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COUNTRY PORTFOLIO EVALUATION TAJIKISTAN (1999 – 2015)

VOLUME I – EVALUATION REPORT

(Prepared by the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF)

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank	BCAP	Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	CEP	Committee for Environmental Protection
DRD	Direct Rule Districts	EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EA	Enabling Activity	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	GBAO	Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast
FSP	Full-size Project	GDI	Gender-related Development Index
GEF	Global Environment Facility	GoT	Government of Tajikistan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
HDI	Human Development Index	IMF	International Monetary Fund
ILO	International Labour Organization	KHO	Khatlon Oblast
IOM	International Organization for Migration	MDG	Millennium Development Goal(s)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
MSP	Medium-size Project	PMIS	Project Management Information System
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan	PPCR	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience

POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants	RAF	Resource Allocation Framework
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper	REAP	Regional Environmental Action Plan
RT	Republic of Tajikistan	STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
SGP	Small Grants Programme	TOR	Terms of Reference
TJS	Tajik Somoni (national currency)	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	WB	World Bank
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization		

CHAPTER 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Background

1. The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) conducts Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPEs) to provide the GEF Council and the national governments with an assessment of the results and performance of GEF-supported activities at country level. These evaluations also assess how these activities are aligned with national strategies and priorities as well as the global environmental mandate of the GEF. CPEs enable knowledge sharing about country-level results for the benefit of the GEF Council, the participating country, and the agencies and organizations that design, plan and implement GEF-funded activities.

2. The Tajikistan CPE was conducted between October 2014 and January 2016. The GEF portfolio in Tajikistan is diverse and mature, and is composed of 23 national projects covering biodiversity and climate change, with a significant number of multifocal projects. The specific objectives of the evaluation are to assess the effectiveness, results and sustainability of GEF support in Tajikistan, and assess its relevance and efficiency, implementation frameworks, decision-making processes, policies and procedures, with the ultimate aim to provide feedback and knowledge sharing in Tajikistan and in the GEF as a whole.¹

3. GEF support to Tajikistan started in 1999. At present, the national portfolio is composed of seven Full-size Projects (FSPs), eight Medium-size Projects (MSPs) and eight Enabling Activities (EAs). The portfolio mainly covers the biodiversity and climate change focal areas, with six and five projects respectively. It includes six multifocal area projects, three chemical and waste projects and three land degradation projects. The total GEF grant in the national portfolio amounts at US\$ 33.9 million, with US\$ 119.65 million in cofinancing. Tajikistan is party to sixteen regional and seven global projects, totaling US\$ 64.85 million, with US\$ 150.93 million cofinancing.² GEF support through the Small Grants Programme (SGP) has been mostly used for biodiversity and land degradation. Each US\$ of GEF grant to the SGP has leveraged US\$1.23 on average in co-financing, half of which is in cash and half in-kind.

1.2 Highlights of the Main Findings

Results, Effectiveness and Sustainability

4. The overall performance of the portfolio has been satisfactory, with five out of the six completed project rated as satisfactory in the respective Terminal Evaluation (TE). These include one project rated as 'Highly Satisfactory' and four as 'Moderately Satisfactory'.

¹ The GEF Tajikistan CPE country-specific Terms of Reference (ToR) are presented in Annex C.

² The GEF grants and cofinancing amounts pertaining to regional and global projects are for all the participating countries taken together.

5. Results in biodiversity demonstrate evidence of replication of management plans for protected areas. The financial plan introduced by the Gissar Mountains Project (GEF ID 1854) for the Shirkent Historical Park was replicated in other protected areas throughout the country. Management plans have also been replicated in Dashtidzhum Zakaznik (zakaznik - a type of protected area) and Natural Biosphere Reserve Tigrovaya Balka. Importantly, GEF support to biodiversity introduced participatory management in Tajikistan's protected areas system, endorsed by the State Directorate of Protected Areas through Decision No. 57 on December 10, 2010. Other support includes the rationalization of the protected areas boundaries (i.e. the Romit Reserve and the Shirkent Historical Park). GEF support has contributed to an increase in the land area under conservation from 4% to 22%, and there is evidence of stress reduction and improved environmental status as a result of replication in specific and disconnected sites. A noteworthy foundational support from the GEF is the one provided for the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework (GEF ID 3211), which helped establishing the Centre for Biodiversity and Biosafety and has contributed to the development of important national legislation on biosafety.

6. GEF support to climate change has mostly helped the country to fulfil its obligations to the UNFCCC and the legal framework in the small hydropower sector, with the law on energy efficiency and energy savings, no. 1018 of September 19, 2013. Ongoing support to the transportation and the small-hydropower sectors, both involving the private sector, show good promise in terms of estimated GHG emission reduction potential. The estimated percentage of locally manufactured small hydropower installation costs increased from 5-10% to 50%, and the local manufacturers are now able to fully design, and construct small hydropower units locally.

7. Land degradation was an important share of GEF support to Tajikistan, provided through both national and regional projects. Similarly to biodiversity, results were mostly achieved in the development of important national laws, as in the case of the Law on Mountain Regions and the law on Pastures, approved in 2013. The CACILM project (GEF ID 3237) introduced bio-drainage and shelterbelts which were replicated outside the project area, in the Jirkul district. New protected areas were *de facto* created with direct support from the project. Results from regional projects are less visible.

8. Support to chemicals and waste was effective in the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) sector. From 2001 to 2008, the ODS Phasing-out project (GEF ID 15) contributed to recovering and recycling 115,008 kilograms of refrigerants. About 85% of domestic CFC-based refrigerators were replaced between 2000 and 2010. Parallel to that, through the project HCFC Phase Out in the CEIT Region (GEF ID 4102), a retrofit financial incentive programme was designed and implemented for the country's refrigeration industry. The consequent ODS phase-out is equal to 50.7 tons ODP (ozone depletion potential), with which the country returned to compliance with the Montreal Protocol in 2006. Results in POPs did not go beyond foundational support.

9. The five completed and ongoing multifocal projects in the national portfolio largely include biodiversity, climate change and land degradation elements and addressed most of the main environmental priorities set by national development and environmental policy documents. Results are mainly visible at the local and project sites level. Examples from the

community watershed management project (GEF ID 1872) include: (i) gardens on terraces, conserving the soil, preventing wind erosion and increasing GHG absorption; (ii) corrals for livestock, facilitating the preservation of livestock productivity, the improvement of pastures, leading in turn to increasing overall productivity and natural restoration of land; and (iii) the yaks' breeding initiative, which also improved pasture lands productivity by contributing to reduce the pressure on pastures. Irrigation water saving technologies and use of biological methods for plants and crops protection as alternatives to chemical control (GEF ID 1872 and 3237) are estimated to have saved at least 250 cubic meters of water a year. An irrigation network that was rehabilitated in 30 villages allows a more rational and efficient use of irrigation water, prevents erosion and soil salinization, and reduces the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Water supply pipelines built for 550 households are still functioning today.

10. Institution and capacity building was effective. All the Jamoat Resource Centers (JRC) supported by the Gissar Mountains project (GEF ID 1854) are still operational today, as they are the two tree nurseries set up with the support of the project. Ten farmers having benefited of training opportunities provided by the project have concluded land lease agreements with the local forestry department. The community watershed management project (GEF ID 1872) set up three information centers, all of them still operating today. Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) consultants trained by the CACILM project are still working for the Land Degradation Units (LDUs) in the project region. Not all efforts have been successful though. The 5-Years Tugai Community forest management agreement supported by the Gissar Mountains project, signed in 2008 by community representatives and the Hukumat (the local authority) expired in 2013. To date, no further efforts have been made for its renewal.

11. In Tajikistan, GEF support focused considerably on knowledge generation and sharing. The most effective form of support in this area was in awareness raising and skills building. In terms of knowledge generation, a number of FSPs and MSPs had varying degrees of effectiveness. The project Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation project (GEF ID 2037) developed a set of maps generated through Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which were uploaded on a dedicated internet website. These include a number of maps of ecosystems, biotopes, natural habitats for plants and animals, biodiversity threats, boundaries of zakaznik³ and a zoning map. Unfortunately the website was removed after project completion.

12. The ongoing Small-Hydropower project (GEF ID 4160) helped developing a guidebook, providing in-depth information to private and public investors interested in the construction of small-hydropower plants, and education modules for students of technical universities and short term vocational trainings. The guidebook and modules have been included in the education curricula of the Tajik Technical University and the Kurgant'yube Energy Institute, the main institutions training hydropower engineers in Tajikistan. The Gissar Mountains project (GEF ID 1854) issued a regular newsletter, Navruzgoh, to disseminate best practices and lessons learned. The Center for Environmental Protection (CEP) has then taken ownership of this

³ A type of protected area.

initiative, and a national staff conference has been held annually since 2009 to facilitate networking. Trainings, peer-to-peer exchanges and other forms of skills buildings were a particular focus in several projects. As a result of the trainings delivered by one of the earliest projects, the ODS Phasing-out project (GEF ID 15), many of the 334 certified refrigeration technicians continue working as independent entrepreneurs or as employees of various service centers throughout the country.

13. Thirteen national projects considered gender issues in project formulation and implementation, while the other ten didn't. More specifically, gender issues were mentioned in the project formulation documents of all thirteen projects, although some of them only did it partially (GEF ID 3310 and 3237). M&E documentation shows that five projects were actively mainstreaming gender in their activities (GEF ID 1854, 4160, 1872, 3129 and 3310). Only six projects include gender disaggregated indicators (GEF ID 4422, 4352, 1872, 3234, 3129, and 5236). The Gissar Mountains project (GEF ID 1854) integrated a gender dimension into the conceptualization, planning, and implementation of all project activities. The project considered women involvement to be crucial in ensuring demonstration activities are successful and have strong potential to be replicated. Conversely, the CACILM project (GEF ID 3237) didn't, despite the fact that most of the labor in the farming systems of Tajikistan is done by women. Women were mainly involved in the micro-loan activities and trainings (GEF ID 1854, 3237, 4160, 3129, and 3310). Promoting the participation of women in decision making processes has been inconsistent in the period under analysis. Some efforts were made in two earlier projects (GEF ID 1872, 1854) and in a more recent one (GEF ID 5223). The introduction of the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming in 2011 contributed to a higher consideration of gender in the portfolio.

Relevance

14. In line with its mandate, the GEF has supported Tajikistan in the preparation of important documents, including the First National Communication to UNFCCC, the National Implementation Plan for Stockholm Convention on POPs, the NCSA, the NBSAP and the First National Report to the CBD. These foundational documents helped the country comply with its obligations as a signatory member of the international environmental conventions. To note, Tajikistan is party to most if not all the international environmental conventions, with the notable exception of the Minamata convention on mercury, which has not yet been signed. Mercury is among the major mineral resources extracted in Tajikistan, where chemicals leaking in waters as a result of mining activities is a cause of concern.

15. All GEF national projects align with most of the main national official sustainable development and environment policies. Furthermore, a quick estimation based on available literature compared with portfolio figures in the period 2010-2012 allows to infer that GEF is an important contributor to the country's efforts in the environmental sector. To note, the co-finance ratio of US\$3.5 for each US\$1 of GEF grant in the national portfolio compares reasonably well with the two other country portfolios analyzed by the IEO in the ECA region (US\$2.9 in Turkey; slightly over US\$1 in Moldova). Not only is GEF support aligned with country's national priorities, it is also included in national budgets, demonstrating ownership, especially since GEF-4. After Tajikistan's accession to the Paris Declaration in 2005, project

management units started being set up under the ministries and government agencies, with four out of the eight GEF - 4 and GEF - 5 MSPs and FSPs.

Efficiency

16. With its average of 25.45 months, the Tajikistan portfolio scores better than Sri Lanka, where FSPs take an average of four years to move from entry into pipeline to start of implementation, as well as South Africa and Brazil, where the average is 3.7 and 3.6 years, respectively. Overall, in comparison with most portfolios analyzed by the GEF IEO in the last 10 years, Tajikistan scores rather well, although for FSPs it took more than four months longer than the official threshold of 18 months established in GEF-5. Stakeholders consider these time lags too long.

17. GEF ongoing and future projects are discussed in the Donor Coordination Committee (DCC) and coordinated with other donors support at the national level. Coordination is affected at the local level by insufficient engagement of the respective government agencies, some of which have undergone several internal restructurings. At times, this even included lack of institutional clarity in the roles and responsibilities of the respective institutions. GEF projects, as mentioned by several interviewed stakeholders, have introduced a culture of collaboration among all the partner institutions involved. For example, the Gissar Mountain project (GEF ID 1854) established participatory land-use and forest management mechanisms including different government departments as well as local communities.

18. Unlike other countries, in Tajikistan the GEF focal point positions - both the political and operational - are assigned to one institutional figure: the Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP). Several key informants voiced their concerns on the effectiveness and efficiency of this arrangement, given the many other responsibilities the CEP Chairman has. Many believe that insufficient consultation with project proponents to fine-tune proposals and manage the approval process are among the reasons for delays at the project design stage. However, in most cases, delays have been associated with low in-country project design capacities and lack of specialized technical expertise.

19. M&E ratings in earlier projects have been unsatisfactory, but the situation improved over time. Four out of the six TEs, including the three most recent ones, report an overall M&E satisfactory rating. The Terminal Evaluation Review (TER) of the ODS project (GEF ID 15) rated M&E design as marginally unsatisfactory, and was unable to assess M&E implementation. The TER of the Dashtidzhum project (GEF ID 2037) rated M&E design as marginally satisfactory, but M&E implementation was rated as marginally unsatisfactory. More recent project show M&E contribution to project adaptive management. The design of the M&E system of the CACILM project (GEF ID 3237) was rated as satisfactory, and monitoring data allowed for adaptations made to the intervention while it was still ongoing. The TE of the CAWM project (GEF ID 1872) reports that the preliminary risk analysis was not conducted well and that project M&E design did not consider the low technical capacities of communities as well as their willingness to include gender considerations in the project activities. This situation was addressed as a result of the project Mid-term Review (MTR), which found that a lot of women were actually

beneficiaries, and recommended the inclusion in the M&E system of gender indicators. To note, only four out of fifteen national FSPs and MSPs and one EA have their respective tracking tools correctly filled.

1.3 Main Conclusions and Recommendations

20. The evaluative evidence demonstrates that GEF support to biodiversity in Tajikistan has contributed to the achievement of significant results, more than in the other focal areas. Results are particularly positive in protected areas management, legislation development, raising awareness, and building capacity. Cases of broader adoption in biodiversity and land degradation occurred mostly in terms of replication and mainstreaming, at the local level. To date, GEF support to climate change in Tajikistan has had limited – although promising – results. Effectiveness has instead been achieved through the support provided to deal with chemicals and waste issues in the ODS sector, while results are mixed on the reduction of POPs. GEF has been significantly effective at the local level in knowledge generation and dissemination, mainly during project implementation, and less so after completion. In general, gender has not been consistently considered within the Tajikistan portfolio.

21. GEF support has been aligned with the international GEF mandate, and this has helped the country meet its international commitments. It has also been relevant to Tajikistan national environmental and sustainable development policies and priorities. Ownership of GEF support has increased over time, especially since GEF-4. Besides, although the project cycle in Tajikistan is comparable to GEF averages, Tajikistan stakeholders perceive it as being too long, especially at the formulation stage. There has been coordination and synergies between GEF Agencies, national executing agencies, and other donor supported projects in the environment sector at the national level, less so at the local level. According to stakeholders, the GEF focal point mechanism in Tajikistan has not provided sufficient strategic guidance and coordination. Furthermore, the GEF focal point has not been involved in M&E of the GEF portfolio at the national level, and information on GEF mechanisms and procedures has not been regularly conveyed to national partners. Overall, M&E has contributed to project adaptive management, especially in recent projects, but use of tracking tools has been spotty.

22. In summary, the GEF Tajikistan CPE has reached the following conclusions and recommendations presented here below. A more extensive presentation of these conclusions and recommendations is provided in Chapter 8 of this report.

Conclusions

- (a) GEF support to Tajikistan has been significantly more effective in biodiversity conservation, particularly in protected areas management and biosafety legislation, as compared with other focal areas.
- (b) A few cases of broader adoption of outcomes, leading to progress toward impact, are observed at local scale in the form of replication, specifically in the biodiversity and land degradation focal areas.

- (c) The GEF support in knowledge generation and dissemination was effective mostly at the local level.
- (d) GEF support to dealing with chemicals issues in Tajikistan was effective in the ODS sector. Results on the reduction of POPs are mixed.
- (e) Few examples of GEF contribution to reducing gender inequality are observed at the local level. Overall, gender has not been consistently considered in the Tajikistan portfolio.
- (f) GEF support has been broadly aligned with the international GEF mandate of achieving global environmental benefits and helped the country to meet its international commitments.
- (g) GEF support was relevant to Tajikistan's national environmental as well as sustainable development policies and priorities.
- (h) Ownership of GEF support has increased over time, especially since GEF-4.
- (i) In Tajikistan, the GEF activity cycle is perceived as too long, especially at the project formulation stage.
- (j) There has been coordination and synergies between GEF Agencies, national executing agencies and other donor support at the national level, less so at the local level.
- (k) M&E contributed to project adaptive management, with some exceptions.

Recommendations

To the Government of Tajikistan and GEF Agencies

- (a) Gender concerns should be adequately and systematically addressed and mainstreamed in all GEF Focal Areas, as provisioned in the GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy.

To the Government of Tajikistan

- (b) The GEF focal point mechanism should be strengthened and a strategic approach to GEF support should be developed to ensure dissemination of lessons after project completion and promote coordination among the main stakeholders, including at the local level.
- (c) Mercury, POPs and other hazardous chemicals related issues should be given priority in Tajikistan.

Chapter 2: Evaluation Framework

23. The IEO conducts CPEs at the request of the GEF Council. GEF-eligible countries are chosen for CPEs based on the size, diversity, and maturity of their project portfolios. These evaluations usually cover all national projects since the start of GEF operations in the country to date, and include a selection of the most important regional and global projects in which the country participates. By capturing aggregate portfolio results and the performance of GEF support at the country level, CPEs provide useful information for both the GEF Council and the countries.

2.1 Objectives and Scope

24. The purpose of the Tajikistan CPE is to provide the GEF Council and the Government of Tajikistan with an evaluation of the results and performance of the GEF supported activities in the country, and of how the GEF supported activities link into national strategies and priorities as well as within the global environmental mandate of the GEF.

25. Its specific objectives are to:

- (a) Evaluate the effectiveness, sustainability and results of GEF support in Tajikistan, with attention to the sustainability of achievements at project level and progress toward impact for global environmental benefits.
- (b) Evaluate the relevance and efficiency of GEF support in Tajikistan from several points of view: national environmental frameworks and decision-making processes, the GEF mandate of achieving global environmental benefits, and GEF policies and procedures.
- (c) Provide feedback and knowledge sharing to: (1) the GEF Council in its decision making process to allocate resources and to develop policies and strategies, (2) the Government of Tajikistan on its collaboration and participation in the GEF, and (3) the different agencies and organizations involved in the preparation and implementation of GEF projects and activities.

26. The main focus of the Tajikistan CPE is on the 23 national projects (at all stages of the project cycle: pipeline, on-going and completed) implemented within the country boundaries. This includes Enabling Activities (EAs), full-size and medium-size projects (FSPs and MSPs), as well as Tajikistan's Small Grants Programme (SGP). A full assessment of the regional projects' aggregate results, relevance, and efficiency was beyond the scope of this CPE, given that only the Tajikistan components were assessed.⁴ Table 2.1 gives a summary of the GEF portfolio in Tajikistan, which is also presented in detail in Annex H.

⁴ A regional/global project is considered relevant for evaluation if the project coordination unit and/or a demonstration site is in the country or if there is a strong and clear connection to a national project.

27. GEF support to Tajikistan started in 1999 with the *Program for Phasing-Out Ozone Depleting Substances* (GEF ID 15), followed by two EAs, the *Enabling the Republic of Tajikistan to Prepare its First National Communication in Response to its Commitments to the UNFCCC* (GEF ID 830) in 2000, and the *Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan with Clearing House Mechanism* (GEF ID 996) in 2001.

28. At present, the portfolio is composed of seven FSPs, eight MSPs and eight EAs. The portfolio mainly covers the biodiversity and climate change focal areas with six and five projects respectively. It then comprises six multi focal area projects, three chemical and waste projects and three land degradation projects.

Table 2.1: National, Regional, Global and Small Grants Projects by Focal Area

Focal Area	National Projects						Regional and Global Projects ^a					
			GEF Grant		Co-financing				GEF Grant		Co-financing	
	No.	%	US\$ M	%	US\$ M	%	No.	%	US\$ M	%	US\$ M	%
BD	6	26.08	3.20	9.78	2.53	2.14	3	18.80	7.57	11.67	8.53	5.65
CC	5	21.74	6.12	18.70	41.76	35.33	0	-	-	-	-	-
IW	0	-	-	-	-	-	2	12.25	15.50	23.9	26.50	17.56
LD	3	13.05	9.88	30.18	37.72	31.92	5	31.25	10.04	15.48	15.02	9.95
MFA	6	26.08	11.95	36.52	35.70	30.21	1	6.25	10.98	16.93	38.61	25.58
POPs	3	13.05	1.58	4.82	0.47	0.40	5	31.25	20.76	32.02	62.27	41.26
Total	23	100	32.72	100	118.19	100	16	100	64.85	100	150.93	100
SGP	48		1.18		1.46		0	-	-	-	-	-
Grand total	71		33.90		119.65		16		64.85		150.93	

Note: BD = Biodiversity, CC = Climate Change, IW = International Waters, LD = Land Degradation, MFA = Multi Focal Area, POPs = Persistent Organic Pollutants.

a. The GEF funds and co-financing amounts given for the global and regional projects represent the total amounts provided for all the participating countries taken together.

2.2 Methodology

29. The evaluation was conducted following a mixed approach that includes a combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods and tools. The qualitative analysis used the project design documents, project implementation reports, terminal evaluations and their reviews, reports from monitoring visits, and any other available project-related technical documentation. Other documentation reviewed included national sustainable development policies and laws, environmental priorities and strategies, national strategies and action plans relevant to GEF focal areas, other donors' country assistance strategies and frameworks, and their evaluations and reviews. Available statistics and scientific sources, especially for national environmental indicators, were also used where appropriate. Field visits to selected project sites and stakeholder interviews (both individual and focus groups) were important data gathering activities.

30. The quantitative analysis used indicators to assess the relevance and efficiency of GEF support (i.e. linkages between GEF support and national priorities, time and cost of preparing and implementing projects, etc.) and to measure GEF results (i.e. progress towards achieving global environmental benefits) as well as performance (i.e. aggregating implementation and completion ratings available from terminal evaluations and terminal evaluation reviews).

31. The Evaluation Team used the IEO's standard tools and protocols for CPEs and adapted them to the national context. These tools included a Project Review Protocol (PRP) to conduct the desk and field reviews of GEF projects, an outline for the Country Environmental Legal Framework (CELf) analysis, a guideline for the Global Environmental Benefits Assessment (GEBA), and interview guides to conduct interviews with different stakeholders. Country ownership and drivenness was assessed by using an analysis framework that was developed based on the one used for a similar analysis in the 5th Overall Performance Study of the GEF (OPS5)⁵. Progress to impact was examined by designing and conducting a desk review of all completed projects and three case studies on completed projects. The tool was the Theory of Change (ToC) for broader adoption mechanisms for progress to impact, developed by the Office for OPS5 and adapted for country portfolio analysis.⁶

32. Visits to project sites for field verification of results achieved were conducted on both ongoing and completed projects. The Evaluation Team decided on specific sites to visit according to the initial review of documentation, balancing the need of representation with the cost-effectiveness of conducting the field visits. Three projects were selected for the field verification in the framework of the Progress to Impact (P2I) case studies: *Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Gissar Mountains of Tajikistan* (GEF ID 1854⁷); *Community Agriculture and Watershed Management* (GEF ID 1872); and *CACILM: Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan-under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase 1* (GEF ID 3237). In addition to that, the Tajikistan component of a regional project was the subject of a field verification of its Terminal Evaluation (TE): *Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains - an Integrated and Trans-boundary Initiative in Central Asia* (GEF ID 2377).

33. Field visits to a number of SGP projects have also been conducted, including:

⁵ OPS5 Technical Document #6: Meta-Evaluation on Country Ownership and Driven-ness (GEF IEO, 2013). https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/EO/TD6_Meta-Evaluation%20on%20Country%20Ownership%20and%20Drivenness.pdf

⁶ <https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/EO/CPE-Progress-Towards-Impact-Guidance-Note.pdf>

⁷ The full title of this project is *Demonstrating New Approaches to Protected Areas and Biodiversity Management in the Gissar Mountains as a Model for Strengthening the National Tajikistan Protected Areas System*.

- (a) Enhance co-management of Protected Area "Romit Zapovednik" through building local capacities and demonstrate alternative sources of livelihood for protected areas' communities (TJK/SGP/OP5/BD/CORE/12/11);
- (b) Conservation of agro-biodiversity through active involvement of local communities in three Special Protected Nature Areas (SPNA) in Gissar area (TJK/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/2010/03);
- (c) Promotion of small-scale alternative and energy-efficient technologies among the rural population Nosiri Khusrav, Shaartuz, Kabadien and Kumsangir districts in Khatlon region (TJK/SGP/OP5/Y3/CORE/CC/2013/06);
- (d) Reduce POPs/ chemicals widespread in Kabodiyon district (TJK/SGP/OP5/Y2/PP/CORE/2013/05);
- (e) Reduction of mountain desertification and conservation of biodiversity (TJK/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/2010/06);
- (f) Promoting the establishment of wool and skin reproduction workshop as sustainable use of local biodiversity in Djirgatal district (TJK/SGP/OP5/Y2/BD/CORE/2013/09);
- (g) Demonstration of Innovative Agrobiotechnologies and Waste Disposal Methods Adapted to Climate Change in 6 Dekhkan Farms of Vakhdat Town (TJK/SGP/OP5/LD/CORE/12/13);
- (h) Conservation of Thugai forests to reduce CO² emissions by promoting community-forestation and reforestation (TJK/SGP/OP5/BD/CORE/12/02);
- (i) Promoting broad civic awareness and public advocacy on best environment conservation practices at the grass-root levels through creation and broadcasting of a 3D Animated Movie (TJK/SGP/OP5/CORE/MF/12/10);
- (j) Reduction of Mercury impact to Health and Environment - enhancing sound medical-waste management (TJK/SGP/OP5/CH/CORE/12/03).

2.3 Limitations

34. A limited number of limitations were encountered and addressed wherever possible. In some cases the "institutional memory" acquired in the course of the interaction between national staffs and experts involved by the GEF was partially or totally lacking. Institutional memory refers to a set of knowledge, which comprises a collection of individual expertise and a constantly updated catalogue of the best strategies and techniques to be used in the future by relevant decision makers. For example, with the frequent changes of United Nations (UN) environmental conventions focal points, many of the newly appointed national focal points are not always fully informed about the earlier GEF projects. To overcome this limitation the Evaluation Team spent a substantial amount of time and efforts to find and establish contacts

with former staff experts and those former UN conventions focal points that were involved and participated in the development and implementation of earlier GEF projects. All available means to get in touch with relevant stakeholders and obtain the necessary information to assess performance (personal meetings, phone calls, e-mail correspondence, etc.) were used.

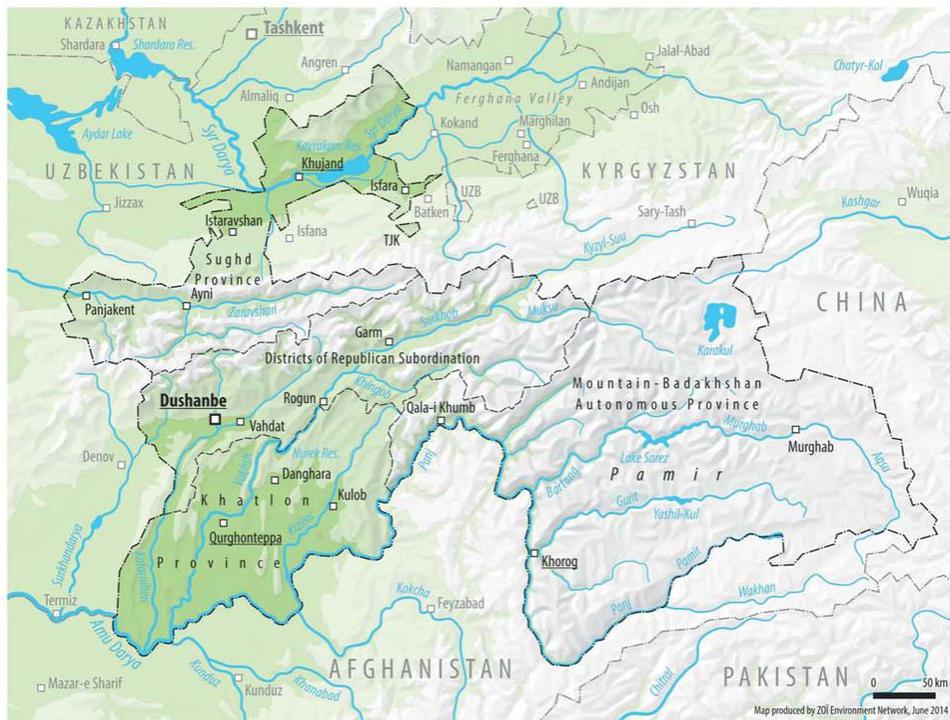
35. Not all the project documents were available at the start of the evaluation. Initially, the GEF Tajikistan portfolio downloaded from the GEF Project Information Management System (PMIS) contained a variety of gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies. This was addressed by soliciting GEF Agencies to send in updates and missing project documentation. The identification of national components of regional projects was also difficult. The restructuring of the responsible State Environmental Agency and a change in this location did not contribute to the preservation of documents at national level either. The Evaluation Team endeavored to gather additional data wherever possible to address these limitations. This helped in creating a clear and reliable set of data on projects and project documentation, despite inconsistencies, gaps, and discrepancies contained in the initially available data.

