

IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETION MEMORANDUM (ICM)

GEF 3 MSP - TAJIKISTAN: DASHTIDZHUM BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROJECT

A. BASIC TRUST FUND INFORMATION

TF Name: Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation Project

TF Number: TF 053947

Task Team Leader Name: Bobojon Jatimov

TF Amount (as committed by donors):

Project (TF GEF):	750,000
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PDF A:	25,000
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Sub-Total GEF:	775,000
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Other sources/Co-financing

Dashtidzhum Leshoz:	30,000
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National Biodiversity Conservation Center:	21,000
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NGO “Noosfera”:	38,000
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Grant Beneficiaries:	103,750
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* Sub-Total Co-financing:	192,750
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** Total Project Financing:	942,750
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Recipient of TF funds: Government of Tajikistan /NGO “Noosfera” as Implementing Agency

Type of TF: Free-standing child fund

Single/Multi Donor: Multiple Donors

Donor(s) Name(s): GEF-IBRD (TF 602001)

TF Program Source Code: GEFIA

Purpose of TF: Technical Assistance & Advisory Services (Bank Executed)

* Other refers to contributions mobilized for the project from all other sources: State Forestry Department (Leskhoz), the NGO “Noosfera” itself and National Biodiversity Conservation Center (NBCC), including contributions made in kind (such as labour, local facilities, equipment, buildings, saplings, etc).

** All currencies including Grant Funds are indicated in US Dollars

TF Approval/IBTF Clearance Date: 08.20.2004

TF Activation Date: 08.20.2004

TF Closing Date(s): 11/30/2007; 06/30/2008

Date of ICM Submission to TFO:

Note: For detailed information on co-financing and leveraged resources see Annex I.

B. TRUST FUND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND DESIGN

1. Original (and Revised) Trust Fund Development Objectives

The global environmental objective was to demonstrate and provide for replication of in situ conservation of globally significant biodiversity of the Dashtidzhum Zakaznik. In support of this objective, the project assisted in: (i) supporting protected areas management planning and monitoring activities; (ii) strengthening capacity to protect globally important flora and fauna species and ecosystems; (iii) supporting local population in the Zakaznik surroundings to adopt environmentally friendly economic activities compatible with biodiversity conservation objectives; (iv) raising public awareness on conservation issues; and (v) involving local communities and NGOs in the decision making process

2. Original (and Revised) Trust Fund Activities/Components

Component A: Strengthening Protected Areas Management Capacity

	Committed	Actual
GEF:	US\$ 208,000	209,957
Other sources*:	US\$ 36,000	55,003
Total:	US\$ 244,000	264,960

A.1. Zakaznik Management Plan: to support preparation of a protected areas management plan, including conduction of relevant technical studies, assessments and field investigations. Also to support the development of long-term plans for biodiversity monitoring and financial sustainability using consultation and public disclosure procedures.

A.2. Strengthening Capacity of Protected Areas Management Institutions: to support improvements of the protected area infrastructure (e.g., such civil works for refurbishing of Leshoz building), and provision of office equipment, vehicles, and other essential basic equipment. In addition, this component supported training activities, study tours, and capacity building for the Zakaznik staff in technical and social issues for biodiversity conservation inside and outside of the protected areas.

A.3. Biodiversity Baseline and Monitoring: to support the setting up of a biodiversity baseline and the design and piloting of a biodiversity monitoring system. To finance basic laboratory equipment, basic GIS system, field surveys, and publication.

Component B: Community Involvement on Protected Areas:

* Other refers to contributions mobilized for the project from all other sources: State Forestry Department (Leskhoz), the NGO "Noosfera" itself and National Biodiversity Conservation Center (NBCC), including contributions made in kind (such as labour, local facilities, equipment, buildings, saplings, etc).

	Committed	Actual
GEF:	US\$ 479,000	454,891
Other sources:	US\$ 118,250	159,613
Total:	US\$ 597,250	614,504

B.1 Training and Community Support in Preparing Grant Proposals: within this subcomponent a special group of technical experts planned to be selected to: (i) conduct training and seminars for introduction of SDCGP in the settlements located within the project area; (ii) provide assistance to the communities and other sub-project beneficiaries in preparation of project proposals; and (iii) conduct technical evaluation of the proposed sub-projects.

B.2 Sustainable Development and Conservation Grants Program: to provide sub-grants to eligible communities for supporting economic activities compatible with biodiversity conservation. Financial support had to be provided for the following areas: (i) environmentally friendly income-generating activities; (ii) sustainable forestry management including community forestry and strengthening forest nurseries capacities; and (iii) public awareness on biodiversity conservation.

B.3. Information dissemination and replication activities: to support: (i) workshops at the local and national levels; (ii) creation and maintenance of the project web site; (iii) preparation and publication of different brochures and newsletters; and (iv) conduction of information campaigns and study tours.

Component C. Project Management and Monitoring

	Committed	Actual
GEF:	US\$ 63,000	85,152
Other sources:	US\$ 38,500	47,600
Total:	US\$ 101,500	132,752

The component is to assure smooth implementation and adherence to World Bank procurement, disbursement, financial management procedures and guidelines. To finance incremental operating cost of the NGO, financial audit services, household surveys, and other monitoring and evaluation activities.

3. Outcome Indicators

The project has a complex system of monitoring and evaluation that contains outcome indicators for the whole project and separately of different subcomponents

Original expected outcomes of the project:

The project would have positive global benefits by conserving biodiversity in one of the Central Asian regions with globally significant wildlife and numerous threatened and endemic species. Specifically, the project would have the following outcomes:

- *Improved status of threatened biodiversity.* The project will increase the quality of the ecosystems (2-3 indicator species of flora and fauna will be identified as part of the baseline survey soon after implementation commences).
- *Strengthened institutional and technical capacities for protected area management.* The project would assist in the adoption of a protected areas management plan based on broad consensus and support from local communities and in the establishment of effective protected areas management

administrations, with staff capable of implementing the protected areas management plan in close collaboration with local communities, public sector institutions and NGOs. By working closely with the State Forestry Department Tajikless, the National Biodiversity Conservation Center, and the State Committee for Environment Protection – all part of a larger effort to secure sustainable biodiversity conservation, and by developing and disseminating best practices, the project will support improve the current national protected area system in Tajikistan.

- *Improved sectoral integration.* The project would contribute to the establishment of effective replicable models of integrated and participatory natural resources management within the national protected areas system.
- *Improved adoption of sustainable use of natural resources.* The project would increase public awareness and support for adoption of sustainable agriculture and land use practices at the local and national level.

