO level in line with UNFCCC protocols. There is one outcome and five outputs under this Component:

*Outcome 2: At four diverse locations across Uzbekistan, sustainable forest management is operationalized and sustainable benefits such as carbon sequestration and other forest products are generated.*

39. At each location, a similar and participatory process will be supported, working comprehensively with the concerned Forest Organizations:

- The first step, based on a rapid training needs assessment, will include training of FO staff, notably on issues related to: (i) stakeholder participation; (ii) inventorying and monitoring; (iii) carbon measuring;
- The second step will be a multi-factor assessment of the resources in the forest. This will include an assessment of biodiversity, carbon (as a basis for measuring, reporting and validation, MRV), socio-economic activities, stakeholders, etc;
- The third step will be the participatory planning, involving, as appropriate, all stakeholders. FPE will be involved in this;
- Following the planning, the project will support the implementation of the priority activities as identified in the plans. Hence a range of forestry, agro-forestry or socio-economic activities may be supported, depending on the needs at the site needs and the opportunities (for example: upper forest restoration/protection, MAP development, NWFP development, reforestation, pistachio and other native drought-resilient species development, connecting credit facilities, establishing shelterbelts, etc.) One important result will be the greatly increased sequestration of carbon. It is noted however that implementation of priority forest activities need not necessarily wait completion of the third step – in some cases some activities may be identified and implemented from the outset.

40. **Output 2.1** Sustainable management of mountain forests in the Ugam Chatkal National Park. This will be achieved through the implementation of measures that: (i) protect existing high quality forest (notably from illegal woodcutting and over-grazing); (ii) facilitate natural recovery of lightly degraded forest, and (iii) replant forest in highly degraded areas. A catchment management approach will be adopted.

41. **Output 2.2** Sustainable management of high value pistachio and other native drought-resilient species forest on land that is currently used for wheat farming and livestock grazing in the Jizzak Region. This applies to land that is currently used for food production and/or livestock raising, but which is more suitable for sustainable forestry (pistachio or walnut orchards). Previous action **research** suggests this also makes good economic sense for the farmer/land-user. Some of the land is 'forest Fund', some is agricultural land contiguous to 'forest Fund'. This will be achieved by working with the farmers and demonstrating how this conversion of land-use can lead to multiple benefits, including carbon sequestration and economic profit for the concerned farmer. It will also demonstrate a need for long term land tenure and for improved extension, which will be met with support from Outcome 3.

42. **Output 2.3** Sustainable management of valley forests and shelterbelt forests in the Ferghana valley. The main activities will lead to the establishment of multi-benefit industrial plantations on irrigated agricultural land. The main benefits will be the high carbon sequestration and the protection of the agricultural land from erosion and other forms of degradation.

43. The table in Annex 1 **provides** basic information on potential sites for Outputs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.

44. **Output 2.4** Sustainable management and multi-benefit generation from riparian forests (tugay). This Output is entirely supported by the GIZ and Michael Succow Foundation project "*Ecosystem based land and forest management of the tugai habitats of Amudarya river for improved livelihood of local communities and as adaptation strategy to climate change*" with co-financing from ICI, these activities along the Amudarya river in the Aral Sea region will lead to benefits in terms of firewood for local stakeholders, NWFP, biodiversity conservation and increased carbon sequestration. This will involve the development and application of advanced technology to produce high survival forestry plantings at reduced labor costs, with increased productivity of vegetation. Although supported by a different source of funds, these activities are implemented by MFD – the same implementing partners as for this GEF proposed Project. MFD will ensure full coordination and synergy across the two sources of funds.

45. Outputs 2.1 to 2.4 above will yield direct benefits to approximately 500 households located in the local communities at the four sites supported by the Project by increasing revenue and improving the quality of the natural resource base (land and forest). All land is currently being utilized by local communities, most of which are remote and not well integrated into the national economy. Then, replication and upscaling under Outcome 3 will help spread these approaches, benefitting more local people across the country. Some indicators that will be considered during project design include: (i) *increase in local community's income*, (ii) *Change in type and quantity of forest products (wood and non-wood) obtained from target areas,* and (iii) *increase in productivity from sustainable forestry and multi-benefit industrial plantations*. The baseline and targets will be determined during project preparation, once participation of local communities has been established and project interventions have been designed.

**Component 3: Ensuring sustainability and upscaling sustainable forest management - with carbon sequestration.**

46. Under this Component, the Project will promote changes in the enabling environment that either directly lead to or greatly facilitate broader investment in sustainable forestry management, including government investments and non-government investments. Some of the required changes are already known, others are dependent on the findings and lessons learnt from Component 2. There is one outcome and six outputs under this Component:

*Outcome 3: The policy and enabling framework is conducive to state and private investment in SFM.*

47. **Output 3.1** Capacity inside MFD for forest information management is enhanced, notably in the Cadastral Unit. This will include training and equipment provision related to GIS and to preparing maps. This will empower MFD to oversee inventorying at the FO level.

48. **Output 3.2** Awareness and support for improved land tenure is created. The Project will introduce best practices related to improving land tenure, notably the FAO developed tool Voluntary Guidance on Governance and Tenure (VGGT).[11] The Project **will** provide training on how to use VGGT, and will support its use in order to build support for

[11] VGGT is a tool for developing the local *governance* capacity and increasing resilience. VGGT is a comprehensive, fully-inclusive, structured and participatory tool to create dialogue, to support negotiations, to identify win-win pathways, to collaboratively determine

land tenure reform in Uzbekistan.