Chapter 3: Context

3.1 The Republic of Tajikistan

36. The Republic of Tajikistan is a mountainous landlocked country located in the southern part of Central Asia. With an estimated 8 million people in 2013, it is the 98th most populous country and the 96th largest country in the world with an area covering 142,600 km². It is bordered by Afghanistan to the south, Uzbekistan to the west, Kyrgyzstan to the north, and China to the east. Pakistan lies to the south separated by the narrow Wakhan corridor. Climate is mid-latitude continental, with hot summers and mild winters. The mountains cover more than 90% of the country. The Pamir and Alay Mountains dominate the landscape, with western Fergana Valley in the north, Kofarnihon and Vakhsh Valleys in the southwest (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1: Relief Map of Tajikistan



Relief map of Tajikistan

Altitude in metres



37. As a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union, Tajikistan became an independent nation in 1991. A civil war was fought almost immediately after independence, lasting from 1992 to 1997. Since the end of the war, political stability and foreign aid have allowed the country's economy to grow. Presently Tajikistan has a presidential republican system.

38. Due to limited domestic employment opportunities, over a million Tajik citizens work abroad. The country has a transition economy that depends on aluminum and cotton production, being the 126th largest economy in the world in terms of purchasing power and 136th largest in terms of nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

39. Tajikistan is the poorest country in Central Asia. Recovery has been slowed by uneven economic reforms, weak governance, high external debt and seasonal electric power shortages. One opportunity for trade lies in the energy market, as Tajikistan is rich in water resources and produces hydropower for regional export.⁸ Capital expenditure of the government largely comes from loans and grants from international donors.

40. The main imported goods are energy products, timber, metals, pharmaceuticals, food, and household goods. Insufficient use of energy-saving technologies and insufficient energy supply pose considerable barriers in enhancing the competitiveness of local production.

41. The poverty rate has halved from 80-83% in 1999-2000 to 40-45% in 2009-2011 with the most notable improvements being in rural areas. The main causes of poverty in Tajikistan are a high level of unemployment, especially among young people; a low level of education; limited access to power supply, water and sewage systems; and the degradation of natural resources. Tajikistan's Human Development Index (2012) was 0.622 giving it the rank of 125 out of 190 countries.

42. Tajikistan has also significant geological resources. It has large reserves of silver, iron ore, metals and salts. However, it has only limited reserves of oil and natural gas, and it relies heavily on fuel imports. Other energy resources include sizable coal deposits.

43. Being a mountainous country, only 6.14% of Tajikistan is arable land (2012 EST). Main production areas include valleys and foothills, all located in relatively temperate climatic zones. As a consequence of mudflows and floods, water resources can cause considerable damage to rural and mountainous areas as well as a deficit of water resources. The reduction in glacier runoff enhances the risk of droughts, and the resulting degradation of aquatic ecosystems can cause damage to both the economy and the population.

44. According to the State Environmental Program (1997 and 2009) the priority environmental concerns in Tajikistan are:

- (a) conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (b) prevention of land erosion;
- (c) reforestation;
- (d) sustainable use of natural resources;

⁸ <http://www.usaid.gov/tajikistan/economic-growth-and-trade>

- (e) energy-saving technologies;
- (f) recovery of air and water quality;
- (g) improvement of human health;
- (h) mainstreaming of environmentally-friendly industry; and
- (i) waste management (including industrial and mining waste).

45. The Government of Tajikistan started to focus seriously on environmental protection, notably since the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Tajikistan (namely the Committee for Nature Protection of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic) in August 1989. Its mandate included coordination of the activities related to environmental protection among government agencies and the control over natural resource use, land protection, subsoil, forests, water, and other resources. In 1994 EPA's legal status was improved and reorganized into the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan with the same mandate. However, 10 years later due to restructuring of the Government of Tajikistan (GoT) the Ministry became again a State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SCEPF) in 2004. The EPA's mandate was expanded slightly by including the former Forestry Management agency. Due to further restructuring of the GoT in 2006 EPA was merged with the Ministry of Agriculture, which became the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection. EPA's mandate within the new Ministry was kept the same.

46. In 2008 EPA became what it is today, the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. CEP coordinates all activities related to environmental protection among GoT and oversees natural resources use, land protection, subsoil, forests, water, and other resources. Its decisions are considered mandatory for all legal entities and individuals. It has a total of 400 staff of which about 50 in Dushanbe Headquarter. CEP manages a website⁹ and publishes an environmental journal: "Tabiat", a newsletter: "Human and Nature", published 1-2 times per month, and the annual report on the State of the Environment. In addition, CEP produces a monthly video for television on selected environmental issues. CEP oversees Tajik Meteorological Service (Hydromet) and other institutions that work in the area of environmental information, analytical and instrumental control, eco-tourism, nature and water conservation and climate change studies. CEP also has its own information center (Aarhus Center), a training center, and laboratory facilities. The current role of CEP related to environmental safeguards policy includes an increased involvement in policy-making for sectors that may pose threats to the environment, a clear mandate for coordination with other ministries in cross-cutting areas such as environmental education, and training on climate change and mainstreaming adaptation into policies and programs.

⁹ www.hifzitablet.tj

3.2 The Global Environment Facility

47. The Global Environment Facility (GEF or Facility) provides funding to achieve global environmental benefits in biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals. It officially began with a two-year pilot phase from 1992 to 1994, followed by regular four-year replenishment periods: GEF-1 (1995–98), GEF-2 (1999–2002), GEF-3 (2003–06), GEF-4 (2006–10), and GEF-5 (2010-14). In July 2014, GEF-6 was initiated; it continues through June 2018. Until and including GEF-3, there were no country allocations, and eligible GEF member countries submitted their requests to the various windows through the different GEF Agencies on a demand basis. The first allocation system, the RAF, was introduced in GEF-4 and was replaced in GEF-5 by the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR). The STAR is still in use in GEF-6.

48. The GEF provides financing to various types of projects:

- (a) Full-size Projects (FSPs), with funding of more than \$2 million;
- (b) Medium-size Projects (MSPs), with funding of \$2 million or less;
- (c) Enabling activities (EAs), with funding up to \$1 million; these activities support countries to meet their obligations under the various conventions for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism; they also provide support for developing environmental policies, strategies, and action plans;
- (d) Project preparation grants (PPGs) - formerly known as Project Development Facility (PDF) grants -which provide funding for the preparation and development of projects;
- (e) Small grants, with funding of less than \$50,000, directed to NGOs and grass-root organizations.

49. The GEF works as financial mechanism for the following international environmental conventions:

- (a) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- (b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- (c) UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);
- (d) Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs);
- (e) Minamata Convention on Mercury.

50. The GEF, although not linked formally to the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer, supports implementation of the protocol in countries with economies in transition.

51. Currently GEF activities are carried out through 18 Agencies: Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AfDB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Conservation International (CI), Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office - Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), West African Development Bank (BOAD), World Bank Group (WBG), World Wildlife Fund U.S. (WWF-US). GEF Agencies have direct access to funding through a memorandum of understanding with the GEF.

3.3 Environmental Resources in GEF Focal Areas

52. The following sections provide a concise summary of the country environmental resources by GEF focal area.

Biodiversity

53. The Republic of Tajikistan is located in one of the links of the Eurasian highland belt, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Changeable mountain climatic conditions and hard natural historical processes promoted the formation of a unique biological diversity in Tajikistan. The mountain landscapes of Tajikistan contain 0.66% of the animal world and 1.8% of plant diversity, including wild relatives of domestic animals and cultivated plants. The contrast combination of arid, sub-arid, and humid conditions, with the precipitation fluctuation from 70 to 2000 mm a year, promoted the formation of a complex and particularly rich flora (more than 9 thousand species) and vegetation, from broadleaf forests and boreal meadows to subtropical deserts. Forests take only up 3% (412,000 ha) of the land area of the country, however they still play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources as well as in atmospheric carbon absorption. In addition, the forests are a natural protection for human settlements against floods, avalanches, and soil erosion. They also regulate the water balance and microclimate.

54. Box 3.1 provides the list of most important species for the Tajik population. Since the

Box 3.1: Value of Biological Resources for the Population of Tajikistan

The local population traditionally uses wild nature products as raw materials in construction, utensils and dyers production, etc. 1090.7 thousand heads of cattle, 2269.3 thousand sheep and goats, and 71.2 thousand horses are being raised due to the natural vegetation of pastures. Local people gather wild berries – sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*), barberries (*Berberis*), currants (*Ribes*), raspberries (*Rubus odoratus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus*), etc., as well as mushrooms and dozens of medicinal plant species. They gather nuts and stone fruits in naturally growing forests – walnut (*Juglans*), pistachio (*Pistacia*), almond (*Amygdalus*), wild apple (*Malus*), pear (*Pyrus*), plum (*Prunus*), cherry plum (*Prunus sogdiana*) etc. Local people and specialized organizations store up medicinal plants. Small part of the population is engaged in hunting and fishing. The number of game mammals is estimated at 11 species, birds – 36, and fish – 20. Fur-skins of red marmot (*Marmota caudata*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*), fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), badger (*Meles meles*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), etc. are stored up. International hunting is organized for the following animals: argali (*Ovis ammon*), Siberian ibex (*Capra sibirica*), urial (*Ovis vignei*), and Tajik markhur (*Capra falconeri*). Game fishing in lakes and water reservoirs is inconsiderable (164 t). Most of fish and animals are caught by poachers.

1930s there has been intensive reclamation of foothill and floodplain valleys to increase the area of arable land in Tajikistan. In the process up to 100 thousand ha of floodplain, pistachio, and partially broad-leaved forests were destroyed. During the economic and energy crises in 1990s juniper forests, which are difficult to reforest, were cut down significantly. Deforestation and animal grazing in forest areas have had a negative impact on the quality and diversity of forests and the natural regeneration of forests has practically ceased.

55. Pasture makes up 80% of agricultural land and is mainly found in the Khatlon region. Pasture stocking today is lower than during the Soviet period 25 years ago and

the condition of pastures is not adequate. In the east of the Pamir the condition of the *teresken* (Eurotea) pastures has become critical. Here, due to a lack of energy sources, people have started a massive uprooting of *teresken* that is a valuable animal fodder, and this has resulted in the desertification of highland pastures. In other districts cattle often graze near human settlements, thus local pastures have become overgrazed and degraded. More than half of the natural pastures in the country are in the highlands at altitudes varying from 1,700-2,000 to 3,500 meters above sea level.

Table 3.1: Main Components of Biodiversity in Tajikistan¹⁰

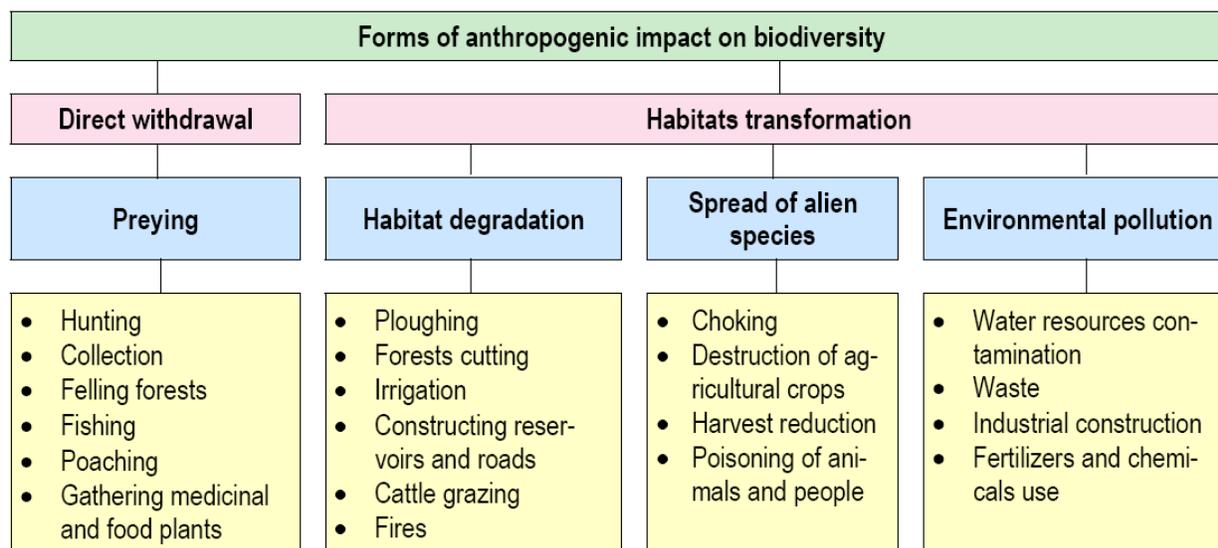
#	Component	Amount
1.	Ecosystems	12 types
2.	Types of vegetation	20 types

¹⁰ First National Report on Biodiversity Conservation and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2003

3.	Flora	9 771 species
4.	Wild relatives of cultivated plants	1 000 species
5.	Endemic plants	1 132 species
6.	Plants, listed in the Red Data Book of Tajikistan	226 species
7.	Agricultural crops	500 varieties
8.	Fauna	13 531 species
9.	Endemic animals	800 species
10.	Animals, listed in the Red Data Book of Tajikistan	162 species
11.	Domestic animals	30 breeds

56. The Tajik fauna is characterized by great genetic diversity. Mountain fauna is richer than that of the plain and contains a substantial number of European-Siberian and East-Asian elements. The fauna of the hot, lowland deserts contains plenty of Indo-Himalaya, Ethiopian, and Mediterranean species. Genetic relation of flora and fauna with other faunal and floral areas (Mediterranean, Central-Asian, desert complexes of Turan and Arctic-Alpine elements) enrich the biodiversity genetic pool of the Republic.

Figure 3.2: Main Factors of Anthropogenic Impact on Biodiversity¹¹



57. In the last 50 years, due to the impact of the anthropogenic factor, 226 plants and 162 animal species have become rare or endangered, and they are listed in the Red Data Book of Tajikistan; 10 vertebrate species are listed in the Red List of the IUCN.

58. Reptiles and mammals have become the most vulnerable, indeed 50% of mammals and 44.7% of reptiles are listed in the Red Data Book of Tajikistan. Among the vertebrates of Tajikistan, the psammobiont forms of reptiles – *Crossobamon eversmanni*, *Teratoscincus scincus*, *Phrynocephalus myctaceus*, *Echis carinatus*, etc. – turned to be the most vulnerable to the anthropogenic transformation.

59. Destruction of native habitats and the deterioration of the environment in 1954 caused the complete disappearance of the Turan tiger (*Panthera tigris virgata*) from Tajikistan area and from the face of Earth. In total, 3 species of animals and 16 species of plants are extinct.

Table 3.2: List of Extinct Species¹²

Flora	Fauna
<i>Silene caudata</i>	<i>Panthera tigris virgata</i>

¹¹ Source: The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2003

¹² Red Data Book of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, 1988.

Juno popovii	Marmota menzbieri
Juno tadshikorum	Pseudoscaphirinchus fedtschenkoi
Astragalus darvasicus	
Hedysarum korshinskyanum	
Oxytropis mumynabadensis	
Allium gracillimum	
Allium incrustatum	
Allium minutum	
Allium paulii	
Allium schugnanicum	
Bellevalia inconspicua	
Eremurus micranthus	
Tulipa anisophylla	
Delphinium nevskii	
Populus cataracti	

60. The proportion of land under various forms of protection for nature conservation has increased from 4% to about 22% since independence. The approach to in-situ conservation has also been modified, with more involvement of local communities, possibly catalyzed by NGOs. As of 2014, all protected areas of Tajikistan occupy a total area of 3.1 million hectares or 22% of the country. These include four Nature reserves with a total area of 173,418 hectares, thirteen Zakazniks (reserves) for 313,260 hectares, one national park with a total area of 2.6 million hectares, one historical natural park - 3000 ha, and one natural park of 3805 hectares.

Climate Change

61. Tajikistan adopted the UNFCCC on July 16, 1997. In order to implement its commitments and strengthen climate protection measures, to date Tajikistan has produced three National Communications on climate change. The country is one of the pioneers in the preparation of a National Action Plan for climate change mitigation (2003) within its territory. This plan includes adaptation measures, many of which are being implemented, and recommendations on updating the National Action Plan are currently being developed.

62. According to the last inventory of GHG emissions (2004-2010) and as confirmed by international sources, the level of absolute and per capita emissions in Tajikistan remains the lowest in Central Asia. Despite the fact that the country does not have quantitative UNFCCC commitments on the reduction of emissions, the current level of emissions as compared to 1990 have reduced by one third, mainly due to the collapse of the Soviet Union and structural changes resulting from the transition to a market economy and independence. During the last decade, the level of carbon dioxide has remained quite stable, however in the current decade an increase of emissions is expected.

63. The break down up of emissions in Tajikistan differs from other Central Asian countries. Since the late 1990s to present, agriculture has been the main source of GHG emissions. Considering the low level of mechanization, underfeeding of livestock, and limited use of fertilizers, emissions from the agriculture sector of Tajikistan are lower than in the other countries of Asia and Europe. Opportunities for any considerable reduction of carbon footprint in agriculture are therefore limited, while the measures in other economic subsectors are more promising, especially in energy and industry

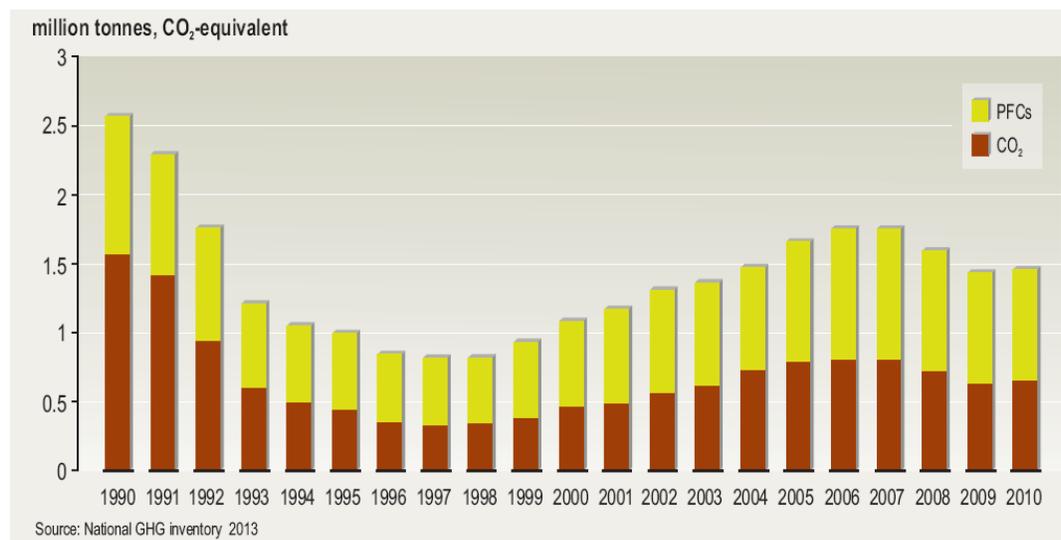
64. At present, 92.4% of the electricity in Tajikistan is generated from hydropower¹³. This source of energy produces a minimum level of carbon dioxide and has a great potential for development and growth. Therefore, energy consumption could increase and still result in a smaller demand for other sources of energy. Since 2010, coal mining has increased as a measure to address the seasonal energy deficits and as a substitute for gas imports, which are often problematic. This coping strategy might result in an increase in carbon dioxide emissions in the near future. From an environmental point of view this option is not ideal, however the

¹³ On average. For example in 2013 from hydropower 99.5% of energy was generated.

country's acute energy deficit, coupled with population growth, reduces the pace of development and consequently the capacity to eliminate poverty.

65. In Tajikistan the number of automobile users is the lowest among Central Asian countries, as it is the general level of transport emissions. The sector fully relies on imported fuel. Given that the price of natural gas is lower than the price of petrol and diesel, the number of vehicles using LNG as a fuel or having hybrid fuel systems is higher those consuming other types of fuel. Since the emissions of gas as compared to those of petrol are lower, the overall level of emissions in the sector is not high. New road infrastructures such as tunnels and improved roads in mountainous areas have considerably reduced travel times. Consequently fuel consumption leading to lessened emissions and increased road safety, as well as improved transport communication between the regions and remote districts of the country.

Figure 3.3: GHG emissions from the industrial processes



66. In addition to burning fuel, GHG emissions are also created by non-energy industrial processes where materials transform from one state to another. The input of GHG emissions from the 'Industrial processes' sector varies from 6 to 20% of total national emissions for different years. In 2010 the emissions in this category were equivalent to 58% of the emissions in 1990. The lowest emission rates were observed in 1996-1998. As for the period covered by the national inventory (2004-2010) the highest levels of emissions occurred in 2007 (814 Gg) due to industrial growth. As a result of the global economic crisis in 2008 and reduction of import of natural gas, the volume of cement and ammonia production has reduced. Moreover, owing to a lack of natural gas supply in 2009-2010, ammonia production was discontinued. Therefore, compared to 2005, CO₂ emissions in 2010 were reduced by 20%.

67. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the supply of coal and gas were stopped and the power supply to rural population was reduced. Thus, people were compelled to use available

wood biomass. The woodlands most frequently used were field shelter belts and woodland belts along the highways and near to communities. Forest cover comprises only 3% of the land area of Tajikistan and the recent intensive deforestation has resulted in reduction in the carbon absorption capacity of forests. Reforestation is 50% of what it was compared to 1990. One of the key indicators of forest health is its stand density. With an average norm of 0.5-0.6 in 1990 the share of medium stocking was 50%, but by 2007-2010 it had dropped to 30%. This is mainly the result of human activities such as forest cutting, as well as animal grazing, fires and an increase of forest pests. According to expert observations, the standing tree crop has declined from 1.3 m³ per person in 1990 to 0.8 m³ per person in 2010.

Table 3.3: Key sources of GHG in 2010

	Sector	IPCC source	Gas	CO ₂ equivalent (Gg)	%	Cumulative total
4.D	Agriculture	Agricultural areas (direct and indirect emissions)	N ₂ O	2681.80	29.44	29.44
4.A	Agriculture	Digestion by domestic animals	CH ₄	2436.77	26.75	56.18
2.C	Industrial processes	Aluminum production	PFCs	822.74	9.03	65.21
6.A	Waste	Solid domestic waste landfills	CH ₄	532.38	5.84	71.06
2.C	Industrial processes	Aluminum production	CO ₂	523.56	5.75	76.80
4.B	Agriculture	Animal waste and compost emissions	CH ₄	360.01	3.95	80.76
1.A.2	Energy	Industry and construction	CO ₂	328.06	3.60	84.36
1.A.4	Energy	Housing and Communal management	CO ₂	305.61	3.35	87.71
4.B	Agriculture	Animal waste and compost emissions	N ₂ O	198.77	2.18	89.89
1.A.3	Energy	Vehicles	CO ₂	176.46	1.94	91.83
1.A.3	Energy	Aviation	CO ₂	125.16	1.37	93.20
4.C	Agriculture	Rice cultivation	CH ₄	119.80	1.31	94.52
6.B	Waste	Waste water	N ₂ O	112.40	1.23	95.75
2.A	Industrial process	Production of cement	CO ₂	102.98	1.13	96.88

Source: UNFCCC, 2012

68. The contribution of GHG emissions from the agriculture sector ranged from 20% to 62% of total national emissions depending on the year. Since 2000 the agricultural sector was one of the key sources of emission, and the 2010 emissions were equivalent to 110% of the 1990 levels.

69. Twenty years ago domestic waste comprised a very small share of the total emissions. This has changed and there has been a notable increase of domestic waste. In theory, all domestic waste is arranged in landfills and only small part is processed informally. There are landfills in all major cities, yet their number is considered insufficient for the country. The waste sector has smallest volume of emissions making up 3-9% of total volume in CO₂-equivalent. GHG emissions in 2010 were 70% of their 1990 equivalent. Since Tajikistan has no adequate

infrastructure for collecting and processing sorted waste, except from individual initiatives on collecting waste paper, waste metal, and plastic, all waste is offset out in landfills. The major contribution is made by emissions from solid domestic waste (95-97%). An increase in emissions is mainly linked to the growth of the urban population, the volume of waste and number of disposal sites.

International Waters

70. Glaciers and mountain ecosystems are abundant in Tajikistan and not only serve as water reservoirs and stream flow regulators, but also as the source of water for the Aral Sea river basins. The Tajik rivers supply more than half of the flow to the Aral Sea basin. The country has a few large river basins: the Sirdarya or Syr Darya (northern Tajikistan), the Zerafshan (central Tajikistan), the Kafernigan, Vakhsh and Pyanj rivers (southwestern Tajikistan and Pamirs) and basin of closed lakes in the eastern part of Pamir. The total catchment area of these river basins (with tributaries) in Tajikistan is estimated being over 120,000 km², i.e. almost all territory of Tajikistan. Tajikistan lies in the upstream areas along the Amu Darya River, which is formed after confluence of Vakhsh and Pyanj rivers. Instead along the Syr Darya River, the country lies in the mid-stream areas. In these cases, the use of water resources in Tajikistan may affect the quality and quantity of water in downstream states.

71. Traditionally in Central Asia the water is used mainly for agricultural purposes, however it does not always reach the agricultural end-users due to the degraded irrigation infrastructure. Only 28% of the 47,750 km of inter-farm irrigation channels in the basin has anti-filtration linings, just 77% of farm intakes has flow gauges, and in the 268,500 km of on-farm channels, barely 21% has anti-filtration linings, which retain on average 15% more water than unlined channels. By 1960, between 20 km³ and 60 km³ of water were going each year to the land instead of the sea. Most of the Aral Sea water supply had been diverted, and in the 1960s, it began to shrink. From 1961 to 1970, the Aral's level fell at an average of 20 cm a year; in the 1970s, the average rate nearly tripled to 50–60 cm per year, and by the 1980s, it continued to drop, now with a mean of 80–90 cm each year. The rate of water usage for irrigation continued to increase; the amount of water taken from the rivers doubled between 1960 and 2000, and cotton production in the region nearly doubled in the same period.

72. The Government of Tajikistan is planning to resume the construction of a big reservoir at Rogun (total volume 12,400 km³, exploitable volume 8,700 km³). Besides of water use for irrigation the future hydro-energy production at this reservoir will be used to satisfy the higher energy demand of the economy including population, mining industry, and aluminum processing plant in Tursunzade. The Government of Tajikistan also intends to cooperate with its neighbors to reduce threats to international waters. In November 2014, Tajikistan and Afghanistan signed a memorandum of understanding with the goal of formalizing the sharing of water data between the two countries.

Land Degradation

73. Land degradation is a serious and growing global issue resulting in losses to GDP and local livelihoods, food insecurity, climate change, and biodiversity loss. Worldwide it is estimated to be responsible for a 3 to 5 % loss in the affected countries' GDP. Land degradation is a major factor contributing to low agricultural productivity, the incidence of which is felt most keenly by the poor, whose livelihood is often dependent on agriculture.

74. Tajikistan mountainous landscape is certainly beautiful, but it is also difficult to cultivate: only 7% of the total land is suitable for economic use and out of this only 18% are arable land. Nevertheless, agriculture remains the backbone of the economy, and the poor in particular depend on it for their livelihoods. Inefficient land management reduces agricultural output and threatens the income and food security of an already vulnerable population. Unfortunately, land degradation, mostly due to erosion, is becoming a ubiquitous problem in Tajikistan. The country's topography has a strong influence on the types of crops that can be grown, and also determines the types of machinery used, the methods of soil irrigation, and the productivity of the land. Intensive agricultural activity on slopes inevitably results in erosion. Soils are washed out, and the development of ravines decreases the area of arable soils.