Original outcome indicators of components and subcomponents:

Component A: Strengthening Protected Areas Management Capacity

A.1. Zakaznik Management Plan:

- Management and zoning plan developed based on broad stakeholder consultation.
- Legal documents for the Zakaznik management plan completed, approved and adopted by the State Committee for Nature Protection and Forestry.
- Boundaries of the different Zakaznik's zones demarcated.
- Financial mechanisms for payment of visitor and natural resources user fees established.

A.2. Strengthening Capacity of Protected Areas Management Institution:

- Leskhoz and Botanical Institute buildings rehabilitated.
- Leskhoz equipped with the necessary communication means, office equipment and facilities.
- Transportation equipment procured;
- Nature museum built and equipped.
- Zakaznik staff trained in protected areas management and biodiversity conservation.
- Study tours conducted.
- Guiding materials developed and in use by Zakaznik staff and visitors.
- Leskhoz and Environmental Inspectorate staff received relevant supplies (e.g., uniforms, communication means, binoculars)

A.3. Biodiversity Baseline and Monitoring:

- Field investigations conducted and biodiversity baseline established.
- Zakaznik GIS system and biodiversity database created.
- Biodiversity monitoring plan prepared.
- Zakaznik's staff trained in biodiversity monitoring and GIS.
- Report(s) on Zakaznik's biodiversity published.
- Relevant office and laboratory equipment for biodiversity monitoring purchased and provided.

Component B: Community Involvement on Protected Areas

B.1 Training and Community Support in Preparing Grant Proposal:

- Small grant program (SGP) information dissemination and training seminars conducted, potential subproject beneficiaries kept informed about SGP.
- Advisory and technical services delivered to communities.
- Advisory services on environmentally friendly agricultural and/or alternative income generating activities.
- Sub-projects are technically evaluated and feasible sub-projects presented to the PIU/ evaluation committee.

B.2 Sustainable Development and Conservation Grants Program:

- Small Grant Program implemented, including 300 small-scale; 28 medium-scale and 8 large-scale sub-projects.
- Mini-nurseries (Leshoz and Botanical institutes as well as private nurseries) are rehabilitated and expanded and produced variety of trees that correspond to the structure of native species.
- Forestation of critical areas is implemented.
- Capacity for production of tree seedlings and fruit trees increased.
- Mitigation measures for local natural disasters implemented by the communities.

B.3. Information dissemination and replication activities:

- Local and national workshops held during project implementation period.
- Communication strategy developed and implemented.
- Project website made operational.
- Project stakeholders well informed about the project objectives, activities and results.
- Project activities coordinated with the other biodiversity conservation efforts in the region.
- Informative papers with regard to project objectives and results prepared, published and disseminated.
- Study tours conducted.
- Program for information dissemination prepared and implemented.
- Local population and NGOs effectively cooperate with Leshoz administration in Zakaznik management.

Component C. Project Management and Monitoring

- Project implemented according to agreed timetable.
- Key project management and implementation personnel engaged.
- Consistent involvement in project implementation of all interested stakeholders secured.
- Monitoring and evaluation system established.
- Project accounting system set up.
- Annual financial audits conducted in a timely manner.

4. Other Significant Changes in Trust Fund Design

No basic changes have been made in design, scope, scale, funding allocation and implementation arrangements. The project had to be implemented over a period of 3 years: between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2007. In fact the project started in November 2004 and finished in June 2008 (total duration of 44 months instead of planned 36). The changes basically were connected with the initial delay in payments that caused seasonal (climatic) difficulties to start necessary researches and follow-up actions. All current changes in scope and design have been agreed with Bank according ordinary procedures.

C. OUTCOME

5. Relevance of TF Objectives, Design and Implementation

The Project is consistent with the World Bank Environmental Strategy, which supports the protection of fragile ecosystems and environmental management, and the Regional Biodiversity Strategy, which calls for combining improved ecosystem management with local income generating activities. The Project has been implemented in line with the 2003 Country Assistance Strategy (CAS), which emphasized the importance of furthering the Government development and poverty-reduction agenda by improving access to services in rural communities and strengthening the local institutional framework for sustainable development. Consistent with the CAS, the Project focused on the poorest mountain area of the country; supported human and institutional capacity-building at the local level through dissemination of environmentally friendly technologies of rural economy and training of local specialists; contributed to environmentally friendly income generation activities with a help of training and involve youth in the nature protection measures; and contributed to the country's environmental agenda as a model plot for restoration and management of protected areas.

A number of activities of the Project, especially concerned to community involvement and small-grants program, have been parallel to the similar activities implemented in the WB Community Agriculture and Watershed Management Project (CAWMP) and Lake Sarez Risk Mitigation Project (LSRMP). And the experience gained under this project on land management has been transferred to the project area. These measures has been devoted to the help to reduce rural poverty and improve livelihoods of rural communities, by supporting productive activities aimed at increasing incomes in a sustainable manner while reducing the pressure on the environment and ensuring the preservation of fragile mountain lands and ecosystems.

6. Achievement of TF Development Objective

Assessment of the success compared to the expected outcomes and outputs of the separate components of the project:

Component A: Strengthening Protected Areas Management Capacity

Component's rate - Satisfactory (S)

A.1. Zakaznik Management Plan:

Sub-component's rate - Satisfactory (S)

The management plan (MP) has been prepared for Dashtidzhum zakaznik (ref. www.zakaznik.tj) and contains the following main chapters:

- a) General information about zakaznik (history, present management, forestry, scientific researches, financing)
- b) Natural conditions and environment (relief, landscapes, soils, and ecosystems of various mountain areas represented in zakaznik)
- c) Description of biological diversity of the area with lists of plants and animals, ecosystems, biotopes, hunting resources, genetic resources of domestic animals
- d) Description of population, local communities and their historical and cultural peculiarities.
- e) Assessment of present demographic situation and education;
- f) Assessment of the management system of zakaznik: subjects and directions of management; present state; main threats to biodiversity, plants and animals of the area; management of land resources and problems on pasturing and forestry; fragmentation of ecosystems, social, economic and environmental difficulties of management

A set of maps (GIS) for the zakaznik have been prepared and located on the Internet site, including maps of ecosystems, biotopes and plant and animals natural habitats, biodiversity threats, boundaries of zakaznik and zoning map.

Map of zakaznik zonation as well as management plan itself have been discussed and approved by zakaznik partners and stakeholders on the National Seminar and Zakaznik Coordination Committee, and adopted by the Head of the Governmental Committee of Nature Protection. (Annex II. Zoning and sample maps of the Dashtizhum Zakaznik. A scanned copy of the official endorsement by State Environment Committee of RT).

The new approach to the creation of the management plans for the protected areas in Tajikistan has been elaborated in Dashtidzhum as a model area. This approach takes into account the national, social and economic peculiarities and can be used in future for the capacity buildings activities for sustainable development in national parks and other protected areas in Tajikistan and adjacent countries.

