

Uzbekistan:
**Reducing Pressures on Natural Resources from Competing Land Use
in Non-Irrigated Arid Mountain, Semi-Desert and Desert Landscapes**

GEF Project ID 4600 - PIMS 4649

Terminal Evaluation
April-May 2019

Uzbekistan

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Uzbekistan: Reducing Pressures on Natural Resources from Competing Land Use in Non-Irrigated Arid Mountain, Semi-Desert and Desert Landscapes

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GEF Project ID	PIMS 4649
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Approved Fiscal Year	2012
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Country	Republic of Uzbekistan
Region	Europe and Central Asia
Focal Area	Land Degradation
Applicable GEF Strategic Objective and Program	LD-3: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape
Implementing Agency	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Executing Agency	State Committee for Land Resources and Geo Cadastre
Evaluator	Dr. Max Kasparek (international consultant)
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

APR	Annual Project Report
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CACILM	Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management
CO	UNDP Country Office
EoP	End-of-Project
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GKZ	Goskomzemgeodezskadaster (State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadaster)
ILUP	Integrated Land Use Planning
INRM	Integrated Natural Resource Management
LLC	Limited Liability Company
LogFrame	Logical Framework (Project Results Framework)
NRM	Natural Resource Management
MTR	Mid-term Review
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PM	Project Manager
PMB	Project Management Board
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRF	Project Results Framework (Logical Framework)
ProDoc	Project Document
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (private and government-owned LLCs)
TE	Terminal Evaluation
The Project	UNDP-GEF Project “Reducing Pressures on Natural Resources....”
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Executive Summary

Project Summary Table

Project Title	Uzbekistan: Reducing Pressures on Natural Resources from Competing Land Use in Non-Irrigated Arid Mountain, Semi-Desert and Desert Landscapes		
GEF Project ID	GEF-ID 4600		US\$
UN Project ID	PIMS 4649	PPG Grant	50,000
Country	Uzbekistan	GEF Grant*	2,313,600
Region	Europe and Central Asia	Agency Fee*	231,360
Focal Area	GEF-5 / Land Degradation	IA/EA own*	1,200,000
GEF Strategic Objective and Program	LD-3: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape	Total co-financing (in-kind)*	9,880,000
Executing Agency	UNDP	Total Project Cost*	12,243,600
Other Partners involved	State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadaster	ProDoc Signature	01.02.2014
		Operational Closing	Proposed: 31.12.2018 Actual: 31.08.2019

*At CEO Approval. Final value TBD at completion.

Brief project description

The GEF full size project “Reducing Pressures on Natural Resources from Competing Land Use in Non-Irrigated Arid Mountain, Semi-Desert and Desert Landscapes of Uzbekistan” is created to support the improved, more sustainable and more resilient land use management of non-irrigated arid desert, steppe and mountain landscapes of Uzbekistan, which constitute the vast majority of its territory, and reduce competitive pressures between different land uses, particularly pasture use and forestry. Practical solutions of how this can be done were to be demonstrated in two ecologically and socio-economically representative districts (Zaamin and Karakul) and a model was to be developed for undertaking district level integrated land use planning.

The project components are (1) Field level investment to transform the baseline approach, and (2) Policy, legal and institutional mechanisms for further developing a cross-sectoral environment and in-country capacity. Component 1 herewith should develop best practices on sustainable rangeland and forestry management with the help of Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) and should upscale the results in the target districts. Component 2 should help facilitate an enabling environment at system, institutional and individual levels for applying integrated land use approaches beyond the intervention areas.

Context and purpose of the evaluation

The objective of the Terminal Evaluation (TE) was to assess the achievement of the project objective, the affecting factors, the broader project impact and the contribution to the general goal/strategy, and the project partnership strategy. The evaluation focused on the following aspects: Project design and its relevance, performance, timeliness and management arrangements, monitoring and evalua-

tion, and overall success with regard to the criteria of impact, global environmental benefits, sustainability, effectiveness, efficiency, and development impact.

Evaluation approach and methods

The method for conducting the TE used the following basic tools: documentation reviews and in-country stakeholder interviews. Project achievements were measured based on the Project Results Framework (Logical Framework), which is to provide performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding ways of verification. In addition to a descriptive assessment, the standard UNDP-GEF rating system was applied to assess project relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability as well as the quality of M&E systems.

Main evaluation results

The general overall project strengths and shortcomings are summarised in the table below.

Strengths	Shortcomings
The Project addresses a subject which is highly relevant for the national economy, food security, adaptation to climate change and environmental stability.	The project concept did not sufficiently link the role and function of demonstration projects with upscaling needed for achieving broad development impact.
The Project had with Goskomzemgeodezkadaster a strong political partner who succeeded together with the Project in initiating political processes.	The Project was focused very much on improving the socio-economic situation of the beneficiaries and gave less weight to biodiversity concerns.
The Project established close and trustful relationships with the project stakeholders and beneficiaries.	As proactive upscaling was not understood as core concern of the Project, the small-scale and micro-measures reached only a limited number of people beyond the immediate project beneficiaries. The broad development impact of the Project therefore remained moderate.
The Project team showed a good performance and delivered the services including reporting in a timely manner.	Several of the socio-economic measures supported by the Project were not designed in a way that they will lead to a direct visible and measurable decrease of the pressure on natural resources. There were no outspoken arrangements with local beneficiaries which ensure that they refrain from activities which have a negative effect on natural resources, and get from the Project in exchange for it support for livelihood measures.
The Project brought the issue of sustainable rangeland management to the highest political level and initiated a "Law of Pastures".	Some of the small-scale and micro-measures supported by the Project have an actual or potential unintended negative impact on natural resources insofar local people may use e.g. additional income and better infrastructure for increasing the number of livestock in drylands.
The Project carried out successfully almost all activities foreseen in the Project Document.	
The Project achieved most targets of the pro-	

ject indicators and even exceeded some of them.	
The Project assisted almost 70 SMEs and households in improving their livelihood.	

Excellent socio-economic and regulatory results

The Project was extremely successful in implementing socio-economic small-scale and micro-measures in dryland areas as foreseen in the Project Document. It helped many people make their living under the difficult environmental conditions prevailing in drylands. It was also extremely successful in bringing rangeland issues on the national agenda especially by promoting a “Law on Pastures” which has been adopted by the Parliament, signed by the President and awaits further steps to become fully operational.

The Project helped almost 70 different small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or households by providing goods and services. It helped for example farmers fencing pasture land to protect it from overgrazing, provided local entrepreneurs with fish and equipment for fishfarming, supported a forest enterprise in cultivating, processing and marketing medicinal herbs, purchased basic equipment for women households to establish sewing workshops, helped to construct a breeding and processing facility for karakul sheep, assisted farmers in establishing drip irrigation systems, provided trailers to shepherds where they can stay overnight in close vicinity to their herds, helped a women founding a chicken farm, and provided tree saplings to farmers to plant them against wind erosion. All small-scale and micro-measures showed, with a very few exceptions, remarkable success. Almost all recipients are now, economically speaking, better off than at the beginning of the Project.

With the initiation of a “Law on Pastures”, the Project has awakened great attention in the public. The Law has been adopted by the Parliament and was signed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in May 2019. This is a big step forward, even though still a lot has to be done to make the Law operational and effective. The outcome of the Law will finally be beyond the control of the Project. The Law has the potential to put more focus on the sustainable use of rangeland, and this is acknowledged as a big potential achievement. Nevertheless, still significant financial and technical resources are needed to transform local business to ecologically friendly enterprises and households.

Beside all these positive attainments, the TE has concerns (a) on the environmental effects of the Project and (b) on the broad long-term development impact of the Project.

Environmental concerns

The Project was executed with a clear priority on improving the socio-economic situation of people whose income is based on drylands, and to increase the benefits of these areas for human livelihood. Environmental safeguards came only second and it seems that some measures were conducted without considering and assessing the immediate or potential impact on dryland ecosystems. While the impact of many project measures on biodiversity and natural resources may be neutral or positive, there are also several measures with clear environmental risks, and these risks often come from unintended side effects. There are e.g. no safeguards that additional income generated by the Project will not be used for increasing the number of livestock, no bioassays were carried out for the usage of seeds of non-indigenous fodder plant species imported from Mediterranean countries, no biodiversity assessments were carried out prior to ploughing steppes for enrichment plantings or prior to converting natural steppe ecosystems to fodder plots. It appears that the Project could not sufficiently solve the trade-off between socio-economic goals and environmental goals.

The implementation of socio-economic measures including the delivery of goods and services are an important incentive for local people to contribute to environmental protection, and the idea in environmental projects is to use socio-economic measures as compensation to relieve the pressure on nature. This, however, needs to be negotiated with the communities because without agreements, local people may take the socio-economic support as something additional, rather than as an alternative to environmentally unfriendly activities. In a worst case scenario, higher income will lead to more environmental degradation, i.e. farmers will e.g. use the additional income facilitated by project measures for purchasing additional livestock rather than reducing it for combatting overgrazing of pastures.

Promotion of small-scale and micro-measures did not result in broad impact

There are many experiences available in Central Asia in conducting pilot and demonstration measures for pasture management. As these efforts were found to be too isolated, it was the Project's task to upscale them. Against this background one would expect a project approach that up-scales available best practices for achieving broad impact. However, the project concept remained ambiguous on this and did not follow a clear strategy and approach. With respect to upscaling, the Project much trusted in the principal that people will replicate good practices once they have seen them or heard about their success. However, the Project did not proactively remove the barriers to upscaling and to broad application. In short, the project concept as described in the Project Document called for upscaling, but failed in giving guidance on this.

The most important barrier that people will not copy and replicate successful examples of good land use practice is the lack of funds and of technical knowledge. Thanks to the efforts of the Project, it is not a lack of awareness. Measures for combating land degradation are not "fast selling items" but instead necessitate intensive support through funding and professional advice.

The Project distributed goods and services to almost 70 different recipient groups including farmers, herdsmen, businessmen, researchers, etc. Some of these measures have the character of giving gifts to people living in drylands or to organisations related to dryland management rather than initiating and stimulating long-term development for the region in a concerted way. The Project adopted a scattergun approach that appeared to lack strategic direction. This approach implied that the Project often dealt with small-scale and micro-measures and did not concentrate on issues with high impact and with a high upscaling potential. The TE believes that the project impact could have been increased by delving deeper into some of the topics rather than covering "everything". Less but better selected supportive measures but would have been more. A tailored approach with some selected measures which have a high potential for upscaling and a wide promotion among the beneficiaries would have surely resulted in a higher impact than promoting so many different topics.

While is fully acknowledged that the Project did not have the means for big investments needed for some large-scale replication measures, it would have had the means to follow a more focused approach and to mainstream already tested, successful measures and best practices into existing governmental and non-governmental programmes.

Conclusion

On the one hand, the Project successfully implemented almost all activities foreseen in the Project Document and other planning tools. The stipulations of the Project Document were fully put into practice by a dedicated, professional project team. Most targets of the project indicators were achieved, some of them even exceeded. The "Law on Pastures", which was successfully initiated by

the Project, brought rangeland issues onto the national political agenda and the Law will surely contribute in the long term to a better use of the country's rangelands. Nevertheless, this is still a long process and the final outcome will become evident only after closure of the project. On the other hand, in the opinion of the TE, the Project spent too much efforts in repeating available and already tested practices, and was not engaged enough in proactively upscaling them, which is seen as the ultimate goal of the Project. It is thought that this was due to the absence of an upscaling mechanism in the project concept, and the absence of a strategy and action plan how to reach broad impact. Altogether, the Project can be characterised as highly effective insofar the stipulations of the Project Document have been fully put into practice, but was less successful in disseminating and upscaling the results and in converting socio-economic measures into visible and measurable reductions of the livestock grazing pressure on dryland ecosystems.

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

Regarding the design of projects, it is recommended to UNDP/GEF

- **Put more efforts in the development of sound project concepts.**

The main shortcoming of the Project is rooted in a project concept that has not been foreseen a logical flow of activities from local small-scale and micro-measures which relieve the pressure on dryland to upscaled interventions with broad impact, although this is understood as the overarching goal. Project concepts and designs must be based on reasonable results chains and it must be clear for the user of the LogFrame which activity is carried out for what purpose and why it is supported by the Project. A stronger guidance and quality control by UNDP and GEF is required.

- **Don't support in an environmental project livelihood activities which are not linked to the environment.**

The GEF is an environmental fund, and environmental protection is the ultimate goal of all GEF funded projects. Even though improvement of the environmental situation is usually not possible without improving the socio-economic situation of people, this does not mean that all socio-economic measures have a positive effect on the environment. The impact of every single project measure on the environment must therefore be assessed and all measures need to be linked to environmental issues and negotiated with the project beneficiaries.

- **Negotiate with local communities their contribution towards environmental protection.**

Socio-economic measures including the delivery of goods and services are an important incentive for local people to contribute to environmental protection, and the socio-economic measures may be used for compensating for the relieve of pressure on natural resources. This, however, needs to be negotiated with the communities in a participatory, bottom-up process. Without such a negotiation process, local people may take the socio-economic measures as something additional, rather than an alternative to destructive activities. In a worst case scenario, higher income will lead to more environmental degradation (e.g. a farmer will use higher income for purchasing additional livestock rather than lessen their number for reducing overgrazing of pastures).

- **Keep in mind that the role of demonstration projects is to give vivid examples "how it could be", but they contribute little to local development until they are broadly upscaled.**

Demonstration and pilot projects have the function to show and to test on a very small scale what works and what does not work, and to provide a blueprint for something big; they are therefore the first step of a comprehensive programme for change on a much larger scale. If there are no plans and opportunities to do the second step, there is little need to spend efforts for preparing these blueprints. An upscaling strategy and mechanism needs to be an integral part of local small-scale and micro-measures.

- **Concentrate on those livelihood activities which have a real chance for upscaling.**

The TE had the impression that some of the alternative livelihoods developed by the project had little chance for achieving wider impact. High initial investment costs which the relatively poor rural people cannot afford seem to be the main barrier. Projects need to be designed in a way that the contributions by the target group are technically and financially appropriate.

- **Strengthen the knowledge transfer to learn from other projects.**

The TE had the impression that with regard to the micro-measures (pilot measures), much has been repeated what has already been tested in the context of other projects, including other

UNDP/GEF projects in Uzbekistan. It is not very efficient to repeat pilot measures just at another site in the context of another project because pilot measures are finally a tool for learning not for achieving development impact.

- **Pursue a focussed approach rather than attempt doing “everything”**

The range of Project activities was very wide and included different types of ecosystems, forms of livelihood and different regions, and tens of different types of micro-measures. This wide range was apparently responsible for the fact that the Project’s overall impact was modest. It is expected that a better focussed approach with concentrated efforts towards solving specific challenges would have probably resulting in a deeper impact.

Regarding the follow-up of this specific project, it is recommended to UNDP

- **Implement follow-up measures to make the “Law of Pastures” fully operational.**

The “Law of Pastures” is a success story of the Project, but it still needs considerable efforts and resources to become operational. Guidance needs to be given to decision-makers especially for an adequate treatment of environmental concerns. UNDP may offer the government technical assistance towards this end, and may use for this purpose committed but still unused track funds.

Regarding the evaluation framework, it is recommended to UNDP/GEF

- **Reconsider the rating scale of the criterion „relevance”.**

“Relevance” can now only be rated as “relevant” or “not relevant”, whereas a finer scale extending e.g. from “highly relevant” over “partly relevant” to “not relevant” would be more appropriate to mirror project reality including the fact that a project often consists of several aspects / components with different levels of relevance.

- **Give more guidance as regards accounting of co-financing.**

Assessing the level of co-financing is challenging as it is not included in project monitoring. It is particularly difficult to monitor in-kind contributions without guidance what falls under in-kind contribution. Without such guidance, equal monitoring is not possible. There seems to be a general tendency to over-estimate co-financing contributions.

Regarding the UNDP/GEF portfolio in the field of land degradation in Uzbekistan

- **Consider promoting value-chains from selected dryland products.**

The income of rural people is generally low in Uzbekistan, and even lower in in rainfed agricultural areas and drylands. Higher income may be obtained through a set of linked activities that work to add value to a certain product. The TE believes that there is potential for this, and farmers and herdsmen can achieve higher income even without increasing the number of livestock. It needs to be negotiated with local people that additional income will not be used for increasing the number of livestock.

- **Focus on skill development in rural area in a systematic way**

The Project has shown that people can find jobs once they have the necessary skills. Young girls who learnt sewing in a small workshop could find a job in a nearby sewing factory. It needs to be screened which job opportunities are available in the respective area, and where in particular young people, both women and men, may find jobs. Demand-driven development of professional skills may be supported in these areas in partnership with the private sector.

Rating Summary Table

The Rating Summary Table is based on the UNDP-GEF Guideline¹ although they differ from the TORs of this specific TE.

6 points scale: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Valid for Monitoring & Evaluation, IA & EA Execution and Outcomes.

4 points scale: Likely (L); Moderately Likely (ML); Moderately Unlikely (MU); Unlikely (U);

3 points scale: Significant (S), Minimal (M), Negligible (N);

2 points scale: relevant (R) or not relevant (NR).

Monitoring & Evaluation	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Result</i>
<i>Overall quality of M&E</i>	6 pt. scale	S
M&E design at project start up	6 pt. scale	S
M&E Plan Implementation	6 pt. scale	HS
IA & EA Execution		
<i>Overall Quality of Project Implementation/Execution</i>	6 pt. scale	HS
Implementing Agency Execution	6 pt. scale	HS
Executing Agency Execution	6 pt. scale	HS
Outcomes		
<i>Overall Quality of Project Outcomes</i>	6 pt. scale	HS
Relevance	2 pt. scale	R
Effectiveness	6 pt. scale	HS
Efficiency	6 pt. scale	HS
Sustainability		
<i>Overall likelihood of risks to Sustainability</i>	4 pt. scale	L
Financial resources	4 pt. scale	ML
Socio-economic	4 pt. scale	L
Institutional framework and governance	4 pt. scale	ML
Environmental	4 pt. scale	U
Impact		
Environmental Status Improvement	3 pt. scale	M
Environmental Stress Reduction	3 pt. scale	M
Progress towards stress/status change	3 pt. scale	M
Overall Project Results	6 pt. scale	MS

¹ Project-Level Evaluation Guidance for conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects (2012).

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Evaluation

As a standard requirement for all UNDP implemented, GEF financed projects, this Terminal Evaluation (TE) has been initiated by UNDP. In the “Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects”², such evaluations are defined to have the following complementary purposes:

- To promote accountability and transparency, and to assess and disclose the extent of project accomplishments;
- To synthesize lessons that can help to improve the selection, design and implementation of future GEF financed UNDP activities;
- To provide feedback on issues that are recurrent across the UNDP portfolio and need attention, and on improvements regarding previously identified issues;
- To contribute to the overall assessment of results in achieving GEF strategic objectives aimed at global environmental benefit; and
- To gauge the extent of project convergence with other UN and UNDP priorities, including harmonization with other UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and UNDP Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) outcomes and outputs.

In accordance with the UNDP partnership protocol with the GEF, all GEF financed projects must receive a final (terminal) evaluation including, at a minimum, ratings on a project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and monitoring and evaluation implementation, plus the likelihood that results (outputs and outcomes) can be sustained.

1.2 Scope and Methodology

The evaluation has been conducted in accordance with the most recent (2012) “UNDP Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects” by framing the evaluation effort using the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and results/impact³. By conducting the evaluation, the Evaluator confirmed as per TORs to accept and fully respect the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation (see Annex F).

In order to provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful, the evaluation followed a participatory and consultative approach which ensured close engagement with the key stakeholders. The evaluation was conducted by a single independent international evaluator who had not been involved in the preparation and implementation of the project. The evaluator has previously evaluated other UNDP/GEF projects in Uzbekistan and Central Asia and was therefore experienced with relevant geographic and socio-economic circumstances.

The first phase of the evaluation was one of data and information collection. It started with a review of relevant documents made available electronically by the Project Team. In addition, relevant websites were also visited and studied. In parallel, the Project Team developed a first draft of a meeting schedule as a basis for discussion with the evaluator. It was subsequently adapted as necessary. A country visit to Uzbekistan constituted the second phase of the evaluation. The aim was to capture as

² Version 2012

³ In GEF terms, results include direct project outputs, short to medium-term outcomes, and longer term impact including global environmental benefits, replication effects and other local effects.

broad assortment of views and opinions as quickly possible within the time available. Meetings, discussions and interviews were conducted with major project stakeholders, consultants, and other parties involved (see list of meetings in the Annex) both in Tashkent and at the level of the two intervention districts, Zaamin and Karakul. The Evaluator had with UNDP's Sustainable Development Cluster both a kick-off meeting at the beginning of the mission and a debriefing meeting at the end of the mission. In the debriefing meeting some preliminary findings and conclusions were presented and discussed.

The third phase of the evaluation consisted of the analysis of the information obtained and the drafting of the TE Report and was carried out home-based. This phase was concluded with the production of a draft report which was submitted to the Project Manager and UNDP Uzbekistan's Sustainable Development Cluster Leader for comments. The fourth and final phase refined the draft of the report in light of the comments received, and produced this TE Report (see Annex G for the Terminal Evaluation Audit Trail).

Key interview partners during the mission to Uzbekistan were representatives of the following organisations, which are regarded as key stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project.

On national level:

- State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadaster (Goskomzemgeodezkadastr);
- Goskomzemgeodezkadastr: Uzgirozem Research-Design State Institute;
- Goskomzemgeodezkadastr: Subsidiary Enterprise Soil Evaluation;
- State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection (GEF Operational Focal Point);
- Hydrometeorological Research (Uzhydromet);
- State Committee of Veterinary and Livestock Development;
- Tashkent State Agrarian University: Information Resource Centre on the Ecology of Desert and Foothill Areas of Rainfed Regions;
- National University of Uzbekistan: Information and Resource Center "Soils and Landscapes" at the laboratory "Agrobiotechnology";
- Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Mechanization (TIIME): Centre for Remote Methods of Studying Properties of Land Resources of Various Landscapes in Uzbekistan;
- UNDP Country Office.

On the level of Samarqand region:

- Research Institute of Karakul and Desert Ecology.

On the level of Zaamin District (Jizzakh region):

- Zaamin State Forestry Mission;
- Department of Agriculture of Zaamin District;
- Zaamin College of Agriculture and Service, Center for the Implementation of Innovative and resource-saving technologies in rainfed agriculture;
- "Farovonlik shukronasi", "Hulkar pistasi", Rustamnoma, Tutak Karim Dalasi,
- Householders: including Marhabo Khalipova (Boytepe Village).

On the level of Karakul District (Bukhara region):

- District government (hokimiyat), Deputy Hokim;

- District government (hokimiyat), Land Resources Department;
- Shurrobod Karakul Yaylovlari LLC;
- Bukhara regional association of “Karakul”;
- Cattle Breeding Farm LLC “Karakul” and its compact cattle-breeding complex;
- “Agropilla” Branch;
- “Ozodbek Husniddin baliqchi” fish breeding LLC;
- Karakul College of Agriculture;
- Sevara-Sabina broiler farm;
- “Mardon” farm (mulberry plantation);
- Women entrepreneurs Mamirova Gulchehra (mahalla Yangi Turmush of Mirhuja village; sewing workshop);
- Householder - Zamira Gaibullaeva.

All interviews were held bilaterally or in small groups to enable an open and frank discussion. Interpretation was provided by the project. A complete list of the persons interviewed is presented in Annex B of this evaluation report.

In addition, other relevant sources of information were reviewed such as the original project document, project inception report and annual project implementation reviews, the mid-term evaluation report as well as technical reports and documents produced in the frame of the project. A list of the reviewed documents is presented in Annex C of this evaluation report.

The Mid-term Review (MTR) Report was used in particular as an important information source. Issues already addressed in the MTR are reviewed and summarised here, but are not repeated in full length. In some cases, the TE looked at certain issues from a different angle than the MTR and consequently came to slightly different results.

The project was assessed using the DAC evaluation criteria relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, and impact. While doing this, the following definitions were used:

Relevance : The extent to which the objectives of the project are consistent with beneficiaries’ requirements, country needs, global priorities and partners’ and donors’ policies;

Effectiveness: The extent to which the project’s objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance;

Efficiency: A measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time etc.) are converted to results (outputs and outcomes);

Impact: Positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by the project, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended; and

Sustainability: The continuation of benefits from the project after the assistance has been completed; the probability of continued long-term benefits.

In addition to a descriptive assessment, the GEF rating system was applied to assess project relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability as well as the quality of M&E systems and the quality of the I&E Execution. The rating scale is consistent with the UNDP Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed projects, as summarised in the table below.

Criteria	Ratings		
Outcomes	6	HS	Highly Satisfactory: no shortcomings
Effectiveness	5	S	Satisfactory: minor shortcomings
Efficiency	4	MS	Moderately Satisfactory: There were moderate shortcomings
M&E	3	MU	Moderately Unsatisfactory: significant shortcomings
I&E Execution	2	U	Unsatisfactory: major problems
	1	HU	Highly Unsatisfactory: severe problems
Sustainability	4	L	Likely: negligible risks to sustainability
	3	ML	Moderately Likely: moderate risks
	2	MU	Moderately Unlikely: significant risks
	1	U	Unlikely: severe risks
Relevance	2	R	Relevant
	1	NR	Not relevant
Impact	3	S	Significant
	2	M	Minimal
	1	N	Negligible

1.3 Structure of the Evaluation Report

The structure of the evaluation report follows in principal the “Evaluation Report Outline” presented in Annex F of the ToR of the assignment with some minor modifications. The Executive Summary provides a quick overview on the main project results, ratings, other observations and recommendations for further work.

2. Project Description and Development Context

2.1 Project Start and Duration

A Project Preparation Grant was approved on 20 December 2011, the Concept approved on 01 February 2012, and the Project Approved for Implementation on 03 October 2013. The Project Document was signed on 01 February 2014. Operational Closing was scheduled for 31 December 2018, but was extended to 31 August 2019 (no-cost extension for six months). Project preparation thus took 25 months (2.1 years), project implementation 67 months (5.5 years).

A Mid-term Review (MTR) was conducted in the second half of 2016, the TE in April 2019, four months prior to completion of project (31 August 2019).

2.2 Problems that the Project Sought to Address

Owing to its geographical and climatic characteristics, Uzbekistan is highly prone to environmental degradation. According to the UNEP aridity index, most of Uzbekistan's territory is classified as a drought zone and is therefore highly susceptible to land degradation and desertification. The degradation of arid lands has clearly accelerated over the last two decades.

The Project Document identified the following reasons for it: The agricultural reform after the collapse of the Soviet Union neglected pasture areas, and concentrated on irrigated agricultural land as this generates the largest proportion of gross domestic product and directly supports livelihoods. Support towards regulating, maintaining or improving effective land use within non-irrigated arid lands has been limited. The specific land degradation problems identified in the Project Document include:

- Widespread and accelerating erosion issues, including dune formation in deserts and semi-deserts, sand/dust storms, moving sands, soil loss, and gulling in mountains and foothills;
- Reduced productivity and degradation of pasturelands, due to overgrazing;
- Deforestation and reduced availability of forest products, due to fuel wood felling and grazing pressure;
- Reduced habitat and numbers of all wildlife, particularly rare and endangered species;
- Reduced sequestration of carbon (in forests and grasslands);
- Changes in hydrology leading to increased number and severity of floods, mudslides and similar disasters.