75. While natural factors contribute to soil erosion, unsustainable human behavior accelerates the process to an intolerable degree: it is estimated that 97% of agricultural land in Tajikistan reaches a significant level of erosion. Land degradation caused from erosion due to overgrazing is estimated to affect approximately 3 million hectares, or 85% of pastures (Asian Development Bank, 2004). A recent UNEP-UNDP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) study¹⁴ estimates the economic cost of land degradation associated with foregone production on degraded and unused agricultural land to be in the order of 1,946 million Somoni (US\$ 442 million) – 7.8% of Tajikistan's GDP (2010). However, the actual cost is likely to be much higher than this as it does not take into account the off-site costs of land degradation, such as damage to infrastructure. If the value of this foregone production was evenly distributed among rural households, this would result in a benefit of US\$ 583 per household per year (based on an estimate of 757,608 rural households)¹⁵. Most of experts consider pastures and haymaking areas, but also natural forests, as crucially affected by degradation. Haymaking areas are often not exclusively used for haymaking, but also for open grazing, and thus heavy degradation is widespread. An estimated 90% of rainfed cropland is believed to show signs of degradation, of which 40% is heavy. Regarding the irrigated cropland, 22% of the area is estimated to show heavy degradation, 38% from light to medium one, and 40% no degradation. It is estimated that around 70% of forest plantations are affected by deterioration.

¹⁴ The Economics of Land Degradation for the Agriculture Sector in Tajikistan – A Scoping Study (2012). The overall objective of this study is to develop a framework to assess the impact of land degradation and the benefits of Sustainable Land Management.

¹⁵ Tajik Agency for Statistics

Table 3.4: Geographic distribution of soil erosion¹⁶

Administrative districts and provinces	Degree of erosion (%)					
	Non-eroded	Weakly eroded	Averagely eroded	Strongly eroded	Severely eroded	Common area
Kurgantyuube group of districts	3.2	18.8	51.8	18.0	8.2	96.8
Kulyab group of districts	2.0	14.0	43.0	26.4	14.6	98.0
Sughd province	2.8	4.5	58.6	22.0	12.1	97.2
Hissar group of districts	4.3	9.4	40.2	31.5	14.6	95.7
Garm group of districts	0.5	4.2	35.1	32.9	27.3	99.5
Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast	–	4.2	32.8	37.8	25.4	100

Chemicals

76. A number of pesticides, including the organochloric and POPs-containing ones were delivered to Tajikistan in the last two decades of the 20th century from other countries in the region. From 1965 to 1990, the volume of pesticides delivery to Tajikistan was from 7 to 14 thousand tons. During this time the volumes of pesticides use changed significantly. For example, the volume of insecticide/acaricides decreased from 11.1 to 1.7 thousand tons, while the use of fungicides increased from 1.0 to 6.1 thousand tons. The obsolete and forbidden pesticides that are still present today are of a great concern for human health and environment. In the past, uncontrolled use of the existing large stocks of obsolete pesticides occurred frequently. Pesticides were given to privates for their use in their farm-lands or were secretly buried and thrown to the dumps. Recent years have witnessed a sharp decrease in pesticides import in the country, although the forbidden and obsolete ones continue being used in farm-

¹⁶ ADB TA 5941-REG: Combating Desertification in Asia. Tajikistan Country Situation Paper (CSP) prepared by Shiv Saigal, 2003.

lands. The volume of forbidden, obsolete, and unknown pesticides that should be repackaged and eliminated is around 160.1 tons.

77. Besides the agricultural sector, chemicals pollution also originates from mining activities. According to the 2nd Environmental Performance Review (ERP) of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECA)¹⁷ chemicals leaking in waters as a result of mining activities is also a cause of concern. The mining sector is a major water user. Gold, mercury, antimony, lead and zinc are among the major mineral resources in Tajikistan. Uranium mining stopped in the 1980s and left tailings, which constitute various risks. There are no figures about water use and tailings, but it can be assumed that there are serious problems caused by leaching of mine tailings.

3.4 The Country Environmental Legal, Policy and Institutional Framework

78. Tajikistan has a highly developed environmental legal, policy and institutional framework. Its current environmental legislation includes statutory acts and laws on: (i) protection of the environment; (ii) ecological audit and monitoring; (iii) protection of flora and fauna; (iv) environmental information and education; (v) soil, water and air quality; (vi) biological safety; (vii) human health and safety; and (viii) waste and chemicals management. These laws, along with the regulations approved by the Government of Tajikistan create a favorable legal framework for environmental protection and for the use and protection of the country's natural resources. They also enforce the rights of any citizen for environmental safety, organic products, eco-friendly environment, access to environmental information, possibility of investing (moral, material and financial) to improve the ecological situation in the country.

79. Specifically referring to the country environmental legal agenda, the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan, adopted in 1994 and amended in 1999 and 2003, recognizes public and individual rights to a safe and healthy environment. Under the Constitution, land and mineral resources, water, air, animals and plants, and other natural resources, belong exclusively to the State.

80. In 1999, when GEF activities started in Tajikistan, the framework environmental law was the Law "On Nature Protection" (No. 905, approved in December 1993, enacted in 1994 and amended sequentially in 1996, 1997, 2002, 2004 and 2007). This law was further replaced by the Law "On Environmental Protection" (No. 760, approved in August 2011). This law stipulates that Tajikistan's environmental policy should give priority to environmental actions based on scientifically proven principles that combine economic and other activities having a potential negative impact on the environment, with nature preservation and the sustainable use of resources. The law defines the applicable legal principles, the protected objects, the competencies and roles of the Government, the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan, the local authorities, public organizations and individuals. A key aspect of this law is that it stipulates measures to secure public and individual rights to a

¹⁷ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/epr/epr_studies/TajikistanII.pdf

safe and healthy environment and requires a combined system of relevant activities that prevent or mitigate negative impacts on the environment. Furthermore, the law defines environmental emergencies and ecological disasters and prescribes the order of actions in such situations, defines the obligations of officials and enterprises to prevent and eliminate the consequences, as well as the liabilities of persons or organizations that caused damage to the environment or otherwise violated the law.

81. Other substantial environmental legal acts include: the Water Code (2000, and related legislation); the Forest Code (1993) replaced in 2011 by a new Forest Code; the Land Code (1996, and subsequent related legislation (1999, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011 and 2012); the Law on Land Administration (2008); the Law on Land Assessment (2001, 2007); the Law on Land Reform (1992, amended in 1994, 1995, 1997 and 2006); the Law on Ecological Expertise (2003, 2007, 2008 and 2010), replaced in 2012 by a new Law on Ecological Expertise (2012); the Law on Energy Saving (2002); the Law on Hydro-meteorological Activity (2002); the Law on Production and Safe Handling of Pesticides (2003); the Law on Protection and Use of Flora (2004); the Law on Protection of the Population and Territories from Emergency Situations of Natural and Manmade Origin (2004); the Law on Biological Safety (2005); the Law on Wildlife (2008); the Law on Soil Conservation (2009); the Law on Subsoils (1994, 1995, 2008 and 2010); the Law on Potable Water and Drinking Water Supply (2010); the Law on Environmental Education (2010); the Law on Environmental Information (2011); the Law on Environmental Monitoring (2011); the Law on Environmental Audit (2011); the Law on Specially Protected Natural Areas (2011); the Law on Use of Renewable Energy Sources (2012); the Law on Food Safety (2012); the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection (2012); the Law on Pastures (2013); the Law on Biological Management and Production (2013); the Law on Radioactive Waste Management (2013); the Law on Ensuring Sanitary and Epidemiologic Safety of Population (2003, 2008, 2011 and 2013); the Law on Energy Conservation and Efficiency (2013); and finally the Law on Fishing and Protection of Fishery Resources (2013). The purpose of all these legal arrangements is to determine the necessary standards and behavioral patterns of authorized agencies and citizens in order to live in a healthy and balanced environment. Regulations, directives, circulars, and notifications that were issued on the basis of the environmental laws include the procedures and methods to be complied with.

82. Article 12 of the Environment Protection Law proclaims the right of citizens to live in a favorable environment and to be protected from negative environmental impacts. Citizens also have the right to access environmental information (Article 13), as well as the duty to adopt, and implement decisions related to environmental impacts (Article 13). The latter is assured by public discussion of drafts of environmentally important decisions and public ecological reviews. Public representative bodies have an obligation to take into consideration citizens' comments and suggestions. On October 26, 1993 and on July 17, 2001 Tajikistan acceded to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the 1998 Aarhus Convention respectively, whose provisions have priority over domestic law with regard to gender equality. Further the Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities was entered into force in 2005.

83. In this quite comprehensive legal framework, the Government, through the relevant sector authorities, issues licenses, i.e. legal instruments designed to regulate certain potentially hazardous activities where minimal qualifications and strict adherence to rules are required to ensure that they are carried out efficiently, safely and do not result in potentially significant and irreparable damage to the environment and human health. Licenses are required for handling hazardous waste and for activities in industrial safety.

84. The government also issues environmental permits to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. There are two types of permits: (a) permits to use natural resources; and (b) permits for emissions or discharges. The natural resources use permits allow their holders to take a certain number or amount of a particular natural resource within a defined territory and time period. They are issued both to individuals (e.g. to hunt a particular species of animal or harvest particular factories) and to organizations (e.g. permits to extract ground or surface water for a particular use). By law, permits are needed for any commercial use of any resource. Permits to discharge polluted matter are issued by the relevant inspectorate (e.g. previous State Water Inspectorate or State Air Inspectorate – now departments) of the local state environmental protection committees to industrial or agricultural enterprises and municipal utilities that release by-products into the environment. Permits allow releasing a certain amount of polluted matter (gases, liquids, solid waste) into the environment. They are usually granted for one year and indicate the maximum allowed concentration of the pollutants in the released matter, the maximum volume of the polluted matter and the pollutants allowed.

85. In Tajikistan, environmental norms and standards have been set for air and water pollution, noise, vibration, magnetic fields and other physical factors, as well as residual traces of chemicals and biologically harmful microbes in food. The exceeding of their thresholds results in administrative action, including financial sanctions. Several ministries determine environmental quality standards, each in its field of responsibility. For example, admissible levels of noise, vibration, magnetic fields and other physical factors have been set by the Ministry of Health. In fact, a number of legal acts establish liability for violations of environmental laws, which can be enforced by several state bodies and agencies. In particular, the 2010 Code of Administrative Violations establishes administrative liability for organizations and individuals according to a range of violations, from the careless treatment of land to violation of the rules for water use or water protection, or failure to comply with a State ecological expertise. Administrative sanctions for environment related violations can be imposed by the administrative commissions of Hukumats, Courts, CEP's inspectors, Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the State Committee for Land Use, Geodesy, and Cartography.

86. Tajikistan pays particular attention to international co-operation on environmental issues. The country has been actively involved in the international agreements and conventions.

Table 3.5 Environmental international laws and regulations ratified and/or accessed by Tajikistan

#	Convention/Agreement	Year ¹⁸
1	Convention on the World Meteorological Organization	1991
2	1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development	1992
3	The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity	1997
	Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety (CBD)	2004
	Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (CBD)	2013
4	Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	1996
	The Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal)	1998
	London Amendments to Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances	1998
	Copenhagen Amendments to Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances	2009
	Montreal Amendments to Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances	2009
	Beijing Amendments to Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances	2009
5	UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention 1998)	2001

¹⁸ Ratification/Acceptance, Accession/Succession

	Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers	2003
6	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1997
7	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1997
	Kyoto Protocol	2009
8	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar)	2001
9	Bonn Convention on the Protection of Migrating Wild Animals (CMS)	2000
	Bukhara Deer Memorandum (CMS)	2002
10	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	2007
	2009 amendments listing 9 new POPs	2010
	2011 amendment listing endosulfan	2012
	2013 amendment listing HBCD	2014
11	Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD)	1999
12	Framework Convention for the Protection of the Environment for Sustainable Development in Central Asia	2006
13	Agreement on Cooperation in the field of ecology and environmental protection	1992
14	Agreement on Co-operation for Environmental Monitoring among the CIS countries	2001

87. Despite the comprehensiveness of the country environmental legal framework and its alignment with most international standards, several environmental issues regarding air, water, and nature protection are still to be regulated and not all the standards are consistent with best international practices.

Chapter 4: The GEF Portfolio in Tajikistan

88. This chapter presents an overview of GEF portfolio in Tajikistan. It summarizes the portfolio by project modality, replenishment phase, GEF Agency and focal area. It also includes GEF's regional and global projects in which Tajikistan participated, and the SGP. The cut-off date is August 26, 2015 for the overall portfolio, and December 31, 2014 for the SGP. All in all, the portfolio analyzed includes 23 national projects, 16 regional projects and 48 SGP grants.

89. The national projects are financed for over \$32.7 million and co-financed for \$118.2 million, whilst the 16 regional projects in which Tajikistan participates receive over \$64.9 million in GEF finance and \$150.9 million in co-finance. The SGP in Tajikistan has provided grants for \$2.64 million, to which GEF support contributed for 45 percent (\$1.18 million), while the remaining 55 percent (\$1.46 million) is provided in co-financing either in cash or in kind by grantees and other donors.

90. The national portfolio in Tajikistan is implemented through six different GEF Agencies: UNDP has the largest share of it with thirteen projects amounting to \$13.2 million, while the World Bank and UNEP hold three projects each, amounting at \$10.65 and \$1.55 million respectively. ADB, EBRD, and UNIDO have one project each with \$3.5 million, \$2.37 million, and \$0.18 million respectively. One project is jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP.

4.1 National Projects

91. The largest focal areas in the national portfolio are climate change, land degradation and multifocal, in terms of both GEF grants as well as total investment (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1: National Projects by Focal Area

Focal area	No. of projects	Investment (US\$ million)			GEF Grant (%)	Co-financing (%)
		GEF Grant	Co-financing	Total		
Biodiversity	6	3.20	2.53	5.73	55.8	44.2
Chemicals	3	1.58	0.47	2.05	77.0	23.0

Climate Change	5	6.12	41.76	47.88	12.8	87.2
Land Degradation	3	9.88	37.72	47.60	20.7	79.3
Multifocal	6	11.95	35.70	47.65	25.1	74.9
Total	23	32.72	118.19	150.91	21.7	78.3

Source: Initial list compiled from PMIS and project documents, updated in August 2015.

92. The Tajikistan national portfolio shows an almost even distribution of project types, with seven FSPs, eight MSPs and eight EAs. Co-financing contributes to 80.7% of the total financial investment in FSPs. It is slightly less, at 70.2%, in MSPs (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: National Projects by Modality

Project Modality	No.	Investment (US\$ million)	GEF Grant		Co-financing	
			US\$ million	% of total investment	US\$ million	% of total investment
EA	8	2.43	1.93	79.4	0.50	20.6
FSP	7	125.62	24.21	23.9	101.42	80.7
MSP	8	21.97	6.58	42.8	16.27	70.2
Total	23	150.03	32.72	21.8	118.19	78.3

Note: EA = Enabling Activity, MSP = Medium Size Projects, FSP = Full Size Projects.

93. The number of projects initiated across the various GEF replenishment phases has varied over the years. It was highest in GEF-3 with nine projects, followed by five projects each in GEF-4 and GEF-5. Of the thirteen projects that have been completed, eight were closed in GEF-3 (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: National Projects by GEF Replenishment Phase and Project Status

GEF Phases	Completed		Pipeline		Ongoing		Total	
	No.	GEF Grant (US\$ million)	No.	GEF Grant (US\$ million)	No.	GEF Grant (US\$ million)	No.	GEF Grant (US\$ million)
GEF – 2	3	1.42					3	1.42
GEF – 3	9	11.71					9	11.71
GEF – 4	2	1.44			3	4.74	5	6.18
GEF – 5	1	0.22	3	8.31	1	0.70	5	9.23
GEF – 6			1	4.18			1	4.18
Total	15	14.79	4	12.49	4	5.44	23	32.72

Note: Pipeline refers to projects that have been cleared or approved but not yet implemented.

94. On evolution of GEF Agencies' involvement overtime at the national level, UNDP projects cover all replenishment phases, with a higher number in GEF-3 and GEF-4. Since GEF-5 the Tajikistan national portfolio started diversifying among GEF Agencies, opening up to EBRD, UNIDO and ADB (Table 4-4). In terms of portfolio share, UNDP and the World Bank are the leading GEF Agencies in Tajikistan, accounting for 40.4% and 32.5% of GEF grants respectively. As for co-financing, UNDP alone accounts for 36.3% of the total co-financing generated for GEF's Tajikistan portfolio.

Table 4.4: National Projects by GEF Agency and Replenishment Phases

Agency	GEF-2	GEF-3	GEF-4	GEF-5	GEF-6	Total	Total GEF Grant (US\$ million)	Total Co-financing (US\$ million)
ADB		1				1	3.50	19.81

EBRD				1		1	2.73	23.90
UNDP	2	5	4	1	1	13	13.21	42.88
UNDP/UNEP	1					1	0.90	0.27
UNEP		1	1	1		3	1.55	0.79
UNIDO				1		1	0.18	0.18
World Bank		2		1		3	10.65	30.36
Total	3	9	5	5	1	23	32.72	118.19

95. UNDP projects cover all focal areas, while World Bank projects are evenly distributed between Biodiversity, Land Degradation and Multifocal. UNEP has been primarily involved in EAs support to Biodiversity and POPs, while UNIDO supported with one EA in POPs. EBRD has been involved in a Climate Change project. Over time, focal areas have been dealt with consistently by the same GEF Agencies and they have not shifted from one agency to another (Table 4.5).

Table 4.5: National Projects by GEF Agency and Focal Area

Agency	BD	Chemicals	CC	LD	MFA	Total No.	GEF Grant (US\$ million)	Cofinancing (US\$ million)
ADB				1		1	3.50	19.81
EBRD			1			1	2.73	23.90
UNDP	3		4	1	5	13	13.21	42.88
UNDP/UNEP		1				1	0.90	0.27

UNEP	2	1				3	1.55	0.79
UNIDO		1				1	0.18	0.18
World Bank	1			1	1	3	10.65	30.36
Total	6	3	5	3	6	23	32.72	118.19

Note: BD = Biodiversity, CC = Climate Change, MFA = Multifocal Area

96. GEF financing dedicated to Multifocal Area projects accounts for the largest share of the national portfolio (36.5%), followed by Land Degradation (30.2%) and Climate Change (18.7%). In terms of co-financing, Climate Change has been able to generate US\$7 for each US\$1 of GEF grants (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6: National Projects by Focal Area and Project Status

Focal Area	Completed (US\$ million)			Pipeline (US\$ million)			Ongoing (US\$ million)			Total (US\$ million)		
	No.	GEF Grant	Cofin.	No.	GEF Grant	Cofin.	No.	GEF Grant	Cofin.	No.	GEF Grant	Cofin.
BD	5	2.4	2.0				1	0.8	0.5	6	3.2	2.5
Chemicals	2	1.4	0.3	1	0.2	0.2				3	1.6	0.5
CC	3	1.4	11.4	1	2.7	23.9	1	2.0	6.5	5	6.1	41.8
LD	2	4.5	20.9	1	5.4	16.9				3	9.9	37.7
MFA	3	5.2	13.8	1	4.2	19.0	2	2.6	2.8	6	12.0	35.6

Total	15	14.9	48.4	4	12.5	59.9	6	5.4	9.8	23	32.7	118.2
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Note: BD = Biodiversity, CC = Climate Change, MFA = Multifocal Area

97. In GEF-2, national projects in Tajikistan only received US\$ 1.4 million in GEF grants (Table 4.7). These projects are: *Programme for Phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances* (GEF ID 15); *Enabling the Republic of Tajikistan to Prepare its First National Communication in Response to its Commitments to the UNFCCC* (GEF ID 830); and *Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan with Clearing House Mechanism* (GEF ID 996). No project in Land Degradation and Multi Focal Area was developed in GEF-2. GEF support significantly increased in GEF-3 to US\$ 11.7 million, focusing on Multifocal Area (US\$ 4.7 million) and Land Degradation (US\$ 4.5 million). In GEF-4, Climate Change became the leading focal area, largely due to the full size project *Technology Transfer and Market Development for Small-Hydropower in Tajikistan* (GEF ID 4160). The largest project in GEF-5 was a Land Degradation FSP: *Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods* (GEF ID 4352). It is by far the largest national project in Tajikistan.

Table 4.7: National Projects by GEF Phase and Focal Area (US\$ million)

GEF Phase	BD	Chemicals	CC	LD	MFA	Total
GEF - 2	0.2	0.9	0.3			1.4
GEF – 3	1.9	0.5	0.1	4.5	4.7	11.7
GEF – 4	0.8		3.0		2.4	6.2
GEF – 5	0.2	0.2	2.7	5.4	0.7	9.2
GEF – 6					4.2	4.2
Total	3.2	1.6	6.1	9.9	12.0	32.7

Note: BD = Biodiversity, CC = Climate Change, MFA = Multifocal Area.

4.2 Regional and Global Programs

98. Tajikistan is party to sixteen regional projects and seven global programmes, among which the SGP. Among all the regional projects in which Tajikistan has participated, Chemicals

and Waste as well as Land Degradation are the leading focal areas with five projects each (Tables 4.8 and 4.9). To note, for most of the regional and global projects in which Tajikistan participates, it is not possible to isolate the funding as well as the specific results pertaining to the country itself.

Table 4.8: Regional Projects by Focal Area

Focal Area	No.	GEF Grant (US\$ million)	Co-financing (US\$ million)
Biodiversity	3	7.57	8.53
Chemicals and Waste	5	20.76	62.27
International Waters	2	15.50	26.50
Land Degradation	5	10.04	15.02
Multi Focal Area	1	10.98	38.61
Total	16	64.85	150.93

Table 4.9: Global Projects

No	Focal Area	Title	GEF Agency	Start Date	Status
1	All	Small Grants Programme	UNDP	2009	Ongoing
2	BD	2 nd National Report on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	UNEP	2011	Completed

3	BD	4 th National Report on Biodiversity Conservation	UNDP	2009	Completed
4	BD	3 rd National Report on Biodiversity Conservation	UNDP	2006	Completed
5	BD	2 nd National Report on Biodiversity Conservation	UNDP	2005	Completed
6	BD	Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) of the Cartagena Protocol	UNEP	2004	Completed
7	BD	1 st National Report on Biodiversity Conservation	UNDP	2003	Completed

Source: National Center for Biodiversity and Biosafety.

4.3 The Small Grants Programme

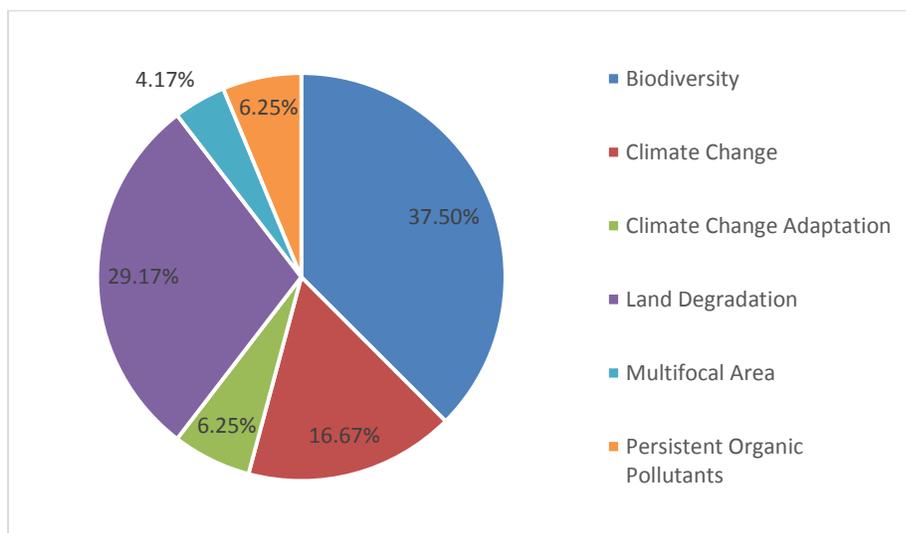
99. The GEF SGP in Tajikistan commenced in 2010 and since then it has provided support to 48 community-based projects. SGP grants have supported both national and local Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) and community-based Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). These organizations operate in Sughd, Rasht and Khatlon regions, Direct Rule Districts and in the Darvaz region. GEF support through the SGP has been mostly used for Biodiversity and Land Degradation. Each US\$ of GEF grant to the SGP has leveraged US\$1.23 on average in co-financing, half of which in cash and half in-kind (Table 4.10). As of mid-August 2015, only 3 of 48 projects are under implementation, the rest having reached the completion stage.

Table 4.11: SGP Portfolio by Focal Area and Grant Amounts

Focal Area	No.	Grant Amount	Co-financing (US\$, cash)	Co-financing (US\$, in-kind)
Biodiversity	18	467,048	333,225	358,659
Climate Change	8	231,416	201,782	131,026

Climate Change Adaptation	3	57,495	15,748	46,876
Land Degradation	14	301,818	110,177	153,274
Persistent Organic Pollutants	3	80,340	41,280	52,960
Multifocal Area	2	46,054	13,150	
Total	48	1,184,171	715,362	742,795

Figure 4.1: SGP grants by Focal Area, 2010–2014



4.4 The GEF Focal Point Mechanism

100. GEF focal points play a critical coordination role in GEF matters at country level, being the liaison with the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies¹⁹. In Tajikistan, the Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) under the Government of Tajikistan has served as both the Political and the Operational Focal Point since January 17, 2014.

¹⁹ www.thegef.org/gef/focal_points

101. As a consequence of the introduction of GEF allocation systems allocation systems (the RAF GEF-4 and the STAR in GEF-5), consultative design sessions started to be held in Tajikistan with facilitation of the GEF focal point mechanism to discuss project ideas, but these have not been fully used by project proponents.

102. Besides, the focal point involvement in project follow up and monitoring has also been limited. The focal point does not receive from Agencies regular updates on implementation of projects. Many interviewed stakeholders suggested that the focal point could organize regular monitoring meetings for GEF projects to enhance information sharing among projects and improve synergies in implementation. In an effort to address these issues the CEP Chairman has recently appointed a senior CEP officer as his plenipotentiary representative, with the main responsibility to coordinate all operational issues related to the GEF.

**BOX 4.1: Key Functions of the GEF
Operational Focal Point**

- Orient projects to meet GEF criteria, global environmental benefits criteria, and national priorities
- Work with project proponents to fine-tune proposals and manage the approval process
- M&E of implementation
- Disseminate information and lessons; build partnerships and synergies among stakeholders and with national and regional projects
- Establish a transparent coordination mechanism

Source: GEF 2007.

Chapter 5: Results, Effectiveness and Sustainability

103. This chapter addresses the following key evaluation questions on the effectiveness, results, and sustainability of GEF support to Tajikistan:

- a) To what extent has GEF support to Tajikistan been effective in producing results by focal area both at project and at the aggregate level (program and country portfolio)?
- b) To what extent has GEF support led to progress toward impact through broader adoption mechanisms over an extended period of time after completion?
- c) To what extent has GEF support been effective in sustaining the knowledge generated and shared by GEF projects with partners both inside (national stakeholders and GEF Agencies) and outside Tajikistan?
- d) To what extent has GEF support to Tajikistan been effective making a contribution to chemicals issues, specifically reduction of POPs?
- e) To what extent has GEF support contributed to reducing gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment?

104. Available M&E reports suggest an overall aggregate effectiveness in the portfolio. Five out of the six completed project are rated in the respective Terminal Evaluation (TE) within the 'Satisfactory' range: these include one project rated as 'Highly Satisfactory' and four as 'Moderately Satisfactory'. Self-ratings of the seven projects under implementation are rated in the respective Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) in the 'Satisfactory' range, including four 'Satisfactory' and one 'Moderately Satisfactory'. Field observations, individual interviews and focus groups discussions held in the three projects selected for in-depth analysis in the three case studies confirm this positive assessment. The full set of evidence collected during the evaluation pointed at the following results, presented by GEF focal area.

5.1 Results by Focal Area

Biodiversity

105. The GEF has provided significant support to Tajikistan in fulfilling its obligations under the CBD. Two of the six GEF projects in the biodiversity focal area support protected areas, one supports the Centre for Biodiversity and Biosafety in the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework, and three EAs helped Tajikistan developing its communications to CBD as well as the national biodiversity strategy and action plan. These projects have largely served to lay the foundation for managing biodiversity conservation in the country. GEF support to biodiversity conservation has been effective especially in protected areas management and in the development of biosafety legislation.