Unfortunately, despite MP contains the economic and financial calculations for necessary resources for the sustainable development of the Dashtidzhum zakaznik, the new financial mechanisms that had been planned to cover up to 70% of the annual budget (e.g. payments of visitors and/or natural resources user fees) were tested but not established. The government still remains as one of the main source of financing of zakaznik due to political and economical situation and legislation in the country. The work on the management plan elaboration assisted local communities, project partners and stakeholders to realize main threats to biodiversity of the area, difficulties and problems in management, as well as to reveal main directions to improve management. But it did not find target clear mechanisms and assess time and resources for the implementation of the plan to overcome these threats and difficulties.

A.2. Strengthening Capacity of Protected Areas Management Institutions

Sub-component's rate - Satisfactory (S)

This subcomponent mainly has been directed to the activities that could not be supported by national government as a result of the lack of financing. The TF's help resulted in the following:

- Rehabilitation of building with its extension for Nature museum purposes
- Necessary vehicles and tractors (broken since 90-s) have been repaired
- Handheld small electric power station and other necessary equipment (spares, computer and tables) have been bought for. Also was equipped with the necessary communication means, office equipment and facilities for field work (incl. GPS, field equipment, uniforms). Natural museum has been equipped with necessary facilities and exhibits.
- Organization of about 33 trainings and seminars for local specialists, foresters, schoolchildren (total number of participants – 870) on the methods of biodiversity conservation, monitoring activities, management of natural resources and protected areas, ecological education, etc. Also for best foresters the study tours have been conducted to natural reserves “Tigrovaya Balka” and “Romit”, mountain botanical garden and plant nursery (Annex III. List of seminars and trainings).
- Also a number of guiding materials have been developed for zakaznik staff and visitors: guidebook, compact disk about zakaznik, pictures album, posters and booklets (Annex VIII. Samples of major publications and guiding materials).

The planned activity to rebuild the lodges of Botanical Institute has not been implemented as the base station of the institute has been relocated from Dashtizhum by the governmental decree.

A.3. Biodiversity Baseline and Monitoring

Sub-component's rate - Satisfactory (S)

All necessary investigations for the establishing of the biodiversity baseline have been conducted. Zakaznik GIS system has been created and several maps of it are presented on the www.zakaznik.tj. Biodiversity data base contains also a set of photos, manuals, tables, internet links and serves as a base for monitoring of nature resources of the zakaznik area. This creation of such multifunctional data base is the first experience in the country that can be used in future activities on the related issues. The data base contains such partitions as “plants”, “animals”, “ecosystems”, “forests”, “genetic resources” and “natural fruiters”.

Biodiversity monitoring plan has been prepared and includes several blocks according different levels of monitoring:

- “Foresters level” – different manuals to describe and monitor plants and animals and testing plots
- “Academician level” – description of main directions for academician scientific institutes to analyze field data collected on the foresters level
- “Governmental level” – a number of documents regulating the use of natural resources and nature protection (implementing by raion inspectors of governmental institutes (ministries and committees))

Biodiversity monitoring that has been never conducted on the zakaznik area, at present time is oriented on the sustainable use of biological resources and supporting of the equilibrium between demands of local communities and aims of sustainable development of the region. General monitoring consists of the steps of monitoring of the target objects (indicator species), monitoring of biological resources, of natural ecosystems, of recreation impact, of sanitary and epidemiological situation, of physical and chemical parameters of the environment. Also monitoring is based on the material of sociological researches.

At least 20% of the above mentioned seminars and trainings as well as study tours have been devoted to the issue of biodiversity monitoring, because in the past foresters never even heard about objectives and methods of monitoring. GIS application for biodiversity conservation and Leskhoz management also has been a new knowledge for the majority of local specialists.

Unfortunately, the planned action on the publishing of the general Report on Zakaznik’s biodiversity has not been implemented. But a part of it has been published on the www.zakaznik.tj, as well as in national scientific magazines and books. A big part of it has been located in the management plan. The special movies and materials presented on CD have also been prepared and disseminated

Some relevant office and laboratory equipment specially for biodiversity monitoring have been purchased and provided (computer, GPS, handbooks for plant classification and diagnostics, etc.). But it is not clear how it was sufficient for the purpose of the monitoring at all levels and steps of the elaborated monitoring plan?

Component B: Community Involvement on Protected Areas

Component’s rate - Satisfactory (S)

B.1 Training and Community Support in Preparing Grant Proposals

Sub-component’s rate - Satisfactory (S)

An efficient program of PR actions has been implemented in 2006-2007 in both Dashtidjum and Yol jamoats. A series of workshops to train small grant beneficiaries on peculiarities of different types of environmentally sound subprojects and on reporting and recording of implemented works have been held in hard conditions of post-civil war period and with communities that had no experience in grants. The result was about 600 proposals on such activities as cereals and vegetable-growing (onion, potatoes), horticulture, bee-keeping, plant nurseries, forest rehabilitation, and also relevant local traditional crafts and single activities: mill work, blacksmith work, vaccination of animals, timbering, growing of medical plants. All proposals have been

technically evaluated and feasible sub-projects presented to the evaluation committee. A total of 280 project proposals have been selected and financed during project implementation.

B.2 Sustainable Development and Conservation Grants Program

Sub-component's rate - Satisfactory (S)

The Small Grant Program has been implemented, including:

- Creation of plant nurseries (8,35 ha; more than 117,000 saplings alive),
- Beekeeping (666 bee families)
- Rehabilitation of forests (27 ha, more than 13,500 young trees alive)
- Horticulture (about 40 ha, about 17000 young trees alive)
- Potatoes growing (about 12 ha, average yield – 9 t/ha)
- Onion growing (about 2,5 ha, average yield – 15 t/ha)
- Cereals production (24,5 ha, average yield – 1 t/ha)

This program had a big support from local communities as they have gotten additional investments and clear and simple environmentally friendly technologies (elaborated by national scientists) that allowed them not to destroy environment and save lands and habitats from degradation. Almost all subprojects (started in 2007) have got a financial profit. But, unfortunately, the sustainability of implemented activities is not obvious, because from one hand, the sources of future investments are not clearly defined for all types of activities especially in the conditions of unstable market prices for various products and high value of different risks and threats, and from the other hand, the efficiency of these activities on the biodiversity conservation in the area has not been analyzed yet. Also, one cannot answer what are the square and exact location of critical areas that require forestation and other mitigation measures (which have been initially expected to be implemented by local communities). E.g., despite the positive biodiversity conservation effect of such activities as growing of rare plants that are usually gathered in forests is obvious, there is no information of the effectiveness of such activity that depends on the ratio between gathered and grown plants and market needs (Annex IV-VI. Sample proposals submitted by beneficiaries and photos of some project sites).

