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Strengthening policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into fishery sector

Final Evaluation Report

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This report was prepared by Silvija Nora Kalnins and Lira Joldubaeva, who were responsible for collecting data through document review and interviews, performing analyses, and preparing the report.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of a Terminal Evaluation (TE) conducted in December 2012 by independent evaluators Silvija Nora Kalnins and Lira Joldubaeva for the UNDP/GEF Project "Strengthening Policy and Regulatory Framework for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Fishery Sector" implemented in the Kyrgyz Republic. This project was the first biodiversity focal area project implemented in the country. The project was funded by the Global Environmental Facility in the amount of 950,000 USD and by UNDP -- 430,000 USD. Co-financing was committed by the Government of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan in the amount of 1,000,000 USD and from the NGO section in the amount of 1,690,000 USD. The project was signed on 26 February 2008 and will close at the end of January 2013. The project is assigned to the national implementation modality but as implemented in accordance with the UNDP direct implementation modality was applied after the political unrest in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2010 as a measure to secure smooth and interrupted implementation of the activities.

The terminal evaluation was commissioned by UNDP Kyrgyzstan and the main objective of the TE was to assess the achievement of the project results, and to draw lessons learned that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming. The evaluation is structured around the GEF five major evaluation criteria: *Relevance*, *Effectiveness*, *Efficiency*, *Results/Impacts* and *Sustainability* which the evaluators rated in accordance with the guidance provided by GEF and UNDP and through a evidence-based methodology which included document review, interviews conducted on a mission to the project site from 12 to 17 December 2012 and an analysis. The ratings for the project of the specific criteria requested are summarized in the table below.

Evaluation rating

1. Monitoring and Evaluation	***rating***	**2. IA& EA Execution**	***rating***
M&E design at entry	Satisfactory	Quality of UNDP Implementation	Satisfactory
M&E Plan Implementation	Satisfactory	Quality of Execution - Executing Agency	Satisfactory
Overall quality of M&E	Satisfactory	Overall quality of Implementation / Execution	Satisfactory
3. Assessment of Outcomes	**rating**	**4. Sustainability**	**rating**
Relevance	Relevant	Financial resources:	Likely
Effectiveness	Satisfactory	Socio-political:	Likely
Efficiency	Moderately Satisfactory	Institutional framework and governance:	Moderately Likely
Overall Project Outcome Rating	Satisfactory	Environmental :	Likely
		Overall likelihood of sustainability:	Likely
5. Impact			**rating**
Impact of the project			Significant

The project is successful in meeting the main objectives of the UNCBD, UNDP and GEF and the Government of Kyrgyzstan. It responds well to those of the UNCBD, the UNESCO-MAB and the GEF increment. The project addresses the related country development objectives and responds well to the needs of target beneficiaries (residents of the area). Many of those interviewed stated that the project was the first to delve into the concerns of fishing on Issyk-

Kul, the problems related to pond farm development as well as the first to raise the importance of biodiversity in the debate on development of fisheries at Issyk-Kul.

There were problems with the monitoring and evaluation of the project which evolved from the use and adjustments to the Strategic Results Framework. Although adjustment in project strategy was crucial under the conditions of the moratorium imposed on Issyk-Kul, there was little attention paid to the sources which could be used (established) within the project in cooperation with partners to secure monitoring of results and impact. Thus the reporting on the results and impact level is weak in the project with much information on output and activity level.

The implementation and execution coordination was difficult in a period of political instability and high level of changes in the officials in the Governmental institutions involved in the project. Despite the inability to reach a functioning Project Board throughout the project lifetime, the project forged excellent coordination through intricate networking on site at Issyk-Kul with the various stakeholders and, with the support of UNDP CO, also on the national level with the SAEPF.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the project has had many challenges connected not only with the environment within which it operated, but also due to some capacity gaps in the application of specific project management tools such as risk management and strategic-level planning. The project, has however been successful in attaining its objectives (rated satisfactory) and has applied adaptive management to directly respond to the needs of beneficiaries. The moratorium called for innovative approaches to project implementation by the project team, as traditional fishers, who were one of the main socio-economic groups to target, became 'poachers' by law. The project included them in training and skills development such as sanitary fishing which resulted in the increased understanding of this group of the impact of their activities on the lake's resources. Nonetheless, due to concentration on activity-level implementation, the efficiency of the project seems lower than average (such as, substantial fluctuation between planned and final expenditures among activities, two important activities -- sustainable livelihoods and information system -- have no funding allocated in accordance with the budget).

The only major issue which the evaluators have found which will limit the ability to sustain the results of the project is the institutional framework of fisheries. There is a large degree of fragmentation, with a lot of potential for duplication. Overall, however, the sustainability seems secure as the project has achieved a high level of ownership among the different stakeholders (pond farmers, traditional fishermen, Biosphere Reserve Administration, Academy of Sciences). Although the sustainability of the project is found to be very secure, the Government, through the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF), encourages a continuation of UNDP's activities in the sphere of biodiversity in fisheries and around Issyk-Kul. This is a positive indication of the previous cooperation and an indication of the need for a global presence to support biodiversity issues. This also indicates that there is an opportunity for UNDP to strengthen national capacities on global environmental issues through its work within the GEF.

The evaluation team has identified the following lessons learned which are discussed in more detail in section 4 of the report:

- The responsiveness of adaptive management of the project management unit in the dynamic environment is a positive lesson to be applied in similar projects. This

project benefited highly from having the same project manager for the lifetime of the project, who provided stability for stakeholders in an otherwise changing environment. One of the key elements to the success of this project despite the various pressures is the fact that the project manager has been excellent in providing his technical knowledge and in communicating with the variety of stakeholders.

- The mid-term is an important stage in any project and the mid-term evaluation and management responses to their recommendations are vital. The mid-term evaluation report provided key recommendations which were responded to, and follow-up on very thoroughly by the project management team.
- Actions conducted under the project have been closely linked to specific findings and research conducted in the course of the project. Even training have followed up on specific recommendations stemming from reports generated. In this way the project has directly linked activity to needs of the stakeholders studied.
- The project has had success in using a study tour to Lake Balaton and the coupling of national and international experts to substantially improve technical and research capacities in Kyrgyzstan.
- The project is exemplary in establishing an intricate network of cooperation among different stakeholders around Issyk-kul. By increasing connectivity between people representing different sectors and interests (research, pond farmers, traditional fishers), the risks to secure the sustainability have been greatly lowered.

Based on the findings of this final evaluation, the following recommendations are made:

Exit strategy

1. The evaluators recommend that there is thorough preparation for the final workshop to approve a detailed sustainability plan among stakeholders with actions, roles and responsibilities for continuing activities initiated by the project. Additionally, the final workshop is identified as a good forum to discuss among the stakeholders assembled, the public awareness raising strategy for local communities about fisheries and endemics, especially during the spawning periods. The project has had good experience in this and thus such discussions would provide a good handover of such lessons and best practices to the Government and other entities attending the workshop.

   The establishment of a database on fishery data collected and analyzed within the framework of the project is considered important. Logically, the data holder for such a database could be the Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve. A database could ensure that all data is maintained and could potentially be expanded to other fauna and flora as the BR improves its activities in this direction. In addition, the project can facilitate to establish a framework for cooperation among data providers (Academy of Science, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries department, fishery associations and others).

   In order to provide a more concise picture of the various kinds of achievements made by the project and other contributors around Issyk-Kul over this period, the evaluators suggest a repeat of one (or two) of the studies conducted at the PPG stage of the project. The repeat of these studies (using same methodology so that results are comparable) could provide information on what has been achieved and could

prove useful to discussions on lifting the moratorium (or introducing only recreational fishing) to the lake.

The technical results and success of the project should be presented in the form of a scientific article for publication in an international journal which could showcase the positive benefits which have evolved from cooperation between scientists and practitioners (particularly the pond farmers).

At the time of the audit conducted for the project (2009), there was no audit of the assets due to the timing of the audit. Due to the considerable amount of technical assistance provided to at least 5 different institutions, and the percentage that has been procured in the past 2 years, the evaluators suggest special attention be paid of the detailed inventory and handover of the assets during the final stage of the project.

Reducing market demand of endemics

2. The selling of poached fish at the market generates more income for the individual than for the poacher. UNDP CO is encouraged, in the final month of the project to advocate to the Government the importance of controlling local markets around Issyk-kul during the spawning season in order to discourage (and educate) buyers from purchasing endemic fish.

Codifying best practices and project success

3. The project has planned to create a final publication of its results for distribution. The evaluators encourage the UNDP CO to assist the project in identifying a format which can best share key practices with other countries in the RBEC/RBAS regions:
   a. story of pond farmers who have begun to conduct research-based decision making at the individual level in their businesses through cooperation with the Academy of Sciences; initiated a fishery association to increase productivity, cooperation and success; ability to acquire technical, practical and theoretical knowledge through study tour to Hungary; looking for alternatives in the circumstances of a moratorium.
   b. ability of project to impact endemic species count in a very short time through sanitary fishing, propagation of endemics, awareness raising, increase in monitoring and control of illegal fishing.

Overall enhancement of UNDP programming/performance

4. The evaluators believe there are some capacity constraints on M&E techniques which go beyond the current project and strongly suggest strengthening capacities of UNDP CO and project staff in M&E design and implementation.

5. Due to the growing demand for projects to mainstream gender issues and concerns, it is recommended that UNDP CO tasks project development experts in addressing gender issues in future projects during the project development/design stage and assists project managers in reviewing (and adapting and/or incorporating specific indicators and methods for verification) on-going projects to fully realize the potential for gender mainstreaming in environmental projects.

6. Project managers should be encouraged to use technical expertise in project implementation stages where the procurement of large, specific technical items is expected.

7. The evaluators have also identified several issues which, if resources would allow, UNDP CO could build upon the progress initiated by the project:
   a. finalize the issues of establishing a database where data on fish species and other data collected and analyzed during the project can be stored, shared and continue to be collected beyond the project lifetime (and scope);
   b. continue facilitation to State Agency and other relevant authorities to promote research-based decision-making;
   c. capitalize on current interest in establishing associations and target gender equality which was not addressed in the project by assisting women in local communities to form association, support the development of processing and market of other products from the current economic activity engaged in by the family;
   d. address continual issues of fragmentation in the governance and management of the Issyk-Kyl by continuing to work with the government authorities on the national and local levels for improved, efficient governance.

ACRONYMS

BDFMR	Biodiversity-friendly fisheries management regime
BRC	Bratislava Regional Centre
CAREC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia
CBD	United Nations Convention on Biodiversity
CDR	Combined delivery reports
CDS	Country Development Strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic
CO	Country office
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
DEX/DIM	Direct execution/Direct implementation modality
FAC	Fisheries Advisory Committee
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEF OFP	GEF Operational Focal Point
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
MAM	Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration
MAWR&PI	Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Processing Industry (title of the MAM at project design and inception stage)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTE	Mid-term Evaluation
NEX/NIM	National Execution and National Implementation modality. Both terms refer to basically the same management approach in UNDP but are used in interchangeably due to the fact that prior to 2010, the modality was referred to NEX and after 2010 -- NIM.
PAs	protected areas
PIR	Project implementation review
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPG	Project preparation grant
RBEC	Regional Bureau of Europe and CIS countries
RTA	Regional Technical Advisor
SAEPF	State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry
SRF	Strategic results framework
TE	Terminal evaluation
ToR	Terms of reference
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1. Introduction

This report presents the findings of a Terminal Evaluation (TE) conducted by independent evaluators Silvija Nora Kalnins and Lira Joldubaeva for the UNDP/GEF Project "Strengthening Policy and Regulatory Framework for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Fishery Sector" implemented in the Kyrgyz Republic. This project was the first biodiversity focal area project implemented in the country.

1.1. PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

The main purpose of the evaluation, as described in the Terms of Reference (Annex A) is to assess the achievement of the project results, and to draw lessons learned that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming. The TE will assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the project. It will also evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of project design, implementation, monitoring and adaptive management and sustainability of project outcomes, including the project exit strategy. The evaluation covers the entire project including non-GEF financed components. The particular objectives are:

(i) To assess overall performance against the project objective and outcomes as set out in the Project Document, project's Strategic Results Framework (SRF) and GEF Increment, and other related documents[1];
(ii) To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the project;
(iii) To analyze critically the implementation and management arrangements of the project;
(iv) To assess the progress to date towards achievement of the outcomes;
(v) To recommend the project in improving/updating its Outcomes' indicators;
(vi) To review planned strategies and plans for achieving the overall objective of the project within the timeframe;
(vii) To assess the sustainability of the project's interventions;
(viii) To list and document initial lessons concerning project design, implementation and management[2];
(ix) To assess project relevance to national priorities (including achieving gender equality goals).

The overall purpose of the evaluation is to evaluate the project's impact and relevance in regard to the objectives of the GEF Biodiversity focal area, and to learn lessons regarding the design nd implementation of future similar projects.

1.2. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

As a terminal evaluation, the focused on the project's success in achieving results, paying more attention on the output-level to those activities not covered by the mid-term evaluation in September 2010 (i.e. more detail in assessment of progress was concentrated on activities after September 2010, follow-up actions to the mid-term evaluation recommendations and subsequent management response). Additionally, lessons learned and recommendations in the TE were

[1] Such as UNDP KGZ Country Gender Mainstreaming Strategy

[2] Including achieving gender equality goals, setting gender-sensitive indicators and ensuring gender balance among the project's beneficiaries and target groups

formulated, in light of the fact that only one month remains for project implementation. In other words, the range for recommendations was on improving sustainability of the benefits from the project and on lessons learned to be applied by UNDP and/or GEF in future programming

The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the "*GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy*". The evaluation took into account GEF evaluation objectives at the project level: (i) promote accountability for the achievement of GEF objectives; including the global environmental benefits; and (ii) promote learning, feedback and knowledge sharing on results and lessons learned among the GEF and its partners.

This terminal evaluation provides evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful. The evaluators followed a participatory and consultative approach. The evaluation team used the following methods to collect information and data:

- *Evaluation Matrix*: The evaluation team used the evaluation matrix included in the ToR and expanded it with questions which were used as a basis for extracting information from documents reviewed and for conducting interviews (Annex F).
- *Documentation Review:* Conducted by the evaluation team throughout the assignment (Annex E).
- *Interviews:* Conducted with key stakeholders (Annex C). The interviews were partially structured by application of the evaluation question matrix. All interviews, except with the RTA, were conducted in person in Kyrgystan from 12-17 December 2012.
- *Field Visit*: As per the ToRs, the evaluation included a 7 day mission to Kyrgyzstan (Annex B), which included a site visit to Lake Issyk-Kul.
- *De-briefing and addressing comments:* The final day of the mission to Kyrgystan (17 December) was devoted to a de-briefing and presentation of initial findings and recommendations. The evaluators took note of comments made by those represented at the meeting. In addition the draft report was circulated for comments upon its completion and, as per the TORs. The evaluators received comments from UNDP CO, representatives of SAEP and had an interview with the RTA -- all of which were addressed and incorporated into the final report in January 2013.

1.3. STRUCTURE OF THE EVALUATION REPORT

The report follows the structure provided in the ToR whereby the project description and development context is provided in section two of the report. The section is followed by a section detailing findings of the evaluation which is divided into findings on: i) project design/formulation; ii) project implementation and iii) project results. The section under project implementation for "monitoring and evaluation" and " UNDP and Implementing partner implementation" and under project results for i) overall results, ii) relevance; iii) effectiveness and efficiency; iv) sustainability; and v) impact. A section with conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned completes the report, along with relevant annexes.

2. Project description and development context

According to the data of the National Statistics Committee of the KR, GDP of Kyrgyzstan in 2011 amounted to 273.1 mln Kyrgyz Soms or $5.919 mln, while GDP per capita made up 1,127 USD (World Bank, 2012)

However, the low economic development and high poverty level are still limiting equitable access of population to natural resources, safer livelihoods and sound environment.

Limited natural resources of Kyrgyzstan do not allow relying on their capacity for achievement of rapid and environmentally safe development. The existing management and use practice of natural resources is inefficient for ensuring necessary economic growth. Moreover, there is a risk that it can lead to depletion and loss of natural resources and to the environment being made unsuitable for future generations.

Despite their significant degradation natural ecosystems of Kyrgyzstan, especially in places of active human activity, they did not lose their self-regulation capacity of biological resources regeneration processes, as well as for maintenance of environmental balance. However, their further exploitation in the same mode will certainly lead to the loss of their self-regulation and regeneration capabilities.

The total area of Kyrgyzstan is 199,100 km². Almost all of its territory is occupied by mountains - more than half of Kyrgyzstan's territory is located at higher than 2,500 m. and only 1/8 of the country is located lower than 1,500 m. above sea level.

Despite the fact that the Kyrgyz Republic is a small country in terms of the occupied territories, it is among the 200 priority eco-regions of the planet. This is due to the highest concentration of species of flora and fauna. So, there are about 2% of the world's flora and 3% of the world fauna, while the area of Kyrgyzstan is only 0.13% of the world's land, and distance from the sea, where, as we know, the largest number of species exceeds 3000 km.

Forest areas occupy 864.9 thousand ha or 4.32% of all of the country territory. The state forest lands managed by SAEPF make up 3,279.3 thousand ha (16% national territory), including 1,130.5 thousand ha of forest pastures, 9 thousand ha of arable lands, 14.8 thousand ha of hayfields, 1.2 thousand ha of orchards and gardens and 4.5 thousand ha of farmstead.

Livestock breeding (sheep breeding, horse breeding, dairy livestock breeding) is traditionally the main area of agricultural activity of Kyrgyz farmers.

Specially protected nature territories (SPNT) occupy 1,189,360 ha or 6.3 % of the national territory. They include: 10 state reserves (600.4 thousand ha), 9 state nature parks (287.2 thousand ha), 10 forest, 23 botanical, 19 geological, 2 complex and 14 hunting sanctuaries with a total area of 301.4 thousand ha.

Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic establishes the main principles of environmental and natural resources management. They served as a basis for 26 main environmental laws and more than 150 by-laws, which regulate natural resources and environment management, as well as legal relations between users of natural resources and the state.

Environmental legislation identifies management procedures and modalities, such as rules and standards for the use of resources, monitoring and control of environmental pollution, and environmental impacts' assessment of planned activity, environmental standards and expertise.

However, the majorities of laws have a framework character, weak financial grounds and lack implementation mechanisms.

A number of environmental sectoral strategies, concepts and programs have been developed based on the country development priorities and implementation of obligations under the international conventions, to which Kyrgyzstan has become a party since 1991. The country signed 13 global environmental conventions and 3 protocols. Currently, the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is the main authority under the Law responsible for implementation of the relevant state policy and ensuring coordination between various state and non state actors as pertains to environmental activities being undertaken in the country.

The existing funding scheme of environmental activities is inefficient for many reasons. First of all, it is because of many ministries and agencies are responsible for the environmental activities, which have no common vision and proper coordination and promote narrow departmental interests.

In this regard, the need for establishment of a cross-sectoral coordinating mechanism becomes relevant. This authority could ensure more effective implementation of Kyrgyzstan's obligations under the international conventions and agreements, and identification of the country priorities in environment and sustainable natural resource management area.

Kyrgyzstan ratified the UNCBD in 1996. NBSAP was developed in 1998 by Ministry for Environmental Protection with the support of GEF via the World Bank. The NBSAP was developed within the context of the UNCBD objectives and was structured around key issues addressed in articles 7-19 of the CBD. NBSAP was not approved by the Government and therefore was not supported by government funding. According to the last peer review success of the NBSAP is 30.3%, i.e. management of biological diversity of the Kyrgyz Republic is unstable (4^{th} National report on biodiversity, 2008)

Currently the SAEPF is revising its NBSAP and preparing the 5^{th} National report on biodiversity. It is recognized that during previous years not much progress was made in the area of biodiversity conservation. However there is a willingness to be more transparent and clearer in the future; a new NBSAP for the next 5 years is being prepared and it will be approved by the Government once it will be finalized. This basis for developing this new NBSAP will include the new concepts and lessons learned from biodiversity conservation related projects as well as given fishery project.

2.1. PROJECT START AND DURATION

The originally planned duration of the project was 4 years. The project was signed on 26 February 2008 and was scheduled to conclude March 2012 (as in Project Document and PIMS). However, upon the recommendation of the mid-term evaluation a no-cost extension was conducted and the project was extended until 31 December 2012. Further, in order to ensure that the terminal evaluation be conducted and the final activities for a workshop to secure sustainability of project outcomes be completed, the project was extended for an additional month and will close on 31 January 2013.

2.2. PROBLEMS THAT THE PROJECT SOUGHT TO ADDRESS

According to different sources there are only 10 among the 27 fish species in Lake Issyk-Kul, which are indigenous. Out of the 10 indigenous species, 5 are endemic. Out of the introduced

alien fish species Pikeperch and Bream established well in Lake Issyk-Kul, while Sevan trout and Whitefish need human support to maintain their populations. Pikeperch endangers endemic species with its predation, while Bream grazes on the developing eggs of Chebak and Chebachok. Chebak, Chebachok, Marinka and Naked Osman are those endemic species, which are endangered. Out of them Marinka and Naked osman had already no trace in Lake Issyk-Kul.

By tradition, the fish stock in Issyk-Kul served as food security for the local people. Even during the Soviet times, when state company controlled the fishing on the lake, local people had access to fish through informal cannels. From the beginning of 1990s the official control loosened over the legal/illegal fishing and the financial conditions of the families also worsened. Therefore the fish in the lake served not only as food security but also as a source of income to cover daily and seasonal expenses. However according to public opinion the real threats to the fish fauna of the lake are those, who poach and trade in larger quantities.

More important problems were the absence of any fisheries management and no controlled protection of fish resources. Conservation strategies for many indigenous species were lacking.

This was the main reason for the implementation of the UNDP/GEF Project No. 00058610 (PIMS No. 3217): ‘‘Strengthening policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into fishery sector’’. Since 2008, the activities of this project are of critical importance in fostering cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder support for regaining control over illegal fisheries and non-authorized introductions of alien fish species.

