

Closure Stage Quality Assurance Report

Form Status: Approved

Overall Rating:	Satisfactory
Decision:	
Portfolio/Project Number:	00088403
Portfolio/Project Title:	Supporting sustainable land management
Portfolio/Project Date:	2015-01-01 / 2021-03-31

Strategic

Quality Rating: Satisfactory

1. Did the project pro-actively identified changes to the external environment and incorporated them into the project strategy?

- 3: The project team identified relevant changes in the external environment that may present new opportunities or threats to the project's ability to achieve its objectives, assumptions were tested to determine if the project's strategy was valid. There is some evidence that the project board considered the implications, and documented the changes needed to the project in response. (all must be true)
- 2: *The project team identified relevant changes in the external environment that may present new opportunities or threats to the project's ability to achieve its objectives. There is some evidence that the project board discussed this, but relevant changes did not fully integrate in the project. (both must be true)*
- 1: The project team considered relevant changes in the external environment since implementation began, but there is no evidence that the project team considered these changes to the project as a result.

Evidence:

The project team has identified relevant external environmental changes such as monoculture and the shortage of irrigation water. As was also reported during the several project board meetings, due to less snow in the southern part of the countries (Kyzylorda and Almaty), the farmers face a problem of drought and aridity, which impacts the planting period, and late planting will impact the crop productivity. Taking such external factors and the limitations of the COVID-19, the project has realigned its technology transfer approach in the work plan and demonstrated the climate-smart agro-technologies through those implemented 9 demonstration plots. All those conservation agricultural practices have been discussed during the 2017-2020 PBMs, and those changes have been successfully mainstreamed into the project implementation activities. Please see enclosed the last PBM minutes.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	протоколКУПАгроинсентивмарт2020_6975_301 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/протоколКУПАгроинсентивмарт2020_6975_301.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	12/30/2020 10:36:00 AM
2	IISC_agrostimul_minute_6975_301 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/IISC_agrostimul_minute_6975_301.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	2/1/2021 5:20:00 PM
3	PBMinutes2017_6975_301 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/PBMinutes2017_6975_301.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	2/1/2021 5:20:00 PM
4	SIGNEDPBMINUTES2018_6975_301 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/SIGNEDPBMINUTES2018_6975_301.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	2/1/2021 5:20:00 PM
5	SIGNEDPBMINUTES2019_6975_301 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/SIGNEDPBMINUTES2019_6975_301.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	2/1/2021 5:20:00 PM

2. Was the project aligned with the thematic focus of the Strategic Plan?

- 3: The project responded to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan (SP) and adopted at least one Signature Solution .The project's RRF included all the relevant SP output indicators. (all must be true)
- 2: *The project responded to at least one of the developments settings1 as specified in the Strategic Plan. The project's RRF included at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. (both must be true)*
- 1: While the project may have responded to a partner's identified need, this need falls outside of the UNDP Strategic Plan. Also select this option if none of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF.

Evidence:

The project responds to SP Output Indicator 1.4.1 Natural resources that are managed under a sustainable use, conservation, access and benefit-sharing regime.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	ProjectResultsFramework_2_6975_302 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/ProjectResultsFramework_2_6975_302.docx)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	12/30/2020 10:43:00 AM
2	2020AWPagrostimuleng.doc_6975_302 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/2020AWPagrostimuleng.doc_6975_302.pdf)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	12/30/2020 10:45:00 AM

Relevant

Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory

3. Were the project's targeted groups systematically identified and engaged, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized, to ensure the project remained relevant for them?

- 3: *Systematic and structured feedback was collected over the project duration from a representative sample of beneficiaries, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized, as part of the project's monitoring system. Representatives from the targeted groups were active members of the project's governance mechanism (i.e., the project board or equivalent) and there is credible evidence that their feedback informs project decision making. (all must be true)*
- 2: Targeted groups were engaged in implementation and monitoring, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized. Beneficiary feedback, which may be anecdotal, was collected regularly to ensure the project addressed local priorities. This information was used to inform project decision making. (all must be true to select this option)
- 1: Some beneficiary feedback may have been collected, but this information did not inform project decision making. This option should also be selected if no beneficiary feedback was collected
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

The project has conducted PBM and conducted many community-based meetings to identify priorities before and after the project implementation activities. Also, see enclosed minutes of the PBM in the strategic section question#1.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	MonitoringAndEvaluationPlan_6975_303 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/MonitoringAndEvaluationPlan_6975_303.docx)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	12/30/2020 10:48:00 AM
2	BTOR__Almaty_FI_YZ_6975_303 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/BTOR__Almaty_FI_YZ_6975_303.docx)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	1/28/2021 1:58:00 PM

4. Did the project generate knowledge, and lessons learned (i.e., what has worked and what has not) and has this knowledge informed management decisions to ensure the continued relevance of the project towards its stated objectives, the quality of its outputs and the management of risk?