As regards pastures, the most important direct cause of environmental degradation is an increasing utilisation through overgrazing. Imbalances in grazing pressure are occurring with under-utilisation of some areas, and severe local overgrazing of others. There is an increasingly sharp imbalance between the availability of summer and winter feed, resulting in severe overgrazing particularly of some winter pastures.

As regards the root causes for environmental degradation of non-irrigated land, poverty comes first. Most farmers and herdsmen do not have the resources needed for pasture management and not the knowledge to do it. It needs further to be considered that the population of Uzbekistan is estimated at 32.7million at an annual growth rate of 1.37 %⁴, which is one of the highest in Central Asia. The pressure onto natural resources therefore increases continuously and this represents one of the

⁴ 30.0 at the time of the preparation of the ProDoc. ProDoc gives an annual growth rate of 2.3% which is apparently too high.

main root causes for environmental degradation. Meat consumption is traditionally high in Uzbekistan and pastures represent an important element for food security for the country.

The challenges are thus manifold and appear on various levels; they include legal, political and institutional barriers, and in particular individual and institutional technical and financial capacities necessary for managing dryland in a sustainable way.

2.3 Immediate and Development Objectives of the Project and Expected Results

With the Project Document being signed in 2014, the project falls into the then valid UNDAF Outcome “Principles of sustainable development integrated into country policies and programs”. It further contributes as Primary Outcome of the UNDP Strategic Plan Environment and Sustainable Development “Strengthen national capacity to manage the environment in a sustainable manner while ensuring adequate protection of the poor”, and as Secondary Outcome “Mainstreaming environment and energy”. The project is hereby classified as environmental project, which also ensures protection of the poor.

The project has as per Project Document two components (outcomes), one for field level measures and the other for the enabling environment, and together four outcomes. Initially, there were five outcomes (outputs), which were, however, reduced to four in the Inception Phase. In later documents (e.g. PIRs) and in line with common practice the components were called outcomes and outcomes outputs. The phrasing of the outcomes (outputs) already comprises elements of indicators of achievement such as 6,000 ha of rangeland or 1,000 ha of forests.

Project Goal (Development Objective): “To reduce competing land use pressures on natural resources of arid non-irrigated landscapes”.		
Project Objective: “To promote integrated management of rangeland and forests at the landscape level (focus on non-irrigated, arid mountain, semi-desert, and desert landscapes) to reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and improve the socio-economic stability of communities.”		
Outcomes (“Components”)	Outputs (“Outcomes”)	
1: Field level investment to transform the baseline approach promising best practices on sustainable rangeland and forestry management and INRM planning up-scaled in target districts of Uzbekistan.	1.1	Improvement in the vegetative cover of approximately 6,000 ha of rangeland and 1,000 ha of forestry fund territory due to enhanced land use management using sustainable INRM best practices, accompanied with approximately 50,000 people with secure and sustainable livelihoods.
	1.2	Enhanced mechanisms for cross-sector integrated planning of sustainable natural resources management at district level to improve vegetation and forest cover, decrease moving sands and erosion, and reduce dust storms and other such events.
2: Policy, legal and institutional mechanisms: An enabling cross-sector environment and in-country capacity (at system, institutional and individual levels) for applying integrated landscape management in arid mountain, semi-desert and desert areas of Uzbekistan.	2.1	Enhanced policy, legal, and institutional framework for implementing integrated and sustainable management of rangeland and forests.
	2.2	Adequate technical and managerial capacity for INRM at all levels of land use institutions for the development of policies, legislation and field operations.

2.4 Baseline Indicators

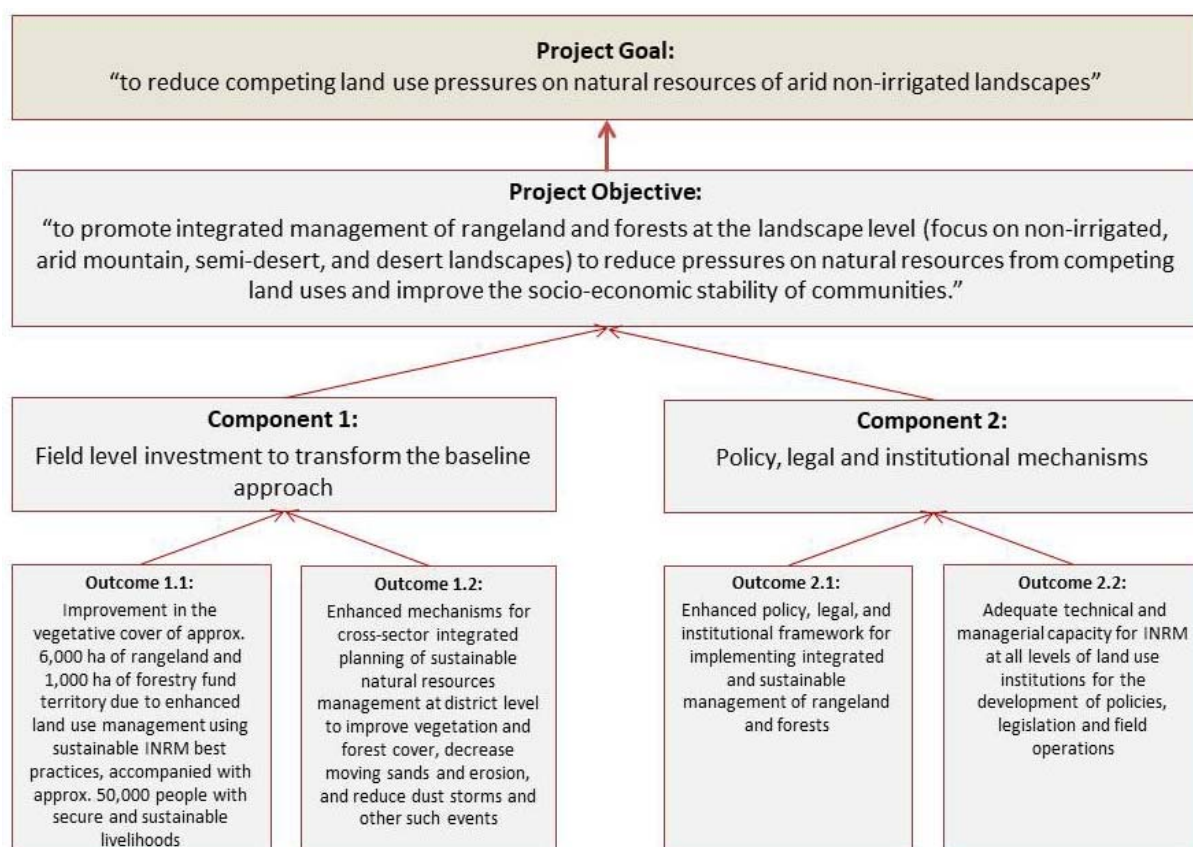
The following baseline indicators have been defined to measure project achievements:

Objective:	Number of hectares of pastures, forest and rain-fed arable land in two target districts that are under improved management.
Outcome 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Improvement or maintenance of vegetative cover in pilot sites in target districts;2. Area of pasture classified as “degraded” in project sites;3. Area of pasture used by dekhans (households) under collaborative management (pasture user groups);4. Number of dekhans with formal legal rights (and obligations) for areas used as pasture;5. Area of forest planted or managed through state and community collaborative mechanisms (JFM, community forests, collaborative moving sand);6. Humus content of rain-fed arable land in plough layer;7. Local small businesses involved in production or application of appropriate technologies;8. Number of livestock wells rehabilitated and adequately maintained in project sites;9. Pasture legislation and tenure arrangements allow more effective pasture use and fully recognize household/dekhan pasture users.
Outcome 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. National pasture use strategic policy/plan incorporating long term integrated sustainable pasture use objectives;2. An up-to-date national forestry programme / plan supported by government that incorporates long term integrated sustainable use objectives;3. A strategic policy/plan on rain-fed agriculture that incorporates long term integrated sustainable use objectives;4. Inter-ministerial mechanism for ensuring coordination of land use policies operating effectively;5. National and regional training institutions producing graduates with sound understanding of integrated land use concepts and approaches.

2.5 Main Stakeholders

The Project was implemented by UNDP in the “National Implementation (NIM) Mode” with the State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre (Goskomzem, GKZ) being the Executing Agency.

The stakeholder analysis provided in the Project Document lists 13 governmental organisations and a series of further universities, research institutes, private enterprises, etc. who have a stake in the project. In the course of the project, several institutional reorganisations happened, with new government units (e.g. committees) formed and allocated to other ministries. The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, listed in the Project Document as main partner on the policy level, played during project implementation no major role as the responsibilities for land, pasture and livestock have been transferred to other organisations.



Project Results Framework (after adaption during the Inception Phase).

3. Findings

3.1 Project Design / Formulation

3.1.1 Formulation of the Results Framework

Principal project formulation took place mainly in 2011–2012, i.e. some seven years prior to the TE. It is difficult to evaluate this process retrospectively, and the observations during the TE towards this end are based mainly on an analysis of the Project Document and only to lesser extent on interviews and other personal communication.

3.1.2 Analysis of the Project Results Framework

Does the project address a priority for the development of the Uzbekistan? The Republic of Uzbekistan is a dry country with a total area of approximately 44.5 million ha, comprised mainly of mountains (20%) and arid/ semi-arid areas (70%). Land degradation is widespread in the country, and causes significant economic costs at three levels: (i) at the field level, in terms of decline in productivity; (ii) at the national level, in terms of loss of productive capacity of the agricultural land and lower growth of the agricultural gross domestic product and export earnings; and (iii) at the global level, in terms of negative impact on carbon sequestration and climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution of transboundary water resource flows. In the last 25 years, degradation has led to the area of agricultural land decreasing by 37% mainly due to the reduction of pasture lands but also significant reductions in areas of rain-fed and irrigated arable land. Taking into account that rangeland is an

essential element of food security in Uzbekistan and the country has a fast growing population, stopping land degradation and rehabilitation of rangeland is considered a national priority. *[Project is highly relevant for Uzbekistan]*.

Does the project comply with relevant strategies? The Project Document conclusively demonstrates that the project is in line with relevant government strategies.⁵ The project also contributes to UN-DAF Outcomes “Principles of sustainable development integrated into country policies and programs” and the UNDP Strategic Plan Environment and Sustainable Development, particularly the primary outcome “Strengthen national capacity to manage the environment in a sustainable manner while ensuring adequate protection of the poor” and the secondary outcome “mainstreaming the environment and energy”. *[Project complies with relevant government policies and UNDP goals]*.

Is the problem analysis adequate? The Project Document includes a very good analysis of the existing problems related to natural resources management in the country. The Project Document highlights the problems related to the unsustainable management of a great portion of the country and provides figures and detailed data which underline the gravity of the prevailing situation. The analysis also shows that the problems have national, regional and international dimensions. *[Project is based on a sound problem analysis]*.

Is the project objective an appropriate answer to solve the problems identified? The project objective reads as “To promote integrated management of rangeland and forests at the landscape level (focus on non-irrigated, arid mountain, semi-desert, and desert landscapes) to reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and improve the socio-economic stability of communities.” The project objective hereby successfully links environmental goals with socio-economic development and shows that both issues are inseparably connected with each other. The project pursues a landscape approach which balances competing land use demands in a way that is best for human well-being and the environment. Land-use decisions and project interventions are to be taken in a holistic way. *[The project objective is an appropriate answer to the problems identified]*.

Does the project objective suggest a goal-oriented, focused approach? While the project addresses key issues of land degradation and suggests focusing on non-irrigated, arid mountain, semi-desert, and desert landscapes, the inclusion of forests implies the risk to distract the Project from its core task and to dilute a focused approach. It is challenging to combine forestry with rangeland management as forestry as a sector by its own has different beneficiaries, different stakeholders, different government policies, etc. and therefore needs different approaches. *[The inclusion of forestry in the project formulation bears the risk to sidetrack the project from its main tasks]*.

To what extent are the objectives of the programme still valid? At the time of the TE evaluation, it was found that the problems related to land degradation continue to exist, and seemingly have even exacerbated. The high population growth in Uzbekistan results in rapidly expanding cities and increases the pressure on natural resources. The disparity in living standards between rural and urban areas is high and despite significant progress in reducing the poverty (according to official statistics the national poverty rate has decreased from 27.5 per cent in 2001 to 12.8 per cent in 2015)⁶, the rural population still not fully benefits from the rapid economic development which takes place especially since 2016. *[All framework conditions still in place]*.

⁵ The individual strategies and policies are not repeated here. Please refer to the Project Document.

⁶ <http://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/countryinfo.html>

Are the indicators appropriate to measure the attainments of the project? For measuring the achievement of the project objective, a single indicator has been defined (“Number of hectares of pastures, forest and rain-fed arable land in two target districts that are under improved management”). Whereas a baseline and a clear target has been defined, the indicator does not define what “improved” actually means and how it will be measured. The indicator therefore leaves room for interpretation whether “improved” stands for ecological improvement, enhanced productivity, higher economic benefit, or other issues such as a combination of some of them. Hereby, both environmental (biodiversity) and socio-economic indicators are absent on the level of the project objective, but the indicators of the project outcomes are more specific towards this end. *[Project indicators appropriate, even though clear environmental and socio-economic indicators on objective level would have sharpened the project profile].*

3.1.3 Analysis of Assumptions and Risks

The project documents (with revisions and addition of additional risks in the Inception Phase) identified the following risks and threats⁷:

	Threat/Risk as per ProDoc	Proposed Action	Remarks (TE)
1	Building of sufficient capacity and practical know-how within essential state institutions and local authorities will take too long to allow project sustainability.	Project duration fixed at 5 years (although this may still not be enough).	TE: Risk No. 1 not really describes a risk, i.e. an uncertain event (<u>what</u> would be the risk that the objective cannot be attained within 5 years?).
2	Disagreements and misunderstanding between user groups and the main beneficiaries of current resource use system.	Clear policy direction and institutional/legal reforms will provide the appropriate environment, capacity strengthening will change existing mind-sets, and on ground practical testing of approaches will put in place the necessary mechanisms for dispute resolution.	No major conflicts were reported to the TE. The Project pursued the policy to include as many recipients of project goods and services as possible.
3	New threats such as insect infestations, disease caused by climate change, reduced water availability, etc. or existing threats could increase beyond the projected levels (such as rate of population increase).	The project is designed to respond flexibly to threats and seeks to put in place processes and tools that will enable stakeholders to adapt SLM practices.	No new major threats and risks occurred during the lifespan of the project.
4	Government will not continue to support the recurrent cost of district vocational training colleges.	The project will highlight the value of such colleges for their long term support and role within the rural development.	Government support to the colleges continued throughout the lifespan of the project.
5	Graduates will not be able to apply knowledge due to continued existence of inappropriate institutional context or better employment opportunities in other sectors.	The project will ensure that graduate courses are better tailored to the job market needs.	Did not become really relevant for the project.
6	Key personnel from government are unable to actively participate in training sessions.	The project will ensure that scheduling of events is undertaken in a way that allows for maximum participation of key personnel.	Did not become real threat to the project.

⁷ Short versions. For the full text, see Project Document and Inception Report.

	Threat/Risk as per ProDoc	Proposed Action	Remarks (TE)
7	Project goals and objectives perhaps too ambitious and support from project resources and/or Government may not be sufficient.	Annual reviews will be conducted to assess the situation.	TE: Risk No. 7 not really describes a risk, i.e. an uncertain event.
8	Government does not commit itself to implementation the recommendations formulated by the project, which requires review of respective policy.	Project team intends to maintain good connection and dialogue with all stakeholders.	TE: Government largely followed the recommendations of the project (e.g. Law on Pastures).
9	Lack of appropriate local / international experience leads to delay or inability to achieve all project results.	Project will assess existing experience to make sure that appropriate experts can be mobilized.	Lack of experts was not an issue for project implementation.
10	Recruited project team inadequately qualified for implementation of all project outcomes.	Team members will be replaced.	Not a risk which affected project implementation.
11	Climate vulnerability risks, such as extreme seasonal variations / drought will negatively impact land conditions in project sites.	Project duration over several years to include years with low and high precipitation.	Risk no longer valid. After an extremely low precipitation in 2018, spring 2019 had very high precipitation with very good pasture development.
12	Weak political or institutional will to make necessary changes.	Dedicated and carefully targeted awareness and capacity building at the outset of the project.	The project managed getting high attention from the government and assisted the government e.g. in elaborating a rangeland law.
13	Engaging local stakeholders contains some risk in the context of existing mainly centralized approaches.	Cooperation with local municipalities that are composed of community representatives and are responsible for some aspects of land management such.	The project did not report to the TE on major conflicts between local and national authorities.

The outcome of the Project was not threatened by one of the factors listed in the risk matrix. With some minor exceptions, the risks which had been identified at the onset of the Project did not occur or the risks were managed properly by the Project. The political risks were minimised by the various changes that occurred since 2016 at the level of the Government of Uzbekistan; the environmental risks were minimised by favourable weather conditions (high precipitation) at the end of the project; the institutional risks were properly managed by the Project.

3.1.4 Lessons from Other Relevant Projects

Already at the start of the project, a variety of promising good practices for land use existed. The Project Document lists 17 NRM best practices to be applied in the two target districts. All these best practices have been tested before and have been proven useful. All these measures have been piloted in the course of the “UNDP-GEF ‘Achieving Ecosystem Stability in Aral Sea and Kyzylkum Desert’ (SLM Project)”, the “UNDP-GEF Project ‘Biodiversity Tugai and Nuratau Biosphere Reserves’”, the GIZ rangeland management project, as well as by other projects supported by World Bank, the EU, ICAR-DA, ZEF and others.

The project could draw much information especially from the UNDP-GEF SLM project, which pursued a very similar approach. Even one of the project regions was identical and the LAND project may even be considered as a follow-up measure to the UNDP-GEF SLM project. The project manager of the LAND project and several experts had worked before for the SLM project.

All this shows that the project concept is based on available experience and there was not need to pilot and demonstrate new approaches and methodologies, but could concentrate on replication and upscaling from the very beginning of project operation.

3.1.5 Stakeholder Participation

Stakeholder participation at the onset of the project is difficult to evaluate as the project was designed some 7–8 years ago and people involved in the preparation were usually no longer available during TE. However, there is good evidence that project preparation had achieved a maximum of participation both from local people and from government.

The preparation of the project design followed a participatory approach. The selection of project beneficiaries was led by the district governments (Karakul and Zaamin District Hokimiyat). Based on their local knowledge they choose institutes and private persons who participated in the initial project preparation meetings. Both the neediness of these persons and their potential to share the results of the project measures with other people were usually used criterion for selecting the project beneficiaries.

The civil society was not involved in a significant way in the implementation of the project. There was some cooperation e.g. with the “Ecological Movement” which is more a political party than a non-governmental organisation. There are apparently no local NGOs existent which could have taken over the implementation of certain project components.

3.1.6 Project Beneficiaries

The Project Document defined the State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre as the key beneficiary of the Project. This was the key partner and executing agency throughout the lifetime of the Project.

According to the list of project activities, the Project provided goods and services to altogether some 70 individuals and organisations. This group of beneficiaries comprised a State Committee, District governments, university and research institutes, state and private enterprises (including forest enterprises) and private house-holds. The project beneficiaries reflected an appropriate selection of stakeholders being active in the field of NRM. All these beneficiaries received from the Project physical support at least in the form of materials and equipment. Individuals and institutions who received support from the Project e.g. by training, access to workshops or other events, are not included in this number.

Such a high number of project beneficiaries is quite unusual and is found in other development operations usually only in small-grant programmes and micro credit programmes (which pursue different approaches).

Table. Classification and approximate number of project beneficiaries.

Outcome 1	Outcome 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 private companies (LLC) • 6 State-owned companies (LLC) • 3 State Forest Enterprises • 6 private house-holds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 State Committee • 2 subsidiary organs of a State Committee • 2 khokimiyats (District governments) • 9 universities, colleges and state research institutes

3.1.7 Replication and Upscaling Approach

The Project was designed with the ultimate goal to replicate and up-scale existing best practices for land management. The project thus does not have the task to develop and test new approaches. For replicating the project results, the Project took a two-level approach with the following tasks:

- to implement and replicate best practices on a larger area of land (project component [outcome] 1), and
- to mainstream project results into the legal and institutional framework and the government policy (project component [outcome] 2).

3.1.8 UNDP's Comparative Advantages

UNDP has over the other GEF agencies the following comparative advantages as an implementing agency for this project:

- UNDP's long and positive track record in Central Asia;
- UNDP's track record in the sector of land management, desertification, adaptation to climate change, et.;
- UNDP's combined track record in the country and in the sector (e.g. UNDP-GEF SLM Project);
- UNDP's proven ability to build on successful cooperation with national partner institutions and national experts;
- UNDP maintains in Uzbekistan a country office which can provide technical and administrative backstopping and other services;
- The project is entirely supportive of, and consistent with, UNDP's Country Programme Portfolio.

3.1.9 Linkages between the Project and other Interventions within the Sector

The project could rely on a number of strong partnerships on state level (national level and district levels), research and education institutions (including universities) and with several private companies. In all stages of the project, i.e. planning, implementation and monitoring, all partner organisations were generally in a good relationship and understanding with one another.

The Project cooperated with other projects in the sector such as with the regional project "Sustainable and climate sensitive land use for economic development in Central Asia" (2016-2019), implemented by GIZ. Cooperation with this and other projects happened in the form of information-sharing and invitation to and participation in different project-related events.

3.2 Project Implementation

3.2.1 Adaptive Management

Flexibility is one of the GEF's operational principles, and all projects must be implemented in a flexible manner to maximize efficiency and effectiveness, and to ensure a results-based, rather than an output-based approach. Thus, during project implementation adaptive management must be employed to adjust to changing circumstances. There are two critical points where the project design needs to be reviewed and where adaptive management can best be introduced: in the Inception Phase and after the Mid-term Review (MTR).

Inception Phase. The Inception Report 2014 was prepared by the Project Manager and the National Project Technical Coordinator together with a National Project Consultant. An Inception Workshop was held in August 2014 and was attended by 53 representatives of various stakeholders. Based on the discussions and recommendations coming out from the workshop and further stakeholder consultations, the project design was slightly adapted, e.g. the number of outputs was reduced from five to four (without reducing the scope of interventions) and the phrasing of several indicators was adapted to better comply with the original Russian version (but without changing target values). Also the risk matrix was modified to better reflect the actual situation at the onset of the project.

Altogether, the Project took the opportunity to adapt some aspects of the Project design to the new circumstances which have evolved since project preparation.

Mid-term Review. The Project, at the time of the MTR in December 2016, is being implemented according to the rules and regulations pertaining to project implementation and is progressing towards its overall objectives, although the MTR was also of the opinion that the Project was going to achieve most of end-of-project targets with significant shortcomings. Significant shortcomings were found in Outcome / Component 1, major shortcomings in Outcome / Component 2. According to the results of the MTR, implementation of some components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management with some components requiring remedial action.

According to the MTR, the Project failed to develop in the Inception Phase a proper road map which shows how to achieve the project objective, and to identify a set of SMART indicators in order to better monitor the progress and delivery of the Project outputs. The indicators which do not appear very practical/feasible were not adapted in the Inception Phase. For example, the target for the number of hectares of degraded or improved rangeland, forest and rain-fed arable land in two target districts that are under improved management are difficult to verify as long as there is no definition what "degraded" and "improved" means. Following the MTR, the Project prepared a comprehensive Management Response to the MTR, but did not prepare a strategic road map how to achieve the project objective and did not adapt the indicators to make them "SMART".⁸

While the MTR Report mentions a few times the lack of a roadmap for achieving the Project objective, it appears from the Management Response and the subsequent activities that the recommendation was probably not clear enough. This may be related to the fact that the MTR was not very outspoken what aspects of the Project need to be changed, and what aspects a roadmap should entail. The MTR for example criticized the very wide scope of project activities, geographically and technically, and favoured a more focused approach, but this is not well reflected in the recommendations.

⁸ No critical review of the issue is found in the Management Response to the MTR.

Other aspects. The Government of Uzbekistan allowed the US-Dollar to float freely starting from 2017, and as a consequence, the exchange rate changed from 2,203 UZS for one US-Dollar in 2010 to 8,485 UZS in April 2019 (at the time of the TE). This had drastic consequences on the project budget and with the need for some modifications. The change in the exchange rate finally also led to the decision to extend the project duration for more than one year beyond the initially foreseen project closure.

Table. List of recommendations by the Mid-term Review (MTR) and the response of the Project. The last column gives an assessment of the response by the TE: + = response regarded as appropriate; – = response regarded as insufficient.

	Comment	Response	+/-
1	The project should be better integrated into the host agency in order to contribute more to its capacity building / enhancement. This would prepare the institution for the post-project continuation of the activities.	The project works in conjunction with central office and regional structures of the Executive Agency. Staff of partner organisations was hired by the Project to work for the Project.	–
2	Consultants' activities/reports should fit better into an overall and well integrated work programme that leads, at least in part, towards the achievement of the objectives/outcomes of the Project.	In monthly meetings with the national consultants, project plans and proposals of local and national partner organizations, the economic efficiency of implemented and implemented project activities, etc. are discussed.	+
3	The Project should consider the enhancement of its focus on arid and semi-arid rangelands, given the importance of the land degradation problems in those areas.	With the assistance of the national project consultants, detailed uses and restoration of pasture lands were developed.	+
4	The Project should carry out field surveys / gather the existing information in order to list and analyse the existing range management practices. This information is indispensable as a good basis for the further development of rules, regulations and a legal framework.	National consultant on social and economic issues hired, and carries out analysis of economic activities of subjects of land use and by year-end will prepare recommendations on the advantages and disadvantages of different forms of production.	+
5	Efforts should be fostered and supported to gradually define/create/promote an institution that could be entrusted with the overall management of rangelands in the Country, given their overall importance, and the critical situation some of the rangelands are currently facing.	The project initiated the development of the draft law "On pastures". The International Consultant for Integrated Land Use Management Planning developed plans for improved pasture management in project districts.	+
6	Sustainable rangeland and pasture planning; grazing regulation, range restoration and improvement etc. should go hand in hand, as they all are an integral part of range management, whatever the grazing model or land tenure.	The project assists in the formation and development of organisations for pasture use.	+
7	The Project could, with its Partners, organise a workshop, where some of the MTR findings and suggestions could be shared and discussed and possibly prepare the basis for an updated road map ahead.	All members of Technical working groups were agree with recommendations of MTR and are ready to support the project from sides of their ministries or agencies.	+

3.2.2 Partnership Arrangements⁹

The project is part of the multi-donor CACILM Initiative, whose goal is to restore, maintain, and enhance the productive functions of land in Central Asia, leading to improved economic and social well-being of those who depend on these resources while preserving the ecological functions of the land. The following bilateral and multilateral institutions are members of this Strategic Partnership for UNCCD Implementation in Central Asian Countries: the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the German Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank (WB). CACILM thus brings together similar projects in the region and provides an umbrella for the Project. The Project participated in several meetings (e.g. a roundtable in Tashkent in 2016), shares information on the prevention of land degradation and combating desertification, but the ties with and benefits derived from CACILM are modest.