106. GEF projects contributed to the protection of globally significant biodiversity species through strengthening the protected area management system in Tajikistan (GEF ID 1854 and

2037). GEF supported protected areas management plans have been replicated to other protected areas in the country.²⁰ Frameworks for participatory planning and management of protected areas were prepared, approved and implemented in the Shirkent and Almosi protected areas. Furthermore, significant progress has been made in rationalizing protected areas boundaries. Importantly, once approved by the government, protected areas management plans are under the obligation to be implemented.²¹ Field observations identified that in terms of impacts, the environmental status is improved at local scale, although in a disconnected way. Such disconnection has a lot of negative features. In several cases the environmental status continues deteriorating or remains without changes at surrounding areas despite the positive impacts at project sites. On the positive side, disconnection results in the so-called *refugia*²², observed during the field visits. To note, since 1988, a small number of threatened species were excluded from the list of the National Red Data book of Tajikistan. Today, a few new species are considered as threatened because the new Red Data book now is using the international standards set by the Red Data book of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) instead of the former Soviet criteria. The 2nd UNECE ERP confirms that no significant changes in the number of threatened species have occurred.²³

107. In Tajikistan the land under conservation increased over the years. Since independence in 1991 the territory under various forms of protection for nature conservation has increased from 4% to about 22%. While the decision of the Government of Tajikistan to increase the area under protection did not depend directly on the interventions by the GEF, it is fair to say that GEF projects contributed to it by providing information and introducing participatory planning and management practices. The area under protection in the Romit reserve - one of the Gissar Mountains project sites (GEF ID 1854) - has been increased from 16,100 to 16,139 hectares due to changes in the river course along part of its boundaries. Similarly, the Shirkent Historical Park, which dwindled to 3,000 ha during the civil war, is in the process of being returned to its original area of 31,000 ha, as confirmed by interviewed park staffs.

108. GEF support to biodiversity has also been crucial in helping Tajikistan to fulfill its obligations under the CBD by developing policy and strategic documents, including the development and revision of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the

²⁰ The development of a financial plan for protected areas was implemented under the Gissar Mountains Project (GEF ID 1854), as a building block for the development of a full protected areas management plan. The financial plan developed and applied for Historical Park "Shirkent" was further replicated to other protected areas throughout the country. Management plans have also been replicated in Dashtidzhum Zakaznik (zakaznik - a type of protected area) and Natural Biosphere Reserve Tigrovaya Balka, with support from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

²¹ The proposal of adopting participatory management in the country protected areas system was endorsed by the State Directorate of Protected Areas through Decision No.57 dated December 10, 2010.

²² In biology, a refugium (plural: refugia) is a location of an isolated or relict population of a once more widespread species. This isolation or allopatry can be due to climatic changes, geography, or human activities such as deforestation and overhunting. This isolation, in many cases, can be seen as only a temporary state; refugia may be longstanding, thereby having many endemic species, not found elsewhere, which survive as relict populations.

²³ Ibid.

country's national reports to the convention. A noteworthy foundational support from the GEF is the one provided for the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework (GEF ID 3211), which helped establishing the Centre for Biodiversity and Biosafety and contributed to the development of important national legislation on biosafety²⁴.

109. The potential of the SGP in biodiversity conservation should be also acknowledged. A significant number of small grants in biodiversity (18 of 48 projects) demonstrated win-win solutions on the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development at the local level. Among the field-verified examples worth noting, the Conservation of Thugai forests to reduce CO² emission project (TJK/SGP/OP5/BD/CORE/12/02), which successfully promoted community-based forestation and reforestation, and the Rehabilitation and Conservation of Agrobiodiversity in the Vakhsh and Hazrati-Shokh mountain areas project (TJK/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/2010/05) which supported the communities by increasing the number and productivity of wild and honey bee hives.

Climate Change

110. According to the Human Development Report 2013 “The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World”, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Tajikistan are still at the lowest level in Central Asia²⁵. This is also confirmed in the country's 2nd National Communication to UNFCCC. Tajikistan is one of the nine countries participating in the Pilot Project for Climate Resilience (PPCR) under the Climate Investment Fund (CFI) of the multilateral development banks (MDB). In fact, climate change has high priority in Tajikistan's environmental agenda.

111. GEF support to climate change includes two EAs, which supported the development of the 1st National Communication to UNFCCC (GEF ID 830) and provided capacity building for conducting the first GHG inventory in the country (GEF ID 1886). Both these initiatives helped Tajikistan to make climate change a priority in the government agenda and in raising awareness among concerned stakeholders. GEF also supported a rather small number of activities to isolate carbon in terms of the contributions made by projects in the biodiversity or land degradation focal areas, in which terrestrial carbon sequestering is largely a secondary benefit.

112. Besides foundational support, the GEF climate change portfolio in Tajikistan had limited results, due to the fact that FSPs and MSPs are still ongoing and/or in the verge of beginning implementation. GEF climate change support has focused on mitigation projects. Among them, the *Support to Sustainable Transport Management in Dushanbe* (GEF ID 3027)²⁶ and the

²⁴ 2004 Framework Document on Biosafety and the Law on Biological Safety No 88 as of March 1, 2005.

²⁵ GHG emission in Central Asian countries, in metric tons per capita: Kazakhstan – 19.1, Turkmenistan – 9.7, Uzbekistan – 4.6, Kyrgyzstan – 1.2, and Tajikistan – 0.5.

²⁶ The project aims at significant reduction of GHG emissions from the private transport sector by introducing modern urban passenger transport approaches.

Technology Transfer and Market Development for Small-Hydropower in Tajikistan (GEF ID 4160) aim at mainstreaming environmental considerations into Tajikistan transport management infrastructure as well as its energy sector, helping the country to meet its commitments to UNFCCC. The transport project involves civil society and proposed a joint public-private approach to the solution of the problems related to the sustainable management of urban transport. The project has developed a GHG emissions calculation tool, which helped determining the level of GHG emissions from the passenger transport sector in Dushanbe city.

113. With support from the Small-Hydropower project (GEF ID 4160), several steps were undertaken to enhance national capacity in the technical and planning know-how, as well as developing a market chain for small-hydropower units in Tajikistan. Three small scale hydropower plants have been constructed: one in Dashti Yazghulam settlement of Vanj district, with 15 kW of installed capacity; one in Jamoat Burunov, with 200 kW capacity; and one in Sorvo village of Vahdat district with 30 kW capacity. These interventions are expected to substantially contribute to avoid the use of conventional biomass and fossil fuels for power and other energy needs in the project areas. The project selected two local manufacturing companies in an effort to enhance their technical know-how and increase the share of local small-hydropower manufacturing of goods and services. The ex UNFCCC Focal Point indicated that the estimated percentage of the total small hydropower installation costs provided by locally manufactured goods and services normally ranges between 5% and 10%, of which the share of actual manufacturing is limited to the production of bolts, pipes and some castings. With support from the project, that share now exceeds 50% and the local manufacturers are now able to fully plan, design, and manufacture and construct small-hydropower production plants locally. It is also worth noting that the country's legislative and regulatory framework for small scale hydropower development was enhanced with the GEF support, i.e. with the Law "On Energy efficiency and energy saving"²⁷.

Land Degradation

114. GEF support to Tajikistan's efforts in tackling land degradation has been provided through three national projects plus the national components of five regional projects. Land degradation is the second largest share in the national portfolio, accounting for more than 30% of GEF grants. The national portfolio is composed of one completed MSP, the *CACILM: Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan, under the CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase 1* (GEF ID 3237); one FSP, the *CACILM: Rural Development Project under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase 1* (GEF ID 3234), which is actually completed, although its project completion report is still pending; and one FSP, the *Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods* (GEF ID 4352), now under implementation. By introducing and promoting sustainable land management practices in the context of economic restructuring and development, GEF investments in land degradation have managed to contribute to local development policy,

²⁷ No. 1018, September 19, 2013. Energy saving and energy efficiency issues are now always embedded in small hydropower supply projects.

which is a key objective for Tajikistan, given the economic importance of the agricultural sector and reducing poverty in rural areas.

115. In the national portfolio, the CACILM case study (GEF ID 3237) and related field visits and interviews, as well as relevant desk and literature review confirmed that in the land degradation focal area progress toward impact is occurring only at the level of project sites. The results of completed regional projects are limited and insufficiently visible in Tajikistan, except for the Tajikistan component of the *Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains (PALM) - Phase I* (GEF ID 2377). A huge demonstration effort on the effectiveness of community-based SLM activities was set up by this project, with demonstration sites on 300 hectares of land in as many as 10 sub-district units, involving 10% of the population, with the aim of mobilizing additional resources for up-scaling the initiative in the region. Unfortunately, expectations of a second phase of the PALM project were unmet.

116. During the TE field verification of the PALM project conducted in the Jirgatal region, the Evaluation Team could observe the positive results achieved through 41 micro-projects. These include the construction of Kashars (cowshed), the construction of roads and bridges to pasture lands, the establishment of orchards in the drylands, the introduction of the cultivation of *esparcet* (alfa-alfa), and rehabilitation of irrigation canals. The effectiveness of these micro-projects is rooted in the participatory approach to SLM planning, conducted based on proposals emanated from the villages themselves, as well as in the transparent selection procedure of the proposals to be selected for financing, also done with the communities involved. Overall, the PALM project introduced a joint SLM planning process that could be expanded to other regions. This process was complex and multi-layered, involving several partners, i.e. local government, communities, civil society and research institutions such as the local Agrarian University and the Pamir Biological Institute, among others.²⁸ However, as the process has been integrated at the level of the local government, i.e. the so-called Jamoat, it is still working today.

117. The PALM project experience has also been instrumental to the development of two important national laws, namely the Law “On Mountain Regions of the Republic of Tajikistan” and the Law “On Pastures”. As a result of the mountain law, which encourages participatory governance and enforcement, a joint initiative has been developed between the Tajik Parliament standing committee on Environmental Protection and an active group of mountain stakeholders of Tajikistan, the NGO “Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Reduction (CCDR)” and the NGO “CAMP Kuhiston”. This partnership encourages consultation with local communities, allowing public concerns to be heard and capacities to be improved. The new initiative has been ongoing since 2014 and is supported by the Central Asian Mountain Hub under Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation funding.

²⁸ Tajikistan partners included the Aga Khan Foundation, the Institute of Soil Science, and the Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences, while in the Kyrgyz republic the National Center for Mountain Regions Development, University of Osh, Institute of Geodesy and Cartography.

Chemicals and Waste

118. GEF grants in the chemicals and waste focal area accounts for the smallest portfolio share in terms of funding – less than 5%. Only three projects are in the national portfolio: one completed MSP, the *Programme for Phasing Out Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)* (GEF ID 15); one completed EA, the *Enabling Activity for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs): National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Republic of Tajikistan* (GEF ID 1955); and one EA under implementation, the *Enabling Activity to Review and Update the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* (GEF ID 5223).

119. GEF support in the ODS focal area was effective. From 2001 to 2008, the ODS Phasing-out project (GEF ID 15) contributed to recovering and recycling 115,008 kilograms of refrigerants. About 85% of domestic CFC-based refrigerators were replaced between 2000 and 2010.²⁹ Parallel to that, through the regional project *Initial Implementation of Accelerated HCFC Phase Out in the CEIT Region* (GEF ID 4102), the GEF has invested US\$ 0.9 million in supporting development and implementation of a 3R operations programme (namely, Recycling, Recovery, and Reclamation) and a national Refrigerant Management Plan, both part of a retrofit financial incentive programme for the country's refrigeration industry. The consequent ODS phase-out is equal to 50.7 tons ODP (ozone depletion potential), with which the country returned to compliance with the Montreal Protocol in 2006. The GEF Impact Evaluation of the Phase-Out of Ozone-Depleting Substances in Countries with Economies in Transition" (GEF IEO, 2010) assessed the level of government commitment to ozone layer protection as high in Tajikistan. It confirmed that the legislation mandating ODS 3R operations and reporting on the results of the 3R was implemented in Tajikistan.

120. The results of the activities in the GEF POPs focal area are rather modest. The support provided with the two EAs focused on the development and revision of the national inventory as well as on capacity building and awareness rising of the population on the problems connected with the use of POPs. This support mainly consisted of trainings and workshops, and awareness raising campaigns. Besides, the demonstration of an innovative agrobiodiversity technology was conducted with support from a SGP grant on introducing waste disposal methods for climate change adaptation (TJK/SGP/OP5/LD/CORE/12/13), active in six Dehkan Farms in Vakhdat district. Nonetheless, the scope of these activities is rather small.

Multifocal

121. Multifocal projects constitute a large share of the national portfolio, amounting at 36.5% of the total GEF financing. Multifocal projects include one completed MSP, the *Environmental Learning and Stakeholder Involvement as Tools for Global Environmental Benefits and Poverty Reduction* (GEF ID 3310); one completed FSP, the *Community Agriculture*

²⁹ Terminal Evaluation: Evaluation of GEF-funded UNEP and UNDP projects that phased-out ODS in countries with economies in transition. March 2010.

and Watershed Management (CAWM) (GEF ID 1872); and one completed EA, *the National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental Management* (GEF ID 1928). Two additional MSPs, the *Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity in the Face of Climate Change* (GEF ID 3129); and the *Strengthening Capacity for an Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System in Tajikistan* (GEF ID 5236) are currently under implementation. The MFA projects implemented in Tajikistan largely include biodiversity, climate change and land degradation elements, and addressed most of the main environmental priorities set by national development and environmental policy documents, including toxic substances and waste management with a focus on pesticides, POPs, and fertilizers.

122. Evidence collected and triangulated from the case study on the CAWM project (GEF ID 1872), field visits, interviews, desk, and literature review confirms that in the multifocal portfolio, the biodiversity and land degradation focal areas progress toward impact is occurring, again only at local and project sites levels. Examples include: (i) the planting of gardens on terraces, which helped conserving the soil, preventing wind erosion and increasing GHG absorption; (ii) corrals for livestock built by the project at the summer pasture lands, which facilitated the preservation of livestock productivity, the improvement of pastures and their effective control, leading in turn to increasing overall productivity and natural restoration of land; (iii) and the yaks' breeding initiative, which also improved pasture lands productivity by contributing to reduce the pressure on pastures. Another example of habitat stress reduction is the introduction of water saving technologies in irrigation and/or using of biological methods for plants and crops protection as alternatives to chemical control (GEF ID 1872 and 3237). The CAWM project (GEF ID 1872) was implemented within the community-based Common Interest Groups (CIG) and households, and brought direct economic benefits to the population through the parallel introduction of sustainable livelihood activities. Furthermore, water saving technologies in irrigation are estimated to save at least 250 cubic meters a year. The irrigation network that was rehabilitated in 30 villages allows a more rational and efficient use of irrigation water, prevents erosion and soil salinization, and reduces the use of pesticides and fertilizers. The water supply pipelines built for 550 households are still functioning today.

5.2 Broader Adoption Mechanisms in Place for Progress toward Impact

123. The main goal of GEF projects is to achieve environmental impact in the form of reduction of environmental stress³⁰ and/or improvement of the environmental status of the environmental and natural resources targeted by GEF support³¹ through broader adoption of project outcomes. Broader adoption typically takes place through five mechanisms: (i)

³⁰ Environmental stress reduction means reduction in threats to the globally significant resource; decrease, prevention or slowdown of the degradation; destruction or contamination of the components of an ecosystem (e.g. better protection/enforcement); improved management effectiveness; banning of destructive technology; waste treated; habitat restored, among others.

³¹ Environmental status improvement involves the positive changes in the state of the ecosystem or its components, especially those of global significance, e.g. improved water quality/ nutrient concentration, higher habitat cover, higher species population, among others.

Sustaining, i.e. interventions originally supported by GEF continue to be implemented by stakeholders without GEF support to demonstrate the benefits and provide benefits for adoption by other stakeholders beyond the original project scope; (ii) *Mainstreaming*, i.e. information, lessons or specific results of GEF are incorporated into broader stakeholder mandates and initiatives such as laws, policies, regulations and programs; (iii) *Replication*, i.e. GEF-supported initiatives are reproduced or adopted at a comparable administrative or ecological scale, often in another geographical area or region; (iv) *Scaling-up*, i.e. GEF-supported initiatives are implemented in larger geographical areas, often expanded to include new aspects or concerns that may be political, administrative, economic or ecological in nature; and (v) *Market change*, i.e. GEF-supported initiatives help catalyze market transformation by influencing the supply of and/or demand for goods and services that contribute to global environmental benefits. Market change may encompass technological changes, policy and regulatory reforms, and financial instruments. As mentioned in the methodology chapter, in order to identify to what extent GEF support is leading to P2I through broader adoption of project outcomes by stakeholders, the Evaluation Team undertook three in-depth case studies of completed projects in different focal areas. These case studies were supported by a P2I desk analysis, which included two additional completed projects.

124. For all the three projects selected for P2I case studies were completed four or five years ago, the case studies could identify a number of instances of broader adoption of outcomes, which might lead to progress toward impact. These were mostly in the form of replication. As a result, stress reduction is occurring and environmental status is improving at local scales in specific areas. An important driver contributing to the sustainability of project outcomes has been the project ability to demonstrate the likely social and economic co-benefits along with the expected environmental ones. Importantly, lack of economic profitability hinders any potential for sustainability and replication, as it has happened in a few cases (see below).

125. Cases of stress reduction have been observed at project sites visited. For example, the increase of reforested areas as a result of the Gissar Mountains project (GEF ID 1854), or the planting of trees for bio-drainage in the Jamoat Nuri Vakhsh of Jilikul District under the CACILM project (GEF ID 3237), which prevented water logging, erosion and soil salinization, as well as contributing to carbon sequestration. Other examples include energy-efficient stoves, houses insulation, solar heaters, driers and water mills, most of which have been introduced by all three projects, leading to a decrease in the use of fossil fuel and electricity. Awareness raising and involvement of local population in the management and conservation of the environment through participatory land-use approaches and joint management of the forest resources (GEF ID 1854) contributed to stress reduction and improvement of the environmental status.

126. Three main impact drivers are common to all the five completed projects desk reviewed: stakeholder support, effective financial mechanisms, and adequate information flows. The Gissar Mountains project (GEF ID 1854) helped building protected area management capacity and assisting in the establishment of regulatory or institutional frameworks. In order to save the endemic species of plants, a technique to preserve and create micro-reserves have been developed. The Management Plan model developed under the project is being used as a reference in the development of management plans of other protected areas, in Roshtkala,

Ishkashim and Darvaz. An important factor contributing to environmental change in the case of this project was the fact that starting from design stage up to completion local government, including the local branches of Land Tenure, Forestry and Environmental Protection departments were closely involved.

127. The importance of ownership of project outcomes as a driver for progress toward impact clearly emerged in the Gissar Mountains and the CAWM projects (GEF ID 1854 and 1872). At the local level, ownership was developed due to community socioeconomic welfare increase as a result of a particular intervention. Stakeholders have strong ownership of the process; in fact, they passed from being “stakeholders” to “results owners.” These two projects were implemented involving the community-based common interest groups and households and bringing direct economic benefits to the population through the introduction of sustainable livelihood activities. Evidence collected in these two case studies confirms that there are significant socio-economic changes which raised consistently the local population interest. Grants for the implementation of resource friendly income generating activities were awarded under CAWM projects and more than 5,000 community level initiatives were developed and financed. Stakeholders have shown great interest in all but one activities, the conservation and sustainable management of protected areas (GEF ID 1854). The project could not establish an effective financial mechanism that could attract communities’ interest, such as for example local trust funds for nature protection, markets for sustainable products, small grants, or certified products.

128. Environmental and social changes occurred after completion of the CACILM project (GEF ID 3237). New protected areas were created *de facto* through the sustainable utilization of forest resources and community forestry initiatives, as for example in the Jamoat Nuri Vakhsh of Jilikul District. Sustainable technologies such as bio-drainage and shelterbelts were established to reduce land degradation, enhance agrobiodiversity conservation and increase land productivity as a result. Many of these initiatives were replicated elsewhere in the Jilikul district as farmers were convinced that this technology increased productivity of the land. Importantly, the peer-to-peer training/learning network introduced by the project keeps operating after the project closure as it is now part of the Jamoat Resource Centre (JRC) network³². The CACILM project also helped in the development of a fledgling community forest management system and the inclusion of ecosystem resilience in the local rural development agenda.

129. Other initiatives and technologies introduced by the CACILM project were less successful due to lack of economic profitability. In some cases, beneficiaries did not have the funding to maintain the energy-saving stoves and the hydropower units setup for lightening households they received. For example, a 5 KW generation unit installed in a village that provided electricity to 14 households currently is not working as it was damaged by mudflow. Interviewed households stated that they cannot allocate enough funds to replace or repair it.

³² Jamoat Support Centers are also commonly known in Tajikistan as Jamoat Resource Centers (JRC) or Jamoat Development Centers (JDC). All these centers are community based organizations, i.e. local NGOs.

Similarly, during field visits it was observed that the bio-drainage system was not working any longer due to lack of economic profitability. In one of the targeted Jamoats in Qumsangir district the trees planted for bio-drainage in a waterlogged land were pulled out for growing rice, which is more profitable for farmers as from 1 hectare in average they harvest 4 tons of rice with minimum price of 3 Somoni per 1 kg.

5.3 Institutional and Capacity Development

130. Developing national capacities, both at the institutional as well as at the individual level, and introducing governance arrangements that can lead to large-scale action (both mass and legislative) are among the main focuses of GEF-funded projects. Capacities include awareness, knowledge, skills, infrastructure, and environmental monitoring systems, among others. Governance refers to decision-making processes, structures and systems, including access to and use of information, laws, administrative bodies, trust-building and conflict resolution processes, information-sharing systems, to name a few. This section reports on results in the institutional and capacity development area.

131. Several examples of effective institutions building supported by the GEF in Tajikistan have been observed by the Evaluation Team. For example, all the JRCs supported by the Gissar Mountains project continue to function today. Environmental education campaigns for local communities contributed to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation by promoting agro-biodiversity production technologies and approaches. Ten farmers concluded land lease agreements with the local forestry department. Two tree nurseries were established and continue working today. A Plan of Joint Actions was developed with and adopted by the District government (Hukumat of Shahrinav district). Three information and educational centers were created in the region, which are currently operational. Individual and institutional capacity strengthening occurred at many levels through support from the CAWM project as well, which demonstrated how bottom-up approaches to natural resource management can be successful. In 2010 the CAWM project received the World Bank award for “Improving the Lives of People in the Europe and Central Asia Region”,³³ an official recognition for its achievements in improving rural livelihoods, increasing agriculture production, improving land resource management including pasture improvement, rehabilitating rural infrastructure, and involving the rural population.

132. In the case of the CACILM project (GEF ID 3237) individual and institutional capacity were strengthened essentially through the introduction of Farmers Field Schools (FFSs). Through FFSs, the targeted *dehkan* farmers, landless families and rural unemployed women and their families have become aware of the possible solutions to land salinization, stopping of gullies, and management of irrigation water. The local technicians trained by the project in designing, planning and conduct of FFSs in irrigation and forestry have increased their skills and abilities. During the field visits to Shaartuz and Qumsangir districts it was observed that the

³³ <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2010/03/30/world-bank-announces-winners-of-the-third-annual-improving-the-lives-of-people-in-europe-and-central-asia-region-2010-competition>

Land Degradation Units (LDU) set up by the project still exist today and both LDU and FFS consultants provide individual consultation and advices to the local farmers. There is every indication that they will continue to provide their acquired knowledge to local communities and local government, either in their current capacity as extension workers or as private consultants. As for institutional capacities, the project supported the establishment of two Water User Associations (WUAs) and rehabilitated the irrigation infrastructure (gateways, water control gates) in another two existing WUAs in the districts of Qumsangir and Jiikul, resulting in a significant improvement of the irrigation of lands and increased land productivity. For example, the rehabilitation of one irrigation station in Jura Nazarov Jamoat improved the irrigation of around 300 ha of land.

133. The CACILM project (GEF ID 3237) also supported the establishment of the 5 Years' Tugai community-management forest agreement. This introduced a significant change in the way forests are managed and provided valuable lessons for the development of social forestry in Tajikistan. Unfortunately, field observations identified that the Tugai Forest is under the risk of extinction because the 5-years' agreement signed in 2008 between the representatives of the three involved local communities and the Hukumat expired in 2013, and no further efforts have been made for its renewal.³⁴

5.4 Knowledge Generation and Learning

134. In Tajikistan, the GEF focused a considerable part of its efforts to fostering the generation and sharing of knowledge, mainly through raising awareness on environmental problems, producing environmental information and building skills. The most effective support was in awareness raising and skills building. Specific examples are reported here below.

Knowledge Generation

135. In line with its mandate, the GEF has supported Tajikistan in the preparation of important documents, including the First National Communication to UNFCCC, the National Implementation Plan for Stockholm Convention on POPs, the NCSA, the NBSAP and the First National Report to the CBD. These foundational documents helped the country comply with its obligations as a signatory member of the international environmental conventions.

136. Examples of normative support in terms of knowledge generation are also found in a number of FSPs and MSPs, with varying degrees of success. The project *Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation* (GEF ID 2037) developed a set of maps generated through Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which were uploaded on the internet site www.zakaznik.tj. These include a number of maps of ecosystems, biotopes, natural habitats for plants and animals, biodiversity threats, boundaries of zakaznik³⁵ and a zoning map. Unfortunately the website was

³⁴ The leasehold agreement for the 126 ha of the Tugai forest was formed as three separate agreements between village committees, each represented by a leaseholder.

³⁵ A type of protected area

removed due to lack of financing, although interviewed project personnel confirmed that website was developed and used for information dissemination. The project also supported the development of a biodiversity database containing a set of photos, manuals, tables and internet links. It also supported the preparation of the Zakaznik Management Plan, which helped local communities, project partners and stakeholders recognizing the main threats to biodiversity of that area, the difficulties and problems in management, and indicating how to improve its management.

137. The ongoing project *Technology Transfer and Market Development for Small-Hydropower in Tajikistan* (GEF ID 4160) helped developing a guidebook, which provides in-depth information to private and public investors interested in the construction of small-hydropower plants, and education modules for students of technical universities and short term vocational trainings. The guidebook and modules are further included in the education curricula for the Tajik Technical University and the Kurgant'yube Energy Institute, which are the two main institutions that train hydropower engineers in Tajikistan.

Information Sharing and Access

138. The Dashtidzhum project (GEF ID 2037) supported information sharing in a number of different ways. These included the publication and divulgation of booklets and posters; the organization of local seminars and trainings for about 87 local specialists within and beyond project area; the arrangement of study tours to the natural reserves "Tigrovaya Balka" and "Romit", the setup of mountain botanical garden and plant nursery; the development of a project website, which was removed after project completion; and the establishment of the newly built and equipped Nature museum. The Gissar Mountains project (GEF ID 1854) issued a regular Newsletter, Navruzgoh, to disseminate best practices and lessons learned. The CEP has then taken ownership of this initiative, and a national staff conference has been held annually since 2009 to facilitate networking.

Awareness Raising

139. The ongoing support to the National Biosafety Framework (GEF ID 3211) was instrumental to the setup and operationalization of a public awareness platform, implemented actively through a number of public lectures, newspapers and TV-round tables involving deputies from Parliament, national scientific institutions and institutes for higher education. Among the platform initiatives that are worth mentioning, a public lecture has been developed and conducted at National University for teachers and students, and also at Committee for nature protection at Kyrgant'yube. In addition to that, materials on biosafety were published in the special issue of the Navruzgoh newsletter.

140. The project *Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity in the Face of Climate Change* (GEF ID 3129) has helped raising awareness of local living collections of agro-biodiversity (ABD) and their values among 1,000 community representatives, through workshops and consultations held in cooperation with project partners such as the national Institute of Farming and the Hydrometeorology Agency, among others. Farmers also participated in awareness campaigns

on agro-technological practices for improvement of characteristics of ABD varieties. Local ABD products were showcased in national agricultural exhibitions. Lastly, the project *Environmental Learning and Stakeholder Involvement as Tools for Global Environmental Benefits and Poverty Reduction* (GEF ID 3310) developed four public awareness plans on key environmental and sustainable development issues and disseminated the information produced to four JRCs.

Skills Building

141. Trainings, peer-to-peer exchanges and other forms of skills buildings were a particular focus in several projects. As a result of the trainings delivered by one of the earliest projects, the ODS Phasing-out project (GEF ID 15), many of the 334 certified refrigeration technicians continue working as independent entrepreneurs or as employees of various service centers throughout the country.

142. The Environmental Learning project (GEF ID 3310) supported the Teacher Re-Training Institute in developing training modules and guidelines for secondary school teachers on environmental conventions and natural resource management. This project also supported the Tajikistan Technical University in the design of a training module on environmental education that targeted their environmental trainers. Vocational training on small hydropower maintenance, operation and management was provided by the Small-Hydropower project (GEF ID 4160) to seven employees and to the operator of the small hydropower plant "Nurofar" in Burunov Jamoat. The Evaluation Team visited the pilot small-hydropower plant in Jamoat Burunov of Vahdat District and refrigeration servicing training facility in Dushanbe and could confirm the effectiveness of the skills building activities mentioned above.

143. Interviews, meetings, email and telephone conversation with stakeholders, projects staff, and involved civil society organizations and conventions focal points overall confirmed the quality and knowledge products supported by the GEF. Stakeholders also indicated that the type and variety of knowledge products is satisfactory, but in some cases the quantity of such products, especially as printed materials, was insufficient. Unsurprisingly, interviewees prefer to have knowledge products in Tajik, not in Russian or English.