Since formulation the project, which identified the key issues that would be addressed and the risks of the project implementation, there new risks have risen such as the moratorium establishment and the Rainbow Trout cage farms growth, that could jeopardize the implementation of the project as well as fish stocks in Lake Issyk-Kul. These risks were noted in the inception report and Mid-term evaluation report. The moratorium was established in 2008 on the basis of the Degree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 7 “On measures to preserve and increase fishery stock in the Issyk-Kul , Son-Kul lakes and other water basins of the Kyrgyz Republic” signed on January, 2008 in order to ensure optimal conditions to preserve and increase the fish stocks in indicated lakes.

2.3. IMMEDIATE AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The main goal of the project was to conserve the globally significant biodiversity of Kyrgyz lakes. The objective was to strengthen the policy and regulatory framework to integrate requirements for endemic fish conservation into the fishery management regime.
The project was designed to produce two outcomes:

1. Strengthened systemic and institutional capacity for biodiversity friendly fisheries management regime for Kyrgyz lakes, to be realized through the following outputs:

- a biodiversity friendly fishery management regime (BDFMR) developed and tested at Lake Issyk-Kul
- the capacity to deliver an implement the BDFMR is strengthened
- a financial mechanism for the implementation of the BDFMR is in place
- awareness and support of biodiversity friendly fishery management

2. Sustainable fisheries demonstrated that contribute to the conservation of endemic fish species and improving livelihoods, to be realized through the following outputs:

- alternative supplies to meet market demands and propagation for re-stocking of lakes with endemics
- a strategy to achieve control and reduction/eradication of introduced alien species for Issyk-Kul is developed
- alternative livelihood program that supports the transition of individuals and businesses away from activities that threaten endemics to activities in support of sustainable fisheries management
- direct assistance to support conservation of the endemic fish species of Issyk-Kul
- an information and knowledge product management system

2.4. BASELINE INDICATORS ESTABLISHED

The baseline indicators established under the project are reflected in the table below:

Goal	Indicator
Objective of the project : To strengthen the policy and regulatory framework to integrate requirements for endemic fish conservation into the fishery management regime	Productivity / population size of endemic fish species(Leuciscus schmidti, Leuciscus bergi, Schizothorax pseudoaksaiensis issykkuli, Gymnodiptychus dybowskii) showing continuing trend of significant increase by end of project.
	Ratio of endemic to non-endemic species: significantly reduced number of alien species by end of project, particularly those in direct competition or predating on endemics.
	Newly established set aside area (fishing moratorium)
	Reduced fishing effort directly attributable to changes in livelihoods within fishers
Outcome 1 **Strengthened systemic and institutional capacity for biodiversity friendly fisheries management regime**	Effectiveness of policies and mechanisms for biodiversity friendly fishing
	Effectiveness of a management bodies (esp. FAC = Fisheries Advisory Committee) to deliver the biodiversity friendly regime in the long-term perspective
	Percent of fisheries under control and monitoring
	Percent endemic lake fish species harvested
Outcome 2 **Sustainable fisheries demonstrated which contribute to the conservation of endemic fish species and to improve livelihoods**	The degree of the effectiveness of the breeding and restocking programs in sustain the viable endemic fish population
	Average license period for fishing rights for a particular plot, assigned to one user/fishermen
	Volumes of commercial fish supply produced from artificial ponds (higher volumes will contribute to reduction in required fishing effort)
	The trend of changes in the levels of introduced alien fish species showing significant results
	The trend of employment of local people in livelihood fishing (a dropping trend will signify a relaxation of the catch loads)

2.5. MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

Fisheries and lake stakeholders including Government, communities, academia and private sector were involved in project preparation and implementation. The key stakeholders involved in the project are:

- Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve Directorate
- State Agency on Environment and Forestry
- Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration (Fishery department)
- Academy of Sciences (Issyk-Kul Biological Station)
- Private fish factories

Presently, the major government stakeholders are the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) Office and Biosphere reserve Directorate within the SAEPF, the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration (MAM) and newly established organization the State Inspection on Technical and Ecological Safety.

The principal agency controlling access and activities around the Lake is the Directorate General of the Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve. The directorate is subordinated to the SAEPF, and receives government funding in the form of staff salaries and social taxes, as well as keeps 50% of entrance and user fees earnings. The overall mission of Biosphere Reserve is to protect the natural heritage of Issyk-Kul ecosystems with considering of sustainable development of region, provide the monitoring of the environment, in terms of fish diversity conservation Biosphere reserve is responsible for controlling and inspection of fish stock using.

State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) is responsible for policing, environmental protection and monitoring, the provision of EIA, including the introduction of biological objects and justification on catch and using of wild flora and fauna, and permitting and licensing on catch for scientific, reproduction and recreational purposes and for commercial using.

The Fisheries Department in MAM is responsible for the artificial propagation of juvenile fish, catching, sectoral control, and the economic aspects of fisheries as well as quotation which is issued on the basis of the recommendations of the Academy of Sciences and permission of SAEPF.

The State Inspection on Technical and Ecological Safety was established in the January 2012 in order to split the control and licensing functions. The functions of inspection and control in fishery sector taken from SAEPF's inspection were delegated to the Department of ecological safety under the Ecotechinspection.

The Issyk-Kul Biological Station (under the Academy of Science) is responsible for monitoring of fish stocks and providing scientific advice.

In fact, the overlapping and duplicating of functions in fishery sector is still continuing to a certain extent. Except these mentioned state agencies, there are more than 10 state organization interpose in inspection and control of fishery sector.

2.6. EXPECTED RESULTS

The project was expected to result in global environmental benefits through stabilisation and long-term conservation of identified endemics within the productive landscape of the Kyrgyz lakes, notably *Chebak Leuciscus schmidti, Chebachok Leuciscus bergi, Marinka Schizothorax issyk-kuli, Naked Osman Diptychus dybovskii*, and 7 more endemic fish species. For these species, the project strived to demonstrate effective management of an altered ecosystem incorporating breeding and re-stocking, as well as the transfer of livelihoods away from exploitation and impact of endemics toward continuing market supply under a sustainable management regime. Replicable lessons and best practices for fisheries management reform have been gathered within the discrete, over-exploited fishery which is threatening the survival of endemic species and disseminated across the region, or similar situations particularly in other countries in transition which are attempting to embrace good governance practices and more effective management of their natural resources.

Table 1. Project expected results

Objective	Outcomes	Outputs
To strengthen the policy and regulatory framework to integrate requirements for endemic fish conservation into the fishery management regime	Strengthened systemic and institutional capacity for biodiversity friendly fisheries	A biodiversity-friendly fishery management regime developed and tested at Lake Issyk Kul
		The capacity to deliver and implement the biodiversity-friendly fishery management regime is strengthened
		Financial mechanism for the implementation of the biodiversity-friendly fishery management regime is in place
		Awareness and support of biodiversity-friendly fishery management
	Sustainable fisheries demonstrated which contribute to the conservation of endemic fish species and to improve livelihoods	Alternative supplies to meet market demands and propagation for re-stocking of lake with endemics
		Strategy to actively control and reduce/eradicate introduced alien species for Issyk Kul is developed
		Alternative livelihood program which supports the transition of individuals and businesses away from activities that threaten endemics toward activities in support of sustainable fisheries management
		Direct assistance to support conservation of the endemic fish species of Issyk Kul
		Information and Knowledge Product Management System

The State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry and UNDP Kyrgyzstan signed the project on 26 February 2008. The total budget of the project is 1,380,000 USD of which 950,000 USD is funded by GEF and 430,000 USD by UNDP. An additional in-kind contribution totally 2,690,000 USD was expected to be contribute by:

- the Government of Kyrgyzstan (specifically the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Processing Industry (MAWR&PI)) in the equivalent of 335, 000 USD for activities to be implemented under the fishery branch development in the period of 2006-2010, as well as 665,000 USD in material investment in project by sites, facilities, labour resources of the Ton Fishery plan and labour resources of the MAWR&PI;

- the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) from three different initiatives related to the UNDP/GEF project on "Pilot Integration of Water Focused Economic Tools of Environmental Management in Issyk-Kul Basin and its further replication in Central Asia (500,000 EUR), "Follow up Legal Capacities Building for the Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve

(80,000 EUR) and "Follow up Piloting of Public-Private Partnership Based Sustainable Livelihood Model in the Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve (650,000 EUR).

3.1. Project Design/Formulation

When the project was originally formulated for GEF submission in 2004, it was titled "Conservation of endemic ichthyofauna of the Issyk-Kul lake basin" which was changed to the current title "Strengthening Policy and Regulatory Framework for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Fishery Sector" and submitted in the Project Identification Form in 2007. The change in titles and thus also adjustment in focus is probably due to the changes in GEF strategic priorities from one GEF period to another since the PDF-A was listed under strategic priority SP-2 Mainstreaming BD in Production. During the PIF and for MSP approval and implementation, the project was defined under GEF Strategic Program SP-4 : Strengthening the Policy and Regulatory Framework for Mainstreaming Biodiversity, which was under the second strategic objective of GEF "To Mainstream Biodiversity in Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors".

3.1.1. ANALYSIS OF LFA/RESULTS FRAMEWORK (PROJECT LOGIC, STRATEGY; INDICATORS)

The project logic as represented through the problem tree reflected on Page 14 of the project document and developed through the Strategic Results Framework is clear. The strategy encompasses approaches and activities to deal with all three of the overarching concerns identified at the time of formulation:
- systemic and institutional barriers;
- absence of alternatives to illegal fishing;
- no strategies on re-stocking of endemics and controlling alien introductions.

The main issue, however, as identified at the mid-term evaluation is the problems in the SRF " the current Results Framework lacks internal logic, with the Objective representing an enabling condition for the achievement of sustainable fisheries management that favors the conservation of endemic species. Impact targets for fish stocks are also over-ambitious, since the project will do well just to establish self-sustaining stocks of endemic species, let alone achieve annual catches of 40 tons/year". In addition to the issues noted by the MTE, at final term one can see that interdependence of the different targets on the outputs of another was very difficult for this project to conquer. Too many outputs and indicators were based on the adoption of the BDFMR which affected the project's logic in the actual circumstances under which the project had to deliver.

In retrospect one might conclude that one of the largest design issues of the project can be in the decision to focus the project on the policy and regulatory framework. This level of intervention requires very strong support on the national government level. Fragmentation of institutional set-up makes this kind of initiative difficult and it seems this was the case for Kyrgyzstan at the time. The only other option under the GEF strategic priorities, however, would have been to place this project under the strategic priorities of protected areas which the Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve Administration as the main partner. Considering the 13 directors which have changed over the course of 11 years for the BR, it is highly likely that the project would have faced the same institutional-level struggles in any case.

3.1.2. ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS

Risks and assumptions were identified within the project document both with a tabulation of four risks (political will, difficulty of removing/controlling alien species, difficulty in targeting non-endemics without endemic by-catch, inability to sustain level of cooperation of various entities) and within the SRF where risks and assumptions were listed for each indicator. Although the risks that were the largest stressors at the project implementation stage were not anticipated at project design phase, there is enough information in the project document from which one can determine that there was an attempt to thoroughly assess the various risks which could develop.

3.1.3. LESSONS FROM OTHER RELEVANT PROJECTS INCORPORATED INTO PROJECT DESIGN

The particular project had no lessons to learn from other biodiversity projects (besides enabling activities) implemented in Kyrgyzstan, as this was the first of its kind at the time. The project design, however does follow the lessons from other UNDP/GEF projects in its attempt to work on several levels and integrate the interests of more than one sector. The project design plans the inclusion of many stakeholders, including representatives from the public and private sectors, the NGO community, academia and local communities.

It is not clear, however, whether the project design considered the many challenges faced in working on the policy and regulatory framework level. Lessons on the difficulty of reaching results framed around changes in policy (and using indicators which require Government endorsement) were certainly available in the region (for UNDP) and, presumably also within other GEF projects at the time.

3.1.4. PLANNED STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

The stakeholder participation planned under the project was thorough and included both a list of the stakeholders to be involved (which identified 13 different stakeholder groups and their various interests in the project) and a Stakeholder Participation Plan. The degree of involvement and participation planned and expected under the project document seems to have been ambitious considering the competing interests, the planned duration (and available financial resources) of the project, as well as the limited capacities of the small project team designed to implement such intricate partnerships.

The six organizations with varying levels and foci of control over fisheries identified during project identification were more than ten in number at inception. A seemingly important plan to expand the project's capacity development assistance to the BR beyond fisheries was never built explicitly into the design of indicators.

The cooperation with fishers themselves became more complicated with the moratorium and thus official interpretation of this partner as a poacher from the legal perspective. A substantial proportion of the Stakeholder participation plan was built on the delivery of key outputs such as the BDFMR and forming the Fisheries Advisory Committee that were never fully realized.

3.1.5. REPLICATION APPROACH

The replication approach within the project design was focused on two areas of focus:
i) the unique opportunity to demonstrate effective management approach to a relatively small-scale aquatic production landscape within market and cultural constraints;
ii) the evolution of good governance practices to show how cross-sectoral, integrated management can be achieved.
The project document outlined various stages during which different activities were proposed for replication. It was a gradual approach at key points in project implementation which was built upon the main outputs anticipated during the project.

However, lakes in Kyrgyzstan vary in their ecological situation, including the presence or absence of endemic fish species and degree of fishing pressure, so that biodiversity-friendly management plans will need to be adapted to these different situations.
Source: MTE Report, 2010

3.1.6. UNDP COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

The comparative advantage for UNDP under this project was strong at the design stage and has only increased since then. With the project so highly dependent on policy development, the additional capacities that can be provided by the country office to balance the initiatives to be generated locally on site at Issyk-Kul are evident.

UNDP's comparative advantage for the GEF lies in its global network of country offices, its experience in integrated policy development, human resources development, institutional strengthening, and non-governmental and community participation. UNDP assists countries in promoting, designing and implementing activities consistent with both the GEF mandate and national sustainable development plans. UNDP also has extensive inter-country programming experience. **Source: gefweb.org**

UNDP's dynamic approach to programming, which can provide added synergy and support to environmental issues via governance, economic development and gender issues are also important for this project. The operational level input of UNDP in projects also is important in securing transparent recruitment and procurement practices, appropriate conduct and professional auditing.

3.1.7. LINKAGES BETWEEN PROJECT AND OTHER INTERVENTIONS WITHIN THE SECTOR

The Project identified linkages to work with the Biosphere Reserve Administration and also NGO activities were cited to be linked with, although there was no direct reference to specific organizations or activities. As identified during the MTE, a 2,6 million USD FAO trust fund project “Support to Fishery and Aquaculture Management in the Kyrgyz Republic” became the most relevant project linking to the UNDP/GEF project.

Linkages with the interventions listed as parallel financing during project design were not fully realized as can be seen in the co-financing table under section 3.2.4 Project finance.

3.1.8. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

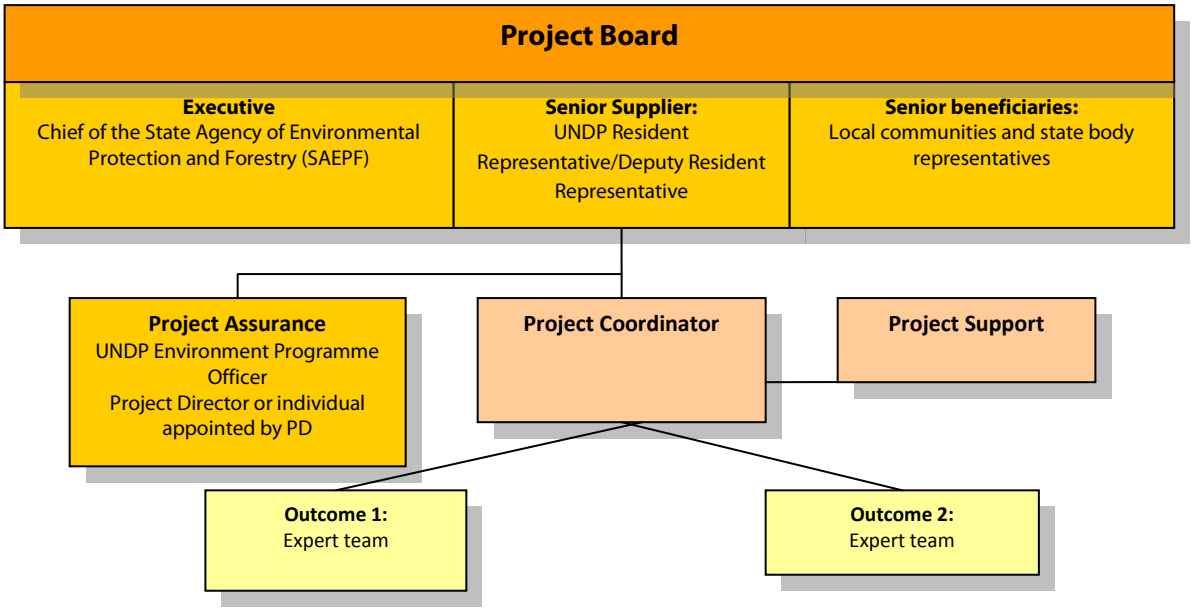
The management arrangement defined at the project formulation stage were clear and logical as far as what the project intended to set out to due. Selecting the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry as the executing agency for the project was essential to bring to fruition the policy level outcomes expected as a result of the project. The State Agency was to provide accommodation and facilities to support the project and it did so, but providing the facilities on location at Issyk-Kul for the project management unit located there. The project also designated a strong role for project activities at the local level, identifying a role both for the Directorate General of the Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve and for the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. All three of these players continued to have an important role in the management of the project at the implementation stage.

3.2. Project Implementation

The project faced many challenges of a political and policy nature during implementation. Political instability in the country, frequent changes of government representatives at the State Agency of Environment Protection as well as the Fishery department of the Ministry of Agriculture, changes in Directors of the Biosphere Reserve Administration, and the introduction of a moratorium for fishing on the Issyk-Kul all had an effect on the ability to move certain (in some period all) project activities forward.

The project management arrangements initially at project signing (25 February 2008) offered a standard implementation-execution arrangement under the national execution (NEX/NIM) modality. In the second half of 2010, in an attempt to improve project operational effectiveness hindered by political instability and corresponding fluctuations in institutional capacities from the Government side, the UNDP CO was granted a Fast Tracking Procedure (FTP) which enabled us the office to place all projects under DIM modality. This helped projects to maintain uninterrupted and smooth implementation of the activities. The change in modality made it possible for the project management team and UNDP to move forward on project activities, however this meant that additional effort had to be made on part of UNDP CO and project management team to secure ownership at the national level.

Figure 1: Project Organization structure



The project organizational structure, as proposed by the project document and endorsed at the inception stage is reflected in Figure 1 above. However, due to the political instability and frequent changes in the upper management of the SAEPF, the Project Board was never formally established. In reality, the project was managed primarily by the project team and the UNDP CO. The SAEPF was active in the project assurance role designated for it above only through annual review of Combined delivery reports (CDRs) prepared by UNDP.

The project manager and UNDP CO representatives attempted to use existing structures to include the SAEPF in the implementation process of the project. The project manager mentions reporting to annual collegiums of all state agency departments, as well as reporting directly to the acting chief of the SAEPF whenever the individual was receptive to such meetings. There are at least three individuals from the UNDP CO who assist to ensure quality assurance of the project implementation. The UNDP Environment Programme Officer who has direct responsibility for ensuring the Project Assurance role in all environment projects in Kyrgyzstan; the UNDP Programme Analyst for the Environment for Sustainable Development and Disaster Management Unit of UNDP who fulfils an advocacy function and the Dimension Chief for the Environment and Disaster Risk Management Programme who provides support in operational issues to project teams.

The expert teams did not take the form of a team of experts under each outcome as visualized on the organization structure. In reality, both outcomes were directly organized and managed (and each expert also) by the project manager. The project had a project manager who was very good at establishing and maintaining a network of experts around him and contributed to the project both on the content and management level.

3.2.1. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

The ability to continue focusing on results in an environment that has been very different from that upon which the project was originally built is one of the strengths of this project and its management team. Despite the inability to receive formal endorsement of the BDFMR which was at the centre of many project targets, the project team set out finding ways to implement and test the individual components contained within this plan which would continue to reach the objectives of the project to increase ratio of endemics in Issyk-Kul. With a limited capacity to impact national policy during the periods of political instability, the project changed focus on local-level initiatives which could impact the lake fish populations effectively without waiting for policy interventions.

Due to the moratorium, the focus of the project obviously had to adjust as this was a circumstance that directly affected the forms of interventions that the project could apply to succeed in reaching a more biodiversity-friendly management regime. The impact of control and monitoring increased under the moratorium imposed and thus the project adapted to include more support for these functions. The Biosphere Reserve data from its patrolling provides additional feedback to further diversify the M&E methods listed in the project document:

Table 2: Data from Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve patrolling group in a 11-month period

Number of patrols	13 field visits
Number of poachers	27
Number of confiscated nets	1 367
Length of nets confiscated and destroyed	135 km (1 net is approximately

	100 m)
Boats confiscated	37
Fines collected from poaching activities	50 427 soms
Administrative acts filed for illegal activities around the lake	4 200 soms

The project management team, together with the UNDP CO, made excellent use of the mid-term evaluation to adapt the project activities to the issues raised in the MTE report. A MoU with FAO was drafted and signed - project activities were adapted to complement FAO co-management principles for management of Issyk-Kul. The project responded to a new threat of caged trout farming identified and provided their expertise to assist the SAEPF to prepare legislation on this issue which will be adopted in early 2013. There was also an attempt to address the MTE recommendations of revisiting the SRF, however changes to the framework were met with some opposition from RBEC.

3.2.2. PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

As discussed in 3.14, the project document included a range of partnerships to be established which were perhaps too ambitious, especially in the conditions where the national-level support for and involvement in project implementation weakened. In the absence of formal structures for discussing and reviewing project activities, such as the Project Board, Fisheries Advisory Committee and planned working groups, the project team concentrated on partnership building on-the-ground, in the local municipalities and communities.