B.3. Information dissemination and replication activities

Sub-component's rate - Satisfactory (S)

Information dissemination activities have been implemented in different forms:

- Creation and elaboration of operational project website;
- Publishing and dissemination of booklets and posters;
- A number of local seminars and roundtables have been held for about 87 local specialists within and beyond project area (Annex III. List of seminars and trainings).

The project activities are well known to project partners and local communities. The information dissemination activities were realized under special communication strategy and program for information dissemination that had been prepared and developed on the early stage of the project. Leskhoz administration and local authorities are interested and actively involved in the project activities, that is proved by their real additional financing and in-kind support in different project areas.

The two missions of Tajik-Afgan delegation have been very satisfactory for the dissemination of Dashtidzhum experience in the activities for sustainable development of protected areas in mountain region. But, there are no clear evidence of the incentives for effective cooperation of local population with Leskhoz administration in Zakaznik management on the base of mutual interests and benefits. From the other hand,

there are a few particular examples of collecting of non-wood forest products by local people, combating pests, creation of woodlots on slopes.

The replication activities as a result of the small grant program and also basement for the sustainability of the project results are also not very clear except very few examples of the enlargement of plant nurseries.

Component C. Project Management and Monitoring

Component's rate - Satisfactory (S)

In general, the project has been implemented according to agreed timetable, except prolongation due to the delay with the start of the project and delays with the beginning of the subprojects implementation due to seasonal reasons. So, in fact the project has been finalized only in June, 2008.

A project accounting system has been set up with the help of WB country office; annual financial audits have been conducted in a timely manner. The only imperfection was the lack of the operational system of monitoring and evaluation of the project outcomes and outputs. This provided a number of difficulties during preparation of the final report and systematic assessment of the project results, sustainability and effectiveness.

Assessment of the General Success of the Project Compared to the Expected Outcomes Objectives

General Assessment of the outputs - Satisfactory (S)

The project expected to have positive global benefits by conserving biodiversity in one of the Central Asian regions with globally significant wildlife and numerous threatened and endemic species. Specifically, the project expected to have the following outcomes:

Improved status of threatened biodiversity:

The project will increase the quality of the ecosystems (2-3 indicator species of flora and fauna will be identified as part of the baseline survey soon after implementation commences).

Rate - Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)

In fact the project did not create any system that allows assessing the increase of the quality of ecosystems. Indicator species were not identified. Also there are no evidence of the improvement of the habitats of species of IUCN Red Book of animals (*Capra falconeri*) and IUCN Red Book of plants (*Swida darvasica*, *Malus sieversii*). From the other hand, the project provides possibilities to make it in nearest future as necessary researches and first step to the creation of this system has been done through the activities on the elaboration of monitoring system.

Strengthened institutional and technical capacities for protected area management:

The project expected to assist in the adoption of a protected areas management plan based on broad consensus and support from local communities and in the establishment of effective protected areas management administrations, with staff capable of implementation the protected areas management plan in close collaboration with local communities, public sector institutions and NGOs. By working closely with the Leskhoz (State Forestry Department), the National Biodiversity Conservation Center, and the State Committee for Environment Protection – all part of a larger effort to secure sustainable biodiversity conservation, and by developing and disseminating best practices, the project expected to support improve the current national protected area system in Tajikistan.

Rate - Satisfactory (S)

Despite a few imperfections, in fact the project initiated a number of important modern international approaches to the biodiversity conservation in Tajikistan that have never been used in this country during or after Soviet time:

- elaboration and development of the biodiversity monitoring system
- elaboration of the management plan of protected area and its adoption on the level of national coordination committee and responsible governmental authority
- the experience of the project provided an assistance in the development of indicators in the chapter “Biodiversity” of the national report “Agenda 21”
- a big shifts have been made: from “nature protection” strategy to “sustainable social, environmental and economic development” strategy; from governmental management to participatory approach and management; from “island” approach in management to “network” approach

The project is used at present time as a model approach for the development projects for other protected areas in the country (Tigrovaya balka, Gissarskie gory)

Improved sectoral integration: (See above)

The project expected to contribute to the establishment of effective replicable models of integrated and participatory natural resources management within the national protected areas system.

Rate - Satisfactory (S)

Improved adoption of sustainable use of natural resources:

The project expected to increase public awareness and support for adoption of sustainable agriculture and land use practices at the local and national level.

Rate - Satisfactory (S)

In fact the public support of the methods and technologies of sustainable agriculture and land use practices is very high. But the evidence of the sustainability of the usage of these technologies is not clear, as financial and economic mechanisms to support and prolong such activities have not been elaborated.

General evaluation of the achievement of TF Development Objective - Satisfactory (S)

7. Efficiency

The degree to which the Trust Fund activities have been efficiently implemented, in terms of their associated cost:

Rate - Satisfactory (S)

All associated costs have been distributed according target activities. Finally the total cost of the project – US\$ 1,012,216 (including in-kind contribution of beneficiaries and project partners) was shared between:

GEF:	US\$ 750,000
Other sources:	
Dashtidzhum Leshoz:	US\$ 30,029
National Biodiversity Conservation Center:	US\$ 36,896
NGO “Noosfera”:	US\$ 49,916
Grant Beneficiaries:	US\$ 262,216

Total: US\$ 1,012,216

The degree to which the Trust Fund activities have been efficiently implemented, in terms of implementation times:

Rate - Satisfactory (S)

Despite all delays that had been caused by peculiarities of the local climate, these delays did not affect the effectiveness of the project.

The degree to which the Trust Fund activities have been efficiently implemented, in terms of their economic and financial returns:

Not applicable. But a few economical evaluations have been counted for the model activities of the small grants program. All of the model activities showed high rate of economic and financial returns that allow assessing this part of the project as efficient.

8. Development Impacts, including those that are Unintended/Unrelated to TF Objectives

There were no unintended positive and negative impacts of the project

9. Overall TF Outcome

Relevance	<u>S</u>	Satisfactory
Achievement of objectives	<u>S</u>	Satisfactory
Outputs	<u>S</u>	Satisfactory
Efficiency	<u>S</u>	Satisfactory
Development impact	<u>NA</u>	Not Applicable
Overall outcome rating	<u>S</u>	Satisfactory

D. RISK TO DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME

10. Follow-On Results and/or Investment Activities

Activity/Investment:

National level

The long-term educational and training programme on biodiversity conservation in Dashtizhum has been taken as model basic experience for the preparation of the National Program of Ecological Education for 2010-2020 (under UNDP/GEF project "Enabling potential of three conventions)

The Dashtizhum management plan has been used as basic approach for the preparation of the system of management plans and biodiversity monitoring for the protected areas in Tajikistan (program is supported by the national government)

International level

The agreement with Russian Academy of Sciences has been signed to provide follow-up researches of plants and vegetation in Dashtizhum