5.5 Gender

144. Tajikistan attaches great importance to gender considerations and equality in all spheres of life, including its public management sector. The country has a well-developed policy framework, which includes national legislation and provisions that are relevant to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the 1998 Aarhus Convention (which were acceded by Tajikistan on October 26, 1993 and on July 17, 2001 respectively). These conventions' provisions have priority over domestic law with regard to gender equality. In addition to that, the Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities was entered into force by the Decree No. 89 of March 1, 2005. According to this law, at least one deputy minister in the ministry or deputy chair (director) in other government departments must be a woman. The following section assesses the GEF contribution to reducing gender inequalities within Tajikistan portfolio of GEF projects.

145. From the review of the relevant design and M&E documentation related to the 23 national projects it emerges that thirteen projects considered gender issues in project formulation and implementation, while the other ten didn't (Table 5.1). More specifically, gender issues were mentioned in the project formulation documents (PDFs/PPGs) of all thirteen projects, although for some of them only partially (GEF ID 3310 and 3237). A review of the available M&E documentation (PIRs, MTRs, TEs and TERs) of ongoing and completed projects shows that five projects were actively mainstreaming gender in their activities (GEF ID 1854, 4160, 1872, 3129 and 3310).

Table 5.1: Gender Ratings by Focal Area and

Focal Area	Gender 'Yes'	Gender 'No'	Total
BD	2 (GEF ID 1854 and 4694)	4 (GEF ID 996, 2528, 2037 and 3122)	6
CC	2 (GEF ID 4160 and 4422)	3 (GEF ID 830, 1886 and 3027)	5
LD	3 (GEF ID 3237, 3234 and 4352)	0	3
MFA	5 (GEF ID 3310, 1872, 3129, 5236 and 6949)	1 (GEF ID 1928)	6
POPs	1 (GEF ID 5223)	1 (GEF ID 1955)	2
ODS		1 (GEF ID 15)	1

Total	13	10	23
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146. A good example of gender mainstreaming comes from the Gissar Mountains project (GEF ID 1854), which integrated a gender dimension into the conceptualization, planning, and all project implementation activities. The project considered women involvement to be crucial in ensuring demonstration activities are successful and have strong potential to be replicated. Conversely, in the case of the CACILM project (GEF ID 3237) gender issues were not given enough consideration, despite the fact that most of the labor in the farming systems of Tajikistan is done by women, as men migrated to Russia for employment. The project MTR and TE highlighted the lack of a gender strategy in the project document and in the project activities, except for promoting women participation in FFS and small economic activities.

147. Project proposals as well as implementation and evaluation reports often lack gender specific information, due to the absence of gender sensitive approach and indicators in the project results framework. Only six projects include gender disaggregated indicators and/or gender consideration in monitoring and evaluation exercises (GEF ID 4422, 4352, 1872, 3234, 3129, and 5236). This makes it difficult to collect gender-disaggregated data and track progress made on the engagement and impact of the project activities towards both women and men.

148. Women were mainly involved in the micro-loan activities and trainings (GEF ID 1854, 3237, 4160, 3129, and 3310). Field visits to selected projects (GEF ID 1872, 1854 and 3237) as well as grants under SGP confirm this finding. Training topics seem confined to fruit drying and conservations, vegetables, potatoes growing and less to cotton, corn, wheat and rice. In fact, there has not been much progress in promoting the participation of women in decision making process, but some efforts were made in a few cases (GEF ID 1872, 1854 and 5223). There, women have been involved in forestry nursery management, in serving as focal points for the implementation of community-based tourism and energy-efficient stoves, in the development of local socio-economic initiatives, and in trainings.

149. The GEF introduced its Policy on Gender Mainstreaming relatively recently (GEF, 2011). Before that, it relied partly on GEF Agencies' policies on gender, and partly on its policy on Public Involvement in GEF projects (GEF, 1996) that covered social and gender among other issues. However, seven out of the eleven pre-gender policy projects contained gender considerations (Table 5.2), although not in a consistent and comprehensive way. The introduction of the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming contributed to a higher consideration of gender in project design and implementation. Six projects (GEF ID 4422, 4352, 6949, 5236, 4694, and 5223) are better designed in mainstreaming gender and development of frameworks with gender sensitive outcomes and outputs. Four projects included gender disaggregated indicators in project design (GEF ID 5236, 4422 and 4352). To note, in two of the most recent projects (GEF ID 4422 and 6949), started in late 2011, a shift in promoting women involvement

in decision making becomes apparent in the project formulation documents, although it is still early to assess the results of these initiatives.

Table 5.2: Gender rating before and after the introduction of the GEF Gender Policy

Focal Area	Gender 'Yes' (%)	Gender 'No' (%)	Total
Pre-May, 2011 FSP/MSP	7 (30%) (GEF ID 4160, 3234, 1872, 3129, 1854, 3237 and 3310)	4 (17%) (GEF ID 2037, 3027, 3122 and 15)	11
Post-May, 2011 FSP/MSP	4 (17%) (GEF ID 4422, 4352, 6949 and 5236)		4
Pre-May, 2011 EAs		6 (26%) (GEF ID 996, 2528, 830, 1886, 1928 and 1955)	
Post-May, 2011 EAs	2 (8, 7%) (GEF ID 4694 and 5223)		8
Total	13	10	23

150. Gender mainstreaming has been relatively strong in five out of the six multifocal projects (GEF ID 1872, 3310, 3129, 6949, and 5236). Two out of six biodiversity projects consider gender both in formulation and implementation documents (GEF ID 1854 and 4694). The same applies to two out of five climate change projects (GEF ID 4160 and 4422). All the three land degradation projects include gender issues (GEF ID 3237, 3234 and 4352) and one POPs project has gender related actions incorporated in the involvement of relevant stakeholders - farmers dealing with pesticides, especially women (GEF ID 5223).

Chapter 6: Relevance

151. This chapter addresses the following key evaluation questions on the relevance of GEF support to Tajikistan:

- a) Has GEF support to Tajikistan been relevant to the objectives linked to the different Global Environmental Benefits in the climate change, biodiversity, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals focal areas?
- b) Has GEF support to Tajikistan been relevant to the Tajik environmental priorities and sustainable development needs and challenges, including poverty alleviation and creation of sustainable livelihoods in the form of environmental sustainable jobs?
- c) To what extent have the GEF and its Agencies been supporting environmental and sustainable development prioritization, country ownership and decision-making processes in Tajikistan?

6.1 Relevance to the Achievement of Global Environmental Benefits

152. The Republic of Tajikistan pays particular attention to international co-operation on environmental issues. Furthermore, Tajikistan has been actively involved in most international environmental agreements and conventions. The GEF has supported Tajikistan to comply with its international commitments through eight EAs and one MSP from the national portfolio, and one MSP and two FSPs from the regional portfolio.

153. Tajikistan joined the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer on 6 May, 1996 (Figure 6.1). Tajikistan's commitments under the Vienna Convention and its subsequent protocols and amendments were supported at different times by GEF through one national and two regional projects: the ODS phasing out project (GEF ID 15) in 1999, i.e. three and a half years after the country accession to the convention; the Continued Institutional Strengthening Support for CEITs to meet the obligations of the Montreal Protocol project (GEF ID 3185) approved in April 2007, i.e. nine years after accession to Montreal Protocol and Copenhagen Amendments; and the Initial Implementation of Accelerated HCFC Phase-out in the CEIT Region (GEF ID 4102) approved in June 2010, i.e. one year after Tajikistan accession.

154. Similarly, following Tajikistan's accession to the CBD on 29 October 1997 and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on 12 February 2004, GEF provided foundational support through the Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan with Clearing House Mechanism (GEF ID 996) became effective in January 2001, i.e. three years after accession to the CBD. The Additional Financing for Capacity Assessment in Biodiversity Priority Areas (GEF ID 2528) started in April 2004, i.e. six and a half years after Tajikistan accession. The Support for the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework of the Republic of Tajikistan (GEF ID 3211) was approved by GEF in January 2011, i.e. seven years after accession to Cartagena Protocol.

155. After Tajikistan's accession to UNFCCC on July 16, 1997, commitments to this convention were supported by the GEF through two EAs, namely the Enabling the Republic of

Tajikistan to Prepare its First National Communication in Response to its Commitments to the UNFCCC (GEF ID 830) which was approved by GEF in June 2000, i.e. three years after accession; and the Climate Change Enabling Activity (Additional Financing for Capacity Building in Priority Areas (GEF ID 1886)) started in June 2005, i.e. eight years after accession.

156. Tajikistan ratified the Stockholm Convention on POPs on 8 February 2007. GEF provided support through one EA, the National Implementation Plan (GEF ID 1955) which was approved in August 2003 and completed in December 31, 2005, i.e. one year before the ratification of the Stockholm Convention.

6.2 Relevance to National Sustainable Development and Environmental Priorities

157. GEF support has addressed most of the main sustainable development and environmental priorities set by national development and environmental policy documents, including on biodiversity conservation, land degradation, climate change, toxic substances and waste management, through both its national and regional projects. In a number of cases GEF specifically supported the setting of national priorities for sustainable development and environmental protection in Tajikistan, as reflected in the various national strategies formulated during the last fifteen years. Most of the ones relevant of the environmental sector have been developed with GEF support. An illustrative example is the NBSAP (GEF ID 996) currently being updated (GEF ID 4694). All GEF projects align with most of the main national official sustainable development and environment policies (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1: Relevance to National Sustainable Development and Environmental Priorities

#	National policy, strategy or programs	GEF ID
1	National program to eliminate the use of ozone-depleting substances and the Government's Action Plan for its implementation, 2004	15, 3185 and 4102
2	Targeted Comprehensive Program for the use of renewable energy sources in Tajikistan for 2007-2015	4160
3	State Environmental Program of the Republic of Tajikistan for 1998-2008	All projects
4	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2002)	All projects
5	National Strategy for the Development of the Republic of Tajikistan for the Period 2006-2015	All projects
6	National Strategy and Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (NBSAP)	996, 1025, 1694, 1854, 1872, 1928, 2037, 2528, 3211, 3237, 3129, 3310, 4352, 4694 and 6949

7	Concept of Transition of the Republic of Tajikistan to sustainable development for 2007-2030	All projects
8	Concept of Environmental Protection in the Republic of Tajikistan	All projects
9	State Environmental Program of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2009-2019.	All projects
10	Framework Document on Biosafety (2004)	3211
11	Concept of rational use and protection of water resources and land use	1854, 1872, 1928, 2037, 2175, 2377, 2504, 3129, 3230, 3231, 3234, 3237, 3310, 4352, 5236 and 6949
12	State Program on Development of Specially Protected Natural Areas in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period 2005-2015	1025, 1694, 1854, 1872, 1928, 2037, 2528, 3211, 3237, 3129, 3310, 4352, 4694 and 6949
13	Forestry Development Program of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2006-2015	1025, 1694, 1854, 1872, 1928, 2037, 2528, 3211, 3237, 3129, 3310, 4352, 4694 and 6949
14	National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP)	All projects
15	National Program of Action to Combat Desertification, 2001	1854, 1872, 1928, 2037, 2175, 2377, 2504, 3129, 3230, 3231, 3234, 3237, 3310, 4352, 5236 and 6949

16	National Action Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2007	1955, 3614, 5000, 5223 and 5236
17	State comprehensive program for environmental education	5236

158. Relevance to national priorities is also demonstrated by the fact that GEF financing represents an important share of the overall financing to environmental protection in Tajikistan. According to the 2nd ERP report, in Tajikistan "The domestic resources allocated to environmental protection are very small and their impact on environmental quality is marginal. Funding of major environmental projects relies predominantly on foreign resources." The report indicates that funds dedicated to environmental projects in the period from 2010 to 2012 amounted at 32.2 million Somoni, among which 30.22% was from state budget, 47.85% was from foreign assistance and the rest 21.94% was from special funds. Financial resources of environmental funds in 2009 were 3.34 million Somoni (US\$ 0.81 million). A quick estimation based on the Tajikistan portfolio data compared with the ERP figures indicates that from 2010 to 2012 the GEF approved about US\$ 5 million (33 million Somoni), which almost equals the "total funds required for environment projects from 2010-2012 (32.2 million Somoni)" mentioned in the ERP report. Tajikistan did not receive all GEF funding at once, and some of these 2010-2012 projects are still ongoing. However, it can be inferred that the GEF is an important contributor.

6.3 Country Ownership

159. GEF support has been integrated into the country's government planning processes from the very beginning. Tajikistan contributed to project co-financing from various internal sources and not only in-kind. As seen in the previous chapter, GEF projects align practically with all Tajikistan's national development policies and priorities and it is fair say that GEF support is well integrated in country systems. Ownership of GEF support is also explained by the fact that the national environmental strategies that were supported by GEF EAs build on an extremely developed national environmental legal framework. This was based on the fundamental provisions concerning the human rights to a safe and healthy environment embedded in the Constitution adopted in 1994, five years before GEF support started to flow in the country. Secondly, not only GEF support is aligned with country's national priorities, it is also included in national budgets. Article 10 of the Law "About state (public) finances" No. 723 of June 28, 2011 states that: "... it is to be attributed to the revenues of the state budget also the following: grants and other uncompensated funds from international organizations". Lastly, after Tajikistan's accession to the Paris Declaration in 2005, which recommended the reduction of the parallel project implementation structures, project management units started being set up under the ministries and government agencies. Four out of the eight GEF - 4 and GEF - 5 MSPs

and FSPs have project management units housed under the ministries and governmental agencies and departments.

160. Non-state national stakeholders are actively involved, not only with the 48 NGOs and community organizations involved in the SGP, but also as partners of GEF Agencies in FSPs and MSPs. Among them, the environmental association "Noosfera" supported the Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation project (GEF ID 2037). CARE International, jointly with UNDP, implemented the Gissar Mountains project (GEF ID 1854) and the Russian branch of WWF supported the Development of the Econet for Long-term Conservation of Biodiversity in the Central Asia Ecoregions project (GEF ID 1694).

Chapter 7: Efficiency

161. This chapter addresses the following key evaluation questions on the efficiency of GEF support to Tajikistan:

- a) How much time, effort and financial resources (including co-financing) did it take to formulate and implement projects in Tajikistan, according to GEF support modality?
- b) Have there been synergies between: a) GEF Agencies in GEF programming and implementation; b) national institutions for GEF support; and c) GEF and other donors' support in Tajikistan? And what have been and are the roles, types of engagement, coordination and synergies among different stakeholders in project implementation in Tajikistan?
- c) What role did Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) play – both at design and implementation – in project adaptive management and overall efficiency in Tajikistan?

7.1 Time, Effort, and Financing for Project Design and Implementation

162. The GEF Activity Cycle has evolved over the years. At the beginning of GEF-4, following the Joint Evaluation of the GEF Activity Cycle and Modalities (GEF IEO, 2007) the GEF Activity Cycle underwent a revision. A limit of 22 months for project development was established for FSPs. This limit has been further reduced to 18 months in GEF-5. Figures 7.1 and 7.2 give an overview of the current GEF activity cycle, presented separately for FSPs and MSPs.

Figure 7.1 GEF Activity Cycle - FSPs

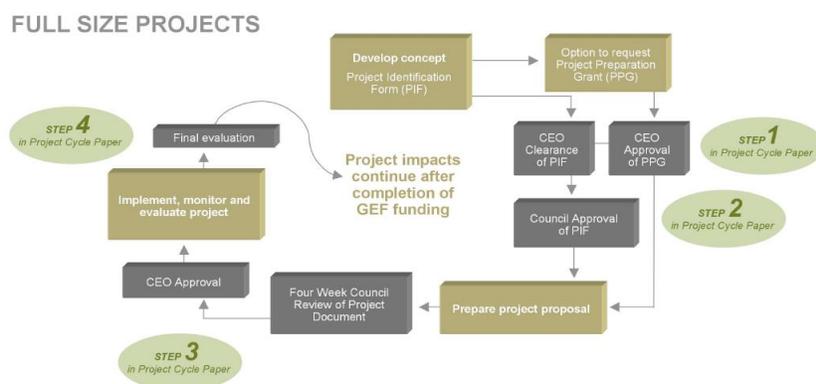
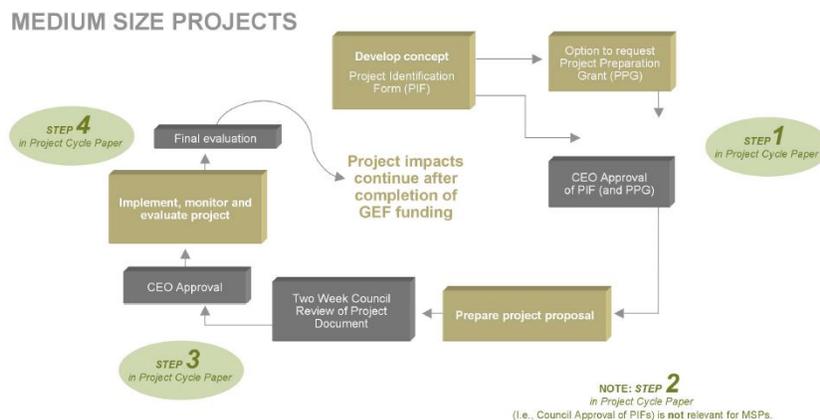


Figure 7.2 GEF Activity Cycle - MSPs



163. An analysis of the durations among (A) inclusion into the GEF pipeline of projects, (B) Council approval, (C) CEO endorsement, (D) Agency approval and (E) project implementation start-up indicates that on average, it has taken about 25.45 months or 2.12 years for FSPs in Tajikistan to move from inclusion in the GEF project pipeline to implementation start-up. Four FSPs have taken more than 18 months from entry into GEF pipeline to GEF CEO Endorsement (Table 7.1).

164. Stakeholders reported in interviews that they consider these timeframes to be too long. With these delays staff turnover may occur, both within Government departments and GEF Agencies, affecting negatively project implementation. Lack of specialized technical expertise and the associated need to hire international experts to help with project formulation, also played a role in a few cases. Long delays at the formulation and approval stages often led to the need to re-actualize the project design at the start of implementation.

Table 7.1: Duration of the GEF Activity Cycle - FSPs

GEF ID	Title	A to B	B to C	C to D	D to E	A to E
1872	Community Agriculture and Watershed Management	16.77	1.60	1.17	5.33	24.87
3129	Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity in the Face of Climate Change	16.10	15.23	0.77	0.00	32.10

3234	CACILM: Rural Development Project under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase I	14.30	20.57	15.53	27.30	18.03
4160	Technology Transfer and Market Development for Small-Hydropower in Tajikistan	7.20	18.67	3.10	2.17	26.80
4352	Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods	6.63	23.20	N/A	N/A	N/A
4422	Increasing Climate Resilience through Drinking Water Rehabilitation in North Tajikistan	3.70	12.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
6949	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pamir Alay and Tian Shan Ecosystems for Snow Leopard Protection and Sustainable Community Livelihoods	1.60	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Average (Months)		9.47	15.21	5.14	8.7	25.45
Average (Years)		0.79	1.27	0.43	0.73	2.12

Source: PMIS.

Note: N/A = not available. Not all projects have information on all stages of the approval process.

165. With its average of 25,45 months, the Tajikistan portfolio scores better than Sri Lanka, where FSPs take an average of 4 years to move from entry into pipeline to start of implementation, as well as South Africa and Brazil, where the average is 3.7 and 3.6 years, respectively. Overall, in comparison with most portfolios analyzed by the GEF IEO in the last 10 years, Tajikistan scores rather well, although as seen for FSPs it took more than four months longer than the official threshold of 18 months established in GEF-5.

166. The time taken in Tajikistan for project approval has been increasing for MSPs as well. It took about 17.95 months or about 1.5 years for MSP to move from inclusion in the project pipeline to implementation start. A noteworthy outlier is the Biosafety MSP (GEF ID 3211) which took 54.2 months to move from entry into the pipeline to CEO approval (Table 7.2).

Table 7.2: Duration of the GEF Activity Cycle - MSPs

GEF ID	Title	C to D	D to E	A to C	C to E	A to E
15	Programme for Phasing Out Ozone Depleting Substances	8.97	0	2.00	8.97	10.97
1854	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Gissar Mountains of Tajikistan	3.47	0	3.53	3.47	7.00
2037	Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation	0.33	0.60	17.10	0.93	18.03
3027	Support to Sustainable Transport Management in Dushanbe	11.53	0	6.60	11.53	18.13
3211	BS Support for the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework of the Republic of Tajikistan	8.53	0	54.20	8.53	62.73
3237	CACILM: Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan-under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase 1	1.13	0	1.40	1.13	2.53
3310	Environmental Learning and Stakeholder Involvement as Tools for Global Environmental Benefits and Poverty Reduction	N/A	N/A	4.50	1.73	6.23
5236	Strengthening Capacity for an Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System in Tajikistan	N/A	N/A	16.27	N/A	N/A

Average (Months)	5.66	5.66	0.10	13.20	5.19
Average (Years)	0.47	0.47	0	1.10	0.43

Source: PMIS.

Note: N/A = not available. Not all projects have information on all stages of the approval process.

167. For most EAs, in Tajikistan it took about 0.77 years on average to move from inclusion in the project pipeline to implementation start (Table 7.3). The only exception to this common trend is the EA on climate change (GEF ID 1886), which took over 2.7 years.

Table 7.3: Duration of the GEF Activity Cycle - EAs

GEF ID	Title	A to C	C to D	D to E	A to D	A to E
830	Enabling the Republic of Tajikistan to Prepare its First National Communication in Response to its Commitments to the UNFCCC	1.73	3.7	0	5.43	5.43
996	Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan with Clearing House Mechanism	1.73	4.43	0	6.17	6.17
1886	Climate Change Enabling Activity (Additional Financing for Capacity Building in Priority Areas)	32.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.37
1928	National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA)	0.10	3.97	0	4.07	4.07
1955	Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs): National Implementation Plan for Republic of Tajikistan	4.80	0.7	0	5.50	5.50

2528	Additional Financing for Capacity Assessment in Biodiversity Priority Areas	1.03	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.17
4694	Support for the Revision of the NBSAPs and Development of Fifth National Report to the CBD	5.73	3.67	0.40	9.40	9.80
5223	Enabling Activities to Review and Update the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	0.83	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Average (Months)		6.00	0.27	0.08	6.11	9.21
Average (Years)		0.50	0.02	0	0.51	0.77

Source: PMIS.

Note: N/A = not available. Not all projects have information on all stages of the approval process.

168. Only two GEF full size projects extended the completion date, mainly to adapt implementation to evolving contexts. Extensions have not been too long. Completion of the CAWM project (GEF ID 1872) was extended by one year, and for the CACILM project (GEF ID 3234) it was extended by eight months (Table 7.4).

Table 7.4: Extensions - MSPs

GEF ID	Title	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Years Extended
15	Programme for Phasing Out Ozone Depleting Substances	UNDP/UNEP	ODS	3.0
1854	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Gissar Mountains of Tajikistan	UNDP	BD	1.0

2037	Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation	WB	BD	1.0
3237	CACILM: Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan-under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase 1	UNDP	LD	0.33
Average (Years)				1.33

Source: PMIS.

169. The GEF considers cofinancing to be an indicator of a project’s sustainability, country ownership, and mainstreaming of GEF activities in the recipient country. The total GEF financing to Tajikistan amounts at around \$33.9 million. The government of Tajikistan and other donors have contributed around \$119.6 million for national projects. The co-finance ratio of \$3.5 for each \$1 of GEF grant in the national portfolio compares reasonably well with the two other country portfolios analyzed by the IEO in the ECA region (\$2.9 in Turkey; slightly over \$1 in Moldova).

170. Project formulation costs as percent of total project funding vary from 0.3% to 11.5% (Table 7.5). Cofinancing for project formulation has come from the government of Tajikistan (both in cash and in kind) as well as from GEF Agencies.

Table 7.5: Project formulation costs (MSPs and FSPs)

Type	GEF ID	GEF Phase	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Funding (\$)				% of total cost
					GEF grants ³⁶	Cofinance	PDF/PPG grants	PDF/PPG cofinance	
MSP	15	GEF-2	UNDP/UNEP	ODS	1,216,443	271,502	171,500	0	11.5
MSP	1854	GEF-3	UNDP	BD	1,090,000	1,521,987	25,000	18,000	1.6

³⁶ These figures include the GEF grant, management fees and PDF/PPG costs.

FSP	1872	GEF-3	WB	MFA	5,385,000	13,300,000	205,000	130,000	1.8
MSP	2037	GEF-3	WB	BD	921,000	198,250	25,000	5,500	2.7
FSP	3234	GEF-3	ADB	LD	3,500,000	19,810,000	0	850,000	3.6
MSP	3237	GEF-3	UNDP	LD	1,000,000	1,053,000	25,000	6,000	1.5
MSP	3027	GEF-4	UNDP	CC	1,100,000	11,395,195	30,000	5,000	0.3
FSP	3129	GEF-4	UNDP	MFA	2,227,500	2,100,000	125,000	106,000	5.3
MSP	3211	GEF-4	UNEP	BD	924,000	540,000	0	N/A	N/A
MSP	3310	GEF-4	UNDP	MF	550,000	539,290	30,000	0	2.8
FSP	4160	GEF-4	UNDP	CC	2,225,000	6,450,000	25,000	50,000	0.9
FSP	4352	GEF-5	WB	LD	5,940,000	16,860,000	0	N/A	N/A
FSP	4422	GEF-5	EBRD	CC	3,019,774	23,896,400	0	N/A	N/A
MSP	5236	GEF-5	UNDP	MFA	786,719	750,000	20,000	25,000	2.9
FSP	6949	GEF-6	UNDP	MFA	4,698,600	19,000,000	120,000	0	0.5
Total (US\$ million)					34.6	117.7	0.8	1,2	2.4

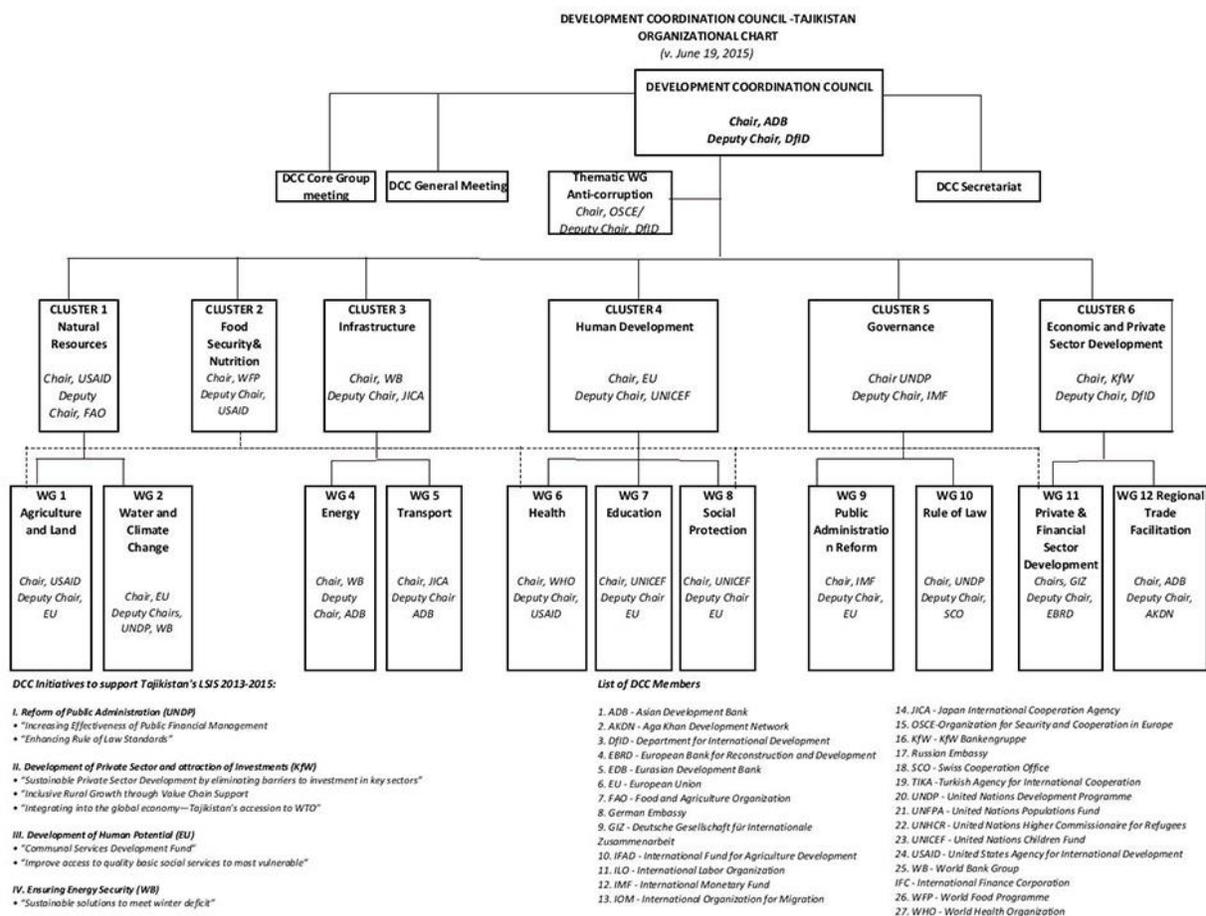
Source: PMIS and project documents.