Due to the location of the project management team, the excellent networking skills of the project manager at the local level and the receptive attitude of the various stakeholders dealing with fishery issues, the partnerships at this level flourished. The project manager not only built partnerships directly with stakeholders such as individual fishers (under the moratorium - poachers) and pond farmers but he also forged partnerships among the different groups, thus establishing a more sustainable and beneficial interrelationship among them. A good example of such a partnership is between the Academy of Science's researcher, who has been equipped with a monitoring device for water quality, who shares his knowledge and expertise with the pond farmers, who can use the information on water quality to improve the productivity of their ponds as well as help to identify new places conducive to pond farming. Similarly partnerships have been formed through the project between international (Hungary, Finland) and national researchers which have resulted in co-authored papers and reports.

Upon the recommendation of the MTE, the project team also reinforced cooperation with FAO (Project GCP/KYR/003/FIN: Support to Aquaculture and Fisheries Management in the Kyrgyz Republic) by establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in May 2011 which was to provide a framework for cooperation and facilitate collaboration between the two UN agencies and their respective project. This step is considered as a very positive development in ensuring no duplication of actions. This certainly contributed to increasing the effectiveness of activities conducted by both projects around Issyk-Kul. The FAO representative interviewed during the evaluation spoke well of the cooperation established with the UNDP/GEF project. It is also apparent, however, that there are different viewpoints between the two project managers on the strategic vision for Issyk-Kul, as well as on some topical issues at present (risks of cage farms, moratorium, recreational vs. commercial fishing use of the lake). Although these differences of opinion are understandable, the concern on part of the evaluation is that these opinions are both backed by scientific evidence and are disseminated among the same stakeholders (fishing association members, pond farmers, etc) within a short time frame. It would have been beneficial

for the sustainable development of the Lake Issyk-Kul to attempt to reach common objectives and strategic direction on fisheries during the lifetime of the co-existence of these projects.

3.2.3. FEEDBACK FROM M&E ACTIVITIES USED FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

The project was designed with several M&E activities and the evaluators have found that the project team has made good use of these stages in project development for an adaptive management approach. As described already in 3.2.1 above, the project made excellent use of the mid-term evalaution as a method in improving its management. Similarly, there is evidence of M&E missions conducted by the UNDP CO Programme Officer which have produced follow-up actions to consider in adjusting the project plans. These missions seem to have taken place at strategic times during project implementation, such as one at the end of 2012 which provides suggestions for the project team of both a strategic and operational nature:
- advice on updating status reports (documentation) of project progress (results);
- flagging issues related to ensuring sustainability of project outcomes;
- support to adjust AWP to include additional assistance to improve the impact of activities at the pond farms (i.e. facilitate expansion of pond farms to include eco-tourism activities which will provide diversification of their services as well as income) and the patrolling teams from the Biopshere Reserve (support increasing their visibility through the provision of uniforms).

In addition to the above, the Inception Report was also used to re-assess the conditions under which the project was operating. Although it was drafted later than planned by the project document, a more thorough approach was necessary due to the moratorium which had been placed on fishing activities in the lake.

3.2.4. PROJECT FINANCE

The accounting and financial system used by the project team is satisfactory for the management of this project. The system used is the ATLAS system and it produces accurate and timely financial information for the project team. The budget is distributed under three outcomes:
Outcome 1: Strengthened systemic and institutional capacity for biodiversity friendly fisheries management regime;
Outcome 2: Sustainable fisheries demonstrated which contribute to the conservation of endemic fish species and to improve livelihoods; and
Outcome 3: Project management.
A financial audit was carried out in 2009 and all issues were in order. At the time of the audit, however, there was no review of the assets undertaken and thus it would be recommended by the evaluators, that the UNDP CO takes special care in reviewing assets and their proper handover at the completion of the project in January 2013.

It is evident from the TE that the co-financing (parallel financing) identified at the project design stage is different from the situation at implementation. A more accurate estimate of the co-financing at time of the project final evaluation is reflected in Table 3 and in the description of the separate items under the Table.

Table 3: Co-financing at time of project final evaluation

Co-financing (type/source)	GEF Grant financing (mill. US$)	Government & NGOs (mill. US$)	Implementing Agency (UNDP) (mill. US$)	Total (mill. US$)

	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Actual	Actual
Grants	0,95	0,95			0.43	0.43	1,38	1,38
Loans/Concessions								
• In-kind support			1,0	1,0			1,0	1,0
• Other			1,69	16,21			16,21	16,21
Totals	0,95	0,95	2,69	17,21	0,43	0,43	18,59	18,59

As reflected in Table 3, the co-financing of the project which was identified for the project at its inception stage actually increased over the course of the project and additional funds were leveraged for the activities related to the management of the Issyk-Kul and its biodiversity:
- all commitments of UNDP Kyrgyzstan of $ 0,43 million financial contribution and in-kind contribution from Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration (former MAWR&PI) of $ 0,33 mill USD on the implementation of the fishery programme at the country level and $0,66 mill USD as manpower, material and equipment of the Ton Hatchery plant was duly met;
- Additional funds of $0,33 USD were leveraged from the Turkish Agency of Cooperation (TIKA) for new equipment of the Ton Hatchery plant;
- The Issyk-Kul Biosphere General Directorate (via the Government and SAEPF) has provided in-kind contribution to the project in office space in Cholpon-Ata city and staff time for project implementation which has not been calculated in financial terms;
Additional funding sources were identified within the following and itemized under co-financing in the above table:

- FAO Project "Support to Fishery and Aquaculture Management in the Kyrgyz Republic" (GCP/KYR/003/FIN) with the budget of $2,2 million;

- Asian Development Bank has developed the Issyk-Kul Sustainable Development Project with a grant amount of $13,5 million. The project aims to improve urban infrastructure in area of Issyk-Kul municipal infrastructure, including water supply; sewerage and sanitation; solid waste management; and upgrading of communal facilities; and improve service delivery through better enterprise resource management. Under this project three main cities in Issyk-Kul oblast (Balykchy, Cholpon-Ata, Karakol) were granted by the portable laboratory for water quality and sediments sampling and vehicles. In Balykchy city, this equipment were donated to the Biosphere reserve General Directorate;

- The Japan Agency on Cooperation has contributed a stationary laboratory for the water quality monitoring in the value of approximately $ 0,11 million to the Biosphere reserve General Directorate.

The co-financing at project design committed by Regional Environment Center for Central Asian (CAREC) was provided in part with a contribution to project implementation within CAREC's Environment Management Programme under the on-going project “Integrating PES and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) in Kyrgyzstan“ with a budget of $ 0,5 million. There is only one Payment for Ecosystems Services scheme in Kyrgyzstan, which is still under elaboration, focusing on improved land management and water resource management the Chon-Aksuu watershed on the North shore of the Issyk-Kul lake.
Thus, with additional funds leveraged over the course of the project lifetime, the actual co-financing has increased to contribute to improved management and biodiversity of the Issyk-Kul and reached $ 17,21 million -- almost 6 times more than the committed co-financing of $2,69 USD at project start.

The table below reflects the financial expenditures for the project versus the planned expenditures. As one can see, there are fairly large differences between the planned and actual for year 2009 and 2011 which is explained by the political situation in the country at the time which restricted the ability to implement the project as expected.

There is a significant increase in the proportion of management costs from total expenses incurred each year. Over the entire lifetime the total management costs reach 20% of the total costs as opposed to the 10% that were expected for the project at project initiation. This indicates that the project implementation has not been as cost-effective as expected. Although this disparity can partially be explained by the need to keep the project running during the periods when full implementation has been stalled, a doubling of management costs seems excessive.

Table 4: Status of objective/outcome delivery

Annual project expenditure in USD	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Outcome 1:	82 038	**67 941**	153 000	**33 126**	180 000	**163 182**	97 000	**88 588**	104 824	**100 838**
Outcome 2:	23 635	**23 521**	217 000	**212 243**	201 500	**197 736**	113 400	**89 398**	105 727	**104 096**
Management costs	45 975	**45 862**	35 700	**44 909**	54 807	**66 704**	53 189	**57 772**	52 115	**46 921**

If one reviews the total expenses over the course of the project, then 22% more was spent on Outcome 2 than originally planned. Only 62% of what was originally planned spent on Outcome 1. It is logical that the percentage of budget total spent on the outcome dedicated to strengthening the enabling environment has reduced, taking into account the deliverables that were not achieved due to the fact the BDFMR was not adopted. Although there have been no activities accounted for under the Activity 2.3 *Alternative Livelihood program which supports the transition of individuals and businesses away from activities that threaten endemics toward activities in support of sustainable fisheries management*, the total expenses for this outcome have increased beyond what was originally planned in the project document primarily to the large procurement for strengthening capacity of partners for implementation patrolling, monitoring and propagation of fish stock of Lake Issyk Kul, especially endemics species.

3.2.5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION: DESIGN AT ENTRY AND IMPLEMENTATION

One of the important items that should be included in the monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the project is the Strategic Results Framework. Although the MTE identified the need to " review the project's Results Framework and assess progress against objectives, outcomes and outputs according to proposed indicators, as well as review risks and assumptions" which was indeed done by the PMU, the source of verification of the SRF were neglected. This seemingly not too significant detail has led to key problems at point of final evaluation which are directly related to monitoring. Although the project activities were adjusted to the moratorium, methods

for verification which were designed in the absence of a moratorium are in some cases obsolete to the current situation.

Table 5. Illustration of issues related to non-alignment of monitoring methods to actual project situation

Sources of verification in project document	**Issue**	**Monitoring plan adjustments which could have been (were) made during implementation**
Catch statistics	No catch statistics due to complete moratorium on Issyk Kul from January 2008	- development of a targeted monitoring plan for estimating endemic species presence in the lake - application of biodiversity indices to show changes achieved during project lifetime
Fisheries Management statistics	Management entity never established	same as above
Reports to Steering Committee	Never functional	- establishment of informal body to
Survey of markets	Not conducted	- survey of markets integrated in project work plan.
Records of breeding plants	Tor station is not functioning due to shortage of resources. Cooperation with private breeding plant impossible due to operational considerations.	(records on breeding conducted by project available)
Endorsed BDFMR	BDFMR was not endorsed	(separate list of draft legislation and regulatory acts prepared by the project available)
Minutes of FAC	FAC never formed	(information on the individual capacities raised and activities organized to deliver the biodiversity-friendly regime (sanitary fishing, propagation, etc.))

Thus, although the project may have reached specific outcomes and indicators, due to a lack of appropriate monitoring methods introduced to systematically collect evidence, the evaluators had some difficulty in full assessment of results.

The ratings for Monitoring and Evaluation in the project are reflected in the table below.

1. Monitoring and Evaluation	*rating*
M&E design at entry	S
M&E Plan Implementation	S
Overall quality of M&E	S

Although the evaluators have identified weaknesses in the M&E implementation, the project can be commended for its use of M&E for adaptive management and thus, the overall rating is ***satisfactory***.

3.2.6. UNDP AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNER IMPLEMENTATION/EXECUTION COORDINATION, AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES

As discussed in 3.2. above, the project implementation arrangements presented challenges in finding ways to maintain coordination of activities with the SAEPF, which was identified as the party with the executive role. The current director at the SAEPF is the seventh during the project

lifetime and the current state secretary was appointed merely one month ago. While the higher level officials changed frequently, good cooperation was established on the operational level (in the preparation of changes to legislation) with the heads of the international relations, and the strategy and policy development departments. It must be noted, that for most of the project lifetime there has been no particular representative at the SAEPF devoted to biodiversity issues since such a position was established only in 2011. This certainly also limited the degree to which the SAEPF was able to substantially contribute to the project.

The project manager was active in implementing the project firsthand in the project area in Issyk-Kul and his hands-on, participatory and direct management approach restricted his capacity to dedicate similar attention to the national-level counterparts located, for the most part, in Bishkek. In addition, due to time lost in a slow project start and as a consequence of the national-level partner not being able to participate in forming the Project Board and participating more directly in project oversight, the project manager became accustomed to having to make decisions without consultation or advice. In the interests of achieving results and delivery, the transparency in the implementation of the project was compromised.

As a recommendation at the MTE stage, the evaluator suggested to "identify a credible mechanism for moving forward on those components currently delayed, including the hiring of a technical expert with significant management experience to follow up on activities". This expert was to deal with awareness raising, education and communications, alternative livelihood development, NGO partnerships, knowledge and information sharing and management, overall monitoring and reporting and report to the project manager directly. Although there was an expert hired for a short-term consulting on developing a communications strategy for the project, a technical expert of the kind suggested by the MTE was never recruited. The TE evaluators understand the challenge in finding an individual to fit all the requirements identified by the MTE for such technical expertise. Nonetheless, it is clear that the project lacked a strategic approach in those areas that were not the project manager's expertise. Project implementation may have been able to address some of the neglected project outcomes through timely mobilization of targeted consultants. Considering the personal dynamic and authority of the project manager in the area, the project could probably have benefited from short-term technical advice on the sustainable livelihoods and information management components.

The operational issues related to project implementation seem to have had the same problems as most projects, in that the project-level managers felt recruitment and procurement procedures slowed the pace and the ability for the project to attract the necessary goods and services at the time they were needed (one procurement was state to have taken 8 months). The issue of seasonality in biodiversity projects is certainly a considerable challenge as many tasks need to be conducted within the spring and summer months, however with proper planning measures, this can be accounted for both by the project management and UNDP CO. The project manager noted that a lot of time was spent on developing technical specifications for items which he admitted not to have the proper technical knowledge. In the future, it would be advisable for UNDP CO operational staff to encourage UNDP project staff to use technical experts for drafting such specific technical specifications. The use of technical experts at the early stage of procurement (and also including them to help evaluate and assess the offers) can help to improve the value for money.

2. IA& EA Execution	***rating***
Quality of UNDP Implementation	S
Quality of Execution - Executing Agency	S

Overall quality of Implementation / Execution	S

Since the design of the project, UNDP Kyrgyzstan has undergone some introduced some structural changes in its office to improving the coordination of the effectiveness of its results and streamlining its programming. The initiative seeks to improve the capacity of key government counterparts to be able to participate in project implementation, including the organization of regular forms of reporting on environmental projects to alleviate the task of the SAEPF to sit separately on almost 10 different project boards.

3.3. Project results

Based on a desk review of project documents and on interviews with the PMU and key beneficiaries, this section presents the findings of the terminal evaluation concerning the project results. The evaluation of the results are structured around the GEF five major evaluation criteria; which are also the five internationally-accepted evaluation criteria set out by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. These are: *Relevance*, *Effectiveness*, *Efficiency*, *Results/Impacts* and *Sustainability*:

- *Relevance* relates to an overall assessment of whether the project is in keeping with its design and in addressing the key priorities to ensure that the obligations under the UNCBD are met and in keeping with the donors and partner policies, as well as with local needs and priorities.
- *Effectiveness* is a measure of the extent to which formally agreed end of project results (outcomes) have been achieved, or can be expected to be achieved.
- *Efficiency* is a measure of the productivity of the project intervention process, i.e. to what degree the outcomes achieved derive from efficient use of financial, human and material resources. In principle, it means comparing outcomes and outputs against inputs.
- *Results/Impacts* are the long-term results of the project and include both positive and negative consequences, whether these are foreseen and expected, or not.
- *Sustainability* is an indication of whether the outcomes (end of project results) and the positive impacts (long term results) are likely to continue after the project ends.

3.3.1. OVERALL RESULTS (ATTAINMENT OF OBJECTIVES)

The activities, overall of the project were concentrated in four different forms of interventions which looked at strengthening capacities in the country (most particularly for the Issyk-Kul) to manage fisheries in a biodiversity-friendly manner, thus conserving the biodiversity of the particular environment:

- *expertise in policy and regulatory framework* through development of amendments to existing legislation for improved management functions;
- *training and capacity strengthening* through a variety of specifically targeted seminars and workshops. These included hands-on, practical activities such as sanitary fishing, placement of artificial nests to collect alien species threatening the populations of endemic fish, and others These activities in some cases were innovative for Kyrgyzstan and were led by the project and its experts with the view of the continuity to be maintained by other institutions (stakeholders);
- *technical support* through provision of equipment;

- *awareness raising* through seminars, publications and other initiatives (competitions and others) prepared to increase knowledge of the public on biodiversity-friendly management of Issyk-Kul.

The technical support provided by the project through the procurement of equipment in order to assist the institutions involved to attain the objectives for implementing the biodiversity-friendly fishing regime constitutes a considerable part of the assistance. In order to better understand the contribution of this assistance to obtaining the overall results of the project, the table below was prepared.

Table 6: Itemization of technical support provided in accordance to results achieved

	Strengthen conservation of endemic fish	Capacities for control of poachers	Increased effectiveness of breeding and re-stocking programs	Improved research capacities	Increased volumes of fish supply produced from artificial ponds
Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve Directorate	By implementation program reducing of alien fish species about 10 000 kilo of pike perch and bream coughed and delivered to social institution in Issyk Kul oblast (orphanages, hospitals and others) Also collected 380 nests with fertilized eggs of pike perch.	9 sets of uniform and equipment was provided to Biosphere reserve for patrolling fish stocks	125 600 larvae of naked osman, 550 000 larvae of marinka	Support in joint with Academy of Science and Fishery Department monitoring of fish recourses (fuel, DSA)	
Academy of Sciences				Special equipment for measuring of water quality, laboratory equipment, Support in joint with Fishery Department and Biosphere Reserve monitoring of fish recourses (fuel, DSA)	Special equipment for measuring of water quality, which as well used for measurements of water quality in ponds for improving their productivity.
Department of Fisheries	3 boats with engine for monitoring		Support in experimental artificial propagation of *Chebak Leuciscus schmidti* (520 000 larvae stocked into the lake)	Support in joint with Academy of Science and Biosphere Reserve monitoring of fish recourses (fuel, DSA)	
SAEPF	Assistance in improving legislation for conservation endemic fish species	6 dural boats with engines, uniforms and equipment for patrolling group			
Pond				Pond farmers	Carp policulture fish

Association				capacitated through series of Training including one international study tour.	seeds 3 Stern crushers

Many of those interviewed reflected the view that the project was obtained good results more than many other projects due its concentration on specific assistance on activities that can be sustained beyond the project by interested parties (monitoring, patrolling, research). The factor of being able to experiment with different techniques (artificial nesting, introduction of predatory fish in pond farms to minimize rubbish fish counts, for instance) not previously applied, was a great opportunity which would not have been possible to do with other funding. The practical results of the project of increasing the number of endemics over the short period of time was considered by many one of the main successes.

3.3.2. RELEVANCE

The project was designed to address the problems related to the reductions in the populations of five endemic fish species (and other commercial species) in Lake Issyk-Kul which had reached unsustainable and dangerously low levels and under the threat of extinction. Among the problems connected to this issue, the following were named in the original project document: low levels of artificial reproduction and stocking of endemic species; high levels of predation by other species; and massive increase in fishing effort over recent years.

Kyrgyzstan ratified the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in August 1996. The country has prepared and submitted, in line with its commitments under the CBD, a National Biodiversity and Action Plan (1999), and Third and Fourth National Report on Conservation of Biodiversity of the Kyrgyz Republic (2006 and 2008, respectively).

Table 7. Relevance of the project to CBD

Articles from the CBD / Project Outputs	Article 6: General measures for conservation and	Article 7: Identification and monitoring	Article 8: In-situ conservation	Article 10: Sustainable use of Component of Biological Diversity	Article 11: Incentive measures	Article 12: Research and Training	Article 13: Public Education and Awareness	Article 17: Exchange of Information	Article 21: Financial Resources
1.1.Biodiversity friendly fishery management regime (BDFMR) developed and tested at Lake Issyk Kul	X		X						
1.2. Strengthened capacity to deliver and implement the BDFMR						X			
1.3. Financial mechanism in place for the implementation of BDFMR									X
1.4. Awareness and support of BDFMR							X		
2.1. Alternative supplies to meet market demands and propagation for re-stocking of lakes with endemics			X						
2.2. A strategy for active control and reduction/eradication of introduced alien species for Issyk Kul developed	X	X	X	X		X			
2.3. Alternative livelihood program which supports the transition of individuals and businesses away				X	X				

from activities that threaten endemics toward activities in support of sustainable fisheries management									
2.4. Direct assistance to support conservation of endemic species of Issyk Kul			X						X
2.5. Information and Knowledge Product Management System						X	X	X	

The project is very relevant to the CBD and pays special attention to articles 7, 8 and 12 through the various activities designed to improve the fishery management of the Lake Issyk-Kul and the increase of endemic species in the lake.

The target area, as well as its main beneficiaries are the project outputs also meet the functions of the UNESCO-MAB framework which is important due to the project location -- within the territory of the Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve The biosphere territory “Issyk-Kul” was created be the Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and was included into the UNESCO World Network of bio reserves within the framework of the “Human and biosphere” in 2002. The MAB programme deals with:
- identifying and assessing changes in the biosphere resulting from human and natural activities;
- studying and comparing the dynamic interrelationship between ecosystems and socio-economic processes;
- ensuring human welfare and a livable environment
- promoting exchange and transfer of knowledge on environmental problems and solutions, and fostering environmental education for sustainable development.
Within the strategy developed by the project in its design one can witness that the approach is looking very much at looking at the ecosystem within the context of the human activities, the dynamic interrelationship between the ecosystem and socio-economic processes as concerns the fishery aspect. There were plans described within the stakeholder participation plan (Annex 7 of the original project document) to broaden the scope of the project impact beyond fisheries, assisting the Biosphere Reserve Administration "in building capacity to identify other threats and impact to the lake ecosystem beyond fisheries issues", however this proposed expansion of project scope never occurred.

Country priorities

Environment sustainability and natural resources management are one of the pillars in the Country Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for the 2011-2014 (CDS) includes the need for protecting Issyk-Kul. The status of an endemic ichthyofauna of the Issyk-Kul was specifically mentioned in CDS. The country priorities for the mid-term period will focus on a need to expand the protected territory, capacity building, conservation of biodiversity in productive landscapes, as well as to develop a strategy for biodiversity conservation.