The experience of Dashtizhum project is used to enable activities on the transboundary biodiversity conservation issues. The work for joint Afghan-Tajik mission on protected areas management practices and the exchange of experience has been started. The next round of discussions is expected in early 2009. (Annex VII. Official minutes of the join meetings with Afghan counterparts)

Recipient/Other Investment and Grant Project/Program:

A new project for the conservation of agro biodiversity in the context of climate change in Dashtizhum has been initiated by Noosfera centre and supported by the UNDP Tajik Country Office. The new project proposal has been designed, endorsed by the National Coordinator of GEF and submitted to GEF for approval

Noosfera centre started to implement the UNDP-GEF project "Supporting Country Action on the CBD Program of Work on Protected Areas"/ this project is based on the results of the WB-GEF Dashtijum project and aimed to the assessment of the economical value of biodiversity resources

For the application of the best practices of the WB-GEF project "Biodiversity Conservation of Dashtijum Zakaznik" NGO "Noosfera" has gotten a grant from the Global Forest Coalition for organization of national workshop "The root causes of deforestation" that has been held on the base of Dashtijum forestry and local jamoats Yol and Dashtijum.

11. Replicability

Replicable approaches and methodologies:

Activities	National level	International level
Zakaznik Management Plan and GIS	High (H)	Moderate (M),
Strengthening Capacity of Protected Areas Management Institutions	Moderate (M), High (H) in the cases of Nature museum and study tours	Negligible to Low (L)
Biodiversity Baseline and Monitoring	Significant (S)	Moderate (M)
Training and Community Support in Preparing Grant Proposals	Significant (S)	Moderate (M)
Sustainable Development and Conservation Grants Program	Significant (S)	Moderate (M)
Information dissemination and replication activities	Significant (S)	Negligible to Low (L)
Project Management and Monitoring	Moderate (M)	Moderate (M)

Refer to imperfections described above in chapter "C. OUTCOME"

12. Overall Risk to Development Outcome

Outcome	Risk	Factors
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<i>Improved status of threatened biodiversity.</i> The project increased the quality of the ecosystems	Moderate (M)	Social – communities have only very few first examples that their nature protection activities lead to the biodiversity conservation. People have no obvious sustainable incentives (incl. financial and economic) to improve the quality of ecosystems. Relatively low skilled personnel of the PA. Unsettled system of biodiversity monitoring.
<i>Strengthened institutional and technical capacities for protected area management</i>	Negligible to Low (L)	Financial – the sources of the implementation of the Management plan are not clear enough as well as (technical) sources to sustain repaired buildings and facilities. Social – the role of local communities in the implementation of the management plan is not well defined.
<i>Improved sectoral integration.</i> The project contributed to the establishment of effective replicable models of integrated and participatory natural resources management within the national protected areas system.	Moderate (M)	Institutional support and ownership – there are no settled relationships around land ownership and shares of the participatory management of the resources within protected areas.
<i>Improved adoption of sustainable use of natural resources.</i> The project increased public awareness and support for adoption of sustainable agriculture and land use practices at the local and national level.	Negligible to Low (L)	Political and financial – local communities have not enough time to be convinced that new practices are sustainable in environmental, political and financial aspects.

E. PERFORMANCE

Bank Performance

Rate - Satisfactory (S)

Overall Bank performance for implementation of the project was satisfactory. Given the dire state of the protected area (Zakaznik), the incorporation of lessons learned from other projects and the low capacity of the implementing agency the team rightly chose a straightforward and clear approach. Minor shortcomings were noted in delays on initiating community development activities (SGPs) due seasonal nature of the sub-projects, which led to unexpected extension of the project duration. The quality of supervisions and reporting on the support to the Implementing Agency was found to be adequate and informative and in most cases verified through field visits.

Recipient Performance (for Recipient-executed TFs only)

Responsibilities of the recipient	Rate
Overall project coordination and management, financial management activities, procurement management, and monitoring and evaluation	Satisfactory (S)
Organize implementation of the Small grant program	Satisfactory (S)

Implementation of the participation plan	Satisfactory (S)
Act as the secretariat of the PCC. Responsible for preparation of meeting agenda, work plans, budgets, implementation schedules, information on subproject proposals, monitoring and progress reports, evaluation studies, and comments on policy and other project issues.	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)
Conduct procurement according to World Bank guidelines and procedures, seeking inputs on terms of reference, technical specification from the direct project beneficiaries	Satisfactory (S)
Conduct financial transactions, reporting and auditing in accordance with World Bank guidelines and procedures	Satisfactory (S)
Provide basic information and guidance to all project stakeholders, and exchange information on experiences with other similar programs, both nationally and internationally	Satisfactory (S)
Update and adjust operational procedures and associated documents	Satisfactory (S)
Conduct financial transactions, reporting and auditing in accordance with World Bank guidelines and procedures	Satisfactory (S)
Prepare project progress reports	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)

F. LESSONS LEARNED / RECOMMENDATIONS

Positive lessons learned

1. The starting changes in the attention of the local population, PA workers, local administration and governmental authorities to the PA as not only “closed zones” for animals and plants protection but as to the special area with the purpose to conduct environmentally friendly use of natural resources. Recommendation to government and local authorities – to regulate participatory management of the PA with multilateral agreement.
2. The project became a basic model for the realization of the governmental program of the PAs development, including approaches to zonation, GIS application, management plan, monitoring of natural resources, etc. Recommendation to Recipient and Government – to prepare manuals for application of these approaches and methodologies in the other areas.
3. New basic materials have been prepared for the preparation procedure of the trans-boundary Tajik-Afghan National park. Recommendation to Donor, Bank and Government – to prepare a new project for organization of the trans-boundary National park.

Negative lessons learned

1. A low attention has been paid to the monitoring of indicators of main project objective – biodiversity conservation. At the moment there is no information about changes in the biodiversity in the area and reasons of these changes. Recommendation to Government – to support the monitoring system prepared during the Project and to stimulate project partners to publish regular biodiversity reports.

Recommendation to Donor and Bank – during supervision procedures to pay more attention to the indicators of the main outcomes of the project.

2. Clear incentives of local communities to specific biodiversity conservation activities are not evident. Very few new economic and financial mechanisms to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use in the area have been created. So, the sustainability of the project outputs and outcomes is low and need regular financial assistance from government or international donors. Recommendation – in future projects to pay more attention to the creation of the mechanisms to support sustainability.

G. ICM PROCESSING AND COMMENTS

Preparation:

TTL at Approval: Rita E. Cestti

TTL at Closing: Bobojon Yatimov

ICM Prepared by: German Kust, Natural Resources Management and Environmental Specialist

Comment of TTL at Closing: **Bobojon Yatimov**

In general, the project achieved significant success, all the major planned activities were completed and some activities are fulfilled to a large extent. Considerable amount of work on strengthening protected areas management capacity (Zakaznik management plan and biodiversity baseline and monitoring) and other activities like reforestation and establishment of tree nurseries improved the local capacity for response to the environmental degradation and increased the potential for sustainable socio-economic development.