- 3: Knowledge and lessons learned from internal or external sources (gained, for example, from Peer Assists, After Action Reviews or Lessons Learned Workshops) backed by credible evidence from evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, analysis and monitoring were discussed in project board meetings and reflected in the minutes. There is clear evidence that changes were made to the project to ensure its continued relevance. (both must be true)
- 2: *Knowledge and lessons learned backed by relatively limited evidence, drawn mainly from within the project, were considered by the project team. There is some evidence that changes were made to the project as a result to ensure its continued relevance. (both must be true)*
- 1: There is limited or no evidence that knowledge and lessons learned were collected by the project team. There is little or no evidence that this informed project decision making.

Evidence:

The project has been contributing to building the systemic, institutional, and individual capacities needed to catalyze efforts to reverse land degradation processes and improve sustainable livelihoods through a consolidated approach in all six target regions. The project has implemented a number of large scale demonstration plots dedicated to the restoration, maintenance, and enhancement of the productive functions of land in both northern and southern parts of Kazakhstan leading to the improved economic and social well-being of those who depend on these resources while preserving the ecological functions of these lands. throughout the project life cycle, the project has increased capacity at the national and cross-country levels to develop and implement an integrated approach and strategies to combat land degradation within an operational National Programming Framework and has documented a number of best practices and which are describes, how the has (1) strengthened the existing national structures for mainstreaming SLM into policy and legislation; (2) effectively mobilized resources to support SLM initiatives; (3) improved the interaction between state agencies and land users through human resource development and (4) developed and strengthened learning, dissemination, and replication of best practices through collaborative SLM. All these best practices are well documented and enclosed for further referrals.

List of Uploaded Documents			
#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Annualworkplan2020_6975_304 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Annualworkplan2020_6975_304.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	1/28/2021 1:48:00 PM
2	Foodsecurityandnaturalresource_6975_304 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Foodsecurityandnaturalresource_6975_304.docx)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	1/28/2021 2:03:00 PM
3	FosteringAgroforestryMeasuresandSustainableLivelihoodsintheAral_6975_304 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/FosteringAgroforestryMeasuresandSustainableLivelihoodsintheAral_6975_304.docx)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	1/28/2021 2:04:00 PM
4	Kazakhstancasestudy_6975_304 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Kazakhstancasestudy_6975_304.docx)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	1/28/2021 2:04:00 PM
5	ProjectResultsFrameworkandMultiYearbudget_6975_304 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/ProjectResultsFrameworkandMultiYearbudget_6975_304.docx)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	1/28/2021 2:04:00 PM
6	Successstory_Kazakhstanstory_6975_304 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Successstory_Kazakhstanstory_6975_304.docx)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	1/28/2021 2:04:00 PM

5. Was the project sufficiently at scale, or is there potential to scale up in the future, to meaningfully contribute to development change?

- 3: *There was credible evidence that the project reached sufficient number of beneficiaries (either directly through significant coverage of target groups, or indirectly, through policy change) to meaningfully contribute to development change.*
- 2: While the project was not considered at scale, there are explicit plans in place to scale up the project in the future (e.g. by extending its coverage or using project results to advocate for policy change).
- 1: The project was not at scale, and there are no plans to scale up the project in the future.

Evidence:

The project has conducted a number of training and workshops and conducted pre and post-assessment of its events conducted to segregate better the target project's beneficiaries' feedback and responses.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Farmersvshectarereport_6975_305 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Farmersvshectarereport_6975_305.docx)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	12/30/2020 10:55:00 AM
2	InternalprojectsIndicatorSpreadsheet_Kazakhstan_6975_305 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/InternalprojectsIndicatorSpreadsheet_Kazakhstan_6975_305.xlsx)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	1/28/2021 2:07:00 PM

Principled**Quality Rating: Satisfactory**

6. Were the project's measures (through outputs, activities, indicators) to address gender inequalities and empower women relevant and produced the intended effect? If not, evidence-based adjustments and changes were made.