49. **Output 3.3** A Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) for the forestry sector or pistachio forest sub-sector, including a national measuring, reporting and validation (MRV) system. A draft NAMA for the pistachio was prepared in 2012 and is under review. Activities in Output 3.3 will identify the bottlenecks to its approval, will raise awareness, and will support the redevelopment of the NAMA and support its approval by both the Uzbekistan government and UNFCCC. It is noted that activities under Outcomes 1 and 2 will lead to improved forest data at FO and national level – these will provide the basis for MRV of NAMA in the forestry sector.

50. **Output 3.4** An amendment to forest legislation legalizing long term leases of forest fund land. As necessary, workshops and studies will be undertaken to generate support for long term – at least 49-year – leases on forest fund land. The necessary associated standards and guidelines will be prepared.

51. **Output 3.5** The National Forest Program is approved. The draft National Forest Program was initially prepared in 2008. It has since been subject to review and revision. It is currently being revised with the support of the FLER-MONECA project[12]. As appropriate, the present proposed Project will determine obstacles to its approval and will facilitate the approval process.

52. **Output 3.6** Lessons and best practices from Component 2 are institutionalized in policy or programs. The assessment and planning process under Component 2 may lead to many innovative tools or approaches being tested or demonstrated (these may cover, for example, providing payments to farmers in return for restoring land, or reducing the current quotas for wheat/cotton production, or replicating the 'points of growth' extension approach to new regions ). In this sense, Component 2 consists of five pilot activities. Under this Output, activities will assess Component 2, identify which tools or approaches should be replicated or upscaled, identify any upstream barriers to their replication/upscaling, and support the removal of those barriers.

**Component 4: Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge-sharing**

53. The Project implementation and M&E systems will be supported under this Component. In addition, activities in this component will develop guidelines and extension material to be used by technicians and forestry extension workers in Uzbekistan. Some of the knowledge generated will be of use across the Central Asia region and in other regions. There is one outcome and four outputs under this Component:

*Outcome 4: Project implementation based on RBM and lessons learned/good practices documented and disseminated*

54. **Output 4.1** A set of manuals or guidelines, for use by forestry managers and technicians, that captures and describe the improved practices, measures and technologies.

55. Outcome 1 will have introduced revisions to the approach to forest resources assessment. Outcome 2, through its consultative and research-action approach, will have developed affordable measures, practices and technologies that have been, tested, refined and implemented over a sizeable area. Outcome 3 will introduce and support policy and institutional developments. Output 4.1 will capture all these successes and products and make them available for dissemination in a format for use by forest managers and technicians in Uzbekistan.

56. **Output 4.2** Project Monitoring & Evaluation Plan and system, in place.

57. **Output 4.3** Project Mid-term and Final Evaluations.

58. **Output 4.4** A Communication Strategy is develop and implemented

59. This will facilitate the strategic dissemination of Project best practices and lessons learned. The Strategy will also

priorities and challenges, to formulate joint objectives and activities, and to establish structures for management, decision-making and conflict resolution.

[12] Supported by the EU

create linkages with regional and global lesson learning processes, for example by linking to the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA) and the FAO/Global Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism[13]. A set of multi-media products to raise public awareness and public appreciation of forests (e.g. video, website, posters etc.) will be developed.

Benefits to local communities

60. Within the Project timeframe, Outputs 2.1 – 2.4 will yield direct benefits to the local communities at all four sites supported by the Project. Much of the forest and forest land is currently being utilized by local communities, most of which are remote and not well integrated into the national economy. By increasing revenue and improving the quality of the natural resource base (land and forest), these Outputs will yield significant benefits to the local community. Replication and upscaling under Outcome 3 will help spread these approaches and benefits to other similar communities.

1.4 Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, from the GEF, and co-financing

**Component 1: Information management systems for sustainable forest management.**

61. The information management system is a necessary basis for the interventions that will deliver the global benefits, in terms of increased carbon sequestration, decreased land degradation, and as a basis for sustainable forest management.

62. Baseline activities by the government will also contribute to this Component, notably the ongoing work of MFD to collect data on forestry and to prepare reports to national government as well as international conventions. This include the work of the four concerned Forest Organizations. Ongoing work of the State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre also contributes to the baseline.

63. Other support to this Component will come from an FAO TCP Project, from the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP), from in-kind technical support from the FAO regional office and also from the GIZ Programme. Each of these initiatives has activities related to preparing information methodologies, or related to training national staff on data collection and management, or related to collecting data, or related to developing capacity to measure carbon sequestration.

64. GEF overall contribution to this Component is $350,000. Baseline and incremental co-financing totals $ 2 million.

**Component 2: Multifunctional forest management leading to carbon sequestration, an improvement in forest and tree resources, and other benefits.**

65. Baseline activities by the government focus on protection and tree plantation. The work is all implemented by the concerned FOs.

66. GEF funds are needed in order to ensure global environmental benefits at these sites, in terms of increased carbon sequestration and decreased land degradation. They also serve as a basis for establishing sustainable forest management.

67. Other support to this Component will come from two FAO TCP Projects, from the FTPP, FAO Regional projects, the planned ICI/GIZ/MSF Tugay project, and local communities with support from the GEF SGP.

68. GEF overall contribution to this Component is $2,085,260. Baseline and incremental co-financing totals $7.5 million.

**Component 3: Ensuring sustainability and upscaling sustainable forest management - with carbon sequestration.**

69. Component 3 is necessary to ensure sustainability and in particularly upscaling, thereby achieving far greater global benefits, notably in terms of increased carbon sequestration, decreased land degradation, and as a basis for sustainable forest management.