On national level, the Project cooperated with other projects in the sector such as with the regional project “Sustainable and climate sensitive land use for economic development in Central Asia” (2016–2019), implemented by GIZ. Cooperation with this and other projects happened in the form of information-sharing and invitation to and participation in different project-related events.

3.2.3 Project Finance

The project could rely on an overall budget from the GEF Trust Fund of US\$2,313,600 plus US\$231,360 as Agency Fee for UNDP (10 per cent of the GEF contribution as per standard). As per Project Document, UNDP committed a grant of US\$700,000 towards the project costs.

As per 30.04.2019, the project disbursed US\$2,228,347 which is 96.3 per cent of the GEF funds available.¹⁰ It can be expected that the project will disburse all GEF funds with high precision till the planned project closure on 31.08.2019.

From the US\$700,000 which had been committed by UNDP, only approximately US\$450,000 has been disbursed by 30.04.2019 (60 per cent). It is unlikely (and not foreseen) that UNDP will spend the remaining USD250,000 till the end of the project.

The annual budget allocation was revised a few times as compared with the figures presented in the Project Document in order to meet the actual demands. According to the information obtained by the Project, there was a steady disbursement over the years. The project took some time to gain momentum and started with an expenditure of US\$140,000 in 2014, but reached almost US\$800,000 in 2017. Since then, the disbursement is decreasing again, which is a good indicator for a smooth phasing-out.

No financial audit of the Project has been conducted during its life-circle (2014-2019).

⁹ While there is no unambiguous definition of a partnership, term used is used here in the sense of a partnership between UNDP and another international organisation. The definition given in the UNDP document “Managing Partnerships” (#5 of 22.12.2017) does not restrict the application of the term to international partners.

¹⁰ Based on information obtained by the Project.

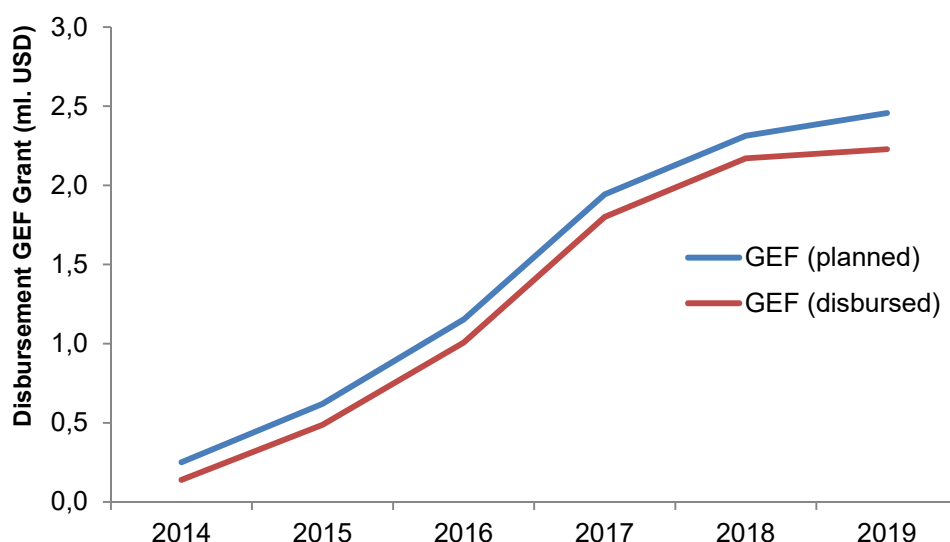


Figure. Annual cumulative disbursement of project funds (only GEF Trust Fund resources shown). The figures for 2019 comprise only the period until 24.04.2019 (expected project closure 31.08.2019).

Co-financing and Co-financing Delivery. In addition the US\$3.0 m grant from the GEF Trust Fund and UNDP, the Project Document lists grants totalling US\$7.7 m for co-financing:

- Government (State Committee for Land Resources and Geo-Cadastre and Karakul and Zaamin Districts): US\$6,700,000;¹¹
- Forestry Enterprises: US\$220,000;
- International Centre for Bio-saline Agriculture (ICBA): US\$500,000;
- Sheep Breeding Farms: US\$320,000.

Additionally, the Project Document lists unspecified in-kind contributions in the amount of US\$1,440,000.

The *International Centre for Bio-saline Agriculture* (ICBA) cultivated in 2015 in cooperation with the project leguminose crops on 5 ha. of land and planted in 2016 again in cooperation with the project 100 fruit trees. Additionally, ICBA provided trainings and seminars. The monetary value of these measures must be much below the committed US\$500,000.

The Forest Enterprises and the Sheep Breeding Farms made significant contributions towards the Project mainly as in-kind contributions in the form of labour, provision of tools, transportation, provision of meeting facilities, etc. However, these contributions were for their own direct benefit (and it may therefore be discussed whether it can be counted as “co-financing”) and the monetary value of these contributions seems to be far below the original commitment.¹²

Also the actual contribution by the Government of Uzbekistan towards the project costs is even further below the commitment as given in the Project Document: While there are visible contributions such as staff time, rental of the project office, etc., these are surely far below the amount committed. A tentative estimation comes to the result that the contribution is less than 5 per cent of the original commitment (see table).

¹¹ At another place, the Project Document gives even US\$ 7.9 million (p. 49).

¹² It needs to be taken into account that average salaries are very low in Uzbekistan, especially in rural areas. Monthly salaries between 100 and 150 US\$ are usual. In 2017, the average monthly salary was 123 US\$ (<http://tashkenttimes.uz/national/1814-average-monthly-salary-in-uzbekistan-is-us-125-statistics-committee>).

So the project was, on paper, well co-financed at the project design stage, but the actual co-finance expenditure at the TE stage of the project is disappointing as it represents only approximately 11 per cent of the pledged amount.

It is a general feature observed in GEF-funded projects that GEF pushes a lot for identifying and leveraging co-financing sources, and much is counted as “co-financing” which would actually not deserve this name, and the pledges are often badly inflated, well knowing that this will remain without consequences. It is, however, also understood that GEF does not give clear guidance on counting co-financing sources and that these contributions are not monitored during project implementation.

Table. Co-financing table showing the committed and estimated actual level of co-financing.

	Planned	Actual
UNDP (own financing)	700,000	450,000 ^a
Government (Goskomzemgeodezkadaster & District Gvts.)	6,700,000	250,000 ^b
Forest Enterprises	220,000	<150,000 ^c
International Centre for Bio-saline Agriculture (ICBA)	500,000	0
Sheep breeding farms	320,000	<100,000 ^d

^aApproximate expected amount by the end of the project. ^bNo detailed information available. In order to give an indication for its order of magnitude, US\$ 50,000 per year was assumed (staff time, office rental). ^cWhile the Project provided equipment, seedlings & saplings, machinery, etc., the forest enterprises made available land and labour force (and partly transportation). ^dThe Project paid the construction of a sheep breeding and processing plant complex for which the beneficiary contributed to the labour force.

3.2.4 Monitoring & Evaluation

The Project Document describes in detail the monitoring framework for the Project including workshops, reporting, independent evaluations, etc. The Project strictly adhered to the provisions made and met the deadlines. The M&E results are described in the report under “effectiveness” further below.

3.4.5 Management arrangements and operational issues

Project Executive Board (PEB) / Project Steering Committee. A Project Executive Board was created to provide policy and programme oversight and guidance to the project implementation, chaired by the National Project Director (NPC) who is responsible for the overall implementation of the project. The Board reviews and approves annual project reviews and work plans, technical documents, budgets and financial reports. It provides general strategic and implementation guidance to the Project Manager. Board meetings took place regularly, twice a year, in June and December. No major disagreements between the PMU and the Board were reported to the TE.

The **Project Management Unit (PMU)** is located in Tashkent and appropriate office space was provided by Goskomzemgeodezkadaster. Core PMU staff consists of a National Project Manager (NPM) tasked with the day-to-day management of project activities, as well as with financial and administrative reporting. Other core staff included a full time National Technical Coordinator who is responsible for day to day supervision of project technical activities, an Administration and Finance Assistant, as well as a Procurement Assistant and a Project Driver. At the time of the TE, only the Project Manager, the Administration and Finance Assistant and a driver were employed by the Project, supported by Consultants as required. The Project employed also two clerks in the regions, one in Zaamin District

and the other in Karakul District. The overall set-up of the Project structure is regarded as reasonable and the gradual phasing-out of project staff towards project closure appropriate.

The MTR criticized that altogether some 55 experts had been hired by the Project on a short-term basis.¹³ In the second half of the Project, the number of external experts has been reduced considerably.

An international Chief Technical Adviser (CTA), responsible for guiding the overall technical direction of the project, was hired only at the beginning of the project (2015) for a few short missions to Uzbekistan. He visited Tashkent and the regions three times. His impact on the overall strategy and performance of the Project is considered marginal. Other international short-term experts were hired in line with the stipulations made in the Project Document for pasture livestock breeding (2015), forestry (2015) and ILUMP (2015-2018) as well as for the MTR and TE. The total budget available for international experts was US\$282,200 roughly 80% of it was spent or allocated at the time of the TE.

Guidance by UNDP. UNDP has played a crucial role throughout the project, both at the CO level and the level of the responsible Regional Office. Staff of the UNDP CO not only participated in the PEB and other meetings and hold contact with its members beyond these meetings, but made also regular visits to the demonstration sites. The Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) in all phases of the project was fully available to guide the project. Extensive comments on project performance made in the annual PIRs are good evidence for this. In 2018, he also visited the project intervention sites.

3.3 Project Results

3.3.1 Attainment of Project Objectives

The goal of the Project is to reduce competing land use pressures on natural resources of arid landscapes, and the objective names Integrated Land Use Planning (ILUP) as the methodology to be applied for this purpose.

Regarding improved pastures, the Project reports a cumulative progress of 44,600 hectares, which is well beyond the EoP target of 22,000 ha. Out of 44,600 hectares, pasture rotation practices were introduced at 30,000 hectares and 300 hectares of previously degraded pastures underwent major improvements. Until early 2018, a total of 1,399 hectares of improved rain-fed lands (vs. EoP target of 2,000 ha) were delivered by the project. By early 2018, the Project has succeeded in bringing 3,574 hectares of forestry land under “improved management”¹⁴ vs. an EoP target of 11,000 ha. Although the Project carried out additional planting activities in Karakul State Forestry and did additional measures in Zaamin Forestry Farm in 2018/2019, it is unlikely that the Project will achieve the forest-related targets in the remaining months till the end of the Project. These achievements of the Project have to be put in relation to the fact that forests issues are secondary to resolving agricultural land use practices, and the fact that the surface area of improved pastures exceeds the original target by

¹³ Most national short-term experts worked for a period of a couple of months.

¹⁴ The measures not always fall under the strict definitions of “forests” (e.g. as per FAO definition of forests). The measures supported by the Project include saxaul plantations in the desert, the plantation of fruit trees and other commercially important trees in and around human settlement, the linear plantation of trees against wind erosion and other plantation activities on the Forest Fund. The definition what is “improved management” is quite controversial as the Project includes in this definition e.g. the plantation of ornamental trees, dog roses or the cultivation of medicinal herbs in natural dryland ecosystems. From an environmental perspective, the effect of some of these measures is debateable and may not be regarded as an “improvement”.

more than two times. The overall results as measured by the project indicators and as reported by the Project itself can therefore be regarded as highly satisfactory.¹⁵

The indicators for measuring the achievement of the project objective are based exclusively on the attainments of Outcome 1. With this approach, achievements or non-achievements of Outcome 2 do not affect the overall result. The available indicator is therefore insufficient to draw an overall picture of project achievements and it is worthwhile to take a closer look at various other aspects for an objective assessment of project achievements.

The Project was extremely successful in bringing dryland management issues on the national agenda. The Project has been successful in producing key strategic documents- It took for example a lead role in developing a strategy for the long-term use of non-irrigated drylands that includes sections on the long-term development of pasture lands and sustainable livestock grazing, sustainable management of forest and rain-fed lands, and regulations and procedures to guide afforestation/reforestation activities in the country. Some of the documents have been approved by the government. The main achievement, however, is the *Draft Law on Pastures*, which has been prepared with the assistance of the Project, and underwent a process of refinement and adaptation, but was finally adopted by the Parliament and signed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in May 2019.

The Project was also extremely successful in implementing socio-economic small-scale and micro-projects in dryland areas as foreseen in the Project Document. The Project carried out some 117 measures for approximately 70 different stakeholders. The measures reached from the delivery of some books on land use issues to a university library or the provision of sewing machines to women entrepreneurs over providing equipment for fencing pastures, establishing greenhouses, planting trees, providing computers to research institutes or machinery for the processing of medicinal plants up to the construction of a sheep breeding and processing plant. All these measures (a few exceptions are negligible) were very successfully implemented and the beneficiaries were satisfied with the results. While the socio-economic benefits for the recipients are remarkable and indisputable, there are two issues of potential concern:

- Some of the small-scale and micro-measures have little potential for upscaling without external economic and technical support. The main reason is that the initial investments are often not affordable for the majority of the mostly poor rural population. The Project failed to provide and implement an upscaling mechanism based on a sound strategy. Some of these measures were therefore just demonstration measures which show what could be done, and there is no real chance to introduce such measures on a broad scale. This resulted in a relatively low impact of the small-scale and micro-measures.¹⁶
- The effect of many of these measures on the environment including natural ecosystems is often not visible and measurable, and it cannot be ruled out that some of the Project measures even have a negative unintended effect on dryland ecosystems. For example, most income-generating activities were not directly linked to a reduction of the pressure on natural resources, measures for the improvement of animal husbandry were not always linked to

¹⁵ This assessment is based on the assumption that not all indicators are of equal importance and calculating an average is therefore not reasonable. It also takes into account the MTR recommendation to pursue a more focussed approach.

¹⁶ The following definition of "impact" is applied here: "Actual or anticipated, positive or negative changes in global environmental benefit, as verified by environmental stress and/or status change, and also taking into account sustainable development impacts, including changed livelihoods." Guidance for conducting terminal evaluations of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed projects. 2012.

a reduction of the number of livestock, and pasture seeding with non-autochthonous species may change the natural, autochthonous fauna and flora.

More detailed information on the project activities is given in the following paragraphs, an assessment of project indicator targets in chapter 3.3.3 Effectiveness. In the following, a selection of project activities is described for each outcome and it is attempted to link them with the expected project outcome.

Attainment of Output (Outcome) 1: Field level investment to transform the baseline approach promising best practices on sustainable rangeland and forestry management and INRM planning up-scaled in target districts of Uzbekistan.

The following chapters are an assessment of some examples of typical project measures with focus on those visited during the TE. The actual list of project measures is much longer.

Zaamin State Forestry. The Project supported the Zaamin State Forestry by providing them machinery for the collection, processing and storage of medicinal plants. With this support, the State Forestry extended their economic activities in the field of medicinal herbs, and ploughed uncultivated plots of land which belong to the State Forest Fund to grow herbs there. As the herbs are grown on uncultivated forest land, no competing land use practices could be identified. As medicinal plants replace the natural vegetation, also no environmental benefits could be recognised. Nevertheless, the TE was not able to assess whether this has a negative effect on the environment. The collection, processing and marketing of medicinal herbs created some jobs (<10 permanent jobs and an unknown number of seasonal jobs for collection), and increased the annual income of the State Forestry by 180m UZS (approx. US\$22,000). An income of approximately 500m UZS (approximately US\$590,000) are planned for 2019. The Project further supported the State Forestry by providing equipment for a tree nursery, and altogether more than 900,000 tree saplings, mostly economically important trees. The trees were planted on uncultivated land, but not land which was specifically affected by heavy erosion (desertification). The level of land degradation was not used as criterion when the land was selected for carrying out the plantations; most plantations were done in the close vicinity of the State Forestry facilities. All these measures contributed to strengthening the State Forestry and for improving their economic return and had no direct visible link to competing land use practices and environmental benefits.

Zaamin College of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Project provided the means to build a modern greenhouse with drip irrigation for cultivating tomatoes, laboratory equipment mainly for the analyses of soil samples, a generator, and machinery for no tillage seeding. All equipment is used for educational purposes. The Project¹⁷ justifies the support provided to the Agricultural College with the need to support the development of new skills among college students, as an alternative to livestock management. It is surely useful to strengthen and enrich the College's education programme with such topics, but it remains doubtful whether this will actually lead to a reduction of the pressure on natural resources. Greenhouses are means of increasing agricultural productivity, they are normally not regarded as an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional land use systems. Also a soil laboratory provided by the Project has the ultimate goal to increase agricultural productivity, i.e. to find the most appropriate crop for the soil available and to adjust fertilizing. Soil analyses are used for optimizing the yield of crop production and are not directly linked to rangeland management. These Project measures are carried out under the assumption that a general increase of the agricul-

¹⁷ Communication with PM, see also e.g. PIR 2018.

tural productivity will release pasture land from its current unsustainable usage pattern. However, there is no evidence that this is true. Higher productivity means more and additional income for the farmer, and does not necessarily mean that he will refrain from cattle breeding or other competing agricultural practices. But even if he himself refrains from animal husbandry, his livestock and related facilities will surely be taken over by somebody else.

“Hulkar Pistasi” Farm. The Project helped the farm establish a plum orchard on a mountain slope, and provided equipment for a drip irrigation system, a water pumping station, a fence and 900 pieces of plum saplings. At the time of the TE, the grasses and herbal vegetation of the fenced area was in much better condition than the areas around which were subject to livestock grazing. The Project thus supported the transformation of rangeland into an irrigated fruit orchard. A few farmers from the same village are reportedly going to establish irrigated fruit orchards as well, taking the Hulkar Pistasi Farm as a model. The transformation of rangeland into a fruit orchard will bring the farmer a higher economic benefit. From an ecological point of view, the orchard may be a better protection against erosion (while the erosion risk is low at this specific site), but otherwise no specific ecological benefits were identified.

“Tutak Karim Dalasi” Farm. The Project supported the farmer to fence his pastures and provided a mobile home for him. As the area is protected from livestock grazing, the TE could see that the grasses and herbs are in much better condition than in the surrounding pastures. The farmer also explained that he grazes his livestock now in another, more distant area¹⁸. The project interventions thus created economic benefits for the farmer, but they did not solve the issue of overgrazing as the farmer did not reduce the number of livestock but brings it now just to another place. It was confirmed that the number of livestock remained the same.

Sewing workshops. The Project supported several households in Zaamin and Karakul districts for establishing sewing workshops. Normally women founded the workshops and up to five sewing machines were provided per workshop. The women are now self-employed entrepreneurs who make their living by selling their own products. At the same time they train local girls how to sew. This is an encouraging initiative as new jobs were created, and young girls were qualified and could find jobs in a newly opened textile factory in the district. At the same time this measure helped overcome gender inequalities. However, the women and girls engaged this business have not been chosen because of their relationship with land use issues – usually there is none. The husband of one of the workshops visited during the TE was e.g. a taxi driver. So there remains only the hope that additional jobs will distract local people from destructive land use activities. The TE is not convinced that this will happen often.

Attainment of Output (Outcome) 2: Policy, legal and institutional mechanisms an enabling cross-sector environment: In-country capacity (at system, institutional and individual levels) for applying integrated landscape management in arid mountain, semi-desert and desert areas of Uzbekistan.

Capacity Building for the Research Institute for Karakul and Desert Ecology. The institute, based in Samarkand, has a long tradition in applied research related to the karakul sheep. It has a famous herbarium with historical samples, a vast, but little-used library and various research facilities. The institute facilities are badly outdated; some of them such as the laboratory are in poor condition, apparently due to a shortage of operational funds.¹⁹ The Project supported the institute by providing

¹⁸ He applies a rotation system in which livestock is grazed at distant places from March to April, and at nearby places from May to June.

¹⁹ Funds for the restoration of the building have been released and construction activities are going mid-2019.

a few computers, herbarium cabinets, furniture for the museum room and the library. The support given to the institute is regarded as very useful investment. However, it also needs to be considered that the upgrading of the museum, the library and the herbarium will not have a direct impact on reducing land degradation, at least not as short- or medium-term measures. These project measures will therefore contribute only very indirectly to the project objective.

Preparation of a “Law on Pastures”. The Project showed that the regulatory framework for pasture management is insufficient. Pasture management is regulated under numerous laws and by-laws including the Land Code, the Law “On farming entity”, the Law on Agricultural Cooperatives (shirkat), the Law on Dekhan Farms, various decisions of Cabinet of Ministers, etc. The Project therefore strived from is beginning to have a comprehensive regulatory framework which sets out the goals and normatives for pasture management. A draft law was prepared which includes *inter alia*:

- Rights and obligations of pasture users,
- Norms and terms of pasture use,
- Regulations on pasture rotation,
- Fees for pasture use,
- Protection and restoration of pastures,
- Geobotanical survey of pastures and pasture monitoring.

For the preparation of the draft law, expert consultations and meetings with various government agencies were held, and also a study tour for decision makers to Kyrgyzstan was organised, as this is the only country in Central Asia which already has a Law on Pastures. This was supplemented by a study tour to Spain. The draft law was reviewed and adopted in the 19th Plenary Session of the Senate of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 3 May 2019 and was signed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 21 May 2019.

The adoption of the Law on Pastures is a big step forward and a big success of the Project. In order to become effective, both by-laws (e.g. for defining the normatives, fines, etc.) need to be elaborated and adopted and a budget for its implementation needs to be allocated by the government. So still time and efforts are needed until the law becomes fully effective and its actual impact can only then be assessed objectively.

Support to Universities. The Project supported a few university institutes engaged in land use issues: the National University of Uzbekistan to establish an information resource centre on “Soils and Landscapes” (equipment, demonstration materials, books, maps, etc.), the Tashkent State Pedagogical University to publish a book on “Environment and nature protection: environmental lore study”, and the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Mechanization of Agriculture for equipping the “Centre for remote methods of studying the land resources of various landscapes in Uzbekistan”. These centres serve to further strengthen and enhance scientific capacity. The support to these institutes is reasonable and useful, but the underlying results chain how these materials will lead to a reduced pressure on natural resources is long and very indirect. The Project’s input is much too small that a measurable impact can be expected.

3.3.2 Relevance

The Project is consistent with international priorities such as GEF strategies and objectives. It is programmed under the Land Degradation Focal Area for GEF-5, specifically with Land Degradation Strategic Objective 3 (LD-3): “Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape”. The Project is also consistent with UNDAF Outcome “Principles of sustainable de-

velopment integrated into country policies and programs” and contributes to the UNDP Strategic Plan Environment and Sustainable Development “Strengthen national capacity to manage the environment in a sustainable manner while ensuring adequate protection of the poor”, and to the Outcome “Mainstreaming environment and energy”. The Project is highly relevant also for the Government of Uzbekistan as land degradation is a major concern for income of rural people and food security. The livelihood of about 2.5 million people depends on dryland rangelands.

The project is therefore considered highly relevant as it combines issues of global importance such as adaptation to climate change, conserving biodiversity and combating desertification with the livelihood of local communities. In this sense it is in line with international commitments made by the Government of Uzbekistan (international environmental conventions such as UNCCD and Convention on Biological Diversity) and also aims at the conservation and rehabilitation of dryland ecosystems for which Uzbekistan has a global responsibility.

3.3.3 Effectiveness

The Project delivered most of the foreseen outputs and can be considered highly effective. Most of the targets of the project indicators were fulfilled or the products delivered even exceed the planned targets. The Project was successful especially in delivering the outputs related to rangelands and somewhat less successful in the sectoral fields of forest management and rain-fed agriculture. However, as noted above, the TE in line with the MTR²⁰ considers these two fields of minor importance in the overall picture.

According to the project indicators, the Project rehabilitated 70 per cent more rangeland than foreseen (Ind. #1) and stopped degradation of rangeland or improved its vegetation cover on a larger surface area than originally planned (Ind. #2). Forest rehabilitation and rehabilitation of rain-fed land lag behind the targets and the Project will surely not be able to reach the goal by project closure. On the national level, the Project assisted in preparing a Draft Law “On pastures” which was reviewed and adopted in 19th Plenary Session of the Senate of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 3 May 2019 and signed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 21 May 2019. The results of the Project exceed in this respect the expectations.

The Project delivered more products than required by the targets of the indicators. Nevertheless a few targets have not been fully achieved (e.g. surface area of pastures classified as “degraded”), but this does not significantly influence the big picture.

Table. List of Project indicators on objective and outcome level and the status of achievement as per 30 June 2018, the latest available information as per PIR reporting.

No.	No.	Indicator of Achievement	Target	Level as per 30 June 2018
1	Objective	Number of hectares of pastures, forest and rain-fed arable land in two target districts that are under improved management.	11,000 ha of improved forests. 26,000 ha of improved pastures. 2,000 ha improved rain-fed lands.	3,574 ha. of improved forests 44,600 ha. of improved pastures 1,399 ha. of improved rain-fed lands
2	Outcome 1	Improvement or maintenance of vegetative cover in pilot	Maintenance of vegetative cover or improvement in	10.5% for pastureland; 5.2% for forestry;

²⁰ See also the recommendations of the MTR that the Project should concentrated its activities on dryland pastures rather than on rainfed agriculture and forests.