- 3: The project team gathered data and evidence through project monitoring on the relevance of the measures to address gender inequalities and empower women. Analysis of data and evidence were used to inform adjustments and changes, as appropriate. (both must be true)**
- 2: The project team had some data and evidence on the relevance of the measures to address gender inequalities and empower women. There is evidence that at least some adjustments were made, as appropriate. (both must be true)
- 1: The project team had limited or no evidence on the relevance of measures to address gender inequalities and empowering women. No evidence of adjustments and/or changes made. This option should also be selected if the project has no measures to address gender inequalities and empower women relevant to the project results and activities.

Evidence:

The gender analyses' objective was to develop recommendations for comprehensive gender mainstreaming and its implementation within the UNDP SLM project in Kazakhstan following UNDP corporate guidelines and requirements. It follows from similar assessments conducted during the PPG phase of this project. As per the Guidance Note for the SLM project developed by the project team, the main goal was to ensure that women's and men's rights and gender equality are promoted, rather than undermined, through all policies and interventions of the SLM project. The report presents the findings of an independent gender mainstreaming evaluation undertaken in January and February 2020. It seeks to measure and appraise the effects and implications of core project interventions in upholding gender equality and women's empowerment as a means to guide future project activities and strategies. The evaluation emphasizes the experience, perceptions, and challenges faced by rural women beneficiaries – and the lessons learned from them – to better inform future action and strengthen both current and planned SLM activities by elaborating recommendations. The focus and scope of the gender mainstreaming evaluation consisted of assessing the gendered aspects and impacts of project interventions in three main areas: policy work surrounding the new strategy Agrobusiness 2020 and activities related to eco-agriculture provision microloans and training. Firstly, the report provides an analytical review of the impacts (or lack thereof) of these activities on existing patterns of inequality and women's empowerment and their benefits and/or shortcomings in addressing their specific needs, priorities, and constraints. Secondly, the report puts practical next steps forwards to ensure that tangible progress in gender mainstreaming and more gender-responsive interventions are realized in the above-mentioned practice areas. The purpose of the gender mainstreaming report was to identify gender gaps, their underlying causes, and potential interventions designed to address them. This means, essentially, identifying the types of actions and measures needed to enhance gender equality and overcome gender-related obstacles concerning equal access to land and financial resources, and the provision of accessible, gender-sensitive climate risk management and climate change adaptation training in rural areas, thereby contributing to gender-equitable human development.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	GenderAnalysisandActionPlan_6975_306 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/GenderAnalysisandActionPlan_6975_306.docx)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	12/30/2020 10:58:00 AM
2	GenderMainstreamingReport-Ben_25112020_6975_306 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/GenderMainstreamingReport-Ben_25112020_6975_306.docx)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	12/30/2020 10:58:00 AM

7. Were social and environmental impacts and risks successfully managed and monitored?

- 3: Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. Appropriate assessments conducted where required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for High risk projects and some level of social and environmental assessment for Moderate risk projects as identified through SESP). Relevant management plan(s) developed for identified risks through consultative process and implemented, resourced, and monitored. Risks effectively managed or mitigated. If there is a substantive change to the project or change in context that affects risk levels, the SESP was updated to reflect these changes. (all must be true)
- 2: *Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. Appropriate assessments conducted where required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for High risk projects and some level of social and environmental assessment for Moderate risk projects as identified through SESP). Relevant management plan(s) developed, implemented and monitored for identified risks. OR project was categorized as Low risk through the SESP.*
- 1: Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. For projects categorized as High or Moderate Risk, there was no evidence that social and environmental assessments completed and/or management plans or measures development, implemented or monitored. There are substantive changes to the project or changes in the context but SESP was not updated. (any may be true)

Evidence:

The project has timely updating risk logs and, in the view of the COVID-19, has used an adaptive approach to deliver all its activities and reach out to its deliverables. The project experts and the beneficiaries are encountered multiple challenges on how to deliver their professional activities during the planting season. Due to altered transportation services, the farmers were lack of access to quality agricultural inputs and supplies. Considering this, the project has shared all the innovative technologies and expertise through webinars and talk shows. The project has also executed some delivery activities through communication products to substitute travel missions to the field as possible alternatives.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Risksdocumented_1_6975_307 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Risksdocumented_1_6975_307.pdf)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	12/30/2020 11:01:00 AM
2	Annex3riskupdated_6975_307 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Annex3riskupdated_6975_307.docx)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	1/28/2021 2:08:00 PM

8. Were grievance mechanisms available to project-affected people and were grievances (if any) addressed to ensure any perceived harm was effectively mitigated?