In order to develop measures for the conservation of the Issyk-Kul Lake unique ecosystem, the Governmental decree No74, 26 February 2008, the State Commission for Development of Concept and Programme of the Sustainable Development of "Issyk-Kul" Ecological and Economic system was formed. Given Commission has developed the Concept (approved by GoKR on February 10, 2009. № 98) and The Programme of the Sustainable Development of "Issyk-Kul" Ecological and economic system (approved on May 8, 2009 № 281).

The concept of sustainable development of ecological-economic system "Issyk-Kul" is considering the development of the Issyk-Kul region as an ecosystem as a whole, in which the high quality of the environment, economic growth and rising living standards are provided.

The relevance and development of concepts and prerequisites of the Sustainable Development of Eco-economic system of the Issyk-Kul dictated by the need to bring the socio-economic development of the Issyk-Kul region in line with the principles of sustainable development and the development of an ecosystem approach. This need is caused by the analysis of external and internal threats to the region's development.

According to the Presidential decree of the Kyrgyz Republic "About measures for preserving and increase in fish inventories in Lakes Issyk Kul, Son-Kul and other reservoirs of the Kyrgyz Republic" from January 10, 2008 of No. 7, for the purpose of further development of fishery in the republic the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic approved “The development program of fishery of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2008-2012” which has to be provided on the sectoral level by Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of Kyrgyz Republic.

Thus, it is noted, that the issues around Issyk-Kul and its important role in biodiversity, economic activity and regional development of the Kyrgyz Republic remains highly relevant over the course of the project.

UNDP priorities

This project remains highly relevant to the UNDP priorities in Kyrgyzstan. At the time of formulation, the project was part of the UNDAF Outcome (2005-2010) and the corresponding CPAP outcome outlined below:

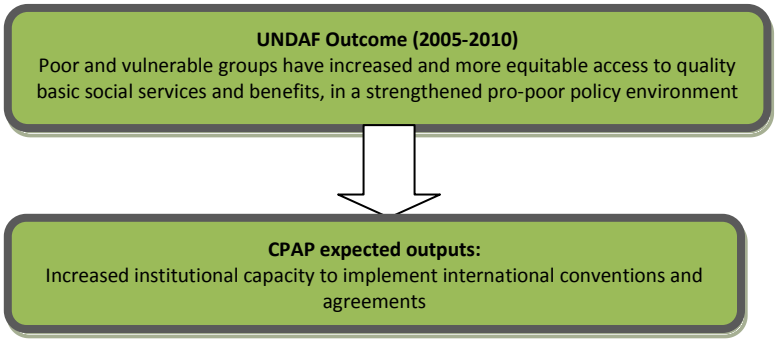


Figure 2: UN overarching objectives for the UNDP/GEF project

The project is also in line with the latest UNDP Country Programme Document (2012-2016) developed in cooperation with the Government whereby outcome 6 targets to improve the sustainable management of natural resources and increase the percentage of people have equitable access to climate resilient eco systems services. As both of the UNDP programme periods demonstrate, UNDP's approach in Kyrgyzstan is to tackle environment issues by through improved good governance and promoting resilient communities. The current project under evaluation follows this same strategy in its design. UNDP has further demonstrated its interest and commitment to this project as a priority by adding assistance to the project area and support to sustainable livelihoods with the GEF Small Grants Programme and the Poverty & Environment Initiative project.

GEF incrementality

The project is highly relevant in terms of demonstrating well the GEF incrementality. Almost all stakeholders interviewed noted that "before this project, no one was paying attention to the issue". Researchers noted that the degree of loss of endemics and the increasing pressures from illegal and unsustainable commercial fishing had reached critical levels. The GEF project undoubtedly

came at the right time when the moratorium increased pressures both on the environment and on the communities surrounding the lake which are dependent on its resources. The various activities that the project conducted for increasing the capacities of the local level authorities and communities made a valuable contribution that would not have been possible without the GEF support. The role of the UNDP/GEF project for raising awareness and knowledge on the biodiversity aspect of fisheries is a key element of the added value of GEF in Kyrgyzstan. It was noted by the FAO project manager that the project did indeed succeed in ensuring that the issue of biological values at Issyk-Kul is now considered by the Government and local authorities among other aspects when discussing future decisions on the management of the lake's resources.

3. Relevance	Relevant (R); Not relevant (NR)	Rating
Relevance		Relevant

3.3.3. EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

Effectiveness considers the extent to which expected outcomes and objectives of the project achieved. As discussed under 3.2.5 above, one of the problems for the evaluators was the limited availability to access precise and reliable data (sources of verification) for establishing which outcomes were met. Nonetheless the following information was tabulated on the indicators reached in the project:

I. productivity/population size of endemic fish species *Chebak Leuciscus schmidti and Chebachok Leuciscus bergi* increased through evidence gathered from artificial propagation where propagated and released into the Lake more than 1 million of larvae of different endemics species;

II. reduction of number of alien species reduced as demonstrated about 10 000 kilo of pike perch and bream caught and delivered to social institution in Issyk Kul oblast (orphanages, hospitals and others) Also collected 380 nests with fertilized eggs of pike perch, each nests consists from 250000 till 500000 fertilized eggs.; As results endemics species started being regularly registered in places where they had disappeared 7-9 years ago.

III. reduced fishing effort directly attributable to changes in livelihoods of farmers was recorded through interviews conducted with fishermen in the area, who noted: i) a diversification of source of income to include cattle-breeding, fruit farming and subsistence gardening; and ii) a reduction in the percentage of income coming from the fishing from a previous 90% dependence on fish to a current 20% dependence;

IV. the degree of effective of the breeding and re-stocking programs has increased as a result of the project through training and re-stocking activities (and technical equipment provided to the BR) conducted by the project but to be maintained by the BR Administration from revenue generated from BR entrance fees. The estimated re-stocking rates annually will be: 50 000 -70 000 larvae of Naked osman and 180 000 – 200 000 larvae of Issyk Kul marinka ;

V. effectiveness of policies and mechanisms for biodiversity friendly fishing has been achieved through the preparation and approval of the following: i) draft law "On the prohibition of importation, production, transport, purchase, sale and use of products and fishing nets, including monofilament, with lead weights (weight) that have a negative impact on human health and the environment in the Kyrgyz Republic ". The coming law intends to be aimed on conservation of fish stocks, particularly the most valuable and endemic fish species in Kyrgyz Republic; ii) Governmental Decree "On measures to ban the breeding of rainbow trout cage farms and their transfer from the lake and ponds that are connected to Lake Issyk-Kul"; iii) amendments in Law "On sustainable development of the "Issyk-Kul" ecological and economical system. Particularly, on fishery related topic it is suggested to add in article 16 - "… restoration and propagation of

endemic and endangered fish species" and article 17 – "…prohibited activity cage farms with breeding and growing of rainbow trout or alien species (cage farms as major biological pollutant of the lake, where the cage farms are located) are unnatural for the lake, and the use of monofilament knotless nets for catching fish;
VI. - the effectiveness of management bodies to deliver a biodiversity friendly regime was reached through the development of individual and institutional capacities for sustainable management by increased knowledge of fishermen, increased skills and technical capabilities of the BR and regional fishery department of the Ministry of Agriculture to control poaching activities, individual capacities to conduct sanitary fishing and propagation activities, increase in technical and research capacities of Academy of Science to monitor changes and trends in the biological regime of Issyk-Kul, increase in the ability for interested parties to establish organized bodies (associations) for the management and sustainable use of the Issyk-Kul resources;
VII. - increased volumes of commercial fish supply produced from artificial ponds with an increase from 10 to 28 pond farms (volume increased from 2-3 tons to 60 tons);
VIII. - trend of changes in levels of introduced alien species as recorded through implementation of sanitary fishing program, first year of implementation of program overage weigh of caught pike perch was 25-30 gram, and all fish was slim that show us that was not enough food for them, next years due the quantity of pike perch reduced overage weigh achieved 150-200 gram.
This information, although not a methodological approach to collecting data on the success at reaching the project target indicators, does at least provide evidence that the project has achieved the changes it has been designed to address during formulation. For further reference, Annex G provides more detailed information on the many outputs reached by the project over the years.

As far as outputs, however, the project has not succeeded in meeting some of them. Annex G lists no activities which have supported 2.3. alternative livelihoods nor to support output 2.5. in relation to an information and knowledge product management system. For 2.5 it is noted that the activities were directed at the regional level through the UNDP regional web portal caresd.net. It is highly regrettable that these two project outputs were not fully realized and indicates some problems in strategic implementation since both these elements were an important part of the success of the project impact at the level of replication (2.5) and at the level of support to the socio-economic stressors in the local communities.

There was a considerable amount of awareness raising and educational material generated under Outcome 1 for supporting the management of a biodiversity-friendly regime. The sources for determining the activities were partially extracted from the draft BDFMR document prepared under the project and other reports in the project. The activities were driven a lot by the project manager. However, the strategic approach to this awareness raising could have improved the effectiveness of these activities. A more formal, analytical approach through the review of stakeholders, gaps in knowledge and current views, and linking these to the objectives to be achieved through specially-formulated messages (and subsequent activities) could potentially have increased the impact of the project's communication.

One of the most effective interventions of the project is the study visit organized to Hungary. This visit was mentioned by several of those interviewed as an impetus which led to development of their capacities. Nine pond farmers participated in the study visit and information from this visit helped to make their businesses more sustainable. Before this tour, a lot of their work had been unsuccessful, but information gained on the visit showed simple ways to improve productivity. In three years, the pond farm association grew from 11 to 28 members, 50 to 200 ha. The linkages between the Kyrgyzstan and Hungarian researchers which began under the study tour continue beyond the project scope.

Risks and risk mitigation management are an issue that effects the effectiveness of a project. The below table itemizes the risks identified at project start-up until the final evaluation. In reviewing this table, it is unclear why risks identified in the project document were not entered and monitored through the ATLAS risk log.

Some of the risks catalogued, in comparison to others, which are missing -- seem insignificant. Some risks have been obviously logged at the moment they have occurred, which places some doubt on the capacities of staff to conduct risk identification and analysis or lack of awareness of risk analysis as a project management tool. One of the requirements of the GEF PIR is to review and update risks which should take place at least once a year in July-August. There seems to be no such pattern followed in the management of the risks.

Some of the risks that have certainly had an effect on the project and perhaps needed to have more attention paid to this effect and the subsequent consequences on the project are: the moratorium on fishing introduced on Lake Issyk Kul, the challenges of the seasonality of the project and the complicated issue of procurement/recruitment delays in this respect.

" ...[The Project team was] responsive to the needs of SAEPF (as the beneficiary of the project) and made efforts to distinguish the project goals and objectives, taking into account that the range of stakeholders in the project is sufficiently wide (pond farmers, academia, public, local communities, government agencies and local authorities, etc.)"
- D.Bekkulova, Head on Environmental Strategy and Policy, SAEPF

One of the main comments from stakeholders is the high responsiveness of the project to the stakeholder needs, which is very effective way at reaching results, but may not always be efficient, since a high responsiveness can lead to the less structured planning of activities.

4. Assessment of Outcomes	rating
Effectiveness	S
Efficiency	MS
Overall Project Outcome Rating	S

3.3.4. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

Despite the inability to take on project execution in a formalized structure of a Project Board, the ownership of the project at the national level was rated as high by the evaluators from the feedback generated through interviews. Officials at the SAEPF value the importance of the project and its ability to produce results. The SAEPF is expected to continue to support the policy and regulatory changes developed under the project. It expressed commitment to the sustainable development of Issyk-Kul and the importance of strengthening policy making through proper environment impact assessment. The Agency appreciated the project's support in helping to narrow the conflict between the different, sometimes competing interests of biodiversity and fishery on Issyk-Kul.

The ownership at the local level is considerable. Through the awareness raising and capacity development initiatives of the project, the people living and working around the lake have a greater understanding of the effect they have on the fish resources. An association of pond farmers has been formed through the assistance of the project and witness the benefits of such an association. The sharing of lessons learned with one another, providing support and stability in

solving problems, lobbying for local-level legislation, as well as sharing clients. From the success of the association of pond farmers and from increased understanding of the ability to improve their influence in an organised group, one community which has 30 fishermen, has also determined to establish an association. The community plans to apply collectively for a license and then collect money from earnings to continue the propagation of endemic species and other activities to secure sustainable fishing. This ownership on the small-scale, but community level is very important.

3.3.4. MAINSTREAMING

The project design looked at mainstreaming socio-economic issues through the sustainable livelihoods component, however besides activities around supporting and increasing productivity in pond farming, other options were not explored. Governance is a key issue that was tackled well on the local level, but minimum capacities were raised on the system-level. During project formulation the knowledge and experience of UNDP in good governance was expected to support successful implementation of the project. Although circumstances did not permit rapid progress, some improvement in approaches to a more responsible environment governance was made and the evaluators hope that the new project under development for work in PAs will continue to build on the Issyk-Kul fisheries project.

The gender perspective has been embraced in a standard approach through inclusion of women in capacity development training and four of 28 pond farm owners are women. The only female interviewed during the mission admitted the changes in socio-economic pressures on the family resulting from the need to balance income formerly incurred from fishing with other sources. There were no specific project activities targeted for alternative livelihoods for women, who were formerly engaged in processing fish or selling it on the market.

3.3.5. SUSTAINABILITY

The necessity to take a complex approach to resolving the problems to be addressed around Lake Issyk-Kul and the endemic species was built into the project design. There was a widespread group of stakeholders which were identified at the design stage, and the project management team was successful at keeping the stakeholder groups at the local level broad. The various stakeholders became crucial partners in establishing ownership, and in the long-run -- in securing commitment and responsibility for the many activities.

> "The problem is not ecological, particularly. It interlaces closely with social problems of oblast, way of life of residents of coastal villages, their mentality and social consciousness."
>
> **-Excerpt from Research of Households and Communities, 2005**

On the issue of sustainability of the project results, the SAEPF representatives, in their comments to the evaluation report, expressed that they saw a continuing role of the UNDP Country Office and UNDP Environment Programme to facilitate in the implementation of the detailed plan for further action on the biodiversity conservation (including endemics), fisheries management, etc., and discuss possibilities for follow-up to the project.

Risk description	Risk Type	Date identified	Management Response Mitigation Strategy*	Rating	Updated
Political will insufficient to adopt Fishery Management regime in effective framework		Prodoc	Relevant national and local authorities responsible for FMR adoption will be actively involved in project implementation through participating in Steering Committee and awareness raising campaign.	Low	No
Alien species are not easily removable or controllable		Prodoc	Sound scientific basis used for design of measures aimed at alien species removal and control. Robust ecological monitoring will enable timely response to adjustment of species control activities. Selection of highly qualified project staff and experts (local and international).	Moderate	No
Impossibility to target non-endemics within endemic by-catch		Prodoc	Promotion of selective breeding of endemic and non-endemic species through pond culture.	Low	No
Level of cooperation with various entities (media, schools, communities, etc) is not sustained		Prodoc	Project specifically addresses maintenance of regular close links with appropriate institutions and media ad delivery of targeted awareness-raising campaigns.	Low	No
Revision of Country Development Strategy	Political	09.2008	Review project activities/work plan in line with changes identified after Inception Report		09.2008
Sudden decision of project Admin/Finance assistance to leave project	Operational	09.2008	Initiate selection process of new assistant. Provide project with backstopping admin/finance assistance from other UNDP environmental projects until new person is hired.		09.2008
Instability in the country	Political Security	04.2012 05.2009	Following FTP approval for UNDP KGZ, project is temporarily implemented under DIM modality. Continue close cooperation and coordination of project activities with main stakeholders and national project partners at central and local levels. Implementation of planned activities will stop until situation in the country stabilizes.		08.2012 05.2009
Delay of project activities implementation due to head of National Partner not appointed yet	Strategic	08.2010	In FTP modality UNDP may directly implement projects.		12.2011
Massive distribution in Issyk-kul of rainbow trout escaped from cages which became additional predatory fish in Lake eco-system.	Environmental	10.2009			
Government restructurization may limit number of national stakeholders	Political	12.2011	Project should advocate its interventions vis-a-vis new government		12.2011
Delay of project activities implementation due to possible change of Government as well as structure of the Cabinet due to Presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan July'09	Political	05.2009	As soon as new Gov't or Cabinet structure is approved, necessary to start negotiations on continuation of implementation of planned activities.		05.2009
AFA's leave for maternity leave will slow down project implementation	Operational	08.2009	Start recruitment asap. Ensure AFA is backstopped by another project.		10.2009

*Referred to as Mitigation strategy in project document and as Management Response in ATLAS.

Financial resources

The evaluators have rated the financial sustainability of the project results as **likely**. All main stakeholders interviewed who have specific functions related to the continuation of the activities initiated and/or strengthened by the project have expressed their financial commitment and ability to continue these initiatives. The Biosphere Reserve Administration is expected to increase its revenue with the introduction of a new automated gate system in 2013 and the Director estimated that park revenue from entrance fees will increase to 20 million soms (~420 000 USD) revenue annually (currently 10 million) and the BR see the control and monitoring of poachers as one of their main duties in the safeguarding of endemics. The salaries of the staff of the BR are funded by the Government and there is a possibility to receive additional funding for small-scale projects from the National Conservation Fund. The current BR Director is also highly motivated to attract additional funding from resource mobilization activities, similar to that which has been accomplished in the past year receiving a grant from the Japan Agency of Cooperation itemized under section 3.2.4. Project finance.

	2011	2012	2013 (planned)
Annual amount from entrance fees (thous.soms)	8 607,7	10 930,1	20 000,0
Salaries for administration staff (Gov't funded)	17 staff members	17 staff members	Planned to be increase
Additional funding for small-scale projects to support BR from National Conservation Fund (thous.soms)	n/a	2 000, 0	Tbd

Similarly, the Academy of Sciences expects to continue its work on monitoring the ichthyofauna in the Issyk-Kul and the pond farmers sustainability in securing activities is guaranteed by their interests in improving their profitability, which seems to have a positive trend. The only partner in the project which did not seem convinced of securing financial sustainability of its activities related to patrolling and control of the poachers on the lake was the representative from the regional fishery department of the MAM. However, since there is a degree of duplication in the functions of this regional department on the control and patrol of the lake, the evaluators predict that any lack of financial sustainability to sustain these functions on part of the MAM regional level will be compensated by the other stakeholders with similar tasks.

In addition to the above, the level of recurrent costs for the activities initiated under the project are small (salaries, gasoline) in comparison to the benefits in terms of financial investments in technical support provided by the project. The partners seem grateful for such technical support and appear to have a sense of duty in continuing that for which this support (and relevant training) has been provided. It was also noted by several stakeholders that through the activities conducted together with the project (sanitary fishing, propagation), they have witnessed an impact on the eco-system and they now have the knowledge of simple, cost-effective ways to ensure longevity.

Socio-political

The socio-political sustainability is also rated as **likely**. The effect that the 5-year moratorium has had on the communities in the area, is that it has put additional pressure (not anticipated before the UNDP/GEF project implementation began) to counter a balance between the income that could potentially be generated from fisheries previously, and now. Undoubtedly many still fish under the moratorium, however persons interviewed in the communities around Issyk-Kul

indicated that the percentage of their household income from fishing has dropped in favour of other activities such as cattle-breeding, fruit farming and gardening (subsistence agriculture). Thus, although the UNDP/GEF project did not conduct any activities under the project output geared towards supporting alternative livelihoods (see Annex G: List of all outputs), the imposition of the moratorium conditioned the communities to search for such options regardless of any outside support. A repetition of the entry survey "Research of Households and Communities under the Project on Preservation of Ichthyofauna of the Lake Issyk-Kul Basin" could provide more concrete data on the actual changes in income distribution among the communities.

Institutional framework and governance

The institutional framework is the biggest challenge to sustainability and has been rated "**moderately likely**" by the evaluators. The high level of duplication of functions by those controlling fishing on the lake which existed at the project design stage has not changed.

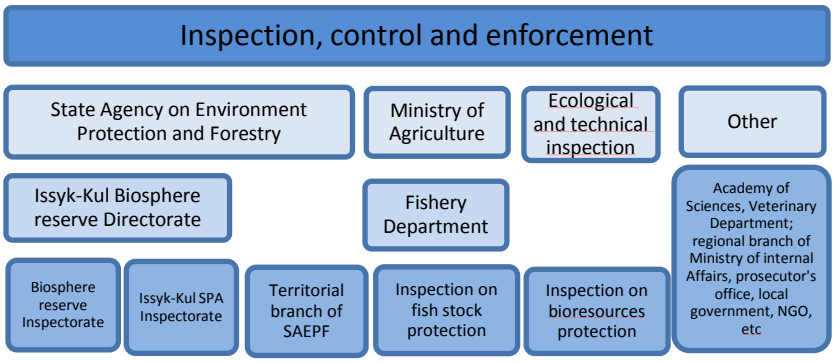


Figure 3 Current scheme of players in control fishing in Issyk-Kul Lake

This picture presents one of very ineffective governance in the fishery sector. There are 17 state and public entities which are currently inspecting the fishing in Issyk-Kul lake. In the long-term this overlapping of roles and responsibilities should be reduced. Although the Biosphere Reserve Directorate mentioned in an interview that each institution has their own territory for monitoring and control, the evaluators could not confirm this. There has been an attempt to improve coordination of patrolling activities with the various institutions involved, but those interviewed felt that the process of coordination reduces efficiency and allows leakage of information to the perpetrators.

Detailed analysis of sectoral regulation on its reasonableness and therefore the rule of law and control (supervision), the balance of positive and negative results of regulatory impacts, excessive red tape, duplication of the corresponding functions by various government agencies, generating difficulties in the implementation of activities in the field of fishery conservation and sustainable production should allow to formulate and, if necessary, make proposals in due course at the appropriate changes and amendments to the current legislation.

The authorities need a systematic approach that can provide a high quality of standard-setting, including for the purpose of increasing efficiency in the control and supervision over the implementation of the legislation as an ineffective regulation unreasonable burden on public bodies function control (supervision) over execution relevant regulations, and to society is quite expensive. Poor quality control, monitoring and surveillance entails higher costs of regulatory compliance for the stakeholders, introduces an element of uncertainty as to the commitment and,

ultimately, reduces the ability of the government to achieve its objectives in the field of regulation, without providing at the same time the interests of society.