No.	No.	Indicator of Achievement	Target	Level as per 30 June 2018
		sites in target districts	cover over baseline by: 8% for pastureland; 6% for forestry; and 6% for rain-fed areas	5.8% for rain-fed areas.
3		Area of pasture classified as "degraded" in project sites	≤254,000 ha (≤84,000 in Zaamin, ≤170,000 in Karakul)	Total 238,300 ha of pastures classified as degraded: 81,900 ha in Zaamin district and 156,400 ha in Karakul district.
4		Area of pasture used by dekhans (households) under collaborative management (pasture user groups)	300 ha of pastures are jointly managed by two PUGs	The project promoted the idea of pasture cooperatives through persistent communication and joint work with local and national partners. Using a farm "Abdulla Juma zur Chorva" as a pilot ground, a mini-department was created to grind and prepare granulated fodder briquettes. >250 tons of roughage were crushed and delivered on a contractual basis to over 10 farms.
5		Number of dekhans with formal legal rights (and obligations) for areas used as pasture	≥600 ha managed based on contracts with shirkats	Terms of cooperation of local people with the Cattle Breeding Farm LLC "Karakul" on pasture use were drafted and finalized. An Integrated Pasture Management Plan is being developed for the Zaamin District.
6		Area of forest planted or managed through state and community collaborative mechanisms (JFM, community forests, collaborative moving sand fixation)	≥100 ha (60 Zaamin, 40 Karakul)	574 ha of forest planted or managed through collaborative mechanisms (420 ha in Karakul and 154 ha in Zaamin Districts).
7		Humus content of rain-fed arable land in plough layer	Improvement in humus content of 100 ha rain-fed arable in Zaamin district (>16.7 t/ha)	The humus content is 17.6 tons/ha on an area of 749 ha.
8		Local small businesses involved in production or application of appropriate technologies	>5 businesses involved in production/services related to appropriate technology for reducing fuel wood demand, cost effective well pumping or renewable energy production	10 local small businesses involved in production or application of appropriate technologies (including 5 women entrepreneurs).
9		Number of livestock wells rehabilitated and adequately maintained in project sites	10 wells rebuilt	10 wells restored.
10	Outcome 2	National pasture use strategic policy/plan incorporating long term integrated sustainable pasture use objectives	A mid/long term strategic policy for sustainable pasture use which provides a basis for legal and institutional reform	"Strategy for the long-term use of non-irrigated drylands of Uzbekistan" jointly developed with interested ministries and agencies. The strategy includes sections on long-term development of pasture lands and sustainable livestock grazing. Draft law on "On pastures" prepared and officially handed over for review and approval to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis.
11		An up-to-date national forestry programme / plan supported by government that incorporates long term integrated sustainable use objectives	An updated national forestry programme/plan approved by government and an allocated budget	"Strategy for the long-term use of non-irrigated drylands of Uzbekistan" jointly developed with interested ministries and agencies and submitted to the State Committee for Land

No.	No.	Indicator of Achievement	Target	Level as per 30 June 2018
				Resources. The strategy includes a section on long-term development of forestry.
12		A strategic policy/plan on rain-fed agriculture that incorporates long term integrated sustainable use objectives	A strategic plan for the long term development of rain-fed arable agriculture and role in overall agricultural system	"Strategy for the long-term use of non-irrigated drylands of Uzbekistan" jointly developed with interested ministries and agencies and submitted to the State Committee for Land.
13		Inter-ministerial mechanism for ensuring coordination of land use policies operating effectively	Inter-ministerial Coordinating Council with a clear mandate and method of operation to ensure coordination of different land use sectors	New Regulation on the Coordination Council for land monitoring drafted; approved by relevant ministries and departments and submitted to the State Committee for further action.
14		Pasture legislation and tenure arrangements allow more effective pasture use and fully recognize household/dekhan pasture users	Either a Pasture Law or adequate revisions to Land Code and other relevant legislation and normative documents completed	The final draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers "On measures to improve arrangements for the use and protection of pastures", as well as "Regulations on the protection and use of pastures" submitted to the State Committee on Land for further action.
15		National and regional training institutions producing graduates with sound understanding of integrated land use concepts and approaches	≥1 training institution at national level and 1 at regional level strengthened curriculum that addresses SLM planning, including in non-irrigated areas	Contribution to the creation of the Information and Resource Center "Soils and Landscapes" at the National University.

3.3.4 Efficiency (Cost-effectiveness)

The Project performed in a very efficient way insofar most project activities were conducted in a timely manner and the Project achieved most activities in line with the time schedule of the annual work plans²¹, and usually selected the most cost-effective way in order to achieve the intended objective. The Project was managed by a small team; the amount of managerial input given is considered appropriate. In periods of high workloads, the Project hired national short- and medium-term experts.

The Project has approximately 70 beneficiary organisations, i.e. state and private organisations which received from the Project physical support in the form of materials and equipment. This number does not include those who were supported by the Project e.g. by training and providing access to workshops or other events (see chapter 3.1.6 Project Beneficiaries). This high number of recipients of goods, works and services certainly imposed an extremely high workload on the project team as it was necessary to negotiate and make individual arrangements with all beneficiaries. Furthermore, the goods and works which were given to these stakeholders were mostly different from each other, and ranged from equipment for a sewing workshop over procurement of tree saplings, furniture, heavy machinery, the rehabilitation of water wells to the construction of an entire complex for sheep breeding and processing. Synergies between these measures are hardly existent and each of the 70 measures was unique in its kind. While the project team mastered all these tasks perfectly, the question arises why the Project supported such a high number of different stakeholders, and why so many different types of measures. The potential of creating synergy effects was surely not fully

²¹ Exceptions occurred especially in the first project year, e.g. during preparing the Inception Report.

tapped. The TE is convinced that a lower number of beneficiary groups and a lower number of different types of measures would have allowed a more focused approach with a probably higher impact.

With the plantation of linear tree rows, the Project helped reduce wind erosion, with the preparation of grazing rotation plans and fencing certain plots of pasture, the Project helped establishing an important basis for reducing the pressure on pastures, and with the provision of trailers for shepherds, the Project helped more equally distribute the livestock herds over the available land.

On the other hand, the Project supported several measures which are not directly related to the project goal, i.e. the reduction of pressure on natural resources. Examples are:

- Purchase of equipment to establish a chicken (broiler) farm. The owner of the farm is a former teacher and the Project helped her establish the enterprise. Apart from the income-generating effect, the TE does not understand how this will reduce the pressures on natural resources.
- Provision of furniture for a private company which deals with seed production. While better office facilities are surely useful and will strengthen the company, they will not directly result in better or more seeds.
- Provision of equipment and fish stocks to fish farms belonging to private companies. As the owners of the farms are not active in livestock management and had not been active in this field before²², fish farming is not regarded an alternative source of income in the sense that it replaces environmentally unfriendly economic activities, but is seen as an additional source of income.
- Support to the construction of greenhouses (private household, College of Agriculture): The promotion of greenhouses may have a positive effect on food security and poverty alleviation. They are not understood by the project beneficiaries as an alternative to the usage of rangeland and the Project did not promote greenhouses specifically among livestock holders.
- Establishment of sewing workshops. While the sewing workshops create income for the women owners and training for girls, the activities are not linked with environmental degradation.
- Purchase of herbarium cabinets and furniture for a research institute. It is of utmost importance to preserve the historically outstanding herbarium specimens, but a relationship with a reduction of the pressure on natural resources is not given.

These and several other measures (the Project implemented altogether 117 individual measures) are regarded in principal as useful and deserve full support. The measures support for example vulnerable groups (women, young girls), research and education institutions whose budget is far from being sufficient for fulfilling their tasks, and Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) with limited capacities and in bad need of support. However, what is common to many of these beneficiaries is that the support measures are not directly linked to environmental degradation. The Project's idea is that a diversification of income and support to local economy will lead to a reduction of the pressure on natural resources. However, there is a high risk that this will ever happen. It is neither effective nor cost-efficient to help a wide range of people to make a better living – just in the hope that they will then refrain from activities harmful to natural resources. Some of the beneficiaries interviewed during the TE were not even aware that the support given to them should be for the benefit of natural resources and in “exchange” for harmful environmental activities.

²² One of the owners of a fish farm who was interviewed in the TE was e.g. working in the bank sector before he started the fish business.

Many project measures were thus built on the assumption or the hope that they will lead one day to a reduction of the pressures on natural resources, rather than on clear agreements with beneficiaries which determine that project support is given on the condition that the beneficiary will reduce the pressure on natural resources.

3.3.5 Country-ownership

The country ownership for this project is very high. There is a broad consensus both on policy level and on the level of local stakeholders in the demonstration areas that the project is extremely useful and pursues objectives that are important for the development of the country. Various stakeholders expressed to the TE that rangeland management ranks now much higher on the government agenda than at the onset of the project. The project contributed a lot to raise the awareness of decision makers of the relevance of sustainable rangeland management.

While the ownership for the project is in particular high for improving the productivity of rangeland and making better use of this land, environmental concerns play little role in this context.

The Project office is located within the premises of the State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre (Goskomzemgeodezkadaster), the project executing agency, thus allowing close and permanent exchange between the executing agency and the Project, and enhancing the efforts of the Project to mainstream the results into regular government work.

The Government of Uzbekistan has made a very significant financial commitment (approx. US\$6.7 million) towards the implementation of the project, being almost the threefold amount of the GEF contribution. This is a good indication of a high level of ownership by the government. However, it seems that the government contribution committed at the time of project formulation was badly inflated and the amount the government has actually contributed is only a fraction of it. There are no seconded experts working for the Project with a government salary. Goskomzemgeodezkadaster, the national executing agency, provided free office space within their premises. All government contributions on national and district level in the form of work time (salaries) e.g. for Project Steering Committee members, project meetings, contributions to planning etc. were punctual. It is hardly possible to estimate the actual amount of government co-financing, but it is believed that it is less than 5 per cent of the originally pledged amount.²³²⁴

One may now blame the government that it has not fulfilled the commitments towards the implementation of this project. However, the situation is actually more complex and needs careful evaluation: It is a general feature observed in practically all GEF projects that GEF pushes a lot for identifying and leveraging co-financing sources on the one side, but has, on the other side, no system and no standards to monitor and to claim these contributions. So governments make significant commitments for increasing the chances to get a project proposal approved, well knowing that there are no binding obligations to deliver. It seems to be GEF policy not to insist on full transparency.

GEF also does not distinguish between baseline financing, co-financing and parallel financing, but puts together all of them under the name “co-financing”. Actually, all government contributions should be counted as baseline funding as long as the government does not provide special financial resources for the Project. .

²³ The Project presented to the TE an table with measures financed by Geodescadastre from the state budget. The overall budget for the period 2014–2019 totals 61.77 m Som (approx. 7.2m USD according to the 2019 exchange rate). The table contains research measures of which hardly any refers to the project intervention areas and the entire table can therefore not be accepted as the list of national project contributions.

²⁴ See chapter on co-financing.

3.3.6 Mainstreaming Cross-cutting Issues

Poverty alleviation: In Uzbekistan, poverty is on the decline but still 12.4 per cent of the population live below the national poverty line²⁵. Rural poverty continues to be significant and 75 per cent of those living in extreme poverty in Uzbekistan live in rural areas. Regional disparities are also considerable with the rural population living in drylands being particularly affected by poverty. The Project directly addresses poverty issues. Creating income for the rural population and help them make their living is at upmost project priority. The Project aims at increasing the economic benefits derived from the rangeland situated in the steppes and semi-deserts. From the 117 measures conducted by the Project, more than 90 per cent were addressing issues with a direct effect on income generation for the rural population.

Governance: The Project pursued on local level (outcome 1) a participatory approach and involved District Administrations and various user groups and individuals in the project planning process and the selection of measures to be supported by the Project. On national level (outcome 2) the Project involved research and training institutes dealing with land degradation, and successfully dealt with political institutions which finally lead to the adoption of the “Law on Pastures” in the Parliament (Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan) and the signature by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. While there was no specific set of activities to promote good governance, the open discussions and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders followed these lines.

Prevention and recovery from natural disasters. Prevention and recovery from natural disasters is a priority for UNDP programming, and the Project supports this aim. Drylands are in the focus of this project, and the deserts and semi-deserts are always areas which are extremely dependent on local weather conditions and annual fluctuations of the weather. The last two project years saw extreme weather events: 2018 was extremely dry, whereas 2019 had precipitation high above average. The Project aims at reducing the dependence of the local population on the weather, e.g. by creating jobs beyond livestock management, by rehabilitation wells in the desert to allow survival also in dry years, etc.

Gender. Livestock and rangeland management is a male domain. It does not appear desirable to change the traditional role of man and women in this sphere, and the Project did not attempt it. The Project, however, tried to create jobs for women outside the rangeland and livestock business, and helped establishing e.g. two sewing workshops. They were founded and are operated by women as private business, and young girls who want to take their future into their own hands learn there sewing.

3.3.7 Sustainability

Financial sustainability. Most of the measures under *Outcome 1* (local measures) were supporting something to which the beneficiary had to make an own contribution (self-help approach). While the project contribution usually consisted of goods and technical advice, the own contribution usually consisted of work. This means that the beneficiary was in most cases not requested to provide financial resources. The Project thus covered the cash needed for the investment, while the beneficiary could make an in-kind contribution. As most of the investments will bring back financial return, the interest of the beneficiaries to continue is high. With a very few exceptions, sustainability seems to be granted.

²⁵ Data 2016 from Asian Development Bank. See <https://www.adb.org/countries/uzbekistan/poverty>. See also <https://borgenproject.org/10-facts-about-poverty-in-uzbekistan>

On the other hand, the initial financial investment is usually a big burden for the beneficiaries, and most of them would not be able to make such an investment without external support. This impedes the replication and rollout of the measures. Sustainability is in these cases at risk.

We hereby have a situation that the individual on-the-ground measures initiated and supported by the project are very likely to be continued, i.e. they are sustainable, but that these measures will not widely be replicated as the stakeholder usually lack the financial resources to make the initial investment.

Many of the measures implemented under *Outcome 2* (enabling environment) contributed towards improving research and education. As regards the universities, the project contributions were financially modest in relation to the institutions' own resources, and the universities will undoubtedly have the financial and technical means to continue. On the political level, the *Law on Pastures* has been adopted by the Parliament and entered into force with the signature of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shortly after the TE mission, but it was at that time still not clear what amount of financial resources will be allocated for implementing the law, and what these resources can be used for.

Socio-political sustainability. With the support to the preparation of the *Draft Law on Pastures* and its subsequent promotion on the political level, the Project succeeded in putting rangeland on the national agenda and in giving rangeland political importance. If implemented properly, the law will help enhance the living conditions of the people making their living from drylands, and will help managing rangeland in a sustainable way.

Institutional framework and governance. The Draft Law on Pastures promoted by the Project fixes the joint responsibility for rangeland of the *State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre*, the *State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection*, and the *State Committee on Forestry*, and gives local governments a strong role in implementation. The Draft Law mentions specifically also citizens' self-governing bodies, non-state non-profit organisations and citizens as the key stakeholders for implementing it. The Draft Law herewith emphasizes that pastures are multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder issues.

Environmental sustainability. The long-term effects of the project measures on the environment and natural ecosystems are diverse. The Project has been designed as environmental project ("reduce the pressure on natural resources"), but in practice the focus is on rural development with the priority on increasing the socio-economic benefits derived from rangelands and other natural resources. The TE noted in many interviews that socio-economic issues rank much higher than environmental concerns. This includes state representative such as the head of the *State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection*²⁶, who mentioned in the TE interview measures such as normatives for the number of livestock per hectare or grazing rotation plans, but he regarded an increase of the productivity of rangeland as the major goal.

The TE has serious doubts whether a sustainable use of rangeland is possible with such a high level of livestock as it is present now in some areas. There are indications that the level of livestock may further increase as a consequence of the project measures. Measures such as rehabilitation of wells, better veterinary services, better infrastructure, better vegetation cover of rangeland, etc. will inevitably lead to more livestock. None of the project beneficiaries interviewed during the TE mentioned that he will reduce the number of livestock due to the support obtained by the Project. The repre-

²⁶ Mr. Shakirov Numonjon, Head of Department for the Land, Water and Pasture Protection, 18.04.2019.

sentative of the *State Committee of Veterinary and Livestock Development*²⁷, for example, sees his task to increase the meat production from at present 2 kg/ha to 20 kg/ha. While he says that this should happen without increasing the number of livestock, but only by increasing the fodder base of the rangeland, this does not seem to be realistic. The Government of the Republic is going to allocate additional funds from the state budget for the digging additional 4–6 wells for each of the LLC breeding farms and these wells will be made in the pastures that have not been used before.²⁸

An impressive statement was made by the head of the state-owned LLC Qorako'l Naschilik, which has received from the Project the infrastructure for sheep farming, breeding (installations for artificial insemination) and processing (wool and meat). This was the biggest individual investment and the lighthouse measure of the Project. The head of the complex explained that they own at present approximately 13,500 sheep and expects 6,500 lambs in 2019. This will result finally in a flock of approximately 18,000 adult sheep by the end of the year. With at least 8,000 new-born lambs in 2020, he hopes to increase the flock to 25-30,000 heads in 2020. While these figures are very rough and preliminary estimates, they show the general tendency – a significant increase of the number of sheep as a consequence of project interventions.

Another example for unclear environmental effects refers to a farmer interviewed in the Zaamin district. The Project helped him install a fence around the rangeland and establish a drip irrigation system. Inside the fenced area, a plum orchard was created on an area of 2.1 hectares. The TE could see that the grasses and herbs grew much better in the fenced areas than in the unfenced areas around. However, when the owner was asked what he has done with his livestock, he explained that it is now grazing at a distant place. The Project has in this case not solved the problem of overgrazing, but just shifted it to another place.

The TE came to the conclusion that the effect of project measures on the environment (biodiversity and natural ecosystems) has not always been carefully enough assessed prior to implementation, and has not been monitored carefully. Socio-economic supportive measures delivered to the farmers were often not understood as a compensation for doing something good for the environment, but they took it as something additional which helped them enhancing their living standards.

3.3.8 Impact

Impacts are understood as the broader changes that occur within the community, organization, society, or environment as a result of programme outcomes. The actual impact of a project is often difficult to assess as long-term impacts can often be seen only after the end of the project. Measuring the impact of a project has something in common with measuring the sustainability: the probability that it will happen needs to be assessed rather than the impact and sustainability itself.

The project measure with the most important potential long-term impact is surely the “Law on Pastures”, which was prepared and promoted with the assistance of the Project. It is the first comprehensive legal framework on rangelands and is highly relevant for the sustainable usage of pasture lands. The law has been designed as framework law which sets forth the essential items. Still a lot has to be done to further develop it into an instrument for sustainable development. It for example does not set upper limits for the livestock number per hectare, or it mentions pasture rotation without saying whether this will be a must for all pastures, or it mentions geobotanical survey without saying how the results will put into practical action for pasture management. All these will need by-

²⁷ Mr. Maksud Yusupov, Head of Department, 18.04.2019.

²⁸ Information provided by the Project Team Leader (30.05.2019).

laws and other regulations, and these will happen after Project closure and therefore without the assistance of the Project. It is therefore beyond the control of the Project, whether the Law of Pastures will fully meet the expectations and this needs to be taken as project risk.

The Project produced further strategic documents; it took for example a lead role in development of a strategy for the long-term use of non-irrigated drylands and on sustainable management of forest and rain-fed lands, or policy paper on regulations and procedures to guide afforestation / reforestation activities in the country. Some of the documents have been approved by the government.²⁹ The strategies and other policy documents have been elaborated in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders and it is believed that these documents will have in the future a positive impact on land use issues. However, it is too early to say whether these strategic documents will have a broad positive impact on the ground.

With regard to on-the-ground activities, the Project achieved good impact on the level on individual households and individual state-owned or private enterprises (LLCs). The economic condition of most of the project beneficiaries is far better now than before they obtained project support. However, the long-term impact on land is still unclear. There is a risk that enhanced socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries will lead to an additional burden on the pastures and other natural resources. It is thought that at least some of the beneficiaries will use their increased income or other benefits obtained from the Project for buying new livestock, and this will probably exacerbate land degradation by overgrazing.³⁰

Impact of development cooperation projects is usually understood as “broad impact”, i.e. the impact should go beyond the immediate individual project beneficiaries and should show a change in a wider sense. As regards local small-scale and micro-measures, the Project could rarely achieve such broad impact. There are a few examples where other people started to copy project measures from their neighbours: there were e.g. a few people who fenced their pasture land, established a drip irrigation or established sewing workshops or chicken farms. In Zaamin district, the governor provided 10 sewing machines to women in need of social protection, after he has seen that the Project has successfully done the same. In the same district, a farmer bought a no-tillage seeder, apparently after he has seen this type of machine in the Project, and he now offers no-tillage services to his neighbours. Despite these examples, the overall level of replication and upscaling of project measures and herewith the broad impact of the small-scale measures was very low.

The same is true for the measures related to education and training. The Project provided some equipment to colleges, university institutes and research institutes. The support measures were, however, not contributions towards developing specific capacity building programmes. The measures were punctual and had an *ad hoc* character. They met urgent needs rather than strategic development.

²⁹ For example, the document «Development Strategy for the Use of Dry Lands in Uzbekistan» was submitted to Goskomzemgeodezkadastr as well as through the Committee to the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Economy and Industry.

³⁰ The Project claims that the population does not want to increase the number of livestock, but to increase productivity, and also says that the population nowadays is less interested in taking preferential loans for buying livestock. Hard evidence to substantiate this is not available.

4. Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learnt

Excellent socio-economic and regulatory results

As shown above, the Project was extremely successful in implementing socio-economic small-scale and micro-measures in dryland areas as foreseen in the Project Document. It helped many people improve their living under the difficult environmental conditions of drylands. It was also extremely successful in bringing rangeland issues on the national agenda especially by promoting a “Law on Pastures” which has been adopted by the Parliament and awaits further steps to become operational.

The Project helped almost 70 different small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or households by providing them goods and services. The Project helped for examples farmers fencing pasture land, provided local entrepreneurs with fish and equipment for fishfarming, supported a forest enterprise in cultivating, processing and marketing medicinal herbs, purchased basic equipment for women households to establish sewing workshops, helped the construction of a breeding and processing facility for karakul sheep, assisted farmers in establishing drip irrigation systems, provided trailers to shepherds to stay overnight at remote places, helped a women establish a chicken farm, and provided tree saplings to farmers to plant them against wind erosion. All small-scale and micro-measures showed, with a very few exceptions, remarkable success. The recipients are throughout satisfied with the results and they are now, economically speaking, better off than at the beginning of the Project.

With the initiation of a “Law on Pastures”, the Project has awaken great attention in the public, as pasture management has changed a lot since the collapse of the Soviet Union, but still no satisfactory solution has been found to establish a sustainable system which also meets the high demands of food security in a country with a high population growth. The Law of Pastures has been adopted by the Parliament (Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan) and became effective with the signature of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in May 2019, and still a lot has to be done to make the Law fully operational. The outcome of the Law will finally be beyond the control of the Project. The Law has a high potential to put more focus on the sustainable use of rangeland, and this is acknowledged as a big step forward. Nevertheless, for becoming effective it still needs an investment programme to which farmers and herders can apply for resources needed to transform their local business to ecologically friendly enterprises or which will help local people create alternative jobs and income.

The Project also produced a policy paper (strategy) for the usage of non-irrigated land including forest land, and was active in coordinating between various state stakeholders and research institutes.

Beside all these positive attainments, the TE has serious concerns (a) on the environmental effects of the Project and (b) on the broad long-term development impact of the Project.

Environmental effects disputable

The Project was in practice executed with a clear priority on improving the socio-economic situation of people whose income is based on arid lands in deserts and semi-deserts, and to maximize the usage of these areas for human livelihood. Environmental safeguards came only second and many measures were conducted without assessing the actual or potential environmental impact. Many measures such as the plantation of trees against wind erosion or the establishment of grazing rotation plans combat environmental degradation had positive environmental effects. However, the Project supported also measures with a clear environmental risk, and these risks often come from unin-

tended negative effects. Examples of Project measures with actual or potential unintended negative effects on the environment are:

- As a consequence of the success of the socio-economic measures, some people may or are even planning to increase the number of livestock and will enhance in this way the pressure on natural resources. This is particularly true for the Karakul Compact Livestock Facility, the Project's biggest and most prominent individual investment, where the managers plan to double the number of Karakul sheep within 1–2 years, without assessing before how this will affect the ecological stability of the fragile desert ecosystem. It is foreseen to dig new wells to accommodate a higher number of livestock also in areas which have so far not been used for grazing.
- The rehabilitation of wells and other infrastructure in the desert and semi-desert landscape – often at places which are so far not used for grazing – will doubtlessly result in an increased livestock population without seriously considering the ecological carrying capacity of these areas.
- So far uncultivated land (mostly used as livestock pasture) with a natural, autochthonous vegetation cover is ploughed to convert it to agricultural land for cultivating medicinal herbs without considering the actual or potential impact on the natural biodiversity.
- The natural vegetation cover of the vast natural rangeland in arid mountain landscape is disturbed by ploughing, irrigating and seeding with high-yield fodder plant species. High-yield crops do not belong to the natural biodiversity and cannot enrich the natural biodiversity. These crops often compete with and replace the autochthonous flora, with the consequence of an impoverishment of the natural biodiversity
- Alien species and varieties of fodder plants (e.g. varieties introduced from Lebanon and Syria via ICARDA) are grown on natural or semi-natural pasture land, without taking precautionary measures.

It appears that the Project could not sufficiently solve the trade-off between socio-economic and environmental goals, while it must be conceded that the Project Document does not give sufficient guidance towards this end.

Socio-economic measures including the delivery of goods and services are often an important incentive for local people to contribute to environmental protection, and socio-economic measures may be used for compensating for relieving the pressure on nature. This, however, needs to be negotiated with the communities. Without such a negotiation process, local people may take the socio-economic measures as something additional, rather than as an alternative to destructive activities. In a worst case scenario, higher income will lead to more environmental degradation, i.e. farmers will e.g. use higher income for purchasing additional livestock rather than decrease their number for reducing overgrazing of pastures.

Development impact of small-scale and micro-measures modest

UNDP-GEF and other donors and implementing agencies have a long track record in conducting pilot and demonstration measures for pasture management in Central Asia. These efforts are, however, usually too isolated, and widespread adoption is not taking place mainly because the scale of these efforts has been too limited³¹. It is therefore a foremost task of the Central Asian *CACILM Initiative*,

³¹ See Project Document, p. 17 and elsewhere.

the Project is affiliated with, to collate available experiences and to promote and upscale good practices for gaining broad impact.³²

Against this background, which is also described in detail in the Project Document, one would expect a project approach that upscales available best practices for achieving broad impact. However, the Project concept, while pursuing necessary changes in the enabling environment, is not unambiguous with regard to the purpose of the small-scale and micro-measures to be implemented by the Project: The Project Document continues speaking about conducting “demonstration projects”, but does not link these measures with replication and upscaling.

With respect to upscaling, the Project much trusted in the principal that people will replicate good practices once they have seen them or heard about their success. For each individual demonstration measures which had been conducted, the Project did not seriously examine the specific upscaling potential and the barriers to upscaling. Green houses, for example, require significant initial investment and are therefore surely not an appropriate instrument for marginalised groups. Atmospheric water generators are an interesting and important innovation, but they are still much too expensive to find wide application.³³ The provision of furniture and some equipment to research institutions is very useful and helps filling their funding gaps, but these donations alone will not result in a visible improvement of research and education. Also the installation of drip irrigation systems in rain-fed mountain areas will likely not find wide distribution due to the high initial investment costs.

These examples show that the Project provided multiple goods and services with immediate benefits for the recipients, but did not sufficiently take into account the barriers to broad application. For the local small-scale and micro-measures, the Project did not build on a replication strategy which indicates what kind of measure will have the chance of wide application under the specific circumstances, whether it should be promoted by the Project, and what needs to be done for upscaling. This became a shortcoming with far-reaching consequences throughout the lifetime of the Project: the Project replicated measures which had already been tested elsewhere rather than finding ways to spread these measures widely in order to reach as many people as possible. In short, the project concept as described in the Project Document called for upscaling micro-measures, but failed in giving strategic and practical guidance on it.

The most important barrier that people will not copy and replicate successful examples of good land use practice is the lack of funds and of technical knowledge. In the interviews carried out during the TE, it was noted that thanks to the work of the Project, lack of awareness is not a major issue. Measures for combating land degradation are not “fast selling items” but instead necessitate intensive support through capital funding (including access to low-interest loans)³⁴ and professional advice.

The Project provided goods and services to almost 70 different recipients including farmers, herds-men, researchers, etc. Some of these measures have the character of giving “gifts” to people or organisations rather than initiating and stimulating long-term development. The Project adopted a

³² UNDP-GEF has made similar experiences in Uzbekistan before: The TE of the UNDP/GEF project “Achieving Ecosystem Stability of Degraded Land in Karakalpakstan and Kyzylkum Desert” came to the conclusion that some project measures for creating alternative livelihood will have little chance to achieve broad impact. The TE also found that the project produced a lot of pilots which will hardly ever have the chance for being upscaled.