- 3: Project-affected people actively informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism (SRM/SECU) and how to access it. If the project was categorized as High or Moderate Risk through the SESP, a project -level grievance mechanism was in place and project affected people informed. If grievances were received, they were effectively addressed in accordance with SRM Guidance. (all must be true)
- 2: *Project-affected people informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism and how to access it. If the project was categorized as High Risk through the SESP, a project -level grievance mechanism was in place and project affected people informed. If grievances were received, they were responded to but faced challenges in arriving at a resolution.*
- 1: Project-affected people was not informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism. If grievances were received, they were not responded to. (any may be true)

Evidence:

Please see the enclosed SESP, which has been updated timely to ensure the community information mechanism in place.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	SESP_6975_308 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/SESP_6975_308.docx)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	12/30/2020 11:03:00 AM

Management & Monitoring**Quality Rating: Satisfactory**

9. Was the project's M&E Plan adequately implemented?

- 3: The project had a comprehensive and costed M&E plan. Baselines, targets and milestones were fully populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF was reported regularly using credible data sources and collected according to the frequency stated in the Plan, including sex disaggregated data as relevant. Any evaluations conducted, if relevant, fully meet decentralized evaluation standards, including gender UNEG standards. Lessons learned, included during evaluations and/or After-Action Reviews, were used to take corrective actions when necessary. (all must be true)
- 2: *The project costed M&E Plan, and most baselines and targets were populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF was collected on a regular basis, although there was may be some slippage in following the frequency stated in the Plan and data sources was not always reliable. Any evaluations conducted, if relevant, met most decentralized evaluation standards. Lessons learned were captured but were used to take corrective actions. (all must be true)*
- 1: The project had M&E Plan, but costs were not clearly planned and budgeted for, or were unrealistic. Progress data was not regularly collected against the indicators in the project's RRF. Evaluations did not meet decentralized evaluation standards. Lessons learned were rarely captured and used. Select this option also if the project did not have an M&E plan.

Evidence:

The project has conducted two M&E visits to the project's sites and several online monitoring discussions in the view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	MonitoringAndEvaluationPlan_6975_309 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/MonitoringAndEvaluationPlan_6975_309.docx)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	12/30/2020 11:07:00 AM

10. Was the project's governance mechanism (i.e., the project board or equivalent) function as intended?

- 3: *The project's governance mechanism operated well, and was a model for other projects. It met in the agreed frequency stated in the project document and the minutes of the meetings were all on file. There was regular (at least annual) progress reporting to the project board or equivalent on results, risks and opportunities. It is clear that the project board explicitly reviewed and used evidence, including progress data, knowledge, lessons and evaluations, as the basis for informing management decisions (e.g., change in strategy, approach, work plan.) (all must be true to select this option)*
- 2: The project's governance mechanism met in the agreed frequency and minutes of the meeting are on file. A project progress report was submitted to the project board or equivalent at least once per year, covering results, risks and opportunities. (both must be true to select this option)
- 1: The project's governance mechanism did not meet in the frequency stated in the project document over the past year and/or the project board or equivalent was not functioning as a decision-making body for the project as intended.

Evidence:

The project governance mechanism was fully maintained and put into operation without any impeding elements caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The project has conducted PM 10 meetings since 2015 and kept a regular reporting system to the project state stakeholders along with M & M&E visits to the project sites.