[13] More information on these provided later in the document.

70. Other support to this Component comes from the MFD, the FTPP, and from the FAO regional office and also from the GIZ Programme.

71. GEF overall contribution to this Component is $350,000. Baseline and incremental co-financing totals $1.5 million.

**Component 4: Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge-sharing**

72. Government agencies in the baseline are involved in knowledge management, awareness raising and communication. They also undertake some monitoring. There is no focus on global environmental benefits. GEF support is necessary to ensure that carbon and sustainable forestry principles are mainstreamed into the baseline, and that best international practices are adopted, and to cover actual Project M&E.

73. The GEF contribution to this Component is $250,000. Baseline and incremental co-financing totals $1.5 million. This comes mostly from Government support, GIZ and the FAO TCP projects.

1.5 Global environmental benefits

74. The proposed project will deliver global environmental benefits in terms of mitigating climate change, reversing land degradation and sustainable forest management. This is in line with the concerned GEF 6 focal areas and programmes[14], as explained in the following sections:

75. Climate Change Objective 2 (CCM-2): Demonstrate systemic impacts of mitigation options/ Program 4: Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest, and other land use, and support climate smart agriculture. The proposed Project, through introducing improved forest management over 121,750 hectares and therefore sequestrating Carbon, and by creating the conditions for upscaling, will lead to direct and indirect benefits in terms of carbon sequestrated and avoided carbon emission (see indicators and targets in table below). See Annex 1 for a discussion and a calculation of the estimated carbon benefits.

76. Generate sustainable flows of ecosystem services from forests, including in drylands (LD-2)/Program 3: Landscape Management and Restoration. The proposed Project, through addressing trees and forests mostly in production landscapes, and making the linkages with carbon sequestration, will contribute to this program. Notably it will include: landscape regeneration through use of locally adaptive species, including agroforestry and farmer-managed natural regeneration; and SLM approaches to avoid deforestation and forest degradation in production landscapes - including practices for sustainable supply of wood (see indicators and targets in table below).

77. Sustainable Forest Management Objective (SFM-3): Restored Forest Ecosystems: Reverse the loss of ecosystem services within degraded. The proposed Project will, in line with GEF 6 programming guidance, use the restoration of forest lands as a way to support the maintenance and rehabilitation of forest ecosystem services. It will also building technical and institutional capacities to identify degraded forest landscapes and monitor forest restoration, helping to build a foundation for forest landscape restoration at a large scale. Finally, it will include the integration of SFM into landscape restoration (see indicators and targets in table below).

78. Table 4 provides information on the selected GEF 6 programming indicators, the baseline value (where appropriate) and the end-of-project target value. Annex 1 provides the background information on how the targets for carbon emissions and the area under sustainable land management were estimated.

| Indicator | Baseline and End-of Project Target |
|---|---|
| **Climate Change Mitigation** | |
| CC Indicator 1 – Tons of GHG reduced or avoided | Baseline: not applicable<br>Target: 3.2 million $tCO_2eq$* |
| CC Indicator 2 –Volume of investment mobilized and leveraged by GEF projects for low GHG development (public/private investment should be disaggregated) | Baseline: not applicable<br>Target: to be determined at project outset |

[14] GEF 6 Programming Directions, GEF Secretariat, 2014

| | |
|---|---|
| CC Indicator 3 – MRV systems for emission reduction in place and reporting verified data | Baseline: rating level 2[15]<br>Target: rating level 5[16] |
| CC Indicator no. 4: deployment of low GHG technologies and practices (with the following sector clarification: "area under low GHG management practices") | Baseline: not applicable<br>Target: to be determined at project outset |
| **Land Degradation** | |
| Indicator 2.2 Land area under sustainable forest management and/or restoration practices | Baseline: not applicable<br>Target: 121,750 hectares. |
| **Sustainable Forest Management** | |
| Indicator 5: Area of forest resources restored in the landscape, stratified by forest management actors. | Baseline: not applicable<br>Target: 51,750 hectares.<br>(This will be stratified by men/women and governmental/non-governmental at the Project start-up.) |
| **Gender** | |
| Share of women and men as direct beneficiaries of project. | Baseline: not applicable<br>Target: to be determined at project outset |

**TABLE 4: GEF 6 INDICATORS AND TARGETS**

1.6 Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovativeness

79. This is the first large-scale forestry project in Uzbekistan with the Main Forestry Department and supported by GEF. It occurs at a time that the Forest sector is both ripe for reform, and when there is considerable support for reform. Hence the Project it is likely to have significant leverage.

80. Moreover, many of the individual practices and forestry practices to be demonstrated and supported by the Project are innovative for Uzbekistan, in particular at their selected sites. In particular, the overall participatory approach to planning and management is innovative in the country and the region. Also the improved assessing and inventorying, the emphasis on carbon sequestration and carbon financing, and the combined protection/production approaches to forestry management, are all rather innovative in the country and region.

Sustainability and scaling-up

81. As mentioned above, as a very first order estimate, the proportion of forest land that is actually covered with forest in Uzbekistan is less than one third. Hence, in general terms, there is excellent potential for scaling-up the Project approaches across Uzbekistan over the coming decade.