Imposition of unnecessary regulatory compliance leads to higher, often unreasonable, costs in ensuring the state measures on the rules control and supervision. Estimating such costs related to the regulation and implementation of the monitoring and supervisory activities the direct and indirect costs are considered, i.e. the costs borne by the government in connection with the implementation of the regulation, and the control and supervision of their proper implementation (equipment, additional personnel and consultants salary, collection and store of information, etc).

The project has made an effort to contribute to improving the institutional framework and governance through the introduction of several improvements in legislation, however the biodiversity-friendly fishery management regime (BDFMR) was never approved. An information system within which the data collected (and analyzed) within the framework of the project was also not established at the BR. This also presents some concern about the ability to have research-based decision- and policy-making in management of fisheries in Issyk-Kul.

There is less concern on the local-level governance. The project has successfully supported the establishment of associations of fisheries (including association of pond farmers) in the target area. The motivation to increase influence in decision-making on the local level through organized governance of communities and businesses is a positive occurrence. Interviews with members of the Lipenka village found that there is interest to form another association which is interested among other things, to establish a community pond farm, as well as to organize a collective clean-up of the lake in their area from micro-film fishing nets. Such tendencies indicate that the fragmentation of the institutional framework at the national and regional levels can be partially compensated by the activities of these small, well-informed communities.

Environmental

Although there is not enough data to determine whether the project has reached its primary objective to halt and reverse the decline in endemic fish species in Issyk-Kul, some evidence provided through sanitary fishing reports show that in the short time of 4 years, there has been some positive change. Despite the fact the BDFMR was not adopted, the work with the various stakeholders around the lake has succeeded in raising individual (and organizational-level) capacities to implement important, separate elements of the BDFMR. The MTE cited the resolution of the issue of caged rainbow trout as one of the critical issues to maintaining stocks of endemic species in the future. The project has succeeded in its final months to push forward a regulation banning caged farming in the lake Issyk-kul. Upon resolving this issue, together with the willingness of partners to continue work on controlling predator fish species, protection of spawning grounds and re-stocking with endemic fish, the environmental sustainability can be deemed **likely**.

Table 8: List of partners responsible for the management of fisheries at Issyk-Kul

Institutions	Inspection, patrolling	Monitoring, research	Licensing, permitting	Quotation	EIA	Propagation	Catching
State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry	Poaching control is provided by Issyk-Kul-Naryn Territorial branch of SAEPF (to be discussed within new government structure)	Monitoring of water quality, fauna and flora	Permitting for commercial, scientific, sanitary, recreation catch, export, re-export, introduction, propagation and stocking	Participation in Scientific Commercial Council	EIA on introduction of flora and fauna species, EIA is formally declared in mandate of SAEPF	Supervision of artificial propagation	-
Issyk-Kul Biosphere reserve Directorate	Poaching control	Monitoring of water quality, fauna and flora	No role	No role	EIA provision in the area of the biosphere reserve	Supervision of artificial propagation. Expected propagation activity in 2013, having project granted equipment	Sanitary catch
Issyk-Kul Special Protected Area	Poaching control	Monitoring of water quality, fauna and flora	No role	-	-	-	-
Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration (Fishery Department)	Poaching control in sectoral sites of commercial fishing	Monitoring of commercial fish stocks	No role	Quota allocation within Scientific Commercial Council on the base of recommendations of the Academy of Sciences	-	Propagation of commercial species	Commercial and sanitary catch
Ton Hatchery plant	-	Monitoring within sector site	-	-	-	Propagation and restocking of commercial species	Commercial catch
State inspection on Ecological and	Poaching and ecological safety	-	-	-	-	-	-

Technical Security	control						
Academy of Sciences (Biological Station on	-	Research, Monitoring of fish stocks and water quality	-	Recommendations for the Scientific Commercial Council on the annual quota allocation	Scientific consultancy	Scientific consultancy	Scientific catch
Ministry of Emergency	-	Monitoring of water quality	-	-	-	-	-
Veterinary Department (MAM)	Fish market sanitary control	-	-	-	-	-	-
Governor Administration	Poaching control (no role according to the legislation, but they do)	-	Veto power - moratorium	-	-	-	-
Territorial Police	Poaching control (no role according the legislation, but they do)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Office of Public Prosecutor	Poaching control (no role according the legislation, but they do)	-	-	-	-	-	-
National Security Service	Poaching control (no role according the legislation, but they do)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office of the President	-	-	Veto power - moratorium	-	-	-	-
Fishermen Association	Poaching control (actually is no role, but it is declared in regulation)	-	Permission for recreation catch	Member of the Scientific Commercial Council	-	No role	Recreation catch
Private commercial fishing companies and fish farms and hatcheries	No role	Monitoring within private site	-	-	-	Propagation and restocking of commercial species	Commercial catch

Ayilokmoty(village head)	Ad hoc participation in actions	-	-	-	-	-	No role
NGOs (Environment related)	Ad hoc participation in actions	-	-	-	-	-	-

At the end of the evaluation mission it was reported that the Government or Kyrgyzstan may allow the testing of torpedo missiles in Issyk-Kul[3]. Considering the negative consequences that marine debris can have on the eco-system and the possible negative impact of military testing on fish populations, the evaluators caution the impact such testing could have on the lake eco-system.

5. Sustainability, Likely (L), Moderately likely (ML), Moderately Unlikely (MU), Unlikely (U)	Rating
Financial resources:	L
Socio-political:	L
Institutional framework and governance:	ML
Environmental :	L
Overall likelihood of sustainability:	L

3.3.4. IMPACT

The project impact is rated **significant**. Already at mid-term, the evaluation recorded significant impact in biodiversity terms -- two species of critically endangered endemic fish (Issyk-Kul Marinka and Naked Osman), one of which was recently thought to be extinct, had been identified in the lake and a few individuals were captured and artificially propagated. At the final evaluation stage there is even more progress as the populations of Naked osman have been reported to have increased, and some fishermen have reported sightings that Naked osman began to move into Juuku river during the autumn of 2012. These indicators provide evidence that the project is achieving its long term objective to conserve the globally significant biodiversity of Kyrgyz lakes.

5. Impact (Significant S, minimal M, negligible N)	Rating
Impact of the project	S

The project has also demonstrated considerable impact in raising the capacities of the main stakeholders involved in the project. These capacities have been raised at the key institutions of the Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve, regional branch of the department of fisheries, traditional fishers, pond farmers, the academy of science and have been directed to actions which will further impact the environment upon closure of the project through:
- improved control of fishing pressures on endemic species in the lake;
- improved monitoring of fish populations, water quality and linking that to decision- and policy-making on management options for the lake;

[3] The testing range located at the Issyk-Kul lake in the mountainous region of Kyrgyzstan, used for testing various types of torpedoes, may be acquired by India for the next 10 years. There is an agreement between the two countries that the Indian armed forces shall have the testing range at their disposal from 2013. The testing range, built during Soviet times was being used till now by the Russian armed forces for testing torpedo engines and aiming systems. India proposed to Kyrgyzstan to modernize the testing range, which is considered as one of the best ranges for testing torpedo weapons. (http://indian.ruvr.ru/2012_12_16/Torpedo-Kyrgyzstan-India/)

- improving the efficiency and resilience (through diversification of practices) of pond farming and thus also securing their profitability in the future;
- improved knowledge of pond farmers, traditional fishers on maintaining sustainable fishing practices.

This project is quite unique in generating impact beyond its scope in several areas. In the spring of 2011 the Prime Minister requested that all laws were to be reviewed in the environmental sector. As a result, the project assisted the SAEPF in conducting an environmental impact assessment on fishery-related legislation (9 Government decrees and 3 laws). The project raised awareness on the socially vulnerable in the region and increased interest to support them through transferring 9445 kilos of predatory and roe eaters fish species (pike perch and bream) which were collected during sanitary fishing expeditions on Issyk-Kul to local orphanages, nursing homes and tuberculosis clinics. This has been noted in materials reviewed by the evaluators not only to support these institutions in lower costs for maintenance but also has improved the nutrition of the residents.

The project also supported partners for further resource mobilization. This served both to complement the project activities and increase the impact which was produced. Thus, for instance, the BR Directorate attracted a 107,000 USD grant through an agreement with the Japanese and received a stationary laboratory to improve their management of the Issyk-Kul.

The partnership with and involvement of the Academy of Sciences has high potential for leading to multiple impacts. Regular monitoring and analysis of the data collected on the conditions of Issyk-Kul will hopefully be linked to decisions made in the future on the moratorium and the establishment of management practices on the lake. Though the academy, such an approach will certainly be shared with other researches at other sites in Kyrgyzstan. Based on the results of monitoring conducted, there is information on changes in the time of spawning, changing ratio between male and female individuals, as well as identification of new species that have appeared in the lake. The MTE noted that five M.Sc. candidates in fisheries and aquaculture management from Kyrgyzstan were studying in Finland and three were expected to continue work Issyk-Kul upon their return (in 2010). Unfortunately, none of these students have returned to work at Issyk-Kul and thus there is some concern on expanding the number of ichthyology researchers active in the area.

In the cases above either the project itself, or the key stakeholders as direct result of the increased capacities gained within the project, have produced impact in addition to that which was estimated by the project. This responsiveness to needs and ripple effect of assistance, is a very positive indicator of this project's success.

4.1 CONCLUSIONS

The project is successful in meeting the main objectives of the UNCBD, UNDP and GEF and the Government of Kyrgyzstan; its relevance is rated relevant. It responds well to those of the UNCBD, the UNESCO-MAB and the GEF increment. The project addresses the related country development objectives and responds well to the needs of target beneficiaries (residents of the area).

The design of the monitoring and evaluation at entry and during implementation is rated as satisfactory. There were problems that evolved due to the fact that the logic of some targets

and their sources of verification in the Strategic Results Framework dramatically changed under the conditions of the moratorium imposed on Issyk-Kul. Nonetheless, the project did its best to ensure proper monitoring and evaluation of the project.

The implementation and execution coordination was difficult in a period of political instability and high level of changes in the officials in the Governmental institutions involved in the project. Despite the inability to reach a functioning Project Board throughout the project lifetime, the project forged excellent coordination through intricate networking on site at Issyk-Kul with the various stakeholders and, with the support of UNDP CO, also on the national level with the SAEPF. Thus, implementation and execution is rated satisfactory.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the project has had many challenges connected not only with the environment within which it operated, but also due to some capacity gaps in the application of specific project management tools such as risk management and strategic-level planning. The project, has however been successful in attaining its objectives (rated satisfactory) and has applied adaptive management to directly respond to the needs of beneficiaries. The moratorium called for innovative approaches to project implementation by the project team, as traditional fishers, who were one of the main socio-economic groups to target, became 'poachers' by law. The project included them in training and skills development such as sanitary fishing which resulted in the increased understanding of this group of the impact of their activities on the lake's resources. Under these complicated circumstances, the project evaluators have evaluated effectiveness (satisfactory) and efficiency (moderately satisfactory) with an overall project outcome rating of satisfactory.

The only major issue which the evaluators have found which will limit the ability to sustain the results of the project is the institutional framework of fisheries. There is a large degree of fragmentation, which a lot of potential for duplication, which places this aspect of sustainability as only moderately likely. Overall, however, the sustainability has been rated as likely due to the high level of ownership with the different stakeholders (pond farmers, traditional fishermen, BR, Academy of Sciences) at Issyk-Kul and their commitment to continue their work with the financial and human resources they have available to them.

4.2 LESSONS LEARNED

Based on the review of documents, interviews, and analysis of the information collected, the evaluation team has identified the following lessons learned:

- The responsiveness of adaptive management of the project management unit in the dynamic environment is a positive lesson to be applied in similar projects. Project implementation in such conditions can be challenging and result in a hit or miss circumstance during which project objectives may be subject to compromise. This project benefited highly from having the same project manager for the lifetime of the project, who provided stability for stakeholders in an otherwise changing environment. The evaluators would also like to note the difficulty for a project manager to embody the various pressures for management skills, technical expertise and good ability to communicate with a variety of stakeholders, especially in GEF projects, where environmental issues require very specific knowledge. One of the key elements to the success of this project despite the various pressures is the fact that the project manager has been excellent in all three aspects -- management, technical and communication.

- The mid-term is an important stage in any project and the mid-term evaluation and management responses to their recommendations are vital. The mid-term evaluation report provided key recommendations which were responded to, and follow-up on very thoroughly by the project management team. The final evaluators, however would like to note that the fact that, during the review of the RRF, the sources of verification were not revisited and aligned together with the objectives, targets and up-to-date knowledge at the mid-term, crippled the project's ability to shape its reporting to provide data at the end term.

- Actions conducted under the project have been closely linked to specific findings and research conducted in the course of the project. Even training have followed up on specific recommendations stemming from reports generated. In this way the project has directly linked activity to needs of the stakeholders studied.

- The Project has a strong background in protection, monitoring, management and scientific-based applications towards the Issyk-Kul eco-system (fish). The application of the precautionary principle is important for all management, planning and restoration activities concerning biodiversity protection. The Project offers good examples of careful assessment of approaches and management practices.

- The review of existing practices in other jurisdictions can be beneficial in stimulating people to act and to realize untapped potential. It is beneficial to exchange information, methodologies and approached with similar initiatives worldwide. The project demonstrated such success in the initiated cooperation with Lake Balaton in Hungary. Individuals from Issyk-Kul participating in this study tour have brought back the experience from this tour and applied various lessons witnessed during the visit.

- Coupling nationals with international experts has been successful in not only providing quality reports well-connected and based on the current, local situation, but also in providing an opportunity for nationals for raise their capacities in research and expertise.

- The project is exemplary in establishing an intricate network of cooperation among different stakeholders around Issyk-Kul. By increasing connectivity between people representing different sectors and interests (research, pond farmers, traditional fishers), the risks to secure the sustainability of project results decreases, as there is more than one player to pick up the 'ball' if one or another fails (i.e. the continuation of activities beyond project lifetime more likely). In addition, combining these representatives in common activities and fora has stimulated replication of successful activities from one group to another (i.e. the success of pond farming has motivated traditional farmers to form their own association and diversify their activities to include pond farming).

- UNDP CO has not utilized to the best capacity the opportunity to showcase results from the project to increase visibility of UNDP on a more global level. There are lessons learned and publication materials (including a film prepared by the project) which have been distributed through the Bratislava Regional Center.

Nonetheless, the project has a number of interested stories which could be professionally prepared for circulation via UNDP RBEC (Zoran Stefanovic) and the UNDP CO Communications Officer (i.e. at the broader regional RBEC-level rather than at the BRC-level). The project provides good lessons which demonstrate well both UNDP's dynamic approach to programming (governance, environment, sustainable development) and the success of a vibrant local community in Kyrgyzstan. It is suggested that UNDP CO senior management level might be interested in lobbying for such input from RBEC while the project staff is still available and project stakeholders highly motivated to express their experiences.

- The UNDP SGP was highly responsive in identification of the priority of fisheries within its strategy which made it possible to incorporate assistance to the communities in and around Issyk Kul

- UNDP and FAO have demonstrated good capacity to cooperate and avoid duplication in this project. Despite some difficulties in the beginning, the PMU and UNDP CO addressed the mid-term evaluation recommendations, an MoU was signed between the two agencies identifying clear activities to be conducted by each. It would be interesting if both agencies could also combine the scientific data, analysis and opinions gathered under both projects to try to develop a common opinion on the moratorium, cage farms and other issues which the government is currently discussing. This is especially considering the opinion of academia representative interviewed, that international organizations help to improve the interests of government officials in research-based decision making.

4.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this final evaluation, the following recommendations are made:

Exit strategy

1. In the final month of the project a final workshop is planned. One of the main goals of this workshop is to discuss and agree with the stakeholders on the sustainability of the results of the project. Due to the complexity of the various roles and stakeholders involved in controlling, monitoring and fishing activities around Issyk-Kul, it would be important that there is thorough preparation for this workshop. The evaluators recommend that a table of actions, roles and responsibilities, as well as threats resulting from not continuing this work is drafted and discussed with some of the stakeholders prior to the workshop, in order to secure agreement individually from these participants before public discussions are conducted. Due to the fact that the project has supplied a lot of material assistance for the tasks to be transferred, a costing of the maintenance of the activities against the project investments would help in these discussions. Government representatives also expressed the importance of discussing, within the workshop framework, issues on promoting sustainable and rational use of national resources and the application of awareness raising among local communities about fisheries (and endemics), especially during spawning periods

If possible in terms of time frame and availability of financial resources, the evaluators strongly recommend to establish a database on fishery data collected and analyzed within the framework of the project. Logically, the data holder for such a database could be the Issyk Kul Biosphere Reserve which within its mandate under paragraph 23 of the Regulation of the Biosphere Reserve "the study of the structure, function and dynamics of ecosystems, quantitative and qualitative inventory of natural resources". A database could ensure that all data is maintained and could potentially be expanded to other fauna and flora as the BR improves its activities in this direction. In addition, the project can facilitate to establish a framework for cooperation among data providers (Academy of Science, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries department, fishery associations and others). Comments received from the SAEPF during the development of the final evaluation report on this issue seem to indicate that the Agency would be looking for technical assistance from UNDP CO to be able to establish such a database.

As mentioned in section 3.2.5 of this report, the strategic results framework design (and re-design in response to the MTE) did not provide enough reliable sources of verification for the indicators and the targets they have reached. Thus, in order to provide a more concise picture of the various kinds of achievements made by the project and other contributors around Issyk Kul over this period, the evaluators suggest a repeat of one (or two) of the studies conducted at the PPG stage of the project. The repeat of these studies (using same methodology so that results are comparable) could provide information on what has been achieved and could prove useful to discussions on lifting the moratorium (or introducing only recreational fishing) to the lake:

- "Research of Households and Communities under the Project on Preservation of Ichthyofauna of the Lake of Issyk-Kul Basin" provides information on types of occupations related to fishery in the area and the level of dependency on the resources (income from and expense of fishing), some problems that existed at the start of the project in regard to control functions, attitudes of the public at the time on the moratorium, opinions on alternative sources of income and general public awareness on endemic species and biodiversity (i.e. information on the awareness level at the time of project design)

The evaluators fully understand that the project may not have funds (or time) left during the project scope to do this and then would suggest this may be something for the UNDP CO to conduct as part of preparation for the new project on PAs in Kyrgyzstan.

Currently the issue of lifting (or not) the moratorium on Issyk-Kul is on discussion, as well as whether to ban commercial fishing from the area and limit the lake's access for recreational fishing only. Through the project, there has been a lot of data collected, research & analysis conducted which can provide information to the decision makers at the local and national levels to help formulate an opinion and communicate it to the public. If possible before closure, the project could provide input for the future discussions in the form of a synopsis of the data and analysis available to relevant institutions.

In addition, it is highly recommended by the Technical Advisor in the Bratislava Regional Centre (BRC) to, within the final stage of the project find the opportunity and resources to disseminate the technical success of the project in the appropriate form, i.e. preparation of a scientific article by the project manager, representative of the Science Academy and/or others should be encouraged and supported.

At the time of the audit conducted for the project (2009), there was no audit of the assets due to the timing of the audit. Due to the considerable amount of technical assistance provided to at least 5 different institutions, and the percentage that has been procured in the past 2 years, the evaluators suggest special attention be paid of the detailed inventory and handover of the assets during the final stage of the project.

Reducing market demand of endemics

2. Within the report "Practical recommendations on protection of endemic and control of alien fish species in Lake Issyk-Kul and sustainable management of fish farms in Issyk-Kul oblast" it is stated that the selling of poached fish at the market generates more income for the individual than for the poacher. Interest to give up such an opportunity for profit can be raised through enforcement. Existing regulations task the Eco-tech inspection and State Agency regional branches of inspection with controlling and placing fines on individuals who sell endemic fish species on the market. UNDP CO is encouraged, in the final month of the project to advocate to the Government to conduct raids on local markets around Issyk-Kul, similar to that already enforced on poachers, during the spawning season in order to discourage (and educate) buyers from purchasing endemic fish.

Codifying best practices and project success

3. The project has planned to create a final publication of its results for distribution. The evaluators would like to suggest the following items which they feel are important to include and share. The evaluators also encourage the UNDP CO to assist the project in identifying a format which can best share key practices with other countries in the RBEC/RBAS regions:
   a. story of pond farmers who have begun to conduct research-based decision making at the individual level in their businesses through cooperation with the Academy of Sciences; initiated a fishery association to increase productivity, cooperation and success; ability to acquire technical, practical and theoretical knowledge through study tour to Hungary; looking for alternatives in the circumstances of a moratorium.
   b. ability of project to impact endemic species count in a very short time through sanitary fishing, propagation of endemics, awareness raising, increase in monitoring and control of illegal fishing.

Overall enhancement of UNDP programming/performance

4. The project evaluators identified several challenges in the monitoring methods and tools used by UNDP in this project. The Strategic Results Framework was weakened by the fact that sources of verification were not adapted to the actual situation during project implementation, accessible risk identification and mitigation approaches (including the application of the ATLAS risk log) were not used well. The evaluators believe these capacity constraints on M&E techniques are probably not limited only to

the project under evaluation and strongly suggest strengthening capacities of UNDP CO and project staff in M&E design and implementation. Additionally, such issues should be brought to the attention of other projects in the region which can draw on this study case in regard to improving monitoring and evaluation techniques.

5. The evaluators were requested to assess the overall performance of the project against the UNDP KGZ Country Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, among others. Although the strategy states that each programme will review its "currently planned activities, outputs and outcomes to determine if they need to be adapted ... or if working towards increased gender quality can also enhance the achievement of their general programme outcomes", the evaluators could not find evidence that the fisheries project was reviewed within this recommendation. Indeed it cannot be the responsibility of environment project managers, who are expected to hold technical expertise on environmental subjects, to integrate gender issues within their project without any technical support for a gender experts. Thus, it is recommended that in the future, UNDP CO:
   - tasks project development experts in addressing gender issues in future projects during the project development/design stage;
   - tasks gender focal point(s) to assist project managers in reviewing (and adapting and/or incorporating specific indicators and methods for verification) on-going projects to fully realize the potential for gender mainstreaming in environmental projects.