List of Uploaded Documents			
#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	GovernanceandManagementArrangements_12_6975_310 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/GovernanceandManagementArrangements_12_6975_310.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	12/30/2020 11:08:00 AM
2	IISC_agrostimul_minute_6975_310 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/IISC_agrostimul_minute_6975_310.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:25:00 PM
3	PBMinutes2017_6975_310 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/PBMinutes2017_6975_310.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:25:00 PM
4	SIGNEDPBMINUTES2018_6975_310 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/SIGNEDPBMINUTES2018_6975_310.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:25:00 PM
5	SIGNEDPBMINUTES2019_6975_310 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/SIGNEDPBMINUTES2019_6975_310.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:26:00 PM
6	протоколКУПАгроинсентивмарт2020_6975_310 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/протоколКУПАгроинсентивмарт2020_6975_310.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:26:00 PM

11. Were risks to the project adequately monitored and managed?

- 3: The project monitored risks every quarter and consulted with the key stakeholders, security advisors, to identify continuing and emerging risks to assess if the main assumptions remained valid. There is clear evidence that relevant management plans and mitigating measures were fully implemented to address each key project risk and were updated to reflect the latest risk assessment. (all must be true)
- 2: *The project monitored risks every year, as evidenced by an updated risk log. Some updates were made to management plans and mitigation measures.*
- 1: The risk log was not updated as required. There was may be some evidence that the project monitored risks that may affected the project's achievement of results, but there is no explicit evidence that management actions were taken to mitigate risks.

Evidence:

The project risks were timely updated and maintained in view of the limitation and restriction associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Risks_1_6975_311 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Risks_1_6975_311.pdf)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	12/30/2020 11:09:00 AM

Efficient**Quality Rating: Exemplary**

12. Adequate resources were mobilized to achieve intended results. If not, management decisions were taken to adjust expected results in the project's results framework.

- Yes
 No

Evidence:

The project has secured adequate resources to achieve the intended results

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Annualworkplan2020_6975_312 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Annualworkplan2020_6975_312.pdf)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	1/28/2021 2:17:00 PM

13. Were project inputs procured and delivered on time to efficiently contribute to results?

- 3: *The project had a procurement plan and kept it updated. The project quarterly reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner and addressed them through appropriate management actions. (all must be true)*
- 2: The project had updated procurement plan. The project annually reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner and addressed them through appropriate management actions. (all must be true)
- 1: The project did not have an updated procurement plan. The project team may or may not have reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs regularly, however management actions were not taken to address them.

Evidence:

The project's procurement plan has been developed at the start of the year and was regularly updated throughout the year. The project's procurement plan was as timely inserted into the online platform.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	ProcurementActionPlan_2020_AgroIncentive_6975_313 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/ProcurementActionPlan_2020_AgroIncentive_6975_313.xls)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	12/30/2020 11:17:00 AM

14. Was there regular monitoring and recording of cost efficiencies, taking into account the expected quality of results?

- 3: *There is evidence that the project regularly reviewed costs against relevant comparators (e.g., other projects or country offices) or industry benchmarks to ensure the project maximized results delivered with given resources. The project actively coordinated with other relevant ongoing projects and initiatives (UNDP or other) to ensure complementarity and sought efficiencies wherever possible (e.g. joint activities.) (both must be true)*
- 2: The project monitored its own costs and gave anecdotal examples of cost efficiencies (e.g., spending less to get the same result,) but there was no systematic analysis of costs and no link to the expected quality of results delivered. The project coordinated activities with other projects to achieve cost efficiency gains.
- 1: There is little or no evidence that the project monitored its own costs and considered ways to save money beyond following standard procurement rules.

Evidence:

The project has been applying an approach to conducting cost estimation, followed by market research before initiating any activities.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Marketresearch_CostestimationRFP-2020-021_6975_314 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Marketresearch_CostestimationRFP-2020-021_6975_314.docx)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	12/30/2020 11:18:00 AM

Effective**Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory**

15. Was the project on track and delivered its expected outputs?

- Yes
 No

Evidence:

The project was on track both with implementation and achievements of its end of project results. Since 2015, the project has been following to achieve the objectives and milestones indicated in the project document. Since the start of implementation activities in 2015, the project has documented and showcased 22 best adaptation agro technologies on crop production through setting up both small and large scale demonstration pilot plots in all six targeted regions, namely – Akmola, Kostanai, North and East Kazakhstan regions (i.e., the northern steppe zone: forest-steppe, meadow steppe, and dry steppe ecosystems), and Almaty and Kyzyl Orda regions (i.e., the southern arid zone: desert and steppe semi-desert ecosystems) of the country.