³³ According to various internet sources, machines with a capacity of 1 m³ per day start at approximately US\$ 10,000. According to the PM of the Project, an Israeli firm, inspired by the Project, is planning to install an atmospheric water generator in Bukhara.

³⁴ The government currently provides loans e.g. for the development of the poultry industry, drip irrigation, private entrepreneurship, purchase of agricultural equipment, etc.

scattergun approach that appeared to lack strategic direction. This approach implies that the Project did not sufficiently concentrate on issues with high impact and with a high replication potential.

In short, the TE is of the opinion that the Project was active in too many different fields rather than putting all efforts into a few strategic issues. Less but better selected supportive measures would have been more. A tailored approach with some selected high-impact measures for some selected key target groups would have surely resulted in a higher impact than the promotion of so many different topics for so many different target groups.

It is fully acknowledged that the Project does not have the financial means for large-scale investments needed for some replication measures. One option to overcome this bottleneck would have been to mainstream already tested, successful measures and best practices into existing governmental and non-governmental programmes. A good example of such an existing investment programme was demonstrated to the TE in the Hokimiyat of Karakul District: This government programme, to which the citizens of the district can apply, has a budget of 38,548 m UZS (approximately 4.5 m US\$) and is open to support cattle breeding, poultry farming, greenhouse establishment, fishfarming, bee-keeping, rabbit breeding, sewing workshops, etc. These are more or less the same measures which are also supported by the Project. The TE has not had the opportunity to examine this investment promotion programme in detail, but believes that the Project's impact would have been higher if it had linked-up with this or other similar programmes e.g. by mainstreaming environmental issues and by providing technical assistance to the borrowers of such programmes. Such cooperative measures have the opportunity to reach more people, and hence to increase the environmental impact of the Project. However, it is conceded that such cooperation needs careful coordination and different time lines often make such cooperation impossible³⁵.

High effectiveness – modest impact

On the one hand, practically all activities foreseen in the Project Document and other planning tools were successfully implemented.³⁶ The stipulations of the Project Document were fully put into practice by a dedicated, professional project team. Most targets of the project indicators were achieved, some of them even exceeded. The Project worked on the policy level successfully and initiated important legal processes, but still showed little success in upscaling available, already tested best practices. The Project did not build on available experiences of other projects and programmes and up-scaled them, but rather repeated the same measures yet another time. This is thought to be due to the absence of an upscaling strategy and mechanism in the project concept, and the absence of a plan how to reach broader impact.

The "Law on Pastures", which was successfully initiated by the Project, is expected to contribute to sustainably managing the country's rangelands; final decisions will be beyond the control of the Project as they will be taken in the future, after closure of the project. Altogether, the Project can be characterised as highly effective with modest impact. While the project team did an excellent job and was very successful in putting the overall design of the Project(as per Project Document) into practice, the lack of an upscaling mechanism in the project concept largely impeded wide-reaching impact.

³⁵ The investment programme of Hokimiyat of Karakul District started only in 2018, when the Project already began phasing out.

³⁶ Needless to say that there were also less successful measures, but this was within the normal range of a project.

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

Regarding the design of projects, it is recommended to UNDP/GEF

- **Put more efforts in the development of sound project concepts.**

The main shortcoming of the Project is rooted in a project concept that has not been foreseen a logical flow of activities from local small-scale and micro-measures which relieve the pressure on dryland to upscaled interventions with broad impact, although this is understood as the overarching goal. Project concepts and designs must be based on reasonable results chains and it must be clear for the user of the LogFrame which activity is carried out for what purpose and why it is supported by the Project. A stronger guidance and quality control by UNDP and GEF is required.

- **Don't support in an environmental project livelihood activities which are not linked to the environment.**

The GEF is an environmental fund, and environmental protection is the ultimate goal of all GEF funded projects. Even though improvement of the environmental situation is usually not possible without improving the socio-economic situation of people, this does not mean that all socio-economic measures have a positive effect on the environment. The impact of every single project measure on the environment must therefore be assessed and all measures need to be linked to environmental issues and negotiated with the project beneficiaries.

- **Negotiate with local communities their contribution towards environmental protection.**

Socio-economic measures including the delivery of goods and services are an important incentive for local people to contribute to environmental protection, and the socio-economic measures may be used for compensating for the relieve of pressure on natural resources. This, however, needs to be negotiated with the communities in a participatory, bottom-up process. Without such a negotiation process, local people may take the socio-economic measures as something additional, rather than an alternative to destructive activities. In a worst case scenario, higher income will lead to more environmental degradation (e.g. a farmer will use higher income for purchasing additional livestock rather than lessen their number for reducing overgrazing of pastures).

- **Keep in mind that the role of demonstration projects is to give vivid examples "how it could be", but they contribute little to local development until they are broadly upscaled.**

Demonstration and pilot projects have the function to show and to test on a very small scale what works and what does not work, and to provide a blueprint for something big; they are therefore the first step of a comprehensive programme for change on a much larger scale. If there are no plans and opportunities to do the second step, there is little need to spend efforts for preparing these blueprints. An upscaling strategy and mechanism needs to be an integral part of local small-scale and micro-measures.

- **Concentrate on those livelihood activities which have a real chance for upscaling.**

The TE had the impression that some of the alternative livelihoods developed by the project had little chance for achieving wider impact. High initial investment costs which the relatively poor rural people cannot afford seem to be the main barrier. Projects need to be designed in a way that the contributions by the target group are technically and financially appropriate.

- **Strengthen the knowledge transfer to learn from other projects.**

The TE had the impression that with regard to the micro-measures (pilot measures), much has been repeated what has already been tested in the context of other projects, including other

UNDP/GEF projects in Uzbekistan. It is not very efficient to repeat pilot measures just at another site in the context of another project because pilot measures are finally a tool for learning not for achieving development impact.

- **Pursue a focussed approach rather than attempt doing “everything”**

The range of Project activities was very wide and included different types of ecosystems, forms of livelihood and different regions, and tens of different types of micro-measures. This wide range was apparently responsible for the fact that the Project’s overall impact was modest. It is expected that a better focussed approach with concentrated efforts towards solving specific challenges would have probably resulting in a deeper impact.

Regarding the follow-up of this specific project, it is recommended to UNDP

- **Implement follow-up measures to make the “Law of Pastures” fully operational.**

The “Law of Pastures” is a success story of the Project, but it still needs considerable efforts and resources to become operational. Guidance needs to be given to decision-makers especially for an adequate treatment of environmental concerns. UNDP may offer the government technical assistance towards this end, and may use for this purpose committed but still unused track funds.

Regarding the evaluation framework, it is recommended to UNDP/GEF

- **Reconsider the rating scale of the criterion „relevance”.**

“Relevance” can now only be rated as “relevant” or “not relevant”, whereas a finer scale extending e.g. from “highly relevant” over “partly relevant” to “not relevant” would be more appropriate to mirror project reality including the fact that a project often consists of several aspects / components with different levels of relevance.

- **Give more guidance as regards accounting of co-financing.**

Assessing the level of co-financing is challenging as it is not included in project monitoring. It is particularly difficult to monitor in-kind contributions without guidance what falls under in-kind contribution. Without such guidance, equal monitoring is not possible. There seems to be a general tendency to over-estimate co-financing contributions.

Regarding the UNDP/GEF portfolio in the field of land degradation in Uzbekistan

- **Consider promoting value-chains from selected dryland products.**

The income of rural people is generally low in Uzbekistan, and even lower in in rainfed agricultural areas and drylands. Higher income may be obtained through a set of linked activities that work to add value to a certain product. The TE believes that there is potential for this, and farmers and herdsmen can achieve higher income even without increasing the number of livestock. It needs to be negotiated with local people that additional income will not be used for increasing the number of livestock.

- **Focus on skill development in rural area in a systematic way**

The Project has shown that people can find jobs once they have the necessary skills. Young girls who learnt sewing in a small workshop could find a job in a nearby sewing factory. It needs to be screened which job opportunities are available in the respective area, and where in particular young people, both women and men, may find jobs. Demand-driven development of professional skills may be supported in these areas in partnership with the private sector.

Annexes

Annex A. Terms of Reference

Annex B. Itinerary (Meeting Schedule)

Annex C. List of Persons Interviewed

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Annex E. List of Documents Reviewed

Annex F. Terminal Evaluation -Evaluation Questions / MATRIX

Annex G. Questionnaire Used with Summary of Results

Annex H. List of Project Measures

Annex I. Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form

Annex J. Terminal Evaluation Audit Trail

Annex K. Terminal Evaluation Final Report Clearance Form

Annex A. Terms of Reference

Document available as separate electronic file.

Annex B. Itinerary (Meeting Schedule)

Time	Location	Participants
April 9 (Tuesday), Germany		
	Travel to Tashkent	Max Kasparek, international consultant for TE (team leader)
April 10 (Wednesday), Tashkent		
	Arrival Tashkent	Max Kasparek
10.00-13:00	Project office	Max Kasparek with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tulkin Farmanov, Project Manager Rustam Muradov, National Consultant on Technical Assistance (interpreter), Zafar Abdullaev, Project Administration and Finance Assistant.
14:30-15:30	UNDP Office in Uzbekistan	Khurshid Rustamov - Sustainable Development Cluster Leader, UNDP Uzbekistan Max Kasparek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov.
16:00-18:00	LAND Project Office	Max Kasparek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Zafar Abdullaev
April 11 (Thursday)		
09.20-10:20	State Unitary Enterprise "Soil Evaluation"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Odil Jabborov - Head of Enterprise, Inna Ivanova - Head of the Laboratory, Laboratory staff Max Kasparek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Zafar Abdullaev.
10:20-11:20	State Scientific Design Institute "Uz-Giprozem"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruhiddin Turaev - Head of enterprise Maqsud Bobomurodov - Head of Foreign Relations Division Bekzod Inamov – Researcher Max Kasparek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Zafar Abdullaev.
11:30-12:30	Project office	Max Kasparek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Zafar Abdullaev (Project Administration and Finance Assistant)
14:30-16.00	National University of Uzbekistan named after M. Ulugbek (NUUz)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Rahmonov Rasul – Vice-rector on International Relation; Economical Science Prof. Dr. Abdurahmonov Tuhtasin - Dean of Biological Faculty; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siddikov Saidjon - Head of Soil Science Department; Prof. Dr. Gafurova Laziza - Professor, Soil Science Department; Prof. Dr. Abdullaev Sadulla - Soil Science Department; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nabieva Gulchehra - Soil Science Department. Max Kasparek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov
April 12 (Friday)		

Time	Location	Participants
09:00-15:00	International Conference “Prospects for the development and sustainable use of pastures in Uzbekistan”, Windham Tashkent Hotel	Many participants from various organisations Max Kasparek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Zafar Abdullaev
15:30-18:30	Project office	Max Kasparek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Zafar Abdullaev
18:30-19:30	State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre (Goskomzemgeodezkadastr)	A. Kh.Abdullaev - Chairman Goskomzemgeodezkadastra, National Project Coordinator Max Kasparek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Zafar Abdullaev.
April 13 (Saturday). Trip to Zaamin district of Jizzak region		
09:00-12:30	Travel from Tashkent to Zaamin District	Max Kasparek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev.
14:00-18:00	Demonstration plots	<p>Medicinal herbs processing workshop and Zaamin State Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarimsokov - Head of Zaamin State Forestry, • J. Kuldoshev - Chief Forester of Zaamin State Forestry, • N. Yakhshiboev - Forester, Zaamin State Forestry, • G.Turonov - Responsible Specialist of Zaamin State Forestry, • B. Ermatov - Project Local Clerk of the on Zamin district <p>Zaamin College of Agriculture and Consumer Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toshboev Ismatilla - Director of the College • Ikrom Ermonkulov - teacher, • Eldor Gaybullaev - teacher, • Ilhom Jabborov - engineer, • Alijon Omonov - Deputy Director of the College. <p>“Farovonlik shukronasi” farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nazirbek Berdibekov – Head of Farovonlik shukronasi farm • Urozali Berdibekov - Farovonlik shukronasi farm manager <p>“Hulkar pistasi” farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nizomiddin Ahmatov – Head of “Hulkar pistasi” farm • Abdumannop Karabashev - Manager of “Hulkar Pistasi” farm <p>Boytepa Village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marhabo Khalipova - householder with AWG <p>Max Kasparek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Bahodir Ermatov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev, Tolib Muqimov</p>
18:00-19:00	Travel from Zaamin district to Jizzak	Max Kasparek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Tolib Muqimov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev
April 14th (Sunday)		

Time	Location	Participants
9:30-10:00	Zaamin District Hokimiyat	R. Kholmatov - Head of the Department of Agriculture of Zaamin District Department of Agriculture of Zaamin District staff Max Kasperek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Bahodir Ermatov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev, Tolib Muqimov
10:30-17:00	Meetings in Jizzak and Zaamin district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rustam Abdusattorov - Head of "Rustamnoma" Farm Abdunazar Djuraev – Specialist of "Tutak Karim Dalasi" Farm Abdumutalib Hudayberdiev – Manager of "Tutak Karim Dalasi" farm Bozorboy Hudoyorov - Manager of "Bozorboy tulpori" LLC Gairat Khudoyarov - Member of Bozorboy Tulpori LLC. Max Kasperek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Bahodir Ermatov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev, Tolib Muqimov
17:00-20:00	Travel from Zaamin district to Samar-kand	
April 15 (Monday), Samarkand.		
09:30-12:00	Research Institute of Karakul sheep breeding and desert ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nasillo Bobokulov, Director of the Institute, Professor, Umid Fozilov, Head of the Museum, PhD Abdullo Rabbimov, Head of Plant Breeding Division, PhD Surat Yusupov, Head of Karakul sheep Breeding Division, Professor Institute staff Max Kasperek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Tolib Mukimov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev
12:00-18:00	Drive Samarkand to Bukhara	Max Kasperek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Tolib Mukimov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev.
April 16 (Tuesday), Bukhara		
08:00-10:30	Drive to Karakul district	Max Kasperek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Tolib Mukimov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev.
10:30-17:00	Uchkyr Massif, Karakul District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fozil Durnazarov - Chairman of Karakul LLC, Ilkhom Ruziev - Shepherds of Karakul LLC, Islom Altiev - Shepherds of Karakul LLC, Fayzulla Ruziev - Chief Accountant of Karakul LLC. Doniyor Bekmurodov - accountant of Karakul LLC. Max Kasperek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Tolib Mukimov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev.
17:00-19:30	Return to Bukhara	Max Kasperek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Tolib Mukimov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev
April 17 (Wednesday)		
08:00-09:30	Drive from Bukhara to Karakul district	Max Kasperek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Tolib Mukimov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev
09:30-10:30	Hokimiyat of Karakul district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bahodir Rakhmatov - Responsible Specialist of the Karakul district hokimiyat Sadulla Khamdamov - Chief Specialist of the Land Resources Department of the Karakul District Hokimiyat

Time	Location	Participants
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jumakul Jumaev - Head of Shurrobod Karakul Yaylovlari LLC Ganisher Jumaev - Chief Accountant - Shurrobod Karakul Yaslovlari LLC Nabi Muminov - Director of the Karakul Agricultural College Ganja Yashuzokov - director of the Karakul District "Agropilla" Branch Mahmud Radjabov - Project Local Clerk in Karakul district. <p>Max Kasperek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Mahmud Rajabov, Tolib Mukimov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev.</p>
10:30-14:00	Project sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zamira Gaybullaeva – Householder, (greenhouse), Umid Fatullaev - Head of "Ozodbek Husniddin baliqchi" fish breeding LLC Mukhiddin Fatullaev - Deputy Hokim for agricultural issues Gulchehra Mamirova - Head of Sewing Workshop Gulnora Turaeva - Head of "Sevara - Sabina" broiler farm Mahmud Radjabov - mulberry plantations, head of the "Mardon" farm.
14:00-15:30	Drive from Karakul District to Bukhara	Max Kasperek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov, Mahmud Rajabov, Tolib Mukimov, Doniyor Saidhodjaev
16:40	Flight from Bukhara to Tashkent	Max Kasperek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov
April 18 (Thursday)		
09:20-10:00	State Committee of Veterinary and Livestock Development	Max Kasperek, Tulkin Farmanov, Zafar Abdullaev.
10:00-11:00	State Committee of Veterinary and Livestock Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maksud Yusupov - Head of Department Sobir Mavlonov - Deputy Head of Department Sanam Khudoybergenova - Head of Foreign Affairs Department. <p>Max Kasperek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov</p>
11:30-12:30	UzHydromet at MES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sergey Myagkov - Deputy Director, Hydrometeorological Research Institute of Uzhydromet Natalia Shulgina - responsible specialist UzHydromet, Kamola Kuchkarova - Head of International Relations Department <p>Max Kasperek, Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov</p>
14:30-15:30	State Ecology Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakirov Numonjon – Head of Department for the Land, Water and Bosom Protection; Akhmedjanov Bobur - Senior Specialist of Department for the Land, Water and Bosom Protection; Jahongir Abdukhalikov, leading specialist of the Uzbek department of SIC ICSD. <p>Max Kasperek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov.</p>
April 19 (Friday)		
09:30-11:00	TIAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salohiddinov Abdilhakim – Vice-Rector on International Relations, Sherzod Rahmonov – Head of International Relations Department

Time	Location	Participants
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rustam Oymatov – Head of RS and GIS center • Norbaev Sharof – Dean of Land resources management faculty, PhD • Aleksandr Chertovitskiy – Land resources management faculty, Professor <p>Max Kasperek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov.</p>
11:30-13:00	Tashkent State Agrarian University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanjar Odilov - Head of International Relations Department • Bobur Komilov - Dean of Land Resources Management Faculty, PhD • Murod Karimov - Land Resources Management Faculty, • Normamat Nomozov - Associate Professor, PhD, • Teachers of the department “Agrochemistry and Soil Science” <p>Max Kasperek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov.</p>
15:00-16:00	UNDP Office	<p>Gaukhar Kudaybergenova - Programme Associate on Environment</p> <p>Max Kasperek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov.</p>
16:00-18:00	LAND Project Office	<p>Max Kasperek with Tulkin Farmanov, Rustam Muradov.</p>
April 20 (Saturday)		
	Return of Evaluator	<p>Max Kasperek</p>

Annex C. List of Persons Interviewed

The list shows the main interview partners, but is not a complete list of contacts especially as regards contacts on village level and at the level of the International Conference “Prospects for the development and sustainable use of pastures in Uzbekistan”, which was attended by the evaluator.

UNDP CO

Khurshid Rustamov, Sustainable Development Cluster Leader
Gaukhar Kudaybergenova, Programme Associate on Environment

Project staff

Tulkin Farmanov, Project Manager
Zafar Abdullaev, Project Administration and Finance Assistant

Project Consultants

Rustam Muradov, National Consultant on Technical Assistance (interpreter)

State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre (Goskomzemgeodezkadastr)

A. Kh. Abdullaev, Chairman Goskomzemgeodezkadastra, National Project Coordinator

State Unitary Enterprise “Soil Evaluation”

Odil Jabborov, Head of Enterprise
Inna Ivanova, Head of the Laboratory
Other laboratory staff

State Scientific Design Institute “UzGiprozem”

Ruhiddin Turaev, Head of enterprise
Maqsud Bobomurodov, Head of Foreign Relations Division
Bekzod Inamov, Researcher

State Committee of Veterinary and Livestock Development

Maksud Yusupov, Head of Department
Sobir Mavlonov, Deputy Head of Department
Sanam Khudoybergenova, Head of Foreign Affairs Department

UzHydromet at MES

Sergey Myagkov, Deputy Director, Hydrometeorological Research Institute of Uzhydromet
Natalia Shulgina, Responsible specialist UzHydromet
Kamola Kuchkarova, Head of International Relations Department

State Ecology Committee

Shakirov Numonjon, Head of Department for the Land, Water and Bosom Protection
Akhmedjanov Bobur, Senior Specialist of Department for the Land, Water and Bosom Protection
Jahongir Abdukhalikov, leading specialist of the Uzbek department of SIC ICSD

TIAME

Salohiddinov Abdilhakim, Vice-Rector on International Relations
Sherzod Rahmonov, Head of International Relations Department
Rustam Oymatov, Head of RS and GIS center

Dr. Norbaev Sharof, Dean of Land resources management faculty
Prof. Aleksandr Chertovitskiy, Land resources management faculty

Tashkent State Agrarian University

Sanjar Odilov, Head of International Relations Department
Dr. Bobur Komilov, Dean of Land Resources Management Faculty
Murod Karimov, Land Resources Management Faculty
Assoc. Prof. Normamat Nomozov
Teachers of the department "Agrochemistry and Soil Science"

National University of Uzbekistan named after M. Ulugbek (NUUz)

Dr. Rahmonov Rasul, Vice-rector on International Relation, Economical Science
Prof. Dr. Abdurahmonov Tuhtasin, Dean of Biological Faculty
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siddikov Saidjon, Head of Soil Science Department
Prof. Dr. Gafurova Laziza, Professor, Soil Science Department
Prof. Dr. Abdullaev Sadulla, Soil Science Department
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nabieva Gulchehra, Soil Science Department

Medicinal herbs processing workshop and Zaamin State Forestry (Zaamin district)

Sarimsokov, Head of Zaamin State Forestry
J. Kuldoshev, Chief Forester of Zaamin State Forestry
N. Yakhshiboev, Forester, Zaamin State Forestry
G. Turonov, Responsible Specialist of Zaamin State Forestry
B. Ermatov, Project Local Clerk of the on Zamin district

Zaamin College of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Toshboev Ismatilla, Director of the College
Alijon Omonov, Deputy Director of the College
Ikrom Ermonkulov, teacher
Eldor Gaybullaev, teacher
Ilhom Jabborov, engineer

"Farovonlik shukronasi" farm (Zaamin district)

Nazirbek Berdibekov, Head of Farovonlik shukronasi farm
Urozali Berdibekov, Farovonlik shukronasi farm manager

"Hulkar pistasi" farm

Nizomiddin Ahmatov, Head of "Hulkar pistasi" farm
Abdumannop Karabashev, Manager of "Hulkar Pistasi" farm

Boytepa Village

Marhabo Khalipova - householder with AWG

Zaamin District Hokimiyat / Department of Agriculture of Zaamin District

R. Kholmatov, Head of the Department of Agriculture of Zaamin District
Bahodir Ermatov, Department of Agriculture staff
Doniyor Saidhodjaev, Department of Agriculture staff
Tolib Muqimov, Department of Agriculture staff

Village meetings in Jizzak and Zaamin district

Rustam Abdusattorov, Head of "Rustamnoma" Farm
Abdunazar Djuraev, Specialist of "Tutak Karim Dalasi" Farm
Abdumutalib Hudayberdiev, Manager of "Tutak Karim Dalasi" farm

Bozorboy Hudoyorov, Manager of “Bozorboy tulpori” LLC
Gairat Khudoyarov, Member of Bozorboy Tulpori LLC

Research Institute of Karakul sheep breeding and desert ecology

Prof. Nasillo Bobokulov, Director of the Institute
Dr. Umid Fozilov, Head of the Museum
Dr. Abdullo Rabbimov, Head of Plant Breeding Division
Prof. Surat Yusupov, Head of Karakul Sheep Breeding Division

Karakul LLC, Uchkyr Massif, Karakul District

Fozil Durnazarov, Chairman of Karakul LLC
Ilkhom Ruziev, Shepherd of Karakul LLC
Islom Altiev, Shepherds of Karakul LLC
Fayzulla Ruziev, Chief Accountant of Karakul LLC
Doniyor Bekmurodov, Accountant of Karakul LLC

Hokimiyat of Karakul district

Bahodir Rakhmatov, Responsible Specialist of the Karakul district hokimiyat
Sadulla Khamdamov, Chief Specialist of the Land Resources Department
Jumakul Jumaev, Head of Shurrobod Karakul Yaylovlari LLC
Ganisher Jumaev, Chief Accountant, Shurrobod Karakul Yaslovlari LLC
Nabi Muminov, Director of the Karakul Agricultural College
Ganja Yashuzokov, Director of the Karakul District “Agropilla” Branch
Mahmud Radjabov, Project Local Clerk in Karakul district

Project sites in Karakul District

Zamira Gaybullaeva, Householder (greenhouse)
Umid Fatullaev, Head of “Ozodbek Husniddin baliqchi” fish breeding LLC
Mukhiddin Fatullaev, Deputy Hokim for agricultural issues
Gulchehra Mamirova, Head of Sewing Workshop
Gulnora Turaeva, Head of “Sevara - Sabina” broiler farm
Mahmud Radjabov, mulberry plantations, head of the “Mardon” farm

Annex D. Summary of Field Visits

The field visit was conducted from 13 to 17 April 2019 to the target communities in the Karakul and Zaamin districts, where the target pastures and forests areas are located. In addition to meetings with key local stakeholders in the region, the field visit provided an understanding of the nature of the field and allowed to showcase the results of pastures and forests management interventions obtained through the project.



Processing and packing of medicinal plants at Zaamin State Forestry.



Sewing Workshop in Bukhara District.



“Ozodbek Husniddin baliqchi” fish breeding LLC.



Freshwater well in the Karakul desert.



Research Institute of Karakul sheep breeding and desert ecology



Trailer for shepherds.



Greenhouse at the Zaamin College of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Broiler farm established in the Karakul District (Bukhara region).

Annex E. List of Documents Reviewed

- STRATEGY of long-term use of non irrigated dry lands of Uzbekistan. Tashkent 2018.
- LAW “On pastures”. Adopted by the Legislative Chamber on April 2, 2019.
- PLAN OF ACTIVITIES on implementing the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On pastures». Draft 2019.
- Steps to improve the management capacity for sustainable land management.
- THE REGULATIONS on the Land Monitoring Coordinating Council under the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadaster.
- Annual Project Reports (APR) for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018.
- Annual Work Plans (AWPs) for 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 (1st and 2nd semester), 2019 (1st semester).
- Combined Delivery Reports 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018.
- Pasture Use Plan of Qorako'l Shirkat (2018).
- Recommendations On rational use of pastures around the livestock complex "Uchkir" (approved report). 2018.
- PLAN. Systematic use of pasture lands allocated to the LLC “Bozorboy Tulpori” at the territory of Water Consumers Association “Yangi Hayot” of Zamin district of Jizzakh region (2018).
- “Reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land use in nonirrigated arid mountain, semi-desert and desert landscapes of Uzbekistan” Project ID: 00087414 (under umbrella of GEF Programme CACILM). Inception Report. 2014.
- Reducing Pressures on Natural Resources from Competing Land Use in Non-irrigated Arid Mountain, Semi-desert and Desert Landscapes of Uzbekistan. ID# 00087414. MID TERM REVIEW. 2016.
- Midterm Evaluation Management Response (Status for April 2019).
- Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs): 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 (two reports annually).
- Reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land use in nonirrigated arid mountain, semi-desert and desert landscapes of Uzbekistan”. Information Bulletin No. 2 (2017) and 3 (2017).