82. Outcome 3 of this Project is entirely devoted to sustainability and upscaling. The approach is to build support amongst politicians and decision-makers, to raise awareness amongst local stakeholders, to provide convincing technical and economic data and to technically demonstrate the success of the introduced approaches. These achievements will form the basis for lobbying and facilitating the necessary institutional and legal changes to unleash a sustainable forest management approach that reverses ongoing land degradation and increases carbon sequestration across Uzbekistan. The Project will also support the development of the financing mechanisms necessary for replication, including through NAMA.

## 2. Stakeholders

83. In the course of the Project concept preparation, multiple consultations have been held with potential stakeholders and partners. This notably includes, The International Fund for saving the Aral Sea, the Michael Succow Foundation (Germany), GIZ, SGP GEF in Uzbekistan, UNDP, etc. This proposed Project complements many of these initiatives,

[15] i.e.: Measurement systems are in place but data is of poor quality and/or methodologies are not very robust; reporting is done only on request or to limited audience or partially; verification is not there.

[16] i.e.: Measurement systems are strong for a limited set of activities and periodically report on key GHG related indicators i.e. mainstreamed into the activity implementation; reporting is improved through few pathways but limited audience and formats; verification limited.

and does not overlap. A full social analysis, including stakeholder analysis, will be conducted during Project preparation. Annex 2 lists the main stakeholders and stakeholder groups, introduces their relevant mandate and how they may be involved in the Project.

84. The main stakeholder is the Main Forest Department (MFD) and its subordinates, notably the locally based Forest Organizations which are responsible for managing the great majority of the Forest Fund.

85. The ultimate beneficiaries of the Project will be the communities and individuals dependent on forest resources. Currently, these communities are suffering from degrading resources and from not benefitting from optimal production approaches. Specifically, under Component 2, the project will implement different activities for developing community based forestry and other benefits. These small-scale initiatives will bring different ecological and socio-economic benefits to members of local communities, including women.

86. At the site level, the Project will work with Farmer Councils and Self-Governing Communities. These are civil society organizations. At all sites under Outcome 2 these CSOs will be involved as direct beneficiaries and local implementing partners. This will also establish models for MFD working with these CSOs that can be replicated.

87. The Project has already held several consultations with the GEF Small Grants Programme in Uzbekistan (SGP). The SGP has significant experience working with local communities, CSOs, Farmer Councils and Self-Governing Communities. The Project intends to develop this into a partnership with the SGP that can deliver the concerned Project Outputs (notably 2.1 – 2.4) and deliver benefits to local communities.

88. Although many different ethnic groups live in Uzbekistan, the population is highly homogeneous. In 1996, the group known as Uzbeks constituted 80 percent of the population. Most of the ethnic minorities are concentrated in particular areas: the vast majority of ethnic Russians live in Tashkent and other industrial centres; Tajiks are concentrated in Samarkand and Bukhara; Karakalpaks reside principally in the Autonomous Republic of Karakalpaokstan and; Kazakhs are concentrated in areas near Tashkent and Bukhara. The full socio-economic assessment to be undertaken during the PPG phase will provide all related data and analysis.

## 3. Gender Considerations

89. Although ranked 116$^{th}$ out of 187 countries in terms of human development, Uzbekistan is ranked 82$^{nd}$ in terms of gender-related development, meaning it is significantly higher in terms of gender development than overall human development. This is in part due to the high status for women under the former Soviet Union. Notwithstanding, it is ranked well below neighbouring Kazakhstan and Kirgizstan, meaning far more could be done. A key issue across Uzbekistan, including in rural areas near the forests, is the emigration of males to cities and to other countries in search of labour, meaning there is a large number of *de facto* female-headed households.

90. Currently, women do not play a major role in forest management in Uzbekistan. Less than 20% of MFD professional staff are female, and this figure is even lower for the FO. However, women do play a more important role in agriculture (on Forest Fund land and on land adjacent to the Forest Fund that may be suitable for forestry) and in non-wood forest products (e.g. medicinal plant, bee-keeping and wood fuel collection).

91. In line with the GEF *Policy on Gender Mainstreaming* and the GEF-6 approach on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, gender considerations are important to this Project. The Project will be designed, to the extent possible, to empower women and to facilitate gender mainstreaming in the forestry sector. The Project will acknowledge gender differences, it will assess and comprehensively understand them. It will undertake an analysis of the role and potential of women in the forestry sector, and it will then design and implement activities that promote women's empowerment and gender equality. However, it is not expected that this will be a major issue in this Project.

## 4 Risks

92. The initial risk assessment has tentatively identified the risks and the concerned risk management strategies. These are set out in Table 5. These will be validated during full Project preparation. If necessary, risk management strategies will be elaborated in line with the FAO Environmental and Social Standards. Further, additional assessments will

be undertaken to identify any additional risks. During Project implementation, all risks will be monitored in a continuous manner by the Government and FAO, and strategic changes to the Project approach will be determined if necessary.