These measures has been devoted to the help to reduce rural poverty and improve livelihoods of rural communities, by supporting productive activities aimed at increasing incomes in a sustainable manner while reducing the pressure on the environment and ensuring the preservation of fragile mountain lands and ecosystems.

Implementation of the project has contributed to the country's strategy on sustainable development initiatives, particularly in maintaining favorable ecological conditions and implementation of its national environmental action plan, demonstrating a harmonious combination of economic development for poverty reduction and conservation effort in a remote mountainous area.

Date Submitted to Approving Manager:

Approval:

Manager: Dina Umali-Deininger

Date Approved by Manager:

Manager's Comment:

TFO Evaluation of ICM Quality:

TFO Reviewer:

TFO Rating on the Quality of ICM (*Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory*):

Comment and Justification for Rating Given by TFO:

Annex I. Co-financing and Leveraged Resources

Co financing (Type/Source)	IA own Financing (in US\$)		Government (in US\$)		Other Sources* (in US\$)		Total Financing (in US\$)		Total Disbursement (in US\$)	
	Proposed	Actual	Proposed	Actual	Proposed	Actual	Proposed	Actual	Proposed	Actual
Grant	40,500	49,916	51,000	66,925			94,000	116,841	89,000	116,841
Credits										
Loans										
Equity										
In-kind					103,750	145,375	103,750	145,375	103,750	145,375
Non-grant Instruments										
Other Types										
TOTAL	40,500		54,000		103,750	145,375	192,750	262,216	192,750	262,216

Note:

IA: refers to NGO “Noosfera” as an implementing agency

Government: State Forestry Department (Leskhoz) and National Biodiversity Conservation Center (NBCC)

Other Sources: refers to contributions mobilized in kind (such as labour, local facilities, equipment, buildings, saplings, etc) by private sector.

“Proposed” co-financing refers to co-financing proposed at CEO endorsement.

Annex II. Zoning and sample maps of the Dashtizhum Zakaznik. A scanned copy of the official endorsement by State Environment Committee of RT.

Утверждено
на Национальном семинаре
по Плану управления заказника Даштиджум
15 февраля 2007 г.



Заместитель министра
сельского хозяйства и охраны природы
Каримов А.



План управление разработан при поддержке Правительство Республики Таджикистан, Глобального экологического фонда и Всемирного банка.

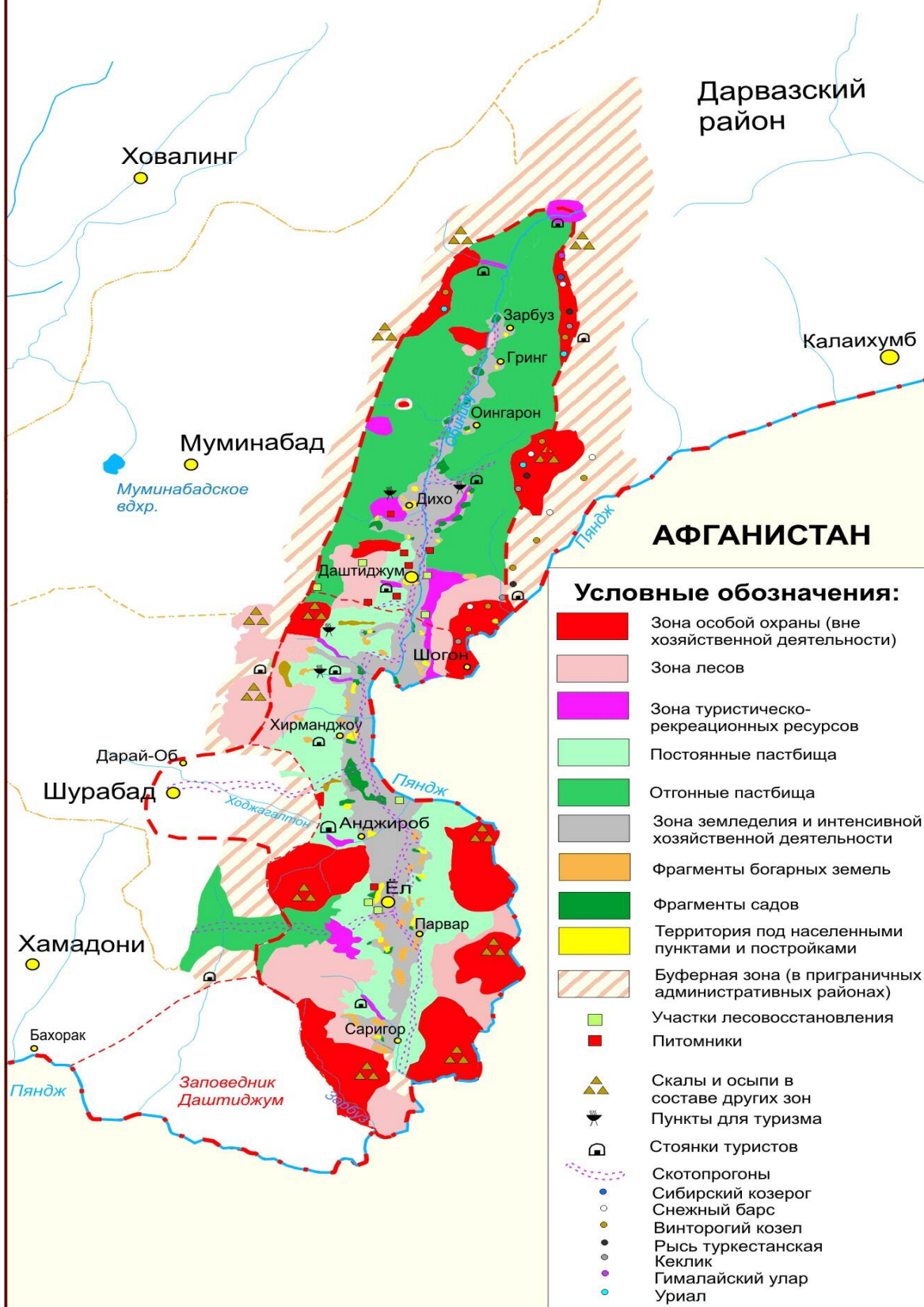
Организация исполнителем является: Республиканская Эколого-просветительская ассоциация «Ноосфера».