Annex F. Terminal Evaluation -Evaluation Questions / MATRIX

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Relevance: How does the project relate to the main objectives of the GEF focal area, and to the environment and development priorities at the local, regional and national levels?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project aim to solve a core problem faced by target groups? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target group confirms in interviews the need of the project measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government strategies, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of the project proposal; interviews with MSDT and other stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project comply with relevant strategies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of strategies and project document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with MSDT and other stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent are the objectives of the programme still valid? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation in interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with MSDT and other stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the activities and outputs of the programme consistent with the overall goal and the attainment of its objectives? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical flow (logframe) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of the project proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the activities and outputs of the programme consistent with the intended impacts and effects? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical flow (logframe) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of the project proposal
Effectiveness: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the project achieved the objective agreed in accordance with the indicators? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targets of project indicators achieved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews, analysis of reports (APR, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did no negative results occur, or if they did, were they responded to? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of unintended results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress reports, statements of stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews, analysis of reports (APR, etc.)
Efficiency: Was the project implemented efficiently, cost-effectively, and in-line with international and national norms and standards?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the objectives being achieved cost-effectively? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATLAS data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of project budget; interviews with project staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the opportunity of coordinating with other donors and/or projects been explored and, if possible, implemented? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up of co-financing agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation arrangements; SC meeting reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of cooperation arrangements (if any)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were objectives achieved on time? Did project implementation experience delay? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project progress; delay in implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of project progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was the programme or project implemented in the most efficient way com- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternatives with higher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews, PSC reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with project staff and PSC

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
pared to alternatives?	costs rejected		members
Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, social-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the positive results of the project expected to be durable? To what extent are the benefits of the project expected to continue after GEF funding will be ceased? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding of follow-up measures by the partner organisations; institutional structure; partner commitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statements of partner organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews; documents on follow-up measures and follow-up commitments (if available)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project take into account possible risk factors that might influence the long-term sustainability of results? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures on risk management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress reports; planning documents on follow-up measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with partner organisations and PSC members
Impact: Are there indications that the project has contributed to, or enabled progress toward, reduced environmental stress and/or improved ecological status?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What has happened as a result of the programme or project? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statements of partner organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with partner organisations, PSC members and project staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can it be anticipated that the project will help to achieve overarching long-term (political) objectives? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal assessments of evaluator and interviewees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses of interview partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of the overall project context; Interviews with partner organisations, PSC members and project staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project help to achieve broad impact (e.g.: How many people have been affected?)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size of the target group which has benefitted from the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses of interview partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with partner organisations, PSC members and project staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What real difference has the activity made to the beneficiaries? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal assessments of interviewees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses of interview partners (self assessment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with partner organisations, PSC members and project staff

Annex G. Questionnaire Used with Summary of Results

Question	Result
Does the project aim to solve a core problem faced by target groups?	Yes, land degradation is a major issue in the drylands of Central Asia and is a real threat to biodiversity, climate, rural livelihood and food security. The project therefore addresses a problem of national and international relevance.
Does the project comply with relevant strategies?	The project complies with international strategies, e.g. the GEF focal area strategies and the strategic documents developed in the frame of the regional CACILM initiative. On the national level, the project could not rely on an already existing sound strategy for rangeland management, but the project helped develop such a strategy and strengthen the legal framework.
To what extent are the objectives of the programme still valid?	The objectives of the project are still fully valid at project closure. The situation has not changed significantly and big differences in the weather conditions in the implementation period (arid years 2017 & 2018, high precipitation in 2019) has shown to many people the high relevance of the project and made many people aware of the need for intervention.
Are the activities and outputs of the programme consistent with the overall goal and the attainment of its objectives?	Yes, implementation of the project activities and attainment of outputs will principally lead to the project objective (but not to the overall development goal which is already addressed in the project objective).
Are the activities and outputs of the programme consistent with the intended impacts and effects?	There is a missing link between the activities and outputs on the one hand and the intended impact on the other: the gap is an instrument / strategy how to achieve broad impact. Many of the project activities and outputs are a conglomeration of small-scale demonstration measures without a clear concept for upscaling them. The project strongly relies on the hope that people who see the positive results of micro-demonstration measures will just go and copy them for their own purposes. The project does not analyse and consider the barriers against the dissemination of the demonstration measures. The "Law of Pastures" which the project helped to draft and strongly promoted provides an extremely useful regulatory framework for rangeland issues, but is not yet the instrument which is needed for upscaling the micro-measures.
Has the project achieved the objective agreed in accordance with the indicators?	Most of the targets of the project indicators were fulfilled or the products delivered even exceed the planned targets, i.e. the Project delivered more products than required as per targets of the indicators. The Project was successful especially in delivering the outputs related to rangelands and somewhat less successful in the sectoral fields of forest management and rain-fed agriculture. However, the TE in line with the MTR considers these two fields of minor importance in the overall picture. A few targets have not been fully achieved (e.g. surface area of pastures classified as "degraded"), but this does not significantly influence the big picture and is regarded as a consequence of sharpening the focus of the Project during implementation (adaptive management).
Did no negative results occur, or if they did, were they responded to?	There are several measures with clear environmental risks, and these risks often come from unintended side effects. There are e.g. no safeguards that additional income generated by the Project will not be used for increasing the number of livestock, no bioassays were carried out for the usage of seeds of non-indigenous fodder plant species imported from Mediterranean countries, no biodiversity assessments were carried out prior to ploughing steppes for enrichment plantings or prior to converting natural steppe ecosystems to

Question	Result
	fodder plots. It appears that the Project could not sufficiently solve the trade-off between socio-economic goals and environmental goals.
Are the objectives being achieved cost-effectively?	The Project performed in a very efficient way insofar most project activities were conducted in a timely manner and the Project achieved most activities in line with the time schedule of the annual work plans, and usually selected the most cost-effective way in order to achieve the intended objective. On the other hand, dealing with a very high number of different types of micro-measures and a very high number of beneficiary organisations (approx. 70) is not regarded as an efficient method for promoting certain issues (unfocussed approach). Some of the micro-measures had not carefully enough been selected as there is a high risk whether they will lead to the expected output.
Has the opportunity of coordinating with other donors and/or projects been explored and, if possible, implemented?	The Project is part of the Central Asian CACILM initiative. Cooperation with other donors has been explored and information exchange was realised continuously. There was little opportunity for cooperation on the ground.
Were objectives achieved on time? Did project implementation experience delay?	With some minor exceptions (especially at the onset of the Project), no significant delay was experienced. Due to availability of unused funds at the end of the Project (because of a drastic change in the exchange rate of the US-dollar) and the need to further follow-up the establishment of the legal and regulatory framework, the Project duration was extended (no-cost extension).
Was the programme or project implemented in the most efficient way compared to alternatives?	The alternative would have been to prepare an upscaling strategy for the micro-measures in order to select those which have a high up-scaling potential, and to focus onto them.
Are the positive results of the project expected to be durable? To what extent are the benefits of the project expected to continue after GEF funding will be ceased?	The results on the regulatory framework are durable (order of the President issued). The micro-measures implemented are also durable, but it is expected that there will be little dissemination.
Does the project take into account possible risk factors that might influence the long-term sustainability of results?	The outcome of the Project was not threatened by one of the factors listed in the risk matrix of the ProDoc, i.e. the risks which had been identified at the onset of the Project did not occur or the risks were managed properly by the Project (with some minor exceptions). The political risks were minimised by the various changes that occurred since 2016 at the level of the Government of Uzbekistan; the environmental risks were minimised by favourable weather conditions (high precipitation) at the end of the project; the institutional risks were properly managed by the Project.
What has happened as a result of the programme or project?	The Project was extremely successful in bringing rangeland issues on the national agenda especially by promoting a "Law on Pastures" which has been adopted by the Parliament, signed by the President and awaits further steps to become fully operational. On the field level, the Project supported many individuals, institutions and organisations to manage land and they often improved their livelihood. The final impact of Project measures on rangeland (actually reduced pressure?) is often unclear.
Can it be anticipated that the project will help to achieve overarching long-term (political) objectives?	Yes, this already happened. The most prominent example is the "Law on Pastures" which has been prepared with the assistance of the Project and has been adopted by the Parliament, signed by the President and awaits further steps to become fully operational.
Does the project help to achieve broad impact (e.g.: How many people have been affected?)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The effect of the micro-measures often does not go beyond the immediate stakeholders; there is a high risk that many of the micro-measures will not be upscaled as "good" or "best" practice. All stakeholders in pasture management will be affected by the

Question	Result
	<p>“Law on Pastures”. Nevertheless, time has to show in what way the stakeholders will benefit from the stipulations of the law and how it will affect biodiversity of pastures.</p>
<p>What real difference has the activity made to the beneficiaries?</p>	<p>All Project beneficiaries interviewed were happy with the results of the Project. Some of the Project measures have the character of giving gifts to people living in drylands or to organisations related to dryland management rather than initiating and stimulating long-term development for the region in a concerted way.</p>

Annex H. List of Project Measures

Classification of costs: x = <5000 US\$; xx = 5,000-50,000 US\$; xxx = >50,000 US\$

Types of beneficiary: State organisation; LLC (state-owned company); LLC (private company); Private Household

No	Beneficiary	Type of beneficiary	Measure (Equipment / Service)	Costs	Year
Zamin district					
1	Zamin State Forestry	State organisation	Armature, wire for the pilot site. A nursery was created for growing desert forage plants (primary seed plot) for 2 hectares	XX	2014
2	Shirkat "Yangi Chorvador" 10 ha and Shirkat "Zomin Chorvador" 10 ha	LLC (private company)	Seeds for areas of primary seed production procured. A primary seed production site was created for growing desert forage plants on the basis of Yangi Chorvador shirkat 10 ha and Zomin Chorvador shirkat 10 ha	X	2014
3	Khokimiyat (National partner of the project) in Zamin district	State organisation	Furniture procured for the office of the project Zamin district	X	2014
4	Farm "Hulkar Pistasi"	LLC (private company)	Installation of the fence and drip irrigation system. On the slope of the foothills of the farm "Hulkar Pistasi" in the Zamin district of the Jizzakh region, a model plum orchard was created on an area of 2.1 hectares, using a drip irrigation system.	XX	2015
5	Zamin State Forestry	State organisation	Equipment for the collection, processing, storage and packaging (or sale) of medicinal plants. Unproductive losses and load on the ecosystem of the Forestry decreased.	XX	2015
6	Farm "Rustamnoma" and "Zomin Chorvador" in Zamin district	LLC (private company)	Procurement of asbestos pipes and metal grida. Nursery was created for growing desert forage plants (primary seed plot) on 16 hectares	XX	2015
7	Farm "Rustamnoma" Zamin district	LLC (private company)	Equipment for the grinding of coarse feed - 2 pieces for effective use of roughage, high cattle rate, reduced load on pastures	X	2015
8	Farm "Rustamnoma" Zamin district	LLC (private company)	Equipment for the manufacture of fodder blocks - 4 pieces for effective use of roughage, high cattle rate, reduced load on pastures	X	2015
9	Gallal Experimental Station	State organisation	Procurement of ALDSD 16 / Hydraulic Planter ALDSD 16 Hydraulic No-till seederstrengthening the capacity of the Center for the introduction of innovative technologies and resource-saving technologies in rainfed agriculture, demonstration of advanced resource-saving technologies to improve the fertility of rainfed lands	XX	2015
10	"Boychibor" farm of Zamin district	LLC (private company)	1200 kg of safflower seed. Formation of a demonstrative site in the rainfed area on the application of advanced resource-saving technologies for further replication in the territory of the village of Kiziloy	X	2015
11	Farm "Mirfayoz-O'tkirbek"	LLC (private company)	1400 kg safflower seed. Formation of a demonstrative site in the rainfed area on the application of advanced resource-saving technologies for further replication in the territory of the village of Kiziloy	X	2015
12	Farm "Tulkinbek Mirzo"	LLC (private company)	1400 kg safflower seed. Formation of a demonstrative site in the rainfed territory on the application of advanced resource-saving technologies for further replication in the territory of the village of Karakorsok	X	2015

No	Beneficiary	Type of beneficiary	Measure (Equipment / Service)	Costs	Year
13	Farm "Rustamnoma" Zamin district	LLC (private company)	20 kg of izen and 35 kg of zhitnyak (seeds of desert forage plants). Creation of a demonstrative seed plot for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming for replication in the territory of the village of Mogol	X	2015
14	Farm "Rustamnoma" Zamin district	LLC (private company)	85 kg of teresken and 100 kg of chogon (seeds of desert forage plants). Creation of a demonstrative seed plot for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming for replication in the territory of the village of Mogol	X	2015
15	Farm "Hulkar Pistasi"	LLC (private company)	900 pcs Plum saplings. Creating a demonstrative plum orchard with a drip irrigation system for replication in the territory of the village of Hulkar	X	2015
16	Farm "Kiparis"	LLC (private company)	10 000 poplar cuttings (Turkish variety). Creation of a demonstrative plot for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use and replication in the territory of the village of Kiziloy	X	2015
17	Farm "Muzallat ona"	LLC (private company)	10 000 poplar cuttings (Turkish variety). Creation of a demonstrative plot for the breeding of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of Zamina	X	2015
18	Farm "Shaxlo-Dilrabo"	LLC (private company)	5,000 poplar cuttings (Turkish variety). Creation of a demonstrative plot for the breeding of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of Zamina	X	2015
19	Gallal Experimental Station	State organisation	PN-4-30UA plow, fertilizer spreader and Knapsack motor unit procured for strengthening the capacity of the Center for the introduction of innovative technologies and resource-saving technologies in rainfed agriculture, demonstration of advanced resource-saving technologies to improve the fertility of rainfed lands	X	2016
20	Farm "Rustamnoma" Zamin district	LLC (private company)	Barbed wire. Creation of a demonstrative seed plot for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming for replication in the territory of the village of Mogol	X	2016
21	Farm "Zomin chorvador-Karakul"	LLC (private company)	Barbed wire. Creation of a demonstrative seed plot for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming for replication in the territory of the village of Mogol	X	2016
24	Farm "Rustamnoma" Zamin district	LLC (private company)	80 kg of izen, 80 kg of teresken, 50 kg of chogon, 80 kg of wheatgrass, 80 kg of ferule and 80 kg of articlex (seeds of desert forage plants. Introduction at the demonstrative seed site of high-yielding pasture crops for replication in the territory of the village of Mogol	X	2016
25	Farm "Tutak Karim Dalasi"	LLC (private company)	Trailer for shepherds. Creation of a demonstrative seed plot for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming for replication in the territory of the village of Pishagar	XX	2016
26	Farm "Tutak Karim Dalasi"	LLC (private company)	265 kg of chogon, 40 kg of teresken, 175 kg of atriplex, 100 kg of ferule (seeds of desert forage plants) . Creation of a demonstrative seed plot for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming for replication in the territory of the village of Pishagar	X	2017
27	Farm "Farvaronlik shukronasi"	LLC (private company)	Drip irrigation equipment. Creation of a demonstrative site for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of drip irrigation in rainfed agriculture for replication in the territory of Zamin district	X	2017
28	Farm "Tutak Karim Dalasi"	LLC (private company)	240 pcs of asbestos pipes for fencing the seed section. Creation of a demonstrative seed plot for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming for replica-	X	2017

No	Beneficiary	Type of beneficiary	Measure (Equipment / Service)	Costs	Year
			tion in the territory of the village of Pishagar		
29	Zamin College of Agriculture and Consumer Services	State organisation	3 hectare arched greenhouse. Creation of a demonstrative site for the dissemination of best practices of greenhouses for replication in the Zamin district	XX	2017
30	Household of Yuldosheva S. at SSG "Khalkabad" Zamin district	Private Household	The arch greenhouse on 1 acres. Creation of a demonstrative site for the dissemination of best practices of greenhouses for replication in the SSG Khalkabad	X	2017
31	Zamin College of Agriculture and Consumer Services	State organisation	Supply of 2 sampler-drill Adelman, aluminum buksy, 2 pocket scales RE-500, 2 laboratory weights NT-500, drying cabinet SHS-80-01 SPU (200), 2 sets of soil sieves - 8 sieves, tray and cover, HIT-2 Hygrometer, pH-meter pH-150MI, IRF-454B2M refractometer. Strengthening the capacity of the Center for the introduction of innovative developments and resource-saving technologies in rainfed agriculture, demonstration of advanced resource-saving technologies to improve the fertility of rainfed lands	XX	2017
32	Zamin College of Agriculture and Consumer Services	State organisation	Supply of generator, battery, 4 nozzles, 2 front tires, turbo compressor, oil filter, fuel filter, hydraulic filter. Strengthening the capacity of the Center for the introduction of innovative developments and resource-saving technologies in rainfed agriculture, demonstration of advanced resource-saving technologies to improve the fertility of rainfed lands	X	2017
33	Zamin State Forestry	State organisation	Supply of 5000 walnut saplings, 5500 almond seedlings, 5000 unabi saplings, 15000 black saxaul seedlings, 20500 pistachio seedlings, 40000 cuttings of Turkish poplar. Creation of a demonstrative plot for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use and replication in the territory of the village of Kiziloy	XX	2017
34	Farm "Farovonlik shukronasi"	LLC (private company)	Construction of a pool (fencing, installation of geomembrane, pumping equipment, 6000 l storage tank) for the accumulation of irrigation water. Creation of a demonstrative plot for vysrashivaniya fruit trees to spread the experience of rainfed land use and replication in the territory of WUA "Zomin"	XX	2017
35	Farm "Shaxlo Dilrabo"	LLC (private company)	Supply of 1500 kg of safflower seeds and 60 plastic bags. Creation of a demonstrative site for disseminating the experience of rainfed land use and replication in the territory of the village of Laylak yu	X	2017
36	Farm "Toshquduq Chuchiqu-duq"	LLC (private company)	Supply of 200 kg safflower seeds and 8 plastic bags. Creation of a demonstrative site for disseminating the experience of rainfed land use and replication in the territory of the village of Toshpeskon	X	2017
37	Farm "Tulkinbek Mirzo"	LLC (private company)	Supply of 880 kg of safflower seeds and 35 plastic bags. Creation of a demonstrative site for disseminating the experience of rainfed land use and replication on the territory of the village of Korakursok	X	2017
38	«Ummatov Ulug'bek Dalasi»	LLC (private company)	Supply of 440 kg of safflower seed and 18 plastic bags. Creation of a demonstrative site for disseminating the experience of rainfed land use and replication in the territory of the village of Zomin	X	2017
39	Farm "Tutak Karim Dalasi"	LLC (private company)	Barbed wire for fencing the seed farm plot. Creation of a demonstrative seed plot for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming for replication in the territory of the village of Pishagar	X	2018
40	Bozorboy Tulporlari LLC	LLC (private company)	Asbestos pipes and barbed wire for the seed section. Strengthening the capacity of Bozorboy	XX	2018

No	Beneficiary	Type of beneficiary	Measure (Equipment / Service)	Costs	Year
			Tulporlari LLC, creating a seed plot to increase the yield of pasture crops and the introduction of high-yielding forage plants to replicate the LLC experience in Zamin district		
41	Bozorboy Tulporlari LLC	LLC (private company)	Supply of Furniture for strengthening the capacity of Bozorboy Tulporlari LLC, creating a seed plot to increase the yield of pasture crops and the introduction of high-yielding forage plants to replicate the LLC experience in Zamin district	X	2018
42	Bozorboy Tulporlari LLC	LLC (private company)	80 kg of izen and 50 kg of chogon (seeds of desert forage plants). Strengthening the capacity of Bozorboy Tulporlari LLC, creating a seed plot to increase the yield of pasture crops and the introduction of high-yielding forage plants to replicate the LLC experience in Zamin district	X	2018
43	Women entrepreneurs in Zamin district	Private Household	Acquisition of 4 types of sewing equipment. Demonstration of alternative forms of management to reduce the burden of land use in Zamin	X	2018
44	Center for the introduction of innovative developments and resource-saving technologies in rainfed agriculture	State organisation	Acquisition of spare parts for the tractor. Strengthening the capacity of the Center for the introduction of innovative technologies and resource-saving technologies in rainfed agriculture, demonstration of advanced resource-saving technologies to improve the fertility of rainfed lands	X	2018
45	Zamin College of Agriculture and Consumer Services	State organisation	Acquisition of equipment for organizing a vegetarianism system on an area of 3 acres. Demonstration of advanced alternative forms of management in areas with a high shortage of irrigation water to reduce the burden of land use in the city of Zamina	X	2018
2		Karakul district			
1	State Forestry named after A. Navoi, Karakul district	State organisation	Supply of concrete racks, wire for the pilot site. Nursery was created for growing desert forage plants (primary seed plot) for 2 hectares	XX	2014
2	Karakul shirkat territory: Uchkir massif - 5 hectares and Ramat bobo - 5 hectares) hectares and the leskhoz of the Karakul district 10 hectares	LLC (state-owned company)	Seeds for areas of primary seed production. Plots of primary seed production have been created for growing desert forage plants on the basis of Karakul shirkat	X	2014
3	Khokimiyat (National partner of the project) in Karakul district	State organisation	Furniture for Karakul district	X	2014
4	State Forestry named after A. Navoi, Karakul district	State organisation	Supply of equipment for the collection, processing, storage and packaging (or sale) of medicinal plants. Unproductive losses and load on the ecosystem of the Forestry decreased	XX	2015
5	Shirkat farm "Karakul"	LLC (state-owned company)	Supply of asbestos pipes and "Rabits" mesh. A nursery was created for growing desert forage plants (primary seed plot) on 10 hectares	XX	2015
6	Shirkat farm "Karakul"	LLC (state-owned company)	Equipment for grinding roughage - 3 pieces. Effective use of roughage, high cattle rate, reduced load on pastures	X	2015
7	Shirkat farm "Karakul"	LLC (state-owned company)	Equipment for the manufacture of feed blocks - 5 pieces. Effective use of roughage, high cattle rate, reduced load on pastures		2015
8	Uchkir massif of the shirkat farm "Karakul"	LLC (state-owned company)	10 kg of izen and 5 kg of grains (seeds of desert forage plants). Creation of a demonstrative seed plot for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming on the Uchkir massif	X	2015
9	Uchkir massif of the shirkat	LLC (private company)	105 kg of teresken, and 140 kg of chogon, 20 kg of balikkusi, 15 kg of keirek, 50 kg of kandym	X	2015

No	Beneficiary	Type of beneficiary	Measure (Equipment / Service)	Costs	Year
	farm "Karakul"		and 50 kg of cherkez (seeds of desert forage plants). Creation of a demonstrative seed plot for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming on the Uchkir massif		
11	Farm "Mardon" of the Karakul district	LLC (private company)	25 000 poplar cuttings (Turkish variety). Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2015
12	Shirkat farm "Karakul"	LLC (state-owned company)	Asbestos pipes. Creating a demonstrative site for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming on the Uchkir massif	XX	2016
13	Shirkat farm "Karakul"	LLC (state-owned company)	Barbed Wire. Creating a demonstrative site for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming on the Uchkir massif	X	2016
14	Karakul Specialized State Forestry	State organisation	Equipment for the collection, processing, storage and packaging (or sale) of medicinal plants. Reducing unproductive losses during processing and storage of raw materials, reducing the load on the ecosystem of the Forestry, increasing the market value and competitiveness of goods	XX	2016
15	Ma'suma farm	LLC (private company)	1,500 mulberry cuttings, 100 local poplar cuttings and 100 sucker cuttings. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2016
16	Farm "Miroy Ariq Zamini"	LLC (private company)	1,000 cuttings of mulberry and 1 400 cuttings of local poplar. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2016
17	Farm "Nurxon-Bogbon"	LLC (private company)	1,000 cuttings of mulberry and 1 000 cuttings of local poplar. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2016
18	Farm "Ortiq Bobo"	LLC (private company)	500 cuttings of mulberry, 1 000 cuttings of local poplar and 200 cuttings of sucker. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2016
19	Farm "Paxtakor Fidokor"	LLC (private company)	500 cuttings of mulberry, 500 cuttings of local poplar and 200 cuttings of sucker. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2016
20	Farm "Polvon Yangiyev"	LLC (private company)	500 cuttings of mulberry, 1 000 cuttings of local poplar and 500 cuttings of sucker. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2016
21	LLC Qorako'l Naslchilik	LLC (state-owned company)	Trailer for shepherds. Creation of a demonstrative seed plot for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming for replication in the territory of LLC Qorako'l Naslchilik	XX	2016
22	LLC Qorako'l Naslchilik	LLC (state-owned company)	46 types of laboratory and other equipment. Increasing the capacity of Qorako'l Naslchilik LLC to provide veterinary services	XX	2016
23	Farm "Abdullo Juma Zo'r Chorva"	LLC (private company)	Grinding equipment for roughage - 1 piece. Efficient use of roughage, high cattle behavior, reduced load on pastures	XX	2016

No	Beneficiary	Type of beneficiary	Measure (Equipment / Service)	Costs	Year
24	Farm "Abdullo Juma Zo'r Chorva"	LLC (private company)	Equipment for the manufacture of feed blocks - 4 pieces. Efficient use of roughage, high cattle behavior, reduced load on pastures		2016
25	LLC Qorako'l Naslchilik	LLC (state-owned company)	3 well repaired. Increasing the capacity of Qorako'l Naslchilik LLC for the effective use of pasture ecosystems and reducing the load on desert pastures	XX	2016
26	Farm "Karakul Sabina Sevara"	LLC (private company)	Supply of equipment for feeding broilers, 3 wall fans, 11 sq. M of panels for cooling the bodies of birds, 2 motors for a panel motor, 1 MOP bird feathers cleaner, 1 water tank. Capacity building farm "Karakul Sabina Sevara" to introduce alternative sources of land use to replicate this experience in Karakul district	XX	2017
27	Ozodbek Husnidin Balikchi LLC	LLC (private company)	Supply of 3000 l water storage tank, 2 fiberglass fish pools, 2 Amur incubation vehicles, 4 Weiss incubation vehicles, 3 kWb 220 V diesel generator, Pedrollo pump, 120 sq. ". Increasing the capacity of Ozodbek Husnidin Balikchi LLC to introduce alternative land use sources to replicate this experience in the Karakul district	XX	2017
28	Farm "Bobojon Shodiyev"	LLC (private company)	Supply of 20 kg of fish planting material (Carp, grass carp and silver carp - 1 year). Increasing the capacity of the farm "Bobojon Shodiyev" to introduce alternative land use sources to replicate this experience in the Karakul district	X	2017
29	Ozodbek Husnidin Balikchi LLC	LLC (private company)	20 kg of fish stock (Carp, grass carp and silver carp - 1 year). Increasing the capacity of Ozodbek Husnidin Balikchi LLC to introduce alternative land use sources to replicate this experience in the Karakul district	X	2017
30	Farm "Pirnafas Qurbon"	LLC (private company)	300 kg of fish planting material (Carp, grass carp and silver carp - 1 year). Increasing the capacity of the farm "Pirnafas Qurbon" to introduce alternative land use sources to replicate this experience in the Karakul district	X	2017
31	Qorako'l Jayroni LLC	LLC (private company)	200 kg of fish stock (Carp, carp and silver carp - 1 year). Increasing the capacity of Qorako'l Jayroni LLC to introduce alternative land use sources to replicate this experience in the Karakul district	X	2017
32	Qozon Baliq LLC	LLC (private company)	200 kg of fish planting material (Carp, grass carp and silver carp - 1 year). Increasing the capacity of Qozon Baliq LLC to introduce alternative sources of land use to replicate this experience in the Karakul district	X	2017
33	LLC Muxammad Sodiq Baraka	LLC (private company)	200 kg of fish planting material (Carp, grass carp and silver carp - 1 year). Increasing the capacity of Muxammad Sodiq Baraka LLC to introduce alternative land use sources to replicate this experience in the Karakul region	X	2017
34	Karakul specialized state forestry	State organisation	Office equipment (4 chairs, 5 wardrobes, 3 bookcases and 5 chairs). Increasing the capacity of the Karakul specialized state forestry to introduce alternative sources of land use to replicate this experience in the Karakul district	X	2017
35	Household in SSG "Chekirchi"	Private household	The arch greenhouse for 1 acres. Creation of a demonstrative site for the dissemination of best practices of greenhouses for replication in the territory of the Chekirchi SSG of the Karakul district	X	2017
36	Karakul College of Agriculture and Service	State organisation	The greenhouse arch on 3 acres. Creation of a demonstrative site for the dissemination of best practices of greenhouses for replication in the territory of Karakulsky district	XX	2017
37	LLC Qorako'l Naslchilik	LLC (state-owned company)	Construction of the complex including chaban dwelling house, off-site electrical networks, off-	XXX	2017