7. The value for money in projects, especially those of a very technical nature such as this, can be improved by using specific technical experts for the development of specifications for procurement and subsequent evaluations of offers. Skilled experts can improved the quality of selection criteria. Project managers should be encourage to include such expertise in project implementation stages where the procurement of large, specific technical items is expected.

Opportunities for additional support to strengthen project results and impact

8. The SAEPF has expressed its satisfaction in working with UNDP and GEF on biodiversity projects and sees a role for UNDP CO in the future. Thus, UNDP is in a good position to build upon this confident partnership in continuing to strengthen national capacities on global environmental issues (including biodiversity) in Kyrgyzstan. Within the scope of enhancement of UNDP programming which, if resources would allow, could build upon the progress initiated by the project but not fully realized, the evaluators suggest the following:
   a. finalize the issues of establishing a database where data on fish species and other data collected and analyzed during the project can be stored, shared and continue to be collected beyond the project lifetime (and scope);
   b. continue facilitation to State Agency and other relevant authorities to promote research-based decision-making;
   c. capitalize on current interest in establishing associations and target gender equality which was not addressed in the project by assisting women in local communities to form association, support the development of processing and market of other products from the current economic activity engaged in by the family. This can perhaps be implemented under current projects "Operationalising Good Governance for Social

Justice" and UNDP "Capacity Development Facility" under the Democratic Governance portfolio;

d. address continual issues of fragmentation in the governance and management of the Issyk Kyl by continuing to work with the government authorities on the national and local levels for improved, efficient governance.

ANNEX A. TERMINAL EVALUATION TERMS OF REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with UNDP and GEF M&E policies and procedures, all full and medium-sized UNDP support GEF financed projects are required to undergo a terminal evaluation upon completion of implementation. These terms of reference (TOR) sets out the expectations for a Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the **Strengthening policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into fishery sector (PIMS No 3217)**

The essentials of the project to be evaluated are as follows:

PROJECT SUMMARY TABLE

Project Title:	Strengthening policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into fishery sector			
GEF Project ID: UNDP GEF Project ID (PIMS):	3192 3217		*at endorsement (Million US$)*	*at completion (Million US$)*
Atlas award ID: Atlas project ID:	00048448 00058610	GEF financing:	USD 950,000	
Country:	Kyrgyzstan	IA/EA own:	UNDP USD 430,000	
Region:	Central Asia	Government:	Government of Kyrgyzstan USD 1,000, 000	
Focal Area:	BD	Other:	NGOs USD 1,690,000	
FA Objectives, (OP/SP):		Total co-financing:	USD 2,690,000	
Executing Agency:	UNDP	Total Project Cost:	USD 4,070,000	
Other Partners involved:		ProDoc Signature (date project began):		26/02/2008
		(Operational) Closing Date:	Proposed: 26/02/2012	Actual: 31/12/2012

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The TE will be conducted according to the guidance, rules and procedures established by UNDP and GEF as reflected in the UNDP Evaluation Guidance for GEF Financed Projects, in the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/ME_Policy_2010.pdf and guidelines for conducting evaluations: www.thegef.org/gef/node/1905; as well as the UNDP Monitoring and Evaluation Policy: http://web.undp.org/evaluation/policy.htm

The objectives of the evaluation are to assess the achievement of project results, and to draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming.

Terminal Evaluations (TE) are intended to provide an objective and independent assessment of project implementation and impact, including achievement of global environmental benefits and lessons learned to guide future Biodiversity Conservation efforts. Specifically, the TE will assess the extent to which the planned project outcomes and outputs have been achieved, as well as assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the project as defined in the guidelines for Terminal Evaluations.

The evaluation will also evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of project design, implementation, monitoring and adaptive management and sustainability of project outcomes, including the project exit strategy. The evaluation covers the entire project including non-GEF financed components. The particular objectives are:

(x) To assess overall performance against the project objective and outcomes as set out in the Project Document, project's Strategic Results Framework (SRF) and GEF Increment, and other related documents[4];

(xi) To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the project;

(xii) To analyze critically the implementation and management arrangements of the project;

(xiii) To assess the progress to date towards achievement of the outcomes;

(xiv) To recommend the project in improving/updating its Outcomes' indicators;

(xv) To review planned strategies and plans for achieving the overall objective of the project within the timeframe;

(xvi) To assess the sustainability of the project's interventions;

(xvii) To list and document initial lessons concerning project design, implementation and management[5];

(xviii) To assess project relevance to national priorities (including achieving gender equality goals).

The main stakeholders of the evaluation are: UNDP Country Offices in Kyrgyzstan, governments of the Kyrgyzstan, and the UNDP/GEF Regional Center for Europe and CIS (Bratislava).

The overall purpose of the evaluation is to evaluate the project's impact and relevance in regard to the objectives of the GEF Biodiversity focal area, and to learn lessons regarding the design and implementation of future similar projects.

[4] Such as UNDP KGZ Country Gender Mainstreaming Strategy

[5] Including achieving gender equality goals, setting gender-sensitive indicators and ensuring gender balance among the project's beneficiaries and target groups

Project background

The GEF/UNDP **Strengthening policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into fishery sector** project was approved by GEF in 2008. The project is a 4 year being implemented in Kyrgyzstan. The inception workshop was organized in November 2008. The project officially commenced in May 2008 and will terminate in December 2012.

The project is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through its operational program for Biodiversity Protection, and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project is directly executed (DEX) by UNDP CO in Kyrgyzstan. In GEF terminology it is a "medium-size" project i.e. it has a contribution from GEF less than USD 1 million. The total project is valued at USD **4,070,000** of which GEF financing is USD 950,000 with following cash and in-kind contributions:

UNDP USD	430,000 (cash)
Government USD	1,000,000 (in-kind)
NGOs USD	1,690,000 (in-kind)

Kyrgyzstan has over 900 mountain lakes and in most of them the native fish species are seriously threatened by alien species and over fishing. The primary root causes to the predicted loss of endemic species and the associated threat of extinction are: (i) a massive increase in unregulated fishing over recent years; (ii) a virtual cessation of the artificial restocking of the lake with juveniles of the 4 commercially endemic species; and (iii) the introduction of alien predatory species that are currently not subject to any control or eradication activities. The Government of Kyrgyzstan is trying to provide a long-term prospect in promoting the sustainable development of national resources, and fisheries development in particular. However, a number of barriers constrain the attention that can be paid to integrating the requirements for endemic fish conservation into the fishery management regime. The project strategy is to address the overall concerns relating to fisheries management in Kyrgyzstan by demonstrating a new fishery management regime within Lake Issyk Kul as it relates to: (i) the conservation of globally significant biodiversity (endemic fish species); and (ii) within the context of socio-economic concerns, especially poverty and livelihoods. One of the key elements of the project is the Biodiversity Friendly Fisheries Management Regime (BDFMR) which will be a package of national laws, by-laws and regulations developed and enforced with the objective of stabilizing the endemic fish species in the lake within the framework of a viable, sustainable and enforceable commercial fishery. Stabilization will be achieved through limiting current fishing, controlling the size of introduced species, as well as restocking native species. The project will create the mechanism to ensure that the lessons learned in this project will be captured and replicated initially to other large lakes in Kyrgyzstan with high economic values for fisheries

The project is designed to produce two **outcomes**:

Outcome 1. Strengthened systemic and institutional capacity for biodiversity friendly fisheries Management Regime.

<u>1.1. A biodiversity friendly fishery management regime developed and tested at Lake Issyk Kul</u>

One of the key elements of the project is the Biodiversity Friendly Fisheries Management Regime (BDFMR) which will be a package of national laws, by-laws and regulations developed and enforced with the objective of stabilizing the endemic fish species in the lake within the framework of a viable, sustainable and enforceable commercial fishery. Stabilization will be achieved through limiting current fishing, controlling the size of introduced species, as well as restocking native species. The BDFRM will be elaborated by Fisheries Advisory Group (FAG) - a working group of national and international experts, as well as lawyers, legislators, fish breeders and representatives of the fishing communities. The elaboration will be highly participatory and once the new fishery management regime for Lake Issyk Kul is cleared by

the key stakeholders (governmental, private, local communities) it will be presented to the Kyrgyz Parliament for adoption. The BDFMR will provide for an adaptive management framework based on ecosystem approach to remove the pressures on the endemic fish species. This will consider:

(i) establishing new set-aside areas to protect spawning grounds of the endemic fish species
(ii) developing the fishing licensing scheme
(iii) regulating fishing practices across the lake:
(iv) institutional assignment, training and enforcement mechanisms:

1.2. The capacity to deliver and implement the biodiversity – friendly fishery management regime is strengthened

1.3. Financial mechanism for the implementation of the biodiversity friendly fishery management regime is in place

1.4. Awareness and support of biodiversity-friendly fishery management

1.4.1. Effective development and disbursement of knowledge products and educational materials through an NGO partner;
1.4.2. Appropriate education and awareness materials for targeting schools, communities, government agencies and civil service groups, high-level policy and decision-making personnel in the public and private sector;
1.4.3. Formal distribution agreements with appropriate media (newspapers, radio, television, e-networks).

Outcome 2. Sustainable fisheries demonstrated which contribute to the conservation of endemic fish species and to improve livelihoods

2.1. Alternative supplies to meet market demands and propagation for re-stocking of lakes with endemics

2.2. A strategy to active control and reduction/eradication of introduced alien species for Issyk Kul is developed.

2.3. Alternative Livelihood program which supports the transition of individuals and businesses away from activities that threaten endemics toward activities in support of sustainable fisheries management

2.4. Direct assistance to support conservation of the endemic fish species of Issyk Kul

2.5. An Information and Knowledge Product Management System

EVALUATION APPROACH AND METHOD

An overall approach and method[6] for conducting project terminal evaluations of UNDP supported GEF financed projects has been developed over the time. The evaluator is expected to frame the evaluation effort using the criteria of **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact,** as defined and explained in the UNDP Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects. A set of questions covering each of these criteria have been drafted and are included with this TOR (*see*). The evaluator is expected to amend, complete and submit this matrix as part of an evaluation inception report, and shall include it as an annex to the final report.

[6] For additional information on methods, see the Handbook on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating for Development Results, Chapter 7, pg. 163 and Guidelines for conducting Terminal Evaluations (http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/1905).

The evaluation must provide evidencebased information that is credible, reliable and useful. The evaluator is expected to follow a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with government counterparts, in particular the GEF operational focal point, UNDP Country Office, project team, UNDP GEF Technical Adviser based in the region and key stakeholders. The evaluator is expected to conduct a field mission to Kyrgyzstan. Interviews will be held with the following organizations and individuals at a minimum:

- UNDP Country Office;
- Project Team;
- GEF OFP, BD FP;
- State agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF);
- Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic (DoF);
- Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve Administration
- Local Beneficiaries
- FAO Project on Support to Fishery and Aquaculture Management in the Kyrgyz Republic (FAO Project)

The evaluator will review all relevant sources of information, such as the project document, project reports – including Annual APR/PIR, project budget revisions, midterm review, progress reports, GEF focal area tracking tools, project files, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the evaluator considers useful for this evidence-based assessment. A list of documents that the project team will provide to the evaluator for review is included in Annex B of this Terms of Reference.

In preparation for the evaluation mission, the project manager, with assistance from UNDP country office, will arrange for the completion of the tracking tool (BD2 TT for final stage). The tracking tool should be consistent with general information included in baseline and mid-term TTs. It will be completed/endorsed by the relevant implementing agency or qualified national research /scientific institution, and not by the international consultant or UNDP staff. The tracking tool will be submitted to the international evaluation consultant, who will need to provide his/her comments on it. Upon incorporation of the comments from the international evaluation consultant to the Tracking tool, it will be finalized and attached as mandatory annex to the Terminal evaluation report.

EVALUATION CRITERIA & RATINGS

An assessment of project performance will be carried out, based against expectations set out in the Project Logical Framework/Results Framework (see Annex A), which provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification. The evaluation will at a minimum cover the criteria of: **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact.** Ratings must be provided on the following performance criteria. The completed table must be included in the evaluation executive summary. The obligatory rating scales are included in Annex D.

Evaluation Ratings:			
1. Monitoring and Evaluation	***rating***	**2. IA& EA Execution**	***rating***
M&E design at entry		Quality of UNDP Implementation	
M&E Plan Implementation		Quality of Execution - Executing Agency	
Overall quality of M&E		Overall quality of Implementation / Execution	
3. Assessment of Outcomes	**rating**	**4. Sustainability**	**rating**
Relevance		Financial resources:	
Effectiveness		Socio-political:	
Efficiency		Institutional framework and governance:	
Overall Project Outcome Rating		Environmental :	
		Overall likelihood of sustainability:	

PROJECT FINANCE / COFINANCE

The Evaluation will assess the key financial aspects of the project, including the extent of co-financing planned and realized. Project cost and funding data will be required, including annual expenditures. Variances between planned and actual expenditures will need to be assessed and explained. Results from recent financial audits, as available, should be taken into consideration. The evaluator(s) will receive assistance from the Country Office (CO) and Project Team to obtain financial data in order to complete the co-financing table below, which will be included in the terminal evaluation report.

Co-financing (type/source)	GEF Grant financing (mill. US$)		Government & NGOs (mill. US$)		Implementing Agency (UNDP) (mill. US$)		Total (mill. US$)	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Actual	Actual
Grants	0,95	0,95			0.43	0.43	1,38	1,38
Loans/Concessions								
• In-kind support			1,0	1,0			1,0	1,0
• Other			1,69	1,69			1,69	1,69
Totals	0,95	0,95	2,69	2,69	0,43	0,43	4,07	4,07

MAINSTREAMING

UNDP supported GEF financed projects are key components in UNDP country programming, as well as regional and global programmes. The evaluation will assess the extent to which the project was successfully mainstreamed with other UNDP priorities, including poverty alleviation, improved governance, the prevention and recovery from natural disasters, and gender.

IMPACT

The evaluators will assess the extent to which the project is achieving impacts or progressing towards the achievement of impacts. Key findings that should be brought out in the evaluations include whether the project has demonstrated: a) verifiable improvements in ecological status, b) verifiable reductions in stress on ecological systems, and/or c) demonstrated progress towards these impact achievements.[7]

CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & LESSONS

The evaluation report must include a chapter providing a set of **conclusions**, **recommendations** and **lessons**.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this evaluation resides with the UNDP CO in Kyrgyzstan. The UNDP CO will contract the evaluator and ensure the timely provision of per diems and travel arrangements within the country for the evaluation team. The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the Evaluators team to set up stakeholder interviews, arrange field visits, coordinate with the Government etc.

[7] A useful tool for gauging progress to impact is the Review of Outcomes to Impacts (ROtI) method developed by the GEF Evaluation Office: ROTI Handbook 2009

EVALUATION TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the evaluation will be 15 days according to the following plan:

Activity	Timing	Completion Date
Preparation (desk review)	*3* days (7-9 November 2012)	*November 10 , 2012*
Evaluation Mission (in-country field visits, interviews)	*7* days (10-16 November 2012)	*November 17 , 2012*
Draft Evaluation Report	*3* days (17-19 November 2012)	*November 20 , 2012*
Final Report	*3* days (20-22 November 2012)	*November 23 , 2012*

EVALUATION DELIVERABLES

The evaluation team is expected to deliver the following:

Deliverable	Content	Timing	Responsibilities
Inception Report	Evaluator provides clarifications on timing and method	No later than 2 weeks before the evaluation mission.	Evaluator submits to UNDP CO and PMU
Presentation	Initial Findings	End of in-country evaluation mission	To project management, UNDP CO and key stakeholders
Draft Final Report	Full report, (per annexed template) with annexes	Within 3 weeks of the evaluation mission	Sent to CO, reviewed by RTA, PMU, GEF OFPs
Final Report*	Revised report	Within 1 week of receiving UNDP and key stakeholders' comments on the draft	Sent to CO for uploading to UNDP ERC.

*When submitting the final evaluation report, the evaluator is required also to provide an 'audit trail', detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final evaluation report.

TEAM COMPOSITION

The evaluation team will be composed of *1 international and 1 national evaluator.* The consultants shall have prior experience in evaluating similar projects. Experience with GEF financed projects is an advantage. The international Consultant will be a team leader and bear responsibility over submission of final report. The selected evaluators should not have participated in the project preparation and/or implementation and should not have conflict of interest with project related activities.

The Team members must present the following qualifications:

International evaluator

- Master degree or equivalent in social or natural sciences;
- Minimum *10* years of professional experience in the fields of Biodiversity conservation or protected area management;

- Knowledge of UNDP and GEF projects and implementation procedures;
- Previous experience with results-based monitoring and evaluation methodologies;
- Technical knowledge in the targeted focal area(s);
- Previous working experience in the environmental field in the Central Asian region will be an asset;
- Excellent English communication skills, knowledge of Russian would be an asset.

National consultant

- Master degree or equivalent in social or natural sciences;
- Minimum *5* years of professional experience in the fields of Biodiversity conservation or natural resources' management;
- Basic knowledge of UNDP and GEF projects and implementation procedures;
- Previous experience with results-based monitoring and evaluation methodologies;
- Excellent English and Russian communication skills.

EVALUATOR ETHICS

Evaluation consultants will be held to the highest ethical standards and are required to sign a Code of Conduct (Annex E) upon acceptance of the assignment. UNDP evaluations are conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations'

PAYMENT MODALITIES AND SPECIFICATIONS

The service provider will be responsible for all personal administrative and travel expenses associated with undertaking this assignment including office accommodation, printing, stationary, telephone and electronic communications, and report copies incurred in this assignment. For this reason, the contract is prepared as a lump sum contract.

The remuneration of work performed will be conducted as follows: lump sum payable in 1 installment, upon satisfactory completion and approval by UNDP of all deliverables, including the Final Evaluation Report.

%	Milestone
100%	Following submission and approval (UNDP-CO and UNDP RTA) of the final terminal evaluation report

ANNEX B: ITINERARY

Draft Programme
of International and local Terminal evaluators Ms Silvija Nora Kalnins and Ms. Lira Joldubaeva
December 12 -17, 2012

Date Дата	Activity Деятельность	City/Country Город/Страна	Venue Место	Time Время	Comments Замечания
07.12.12.-12.12.12	Original documents compiling and review them	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Home based work		Lira Joldubaeva
07.12.12.-12.12.12	Developing evaluation methodology, developing mission agenda	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Home based work		Lira Joldubaeva
07.12.12.-12.12.12	Review of ProDoc, UNDAF, CPAP	Riga, Latvia	Home based work		Ms. Silvija Nora Kalnins
12.12.12.	Arrival to Bishkek, Accommodation	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Accommodation TBI	SU1882 12.12SVOFRU 05:10	driver services required
12.12.12 Wed	Acquaintance with project documents in the hotel	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Accommodation TBI	09.00-10.00	
	Meeting and briefing over project with UNDP Country Office	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	UN House Tel: +(996 312) 611213 Chui 160	10:00-10:30	driver services required
	Meeting and briefing with DSS of UN system in Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	UN House Tel: +(996 312) 611213 Chui 160	10:30-11:00	
	Meeting with Senior Management of State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry 1. Mr. Atajanov S.– director of State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry 2. Mr. Abdiev B. – permanent secretary of State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry 3. Ms. Bekkulova J.– head of department for strategy and policy development 4. Ms. Salykmambetova B.– head of department for international relations 5. Mr. Tolongutov B. – head of Center for Eco-safety	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	SAEPF office 2. Main office Tel : 35-27-27 Toktogul str., 228	11.30- 12.30	driver services required
	Meeting with Project Manager and Project Assistant				driver services required
13.12.12 Thu	Departure to Issyk-Kul region			08.00 – 11.00	
	Meeting with Mr. Abazbek Arynov Director of Issyk Kul Biosphere reserve	Balykchy, Issyk-Kul oblast	Biosphere reserve office	11:00-13:00	driver services required

	Meeting with Mr. Mukan Elemanov, Head of patrolling group of Issyk-Kul Biosphere reserve and Mr. Baktybek Asanov, Head of Issyk-Kul-Naryn regional branch of Department of Fishery			13:00-14:00	
	Meeting with Team Leader of FAO Fishery Project Siriwardena Sunil	Carven 4 seasons, Cholpon-Ata		14:30-16.00	driver services required
	Meeting in project office	Cholpon-Ata	Ecocentre building, Sovetskaya str. 61. Cholpon-Ata town Tel.: 03943 72186	17.00 – 19.00	driver services required
	Accommodation in hotel	Kirgizskoe vzmor'e		19.00	driver services required
14.12.12 Fri	Meeting with community involved in fishing of Lake Issyk Kul	Issyk Kyl oblast	Oryuktu village	10.00	driver services required
	Meeting with representative Biological station of Academy of Science Ryspaev Akylbek	Issyk Kyl oblast	Oryuktu village	11:30-13:00	
	Meeting with pond farm owners from Lipenka village	Issyk Kyl oblast	Oryuktu village	13.00–15.00	
	Meeting with manager UNDP/GEF "Strengthening policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into fishery sector" project	Cholpon -Ata, Issyk Kyl oblast	Ecocentre building, Sovetskaya str. 61. Cholpon-Ata town Tel.: 03943 72186	15.00-17.30	driver services required
15.12.12 – 16.12.12	Departure to Bishkek Drafting report and finalization	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Hotel "Touristan"	Whole day	driver services not required
	Drafting report and finalization	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Hotel "Touristan"	Whole day	driver services not required
17.12.12	Meeting with UNDP representatives	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	PMU office	9:00-10:00	driver services required
	Presentation of TE findings	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	PMU office	10:00-12:00	
17.12.12	Airport transfer	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan		15:00 SU1881 17DEC FRUSVO 17:35	driver services required
17.12.12-28.12.12	Report finalization and submission	Riga, Latvia	Home based		
17.12.12-28.12.12	Report finalization and submission	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Home based		Lira Joldubaeva
07.01.2012	Final evaluation report endorsed by UNDP Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Home based		Lira Joldubaeva