| Risk/Assumptions | Level | Management strategy |
|---|---|---|
| Government engagement in the Project at the highest level is insufficient to ensure mainstreaming, upscaling and replication. As a result, the enabling and institutional measures to be proposed by the Project will not be adopted. | Medium | The Project will have several strategies to mitigate this risk: (i) most work in the early years is at the local level, so during this period time will be taken to advocate and build partnerships at high level government; (ii) the project will demonstrate the advantages of SFM in economic terms, which should attract high level government interest; (iii) the project will establish partners with many stakeholders and will create joint approaches to fostering high-level commitment. |
| The enabling legal and institutional framework is not sufficiently conducive to the Project Objectives, and is not modified/adopted in a timely way.<br><br>The policy, legal and regulatory framework for forestry in Uzbekistan has changed in recent years, however, it still has several weaknesses, which may hinder achieving some of the Project Objectives. | Medium | The Project is designed so that most objectives can be reached through the site level, demonstration and pilot activities.<br><br>However, some objectives (notably replication and upscaling) will require ultimately changes in the enabling framework. Component 3 addresses these issues head on. This situation will be monitored in a continuous manner by the Government and FAO, and strategic changes to the Project approach will be determined if necessary. |
| Financially sustainable models of forest management cannot be identified/developed for Uzbekistan. | Medium | To a great extent, the forests cover can only be conserved and expanded if there are financial benefits. If mechanisms to generate the financial benefits are not established, forests in Uzbekistan will continue to be under threat, during and after the project is finished.<br><br>In response, the Project has activities and strategies to foster financial sustainability – this is a main strategy of the Project. |
| Climate change may lead to increased threats to forest, through fire, pests, diseases and changing climatic conditions (temperature, precipitation).<br><br>Many of the forests are currently vulnerable to pests and diseases – these are two vectors that are likely to be exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. | Low | The time scale for climate change should mean that it does not significantly impact forests during the Project implementation. Further, the Project, by greatly increasing overall forest management capacity, should greatly contribute to climate change resilience in Uzbekistan. |
| Globally, the value of carbon on international markets remains low, or gets lower, further decreasing enthusiasm for SFM. | Low | It is true that, should the price of carbon increase rapidly, this would greatly help reach the Project objectives. Hence, the Project treats carbon as one possible source of finance for sustainable forestry. However, Project success does not hang on this. |

**TABLE 5: RISKS, LEVELS AND RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

## 5. Coordination

93. The MFD and FAO will be directly responsible for coordination. FAO will lead in ensuring coordination with international partners and initiatives, whereas MFD will ensure coordination with national and local partners and national initiatives.

94. The Project will be coordinated with the following past and planned GEF projects, as follows:

- "Establishment of the Nuratau-Kyzylkum Biosphere Reserve as a Model for Biodiversity Conservation" and "Conservation of Tugai Forest and Strengthening Protected Areas System in the Amu Darya Delta of Karakalpakstan" (both completed several years ago with support from UNDP). Although completed some time ago, these projects generated knowledge related to forest management in Uzbekistan, particularly on the piloting of more participatory approaches. This knowledge will feed into the present project. These projects were implemented with the State Committee on Nature Protection;
- "Reducing Pressures on Natural Resources from Competing Land Use in Non-irrigated Arid Mountain, Semi-desert and Desert Landscapes" (started in 2013, with support from UNDP, referred to as the 'LAND' project). This project, working with the State Committee for Land Resources, is also piloting approaches to sustainable land management, primarily on agricultural land. Lessons and knowledge will be shared with the present proposed Project;
- "Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change Mitigation Project" (started in 2013, with the World Bank). Although this project focusses on agricultural (irrigated) land, and has a major focus on renewable energies, some approaches and lessons will be of interest to the present proposed Project;
- "Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity to improve regulating and supporting ecosystem services in agriculture production in Uzbekistan" (PIF approved in 2013, with support from UNEP). This project focusses on the conservation and use of fruit tree biodiversity and the enhancement of ecosystem services. Lessons and knowledge will be shared with the present proposed Project;
- "Sustainable natural resource and forest management in key mountainous areas important for globally significant biodiversity" (PIF approved in 2015, with support from UNDP, and implemented by the State Committee on Nature Protection). This project focusses in particular on habitat for the snow leopard, hence mostly high altitude forests. Geographically, the proposed Project will complement this project. Lessons and knowledge will be shared between this project and the proposed Project.

95. The proposed Project will also be coordinated with the *Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management* (CACILM). CACILM is a multi-phase, multi-country, multi-donor program promoting sustainable land management to restore, maintain, and enhance productivity of drylands. GEF has supported, and continues to support, CACILM at both regional level and in Uzbekistan. In order to implement projects effectively, each participating country has developed a National Programming Framework for tackling the root causes of desertification. CACILM focuses on drylands (and therefore Uzbekistan's desert forests) and there are several technical areas of overlap where lessons can be shared, for example on carbon sequestration and participatory natural resource management. Notably, the GEF Council recently approved a PIF for *"Integrated Natural Resources Management in Drought-prone and Salt-affected Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM-2)"* under CACILM, of which a major focus of the activities will be in Uzbekistan. Preparation of CACILM-2 project is starting and while specific areas of intervention are yet to be discussed with the government, the project will focus in Uzbekistan on integration of resilience into policy, legal and institutional frameworks for INRM as well as upscaling of climate-smart agriculture in salt-affected production landscapes. A more detailed coordination plan that may include annual meetings to discuss each respective project's work will be developed during project inception.

96. The Project will also be coordinated with the following related activities in Uzbekistan:

- BMZ/GIZ: "Adapting to Climate Change through Sustainable Management of Resources and Cross-Border Cooperation on Disaster Prevention in Central Asia" (2011 – 2013) and "Programme for the sustainable use of natural resources in Central Asia" (2002 - ). Although Uzbekistan was not a major focus of these projects, they have built capacity in Uzbekistan and undertaken small-scale on the ground activities. The proposed Project will draw from these lessons.
- EU/GIZ, FLERMONECA – Forest and Biodiversity Governance including Environmental Monitoring. The project is due to end in 2015. There is a possibility of a follow-up project;
- Several partners (including FAO and Michael Succow Foundation) have joined together and recently submitted a request to the German government's International Climate Initiative (ICI) for the "Central Asian Desert Initiative (CADI) - Conservation and adaptive use of cold winter deserts in Central Asia". This €3.3 million project, if approved, focuses on sustainable management of desert forests. Although it covers 3 countries, the emphasis is to be on Uzbekistan;
- Finally, the Project "Ecosystem based land and forest management of the tugai habitats of Amudarya river for improved livelihood of local communities and as adaptation strategy to climate change

(Uzbekistan/Turkmenistan)", supported by ICI, and to implemented by MFD, GIZ and Michael Succow Foundation (€2 million).