No	Beneficiary	Type of beneficiary	Measure (Equipment / Service)	Costs	Year
			site water mains, Koshara, outhouse toilet, water tower with a capacity of 25 m3 and a support height of 12 m, a veterinary station, a pond for washing sheep and a light canopy for shearing sheep Creation of a demonstrative site for the dissemination of pasture use best practices for subsequent replication in the republic		
38	LLC Agropilla	LLC (state-owned company)	50 000 one-two-year-old saplings of mulberry trees. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	XX	2017
39	Farm "Farrux Amirbek"	LLC (private company)	1500 saplings of the sucker and 500 saplings of karagach. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2017
40	Farm "Mardon"	LLC (private company)	1000 saplings of the sucker, 2000 saplings of karagach and 10,000 cuttings of the Turkish poplar. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2017
41	Farm "Muxammad Ali Hasanov"	LLC (private company)	100 seedlings of the sucker, 500 seedlings of karagach and 300 seedlings of mulberry trees. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2017
42	Farm "Paxlavon Shamsi Soxibkor"	500 seedlings of sucker, 1000 seedlings of karagach for the farm "Paxlavon Shamsi Soxibkor" of the Karakul district	500 seedlings of sucker, 1000 seedlings of karagach. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2017
43	State plot on "Qorako'l" strain testing	State organisation	1000 saplings of the sucker, 1000 saplings of karagach. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2017
44	Farm "Sardor G'ulomjon"	LLC (private company)	900 seedlings of the sucker and 4700 seedlings of the mulberry tree. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	X	2017
45	State forestry of Karakul district	State organisation	Supply of 300 kg of black saxaul seeds. Dissemination of experience in creating green lanes for stopping the movement of sands and combating desertification in the Karakul region	X	2017
46	Household in SSG Tozhikent	Private Household	Acquisition of 5 types of sewing equipment. Demonstration of alternative forms of management to reduce the burden of land use in the Karakul district	X	2017
47	Household in SSG Yangiturmush	Private Household	Acquisition of 5 types of sewing equipment. Demonstration of alternative forms of management to reduce the burden of land use in the Karakul district	X	2017
48	LLC Qorako'l Naslchilik	LLC (state-owned company)	5 wells repaired. Increasing the capacity of Qorako'l Naslchilik LLC for the effective use of pasture ecosystems and reducing the load on desert pastures	XX	2017
49	LLC Qorako'l Naslchilik	LLC (state-owned company)	Acquisition and installation of a barbed wire fence to enclose the territory of a compact livestock complex. Creating a demonstrative site for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming on the Uchkir massif	X	2018
50	Shurrobbot Yaslovlari LLC	LLC (private company)	Supply of furniture. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the	X	2018

No	Beneficiary	Type of beneficiary	Measure (Equipment / Service)	Costs	Year
			experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district		
51	LLC Agropilla	LLC (private company)	Procurement of 50,000 mulberry cuttings. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	XX	2018
52	Karakul specialized state forestry	State organisation	Purchase of black saxaul seedlings and their mechanization planting on an area of 30 hectares. Creating a demonstrative site for the introduction of advanced resource-saving technologies of pasture farming	XX	2018
53	LLC Agropilla	LLC (private company)	Procurement of 63,000 mulberry cuttings. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	XX	2018
54	Karakul state forestry	State organisation	Purchase of one and two summer saplings of karagach and mechanization planting of annual seedlings of native black saxaul species on an area of 100 hectares. Creation of a demonstrative site for the growing of tree trees to spread the experience of alternative land use, create green stripes and replicate in the territory of the Karakul district	XX	2018
55	LLC Qorako'l Naslchilik	LLC (state-owned company)	2 wells repaired. Increasing the capacity of Qorako'l Naslchilik LLC for the effective use of pasture ecosystems and reducing the load on desert pastures	XX	2018
56	Z.Gaybullaeva family at the Karakul district	Private Household	Acquisition of equipment for the organization of a vegetarians on the area of 1 acres. Demonstration of advanced alternative forms of management to reduce the burden of land use	X	2018
3		Tashkent city			
1	State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and the State Cadastre	State organisation	Supply of Risograph and other equipment. Increasing the capacity of the State Committee for Land Use and Information Management	XX	2014
2	Research Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry	DB floor scales - 4 pcs	Supply of DB floor scales - 4 pcs. Capacity building of the Research Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry in the development of research and monitoring activities	X	2014
3	Research Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry	State organisation	Purchase of laboratory equipment. Capacity building of the Research Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry in the development of research and monitoring activities	XX	2015
4	The Subsidiary Enterprise "Tuprok Bonitirovkasi" under the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and the State Cadastre	State organisation	Purchase of laboratory equipment for assistance in increasing the potential of the subsidiary of the Soil Assessment Subsidiary under the State Land Committee on the compilation of soil maps taking into account the quality indicators of irrigated and rainfed land, as well as conducting agrochemical studies. Updating the technical base of the enterprise allowed to increase the production performance of the enterprise by 15-20%.	XX	2015
5	Tashkent State Agrarian University	State organisation	Production of a relief soil map of the Republic of Uzbekistan, demonstration boxes of soil samples and a metal cabinet with an exhaust device. Assistance in organizing a center for the demonstration and training of students, the raising of qualifications and awareness of teachers and academics of universities in the areas of land degradation and desertification, as well as for disseminating knowledge about integrated land use management	XX	2015

No	Beneficiary	Type of beneficiary	Measure (Equipment / Service)	Costs	Year
6	State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and the State Cadastre	State organisation	Supply of HP server. Increasing the technical capacity of the committee and the interdepartmental coordinating council for land monitoring at the State Land Committee	XX	2015
7	Tashkent State Agrarian University	State organisation	Transfer of books of 21 items. Capacity building in teaching students, improving the skills and awareness of teachers and university scientists in the areas of land degradation, soil science and desertification	X	2016
8	State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and the State Cadastre	State organisation	Furniture (6 desktops, 15 chairs, 7 display cabinets). Increase of the technical potential of the interdepartmental Coordination Council for Land Monitoring at the State Land Committee and the Gadget by acquiring office and measuring equipment for the project	X	2016
9	State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and the State Cadastre	State organisation	Computer equipment (computer, UPS, printer). Increase of the technical potential of the interdepartmental Coordination Council for Land Monitoring at the State Land Committee and the Gadget by acquiring office and measuring equipment for the project	X	2016
10	Uzbek State Research and Design Institute for Land Management "O'zdavryloyiha"	State organisation	Supply of computer equipment (15 computers, 15 UPS, 15 printers). Increase the technical capacity of the NIP for the design of land management	XX	2016
11	National University of the Republic of Uzbekistan named after M.Ulugbek	State organisation	Making a mockup of a soil-geobotanical landscape, a wall relief soil map of the Republic of Uzbekistan and an outdoor world globe. Creation of information and resource center "Soil science and geobotany" at the National University of Uzbekistan	XX	2016
12	Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers	State organisation	Supply of licensed software, 2 computers, 1 touch screen, 2 Samsung TVs, an Epson projector, an Epson printer. Increasing the technical potential of TIIMSH with the acquisition of office and equipment for the project	XX	2017
13	Subsidiary "Tuprok Bonitirovkasi"	State organisation	Photometer KFK-3-01 photoelectric, measuring activity of salts PNT 3000, 6 pcs of heating plates SATURN 20 sm. Assistance in increasing the potential of "Tuprok Bonitirovkasi" of the State Committee for Land Resources and Landscapes on the compilation of soil maps taking into account the quality indicators of irrigated and rainfed land, as well as conducting agrochemical studies.	X	2017
14	Branches of State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and the State Cadastre	State organisation	Purchase of 12 types of laboratory equipment in the amount of 245 pcs. Assistance in increasing the potential of territorial subdivisions of the State Land Committee on the compilation of soil maps, taking into account the quality indicators of irrigated and rainfed land, as well as conducting agrochemical studies.	XX	2018
15	State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and the State Cadastre	State organisation	Purchase of 3 atmospheric water generators. Approbation of atmospheric water generators in various conditions of Uzbekistan in order to study their effectiveness in arid semi-desert and desert conditions.	X	2018
16	Tashkent, Jizzak and Syrdarya	State organisation	Supply and installation of a hybrid wind-solar power station. Approbation of atmospheric water	XX	2018

№	Beneficiary	Type of beneficiary	Measure (Equipment / Service)	Costs	Year
	regional subdivisions of the State Land Geodezcadastre		generators in various conditions of Uzbekistan in order to study their effectiveness in arid semi-desert and desert conditions.		
4		Samarkand city			
1	Research Institute of Karakul and Desert Ecology	State organisation	Supply of Furniture. Equipment with modern equipment of the museum "Karakulevstva" and the library of the Research Institute of Karakulivka and desert ecology	XX	2016
2	Research Institute of Karakul and Desert Ecology	State organisation	6 pieces of metal herbarium cabinets with 76 compartments. Equipment with modern equipment of the museum "Karakulevstva" and the library of the Research Institute of Karakul and desert ecology	XX	2016
3	Research Institute of Karakul and Desert Ecology	State organisation	Computer equipment (3 computers, 3 UPS, 3 printers). Creating an innovative environment in the Research Institute of Karakul and the desert ecology, to conduct research, strengthen the capacity and implement the results of research in grazing land use	X	2016

Annex I. Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form

Code of Conduct Agreement Form

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System

Name of Consultant: Max Kasparek

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at Heidelberg on 18 April 2019

Signature: _____



Annex J. Terminal Evaluation Audit Trail

Response Grid

No.	Comment	Response
	The Law on Pastures was signed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in May 2019 (shortly after the TE mission).	This information was added throughout the text (at various locations)
1	In our opinion, the project, according to ProDoc, focused on solving environmental problems in project areas (creating sustainable seed plots for forage grazing crops (these are strategically important activities); jointly developing and putting into practice plans for grazing animals and putting into practice rotation for all local partners involved in livestock in the pasture zone), planting seedlings of woody and fruit trees, as well as sowing seeds of desert plants in order to increase The area of forested forests, the creation of state-owned forests and farms of green protective plantations and in parallel with them, helped to strengthen their potential. The implementation of the integrated land use planning mechanism in pasture management (ILUMP) is also a major measure in solving environmental problems in the desert-pasture zone.	I agree that the Project followed closely the ProDoc and implemented what is described there. Nevertheless, the environmental effect of some project activities is disputable. Cultivating fodder plants in natural dryland ecosystems, ploughing (semi-) natural rangeland for growing useful plants, converting the natural vegetation cover for cultivating medicinal plants in nature, introducing non-indigenous plants species to dryland ecosystems, transforming semi-natural rangelands to orchards, etc. are all measures, which should be regarded with caution, especially as no biodiversity impact assessments were made prior to the implementation of these measures. It may well be that after considering all relevant aspects, one may come to the conclusion that (some of?) these measures do not have a major negative effect on biodiversity and natural resources, but without prior assessment, we cannot know. The report does not state that the project had a clear negative impact on biodiversity, it just says that the Project didn't handle environmental issue with greatest care. I adapted the phrasing to avoid misunderstandings
2	At the beginning of the project, the project team conducted awareness seminars at the national, regional and local levels. At the national level, between the UNDP Office in Uzbekistan and leading higher education institutions (Tashkent State Agrarian University, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Mechanization of Agricultural Engineers and the National University of Uzbekistan named after M.Ulugbek), as well as at the local level - khokimiyats of Karakul and Zaamin Memorandums of Cooperation within the framework of the project, i.e. the project has expanded the range of partners at the national and local level during implementation The inclusion of agricultural colleges and higher education institutions further increases the development impact.	It is much appreciated that the Project created a broad basis of supporters among its stakeholders. The report here speaks about the development impact. The phrasing was changed to convey the message more clearly what was actually meant here.
3	Field activities implemented in project districts were developed and implemented with the aim of, firstly, the effective use of available natural resources (implementation of the ILUMP mechanism, development of a livestock grazing Plan, wells repairing, provision of mobile trailers, etc.), and second, acquaintance with alternative approaches to reducing the pressure on natural resources (increasing the capacity of rural women entrepreneurs — provision of sewing machines, a broiler farm, fisheries, etc. — that is, these citizens will not be engaged in livestock breeding the pasture zone, etc.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you want to change the local economy in two districts, this project is surely not the right way. This goal is too ambitious and would require e.g. multi-million dollar investment programmes. I also could not find such a goal in the Project Document. 2. On the one hand, you make livestock breeding more attractive (better infrastructure, higher yields, etc.), on the other hand you are saying that you want to discourage people from engaging in livestock breeding. 3. The question remain, what is alternative and what is additional? Many socio-economic measures are based on the <u>assumption</u> that they will – hopefully - lead one day to a reduction of the pressure on natural resources.

No.	Comment	Response
4	In our opinion, in the list of implemented project activities there is not a single micro-measure that can now or in the future have an actual or potential negative impact on natural resources. Can you clarify what micro measures you mean?	I added to the report the example that additional income and better infrastructure may lead to an increase of the number of livestock in drylands. See also below (e.g. comment 73) for other examples such as ploughing of natural rangeland, seeding with non-indigenous species, conversion of rangeland to fodder plots, etc.
5	Please specify what serious concerns do you mean?	I deleted "serious". The concerns are described in the following two chapters.
6	We do not agree, because during the field project activities primary attention was paid to the initial assessment of project activities on the environment (reduction of pasture area use, reduction of pasture degradation, restoration and conservation of biodiversity and natural resources, etc.), and then assistance was provided to increasing the capacity of the beneficiary (improving the socio-economic and environmental situation). We agree, that there are risks associated with drought or a decrease in precipitation.	I added to the report the following explanation, which hopefully explains the situation: "There are e.g. no safeguards that additional income generated by the Project will not be used for increasing the number of livestock, no bioassays were carried out for the usage of seeds of non-indigenous species imported from Mediterranean countries, no biodiversity assessments were carried out prior to ploughing steppes for enrichment plantings or prior to converting natural steppe ecosystems to fodder plots."
7	All project activities were coordinated with local governments (district hokims), members of the Nnational Coordination Council, as well as with Project Board members, and also approved by the National Coordinator, after which the project implemented the activities.	Thank you for this additional information. I think it is not necessary to add it to the report.
8	We do not agree. Project activities - the Law on Pastures, its Concept, Strategy, as well as the construction of a compact livestock complex, will have a significant impact on the effective and sustainable management of the country's pasture lands. And other relatively small project activities aimed at familiarizing with advanced and alternative approaches to reducing the burden on land use serve the interests not of an individual, but of a group of people, involving them in joint management, i.e. the use of ILUMP mechanisms at the village, district or region level.	This chapter describes the shortcomings of the Project. The positive attainments including the "Law on Pastures" is described in the chapter above called "Excellent socio-economic and regulatory results"
9	We do not agree. Project funds according to ProDoc and proposals of national and local partners (according to government programs, as well as development strategies of non-governmental organizations and national / local partner organizations) were effectively used to achieve project goals. Therefore, the project has achieved quite large-scale achievements.	The ProDoc (p. 22-23) already gives a list of already tested, approved best practices. This means that there was no need to test these practices again; the Project actually had the chance to start upscaling these measures from the beginning of the Project.
10	We do not fully agree. The project successfully implemented the best practices of previous projects and developed their achievements in the project area (for example, the provision of sewing machines to women entrepreneurs for subsequent release from animal husbandry). But the project activities in the desert pastures, forest or rainfed agriculture were not implemented in other projects. Therefore, the experience and best practices accumulated in this project are replicated by other projects - Sustainable development of mountain ecosystems (Snow leopard) as well as Developing Climate Resilience of Farming Communities in the Drought Prone Parts of Uzbekistan (planting seedlings in the desert areas of the Aral Sea, Qashkadarya and Akhangaran), providing mobile houses to forestry enterprises, organizing nursery of fodder plants, introducing ILYUMP mechanisms on pastures and others.	I agree that the Project implemented best practices of other projects. However, I also think that doing the same once more was not enough. The aim was to upscale these measures in order to get broad impact, and the Project was not very strong in this respect.
11	Project activities at the macro and micro levels are considered sustainable and promising, they are adopted by national and local partners for further expansion. Local partners evaluate each project event as relevant for the development of dry farming.	The entire sentence was deleted.
12	All project activities were shown to members of the PB and NCC (specialists from various	The same (the sentence has been deleted from the report).

No.	Comment	Response
	ministries and departments), with the participation of national and local partners representatives, scientists, members of non-governmental organizations and the media.	
13	And this can happen. But here the limiting factor is the climate, in dry years due to the lack of sufficient food, the population tends to reduce the livestock number. Farmers tend to develop alternative livestock production, which requires smaller pasture and fodder size (ostrich farming, beekeeping, poultry farming, rabbit breeding, etc.), which is supported by government loans and benefits.	I agree. However, ostrich farming, beekeeping, etc., are minor economic activities in comparison to livestock farming and play a small role in the overall system.
14	Sewing machines and equipment acquired as part of the project made it possible to organize a sustainable "mentor-student" system, which is an important socio-economic project achievement in job security. Having acquired sufficient experience in sewing skill, young girls, acquiring sewing machines, become independent seamstresses, provide paid services, and take students. On the other hand, at the present time, construction and commissioning of new private knitting factories and workshops are being carried out in each village (Karakul has 3 enterprises for the last 2 years). This project event will provide the enterprises with the necessary personnel. The remaining project activities are also aimed at creating conditions for increasing the capacity of rural youth, women, farmers and employers to engage in family entrepreneurship and reduce the load on pastures.	Partly agreed. I changed the sentence and deleted the sewing workshops.
15	Please reconsider the ratings.	After carefully re-considering the ratings, I upgraded two aspects.
16	The results of the MTR were discussed at the PB and relevant measures were implemented. All recommendations and indicated comments were reflected in the APA, and for their elimination were included in the tasks of the project national consultants ToRs.	The text was rephrased to make clear that some indicators are still not "SMART" and a strategic road map (as recommended by the MTR) was not presented.
17	2 national consultants of the project was hired from the system of Goscomzemgeodezcadastre and successfully perform their tasks. Executives and specialists of Goscomzemgeodezcadastre actively participate in the activities of the project such as the adoption of the Law "On Pastures", other regulatory documents and meetings held within subjects of the project. At the same time, the project hired representatives of partner organizations as national consultants: Leading Specialists of the State Committee on Forestry and the Ministry of Justice, as well as Leading Scientists from the Scientific-Research Institute of Agriculture and Universities.	Hiring staff from Goscomzemgeodezcadastre, the State Committee on Forestry, the Ministry of Justice, etc. is not accepted as an instrument of capacity building. Capacity building is a complex issue and needs to start with the identification of capacity gaps. The Project should support these organisations by providing training and by other means, not by allowing their staff to become project consultants. Note: Hiring government staff is always a very problematic issue, and many donors and implementing agencies strictly forbid it (even if the relevant person is ready to take a leave for the period of the consultancy). The contribution of government staff should always come under "government contribution".
18	Pasture land belong to different organizations of the country (State Forestry Committee, State Karakul Sheep Breeding Association, Ministry of Agriculture). Therefore our main focus was directed to draft special law on objectives and responsibilities of each organization.. We gave the following reply in April 2019 to this recommendation : On October 18, 2018, the project initiated the meeting of the Working Group on the development of the draft law "On pastures", and by the end of 2018 the first reading of the draft law was scheduled at the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The International Con-	Accepted, the ± was changed to +. I think the idea of the MTE was that <u>one</u> institution could be entrusted with the overall management of rangelands in the country. However, after carefully considering this aspect, this seems unrealistic given the multisectoral tasks and aspects of pastures. The "Law on Pastures" seems to be on the right track. Note: It would have been much easier, if the Project would have argued from the beginning

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>sultant for Integrated Land Use Management Planning developed plans for improved pasture management in project districts. Plans were discussed with national and local project partners, approved plans are implemented by local partners.</p> <p>At the beginning of April 2019, the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Lower House of Parliament) adopted the Law on Pastures, on May 3 this law was adopted by the Senate of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Upper House of Parliament) and on May 21 this law was signed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and entered into force.</p> <p>After the adoption of the law, it became possible to register pasture use, define the objectives and responsibilities of ministries and agencies</p>	<p>that a centralised rangeland institution as per MTE recommendation is probably not the best solution, but the “Law of Pastures” which brings together the responsibilities of various institutions is seen more appropriate for the present situation.</p>
19	<p>At ICBA's expense in 2015, in collaboration with the project, leguminous crops-mungbean was cultivated at 5 hectares of the “Bekzod-Farrukh-Utkirbek” farming enterprise in Zaamin district, and farmers were provided by practical trainings on agro-technology.</p> <p>In 2016, 100 fruit trees were delivered to “Khulkar Pistasi” Farmer.</p> <p>“Rustamnoma” farm has been provided with practical advice and recommendations at the farmer's field, focusing on the production of primary fodder’ seeds production.</p> <p>The project and the representative of the ICBA jointly hold seminars and conferences and deliver lectures on best practices.</p> <p>2. Local project partners are not only contributing the project with allocating of manpower. Appropriate tools, equipment and practical assistance are being provided for the implementation of activities related to transportation, vehicles, conference halls (for seminars) for representatives of interested organizations and population’ activities. This amount can be around the sum of the initial deposit, possibly even more.</p>	<p>It was added to the text that ICBA contributed in various forms (leguminose cultivation, fruit trees, trainings, etc.).</p> <p>It was also added the contribution of local project partners consisted not only of labour, but included also the provision of tools, transportation, meeting facilities, etc.</p>
20	<p>CTA was hired by the project from April to December 31, 2015 to visit Tashkent and project regions 3 times. It visited Tashkent and the regions in the specified time and gave its recommendations within the project. However CTA didn’t give comments due to shortage of time or other.</p>	<p>Specific information was added. The comment underlines the conclusion “His impact on the overall strategy and performance of the Project is considered marginal.”</p>
21	<p>In 2015 international consultants were hired on pasture livestock breeding, forestry and ILUMP, and their reports and recommendations were received in time. In 2017-2018 ILUMP consultant was hired again and his reports were received. The Road map was developed for 2017-2018-2019 and it was implemented together, including the monitoring activities were conducted.</p>	<p>Thank you for this additional information on int’l. consultants, which I used to correct my text. I think there are different understandings what was meant by “roadmap”. I therefore deleted this term from the text to avoid misunderstandings.</p>
22	<p>The project hired the consultants' set out in the ProDoc and reviewed their recommendations at the national and local levels and implemented them at the maximum level.</p>	<p>See previous response. (no. 21) Thank you for info. I added it to the text and deleted the sentence “this opportunity was not used...” in the report.</p>
23	<p>During the project implementation, the primary seed production of feed crops was established in 112 hectares of pasture’ land (4 places) in Zaamin district. Seeds from these plots have the potential to be sown at least in 1,000 hectares per year, which makes it possible to achieve sustainable improvements in biodiversity.</p> <p>2. 850 hectares of land were recovered on the farms of "Rustamnoma" and "Tutak</p>	<p>Thank you for this additional information. I think it is not necessary to list all of it at this level of detailedness as I already came to the conclusion that “The overall results as measured by the project indicators can therefore be regarded as highly satisfactory”.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>Karim Field".</p> <p>3. New grazing plan was developed for total 14,424 ha of land which included: 400 ha of " Rustamnoma" farm in Zaamin district, 600 ha of LLC «Bozorboy tulpori», 5024 ha of pastures in Uchkir area of Karakul district , 3000 ha in "Shurobod Karakul pastures" , 2,400 ha in LLC «Karakul», 3,000 ha in Zaamin state forestry farm. The grazing plan was reviewed at regional and local partner organizations and was approved for implementation in practice.</p>	
24	<p>The project, together with local partners in Zaamin and leading scientists, organized practical demonstration training workshops to improve the use of rainfed lands. These 1399 hectares are valid for the beginning of 2018.</p> <p>At the end of 2018 - at the beginning of 2019, the zero tillage was used only in the Gallaaral district for planting grain and oil crops on an area of 1,700 hectares, i.e. in total 3099 ha in rainfed lands.</p> <p>By other hand, Ummatov Ulukbek Dalasi farm in Zaamin acquired one "no-till" equipment and independently uses it on its territory and provides services to neighboring farmers.</p>	<p>I added the information that the 1399 hectares refer to early 2018. Otherwise, see my previous response (no. 23).</p>
25	<p>The area of 3574 hectares on the Forestry farms was the index which was achieved at the beginning of 2018. The project planted 100 hectares (covering 1000 hectares) in Karakul state forestry in December-2018-January 2019, 30 hectares (coverage 300 hectares) in Karakul specialized state forestry, only 1300 hectares, in Karakul state forestry in January 2018 were Saxaul seeds are planted with the help of a hang glider (you were on this site).</p> <p>The project procured an equipment for processing of herbal plants for Zaamin state forestry farm for each year in 500 ha; in 2019 the project procured 2 water pumps and planted dog rose in 3000 ha (2019-2021) thus contributed to the improved forestry use.</p> <p>Moreover, on 5,000 hectares of the state forestry farm of Zaamin Forestry farm, the project has developed a plan for the improvement of forestry use with its social, economic and environmental assessment. The recommendation was approved by Zaamin's State Forestry Farm' Director.</p> <p>At the time of the project activities, 13,774 hectares of land have been provided with practical assistance in designing and implementing plans for improvement of use of forestry lands including the rational use of shrubs, ornamental trees, pasture crops, effective use of medicinal plants and other activities</p>	<p>I adapted the text by adding some of the figures. I also added as a footnote the following sentence: "The definition what is 'improved management' is quite controversial as the Project includes in this definition e.g. the plantation of ornamental trees, dog roses or the cultivation of medicinal herbs in areas which have previously been covered by natural vegetation."</p> <p>It is surely not correct not include all these measures under "improved management". By contrast, replacing natural vegetation by ornamental plants or cultivated medicinal herbs comes equal to degradation of natural biodiversity!</p>
26	<p>Each of the project activity was realized after each action of the project was found as strategic and feasible in terms of national and local conditions.</p> <p>At demonstration events, seminars, and round tables, opinions were expressed about the impact of every event on the environment, the pressure on the use of irrigated land, direct or indirect impact on the part-ners and the socio-economic situation of the population. All events were approved by NCC and TWG' members.</p>	<p>The text was adapted. Approval by NCC and TWG members does not necessarily mean that these measures have a real potential for upscaling.</p> <p>Most village people in Uzbekistan are poor. How many of them can afford buying sewing machines, how many buying atmospheric water generators, how many constructing green houses? Seminars and roundtables are not enough, if people don't have the money to buy these things!</p>
27	<p>Each event of the project at the national level (higher education institutions, scientific research associations) serves to improve the capacity of students, researchers, teachers and</p>	<p>The impact of the project at the national level (higher education institutions, scientific research associations) is not measureable. Beyond doubt, all project measures related to these</p>