Note: N/A = not available. Not all projects have full and exact financial information.

7.2 Coordination and Synergies

171. With an overall objective to strengthen aid effectiveness in Tajikistan, the Development Coordination Council³⁷ (DCC) was established to facilitate information exchange and collaboration within the donor community, as well as foster dialogue on shared priorities with the Government of Tajikistan (GoT) (Figure 7.3). The DCC functions as development partners' coordination mechanism with the GoT in support of the National Development Strategy 2008-2015 and the Living Standards Improvement Strategy 2013-2015.

Figure 7.3 DCC Structure



³⁷ Commonly known also as Donor Coordination Council.

172. The donor's community in Tajikistan has established the DCC mainly as a forum for regular donor coordination. The chair of the DCC is spokesperson for development partners at formal Government/partner meetings and is the official point of contact on general coordination matters. The DCC's structure covers relevant sectors in twelve working groups that fall under five clusters, plus one cross-cutting thematic working group. Clusters coordinate working groups within their thematic area. Working groups serve as platforms for members to exchange information on current and future projects, discuss and articulate a common position on issues, and engage with the government on policy dialogue. Each working group defines its objectives, scope of activities, membership, and frequency of meetings. Clusters and working groups are chaired by various multilateral and bilateral donor representatives, which report on activities to the Council. The DCC also serves as a platform for overall coordination and synergies between GEF Agencies in Tajikistan for future as well as ongoing project, particularly in Clusters 1 "Natural Resources", 2 (Food Security & Nutrition) and 3 "Infrastructure".

173. Besides the DCC, more specific engagement, coordination and synergies among different GEF project stakeholders mostly occur at national level, while it is more uncertain at local level. Coordination in project implementation is largely carried out through project coordination committees, steering committees, and tripartite meetings. Projects also establish coordination mechanisms at sub-national (district and Jamoat) levels, largely to increase coordination with beneficiaries.

174. Local level coordination is affected by a lack of capacity and/or contribution on the part of the some relevant government agencies, especially the agencies responsible for the environment and natural resources, which have frequently been going through a restructuring process. Lack of regular meetings was another issue that reduced the effectiveness of coordination among the projects. During field visits, the Evaluation Team found several cases of insufficient coordination among the various local government agencies involved. This even included, at times, institutional conflicts and a lack of clarity regarding respective roles and responsibilities, as in the case of the responsibilities for protected areas and natural resource management, which go beyond the GEF projects being implemented. A case in point is the unresolved tensions existing between the Forestry Agency and the Committee for Environmental Protection. The matter of concern is the jurisdiction of the protected natural areas. They are now under the jurisdiction of Forestry Agency, which has the possibility to carry out economic activities in its mandate, and in fact is a consumer of natural resources. There have been situations in which the Forestry Agency created obstructionism for the inspectors sent by CEP to check compliance with protected areas legislation.

175. Interviewed stakeholders stated that GEF projects introduced a collaborative working style to the various agencies involved, which was not existing before. This contributes to mitigating the weaknesses mentioned above. Participatory coordination mechanisms were promoted among the local institutions created to conserve natural resources, with a strong local government involvement and leadership. For example, the Gissar Mountains project (GEF ID 1854) established participatory land-use and forest management mechanisms in which the local government representatives have been called to work with communities to discuss, plan

and implement sustainable resource management activities inside and adjacent to the protected areas targeted by the project. As a result, a significant number of farmers and locals residing in close proximity to three demonstration sites concluded agreements for the land lease with local forestry departments.

176. Last but not least, as seen in chapter 4.4, the coordination function (Box 4.1) of the GEF focal point mechanism in Tajikistan has been hindered by the many other responsibilities residing in the CEP Chairman, who fulfills both the GEF political as well as operational focal point roles.

7.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

177. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of GEF support in Tajikistan mostly occurs at the project level. Most of the stakeholders interviewed indicated that overall, project level M&E systems contributed to adaptive management and helped in improving implementation. More generally, aggregate analysis on the available M&E documentation provides a more mixed picture.

178. Overall M&E ratings are given in the TEs of five out of the six completed national FSPs/MSPs. Four out of the five TEs (GEF ID 1854, 2037, 3237, 3310) rated M&E as 'Satisfactory'. Terminal evaluation reports indicate that the quality of the logical framework matrixes had an impact on the quality of project monitoring and outcomes.

179. The Terminal Evaluation Review (TER) of the ODS project (GEF ID 15) rated M&E Design as marginally unsatisfactory, and was unable to assess M&E implementation. The TE of the Gissar Mountains project rated M&E implementation as satisfactory, and confirmed that the M&E plan was routinely applied in a consistent and comprehensive manner throughout the project duration. The TER of the Dashtidzhum project (GEF ID 2037) rated M&E design as marginally satisfactory, but M&E implementation was rated as marginally unsatisfactory. This project did not operationalized the systematic collection of data on outcomes and outputs resulting from biodiversity conservation activities. Lack of project results data jeopardized the preparation of the Implementation Completion Report (ICR).

180. The design of the M&E system of the CACILM project (GEF ID 3237) was rated as satisfactory in the respective TE. In this project, the M&E system was designed rather well, with an adequate logical framework, a sufficient monitoring budget, and good indicators. Its operationalization clearly had an adaptive feedback loop, although with few exceptions, as in the case of the small scale hydroelectric component. Otherwise, monitoring data allowed for adaptations made to the intervention while it was still ongoing. The TE of the CAWM project (GEF ID 1872), the only TE without an overall M&E rating, reports that the preliminary risk analysis was not conducted scrupulously and that project M&E design did not consider the low technical capacities of communities as well as their willingness to include gender considerations in the project activities. This situation was addressed as a result of the project Mid-term Review

(MTR), which found that a lot of women were actually beneficiaries, and recommended the inclusion in the M&E system of gender indicators.

181. A spotty use of GEF tracking tools is observed. Based on PMIS data, four out of fifteen national FSPs and MSPs and 1 EA have their respective tracking tools correctly filled: the Gissar Mountains project (GEF ID 1854) has one tracking tool, filled at completion; both the Sustainable Transport Management project (GEF ID 3027) and the Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity project (GEF ID 3129) have one tracking tool filled at mid-term; and both the Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods project (GEF ID 4352) and the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on POPs (GEF ID 5223) have one tracking tool completed at CEO endorsement stage.

182. Finally, the arrangements and institutions put in place to monitor stress reduction/improvement in the environment and/or socioeconomic conditions after completion have not performed as expected. It is also observed that no project conducted any specific studies and/or baseline surveys to understand changes natural resources.

Chapter 8: Main Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 Conclusions

Results, Effectiveness and Sustainability

Conclusion 1: GEF support to Tajikistan has been significantly more effective in biodiversity conservation, particularly in protected areas management and biosafety legislation, as compared with other focal areas.

183. The GEF has provided significant support in fulfilling Tajikistan's obligations under the CBD. With six national biodiversity projects, focusing mainly on the national protected areas management system and the development of a sound national framework for biosafety, GEF support largely served to lay the foundation for managing biodiversity conservation, determining national priorities and updating of key policy documents and laws, which contributed to raise the profile of biodiversity in the government agenda.

184. GEF projects in the biodiversity focal area contributed to biodiversity conservation and management in the country through the achievement of significant results, not only in sound protected areas management and legislation development, but also in raising awareness and commitment among local authorities and the general population at sub-national level, fostering continued interactions among stakeholders, and extensive dissemination of projects results. GEF support to biodiversity has also contributed to triggering cooperation between line ministries and national agencies and institutions.

185. GEF support to biodiversity through regional projects is less visible, although it introduced new techniques such as agricultural biodiversity (GEF ID 1025), which are likely to be of interest to the farming communities. SGP support, most of which was in biodiversity and

land degradation, contributed to demonstrate how to build links between the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development, meeting global and local objectives concurrently. SGP grants have supported the environmentally sound production of marketable goods (rush and reed products, vegetables, treacle), or promoted environmentally sustainable income-generating activities (ecotourism, land use planning, home gardens). Many of these initiatives are recognized as best practices in Tajikistan.

186. Results in focal areas other than biodiversity have been limited, except in ODS (see Conclusion 4). The climate change portfolio composed of enabling activities and two ongoing climate change mitigation projects, is still relatively young and hasn't managed to produce much beyond foundational support. Although an important share of the national portfolio in terms of funding, GEF support to land degradation mostly contributed to national and local development policy. This is important, and a key objective for Tajikistan, given the economic importance of the agricultural sector and reducing poverty in rural areas. However, progress toward impact is likely to occur only at the level of project sites (see Conclusion 2).

Conclusion 2: A few cases of broader adoption of outcomes, leading to progress toward impact, are observed at local scale in the form of replication, specifically in the biodiversity and land degradation focal areas.

187. Instances of broader adoption of project outcomes, which might lead to progress toward impact, are observable as a result of completed biodiversity and land degradation projects. These were at least in the form of simple replication of various project elements, practices and methods. Stress reduction is occurring and environmental status is improving at local scales (i.e. in specific or disconnected areas). An important element contributing to the sustainability of project outcomes was the ability to demonstrate the likely social and economic benefits along with the expected environmental ones. Three main impact drivers are common to all the five completed projects in the national portfolio: (i) stakeholder ownership and support, (ii) effective financial mechanisms, and (iii) adequate information flows. Cases of broader adoption of project outcomes were also observed in a few SGP biodiversity and land degradation projects, again, in the form of replication at local scale.

Conclusion 3: The GEF support in knowledge generation and dissemination was effective mostly at the local level.

188. The GEF focused a considerable portion of its efforts on fostering the generation and sharing of knowledge in Tajikistan, mainly through raising awareness on environmental problems, producing environmental information and building skills. Most project in the national portfolio contain knowledge management components and products. Among them, GEF mandated reports such as the communications to international environmental conventions are prominent.

189. The most effective knowledge generation support was through awareness raising and skills building. Study tours and printed materials are the most frequently adopted information

sharing and skill building approaches. A diverse range of approaches, including trainings, information sharing events, project websites, technical documents, media, printed materials, workshops and seminars, and knowledge exchange visit were used to raise awareness in Tajikistan. Sadly, websites setup with GEF support are not maintained after project end.

190. The quality and effectiveness of knowledge products supported by the GEF was also confirmed through interviews, focus group meetings, email exchanges and telephone conversation with stakeholders, including project staff, involved civil society organizations and UN conventions focal points. However, a number of interviewees pointed at the need to increase the quantity of such products, especially printed materials. Also, interviewees prefer to have the knowledge products in Tajik rather than in Russian or English. For regions having a majority of Uzbek speaking population would be useful to have knowledge products in Uzbeki as well.

Conclusion 4: GEF support to dealing with chemicals issues in Tajikistan was effective in the ODS sector. Results on the reduction of POPs are mixed.

191. GEF support to phasing-out ODSs, provided through one national and two regional MSPs, highly contributed to achieve and in some cases surpass the quantitative targets set for the ODS phase-out in Tajikistan. Furthermore, it strengthened the country capacity to enhance its ODS information management and reporting system, as well as its monitoring capacity. To note, both regional projects (GEF ID 2331 and 3185) provided a strong and clear connection to the national one (GEF ID 15). Overall, GEF support translated in 50.7 tons of Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP) equivalent, which allowed Tajikistan to return to compliance with the Montreal Protocol in 2006. The ODS Phasing-out Impact Evaluation (GEF IEO, 2010) confirmed that commercial performance of many of the businesses improved as a result, which demonstrated that the conversion to non-ODS technology had been good for business as well as for the environment. Support to POPs did not go beyond helping the country preparing and re-actualizing its National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention, facilitating collaboration among various institutions dealing with POPs at national level.

Conclusion 5: Few examples of GEF contribution to reducing gender inequality are observed at the local level. Overall, gender has not been consistently considered in the Tajikistan portfolio.

192. Gender equality ranks high in Tajikistan's policy agenda. As for GEF projects, for the most part women's involvement occurred through participation in environmental education, agricultural and/or small economic activities training. In fact, a review of the Tajikistan's project documentation from a gender perspective shows the tendency of considering women involvement predominantly with focus on income generation and sound agriculture practices. Female involvement in sustainable conservation of the environment and natural resources and participation in environmental decision making has been weak, despite women's interest, knowledge of and experience with the sustainable use of those natural resources – land, water, forest – with which they are in daily contact due to their family roles.

193. Overall, gender has not been given consistent consideration in the national portfolio. Project proposals as well as implementation and evaluation reports often lack gender specific information, including gender disaggregated indicators in their project results framework. With the introduction of the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming in 2011, attention started to be paid to gender. Post-2011 projects are better designed in terms of mainstreaming gender in their result frameworks.

Relevance

Conclusion 6: GEF support has been broadly aligned with the international GEF mandate of achieving global environmental benefits and helped the country to meet its international commitments.

194. Tajikistan has been actively involved in all international conventions for which the GEF works, except for the Minamata Convention on Mercury. In this favorable context, the GEF has supported Tajikistan to comply with its international commitments through a substantial share of its foundational support, from both the national and the regional portfolio. Although not always timely with respect to the dates of accession to the different conventions, GEF support has been aligned with the international GEF mandate and helped Tajikistan to meet its international commitments.

Conclusion 7: GEF support was relevant to Tajikistan's national environmental as well as sustainable development policies and priorities.

195. GEF support has addressed most of the main environmental priorities set by national development and environmental policy documents, including on biodiversity conservation, land degradation, climate change, toxic substances and waste management, the latter with a focus on ODSs, through national and regional projects. These activities have supported the development of national as well as local policies and priorities for environmental conservation and sustainable development in Tajikistan.

196. Relevance to national priorities is also demonstrated by the fact that GEF financing represents an important share of the overall financing to environmental protection in Tajikistan, a country that allocates very few financial resources to environmental protection, and that relies predominantly on foreign resources.

Conclusion 8: Ownership of GEF support has increased over time, especially since GEF-4.

197. GEF support is well integrated into the government country systems. Integration is explained by the country's well-developed environmental legal framework. Fundamental provisions concerning the human rights to a safe and healthy environment have been embedded in the Tajikistan Constitution well before GEF support started in 1999. Since GEF-4, following Tajikistan's joining the Paris Declaration of Aid Effectiveness, project management units are being established under the ministries and governmental agencies. Non-state national

stakeholders are actively involved in GEF projects. The national portfolio shows a good cofinancing ratio, to which the government contributes in-cash as well as in-kind.

Efficiency

Conclusion 9: In Tajikistan, the GEF activity cycle is perceived as too long, especially at the project formulation stage.

198. GEF activity cycle timeframes compare well with most of the other country portfolios analyzed by the GEF IEO in the last 10 years. However, stakeholders consider these to be too long. Many highlighted that risks of loss of staff, both within Government departments and GEF Agencies may occur as a result, with potential repercussions on project start-up and implementation. Insufficient consultation between the GEF focal point mechanism and project proponents to fine-tune proposals and manage the approval process was also mentioned as a cause of delay. Delays have also been associated with low in-country project design capacities and lack of specialized technical expertise.

Conclusion 10: There has been coordination and synergies between GEF Agencies, national executing agencies and other donor support at the national level, less so at the local level.

199. The existence of a national level donor mechanism, in which also ongoing and future GEF projects are discussed, facilitates information exchange and collaboration within the donor community, and fosters dialogue on shared priorities with the government. Coordination among the various sub-national government agencies and institutions involved in GEF project is hampered by a lack of capacity and in some cases a lack of interest. This is partly explained by the fact that some of them, including the agencies responsible for the environment and natural resources, have frequently undergone through a restructuring process. Other factors include the lack of regular coordination meetings and, at times, institutional conflicts due to lack of clarity on the respective roles and responsibilities for protected areas and natural resource management. In this difficult context, GEF projects are praised for having introduced a collaborative working style among the different local agencies and institutions that was not known before.

200. The GEF focal point mechanism has not provided sufficient strategic guidance and coordination, and has not been particularly effective in disseminating the GEF's lessons, both in term of financing opportunities as well as rules and procedures, to national stakeholders. This requires time and means, when many other overarching responsibilities need to be attended to by the CEP Chairman, who covers both GEF political and operational focal point responsibilities. Despite a recent delegation of authority on operational matters to lower levels within the CEP, this issue remains unresolved.

Conclusion 11: M&E contributed to project adaptive management, with some exceptions.

201. M&E of GEF support in the Tajikistan national portfolio is mostly performed at the project level. Earlier projects had poorly designed results frameworks and M&E systems, which

were poorly implemented, resulting in an unsatisfactory quality of both outputs and outcomes monitoring. This situation has improved over time, as shown by the satisfactory overall M&E ratings in the most recent TEs. All the completed projects have taken advantage of the midterm evaluations and reviews as a means of taking stock from the experience gained, and adapted implementation to changes in contextual conditions as and where appropriate.

202. The GEF focal point has not been involved in M&E. Scarce use of GEF tracking tools, required three times – at start-up, midterm and completion – in a projects' life, has been observed.

8.2 Recommendations

To the Government of Tajikistan and GEF Agencies

Recommendation 1: Gender concerns should be adequately and systematically addressed and mainstreamed in all GEF Focal Areas, as provisioned in the GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy.

203. The data of the reviewed projects of the Tajikistan portfolio from a gender perspective show a tendency of considering women involvement predominantly with focus on income generation and sound agriculture practices. It is good to empower women by focusing on environmental conservation while improving their living standards through generation of additional income. However, female involvement in sustainable conservation of the environment and natural resources through direct involvement in environmental decision making is limited and does not correspond to their gender roles that bring them in daily contact with natural resources such as land, water, and forest. This gap should be effectively addressed in current and future projects covering all focal areas, as provisioned by the GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy. The important role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources reaffirms the need for full participation of women at all levels of decision-making.

To the Government of Tajikistan

Recommendation 2: The GEF focal point mechanism should be strengthened and a strategic approach to GEF support should be developed to ensure dissemination of lessons after project completion and promote coordination among the main stakeholders, including at the local level.

204. In a country with a national political context that is sensitive to the international environmental discussions, and a well-developed environmental legislative framework that enables to potentially take full advantage of GEF funding, the focal point mechanism has not managed to fully disseminate information about, and coordinate with a wide range of stakeholders on a strategic approach to GEF support, including at the project formulation stage. Furthermore, problems of weak coordination exist at local level, including institutional conflicts, as in the case of the unclear responsibilities for protected areas and natural resource management, risking to jeopardize the activities and expected results in terms of global and local environmental benefits. A strengthened focal point mechanism, either through the separation of the GEF political and operational focal point roles or through the provision of additional funds and/or dedicated human resources, could be instrumental to address the weaknesses identified.

205. Equally important, learning from past successes and mistakes has the potential to stimulate replication and up-scaling beyond the local level. In the Tajikistan portfolio, efforts in raising awareness on environmental problems have been huge, less so in dissemination of results and lessons learned from GEF projects. When these activities have been embedded and conducted in projects, they have tended to stop once the project end. During project execution,

such dissemination and communications activities are primarily a responsibility of the GEF Agencies, the national executing agencies, and the project teams who implement them. After completion, the focal point could be particularly instrumental in post-project dissemination and knowledge sharing, either by embedding the project websites in the CEP website or including GEF project lessons in the CEP newsletter Tabiat, or also organizing focused knowledge exchange events.

206. The focal point mechanism could also contribute to addressing the issue of weak local level coordination by promoting the collaborative working style and multi-agency coordination mechanisms and approaches introduced by GEF projects.

Recommendation 3: Mercury, POPs and other hazardous chemicals related issues should be given priority in Tajikistan.

207. The GEF has been working in Tajikistan since 1999, and has had a relatively strong engagement in the country in biodiversity, land degradation, multifocal and climate change projects. In contrast, its engagement in chemicals is relatively small, with the notable exception of ODS. Disposal of hazardous chemicals is a clearly established priority in national sectoral policy documents. Efforts should be made to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by GEF support in the chemicals area.

208. After reviewing the Project Identification Form (PIF) submitted last year, the GEF Secretariat has decided not to support an FSP on POPs and mercury (GEF ID 6987) because the country has not yet signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury. It is recommended that Tajikistan, as for all the major international conventions, ratifies to the Minamata Convention as well. Accession to the Minamata Convention would allow the country to take full advantage of the funding opportunities offered by the GEF in this focal area.

ANNEXES

A. Country Response

КУМИТАИ
ҶИФЗИ МУҲИТИ ЗИСТИ
НАЗДИ ҲУКУМАТИ
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Ба № _____ аз « _____ » _____ соли 2015

Global Environmental Fund
(GEF)

At the initiative of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan the GEF projects' evaluation results for the entire period of the GEF activities in Tajikistan were discussed at the enlarged meeting of the Committee and Scientific and Technical Council with the participation of the GEF executive agencies, national focal points and national coordinators of the environmental protection conventions. The Committee administration gratefully accepts the results of the evaluation and recommendations for the implemented GEF projects. This assessment is important to us, especially for the GEF political and operational Focal Point and it is a good advice to improve and approach to select and recommend the project proposals at all stages of their implementation, making changes and additions. Especially important is the high evaluation of completed projects on biodiversity and effectiveness of implemented projects for the management of protected areas and legislation in the field of biosafety and progress of gender balance while the project implementation. I think that the experience gained in the implementation of biodiversity projects is required in this area to expand into other subjects, as the biodiversity of the mountain population in Tajikistan is the basis for life. With regard to the positive assessment of the projects on land management when land shortage is a high priority for us, and we will fully improve this course and significantly implement that in local communities. In agricultural conditions of natural resources to protect the plants and produce sustainable yields for food security and poverty reduction the application of pesticides and fertilizers is important for the Republic of Tajikistan.

Along with this regulation and reducing the use of pesticides in the conditions of green economy development and organic farming, the Committee draws and attaches the utmost importance. When implementing the projects, activities the Committee's environmental assessment and monitoring bodies are always aimed at the prevention of not getting pesticides and chemical fertilizers into natural ecosystems and their biological communities. In these ways, we try to efficiently use the GEF funds for sustainable development. Regarding the comments about tightening the drafts and submitting them for financing, we are working on this fact and planning to prepare and organize consultative workshops for GEF national experts and negotiating with the GEF agents to introduce the national executors of the GEF projects with rules of the project proposals preparation at all stages. Unfortunately, in recent years, the rate of national contribution (funds) in the design process is not entirely justified to a certain extent for countries with transition economies, as for Tajikistan where it has significantly increased that is also a reason for delaying the project process. In addition, we hope to eliminate insufficient coordination and cooperation between the GEF agencies, national implementing agencies and other donor support at the national level.

In this regard, we hope to have attention drawn on this factor of the countries' access to the GEF funds in the seventh cycle of GEF funding. We will receive the rest comments with gratitude in further cooperation with the GEF Secretariat and Council.

Khayrullo Ibodzoda,

Chairman, the GEF Political
and Operational Focal Point

B. Quality Assurance Statement

**STATEMENT
of
PEER REVIEW PANEL
GEF COUNTRY PORTFOLIO EVALUATION:
Tajikistan (1999-2015)**

PREPARED BY INDEPENDENT PEER REVIEW PANEL TEAM:

MALIKA BABADZHANOVA, Peer Review Panel Advisor,
FARHOD KHAMIDOV, Peer Review Panel Advisor

The views expressed in this document are those of the members of the Peer Review Panel in their individual capacities.

Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank	BCAP	Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan
CPE	Country Portfolio evaluation	GDI	Gender-related Development Index
		GoT	Government of Tajikistan
FSP	Full-size Project	IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
GEF	Global Environment Facility	IMF	International Monetary Fund
		KHO	Khatlon Oblast
		MDG	Millennium Development Goal(s)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
MSP	Medium-size Project	PMIS	Project Management Information System
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan	PPCR	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants	RAF	Resource Allocation Framework
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper	REAP	Regional Environmental Action Plan
RT	Republic of Tajikistan	STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
SGP	Small Grants Programme	TOR	Terms of Reference
TJS	Tajik Somoni (national currency)	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	WB	World Bank
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization		

Introduction

This statement of PEER PANEL experts is based on observations of evaluation process of GEF portfolio in Tajikistan, the review of developed products, provided materials and review of the Final report "Country Portfolio Evaluation: Tajikistan (1999-2015)", prepared by staff of the Independent Evaluation Office and consultants from a consortium consisting of Societa Italiana di Monitoraggio (SIM) SpA from Italy and B.A.R.S. Consulting Ltd from Tajikistan.

The CPE of GEF portfolio in Tajikistan was carried out to provide the GEF Council and the national governments with an assessment of the results and performance of GEF-supported activities at country level.

The Tajikistan GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation was undertaken between October 2014 and January 2016 under the overall responsibility and guidance of the evaluation offices of GEF IEO office with the objectives of assessing the effectiveness, results and sustainability of GEF support in Tajikistan and to assess its relevance and efficiency, implementation frameworks, decision-making processes, policies and procedures. The ultimate aim of CPE was to provide feedback and knowledge-sharing in Tajikistan and in the GEF as a whole.

The focus of the Tajikistan CPE was on 23 national projects (at all stages of the project cycle: pipeline, on-going and completed) implemented within the country boundaries. This included Enabling Activities (EAs), full-size and medium-size projects (FSPs and MSPs), as well as Tajikistan's Small Grants Programme (SGP). A full assessment of the regional projects' aggregate results, relevance, and efficiency was beyond the scope of this CPE, given that only the Tajikistan components had been assessed.

Findings of Peer Panel review

General

Peer review panel experts received big amount of materials and had relevant conditions to fulfill their tasks. Findings of Peer Review Panel are following below.

➤ Quality of Final CPE Report. The CPE report, consisting of two volumes: Volume 1. Evaluation report and Volume 2 - Technical Documents, contains executive summary and annexes. Analysis presented in this CPE report is easily comprehensible and addresses evaluation objectives and questions. The report is well written and contains a series of useful tables and illustrations that contribute to its general understanding.

The content of Evaluation report (Volume 1) is well structured into eight chapters. They identify main achieved results of the projects, constraints, problems that affect portfolio performance, and lessons and recommendations for improving the quality of the portfolio: Chapter 1: Executive Summary; Chapter 2: Evaluation Framework; Chapter 3: Context; Chapter 4: The GEF Portfolio in Tajikistan; Chapter 5: Results,

Effectiveness and Sustainability; Chapter 6: Relevance; Chapter 7: Efficiency; Chapter 8: Main Conclusions and Recommendations.

Annexes of the CPE report (Volume 1) includes Country Response, Quality Assurance Statement, Country-Specific Terms of Reference, Evaluation Matrix, Interviewees, Sites Visited, Workshop Participants, List of GEF Portfolio projects in Tajikistan and Bibliography.

As it was mentioned in the introduction the following criteria with key questions in accordance with ToR for CPE in Tajikistan were used for evaluation:

- Results, Effectiveness and Sustainability – 5 key questions,
- Relevance – 3 key questions,
- Efficiency – 4 key questions

The second part of the CPE report – Technical Documents (Volume 2) consist of 3 big parts (*A - Country Environmental Legal Framework, B - Global Environmental Benefits Assessment, C - Case Studies*) and *Annex with Photolog*, which shows the process of evaluation, including interviews and site visits of selected pilot areas.

- Described purpose of CPE. The peer review of CPE report found that the purpose of the evaluation was clearly stated:
 - why the evaluation of GEF portfolio in Tajikistan was done – *highly satisfactory*
 - what triggered the evaluation (including timing in the projects cycle) - *satisfactory*
 - how evaluation is to be used – e.g. in what focal area and at what level GEF should provide more support or to which issues more attention should be paid and more efforts given - *satisfactory*.
- Peer Panel found that the evaluation objectives are clearly stated in the report and they logically flow from purpose. Each criteria with key questions in focal areas of GEF portfolio activities in Tajikistan evaluated are clearly described.
- Subject of evaluation. Peer Panel confirms that the evaluation described all the evaluated GEF projects and their activities, expected and actual achievements, how these projects addressed the development problem and what type of implementation modalities were used.
- The boundaries of the evaluation process were defined in terms of period covered, project implementation phases, geographic areas and dimensions of stakeholder involvement being examined on satisfactory level.
- Design of evaluation. Tajikistan portfolio evaluation had rather good design. It contains theory of how objectives and results were achieved, specifies the level of results achieved (including outputs, outcomes, impacts), comprehensive baseline data (quantitative or qualitative) on conditions prior to GEF portfolio implementation in Tajikistan. There are also comparison of conditions after provision of projects deliverables.
- The methodology limitations for the evaluation were clearly stated, as well as impact of limitations on evaluation. Peer Panel experts confirms that a lot of attempts were undertaken by Evaluation team to overcome different type of limitations (e.g. lack of information of newly appointed national focal points about the earlier GEF projects and gaps in available data on projects at the start of the evaluation and etc.).