## 6. Consistency with National Priorities

UNFCCC

97. Uzbekistan prepared a *National Strategy on GHG Emission Reductions* in 2000. This document prioritized the increasing use of GHG sinks in forest ecosystem through afforestation, reforestation and improvement of existing forests. This proposed Project is aligned to that priority.

98. Subsequently, the *Second National Communication* (2008, SNC) validated the above-mentioned National Strategy and further developed the priorities. The SNC identifies that currently the forestry sector is not a major sector in GHG emissions in Uzbekistan, but clarifies that it has the potential to significantly increase sequestration. Further, it notably promotes the widespread application of local tree species in order to increase GHG removals, as well as to generate other benefits such as land recreation, environment protection and biodiversity conservation.

UNCCD

99. The proposed Project responds to the priority actions identified in the National Action Program to Combat Desertification (NAPCD, 2002). In particular, the proposed 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; Restoring forests and growing them on lands of the state reserve and other territories suitable for it, and; Developing economic mechanisms for ensuring more sustainable use of natural resources.

100. With support from UNEP, the Government of Uzbekistan is currently preparing an updated National Action Program to implement the UNCCD. The unapproved draft prioritizes assessment and monitoring of land degradation and sustainable forest management. Hence, this proposed Project is in line with the draft document.

Forestry

101. The following laws have directly or indirectly influenced the forestry of Uzbekistan: the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan (1992); Laws and Regulations on "Nature Protection" (1992); "Protection and Use of Flora" (1997); The Forest Act of 1999; the Land Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan (1998), and; the Law on Protected Areas" (2004).

102. The Forest Act (1999, with two subsequent amendments) regulates all matters concerning the management and protection of forests is the most important. In 2006, the MFD developed and approved a Forestry Development Program for the period of 2006 - 2010. The program included sections devoted to reforestation, afforestation, enhancement of the environmental and protective functions of forests, and expanding the forest cover. Subsequently, with support from FAO and other partners, the Government is developing a follow-up National Forest Programme. In addition to maintaining the strategic priorities of the early program, the draft for the follow-up program includes important policy initiatives, for example in the area of land tenure and participation in forestry. In this sense, the Uzbekistan forest sector can be considered to be on the eve of significant reforms. This proposed Project, while fully supporting the objectives and priorities set out in the Forestry Development Program, has also been designed to be able to help facilitate policy reforms, should opportunities arise.

103. Finally, in January 2015, the Government issued a Protocol related to medicinal and aromatic plants requiring that production of these increase rapidly in order to contribute to exports. This is also supported through the present proposed Project.

104. In addition, the approach and goals of this Project are central to the following development and sectoral plans and strategies:

- The National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation (1998) which included the following

priorities (i) Protection of biological resources, including forests and grasslands and (ii) restoration of structures and functions of degraded ecosystems. With support from UNDP/GEF, Uzbekistan is currently updating this action plan. This proposed Project – with its focus on sustainable forest management and sustainable use of forest resources - is aligned to the recommendations and priorities in the draft updated action plan;

- The Regional Environmental Action Plan for Central Asia (REAPCA, issued in 2004) which highlights the degradation of mountain ecosystem as one of its priority problems;
- The Uzbekistan Welfare Improvement Strategy, 2008 -2010 (WIS) that targets transformation of the agricultural sector by the improvement and sustainable use of natural resources.

FAO

105. The Project is also aligned to the FAO Country Programming Framework for the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2014 to 2017 (CPF). The CPF lays the groundwork for all FAO support to Uzbekistan and its collaboration with resource partners, the private sector and other national and international entities. The CPF underscores the need to preserve Uzbekistan's natural resources whilst using them in a sustainable way. It emphasizes forest resources, drought risk management, wildlife management, amongst others, as areas for action.

## 7. Knowledge management

106. Given the innovative nature of the Project in Uzbekistan and in the central Asia region, knowledge management is a key part of the Project strategy. The knowledge management activities are planned from the onset and are to start early in the Project life. The knowledge management activities will support the replication and upscaling in Uzbekistan. Knowledge management will also feed into planning and decision making in neighbouring countries in Central Asia.

107. Under Outcome 1, the proposed Project helps establish the national forest assessment. This is the basis for knowledge and knowledge management related to forestry.

108. Under Output 1.1 and Outcome 2, the Project helps establish an MRV system. This will systematically generate knowledge related mostly to GHG emissions and factors, but also contribute to knowledge and data bases related to biodiversity and land management.

109. Under Outcome 4, the proposed Project will establish tools and mechanisms to systematically collect data, to document lessons learnt, to validate technical options, and to share lessons to national, regional and international partners. This will be done in close connection to Project monitoring and evaluation and to the Project communications strategy. This will lead to an increase in the concerned knowledge base of the country.

110. The Project's participatory process, involving relevant policy making, research, and operational institutions, will ensure that knowledge is shared efficiently within the country. Internationally, FAO will play a leading role in lesson sharing and knowledge management.