Annex C: List of persons interviewed

1. **Meeting and briefing over project with UNDP Country Office**
   - Mr. Erkin Kasybekov - ARR
   - Mr.Daniyar Ibragimov – Environment Analyst
   - Mr.Alexander Temirbekov – Environment and DRM dimension chief
   - Mr.Kumar Kylychev – Programme associate
2. **Meeting and briefing with DSS of UN system in Kyrgyzstan**
3. **Meeting with Senior Management of State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry**
   - Mr. Atajanov Sabir Sadykjanovich – director of State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry
   - Mr. Abdiev Bahktiyar Mamadiyarovich – permanent secretary of State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry
   - Ms. Bekkulova Jipargul Eshimbekovna – head of department for strategy and policy development
   - Ms. Salykmambetova Baglan Nurstanovna – head of department for international relations
   - Mr. Tolongutov Baigabyl – head of Center for Eco-safety
4. **Meeting with Team Leader of FAO Fishery Project** Mr. Siriwardena Sunil
5. **Meeting with Director of Issyk Kul Biosphere reserve** Mr. Abazbek Arynov
6. **Meeting with Head of patrolling group of Issyk-Kul Biosphere reserve** Mr. Mukan Elemanov
7. **Meeting with representative Biological station of Academy of Science** Mr. Ryspaev Akylbek
8. **Meeting with Head of Issyk-Kul regional Department on fishery** Mr. Asanov Baktybek
9. **Meeting with community involved in fishing of Lake Issyk Kul**
   - Mr. Canyrov Tokoibek – fisherman involved in project activity
   - Mr. Omurov Marat - fisherman involved in project activity
   - Mr. Jakypov Nurbek – fisherman was not involved in project activity
   - Mr. Asanbekov Muhit - fisherman was not involved in project activity
   - Ms. Asanbekova Ainura – wife of fisherman
10. **Meeting with pond farm owners from Lipenka village**
    - Mr. Maksat Mamedov – chairman of the pond Farm Association
    - Mr. Dreshpan Feodor – vice chairman of the pond Farm Association
11. **Meeting with project management team of the UNDP/GEF "Strengthening policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into fishery sector" project**
    - Mr. Azat Alamanov - project manager
    - Ms. Madina Momunkulova - project assistant
12. **Skype discussion on draft final evaluation report conducted 21 January 2013**
    - Mr. Maxim Vergeichik, Technical Advisor for biodiversity and ecosystems, Bratislava Regional Center

Annex E: List of Documents reviewed by the evaluators

General documentation

- UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP);
- UNDP Handbook for Monitoring and Evaluating for Results;
- GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy;
- GEF Guidelines for conducting Terminal Evaluations

Project documentation

- Project document;
- Annual Work Plans;
- Annual Project Reports;
- Project Implementation Review;
- GEF Operational Quarterly Reports;
- MTE report;
- Management response to MTE;
- Revised Project Log frames;
- Project Board Meeting minutes.
- Final stage BD2 tracking tool

1. UNDP Kyrgyzstan Gender Mainstreaming Strategy 2008-2010
2. Fourth National Report on Conservation of Biodiversity of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2008
3. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 1998
4. Public Opinion Research Center El-Pikir, " Research of Households and Communities under the Project on the Preservation of Ichthyofauna of the Lake of Issyk-Kul Basin" 2005
5. A.O. Konurbaev et. al. " Conditions of Issyk-Kul Lake Ichthyofauna, fishery and its management", 2005.
6. Mikkola, H., Tentative Structure of Biodiversity Friendly Fisheries Management Regime within the Lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, 2008 –
7. Azat Alamanov, Heimo Mikkola. Is Biodiversity Friendly Fisheries Management Possible on Issyk-Kul Lake in the Kyrgyz Republic? AMBIO July 2011, Volume 40, Issue 5, pp 479-495
8. Woynárovich, A. Rispaev Report "Practical recommendations on protection of endemic and control of alien fish species in Lake Issyk-Kul and sustainable management of fish farms in Issyk-Kul oblast". December 2008
9. Andy Thorpe, et al. Feasibility of stocking and culture-based fisheries in Central Asia, FAO, Ankara, 2011
10. ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0229e/i0229e.pdf
11. Medium term Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2012-2014
12. Improving the use of economic instrument for water resource management in Kyrgyzstan (the case of Lake Issyk-Kul Basin). EC,OECD, 2012

Annex F: Evaluation Question Matrix

The evaluation questions serve as a general guide for the evaluation. It provides directions for the evaluation; particularly the collect of relevant data. It was used as a basis for interviewing people and reviewing project documents.

Evaluated component	Sub-Question	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
Evaluation criteria: Relevance - *How does the Project relate to the main objectives of the UNCBD, GEF and to the environment and development priorities at the local, regional and national levels?*				
Is the Project relevant to UNCBD and GEF objectives?	How does the Project support the objectives of the UNCBD How does the Project support the objectives of the GEF for OP2 and SP1? Does the Project participate in the implementation of the UNCBD in Kyrgyzstan Is the GEF incremental cost principle being respected?	Level of coherence between project objectives and those of the UNCBD Convention Degree of coherence between the project and nationals priorities, policies and strategies in the fisheries sector? UNCBD Convention status in Kyrgystan Extent to which the project is actually implemented in line with incremental cost argument	Project documents National policies and strategies to implement the UNCBD Convention or related to environment more generally Key government officials and other partners UNCBD web site	Documents analyses Interviews with government officials and other partners
Is the Project relevant to UNDP objectives?	How does the Project support the objectives of UNDP in this sector?	Existence of a clear relationship between the project objectives and sustainable development objectives of UNDP. Existence of a clear relationship between the project objectives and UNDP Strategic Results Framework	Project documents UNDP strategies and Programmes (UNDAF, CPAP)	Documents analyses Interviews with UNDP staff
Is the Project relevant to Kyrgyzstan's development objectives?	ƒ How does the Project support the objectives of the development of Kyrgyzstan? ƒ How country-driven is the Project? ƒƒ Does the Project adequately take into account the national realities, both in terms of institutional framework and programming, in its design and its implementation? ƒ To what extent were national partners involved in the implementation of the Project? ƒ Were the GEF criteria for Project identification adequate in view of actual needs?	ƒ Degree to which the project support national environmental objectives ƒ Degree of coherence between the project and nationals priorities, policies and strategies ƒ Appreciation from national stakeholders with respect to adequacy of project design and implementation to national realities and existing capacities? ƒ Level of involvement of Government officials and other partners in the project ƒ Coherence between needs expressed by national stakeholders and UNDP-GEF criteria	ƒ Project documents ƒ National policies and strategies ƒ Key government officials and other partners	ƒ Documents analyses ƒ Interviews with government officials and other partners
Is the Project addressing the needs	How does the Project support the needs of target beneficiaries; including the BR Administration the lakeside communities?	Strength of the link between expected results from the Project and the needs of target beneficiaries Degree of involvement and inclusiveness of beneficiaries	Beneficiaries and stakeholders Project documents	Document analysis Interviews with beneficiaries and

Evaluated component	Sub-Question	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
of target beneficiaries?	Is the implementation of the Project been inclusive of all relevant Stakeholders? Are local beneficiaries and stakeholders adequately involved in Project design and implementation?	and stakeholders in Project design and implementation		stakeholders
How is the Project relevant in light of other donors?	Does the Project remain relevant in terms of areas of focus and targeting of key activities? How do GEF-funds help to fill gaps (or give additional stimulus) that are crucial but are not covered by other donors?	Degree to which program was coherent and complementary to other donor programming in the project target area	Information on other activities conducted by organizations/donors Project documents	Documents analyses Interviews with other donors
Evaluation criteria: Effectiveness – *To what extent are the expected outcomes and objectives of the Project being achieved?*				
How is the Project effective in achieving its expected outcomes?	Is the Project being effective in achieving its expected outputs: - a biodiversity friendly fishery management regime developed and tested at Issyk Kul - capacity to deliver and implement biodiversity-friendly fishery management regime strengthened - financial mechanism for the implementation of biodiversity friendly fishery management regime is in place - awareness and support of biodiversity-friendly fishery regime - alternative supplies to meet markets demands and propagation for re-stocking of lakes with endemics - strategy to actively contract and reduce/eradicate introduced alien species for Issyk kul developed - alternative livelihood program which supports the transition of individuals and businesses away from activities that threaten endemics towards activities in support of sustainable fisheries management - direct assistance to support conservation of endemic fish species of Issyk Kul - Information and Knowledge Product Management System	ƒ Change in biodiversity conservation through alternatives economic development activities ƒ Change in biodiversity habitats ƒ Change in capacity for information management o Knowledge acquisition and sharing o Effective data gathering, methods and procedures for reporting on biodiversity ƒ Change in capacity for awareness raising o Stakeholder involvement and government awareness o Change in local stakeholder behavior ƒ Change in capacity in policy making and planning o Legislation/regulation change to improve fisheries management ƒ Change in capacity in enforcement and monitoring Existence, quality and use of M&E, feedback and dissemination mechanism to share findings, lessons learned and recommendation on effectiveness of project design	ƒ Project documents ƒ Key stakeholders ƒ Research findings	ƒ Documents analysis ƒ Meetings with main Project Partners including UNDP, government and other Partners ƒ Interviews with Project Beneficiaries

Evaluated component	Sub-Question	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
Are Project activities designed to achieve Project outcomes?	ƒ Is there a direct and strong link between expected results of the Project (log frame) and the Project design (in terms of Project components, choice of partners, structure, delivery mechanism, scope, budget, use of resources etc)? ƒ Is actual Project implementation coherent with Project design? ƒ Is the length of the Project conducing to achieve Project outcomes?	ƒ Level of coherence between Project expected results and Project design internal logic ƒ Level of coherence between Project implementation approach and Project design	ƒ Project document ƒ Key Project stakeholders	ƒ Document analysis ƒ Key Interviews
How is risk and risk mitigation being managed?	ƒ How well are risks and assumptions being managed? ƒ What was the quality of risk mitigation strategies developed? Were these sufficient?	ƒ Completeness of risk identification and assumptions during Project planning ƒ Quality of existing information systems in place to identify emerging risks and other issues? ƒ Quality of risk mitigations strategies developed and followed	ƒ Project documents and evaluations ƒ UNDP staff and Project Partners	ƒ Document analysis ƒ Interviews
Evaluation criteria: Efficiency - *Was the project implemented efficiently, in-line with international and national norms and standards?*				
Is Project support channeled in an efficient way?	ƒ Is adaptive management used or needed to ensure efficient resource use? ƒ Do the Project logical framework and work plans and any changes made to them use as management tools during implementation? ƒ Are the accounting and financial systems in place adequate for Project management and producing accurate and timely financial information? ƒ Are progress reports produced accurately, timely and respond to reporting requirements including adaptive management changes? ƒ Is Project implementation as cost effective as originally proposed (planned vs. actual) ƒ Is the leveraging of funds (co-financing) happening as planned?	ƒ Availability and quality of financial and progress reports ƒ Timeliness and adequacy of reporting provided ƒ Level of discrepancy between planned and utilized financial expenditures ƒ Planned vs. Actual funds leveraged ƒ Cost in view of results achieved compared to costs of similar Projects from other organizations ƒ Adequacy of Project choices in view of existing context, infrastructure and cost ƒ Quality of RBM reporting (progress reporting, monitoring and evaluation) ƒ Occurrence of change in Project design/ implementation	ƒ Project documents and evaluations ƒ UNDP, Gov. officials Project personnel ƒ Beneficiaries and Project partners	ƒ Document analysis ƒ Key Interviews
	ƒ Are financial resources utilized efficiently? Could financial resources have been used more efficiently? ƒ How is RBM used during program and Project implementation? ƒ Is there an institutionalized or informal feedback or dissemination mechanism to ensure that findings, lessons learned and recommendations pertaining to Project design and implementation effectiveness are shared among Project stakeholders, UNDP and GEF Staff and other relevant organizations for ongoing Project adjustment and improvement? ƒ Does the Project mainstream gender considerations into its implementation?	approach (ie restructuring) when needed to improve Project efficiency ƒ Existence, quality and use of M&E, feedback and dissemination mechanism to share findings, lessons learned and recommendation on effectiveness of Project design. ƒ Cost associated with delivery mechanism and management structure compare to alternatives ƒ Gender disaggregated data in Project documents		

How efficient are partnership arrangements for the Project?	organizations being encouraged and supported? ƒ Which partnerships/linkages are facilitated? Which one can be considered sustainable? ƒ What is the level of efficiency of cooperation and collaboration arrangements? (between local actors, UNDP/GEF and the Government of Kyrgyzstan) ƒ Which methods were successful or not and why?	of cooperative arrangements between partners, ƒ Examples of supported partnerships ƒ Evidence that particular partnerships/linkages will be sustained ƒ Types/quality of partnership cooperation methods utilized	evaluations ƒ Project Partners ƒ Beneficiaries	ƒ Interviews
Does the Project efficiently utilize local capacity in implementation?	ƒ Was an appropriate balance struck between utilization of international expertise as well as local capacity? ƒ Did the Project take into account local capacity in design and implementation of the Project?	ƒ Proportion of total expertise utilized taken from Kyrgyzstan ƒ Number/quality of analyses done to assess local capacity potential and absorptive capacity	ƒ Project documents and evaluations ƒ UNDP and Project partners ƒ Beneficiaries	ƒ Document analysis ƒ Interviews
Evaluation criteria: Impacts - *Are there indications that the project has contributed to, or enabled progress toward, reduced environmental stress and/or improved ecological status?*				
How is the Project effective in achieving its long term objective?	ƒ Is the Project achieving its long term objective that is to conserve the globally significant biodiversity in Kyrgyz lakes? ƒ Is the Project being effective in addressing the threat to the biodiversity?	ƒ Change in management of Issyk Kul and other lakes ƒ Change in capacities: o To pool/mobilize resources o For related policy making and strategic planning,	ƒ Project documents ƒ Key Stakeholders ƒ Research findings; if available	ƒ Documents analysis ƒ Meetings with UNDP and Project Partners ƒ Interviews with Project beneficiaries and other stakeholders
Evaluated component	**Sub-Question**	**Indicators**	**Sources**	**Data Collection Method**
	ƒ To what extent is the Project focusing on building the capacity of key individuals and institutions at the national and local levels?	ƒ Change to the quantity and strength of barriers such as change in o Level of availability of information o Level of trained personnel or technical or managerial expertise o Level of regulatory biases or absence o Perceived level of risks associated with the sustainable alternatives		
How is the Project effective in achieving the objectives of the UNCBD?	ƒ What are the impacts or likely impacts of the Project? o On the local environment; particularly protecting the biodiversity; o On poverty; and, o On other socio-economic issues	ƒ Provide specific examples of impacts at those three levels, as relevant	ƒ Project documents ƒ UNCBD Convention documents ƒ Key Stakeholders ƒ Research findings	ƒ Data analysis ƒ Interviews with key stakeholders
Evaluation criteria: Sustainability - *To what extent are there financial, institutional, social-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?*				

Are sustainability issues adequately integrated in Project design?	ƒ Are sustainability issues integrated into the design and implementation of the Project?	ƒ Evidence/Quality of sustainability strategy ƒ Evidence/Quality of steps taken to address sustainability	ƒ Project documents and evaluations ƒ UNDP personnel and Project Partners ƒ Beneficiaries	ƒ Document analysis ƒ Interviews
Financial Sustainability	ƒ Does the Project adequately address financial and economic sustainability issues? ƒ Are the recurrent costs after Project completion sustainable?	ƒ Level and source of future financial support to be provided to relevant sectors and activities in Kyrgyzstan after Project end? ƒ Evidence of commitments from government or other stakeholder to financially support relevant sectors of activities after project end ƒ Level of recurrent costs after completion of Project and	ƒ Project documents and evaluations ƒ UNDP personnel and Project Partners ƒ Beneficiaries	ƒ Document analysis ƒ Interviews
Organizations arrangements and	ƒ Are the results of efforts made during the Project implementation period well assimilated by organizations and their internal systems and procedures?	ƒ Degree to which Project activities and results have been taken over by local counterparts or institutions/ organizations	ƒ Project documents and evaluations ƒ UNDP personnel and Project	ƒ Document analysis ƒ Interviews
continuation of activities	ƒ Is there evidence that Project partners will continue their activities beyond Project support? ƒ What degree is there of local ownership of initiatives and results? ƒ Are appropriate 'champions' being identified and/or supported?	ƒ Level of financial support to be provided to relevant sectors and activities by in-country actors after Project end ƒ Number/quality of champions identified	Partners ƒ Beneficiaries	
Enabling Environment	ƒ Are laws and policies frameworks being addressed through the Project, in order to address sustainability of key initiatives and reforms? ƒ Are the necessary related capacities for lawmaking and enforcement being built? ƒ What is the level of political commitment to build on the results so far?	ƒ Efforts to support the development of relevant laws and policies ƒ State of enforcement and law making capacity ƒ Evidences of commitment by the political class through speeches, enactment of laws and resource allocation to priorities	ƒ Project documents and evaluations ƒ UNDP personnel and Project Partners ƒ Beneficiaries	ƒ Document analysis ƒ Interviews
Institutional and individual capacity building	ƒ Is the capacity in place at the national and local levels adequate to ensure sustainability of the results achieved to date?	ƒ Elements in place in those different management functions, at the appropriate levels (national, district and municipal) in terms of adequate structures, strategies, systems, skills, incentives and interrelationships with other key actors	ƒ Project documents and evaluations ƒ UNDP personnel and Project Partners ƒ Beneficiaries ƒ Capacity assessments available, if any	ƒ Interviews ƒ Documentation review
Social and political sustainability	ƒ Does the Project contribute to key building blocks for social and political sustainability? ƒ Does the Project contribute to consumers' acceptance of the new products or practices?	ƒ Example of contributions to sustainable political and social change in support of the convention	ƒ Project documents and evaluations ƒ UNDP personnel and Project Partners ƒ Beneficiaries	ƒ Interviews ƒ Documentation review
Replication	ƒ Are Project activities and results being replicated elsewhere and/or scaled up? ƒ What is the Project contribution to replication or scaling up of innovative practices or mechanisms that support the UNCBD objectives?	ƒ Number/quality of replicated initiatives ƒ Number/quality of replicated innovative initiatives ƒ Volume of additional investment leveraged	ƒ Other donor programming documents ƒ Beneficiaries ƒ UNDP personnel and Project Partners	ƒ Document analysis ƒ Interviews

Challenges to sustainability of the Project	efforts? ƒ Have any of these been addressed through Project management? ƒ What could be the possible measures to further contribute to the sustainability of efforts achieved with the Project?	presented above ƒ Recent changes which may present new challenges to the Project	evaluations ƒ Beneficiaries ƒ UNDP personnel and Project Partners	ƒ Interviews
Future directions for the Project	ƒ Which areas/arrangements under the Project show the strongest potential for lasting long-term results? ƒ What are the key challenges and obstacles to the sustainability of results of the Project initiatives that must be directly and quickly addressed?		ƒ Data collected throughout evaluation	ƒ Data analysis

Annex G: List of all outputs generated by the project by activity

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	Results
Activity 1.1. A biodiversity friendly fishery management regime developed for Lake Issyk-Kul 1.1.1. Expert's assistance to national partners in implementing of BFFMR (technical support in improving of the national legislation according to BFFMR) *1.1.2.* Workshop on presentation of BFFMR among stakeholders (local fishermen and women involved in a fishery) *1.1.3.* Parliamentarian hearings on biodiversity issues	• Seminar for discussion of BFFMR with participation of SAEPF, Issyk-Kul oblast administration, DoF, National Academy of Sciences, Biosphere reserve "Issyk-Kul", UNDP, FAO Rome and Ankara representatives, representatives of Universities from Finland and local community. Methods of co-financing in fishery sector, in environmental area, flora etc. have been discussed. Number of participants – 45. (8 woman and 37 man) • Seminar on Improvement of legislation in issuing of license for usage of natural resources. Total number of participants 42. Representatives of DoF, SAEPF, Republican fund of environment protection, Biosphere reserve "Issyk-Kul", Tup rayon administration, Fitopharm association, NAS KR, GIZ and local community in co-financing with FAO Project (11 woman and 31 man) • By project support developed strategy on sustainable development of ecological and economical system "Issyk-Kul", approved by President decree in 2009. • Rendered an assistance to the SAEPF in development of the draft to the Law of KR "On introduction of an amendment and addition to the Law of KR "Sustainable development of environmental-economic system "Issyk-Kul" and "Embargo for importing, purchasing, storing of net and net goods" • Publications of BFFMR were published in 500 pieces in Russian language and being distributed among national partners, local communities etc. • BFFMR were recognized by Swedish Royal Academy and published on their web-site. • Analyzes of regulative impact were prepared for all legislation in fishery sector (11 Analyzes). • Round table "Issues of natural resources usage and biodiversity conservation of Issyk-Kul" have been conducted with participation of representatives of Parliament, Director and staff of SAEPF, DoF, Issyk-Kul oblast administration, regional branch of SAEPF, Biosphere reserve "Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz national agrarian University, NAS KR, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, NGO "BIOM", pond farms, cage farms, International organizations, mass media etc. Total participant is – 48. 7 woman and 41 man. Removing of cage farms from Issyk-Kul basin has been recommended onto the resolution. • Inter departmental commission has been organized by the Protocol assignment of Prime minister on making research on reasonability of cage farming in Issyk-kul lake basin. As a result of the field trip of the representatives of SAEPF, Biosphere reserve "Issyk-Kul", DoF, NAS KR, cage farm owners, etc the conclusion on inexpediency of cage farming in Issyk-Kul basin was signed and sent to the Prime Minister. • A capacity building study tour to the Lake Balaton Hungary was organized to share and exchange an experience on comprehensive management of large lake ecosystems considering conservation of biodiversity and possible controlling methods of introduced species (pike perch, bream) for representatives of SAEPF, DoF, NAS KR, Private sector and UNDP CO.
Activity 1.2. The capacity to deliver and implement the biodiversity – friendly fishery management regime in lake Issyk-Kul is strengthened 1.2.1 Technical assistance to national partners in implementing of BFFMR 1.2.2 Technical assistance to national partners in patrolling of endemic species during the spawning period	• Technical assistance to the Biosphere reserve by installation of Anti virus Program (12 in number) is rendered for the amount of KGS 22 699.44 • Technical assistance (fuel and DSA for patrolling activities) to the regional branch of SAEPF, Biosphere reserve "Issyk-Kul", EcoTech safety inspection for patrolling issues was continued during 4 years. • Technical assistance o the regional branch of SAEPF has been rendered for the amount USD 160,000.00 (dural boats with engine, uniform and equipment for patrolling group) and handed over in 2010 and 2011. • Technical assistance (uniforms and equipment for patrolling) to the Biosphere reserve "Issyk-Kul" has been rendered in 2012 in amount of USD 9,000.00