➤ Evaluation Recommendations. The CPE report contains three recommendations that logically flow from findings and conclusions. Recommendations are directed to the Government of Tajikistan and GEF Agencies so that they can act on them. Recommendations are action-oriented and indicate to what issues GEF projects should pay more attention and what areas should be prioritized for supporting. It can be noted also that provided recommendations and lessons are satisfactorily valid and relevant actions can be developed on the basis on given recommendations.

➤ Quality of evaluation findings and conclusions. Findings of CPE in Tajikistan demonstrates adequate use of evaluation criteria by evaluation team. Mainstreaming of GEF program principles in main focal areas of Tajikistan like biodiversity and climate change, multifocal areas, chemical issues and etc. were adequately covered.

Peer review found that conclusions of CPE report are enough valid and reliable.

Evaluation approach and evaluation criteria

Main evaluation criteria used for this Tajikistan portfolio evaluation are following:

- relevance of activities and supported projects/programs
- efficiency of operations in support of projects / programs
- the achievement of development objectives and expected results (including impacts)
- cross-cutting issues: inclusive development which is gender sensitive and environmentally sustainable
- the sustainability of benefits and positive results achieved

Peer Review of criteria followed during the GEF Portfolio evaluation in Tajikistan found that:

- Relevance: The assessment of the interventions' relevance was based on comprehensive analysis of national context, needs and priorities in the programs/ thematic (focal area) area. Also, it was clearly shown how GEF supported implementation of country obligations as a signatory member of the international environmental conventions, and following national official sustainable development and environment policies, contributing efforts in the environmental sector.
- Effectiveness: The evaluation report analyzed the extent to which the intended outputs attained a satisfactory level. There is an analysis that shows how GEF portfolio projects contributed to the planned outcomes. Case studies and interviews used for evaluation clearly explain contributing factors. Many unintended outcomes (both positive and negative, direct and indirect) were analyzed.
- Efficiency: The CPE report provided satisfactory analysis how well GEF portfolio projects were organized in delivering their work with regard to managerial and programs/projects efficiency. Outputs were satisfactorily assessed in relation to inputs, costs, implementation time-frame and timeliness. Comparison with Sri Lanka, where FSPs take an average of four years to move from entry into pipeline to start of implementation, as well as South Africa and Brazil illustrates

the good scores of the Tajikistan portfolio. Peer review **found** that issues related to comparative cost-effectiveness were quite sufficiently discussed.

- **Sustainability:** Relevant detailed assessment of the likelihood that outcomes and benefits generated through the GEF different size projects in Tajikistan still continue to exist with a lower level of external support was done. CPE report provides analysis, based on evaluative evidence, of the extent to which the outcomes and outputs will be sustainable and the factors that contribute to this.

Methodological issues.

The methodology applied for CPE in Tajikistan is very well described in the CPE report in Chapter 2 and covers a good combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods and tools. It is clearly shown how each of used tool and methods like desk-based studies (e.g. Project Review Protocol (PRP) to conduct the desk and field reviews of GEF projects, an outline for the Country Environmental Legal Framework (CELf) analysis, a guideline for the Global Environmental Benefits Assessment (GEBA) and etc.) contributed the evaluation of portfolio and developments of conclusions.

Identification and use of existing data sources.

All available evidences and technical documents used (e.g. GEF Project Information Management System documents, case studies, surveys, interviews, focus groups, direct observations, etc.) for CPE in Tajikistan and they are very well described in both volumes of the CPE report.

Three case studies, aiming at assessment of portfolio progress toward Impact conducted by using the "Progress toward Impact (P2I)" methodology developed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office, are good structured. They contain detailed definitions of concepts, ways by which GEF catalyzes progress toward impact, outcomes and outputs, achieved environmental and socio-economic changes, capacity and governance changes, analysis of negative or absent impacts, contributing and hindering factors, logical conclusions and relevant ratings of impacts.

Quality and thoroughness of the evaluation products.

Review of evaluation findings and conclusions given in CPE report found they are relevant to the assessment criteria and evidence based. Almost all findings are supported by the used methodology. The evidences from different sources were triangulated and report contains separate annex with triangulation matrix. Rather clear logical link between the evidences and the findings can be seen in the report. Most conclusions are clearly linked to the evaluation findings.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF PEER PANEL REVIEW

Peer Panel Review **concludes** that GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation in Tajikistan for period of 1999-2015, was carried out on relevant level, in full accordance with methodology resulted to provision of assessment of the results and performance of GEF-supported activities at country level. Recommendations done from Peer Review Panel experts, including on ToR, Aid Memoire, ducting the meetings etc., were properly

taken into account and relevantly addressed in development documents by evaluation team. The CPE Report is of good quality and includes reliable recommendations for further improvements of GEF projects performance in Tajikistan.

Peer Panel suggests from its side following *to the Government of Tajikistan and GEF Agencies* in order to make more effective the ways in which the evaluation could provide lessons useful for future operations:

- Following the completion of an evaluation, an implementation plan in response to the recommendations should be prepared.
- The implementation plan should specify the following: whether a recommendation has been accepted, how the recommendation will be implemented, who is responsible for its implementation, the date by which the implementation of the recommendation is expected to be completed, and what actions have already been taken (if any).

Date of statement: 2nd June 2016

PEER PANEL REVIEW experts:

Malika Babadzhanova



Farhod Khamidov

C. Country-Specific Terms of Reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE

GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation:

Tajikistan (1999-2014)

1. Background and Introduction

1. Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPEs) are one of the main evaluation streams of work of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. By capturing aggregate portfolio results and performance of the GEF at the country level they provide useful information for both the GEF Council and the countries.

2. GEF eligible countries are chosen for CPEs based on a multi-step selection process³⁸ that ensures that all countries in the GEF could be selected. The set of criteria includes the size, diversity and maturity of their portfolio of projects, coverage of previous GEFIEO evaluations, and additional criteria, such as 'evaluability', synergy with other country evaluations, and with Council agenda subjects. Among several considerations, Tajikistan was selected as it has a comparatively large, diverse and mature portfolio (24 projects, 6 of which are completed), which has an emphasis on biodiversity (6 projects), multi-focal (6 projects) and climate change (5 projects) and has significant co-financing amounts. Furthermore, Tajikistan includes a good number of ongoing projects (9 projects), and a number of recently approved projects and projects in the pipeline (9 projects).

3. Tajikistan, officially known as the Republic of Tajikistan, is a landlocked mountainous country in Central Asia. It is bordered by Afghanistan to the south, Uzbekistan to the west, Kyrgyzstan to the north, and China to the east. Tajikistan has land area of 143,100 square km. The mountainous region is dominated by the Trans-Alay Range in the north and the Pamirs in the southeast and more than fifty percent of the country is over 3,000 meters above sea level³⁹.

4. Tajikistan is one of the world's poorest countries and one of the poorest countries of Central Asia and of the former soviet republics. Tajikistan economy depends on remittances and commodity exports that make it vulnerable to global economic conditions⁴⁰. Tajikistan

³⁸GEF IEO (2010) Note on the Selection Process and Criteria for the GEF Country Portfolio Evaluations: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/2054>

³⁹ CIA Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html>

⁴⁰ U.S. State Department: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5775.htm>

plunged into civil war almost as soon as it became independent from the Soviet Union in 1991⁴¹. Political turmoil and the civil war that lasted into 1997 did enormous damage to Tajikistan's economy. Damages were estimated to extend to 80 percent of the Tajikistan's industries⁴². Tajikistan's economic growth declined from 7.5 percent to 6.7 percent in the first half of 2014, and is expected to ease further to 6.5 percent due to spillover effect from the slowdown in Russia⁴³.

5. Tajikistan's store of natural resources is relatively modest. The country has high hydropower potential and most of the country's energy supply is through hydropower (98%; while coal is about 1.8%; other – wind and solar 0.2%). Tajikistan also has some petroleum, uranium, mercury, brown coal, lead, zinc, antimony, tungsten, silver, and gold⁴⁴.

6. High demographic growth and constant socio-economic development have put pressure on natural resources and caused environmental degradation. Tajikistan's main environmental problems are deterioration of water resources, inadequate sanitation facilities; increasing levels of soil salinity; industrial pollution; excessive pesticides⁴⁵.

7. GEF intervention in Tajikistan started in 1999 with the *Programme for Phasing Out Ozone Depleting Substances*. For the purposes of the CPE, Tajikistan portfolio has 24 national projects with over \$34 million of GEF finance and \$119 million of co-finance. Tajikistan participates in 15 regional projects totaling over \$69 million in GEF finance and \$171 million in co-finance. Of the national projects, 9 are under implementation, 6 are completed, and 9 have been cleared or approved awaiting implementation start. The largest GEF focal areas are biodiversity and climate change with 6 and 5 projects respectively and multi focal area projects with 6 projects. These are followed by persistent organic pollutants (POPs) (4 projects) and land degradation (3 projects). The portfolio is composed of 7 full size projects (FSP), 9 medium size projects (MSP) and 8 enabling activities (EA). The number of projects initiated across the various GEF replenishment phases has varied over the years. The GEF-2 phase had 3 projects, GEF-3 had 9, GEF-4 and GEF-5 had 5, and GEF-6 currently has 2 projects.

8. The national portfolio in Tajikistan is implemented through six different GEF Agencies. UNDP has the largest share of the Tajikistan portfolio with 14 projects amounting to \$15.2 million, followed by the World Bank and UNEP with 6 projects each amounting to \$10.65 and 1.55 million respectively. ADB, EBRD, and UNIDO have 1 project each with \$3.5, \$2.37, and

⁴¹ BBC Country Profile: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-16201032>

⁴² Library of Congress: <http://countrystudies.us/tajikistan/34.htm>

⁴³ World Bank Country Profile: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/overview#1>

⁴⁴ CIA Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html>

⁴⁵ CIA Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html>

\$0.18 million respectively. Additionally, 1 project is jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP with \$0.9 million. Co-financing and total project finance amounts for the national portfolio are outlined in Table 1 below.

9. Tajikistan is party to the Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Ozone Layer Protection, and Wetlands conventions⁴⁶. In biodiversity, GEF support has focused on biodiversity conservation and implementation of the National Biosafety Framework. In climate change, the projects have focused on both improving energy efficiency and developing renewable energy. Under POPs, GEF intervention focused on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) management and meeting conventions obligations⁴⁷.

⁴⁶ CIA Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html>

⁴⁷ List of projects in Tajikistan are included in Annex C.

Table 1: GEF Support to National Projects by Focal Area and GEF Agency

Focal Area	Agency	No. of Projects	GEF Financing (US\$)	Co-finance (US\$)	Total (US\$)
Biodiversity	UNDP	3	1,390,000	785,000	2,175,000
	UNEP	2	1,060,000	774,000	1,834,000
	World Bank	1	750,000	198,250	948,250
Total		6	3,200,000	1,757,250	4,957,250
Chemicals and Waste	UNDP	1	1,991,000	8,000,000	9,991,000
Total		1	1,991,000	8,000,000	9,991,000
Climate Change	EBRD	1	2,727,067	23,896,400	26,623,467
	UNDP	4	3,392,000	12,331,127	15,723,127
Total		5	6,119,067	36,227,527	42,346,594
Land Degradation	ADB	1	3,500,000	19,810,000	23,310,000
	UNDP	1	975,000	1,053,000	2,028,000
	World Bank	1	5,400,000	16,860,000	22,260,000
Total		3	9,875,000	37,723,000	47,598,000

Multi Focal Area	UNDP	5	7,450,570	22,295,000	29,745,570
	World Bank	1	4,500,000	13,300,000	17,800,000
Total		6	11,950,570	35,595,000	47,545,570
Ozone Depleting Substances	UNDP/UNEP	1	898,943	271,502	1,170,445
Total		1	898,943	271,502	1,170,445
POPs	UNEP	1	494,323	20,000	514,323
	UNIDO	1	181,850	178,000	359,850
Total		2	676,173	198,000	874,173
GRAND TOTAL		24	34,710,753	119,772,279	154,483,032

Source: GEF PMIS data cross-checked with GEF Agencies' data

10. Within the national portfolio, 1 FSP is completed, 3 are under implementation and 3 are in the pipeline. 4 MSPs are completed, 3 are under implementation and 2 are pending. 1 EA is completed, 3 are under implementation and 3 are in the pipeline.

2. Purpose and Objectives of the Evaluation

11. The purpose of the Tajikistan CPE is to provide the GEF Council and the country with an assessment of results and performance of the GEF supported activities in the country, and of how the GEF supported activities link into the national strategies and priorities as well as within the global environmental mandate of the GEF. Based on this overall purpose, the Tajikistan CPE has the following specific objectives:

- Evaluate the **effectiveness, results** and **sustainability** of GEF support in Tajikistan, with attention to the sustainability of achievements at the project level and progress toward impact for global environmental benefits.⁴⁸
- Evaluate the **relevance** and **efficiency** of GEF support in Tajikistan from the points of view of national environmental frameworks and decision-making processes, the GEF mandate of achieving of global environmental benefits, and GEF policies and procedures.⁴⁹
- Provide **feedback and knowledge sharing** to: (1) the GEF Council in its decision making process to allocate resources and to develop policies and strategies, (2) Tajikistan on its collaboration and participation in the GEF, and (3) the different agencies and organizations involved in the preparation and implementation of GEF projects and activities.

12. The Tajikistan CPE will also provide additional evaluative evidence to other evaluations being conducted by the Office. The evaluation will address the performance of the GEF portfolio in Tajikistan in terms of relevance, efficiency and effectiveness as well as the contributing factors to this performance. It will also analyze the performance of individual projects as part of the overall GEF portfolio, but without rating such projects. CPEs are conducted to bring to the attention of Council different experiences and lessons on how the GEF is implemented at the national level from a wide variety of countries. CPEs do not aim at evaluating/rating the performance of GEF Agencies, national entities (agencies/departments, national governments or involved civil society organizations), or individual projects. Other users of the evaluation include the Tajikistan Government as well as the national executing agencies and institutions involved with GEF projects.

3. Key Evaluation Questions

13. GEF CPEs are guided by a set of key questions that should be answered based on the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the evaluative information and perceptions collected during the evaluation exercise. The Tajikistan CPE will be guided by the following key questions:

Effectiveness, Results and Sustainability

⁴⁸**Effectiveness:** the extent to which the GEF activity's objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance; **Results:** in GEF terms, results include direct project outputs, short- to medium-term outcomes, and progress toward longer term impact including global environmental benefits, replication effects, and other local effects; **Sustainability:** the likely ability of an intervention to continue to deliver benefits for an extended period of time after completion; projects need to be environmentally as well as financially and socially sustainable.

Extracted from the GEF M&E Policy, GEF IEO (2010)

⁴⁹**Relevance:** the extent to which the activity is suited to local and national environmental priorities and policies and to global environmental benefits to which the GEF is dedicated; **Efficiency:** the extent to which results have been delivered with the least costly resources possible. *Ibid.*

- a) To what extent has GEF support to Tajikistan been effective in producing results by focal area at the project as well as at the aggregate level (program and country portfolio)?
- b) To what extent has GEF support led to progress toward impact through broader adoption mechanisms⁵⁰ over an extended period of time after completion?
- c) To what extent has GEF support been effective in sustaining the knowledge generated and shared by GEF projects with partners in Tajikistan (national stakeholders and GEF Agencies) and partners outside of the country?
- d) To what extent has GEF support to Tajikistan been effective making a contribution to chemicals issues, specifically reduction of POPs?
- e) To what extent has GEF support contributed to reducing gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment?

Relevance

- a) Has GEF support to Tajikistan been relevant to the objectives linked to the different Global Environmental Benefits in the climate change, biodiversity, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals focal areas?
- b) Has GEF support to Tajikistan been relevant to the Tajik environmental priorities and sustainable development needs and challenges, including poverty alleviation and creation of sustainable livelihoods in the form of environmental sustainable jobs?
- c) To what extent have the GEF and its Agencies been supporting environmental and sustainable development prioritization, country ownership and decision-making processes in Tajikistan?

Efficiency

- a) How much time, effort and financial resources (including co-financing) did it take to formulate and implement projects in Tajikistan, according to GEF support modality?
- b) What have been and are the roles, types of engagement, coordination and synergies among different stakeholders in project implementation in Tajikistan?

⁵⁰See paragraph 21 and 28.

- c) Have there been synergies between: a) GEF Agencies in GEF programming and implementation; b) national institutions for GEF support; and c) GEF and other donors' support in Tajikistan?
- d) What role did Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) play – both at design and implementation – in project adaptive management and overall efficiency in Tajikistan?

14. Each of these questions is complemented by indicators, potential sources of information and methods in an evaluation matrix, which are presented in Annex B.

4. Scope and Limitations

15. The Tajikistan CPE will cover all types of GEF supported activities in the country at all stages of the project cycle (pipeline, on-going and completed) and implemented by all active GEF Agencies in all active focal areas. It will also include applicable GEF corporate activities and a selection of regional programs, as Tajikistan is involved in several regional activities with large representation and special relevance to the country. Nevertheless, the main focus of the evaluation will be the projects implemented within the country boundaries (i.e. the national projects) be they full-size, medium-size or enabling activities.

16. The context in which these projects were developed, approved and are being implemented constitutes an important focus of the evaluation. This includes: a historic assessment of the national sustainable development and environmental policies, strategies and priorities; the legal environment in which these policies are implemented and enforced; GEF Agencies' country strategies; and GEF policies, programs and strategies.

17. The status of the project will determine the expected CPE focus (see Table 2).

Table 2: Focus of evaluation according to project status

Project Status	Focus			
			On an exploratory basis	
	<i>Relevance</i>	<i>Efficiency</i>	<i>Effectiveness</i>	<i>Results/Benefits</i>
Completed	Full	Full	Full	Full
On-going	Full	Partially	Likelihood	Likelihood
Pipeline	Expected	Processes	Not applicable	Not applicable

18. The GEF does not establish country programs that specify expected achievements through programmatic objectives, indicators, and targets. However, since 2010 the GEF has started supporting countries in undertaking National Portfolio Formulation Exercises (NPFES) on a voluntary basis. These exercises serve as a priority setting tool for countries and as a guide for GEF Agencies as they assist recipient countries. These country programming efforts are rather recent, which limits their usefulness in evaluations such as CPEs, which examine the period since the start of GEF operations, i.e. sometimes 20 years back. This is why generally CPEs entail some degree of retrofitting of frameworks to be able to judge the relevance of the aggregated results of a diverse portfolio of projects. Accordingly, the CPE evaluation framework described here will be adapted along with the other relevant national and GEF Agencies' strategies, country programs and/or planning frameworks as a basis for assessing the aggregate results, efficiency and relevance of the GEF portfolio in Tajikistan.

19. GEF support is provided through partnerships with many institutions operating at many levels, from local to national and international level. It is therefore challenging to consider GEF support separately. The Tajikistan CPE will not attempt to provide a direct attribution of development results to the GEF, but address the contribution of the GEF support to the overall achievements, i.e. to establish a credible link between GEF supported activities and their implications. The evaluation will address how GEF support has contributed to overall achievements in partnership with others, through analysis of roles and coordination, synergies and complementarities and knowledge sharing.

20. The assessment of results will be focused, where possible, at the level of outcomes and impacts, and obviously include outputs as well. This assessment will focus at the aggregate level by focal area, with an historical perspective. Special attention will be paid to the identification of factors affecting the level of outcome achievements and progress toward impact achieved over time, as well as to the risks that may prevent further progress to long term impacts. Outcomes at the focal area level will be primarily assessed in relation to catalytic and replication effects, institutional strengthening and capacity building, and awareness.

21. Assessing the specific impacts – or progress toward impact –of GEF support is challenging. GEF support is typically designed to interact with initiatives of other agents such as governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and other donors. Even where the GEF has funded specific components within a project that may be distinguished from those funded by other partners, these have been funded on a premise that they will be able to draw on the synergies with components funded by the other partners, and vice versa. Contextual factors add to those complexities. In fact, the GEF faces diverse situations when assessing impact. Challenges for assessing impact are different when supporting a discrete activity such as the introduction of a technology in a specific context from a situation in which GEF supports broader processes that take place at the national, regional or global level, were a number of contextual factors and actors have a role. Interventions also differ in terms of the time horizons within which impacts can be observed and measured.

22. In recent years, the Office has developed a general Theory of Change (TOC) applicable to the various modalities and scales of GEF support, and devised a corresponding progress toward impact analysis framework – based on the concept of Broader Adoption – to help dealing with the complexities described when assessing progress toward impact of GEF support⁵¹. Progress toward impact of a sample of completed projects in Tajikistan will be assessed through case studies which use the described progress toward impact analysis framework (see paragraph 28). Expected impacts at the focal area level will be assessed in the context of GEF objectives and indicators of global environmental benefits.

23. The inclusion of regional and global projects increases the complexity of this type of evaluations since these projects are developed and approved within different contexts (i.e. regional or global policies and strategies) than national projects. However, some regional projects in which Tajikistan participates will be included based on criteria such as the relevance of the regional project for the country, the implementation unit being located in the country, the existence of project demonstration sites in the country, among others.

5. Methodology

24. The Tajikistan CPE will be conducted by staff of the Independent Evaluation Office and consultants from a consortium made up of Societa Italiana di Monitoraggio (SIM) SpA in Italy in association with B.A.R.S. Consulting Ltd from Tajikistan. The team includes technical expertise on the national environmental and sustainable development strategies, evaluation methodologies, and the GEF.

25. SIM/B.A.R.S. staff qualifies under the Office’s Ethical Guidelines, and the consortium has signed a declaration of interest to indicate the absence of any recent (last 3-5 years) relationship with GEF support in the country. The Operational Focal Point (OFP) in the country will act as resource person in facilitating the evaluation process by identifying interviewees and source documents, organizing interviews, meetings and field visits, and the initial and final consultation workshops.

26. The evaluation team will foster comprehensive stakeholder engagement and communication all along the evaluation, with the following objectives: (a) to ensure the evaluation process is transparent and participatory while at the same time independent; (2) to gather additional information and data that can be triangulated with more traditional data sources; and (3) to promote the utility of the evaluation once completed, by facilitating learning and dissemination of evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations.

27. These objectives will be achieved through a number of means including in-country stakeholder consultation workshops at the start and completion of the evaluation and an online stakeholder consultation platform moderated by the evaluation team. The platform will be

⁵¹[GEF IEO \(2013\) OPS5 Technical Document #2: Impact of the GEF](#)

used to discuss key evaluation questions, share information on the evaluation process and fieldwork, and conduct due diligence on the draft evaluation products.

28. The methodology includes a series of components using a combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods and tools. The expected sources of information include:

- (a) *Project level*: project documents, project implementation reports, mid-term evaluations, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, reports from monitoring visits, and any other technical documents produced by projects;
- (b) *Country level*: national sustainable development agendas, environmental priorities and strategies, GEF focal area strategies and action plans, global and national environmental indicators;
- (c) *GEF Agency level*: country assistance strategies and frameworks and their evaluations and reviews;
- (d) *Other evaluations*: evaluative evidence at country level from other evaluations previously conducted either by the Office, by the evaluation offices of GEF Agencies, or by other national or international evaluation departments;
- (e) *Stakeholder interviews (individual and focus groups)*: with GEF stakeholders, including the GEF OFP and all other relevant government departments, bilateral and multilateral donors, civil society organizations and academia (including both local and international NGOs with a presence in the country), GEF Agencies and the national UN convention focal points; GEF beneficiaries and supported institutions, municipal governments and associations, and local communities and authorities;
- (f) *Field visits*: to selected project sites, using methods and tools developed by the Office, such as the Progress toward impact case studies guideline;
- (g) *Country ownership assessment*: based on an IEO designed analysis framework to assess degree of country ownership and drive-ness of the GEF portfolio;
- (h) *Online stakeholder consultation platform*: in the form of an email group, an online platform was launched during the stakeholder workshop held in Dushanbe during the scoping mission, to facilitate stakeholder consultation and engagement, gather information and data, and stimulate learning and knowledge sharing during the entire evaluation process. A webinar on evaluation scoping was held soon after for gather further feedback on the key evaluation questions.
- (i) *National stakeholder consultation workshops*: at the start and completion of the evaluation, to gather feedback and comments, any eventual data gaps and/or errors of interpretation.

29. The quantitative analysis will use indicators to assess the relevance and efficiency of GEF support (i.e., linkages between GEF support and national priorities, time and cost of preparing and implementing projects, etc.) and to measure GEF results (i.e., progress towards achieving global environmental impacts) as well as performance (aggregating implementation and completion ratings available from terminal evaluations and terminal evaluation reviews). Available statistics and scientific sources, especially for national environmental indicators, will also be used where appropriate.

30. The Evaluation Team will use the standard tools and protocols for CPEs and adapt these to the national context. These tools include a project review protocol (PRP) to conduct the desk and field reviews of GEF projects, an outline for the Country Environmental Legal Framework (CELFF) analysis and the Global Environmental Benefits Assessment (GEBA), and interview guides to conduct interviews with different stakeholders. As indicated earlier, country ownership and driven-ness will be analyzed using an analysis framework being developed based on the one used for a similar analysis in OPS5⁵². Progress toward impact will be analyzed by designing and conducting a series of case studies on a selection of completed projects through a focal area and/or geographic cluster approach. The tool will be the TOC for broader adoption mechanisms for progress to impact developed by the Office for OPS5⁵³ adapted to suit country portfolio analysis.

31. The Tajikistan CPE will include visits to project sites for field observation of results achieved. The criteria for selecting the sites will be finalized at the start of the evaluation phase, with emphasis placed on both ongoing and completed projects. The Evaluation Team will decide on specific sites to visit based on the initial review of documentation and balancing needs of representation as well as cost-effectiveness of conducting the field visits.

32. Quality assurance will be performed on the final report by a Peer Review Panel (PRP) composed of independent national experts. The expertise provided covers the relevant scientific and technical aspects of the peer review function related to the GEF focal areas.

6. Process and Outputs

33. These country-specific Terms of Reference (TOR) have been prepared based on visits to Tajikistan conducted by the Office in October 2014 and March 2015. The first mission was conducted with the purpose of exploring existing opportunities for and interest in engaging with the available national institutional and individual expertise, both for providing quality assurance and for conducting country-based evaluation data gathering and analysis. Evaluation scoping was conducted during this first mission to Dushanbe as well as through on-line stakeholder consultation, which helped identifying key issues to be included in the evaluation.

⁵²[GEFIEO \(2013\) OPSS Technical Document #6: Meta-Evaluation on Country Ownership and Drivenness](#)

⁵³ Ibid.

The second mission was an opportunity to officially launch the evaluation and formally introduce the SIM/B.A.R.S. team to GEF national stakeholders. These TOR conclude the evaluation preparatory phase, and set the scene for the evaluation phase, during which the Evaluation Team will collect data and information, review literature and other information sources to extract existing reliable evaluative evidence. This evaluation phase will include the following steps:

34. Preparation of specific inputs to the evaluation, including:
 - a. *GEF Portfolio Database*, which describes all GEF support activities within the country, basic information (by GEF Agency and focal area), their implementation status, project cycle information, GEF financing and co-financing, major objectives and expected (or actual) results, key partners per project, etc.
 - b. *Country Environmental Legal Framework (CELF)*⁵⁴, which provides an historical perspective of the context in which the GEF projects have been developed and implemented in Tajikistan. This document will be based on information on national environmental legislation, environmental policies of the government administration (plans, strategies and similar), and the international agreements signed by Tajikistan presented and analyzed through time so to be able to connect with particular modalities of GEF support.
 - c. *Global Environmental Benefits Assessment (GEBA)*⁵⁵, which provides an assessment of the country's contribution to the GEF mandate and its focal areas based on appropriate indicators, such as those used in the System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) (biodiversity, climate change and land degradation) and others used in projects documents.
 - d. *Progress toward impact Case Studies*⁵⁶, selected in consultation with the Office's staff and conducted to assess progress of a selection of completed projects towards achieving environmental impact. Case studies will report on selected projects and/or clusters of project in a specific GEF focal area in a national geographic region.
 - e. *Project Review Protocols (PRPs)*⁵⁷, which are project evaluation templates that contain in a concise yet comprehensive form, all the necessary evaluative information needed

⁵⁴[GEF IEO \(2012\) Note: CPE Country Environmental Legal Frameworks](#)

⁵⁵[GEF IEO \(2010\) Global Environmental Benefits Assessment – Outline](#)

⁵⁶[ibid.](#)

⁵⁷[GEF IEO \(2012\) Guidelines on Project Review Protocols](#)

for conducting an aggregate analysis of the effectiveness and results, the relevance and the efficiency of the portfolio.