Соисполнителями являются:

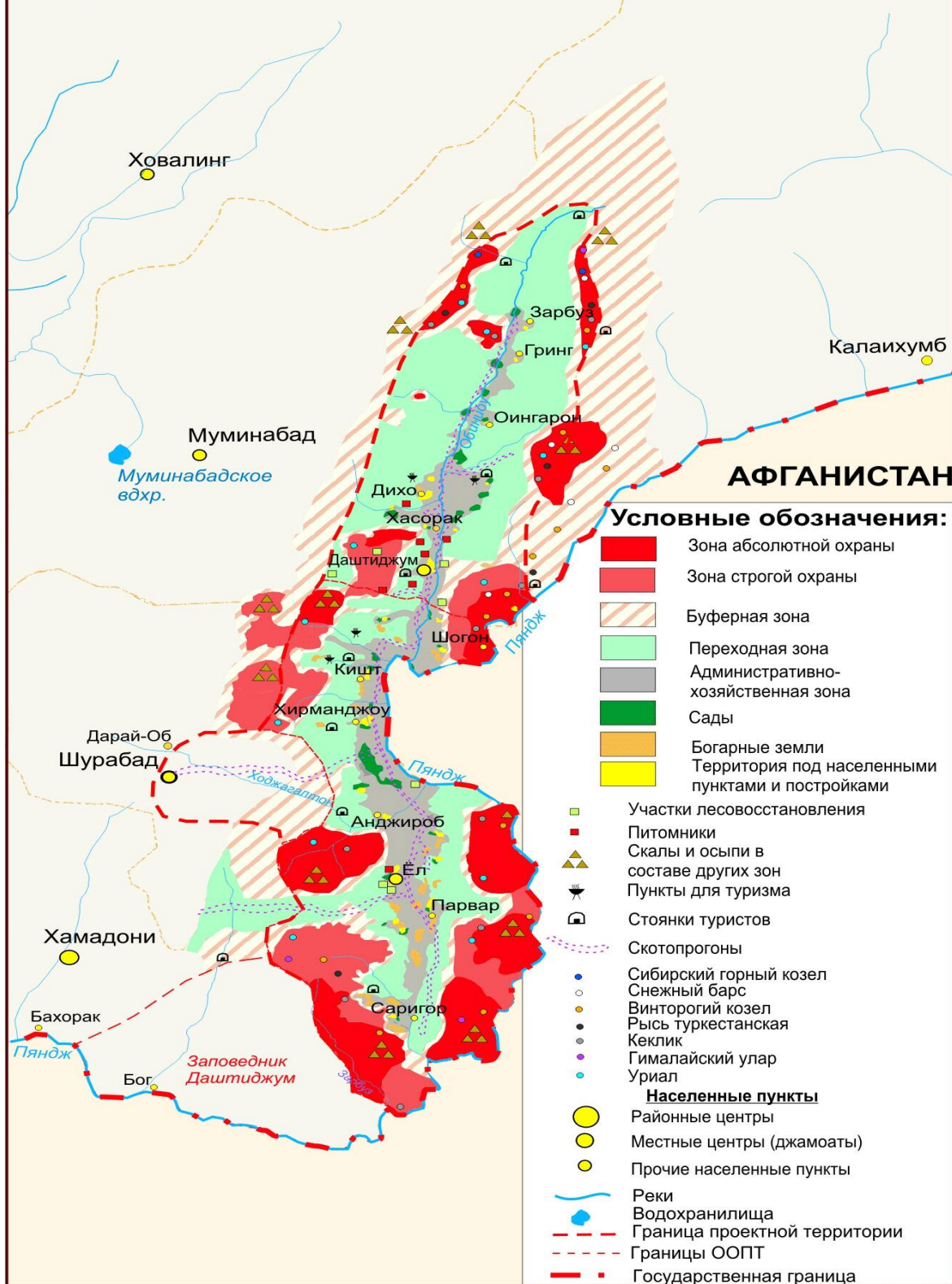
Национальный центр по биоразнообразию и биобезопасности, Научно-исследовательская лаборатория охраны природы ГКООСЛХ РТ.

Координационный комитет проекта выражает огромную благодарность Правительству Республики Таджикистан, Глобальному экологическому фонду, Всемирному банку, Государственному комитету охраны окружающей среды РТ, Хукумату Шурабадского района; лично г-ну А.Каримова, г-ну И. Азимова, г-ну А. Капчелия, г-же Р.Цести, г-же С. Костадиновой, г-ну Ульриха, г-ну Б.Ятимова, г-же Д. Каримовой, г-ну за постоянную поддержку и консультативной помощи.

Карта-схема XV-Б
Функциональное зонирование



Карта-схема XV-A
Природоохранное зонирование



Annex III. List of provided seminars and trainings

№	Date	Name	Location	Number of participants
1	12.11.2004	Introductory workshop “Dashtijum zakaznik biodiversity conservation”	Dushanbe	40
2	25.04.2005	Round table on project implementation with participation of World Bank mission	Dushanbe	20
3	28.04.2005	Introductory workshop on Small Grant Programs	Shurobod	30
4	29.04.2005	Training “Implementation of component on monitoring of biodiversity in Dashtijum zakaznik”	Dushanbe	15
5	02.05.2005	Training “Dashtijum zakaznik management plan designing”	Dushanbe	15
6	1-2.08.2005	Training on biodiversity monitoring for forestry and Dashtijum zakaznik workers	Jamoat Dashtijum	30
7	17.08.2005	Workshop-training “Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Dashtijum zakaznik”	Frontier post Khirmanjo	40
8	08.10.2005	Workshop “Protected areas management experience and program of action on biodiversity conservation”	Kulob	40
9	24.12.2005	Broaden meeting of National Coordination Committee	Shurobod	15
10	23.02.2006	Training for teachers “Teaching methodology in schools in the basis of interactive method of teaching”	Jamoat Dashtijum	20
11	25.02.2006	Training for teachers “Teaching methodology in schools in the basis of interactive method of teaching”	Jamoat Yol	20
12	10-12.05.06	Meeting of experts group on completion of Management Plan	Dushanbe	15
13	28.05.2006	Meeting for sizing up of contest “Nature – my house”	School #11 Jamoat Yol	10
14	29.05.2006	Meeting for sizing up of contest “Nature – my house”	School #18 Jamoat Dashtijum	10
15	18.07.2006	Meeting with participation of international consultant	Dushanbe	20
16	21.07.2006	Meeting of Coordination Committee “Completion of construction of administrative building of Dashtijum forestry”	Shurobod	13
17	30.12.2006	Workshop on Management Plan	Kurghonteppa	62
18	15.02.2007	National workshop on Dashtijum zakaznik Management Plan	Dushanbe	60
19	04.04.2007	Workshop “Conduction of observation and tests on state of animals and plants”	Jamoat Yol	12