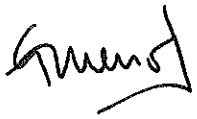
## PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

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

| NAME | POSITION | MINISTRY | DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Sergey Myagkov | Deputy Director NIGMI/UZhydromet | CABINET OF MINISTRIES | **10/26/2015** |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

### A. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

**This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.**

| Agency Coordinator, Agency name | Signature | DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)* | Project Contact Person | Telephone | Email Address |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gustavo Merino<br>Director<br>Investment Centre Division<br>Technical Cooperation Department<br>FAO<br>Viale delle Terme di Caracalla (00153)<br>Rome, Italy<br>TCI-Director@fao.org |  | 28 October 2015 | Norbert Winkler<br>Forestry Officer<br>FAO REU | (+36-1) 4612-024 | Norbert.Winkler@fao.org |
| Jeffrey Griffin<br>FAO<br>Senior GEF Coordinator<br>Email: Jeffrey.Griffin@fao.org Tel: +3906 5705 5680 | | | | | |

## ANNEX 1 – Estimating Global Benefits

Data on the current and potential carbon stocks in Uzbekistan's forests is very incomplete and inconsistent. The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 – Country Report Uzbekistan (FAO 2010) provides some estimates. Firstly, FAO 2010 estimates the total forest cover in Uzbekistan to be 3.275 million hectares. FAO 2010 also estimates there to be 874,000 hectares of 'other wooded land'.[17] FAO 2010 estimates that carbon stocks in 'above ground biomass' in Forest Fund forests are 13.4 million metric tons. This does not include the 'other wooded land', forests outside the Forest Fund nor the carbon stock in 'below ground biomass'. It can therefore be considered a very conservative estimate.

As a very first order estimate, the proportion of Forest Fund land that is currently covered with forest is less than one third. This suggests that, in the ideal situation, forest cover could triple over its current value. Accordingly, potentially, carbon stocks could also triple. This would potentially yield a sequestration of approximately 27 million metric tons (at a conservative estimated). Although a very simple estimation, these figures suggest strongly that there is a great potential to sequestrate carbon through increasing forest cover in Uzbekistan.

The government of Uzbekistan has prepared two proposals for carbon sequestration in the forest sector to be considered under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol: a CDM proposal titled: "*Pilot Reforestation Activities in Two Selected Forest Management Area in Central Uzbekistan*" and a NAMA proposal titled: "*Rainfed Mountain Belt Reforestation*". These respectively provided estimates for carbon sequestration. Under the CDM proposal, it was estimated that the reforestation of 60 hectares of mountain forest and 146 hectares of valley forests would lead to the sequestration of 24,302 $tCO_2$ within 10 years. Under the NAMA proposal, it was estimated that the reforestation of foothill slopes (i.e. currently used for low productive wheat production or pasture land) with native tree species (pistachio, almond) would lead to the sequestration of 118.1 tC/ha within 20 years[18]. These figures also demonstrate the potential in Uzbekistan for carbon sequestration through increased forest cover and improved management.

The Project intervention sites have not yet been selected. Hence, illustrative or representative sites were used in order to estimate the Project's global benefits. The following table illustrates the global benefits estimated at each illustrative site.

More data on the assumptions and methodologies used can be provided.

[17] It is noted that these figures are higher than those for Forest Fund in official government publications as reported earlier in this document. One reason for this difference is that FAO 2010 includes forest and wooded land outside of the Forest Fund (i.e. on land officially categorized as agricultural).

[18] Or 433 tons of $CO_2e$

| Illustrative or Representative Site (Forest Organization) | Total area of the Forest Fund | Area of FO land currently with forest cover | Target for plantation/reforestation/afforestation in the area, and estimated respective carbon gains (a) | Target for protection from degradation of existing high quality forest (b) | Target for 'natural regeneration' of forests (c) | Best estimate of Carbon sequestration/avoided emissions over a five year period |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Illustrative Site for Output 2.1<br><br>**Ugam Chatkal National Park** – juniper forest. | 550 000 ha | 70 000 ha | Forestry : 30,000 ha – 70,000 ha (depending on government available investments)<br><br>Carbon :<br>1.9 t C/ha\|year, thus:<br><br>30,000 hectares =<br><br>30000*5*1.9=285,000 t C<br>or 1 046 000 t $CO_2$<br><br>70,000 hectares =<br>70000*1.9*5 = 665,000 t C<br>or 2 440 000 t $CO_2$ | Forestry : 70 000 ha<br><br>Carbon :<br><br>1) Juvenile : [19]<br><br>1.9 t C/ha\|year<br><br>Thus : 1.9*(70000/2)*5=332 500 t C<br>or 1 219 167 t $CO_2$ – for<br><br>2) Existing forest :<br><br>0.2 tonC/ha\|year<br><br>Thus: 0.2(70000/2)*5=35000 t C<br>or 128 333 t $CO_2$ | Forestry : 20 000 ha<br><br>Carbon :<br><br>1.9 t C/ha\|year<br><br>1.9*20000*5=190 000 t C<br><br>Or<br><br>696 667 t $CO_2$ | In the range:<br><br>842,500 – 1,222,500 tC (IPCC, 2006) |
| Illustrative Site for Output 2.2<br><br>**Pistachio FO** | 5 000 ha | 1 200 ha | Forestry : 1000 ha<br><br>Carbon :<br>3.33 t C/ha\|year<br>Thus 3.33 *1000*5=16 650 t C<br>Or<br>60 939 t $CO_2$ | Forestry : 500 ha<br><br>Carbon :<br>3.33 t C/ha\|year thus :<br>3.33*500*5=8 325 t C<br>Or<br>30 469 t $CO_2$ | Forestry: - There is no natural pistachio forest, therefore natural regeneration is not expected. | 24 975 t C |
| Illustrative Site for Output 2.3<br><br>**Feghana valley FO** – poplar forest | 10 000 ha | 3 600 ha | Forestry : 250 ha[20]<br><br>Carbon :<br>3.92 t C/ha\|year<br>Thus: 3.92 *250*5=4,900 t C<br>Or<br>17,996 t $CO_2$ | - | - | 4,900 t C |
| **TOTALS** | | | **31,250-71,250 hectares** | **70,500 hectares** | **20,000 hectares** | **In the range: 872,375 – 1,252,375 tC Or (approximately 3.2 – 4.6 million $tCO_2eq$** |