- *Triangulation*⁵⁸ of collected information and evidence from various sources, tools and methods. The procedure elaborated by the Office in its CPEs applies a systematic triangulation approach that cross-checks the entirety of the empirical evaluative evidence and data collected against the set of key evaluation questions. This procedure will be conducted during a data consolidation mission to Tajikistan by the Office's Task Manager working with the SIM/B.A.R.S. team. The aim will be to consolidate the evidence gathered thus far, identify missing information and analysis gaps and arrive at key preliminary findings.
- *Aide Mémoire*, which will summarize the preliminary findings and will be distributed to stakeholders one week prior to the final consultation workshop. During this mission, additional analysis, meetings, document reviews and/or fieldwork might be undertaken as needed.
- *Stakeholder Consultation Workshop*, conducted with the Government and other national stakeholders, including project staff, donors and GEF Agencies, to present and gather stakeholders' feedback on the key preliminary findings contained in the Aid-Mémoire circulated prior to the workshop. The workshop will be an opportunity to identify and correct eventual errors of facts or analysis in case these are supported by adequate additional evidence brought to the attention of the Evaluation Team. The workshop will also be used to identify potential areas for recommendations and/or conclusions and to verify their concreteness and feasibility.
- *Draft Tajikistan CPE Report*, which incorporates feedback obtained at the final stakeholder consultation workshop, and is subsequently circulated to stakeholders. Before circulation the draft report is peer reviewed.
- *Final Tajikistan CPE Report*, incorporating the comments received to the draft. The GEF Independent Evaluation Office will bear full responsibility for the content of the Report. The Focal Points consult with the Government and assist in preparing a response.

35. The final CPE report will be published on the GEF Independent Evaluation Office website and will be distributed to the GEF Council Members, GEF Secretariat, the GEF Operational Focal Point in Tajikistan, focal points of the environmental conventions in Tajikistan, the different agencies and organizations involved in the preparation and implementation of GEF projects and

⁵⁸[GEF IEO \(2010\) Methodological Note on Triangulation Analysis in Country Portfolio Evaluations](#)

activities in Tajikistan. Learning products from this evaluation will also be identified and developed for specific and targeted audiences.

7. Evaluation Key Milestones

36. The Evaluation will be conducted between March 2015 and December 2015. The key milestones of the Evaluation are presented below:

Preparation	Status
Initial Communication	August 2014 (completed)
Preparatory work and preliminary data gathering	August 2014–Oct. 2014 (completed)
Pre-evaluation and Scoping Mission	Oct. 2014 (completed)
Launch of the online platform	February 2015 (completed)
Contracting of Consultants (SIM/BARS)	March 2015 (completed)
Tajikistan-specific CPE Terms of Reference finalized and circulated	June 2015 (completed)
Evaluation phase: literature review, data gathering	April-July 2015
Country Environmental Legal Framework (CELF)	April-June 2015
Global Environmental Benefits Assessment (GEBA)	April-June 2015
Interviews, GEF portfolio database, project review protocols	March 2015 – July 2015
Progress toward impact Case Studies	June-July 2015

Preparation	Status
Consolidation: triangulation, additional analysis, gap-filling	August 2015
Preparation of an Aide Mémoire (report on preliminary findings)	September 2015
Stakeholder Consultation Workshop: Aide Mémoire presented	October 2015
Draft CPE Report completed and circulated for comments	November 2015
Final CPE Report circulated for Management Response	January 2016
Final CPE Report presented at GEF Council meeting	June 2016

D. Evaluation Matrix

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
Effectiveness, Results and Sustainability			
a) Is GEF support to Tajikistan effective in producing results by focal area at the project as well as at the aggregate level (program and country portfolio)?	Project level outcomes and impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project staffs and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus groups and individual interviews - Online consultation platform - Remote sensing data (if applicable), especially in case of missing/ uncertain baseline data for projects
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case studies (desk and field-based) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress toward impact methodology - Stakeholder engagement analysis, barriers/opportunities, legal framework analysis, etc.

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
	Aggregate level outcomes and impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project staffs and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field visits - Focus groups and individual interviews
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case studies (desk and field-based) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress toward impact methodology - Stakeholder engagement analysis, barriers/opportunities, legal framework analysis, etc.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country, regional, global, thematic evaluations - Project implementation reports (PIRs) - Terminal evaluations (TEs) - TE reviews (TERs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - GEF portfolio aggregate analysis

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
	Existing ratings for project outcomes (i.e., self-ratings and independent ratings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project implementation reports (PIRs) - Terminal evaluations (TEs) - TE reviews (TERs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Project review protocols
	Changes in global benefit indexes and other global environmental indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluative evidence from projects and donors, - Global Environmental Benefits Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review - Meta-analysis of evaluation reports
	Evidence/examples of broader adoption (sustaining, replication, scaling-up, mainstreaming and market change mechanisms in place)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terminal evaluations - Data from overall projects and other donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress toward impact methodology - Stakeholder engagement analysis, barriers/opportunities, legal framework analysis, etc.

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project staffs and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus groups and individual interviews - Online consultation platform
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data from overall projects and other donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress toward impact methodology
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project staff and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus groups and individual interviews
b) Has GEF support led to progress toward impact through broader adoption	Degree of stakeholder ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country ownership assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Interviews

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
mechanisms over an extended period of time after completion?	Availability of financial and economic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reviews (PIRs, MTEs, TEs, TERs, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review
	Examples of individual and Institutional capacity developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGO staff - Project staff and beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus groups and individual interviews - Project review protocols
	Project ratings of risks to environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and local government representatives - Case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF portfolio analysis - Progress toward impact methodology
	Status of environmental legal and institutional framework in the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country Environmental Legal Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review - Timelines - Historical causality analysis
	Evidence/examples of broader adoption (sustaining, replication,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terminal evaluations - Data from donor projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
	scaling-up, mainstreaming and market change mechanisms in place)	- Case studies	- Progress toward impact methodology
		- Project staffs and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives	- Focus groups and individual interviews - Online consultation platform
	Project sustainability ratings	- Project reviews (PIRs, MTEs, TEs, TERs, etc.)	- Desk review
	Specific results (outcomes and impact) of GEF support to biodiversity activities in Tajikistan.	- Project reviews (PIRs, MTEs, TEs, TERs, etc.) - Biodiversity databases, evaluations, populations - Local government representatives - Local beneficiaries - Case studies	- Desk review - Interview field visits - Progress toward impact methodology

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
c) Is GEF support effective in producing results related to the knowledge generated and dissemination of lessons learned in GEF projects with partners in and outside Tajikistan?	Project M&E Ratings	- PIRs, MTEs, TEs, TERs	- Desk review
	Number and quality of knowledge products produced for dissemination. Language of KM product(s) Number of lessons incorporated into new GEF and other initiatives	- Project-related reviews (PIRs, TEs, TERs, etc.) - Case studies - Project staffs and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives - National and international information/data repositories	- Desk review - Progress toward impact methodology - GEF portfolio and pipeline analysis
	Evidence of mechanisms and channels for lesson sharing	- NGO staff - Project staff and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives	- Focus groups and individual interviews - Online consultation platform
	Project M&E Ratings	- PIRs, MTEs, TEs, TERs	- Desk review

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
<p>d) Is GEF support effective to sustain knowledge generated and shared by GEF projects with partners in Tajikistan (national stakeholders and GEF agencies) and partners outside of the country?</p> <p>Sub-set of questions:</p>	<p>Number and quality of knowledge products produced for dissemination</p> <p>Number of lessons incorporated into new GEF and other initiatives</p> <p>Evidence of institutional capacity for knowledge generation and sharing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project-related reviews (PIRs, TEs, TERs, etc.) - Case studies - Project staffs and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives - National and international information/data repositories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Progress toward impact methodology - GEF portfolio and pipeline analysis
<p>1. What are KM products/approaches and technologies supported by GEF projects and programs?</p> <p>2. How GEF-supported KM activities improved KM capacity of Tajikistan partners?</p>	<p>Evidence/examples for KM products and practices contributing to broader adoption (sustaining, replication, scaling-up, mainstreaming and market change mechanisms)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TEs - Data from external to GEF projects - Case studies - Project staffs and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Progress toward impact methodology - Focus groups and individual interviews - Online consultation platform

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
3. Is there evidence that GEF project support for knowledge generation and sharing led to progress toward impact through broader adoption mechanisms over an extended period of time after project completion?	Evidence of mechanisms and channels for knowledge generation and sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and international information/data repositories - NGO staff - Project staff and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus groups and individual interviews - Online consultation platform
e) Is GEF support effective making a contribution to chemicals issues, specifically reduction of POPs, in Tajikistan?	<p>Project outcomes and impacts that have contributed chemical reduction issues, specifically reduction of ODS & POPs.</p> <p>Evidence/examples for knowledge products and practices contributing pertaining to generating awareness about chemical issues (POPs, ozone layer etc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project-related reviews (PIRs, TEs, TERs, etc.) - Case studies - Project staffs and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives - National and international information/data repositories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual interview and focus groups. - Desk review - Progress toward impact methodology - GEF portfolio and pipeline analysis

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
Relevance			
a) Is GEF support relevant to the Tajik environmental priorities and sustainable development needs and challenges?	Degree of alignment of GEF support and results to sustainable development agenda and environmental priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National sustainable development and environmental policies and strategies - Project-related documentation (ProDocs, MTE, TE, TER, etc.) - GEF PMIS - Agency project databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Online consultation platform - GEF portfolio analysis (by focal area, agency, modality and project status)
	Level of GEF funding compared to other national and/or international funding for the environmental sector in Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International databases (e.g. WB, OECD) - National databases (Dept. of Statistics etc.) - GEF project documents, TEs, and TERs - GEF portfolio 	

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
	Overall degree of country ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government representatives - Agency staff - Donor and civil society representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus groups and individual interviews
	Evidence of involvement of stakeholders in project , formulation and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country Environmental Legal Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review - Timelines and historical causality analysis
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country ownership assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Interviews
	Evidence of GEF supporting development needs (i.e., income generating, capacity building) and reducing challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National sustainable development and environmental policies, strategies and action plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - GEF portfolio analysis by focal area, agency, modality and project status (national)

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
	Degree of alignment of the GEF modalities, projects and instruments with country's needs and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project-related documentation (ProDocs, MTE, TE, TER, etc.) - GEF PMIS - Agency project databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - GEF portfolio analysis by focal area, agency, modality and project status (national)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government representatives - Agency staff - Donor and civil society representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder consultation - Focus groups and individual interviews
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country Environmental Legal Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review - Timelines and historical causality analysis
b) Is GEF support relevant in contributing to poverty alleviation and creation of sustainable livelihoods,	Project outcomes and impacts that resulted in creation of sustainable livelihood prospects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project-related reviews (PIRs, TEs, TERs, etc.) - Case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Interviews and focus groups

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
<p>including environmental sustainable jobs, in Tajikistan?</p>	<p>Projects outcomes and impacts demonstrating evidence of strengthened individual and collective capacity for sustainable livelihood generation.</p> <p>Project outcomes and impacts with evidence of increased development of human, social capital and/or built physical, financial and natural capital.</p> <p>Project outcomes and impacts supporting increased resilience and reduction in environmental vulnerability/volatility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project staffs and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives - National and international information/data repositories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF portfolio and pipeline analysis
<p>c) Is GEF support to Tajikistan relevant to the objectives linked to the different Global Environmental Benefits in</p>	<p>Degree of alignment of GEF support and results with global environmental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Conventions action plans - RAF and STAR Global Benefit Index (for biodiversity and climate change) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Project field visits - Project review protocols

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
the climate change, biodiversity, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals focal areas?	indicators for in GEF focal areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global environmental indicators (LD, IW, ODS, etc.) 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country Environmental Legal Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review - Timelines and historical causality
	Degree of alignment of GEF support and results with focal area objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF Phases' Focal Area Strategies - GEF website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review
	Degree of alignment of GEF support and results with national targets and commitments under conventions and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convention documents and websites - National reports and communications to conventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project-related documentation (project document, PIRs, TEs, TERs, etc.) - GEF PMIS - Agency project databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF portfolio analysis (by focal area, agency, modality and project status) 	

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government officials - Agency staff - Donor and civil society representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder consultation - Focus groups and individual interviews
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global Environmental Benefits Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review
d) Is GEF support relevant to the GEF focal area programs and strategies and GEF focal area action plans in Tajikistan?	Degree of alignment of GEF support with National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) National reports to Rio Conventions National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF Enabling Activity reports and products (e.g. NCSA, NEAP, NAPA, National reports to UN Conventions, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Online consultation platform
	POPs National Implementation Plan (NIP); National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA); etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government officials - Agency staff - Donor and civil society representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder consultation (focus groups, individual interviews)

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
e) Are the GEF and its agencies supporting environmental and sustainable development prioritization, country ownership and decision-making process in Tajikistan?	Examples of new decision making mechanisms and resulting decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF Instrument - Council decisions - Focal area strategies - GEF-4 and GEF-5 programming strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - GEF portfolio analysis (by focal area, agency, modality and project status)
	Changes in degree of country ownership over time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project-related documentation (ProDocs, PIRs, TEs, TERs, etc.) - GEF PMIS - Agency project databases 	
	Examples of movement of national/local efforts towards sustainable development activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF Secretariat staff - Agency technical staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviews
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global Environmental Benefits Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country Environmental Legal Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review - Timelines and historical causality analysis
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country ownership assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Interviews
<p>f) Is GEF support relevant in reducing gender inequality and promoting women’s empowerment?</p>	<p>Project outcomes and impacts pertaining to gender empowerment/equality reported in KM products and/or project reports.</p> <p>Number of projects considering gender empowerment/equality as specific result (outcome and impact).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PIRs, MTEs, TEs, TERs - Project-related reviews (PIRs, TEs, TERs, etc.) - Case studies - NGO staff - Project staff and beneficiaries - National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Focus groups and individual interviews - GEF portfolio and pipeline analysis

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
	Information on national progress in reducing gender inequalities.		
Efficiency			
a) How much time, effort and financial resources (including co-financing) does it take to formulate and implement projects in Tajikistan, according to GEF support modality?	Process indicators: (project cycle steps), preparation and implementation cost by type of modalities, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project-related documentation (ProDocs, PIRs, MTEs, TEs, TERs, etc.) - GEF PMIS - Agency project databases - RAF pipeline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - GEF portfolio analysis - Timelines
	Number of dropped, cancelled and rejected projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEFSEC staff, Agency staff, government officials - GEF PMIS - GEF portfolio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviews and field visits - Project review protocols

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
	GEF financing vs. co-financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government, donors, NGOs, beneficiaries - PMIS and project documents 	
b) What are the roles, types of engagement and coordination among different stakeholders in project implementation in Tajikistan?	Level of participation from various stakeholder groups in GEF-related fora and/or coordination meetings, as recorded in the meeting minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project-related reviews (PIRs, TEs, TERs, etc.) - Meeting minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Meta-analysis of evaluation reports
	Definition of the roles and responsibilities of GEF national actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project staff - Government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus groups and interviews - Field visits
	Types and quality of coordination between GEF projects and with other donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEFSEC staff - GEF Agency technical staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutional analysis - Online consultation platform

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
	Existence of a national coordination mechanism for GEF support		
c) Are there synergies between: i) GEF Agencies in GEF programming and implementation; ii) national institutions for GEF support; and iii) GEF and other donor support in Tajikistan?	Evidence of interaction and cooperation between actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project-related reviews (PIRs, TEs, TERs, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review and meta-analysis of evaluation reports - Interviews and field visits - Online consultation platform
	Evidence of effective communication and technical support between GEF project agencies and organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF Agency staff - National executing agencies - Project staff - National and local government officials - NGO staff and donor representatives 	
	Examples of complementarity of GEF support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluations of other donor projects 	

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
d) What role does Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) play in project adaptive management and overall efficiency in Tajikistan?	Evidence of use of M&E information to improve project management and performance Cases of consideration and use of lessons learned GEF Tracking Tools correctly filled and used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project-related documentation (especially PIRs, MTEs, TEs, TERs) - GEF Agency staff and GEF focal points - GEF Tracking tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - GEF portfolio analysis - Interviews - Online consultation platform
	Evidence of lessons learnt transferred to parallel initiatives or incorporated into future initiatives (projects, programs, policies and portfolios) Number of instances of previous lessons learnt incorporated into new project documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project documents - Project TE reports - MTE reports - Policy makers/government officials - GEF Secretariat and Agencies' staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Interviews - Online consultation platform

Key question	Indicators/ Basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
	% of project documents with previous lessons learnt incorporated M&E Ratings		

E. Interviewees

Khairullo Ibodzoda, CEP Chairman, GEF
Political and Operational Focal point

Shams Nazarov, CEP First Deputy Chair, Focal
Point for Vienna Convention and UNCCD

Oykhon Sharipova, CEP Deputy Chair and
Focal Point for Stockholm and Aarhus
conventions

Abdulqodir Maskaev, CEP, Head of
Department for Wildlife Conservation and
Focal Point for Bonn and CITEC conventions

Homidjon Rasulzoda, CEP, Head of Hydromet
and Focal Point for UNFCCC

Neimatullo Safarov, CEP, Head of the
National Center for Biodiversity and
Biosafety and Focal Point for UNCBD

Abdusalim Juraev, Director of SE
«Implementation of Tajikistan Commitments
under Stockholm Convention (POPs)»

Madibron Saidzoda, Director of SE «Specially
Protected Natural Areas»

Akbar Davlatov, Chief Forester, Biosphere
Reserve "Romit"

Madina Begmatova, UNDP, GEF-SGP, Junior
Officer

Khurshed Kholov, UNDP, Energy and
Environment Program, Program Manager,
GEF-SGP Coordinator

Firdavs Faizulloev, UNDP, Emergency Risk
Management Program, Program Manager

Mirzokhaidar Isoev, UNDP, ODS Phase-Out
project, Manager

Bobojon Yatimov, World Bank, Program
Manager

Buadokpheng Chansavat, ADB TJRM,
Portfolio Specialist

Gulsun Farosatshoeva, ADB TJRM,
Senior Project Assistant

Akmal Erkaev , EBRD, Senior Analyst

Jamshed Kholov, EBRD, Project manager

Muazama Burkhanova, Chairperson,
Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives

Ilkhom Muminov, Project Manager,
Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives

Farhat Khujov, Chairperson, CBO JRC
«Urmetan», Jamoat Urmetan, Aini District

Nematullo Nazarov, Chairperson, CBO JRC
«Ivan Tojik», Jamoat Ivan Tojik, Mountainous
Matcha District

Umarali Abdulov, Chairperson, CBO JRC
«Khonakoi Kuhi», Jamoat Khonakoi Kuhi,
Gissar District

Gulshan Karimova, Chairperson, CBO JRC
«Sabo», Jamoat Sabo, Shahrinav District

Ghani Khaitov, Chairperson, CBO JRC
«Rabot», Jamoat Rabot, Tursunzade District

Ilsomuddin Murodov, Chairperson, CBO JRC
«Romit», Jamoat Romit, Vakhdat District

Dmitry Prudskikh, Chairman, NGO YGPE

Ikrom Mamadov, Project Manager, NGO
YGPE

Umed Ulugov, Project Manager, NGO Globus

Shavkat Saidmurodov, Project Manager,
NGO Scientist Women

Mirzomudin Sidirov, Director, Farm «Sari
Nai», Jamoat Shirin Chashma, Tajikabad
district

Narzimurod Kholov, Farmer Advisory
Services in Tajikistan FAST

Shodibek Kurbanov - Care International
(2006-2008), National Coordinator,
UNDP(2009-2010), Biodiversity Expert

Mahmad Safarov, PPCR, Climate Change
Specialist

Manzura Sultanova, Chair of NGO Saodat

Yuri Skochilov, Chairman, NGO Youth
EcoCentre

Ikrom Akhmedov – LDU consultant/Loan
officer, Kumsangir district

Munira Inoyatova, Chair of NGO Sustainable
Development for Human

Gulshan Kululova – ex-Head of Jamoat
Telman (present Istiqlol), Kumsangir district

Rahimjon Nazarov – FFS consultant/Loan
officer, Kumsangir district

Abdumanon Abdusalomov – ex-Chairman of
Jamoat Resource Center/Loan officer,
Kabodiyon district

Sharofiddin Nuriddinov – ex- Chairman of
Jamoat Resource Center, Jamoat Jura
Nazarov, Shahrituz district

Juma Kurbonshoev – LDU consultant/Loan
officer, Shahrituz district

Yusuf Mamataliev – Head of “Rushdi
Obshoron” Micro-finance organization,
Shahrtuz district

Jurakul Oltiev - Forestry officer, Shahrtuz
district

Said Eshonov – Head of the Dekhkan Farm,
Jamoat Khudoykulov, Shahrtuz district

Norkul Yuldoshev – ex-Chairman of Jamoat
Resource Center, Jamoat Nuri Vakhsh, Jilikul
district

Barno Erdanova – ex-Deputy Chairman of
JRC, Jamoat Nuri Vakhsh, Jilikul district

Gulnora - female household member in the village Qum, Jilikul district

Karshi Aliev – member of the Tugai Forest Protection Committee/leaseholder, Jilikul district

Kurbonmahmad Bekmurodov – Head of Household/Farmer in the village Qum, Jilikul district

Shodimurod Kenjaev – Loan officer, Jilikul district

F. Sites Visited

No	GEF project ID	Site name
1	1854	Jamoat Khonakoi Kuhi, Gissar District.
2	1854	Jamoat Sabo, Shahrinav District.
3	1854	Jamoat Rabot, Tursunzade District.
4	1854	Jamoat Romit, Vakhdat District.
5	1872	Jamoat Urmetan, Aini District.
6	1872	Jamoat Shirin Chashma, Tajikabad district
7	1872	Jamoat Ivan Tojik, Mastchohi Kuhi district
8	3237	Jamoat Telman (present Istiqlol), Kumsangir district
9	3237	Jamoat Nuri Vakhsh, Jilikul district
10	3237	Jamoat Khudoykulov, Shahrituz district
11	3237	Jamoat Jura Nazarov, Shahrituz district
12	3237	Jamoat Vahdat, Kabodiyon district
13	2377	Jamoat Jirgatol, Jirgatol district
14	2377	Jamoat Pildon, Jirgatol district

15	2377	Jamoat Yangishahr, Jirgatol district
16	4352	Hukumat of Kulyab district
17	4352	Jamoat Dahana, Kulyab district

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Final Stakeholder Consultation Workshop

10 November 2015

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H. GEF Portfolio in Tajikistan

National Projects

GEF_ID	Agency	Focal Area	Type	GEF phase	Name	Status	GEF Grant (US\$)	Co-financing (US\$)
15	UNDP / UNEP	ODS	MSP	GEF - 2	Programme for Phasing Out Ozone Depleting Substances	Project Closure	898,943	271,502
830	UNDP	CC	EA	GEF - 2	Enabling the Republic of Tajikistan to Prepare its First National Communication in Response to its Commitments to the UNFCCC	Project Closure	327,000	10,000
996	UNDP	BD	EA	GEF - 2	Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan with Clearing House Mechanism	Project Closure	193,000	10,000
1854	UNDP	BD	MSP	GEF - 3	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Gissar Mountains of Tajikistan	Project Closure	975,000	1,521,987
1872	WB	MFA	FP	GEF - 3	Community Agriculture and Watershed Management	Project Completion	4,500,000	13,300,000

1886	UNDP	CC	EA	GEF - 3	Climate Change Enabling Activity (Additional Financing for Capacity Building in Priority Areas)	Project Closure	95,000	10,000
1928	UNDP	MFA	EA	GEF - 3	National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA)	Project Closure	199,000	10,000
1955	UNEP	POPs	EA	GEF - 3	Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs): National Implementation Plan for Republic of Tajikistan	Project Closure	494,323	20,000
2037	WB	BD	MSP	GEF - 3	Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation	Project Completion	750,000	198,250
2528	UNDP	BD	EA	GEF - 3	Additional Financing for Capacity Assessment in Biodiversity Priority Areas	Project Closure	222,000	30,000
3027	UNDP	CC	MSP	GEF - 4	Support to Sustainable Transport Management in Dushanbe	Under Implementation	970,000	11,395,195
3129	UNDP	MFA	FP	GEF - 4	Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity in the Face of Climate Change	Under Implementation	1,900,000	2,100,000

3211	UNEP	BD	EA	GEF - 4	BS Support for the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework of the Republic of Tajikistan	Under Implementation	840,000	540,000
3234	ADB	LD	FP	GEF - 3	CACILM: Rural Development Project under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase I	Under Implementation	3,500,000	19,810,000
3237	UNDP	LD	MSP	GEF - 3	CACILM: Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan-under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase 1	Project Closure	975,000	1,053,000
3310	UNDP	MFA	MSP	GEF - 4	Environmental Learning and Stakeholder Involvement as Tools for Global Environmental Benefits and Poverty Reduction	Project Closure	470,000	539,290
4160	UNDP	CC	FP	GEF - 4	Technology Transfer and Market Development for Small-Hydropower in Tajikistan	Under Implementation	2,000,000	6,450,000
4352	WB	LD	FP	GEF - 5	Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods	Under Implementation	5,400,000	16,860,000

4422	EBRD	CC	FP	GEF - 5	Increasing Climate Resilience through Drinking Water Rehabilitation in North Tajikistan	CEO Endorsed	2,727,067	23,896,400
4694	UNEP	BD	EA	GEF - 5	Support for the Revision of the NBSAPs and Development of Fifth National Report to the CBD	Project Completion	220,000	234,000
5223	UNIDO	POPs	EA	GEF - 5	Enabling Activities to Review and Update the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Under Implementation	181,850	178,000
5236	UNDP	MFA	MSP	GEF - 5	Strengthening Capacity for an Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System in Tajikistan	Under Implementation	700,200	750,000
6949	UNDP	MFA	FP	GEF - 6	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pamir Alay and Tian Shan Ecosystems for Snow Leopard Protection and Sustainable Community Livelihoods	CEO Endorsed	4,181,370	19,000,000

Regional Projects

GEF_ID	Agency	Focal Area	Type	GEF phase	Name	Status	GEF Grant (US\$)	Co-financing (US\$)
73	World Bank	IW	FP	GEF - 1	Water and Environmental Management in the Aral Sea Basin	Project Closure	12,000,000	9,000,000
1025	UNEP	BD	FP	GEF - 3	In Situ/On Farm Conservation and Use of Agricultural Biodiversity (Horticultural Crops and Wild Fruit Species) in Central Asia	Project Completion	5,718,070	6.145,595
1694	UNEP	BD	MSP	GEF - 3	Development of the Econet for Long-term Conservation of Biodiversity in the Central Asia Ecoregions	Project Closure	750,000	1,385,000
2175	UNEP	LD	MSP	GEF - 3	UNEP's Regional Resource Center for Asia and Pacific & Interstate Sustainable Development Commission (ISDC) for Central Asia	Project Closure	975,000	1,715,500
2331	UNDP/UNEP, UNIDO, World Bank	ODS	MSP	GEF - 4	Preparing for HCFC phase out in CEITs: needs, benefits and potential synergies with other MEAs	Project Closure	745,000	535,000

2377	UNEP	LD	FP	GEF - 3	Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains - and Integrated and Transboundary Initiative in Central Asia Phase	Project Closure	3,000,000	6,697,380
2504	ADB	LD	FP	GEF - 3	CACILM: Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management Multi-country Partnership Framework Phase 1	Project Completion	174,641	0
3185	UNEP	ODS	MSP	GEF - 4	Continued Institutional Strengthening Support for CEITs to meet the obligations of the Montreal Protocol	Project Completion	835,000	408,040
3230	UNEP	POPs	FP	GEF - 3	DSSA Demonstrating and Scaling Up Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for the Control of Vector-borne Diseases in Southern Caucasus and Central Asia	Project Completion	3,025,000	3,300,000
3231	UNDP	LD	FP	GEF - 3	CACILM: Multicountry Capacity Building Project	Project Closure	2,865,000	3,311,500
3614	UNEP	POPs	FP	GEF - 4	DSSA Demonstrating and Scaling Up Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for the Control of Vector-borne Diseases in Southern Caucasus and Central Asia	Under Implementation	2,045,000	3,432,000

4102	UNDP	ODS	FP	GEF - 4	Initial Implementation of Accelerated HCFC Phase-out in the CEIT Region	Under Implementation	9,000,000	25,495,000
5000	FAO	POPs	FP	GEF - 5	Lifecycle Management of Pesticides and Disposal of POPs Pesticides in Central Asian Countries and Turkey	Council Approved	8,136,986	32,400,000
5301	UNDP	IW	FP	GEF - 5	Enabling Country of the Transboundary Syr Darya Basin to Make Sustainable Use of their Ground Water Potential and Subsurface Space with Consideration to Climate Variability and Change	Council Approved	3,500,000	17,500,000
9094	FAO	MFA	FP	GEF - 6	Integrated Natural Resources Management in Drought-prone and Salt-affected Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM2)	Council Approved	10,981,815	38,606,000
9120	UNEP	BD	MSP	GEF - 6	Support to Preparation of the Third National Biosafety Report to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety – Asia Pacific Region	CEO Approved	1,099,050	995,000

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