20	5-7.04.2007	Working meeting on Discussion of Management Plan	Yol, Dashtijum, Shurobod	30
21	08.04.2007	Workshop “Conduction of observation and tests on state of animals and plants”	Jamoat Dashtijum	16
22	07.05.2007	Course of indicative species and monitoring, and technique of its implementation by foresters	Jamoat Dashtijum	14
23	13.05.2007	Youth scientific conference “Biodiversity conservation”	Dushanbe	33
24	22.05.2007	Conference with international consultant on discussion of Management Plan	Dushanbe	40
25	23.05.2007	Round table with representatives of mass-media, devoted to Biodiversity International Day	Kulob	50
26	05.06.2007	Round table devoted to Environment Worldwide Day	Dushanbe	43
27	15-18.07.07	Study tour for foresters of Dashtijum zakaznik	Dushanbe, Romit, Tigrovaya Balka, Varzob	7
28	09.04.2008	Workshop “Ecological resources, their value in development of country and principles of teaching and education”	Dushanbe	71
Total number of participants				791

List of Seminars for the employees of forestry department

№	Date	Name	Location	Number of participants
1	1-2.08.05	Training on biodiversity monitoring for forestry and Dashtijum zakaznik workers	Jamoat Dashtijum	30
2	04.04.2007	Workshop “Conduction of observation and tests on state of animals and plants”	Jamoat Yol	12
3	08.04.2007	Workshop “Conduction of observation and tests on state of animals and plants”	Jamoat Dashtijum	16
4	07.05.2007	Course of indicative species and monitoring, and technique of its implementation by foresters	Jamoat Dashtijum	14
5	15-18.07.07	Study tour for foresters of Dashtijum zakaznik	Dushanbe, Romit, Tigrovaya Balka, Varzob	7
Total number of participants				79

Annex IV. Sample of proposals submitted by beneficiaries (Reforestation)

Дархост ба барномаи гранти хурд оид ба лоиҳаи Хифзи гуногунии
биологии парваришгоҳи Даштиҷум»

1. Шарҳи лоиҳа:

Номи лоиҳа (номи кутохоро интиҳоб намоед, ки нақшаи Шуморо дақиқ дарҷ намояд).

*Хифзи гуногунии биологии бо рози
зангалбарқароронии.*

Шарҳи проблема – 0,5 саҳифа

Маълум намоед, ки болои кадом мавзӯи экологӣ кор кардани ҳастед, ин масъала дар кучо мавҷуд аст ва чи гуна вай ба миён омад. Агар ин масъала ҳал гардад, чӣ тағйироте ба миён меояд.

*Ман истифодаматкунандаи деҳани
ён дар хозанин деҳанин "Шараф"
заминҳои барои ба зангалбарқарор-
қили қоймӣ аст. Мақсад дорам, ки
дар 10 г замин зангал барқарор
қилам. Аз сабаби наест будани сатҳи инти-
содӣ нафарасодани мавҷи мавҷи барои қарада мавҷи
дорҳои менавсид, асбобиҳои сари қароқилин даст
Нобаринҳои дар назар доштанишаванда – то 1 саҳифа*

Нависед, «ки чиро, кай дар кучо анҷом медихад». Шумо доир ба нақша кор анҷом додани ҳастед, барои ҳамин нависед, ки чи гуна онро иҷро мекунед. Чораҳои ба нақша гирифташударо нависед ва нависед, ки кадом молхоро бояд харидорӣ намуд ва қорхоро бояд анҷом дод. Тамоми чораҳои анҷомшавандаро, ки ин ҷо менависед, бояд дар нақша ҷой дошта бошад.

- харидани нигаҳ
- харидани сӯзичворӣ
- харидани асбобиҳои сари
- харидани қорхоро менавсид
- харидани қорхоро
- харидани нигаҳ
- харидани қорхоро
- харидани қорхоро
- харидани қорхоро

Натиҷаҳои пешбинишаванда – 0,5 саҳифа

Нависед, ки агар чораҳои дар назар дошта шуда анҷом ёбад, чӣ ҳосил мегардад. Шумо баъди анҷоми ин нақша чиро ба даст овардани ҳастед.

*Замини амалии қардирани барнома аз ҷониби
қардирани ба аъзои амалии қардирани
нависед, ки ҳосил қорхоро ба даст оварда сӯ-
зичворӣ анҷом қардирани қардирани қардирани
қардирани қардирани қардирани қардирани*

Пойдорӣ ва ё инкишофи лоиҳа – 0,5 саҳифа

Маънидод кунед, ки чи гуна натиҷаҳои нақша баъди анҷоми сармоягузори дастгирӣ мегарданд. Нишон диҳед, шумо чӣ пешниҳод мекунед, ки ин фаъолият дар оянда инкишоф ёбад.

*Бо мақсади пойдорӣ ва инкишофи лоиҳа дар талф
қардирани қардирани қардирани қардирани
ва соҳабҳои менавсид. Бо мақсади менавсид
қардирани қардирани қардирани қардирани
қардирани қардирани қардирани қардирани
қардирани қардирани қардирани қардирани*

Маблағи умумий: 27940
 Маблағи дархаст: 20440
 Маблағи боқолмонда: 7500

2. БУҶА (ба сомонӣ)

	КАТЕГОРИЯ (НАМУД)	АРЗИШИ ЯК ВОХИД	МИҚДОРИ УМУМӢ	МАСРАФИ УМУМӢ
1	Ҳаридани ғорухонаи мемер	1,35	1000кг	1350
2	Ҳаридани себӯҳонаи корӣ			
3	(Бел 5 кетилан 5, кирка 5)	ҳаркел 1	16	940
4	Ҳаридани сӯзашварӣ	3	50	150
5	Ҳаридани мисолҳо	3,72	5000	18600
6				
7				
8	Ҳаридани ҳуҷуми барои китоб	1	5000	5000
9	Ҳаридани китобҳои кӯдакӣ	0,50	5000	2500
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
	ҲАҶМИ УМУМИИ МАБЛАҒ			27940

3. Нақшаи корӣ

Шарҳи фаъолият	Мох									
	ҳафтаҳо									
1. Ҳаридани ғорухонаи мемер	x									
2. Ҳаридани себӯҳонаи корӣ	x									
3. Ҳаридани сӯзашварӣ	x									
4. Ҳаридани мисолҳо	x									
5. Ҳаридани ҳуҷуми барои китоб	x	x								
6. Ҳаридани китобҳои кӯдакӣ			x	x						
7. Ҳаридани китобҳои барои кӯдакӣ	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
8. Ҳаридани китобҳои барои кӯдакӣ	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
9.										
10.										

4. Нусхаҳои санадхоро доир ба қайдгирии ҳуқуқии ташкилот, ҳуқуқ барои замин ва ғайраҳоро ҳамроҳ кунед.

Маълумотномаи Ҷамоат пешкиш ҳамаи маълумотро

Суроғи дархостдиханда ва имзо

Давлати Сафарова  Ҷамоати Ёр Ҷамияти
 Ёр