Moreover, the project has got a highly satisfactory rating upon its MTR due to the its milestones' full achievements.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Logicalframeworksigned_6975_315 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Logicalframeworksigned_6975_315.docx)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	12/30/2020 11:24:00 AM
2	MTR-SLM-Kazakhstan-Report_6975_315 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/MTR-SLM-Kazakhstan-Report_6975_315.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:33:00 PM
3	ProjectProgressReport_Agroincentive_KZ_6975_315 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/ProjectProgressReport_Agroincentive_KZ_6975_315.doc)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:33:00 PM

16. Were there regular reviews of the work plan to ensure that the project was on track to achieve the desired results, and to inform course corrections if needed?

- 3: Quarterly progress data informed regular reviews of the project work plan to ensure that the activities implemented were most likely to achieve the desired results. There is evidence that data and lessons learned (including from evaluations /or After-Action Reviews) were used to inform course corrections, as needed. Any necessary budget revisions were made. (both must be true)
- 2: *There was at least one review of the work plan per year with a view to assessing if project activities were on track to achieving the desired development results (i.e., outputs.) There may or may not be evidence that data or lessons learned were used to inform the review(s). Any necessary budget revisions have been made.*
- 1: While the project team may have reviewed the work plan at least once over the past year to ensure outputs were delivered on time, no link was made to the delivery of desired development results. Select this option also if no review of the work plan by management took place.

Evidence:

The project has been regularly reviewing the project's work plan to ensure that the activities implemented achieve the desired results. With close coordination of the PBM members, the project manager was conducting a regular meeting once per quarter and actualizing the work plan and its implementation activities. The project has been engaging the PBM members for the field mission to review and provide execution support to the successful implementation of the project activities.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	2020AWPagrostimuleng.doc_6975_316 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/2020AWPagrostimuleng.doc_6975_316.pdf)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	12/30/2020 11:25:00 AM
2	ProjectResultsFrameworkandMultiYearbudget_6975_316 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/ProjectResultsFrameworkandMultiYearbudget_6975_316.docx)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	1/28/2021 2:20:00 PM

17. Were the targeted groups systematically identified and engaged, prioritizing the marginalized and excluded, to ensure results were achieved as expected?

- 3: *The project targeted specific groups and/or geographic areas, identified by using credible data sources on their capacity needs, deprivation and/or exclusion from development opportunities relevant to the project's area of work. There is clear evidence that the targeted groups were reached as intended. The project engaged regularly with targeted groups over the past year to assess whether they benefited as expected and adjustments were made if necessary, to refine targeting. (all must be true)*
- 2: The project targeted specific groups and/or geographic areas, based on some evidence of their capacity needs, deprivation and/or exclusion from development opportunities relevant to the project's area of work. Some evidence is provided to confirm that project beneficiaries are members of the targeted groups. There was some engagement with beneficiaries in the past year to assess whether they were benefiting as expected. (all must be true)
- 1: The project did not report on specific targeted groups. There is no evidence to confirm that project beneficiaries are populations have capacity needs or are deprived and/or excluded from development opportunities relevant to the project area of work. There is some engagement with beneficiaries to assess whether they benefited as expected, but it was limited or did not occurred in the past year.
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

The project has been directly implementing its field-based implementation activities with the local communities in all six project's target areas. For example, the project has implemented 9 large-scale demonstration plots through 23 local farms and community-based organizations. During the implementation of the project activities in the field condition, the project has been adjusting its activities following the priorities of the community to ensure a high commitment by the local community towards achieving the final results of the implementation activities in the fields. the project has also been actively involving representatives of the local municipalities as well as akimats to appropriately plan and provide financial support to ensure replication of those activities at the community level through different state programs.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	протоколКУПАгроинсентивмарт2020_6975_317 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/протоколКУПАгроинсентивмарт2020_6975_317.pdf)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	12/30/2020 11:26:00 AM
2	Projectcommunitycenteredpilotplots_6975_317 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Projectcommunitycenteredpilotplots_6975_317.docx)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	1/28/2021 2:22:00 PM
3	Annex2_6975_317 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Annex2_6975_317.docx)	firuz.ibrohimov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:43:00 PM

Sustainability & National Ownership**Quality Rating: Satisfactory**

18. Were stakeholders and national partners fully engaged in the decision-making, implementation and monitoring of the project?