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	<p>specialists on land and land use. Land-based activities help reduce the use of direct and indirect natural resources.</p> <p>The project showed local partners that it is beneficial to increase the productivity of livestock, without increasing the number of animals. Based on the results of the project activities, the revenue generated by the partners will not be able to significantly increase the number of livestock in the pasture, but will also provide systematic and sustainable use of pastures.</p>	<p>institutions are nice and useful contributions, but with such little input, you cannot expect a significant improvement of the capacities of students, researchers, teachers, etc.</p> <p>Productivity: I do not fully agree. I have often heard that people want to increase the productivity <u>and</u> the number of livestock. See the example of the Karakul Sheep breeding farm given in chapter 3.3.7 on sustainability.</p>
28	<p>The project provided seedlings to Zaamin and Korakul farmers, Zaamin forestry farm, and is continuously monitoring their maintenance. Pistachio and other plants were sown and protected in the areas of forestry and pasture use in remote areas of the forestry farm.</p> <p>The project activities will contribute to the increase in the number of forest land that are affected by soil fertility, soil erosion, pasture degradation and will help to improvement of ecology.</p> <p>Assistance to the Forestry farms by purchasing tree seedlings is positively assessed by NCC and TWG' members.</p>	<p>Thank you for the information. I added a sentence at the beginning of the chapter that I give here only a few examples, not a comprehensive list of project measures. I added further explanations on the environmental relevance of the measures.</p>
29	<p>At the college greenhouse, the young people have the opportunity to learn vegetable cultivation, exercise practical classes.</p> <p>Rural residents from the districts of the area and farmers from dekhkans and farms visit the greenhouse, improve their skills on vegetable growing in new ways, i. e, for training and practical classes.</p> <p>Zaamin and neighboring residents who have been living in the area, especially in the grassland, where they have a large plot of land on the terrace, trying to increase their income by building the greenhouses. People in this category will earn more than a year's income from cattle breeding. Local commercial banks provide loans of up to 7%, with no guarantees of up to 30 million sums (\$ 4,000) for the construction of the greenhouse.</p> <p>The project provided the laboratory with the opportunity for the students to use their experience in the field of study at the practical classes and field practice. Students are land use experts and they must understand the use of laboratory equipment for soil analysis.</p>	<p>The environmental impact of green houses, especially the larger, more industrial ones, is subject to many debates. As I have not heard critical words about the environmental impact of green houses in our discussions, I assume that environmental aspects have not been considered.</p> <p>I serious doubt that the promotion of greenhouses will lead to a reduction in cattle breeding. A better income from greenhouses does not mean that people will give up cattle breeding. Normally they will do both!</p>
30	<p>College students are mainly from rural population, Governmental measures and the Road map on building greenhouses in colleges have been developed. The project contributed to the implementation of these measures in the government program in project districts.</p> <p>In the college, the greenhouse project was prepared by district khokimiyat according to the request of the management of the regional colleges and corresponds to the demand of ProDoc.</p> <p>The construction of the tunnel was assessed by the project NCC and TWG as a promising and strategic.</p> <p>College students learn to care for vegetables and other crops in the greenhouse, building them in their own houses and improving their capabilities. They may be engaged in livestock breeding, but livestock is a hard working job, and not each youth can do it. On the greenhouse, students work together with their family members.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comments. I redrafted the text to better explain some of the issues.</p>

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31	No, it is not true, we checked again, the trees dried out for unknown reasons, about 25 pieces of seedlings, which were planted near the farm gate. The farmer due to illness (February-March, he fell ill) could not harvest and plant new seedlings.	Thank you for info. I deleted this sentence.
32	The small garden with the technology of drip irrigation at 2.1 hectares of land, used as pasture is a demonstration plot model for farmers and rural population. The project does not intend to build large gardens on the slopes or pastures of Zaamin and Korakul districts within ProDoc. Farmers and other entrepreneurs in the district have begun to use this experience later on and around the rainfed areas. This can not solve large environmental problems, but small gardens for the population of the village, making large pastures and landscaping gardens make it impossible to use these areas in cattle breeding. This event was positively assessed by NCC and TWG members.	I agree. I think it is not necessary to modify the text.
33	In this farm there is no drip irrigation, fruit trees are not planted, it is mainly used for the cultivation of desert feed seed germs, and has pastures and rainfed plots. The project provided a mobile home for the farmer. At the meeting with TE, it was found that the development of seeds at the breeding area was well-established	Sentence deleted / adjusted.
34	In the period from March to April, the farmer takes his livestock to the long distances for the rotation of the pasture, and in May to June, he takes his livestock to nearby areas. This simple practice and rotation in animal husbandry prevent the degradation of pastures and ensure biodiversity. Farmer keeps the number of livestock in the same amount, as growth of cattle may lead to many problems in the years to come.	Thank you. The text was adapted and a footnote added.
35	This model is intended for rural women entrepreneurs to learn working in sewing machines; it is mainly for young girls, unemployed women to work on sewing machines, to prevent rural women from working in the pastures or on farms, or with livestock, and to provide family business. Women are working on modern sewing machines to get access to the market for high quality and assorted products. Teacher women pay monthly for young girls and encourage them to work on modern sewing machines. Young girls are ready to work in sewing machines at newly opened textile factories in the district. This event was aimed at promoting women's small entrepreneurship skills, and prevent them from buying cattle for excess money and taking livestock to pastures.	The text was adapted. I doubt that young girls and women will ever buy cattle or sheep, and there is no need to prevent this.
36	Updating of the Herbarium Fund is a strong base for increasing the scientific potential of young researchers and scientists who are carrying out scientific research on the prevention of degradation of land, the desert ecology and the pasture cattle breeding, the rational use of natural resources. , It is necessary to use the data of the Herbarium Fund in the recovery and development of biodiversity of our country's pasture pastures.	I fully agree on the importance of the institute with its herbarium, library and laboratory facilities. However, please also consider the fact that the Project has a very specific aim, and cannot support everything what related to drylands and what is good and useful in principle.

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>2. Korakul museum keeps the samples of pedigree livestock breeding cattle breeding for 100 years.</p> <p>The museum was supported by the project to raise awareness and improve the museum's potential, conduct scientific research with the institutes of foreign countries in the field of karakul sheep, and to inform foreign visitors to Samarkand about pasture cattle breeding.</p> <p>3. Improving the work of the Information Resource Center - contributed to the preservation of the largest books and scientific foundations, and the creation of favorable conditions for the research work of scientists, researchers and young scientists.</p> <p>These activities serve as a powerful motivation for promoting scientific potential of scientists who are carrying out scientific research work on pasture degradation and ecology improvement in the future</p>	
37	<p>The Law was accepted on May and its road map was developed by the project, and was presented to the committee, the parliament and the Senate.</p> <p>In accordance with the road map, proposals on amendments and additions to relevant laws and sub-legal acts are prepared.</p> <p>The Government will allocate funds from the budget for the implementation of the measures set out in the law, the Cabinet of Ministers and other ministries will carry out the activities set out in the law.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment. I think this is very similar to that what is said in the text and I do not see a need to modify it.</p>
38	<p>The project has organized 4 information and resource centers at the departments and faculties of Land Resources of Universities and Institutes.</p> <p>These centers serve to further strengthen and enhance scientific capacity.</p> <p>It is these scientists who will develop scientific innovation development tools to effectively utilize natural resources, reduce pressure on them, and arrange contacts with foreign colleagues.</p>	<p>I added a sentence. I already wrote that “the support to these institutes is reasonable and useful”.</p>
39	<p>The project is actively implementing direct measures to reduce land degradation.</p> <p>However, from 2016 to 2018, the local project partners did not support the measures for sowing seeds of desert forage plants on pastures due to the dry climate and drought.</p> <p>Therefore, project developed plans and recommendations for the prevention of degradation of pastures, ensuring biodiversity, and sustainable and systematic use of pastures.</p> <p>These documents were accepted and practically used by local and regional partners.</p>	<p>Thank you for this additional information. I think it is not necessary to add it as I already mentioned in the report “this does not significantly influence the big picture”.</p>
40	<p>The project collaborates with major partners at national, regional and local levels when it comes to its implementation.</p> <p>There are many landscapes, farmers, families, colleges, entrepreneurs, rural communities and neighborhoods in the three landscapes of the project and, of course, they have received various suggestions and recommendations from them.</p> <p>The project decided to implement activities consistent with the ProDoc theme, which has been involved in these recommendations through the Government Program, the Road Map, or the Concept.</p> <p>This plan was supported by NCC and TWG members.</p>	<p>It is agreed that everything was done in line with ProDoc and the various decisions. I added the following sentence: “The TE is convinced that a lower number of beneficiary groups and a lower number of different types of measures would have allowed a more focused approach with a probably higher impact.”</p>

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41	<p>The Broiler farm operates on the border with the grazing area.</p> <p>The woman farmer was engaged in livestock farming, but with her family she opened a land in desert condition and now works in poultry farming.</p> <p>In the example of family farming the project has provided practical support to demonstrate that in pasturelands, as an alternative to breed sheep and goats or cattle, it may be possible to grow poultry, which occupy a small grazing land plot, but earning a high annual income.</p> <p>The farmer has grown her family income from poultry farming all year round, and now he is engaged in breeding of rabbits and turkey.</p> <p>Livestock or sheep and goat breeders can not deal with this issue, they are always required to move away with the animal and stay away from their families during the year.</p>	Sentence adapted.
42	<p>There are several natural lakes in the Karakul District. The MTE has emphasized the need for effective use of natural lakes in the area.</p> <p>Because the development of fishery in the lakes as a natural resource, naturally does not allow the local population to deal with livestock business in the pastures.</p> <p>The development of fishery in the lakes allows the creation of several jobs at the farm. Following the introduction of the NSC, the project provided practical assistance to one fishing farm, which will contribute to the development of fish farming and fishery in the area for 15-20 years.</p>	Sentence added (alternative versus additional).
43	<p>The construction of the greenhouses strengthens the capacity of the colleges and creates the need for young people to use the greenhouses as a source of income, other than livestock in their families.</p> <p>According to the ProDoc this event is the most advanced and effective measure that creates an alternative income.</p> <p>Local teachers and families working in the greenhouses abandoned keeping and breeding livestock.</p>	<p>I could not find in the ProDoc that establishing greenhouses is the most advanced and effective measure that creates an alternative income.</p> <p>Text adapted.</p>
44	<p>There was no case of random selection of partners in the project; the selection of partners was carried out in accordance with UNDP procedures and the approved provisions of the khokimits of project areas.</p> <p>Any measure (national, regional, district, village, or farming) was analyzed by national consultants, evaluated, received recommendations and suggestions from the regional khokimiyats, regional councils, discussed at NCC meeting, and discussed at the TWG meeting. Later on, after the discussion and approval by responsible personnel in the UNDP, the measures were implemented.</p>	I agree that the phrasing was not clear and replaced the entire paragraph with a new one .
45	Information about budgetary funds allocated to the State Land Committee for the performance of functional duties on land resources are presented to TE	Very interesting information. As most of the information provided does not refer to the intervention areas, the measures financed by the State Land Committee cannot be counted entirely as project contribution. I added a footnote (footnote no. 22) to explain the situation.
46	The project activities primarily targeted at addressing environmental issues identified in ProDoc (organizing seed plots in the deserts, expanding forest zones, organizing ihota fences, effective use of natural resources, introduction of renewable technologies, etc.).	<p>I fully agree that the ProDoc is in this respect not a good one and left open some room for interpretation.</p> <p>I also agree that the expression “maximum benefit” is not appropriate and I changed it.</p>

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	<p>These activities are related to agriculture and forestry.</p> <p>Project measures didn't include measures on getting maximum benefits from pastures (there is no mechanism of maximum use of pastures).</p> <p>Separate opinions expressed by partners during the interview are their personal opinions and they are not related to the activities and direction of the project.</p>	<p>From an environmental and biodiversity perspective, it is very critical to use seeds from Syria and Lebanon in Central Asia, as they will change natural biodiversity (competition with autochthonous plant species, replacement/change of the natural vegetation cover; in the worst case decrease/extinction of local plant species). In many countries, the introduction of non-indigenous plant species, races and varieties is subject to a series of strict assessments and permits.</p>
47	<p>The measures like repairing of the wells, strengthening the infrastructure, including veterinary services, raising the pastures have been specified at ProDoc, and the project team did it perfectly.</p> <p>In the long term, these activities will help in not increasing the number of livestock, but increase their productivity and reduce their mortality. The project can use up to 1,000 hectares of additional pastures near the repaired wells with the existing livestock, but the pasture cannot accommodate more livestock.</p> <p>The Government of the Republic allocates additional funds from the budget for the digging of additional 4-6 wells for each of the LLC breeding farms and these wells will be made in the pastures that have not been used before. The plan allows farmers to breed additional sheep in these pastures.</p>	<p>Thank you for confirming my view. As already mentioned above, the ProDoc was unfortunately not always very clear about the ultimate purpose of some of the measures suggested, and this may have led to misunderstandings.</p> <p>The information on government allocations was integrated in the report.</p> <p>I also fully agree that the Project team implemented in a very good way what the ProDoc was prescribing.</p>
48	<p>The Government of the Republic has allocated budget for the production of 4 additional new wells for the LLC "Korakul" breeding center, and the pasture lands of the wells are identified (fresh water or slightly salty water identified plots). The LLC will take the lamb received in 2019, and will be able to further expand the number of sheep (in our opinion, it will be possible to breed up to 10 thousand sheep).</p> <p>This does not apply to the plots that are enriched by the project.</p>	<p>Thank you for additional information and confirmation, which is important for me. I think it is not necessary to give these details in the report.</p>
49	<p>This farmer has no livestock animals. The son is a farmer, engaged in farming and entrepreneurship, the father is a manager of the farm, and also has an consulting firm.</p>	<p>It seems that I have mixed the names of the farmers. I deleted the name.</p>
50	<p>When implementing project activities, the project has always paid special attention to the environmental side of the event, that is, for example, to reduce the load on the use of natural resources, to improve biodiversity, to use natural resources, to create new jobs, etc.</p> <p>During implementation of the field work on the first component, the current and long-term activities of each event, ecological value, durability of the event and socio-economic impacts are assessed; monitoring was conducted for the sustainability in the usage and environmental sustainability when importing goods or equipment to each partner</p>	<p>Text adapted.</p>
51	<p>The law is not a stagnated document.</p> <p>The law has been adopted, and now the draft law is being developed together with the project. Once each law has been enacted, if the deficiencies occur, it will be analyzed and due works will be conducted for entering changes.</p> <p>This is not a project risk, but rather the current procedure and order.</p>	<p>I agree that it is a current procedure and order. However, as this will happen beyond the control of the Project (i.e. after closure of the Project), it is not clear whether the related institutions and experts have the expertise and capacities to further develop the law without external support. Therefore it must be regarded as risk.</p>
52	<p>The document «Development Strategy for the Use of Dry Lands in Uzbekistan» was submitted to the Goskomzemgeodezkadastr, as well as through the Committee to the Presidential</p>	<p>Information on Dryland Strategy added as footnote. The conclusion was rephrased to make clear that it may be too early to say whether these strategic documents will have a broad</p>

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	Administration of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economy and Industry; this document is used to improve the efficiency in the use of land resources, to effectively use the rainfed and pasture lands in agriculture, and to adopt important decisions and other relevant documents in this field.	positive impact on the ground.
53	<p>This risk has always existed, but the adoption of the “Law on Pastures” and the beginning of ownership of pastures in the ILUMP mechanism do not increase the number of livestock in the population, but at the same time increases the productivity of the livestock, such as the allocation of preferential loans to the population, (for example rabbit breeding, beekeeping, ostrich, turkey poults, greenhouse, craftsmanship, etc.) which is of great interest among population.</p> <p>The government allocates preferential loans in this direction on a fast and easy basis.</p> <p>The population is less likely to use preferential loans for buying sheep and grazing them in the pasture.</p>	A footnote was added on this aspect.
54	<p>The project is being implemented in Zaamin and Korakul districts, as well as in neighboring districts. For example, in the Zaamin district activities are underway to create orchards in 1500 hectares of rainfed land and installation of drip irrigation technology.</p> <p>Once the No-till planter was used by the project, one farmer has brought the same seeder and using it to serve for other farmers.</p> <p>From the Desert-Pasture seed production area, 2000 seedlings of izen, teresken and chogon crops were taken in January for sowing in the dried bottom of the Aral Sea, and its planting is highly appreciated.</p> <p>They were also sown and good results have been achieved in the pastures of the Okhangaran district of Tashkent region.</p> <p>After the purchase of sewing machines, the Zomin District Governor also provided 10 sewing machines to women in need of social protection.</p> <p>Presently, the project is being built by these women, who are engaged in sewing work, organizing sewing workshops and working together.</p>	Some of the examples were taken for the report and the text was adapted accordingly.
55	Explanation was given to this idea was given before.	An explanation has been added to take previous remarks into account.
56	Explanation was given to this idea was given before.	The text has been changed to take previous remarks into account.
57	<p>These lands belong to rainfed lands, and the biodiversity in these areas is low. Shrubs, semi-shrubs and other crops do not grow in this territory, there are only annual ephemeral plants. Separate suitable areas are plowed once in spring and the seeds of desert forage and medicinal plants are sown.</p> <p>According scientist and experts, planting medicinal herbs or forage plants of deserts (shrubs and semi-deep shrubs) will ensure biodiversity from the second year and will increase pasture yields several times.</p>	<p>It should be noted that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • especially annual ephemeral plants often have a very high biodiversity value. • Non-indigenous plants (including medicinal plants) do not contribute to biodiversity values! • Non-autochthonous forage plants do not belong to the natural ecosystem and natural biodiversity. <p>Biodiversity assessments / monitoring could have made an important contribution to a better understanding of the situation.</p>
58	Plowing once in the dry landscape and the sowing of high-yield crops of nutrient crops will enrich the natural biodiversity of pasture within a year and create a stronger potential for	I completely disagree. High-yield crops do not belong to the natural biodiversity. This cannot enrich the natural biodiversity. These crops often compete with and replace the natural vege-

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	the further growth of natural plants. This experience was also supported by the scientists of the Republic and the CTA of the project	tation, with the consequence of an impoverishment of the natural biodiversity.
59	ICARDA imported from Lebanon and Syria a variety of plant species and a quarantine certificate has been received for sowing in the Republic. These crops are grown in the country's pastureland.	This is quite dangerous for the natural biodiversity. I wished it had never happened, at least not without an extensive bioassay.
60	During the project, the team paid special attention to solving environmental problems in the project areas, with an emphasis on climate change (low rainfall and drought in 2016 and 2018, the project increased tree planting; and in the rainy years of 2015, 2017 and 2019. increased the area of planting saksaul and other desert plants on pastures). In addition, during the year the project team worked on the implementation of activities on socio-economic issues specified in ProDoc.	Phrasing adapted. Please take the response to comments 57-59 into account.
61	In April, the Atmospheric Generator, the solar panel and the wind generator was jointly presented to the President of the Republic by the Chairman of the Committee. The President of the Republic supported this generator and expressed the idea of piloting it and producing it in our Republic. Then, in Bukhara, Israel company is planning to install a water generator with capacity 900 liters in a day.	The information was added. Thank you.
62	The project has a detailed plan for the use of any goods, services or equipment purchased with national consultants, district administrators, farm managers. The project regularly monitors these activities, learns their advantages and problems, and jointly develops plans to disseminate the experience together with them.	I think it is very good to have such a plan, but it is different from an upscaling strategy. Again, this is a shortcoming of the ProDoc which did not give sufficient guidance.
63	The project demonstrated a number of alternative approaches to reduce the pressure on the land, which served to increase the technical capabilities of partners (laboratory equipment, mobile houses, gardens, greenhouses, seed plots, etc.). All these measures require a variety of primary capital funds and cover the capabilities of all sectors of society. On the other hand, the government currently provides various loans (for the development of the poultry industry, drip irrigation, private entrepreneurship, purchase of agricultural equipment, etc.)	The information was added (see also the new footnote). Thank you.
64	I do not agree. Since all the project activities were coordinated in the meetings of the IWG and the NSC, where the key requirements were necessity, including their relevance, and the possibility of replication.	I removed the term "highly relevant issues". However, I also insist that the Project could have pursued a much more concentrated approach (concentrated e.g. on 5-10 different types of interventions, and attempting to upscale them among the various stakeholders).
65	Within each of the project' activity, the goods and equipment given to beneficiaries were considered as commodities rather than gift, to increase their capacity and they were continually monitored. Each event has been carefully evaluated by a strategic perspective, economic and social value, compliance with the project and other aspects. Many of our activities have been accepted for use by other beneficiaries (eg, greenhouse, ILUMP, production of water from air, etc.).	I replaced "donated" by "provided" and put the word "gift" in quotation marks.
66	See the previous	I changed the wording and deleted two sentences
67	The project selected and adapted to the activities of the Project, Concept, Strategic Action Plans at the National, City and District levels in accordance with the ProDoc Action Plan and	I deleted one sentence and adapted another one.

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	implemented them in compliance with the above measures. The programs that the TE familiarized with at the Karakul district hokimiyat are ideally suited to the project activities. However, if the population increases the potential through the state program, obtaining loans from commercial banks, the project increased the potential of local beneficiaries at the expense of project funds.	
68	TE familiarized himself with the investment plans for the Karakul district for 2019. It should be noted that such projects began to take shape during 2018-2019, i.e. at the last years of the project. On the other hand, as was noted at the meeting, more and more local people participate in these government programs, including through capacity building through project activities (greenhouse construction, poultry farming, private entrepreneurship, including sewing workshops, etc.).	Fully agreed. I added this information to the report.
69	I do not agree. All project activities are now successfully replicated by local partners (procurement of laboratory equipment, installation of drip irrigation systems, sewing workshops, fisheries, grazing plans, organization of pasture users, well' repair, creation of seed plots, etc.)	I think we have a different understanding what "upscaling" means. I do not mean the replication of a certain type of measure for two or three times, but I speak about a wide application which has a real, visible impact on the entire region.
70	I do not agree. The project succeeded in introducing alternative ways of farming, instead of grazing livestock, thus changing the pre-project trend aimed only at increasing the number of livestock. The project became the starting point in the creation of LLC of users of pastures - a new pasture sharing organization not only in the project areas, but also in Tashkent and other regions. The project has developed a strategy for the use of non-irrigated land - a key "roadmap" for national partners involved in the land management. The project managed to involve research institutes, design and agricultural universities in the problem of pasture use and create an initial platform for the training of future management personnel. The project was able to perform most of the tasks assigned to it within ProDoc. All this indicates a sufficiently large effect of the project.	I agree that the project was able to perform most of the tasks assigned to it within ProDoc, therefore I even have in the heading of this chapter "high effectiveness"! I also changed "low impact" to "modest impact".
71	I do not agree. The project succeeded in introducing alternative ways of farming, instead of grazing live-stock, thus changing the pre-project trend aimed only at increasing the number of livestock. The project became the starting point in the creation of LLC of users of pastures - a new pasture sharing organization not only in the project areas, but also in Tashkent, Qashqadary and other regions. The project has developed a strategy for the use of non-irrigated land - a key "roadmap" for national partners involved in the land management. The project managed to involve research institutes, design and agricultural universities in the problem of pasture use and created an initial platform for the training of future management	See response above.

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	personnel. The project was able to perform most of the tasks assigned to it within ProDoc. All this indicates a sufficiently large effect of the project.	
72	See above comment.	See above.
73	Unclear, which project measures have a negative impact on the environment. Because all project activities are aimed at ensuring sustainable management of natural resources.	I'm not talking here about measures which have a negative influence on the environment. However, possible unintended negative influences are: ploughing in natural ecosystems (natural rangeland), seeding with non-indigenous species, conversion of rangeland to fodder plots, etc. (these measures do not have per se a negative influence, but careful assessments are necessary).
74	All assistance provided by the project was presented in a strict sequence "from the bottom up," be it a farm, research institutes, State Land Resources Committee' units or other partners.	Yes, the project followed a "bottom-up" process as described in the comment. However, it did not negotiate the issue of restrictions of utilisation of natural resources (e.g. commitments of the project beneficiaries towards nature conservation)
75	The project has prepared a strategy for the development of dry agriculture, including the development of rainfed agriculture, pastoral livestock grazing and forestry. On the other hand, the implementation of project measures (micro-measures) contributed to replicating them with local partners (cattle grazing plans, installing drip irrigation systems, organizing pasture-user' LLC, repairing wells, creating seed plots, etc.) all this indicates the effectiveness and timeliness of project measures.	The strategy for the development of dry agriculture, including the development of rainfed agriculture, pastoral livestock grazing and forestry is a very important framework document. However, it is not an upscaling strategy. A few examples what could be elements of an upscaling strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many broiler farms (fish farms, sewing workshops, etc.) are needed and how many are feasible in the intervention area? How many people can benefit from it? What funding support is needed for realising this goal? From where can funding be obtained? • What is the ecological carrying capacity for livestock in different types of rangeland? • How many new wells have to be constructed in order to raise the productivity of livestock without increasing their numbers? • How many hectares of rainfed rangeland have to be converted to fruit orchards in order to achieve an impact on landscape level? What are the costs and from where can funding be obtained?
76	Please clarify	The following sentence clarifies the situation ("There is either no big potential (sewing workshops, etc.), or there are high investment costs which the relatively poor rural people cannot afford."). The sewing workshop has been removed.
77	Please specify which project indicators can be evaluated as irrelevant, partially relevant.	This is a mis-understanding. There is in the evaluation one criterion which is called "relevance" (is the project relevant?), and an evaluator can only say yes (= "relevant") or no (= "not relevant"). However, a certain project may have highly relevant aspects, less relevant aspects or even irrelevant aspects. As an evaluator I want to give a more specific assessment such as "partly relevant", but the system does not allow to do so. So I recommend changing the system. This recommendation has nothing to do with the evaluation of the LAND project, but is a general recommendation to UNDP/GEF.

Annex K. Terminal Evaluation Final Report Clearance Form

Terminal Evaluation Report Reviewed and Cleared By:

Uzbekistan UNDP Country Office

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____