[19] Note: there are different approach for juvenile and existing forest
[20] The target is equivalent to 2.5 % of irrigated lands

## Annex 2 – Introduction to the Main Stakeholders, Mandates and Role in the Project

| Stakeholder | Mandate | Role/responsibility in Project |
|---|---|---|
| Main Forest Department (MFD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources | MFD is responsible for policy formulation in the forestry sector.<br><br>MFD is responsible for forest assessments and inventory. It controls and supervises all forests and all forestry activity (including most Protected Areas).<br><br>The MFD reports to the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources | • Overall project coordination<br>• Responsible for project success to Government of Uzbekistan.<br>• Provide technical and logistical support and so a co-financier.<br>• Contribute to assessing impact of the project;<br>• Benefit from capacity building activities. |
| Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAWR) | MAWR is the national body that oversees MFD and so takes ultimate responsibility for Uzbek forests and forestry. | • Responsible for institutional guidance of the Project;<br>• Benefit from awareness raising and capacity building. |
| Forests Projects Enterprise (FPE) of MFD | A key unit in MFD that supports all FO in the planning and implementation and activities. Notably, FPE supports the preparation of Forest Management Plans and related inventory work at the FO level. | • A technical partner in the development and implementation of many Project activities at the site level.<br>• Will benefit from capacity building, notably related to forest planning and forest monitoring and carbon. |
| Forest Cadastral Unit of MFD | State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre - responsible for the national land and land-use inventories. Interactions with the | • A technical partner in the development of the national forest assessment, and will benefit from related capacity building, (including on carbon related issues).<br>• Co-financer. |
| Forests Organizations (FO) of MFD | Responsible for forest management. Forest Organizations prepare decennial forest management plans, and are directly responsible for the implementation of most activities (including inventorying, monitoring, protection, reforestation, etc). | • Four of the MFD FO will be operational partners at the site level;<br>• The same FO will benefit greatly from capacity building and from Project outputs;<br>• All FO will benefit from some capacity building, and possibly from upscaling under Outcome 3. |
| Other Forest Managers (e.g. Tashkent Municipality) | 6% of Uzbek forests are managed by forest organizations or units that are not under the supervision of MFD. One example of this is the Ugam-Chatkal National Park that is managed by two FO and one Protected Area under the supervision of the Tashkent Municipality Government. | • As with all FO, these will benefit from some capacity building, and possibly from upscaling under Outcome 3. |
| Republic's Scientific-Production Center for Decorative Gardening and Forestry | Responsible for scientific research in the forestry sector related to protection, conservation and production – including for none wood forest products. | • A technical partner in the identification of strategies at the FO level and in the implementation of activities. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | • Will benefit from related capacity building, (including on financial, socio-economic and carbon related issues). |
| State Committee for Nature Protection | Responsible for environmental protection in Uzbekistan. Convention on biodiversity focal point. | • Will benefit from knowledge and data generated from Project on sustainable forest management, including data on forest biodiversity;<br>• Will benefit from some capacity building. |
| Centre of Hydrometeorological Service (Uzhydromet) | GEF, UNFCCC and UNCCD focal point. Responsible for coordination of the preparation of all UNCCD and UNFCCC reports, including UNFCCC National Communications with GHG inventory. | • Will benefit from data generated from Project on forest inventories. Will also benefit from some capacity building. |
| State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre | Executive agency in the system of regulating land relations and managing unit system of state cadaster, responsible for inspection of rational land usage and government programs on enhancing productivity. | • May benefit from data generated by the Project. May also benefit from some capacity building |
| Small Grants Programme of GEF/UNDP in Uzbekistan (SGP-Uz) | Have been identifying, developing and supporting small grants to local, non-governmental partners, for approximately one decade. Have experience in participatory forestry and local measures to achieve global environmental benefits. | • A potential implementation partner for local, participatory, forestry activities. |
| Academia and Universities | For example Tashkent Agrarian University, Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, etc. | • May provide scientific support and knowledge towards the development of new approaches and technologies;<br>• May be a beneficiary of improved information and some capacity building. |
| Farmer Councils and Local Self-governing communities | Non-governmental organizations that can be an entry point for participatory natural resource management at the local level. | • A potential implementation partner for local, participatory, forestry activities;<br>• Would also be a beneficiary of improved information and some capacity building. |
| Michael Succow Foundation | Have experience and knowledge related to developing and implementing activities in the forestry sector in Uzbekistan, including with MFD and following participatory approaches. | • A potential co-financier;<br>• A potential technical and operational partner. |