- 3: Only national systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluation, etc.) were used to fully implement and monitor the project. All relevant stakeholders and partners were fully and actively engaged in the process, playing a lead role in project decision-making, implementation and monitoring. (both must be true)
- 2: *National systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluation, etc.) were used to implement and monitor the project (such as country office support or project systems) were also used, if necessary. All relevant stakeholders and partners were actively engaged in the process, playing an active role in project decision-making, implementation and monitoring. (both must be true)*
- 1: There was relatively limited or no engagement with national stakeholders and partners in the decision-making, implementation and/or monitoring of the project.
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

UNDP provides the oversight and implementation support based on the Letter of Agreement between UNDP and the national partner.

Stakeholders and national partners are fully engaged in decision making and monitoring of the project progress to ensure it's in line with the planned results.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	протоколКУПАгроинсентивмарт2020_6975_318 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/протоколКУПАгроинсентивмарт2020_6975_318.pdf)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:48:00 PM
2	PBMinutes2017_6975_318 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/PBMinutes2017_6975_318.pdf)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:47:00 PM
3	SIGNEDPBMINUTES2018_6975_318 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/SIGNEDPBMINUTES2018_6975_318.pdf)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:47:00 PM
4	SIGNEDPBMINUTES2019_6975_318 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/SIGNEDPBMINUTES2019_6975_318.pdf)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:47:00 PM
5	IISC_agrostimul_minute_6975_318 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/IISC_agrostimul_minute_6975_318.pdf)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:47:00 PM

19. Were there regular monitoring of changes in capacities and performance of institutions and systems relevant to the project, as needed, and were the implementation [arrangements](#)⁸ adjusted according to changes in partner capacities?

- 3: Changes in capacities and performance of national institutions and systems were assessed/monitored using clear indicators, rigorous methods of data collection and credible data sources including relevant HACT assurance activities. Implementation arrangements were formally reviewed and adjusted, if needed, in agreement with partners according to changes in partner capacities. (all must be true)
- 2: *Aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems were monitored by the project using indicators and reasonably credible data sources including relevant HACT assurance activities. Some adjustment was made to implementation arrangements if needed to reflect changes in partner capacities. (all must be true)*
- 1: Some aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems may have been monitored by the project, however changes to implementation arrangements have not been considered. Also select this option if changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems have not been monitored by the project.
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

UNDP provides the oversight and implementation support based on the Letter of Agreement between UNDP and the national partner.
No HACT was implemented within the framework of the project.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	5358_GEFID5659_Terminal_LDPMAT_Kazakhstan_2020_Final_6975_319 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/5358_GEFID5659_Terminal_LDPMAT_Kazakhstan_2020_Final_6975_319.xls)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:52:00 PM

20. Were the transition and phase-out arrangements were reviewed and adjusted according to progress (including financial commitment and capacity).

- 3: The project's governance mechanism regularly reviewed the project's sustainability plan, including arrangements for transition and phase-out, to ensure the project remained on track in meeting the requirements set out by the plan. The plan was implemented as planned by the end of the project, taking into account any adjustments made during implementation. (both must be true)
- 2: *There was a review of the project's sustainability plan, including arrangements for transition and phase-out, to ensure the project remained on track in meeting the requirements set out by the plan.*
- 1: The project may have had a sustainability plan but there was no review of this strategy after it was developed. Also select this option if the project did not have a sustainability strategy.

Evidence:

The project has reviewed and adjusted phase-out arrangements according to its implementation progress. The project has completed all its implementation activities, and the cumulative impact of the project is well reflected in the final annual report of the project. The project has hired an int'l terminal evaluation consultant to conduct the final evaluation of the project. The project has also finalized a project Portfolio Monitoring and Tracking Tool to indicate all its results per the outcome levels.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	протоколКУПАгроинсентивмарт2020_6975_320 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/протоколКУПАгроинсентивмарт2020_6975_320.pdf)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	2/1/2021 5:06:00 PM
2	5358_GEFID5659_Terminal_LDPMAT_Kazakhstan_2020_Final_6975_320 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/5358_GEFID5659_Terminal_LDPMAT_Kazakhstan_2020_Final_6975_320.xls)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:58:00 PM
3	ProjectProgressReport_Agroincentive_KZ_6975_320 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/ProjectProgressReport_Agroincentive_KZ_6975_320.doc)	firuz.ibrohmov@undp.org	2/25/2021 5:58:00 PM

QA Summary/Final Project Board Comments

During the working consultations with the national partner the project was acknowledged completed as successfully achieved its planned targets