	Activity 1.3. Awareness and support of biodiversity-friendly fishery management 1.3.1 Production of media presentations and publications 1. Broadcasting of the animated cartoon 2. Publishing of an educational package, presentation and distribution 3. Publishing of project calendars and distribution	• 5 audio reels in Kyrgyz and Russian languages broadcasted on radio channels LW and AntenTV • 3 video reels in Kyrgyz and Russian languages (EPOS) • 3 video film in Kyrgyz and Russian languages, produced 100 DVD copies and broadcasted on National channels KTR and AntenTV 1. "Chebak, chebachok and others……." 2. "Issyk-Kul: will be tomorrow?...." 3. "Environment and Issyk-Kul biosphere" • Animated cartoon together with "5 Paltsev" was produced. • 4 billboards promoting conservation of Issyk-Kul fish resources were published and posted on billboards in Balykchy and Karakol cities of Issyk-Kul oblast. • 190 pieces of T-Shirts and caps "Save me, your Issyk-Kul" were produced and distributed among local communities, UNDP and stakeholders. • 1000 pieces of wall, desk and planer calendars were published and distributed within Issyk-Kul oblast (schools, hospitals, universities, oblast and rayon administrations etc), UNDP, national partners. • Information on every events/activities conducted by the Project are hosted on web-sites of the country. • Articles are published in Local newspapers. • 200 paper bags "Save me, your Issyk-Kul" have been produced and distributed within Issyk-Kul oblast. • Media Tour with participation of mass media has been organized to Karakol city in 2011. Total number of mass media representatives – 26. 11 woman and 15 man. Competition on asphalt has been organized with participation of children from orphanages of Issyk-Kul oblast. Total number of children – 45. Prizes were distributed among participants of the competition (books about environment, pencils, markers etc). Media results were broadcasted on 5 Channel, TV Raketa, Utro na 5 channel, NTS, KTR, Aeroplan and satellite channel "Stan.kg" and posted on web-sites. • Article on best practices has been completed and posted on UNDP Kyrgyzstan and Bratislava webistes. • Informative message "100 000 baby fishes of disappearing endemic fish species have been released into the lake Issyk-Kul" was developed, sent to web-sites of local mass media. And as a result of it this story was broadcasted on 5 channel and 22 informative messages were published on web-sites of local mass media. • Competition among children on conservation of ichthyofauna of Issyk-Kul lake was posted on CARNet portal as well as announced among children of schools. Prizes for the winners have been handled and their works were chosen for preparation of Project calendars for 2012. • Video "One day of the Project life" have been produced, posted on youtube. • 500 pieces of wall and desk calendars have been produced and distributed to national partners, local community, UNDP, etc. • Informative message "More than million larvae of disappearing fishes are planned to release into the Lake Issyk-Kul" was developed, sent to the list of local mass media. And as a result of it this story was broadcasted on 5 channel and more than in 30 informative messages were published on web-sites of local mass media, news and ecological portals, in blogs and Facebook. • Media tour has been organized to Issyk-Kul oblast in 2012. During the media tour representatives of mass media, Biosphere reserve "Issyk-Kul" and others have removed nets from the bottom of the lake and cleaned from trash. Total number of mass media representatives – 15. 3 woman and 12 man. Media results were broadcasted on 5 Channel, Stan TV, articles have been published in "Slovo Kyrgyzstana", "Vechernyi Bishkek" newspapers, posted on websites CARNet, 24 kg, AKI Press, KirTag, StanTV, CLOOP.kg and on Facebook.
	Outcome 2: Sustainable fish farms contributing into the preservation of endemic species of fish and improvement of livelihood	
	Activity 2.1 Pond culture and captive breeding programme to provide alternative supplies to meet market demands and propagation for re-stocking of lake with endemics are implemented 2.1.1. Implementation of the pond farms development	• Assessment of existing fish farms capacity and capabilities of their owners, business plans for each fish farms have been developed • Seminar "Development of pond farming for conservation of endemic ichthyofauna of the lake Issyk-Kul". Representatives of SAEPF, Issyk-Kul oblast administration, UNDP, Biosphere reserve "Issyk-Kul", Micro credit companies, FAO, Pond farm owners, Private entrepreneurs involved into the fishery sector, Tup village administration, mass media. Total number of participants – 56. 19 woman and 37 man. • Perspective areas for creation of new pond farms have been identified. • Web site with mapping of existing pond farms within Issyk-Kul oblast has been developed. • 9 pond farm owners strengthened their capacity through participating in Study Tour to

	programme	Hungary, visiting pond farms in Hungary, getting knowledge. • Seminar for pond farm owners has been conducted. During the seminar was discussed issues connected with legislation in pond farming, etc. • Seminar in co-financing with FAO Project has been conducted on "Best practice of aquaculture management with emphasis on carp culture" Representative of NAS KR, DoF, pond farmers, UNDP etc. Total number of participants -27. (7 woman and 20 man) • Publication "Pond farm development in Issyk-Kul oblast" in 600 pieces in Russian were published and distributed among pond farmers, national partners etc. • National training on promotion and strengthening of organization in fishery sector and aquaculture in KR has been conducted with participation of representatives of DoF, SAEPF, pond farmers, people involved into fishery sector, FOA Rome etc. Total number of participants is – 30. 9 woman and 21 man. • Seminar for pond farm owners has been organized on 17 September 2012. The main subject of the seminar is to render a consultative assistance on feeding of carp policulture, disease which can appear during carp breeding and etc. Total number of participants is – 20. 2 woman and 18 man. • Carp policulture fish seeds have been provided to the established pond farm association "Prudoviki Issyk-Kulya" for the amount USD 30,000.00 in 2010 and USD 24,115.00 in 2012. The main requirements of the Project to the pond farm association that they will supply with fish seeds and consultancy assistance a newly establishing pond farms within Issyk-Kul oblast. • Stern crushers in 3 pieces were purchased and transferred to the pond farm associations for the amount USD 18,000.00 • Technical assistance (building materials) to pond farm association in 2012 in amount of USD 4,500.00 for construction of summerhouses. They planned to use summer houses for recreational fishing activities.
	Activity 2.2 Strategy to active control and reduction/eradication of introduced alien species for Issyk-Kul is developed 2.2.1. Implementation of a strategy developed for active control and reduction of alien species (bream and pike perch) 2.2.2. Environmental Impact Assessment of rainbow trout cages on natural ecosystems of the Lake Issyk Kul	• Sanitary fishing activity has been launched in • As a result of sanitary fishing the quantity of pike perch is decreased which bring to increasement of forage resources therefore the weight of average pike perch has been increased. For example: the average pike perch's weight was 30-50 gramm of 90-95% of caught pike perch in 2011 but now the average pike perch's weight is 100-150 gramm of 70% caught pike perch in 2012 • 9445 kilos of predatory and roe eaters fish species (pike perch and bream) have been transferred to the socially vulnerable institutions such as orphanages, nursing homes and tuberculosis clinics. • 358 artificial nests with fertilized eggs of alien fish species (pike perch and bream) were collected from the spawning areas.
	Activity 2.3 Alternative Livelihood program which supports the transition of individuals and businesses away from activities that threaten endemics toward activities in support of sustainable fisheries management 2.3.1. Development of Alternative Livelihood program for communities involved in fishery (poachers and women involved in this activity) 2.3.2. Workshop on discussion of the developed programme	

	among beneficiaries.	
	Activity 2.4 Direct assistance to support conservation of the endemic fish species of Issyk-Kul 2.4.1 . Monitoring of fish resources of the Issyk-Kul lake 2.4.2 . Artificial propagation of endemics: Issyk-Kul naked osman and Issyk-Kul Marinka 2.4.3 Final evaluation of the Project	• Habitation and spawning areas of issyk-kul naked osman and issyk-kul marinka were identified. Map of habitations and spawning areas of issyk-kul naked osman and issyk-kul marinka has been established. • Artificial propagation of endemics has been launched in 2010. • Technical assistance (fuel and DSA) for monitoring of fish stocks was continued during 4 years. • The first report is well received from the Academy of Sciences of KR. It has been registered that the population of issyk-kul chebak is increased and even appeared in those places where this fish species has been disappeared long time ago. • 125 600 larvae of issyk-kul naked osman, 550 000 larvae of issyk-kul marinka and 520 000 larvae of chebak have been re-stocked into the Lake Issyk-Kul. • Technical assistance is rendered to the National Academy of Sciences of KR for monitoring activities in amount of USD 60,000.00 (special equipment for measuring of water quality, laboratory equipment, etc).

Tracking Tool for Biodiversity Projects in GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5

Objective 2:
Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors

Objective: To measure progress in achieving the impacts and outcomes established at the portfolio level under the biodiversity focal area.
Rationale: Project data from the GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5 project cohort will be aggregated for analysis of directional trends and patterns at a portfolio-wide level to inform the development of future GEF strategies and to report to GEF Council on portfolio-level performance in the biodiversity focal area.
Structure of Tracking Tool: Each tracking tool requests background and coverage information on the project and specific information required to track portfolio level indicators in the GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5 strategy.
Guidance in Applying GEF Tracking Tools: GEF tracking tools are applied three times: at CEO endorsement, at project mid-term, and at project completion.
Submission: The finalized tracking tool will be cleared by the GEF Agencies as being correctly completed.

Important: Please read the Guidelines posted on the GEF website before entering your data

I. General Data	Please indicate your answer here	Notes
Project Title	Sustainable Management of Endemic Ichthyofauna of the Issyk-Kul Lake Basin	
GEF Project ID	3219	
Agency Project ID	3217 (Atlas project ID 00058610)	
Implementing Agency	UNDP	
Project Type	MSP	MSP
Country	Kyrgyzstan	
Region	ECA	
Date of submission of the tracking tool	December 5, 2012	Month DD, YYYY (e.g., November 25, 2012)
Name of reviewers completing tracking tool and completion date	Azat Alamanov	Completion Date November 25, 2012
Planned project duration	4	years

Actual project duration	5	years
Lead Project Executing Agency (ies)	State Agency of Environment and Forestry - the General Directorate of Lake Issyk Kul Biosphere Reserve	
Date of Council/CEO Approval	January 24, 2008	Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
GEF Grant (US$)	950 000	
Cofinancing expected (US$)	430000	
Please identify production sectors and/or ecosystem services directly targeted by project:		
Agriculture	2	1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project **In Frame of Project developed and under implementation "Strategy for sustainable fish pond Farm developement", in result pond farm will bring own produced fish products on the market and it's will decrease human pressure on the natural fish stocks in the Lake Issyk Kul.**
Fisheries	1	1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Forestry		1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Tourism	2	1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Mining		1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Oil		1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Transportation		1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Other (please specify)		

II. Project Landscape/Seascape Coverage

1. What is the extent (in hectares) of the landscape or seascape where the project will directly or indirectly contribute to biodiversity conservation or sustainable use of its components? An example is provided in the table below.		
Designations(please choose 1-3)		1: Foreseen at project start 2: Foreseen at mid-term 3: Foreseen at project closure
Landscape/seascape[1] area directly[2] covered by the project (ha)	623 600	hectares foreseen
Landscape/seascape area indirectly[3] covered by the project (ha)	4 311 588	hectares foreseen
Explanation for indirect coverage numbers:	area of biosphere reserve surrounding the largest Kyrgyz lake Issyk-Kul	Please indicate reasons

[1] For projects working in seascapes (large marine ecosystems, fisheries etc.) please provide coverage figures and include explanatory text as necessary if reporting in hectares is not applicable or feasible.

[2] Direct coverage refers to the area that is targeted by the project's site intervention. For example, a project may be mainstreaming biodiversity into floodplain management in a pilot area of 1,000 hectares that is part of a much larger floodplain of 10,000 hectares.

[3] Using the example in footnote 2 above, the same project may, for example, "indirectly" cover or influence the remaining 9,000 hectares of the floodplain through promoting learning exchanges and training at the project site as part of an awareness raising and capacity building strategy for the rest of the floodplain. Please explain the basis for extrapolation of indirect coverage when completing this part of the table.

2. Are there Protected Areas within the landscape/seascape covered by the project? If so, names these PAs, their IUCN or national PA category, and their extent in hectares		
Name of Protected Areas	IUCN and/or national category of PA	Extent in hectares of PA
Issyk-Kul ramsar site	Ramsar site RDB code 2KG001	623600
Issyk-Kul biosphere reserve	MAB and State Nature Reserve	4311588
3		
4		

3. Within the landscape/seascape covered by the project, is the project implementing payment for environmental service schemes? If so, please complete the table below. Example is provided.		
e.g. Foreseen at Project Start		*Please Indicate Environmental Service*
		Extent in hectares
		Payments generated (US$)/ha/yr if known at time of CEO endorsement
		Please Indicate Environmental Service
		Extent in hectares
		Payments generated (US$)/ha/yr

Part III. Management Practices Applied

4. Within the scope and objectives of the project, please identify in the table below the management practices employed by project beneficiaries that integrate biodiversity considerations and the area of coverage of these management practices. Please also note if a certification system is being applied and identify the certification system being used. Note: this could range from farmers applying organic agricultural practices, forest management agencies managing forests per Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) guidelines or other forest certification schemes, artisanal fisherfolk practicing sustainable fisheries management, or industries satisfying other similar agreed international standards, etc.		
Foreseen at Project Start	*Sustainable management of fish resourses in Lake Issyk Kul*	*Please indicate specific management practices that integrate BD*
	N / A	*Name of certification system being used (insert NA if no certification system is being applied)*
	623600	*Area of coverage foreseen at start of project*
Forseen at Final	Biodiversity Friendly Fisheries Management Regime is partly implemented	Please indicate specific management practices that integrate BD
	N/A	Name of certification system being used (insert NA if no certification system is being applied)
	623600	Area of coverage foreseen at Final

Part IV. Market Transformation

5. For those projects that have identified market transformation as a project objective, please describe the project's ability to integrate biodiversity considerations into the mainstream economy by measuring the market changes to which the project contributed. The sectors and subsectors and measures of impact in the table below are illustrative examples, only. Please complete per the objectives and specifics of the project.

		Unit of measure of market impact
Name of the market that the project seeks to affect (sector and sub-sector)	*E.g., Sustainable fishery (Fish production)*	*E.g.,400 tons of fish products / year*
Name of the market that the project seeks to affect (sector and sub-sector)		Unit of measure of market impact

Part V. Policy and Regulatory frameworks

6. For those projects that have identified addressing policy, legislation, regulations, and their implementation as project objectives, Please complete these tables for each sector that is a primary or a secondary focus of the project. Please answer (1 for YES or 0 for NO) to each statement under the sectors that are a focus of the project.

Biodiversity considerations are mentioned in sector policy

Agriculture	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
Biodiversity considerations are mentioned in sector policy through specific legislation		
Agriculture	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
Regulations are in place to implement the legislation		
Agriculture	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
The regulations are under implementation		
Agriculture	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
The implementation of regulations is enforced		
Agriculture	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
Enforcement of regulations is monitored		
Agriculture	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0

All projects please complete this question at the project mid-term evaluation and at the final evaluation, if relevant:

7. Within the scope and objectives of the project, has the private sector undertaken voluntary measures to incorporate biodiversity considerations in production? If yes, please provide brief explanation and specifically mention the sectors involved. An example of this could be a mining company minimizing the impacts on biodiversity by using low-impact exploration techniques and by developing plans for restoration of biodiversity after exploration as part of the site management plan.

Part VI. Tracking Tool for Invasive Alien Species Projects in GEF 4 and GEF 5

Objective: The Invasive Alien Species Tracking Tool has been developed to help track and monitor progress in the achievement of outcome 2.3 in the GEF-5 biodiversity strategy: "improved management frameworks to prevent, control, and manage invasive alien species" and for Strategic Program 7 in the GEF-4 strategy.
Structure of Tracking Tool: The Tracking Tool addresses four main issues in one assessment form:
1) National Coordination Mechanism;
2) IAS National Strategy Development and Implementation;
3) Policy Framework to Support IAS Management; and
4) IAS Strategy Implementation: Prevention, Early Detection, Assessment and Management.
Assessment Form: The assessment is structured around six questions presented in table format which includes three columns for recording details of the assessment, all of which should be completed.
Next Steps: For each question respondents are also asked to identify any intended actions that will improve performance of the IAS management framework.

Prevention, control, and management of invasive alien species (IAS) Tracking Tool

Issue	Please select your score from drop down menu	Scoring Criteria	Comment	Next Steps
National Coordination Mechanism				
1) Is there a National Coordination Mechanism to assist with the design and implementation of a national IAS strategy? (This could be a single "biosecurity" agency or an interagency committee).	2	**0:** National Coordination Mechanism does not exist **1:** A national coordination mechanism has been established **2:** The national coordination mechanism has legal character and responsibility for development of a national strategy **3:** The national coordination mechanism oversees implementation of IAS National Strategy	**Comment:**	**Next Steps:**
		Bonus point: Contingency plans for IAS emergencies exist and are well coordinated 0: NO 1: Yes		
IAS National Strategy Development and Implementation				
2) Is there a National IAS strategy and is it being implemented?	2	**0:** IAS strategy has not been developed **1:** IAS strategy is under preparation or has been prepared and is not being implemented **2:** IAS strategy exists but is only partially implemented due to lack of funding or other problems **3:** IAS strategy exists, and is being fully implemented	**Comment:**	**Next Steps:**
Policy Framework to Support IAS				

Management				
3) Has the national IAS strategy lead to the development and adoption of comprehensive framework of policies, legislation, and regulations across sectors.	1	**0:** IAS policy does not exist **1:** Policy on invasive alien species exists (Specify sectors in comment box if applicable) **2:** Principle IAS legislation is approved (Specify sectors in comment box if applicable. It may be that harmonization of relevant laws and regulations to ensure more uniform and consistent practice is most realistic result.) **3:** Subsidiary regulations are in place to implement the legislation (Specify sectors in comment box if applicable) **4:** The regulations are under implementation and enforced for some of the main priority pathways for IAS (Specify sectors in comment box if applicable) **5:** The regulations are under implementation and enforced for all of the main priority pathways for IAS (Specify sectors in comment box if applicable) **6:** Enforcement of regulations is monitored (Specify sectors in comment box if applicable)	**Comment:**	**Next Steps:**
Prevention				

4) Have priority pathways for invasions been identified and actively managed and monitored?		**0:** Priority pathways for invasions have not been identified. **1:** Priority pathways for invasions have been identified using risk assessment procedures as appropriate **2:** Priority pathways for invasions are being actively managed and monitored to prevent invasions (In comment section please specify methods for prevention of entry: quarantine laws and regulation, database establishment, public education, inspection, treatment technologies (fumigation, etc) in the comment box.) **3:** System established to use monitoring results from the methods employed to manage priority pathways in the development of new and improved policies, regulations and management approaches for IAS	**Comment:**	**Next Steps:**
Early Detection				

5) Are detection, delimiting and monitoring surveys conducted on a regular basis?	1	**0:** Detection surveys[1] of aggressively invasive species (either species specific or sites) are not regularly conducted due to lack of capacity, resources, planning, etc **1:** Detection surveys (observational) are conducted on a regular basis **2:** Detection and delimiting surveys[2] (focusing on key sites: high risk entry points or high biodiversity value sites) are conducted on a regular basis **3:** Detection, delimiting and monitoring surveys[3] focusing on specific aggressively invasive plants, insects, mammals, etc are conducted on a regular basis	**Comment:**	**Next Steps:**
		Bonus point: Data from surveys is collected in accordance with international standards and stored in a national database. 0: NO 1: Yes		
		Bonus point: Detection surveys rank IAS in terms of their potential damage and detection systems target the IAS that are potentially the most damaging to globally significant biodiversity 0: NO 1: Yes		
Assessment and Management: Best practice applied				

6) Are best management practices being applied in project target areas?	1	**0:** Management goal and target area undefined, no acceptable threshold of population level established **1:** Management goal and target area has been defined and acceptable threshold of population level of the species established **2:** Four criteria are applied to prioritize species and infestations for control in the target areas: a) current and potential extent of the species; b) current and potential impact of the species; c) global value of the habitat the species actually or potentially infests; and d) difficulty of control and establishing replacement strategies. **3:** Eradication, containment, control and management strategies are considered, and the most appropriate management strategy is applied to achieve the management goal and the appropriate level of protection in the target areas (Please discuss briefly rationale for the management strategy employed.)	**Comment:**	**Next Steps:**
	1	**Bonus point:** Monitoring system (ongoing surveys) established to determine characteristics of the IAS population, and the condition of the target area. 0: NO 1: Yes		

	3	**Bonus points:** Funding for sustained and ongoing management and monitoring of the target area is secured. 0: NO 3: Yes		
		Bonus point: Objective measures indicate that the restoration of habitat is likely to occur in the target area. 0: NO 1: Yes		
	10	**TOTAL SCORE**		
	29	**TOTAL POSSIBLE**		

[1] Detection survey: survey conducted in an attempt to determine if IAS are present.

[2] Delimiting survey: survey conducted to establish the boundaries of an area considered to be infested or free from a pest.

[3] Monitoring survey: survey to verify the characteristics of a pest/IAS.