



## UNDP Project Document

UNDP-GEF Medium-Size Project (MSP)

Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

United Nations Development Programme

### **Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan**

(PIMS#3366)

#### **Brief description**

This project is a part of the GEF/ADB Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CA-CILM). Within that context, the project goal is to contribute to “The improvement of the sustainability of arid climate irrigation land management in Tajikistan in order to safeguard the livelihoods and economic well-being of rural populations and the functional integrity of national ecosystems”.

The project will, through local on-ground pilot activities covering approximately 16,000 ha, test and demonstrate replicable ways in which rural farmers and communities can address key land degradation and livelihood problems themselves. From these activities will be drawn lessons and best practices which can be directly replicable throughout the irrigated areas of the country i.e. 98% of Tajikistan’s arable land), and the central Asian region as a whole.

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## Acronyms

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
ADB	Asian Development Bank
CAMP	Central Asian Mountain Partnership
CBO	Community Based Organization
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CO	Country Office
CP	UNDP Communities Programme
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CTA	Chief Technical Adviser
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GoT	Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
JDC	Jamoat Development Committee (now referred as JRC)
JRC	Jamoat Resource and Advocacy Center (former JDC)
LFA	Logical Framework Approach
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MFI	Micro Financing Institutions
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPE	National Project Expert
PA	Project Assistance
PDF	Project Development Facility
PM	Project Manager
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSC	Project Steering and Coordination Committee
SGP	Small Grants Program
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USD	United States Dollars
WB	The World Bank

## SECTION I: ELABORATION OF THE NARRATIVE

### PART I: Situation Analysis

1) Tajikistan is naturally prone to rapid degradation of land as it is both arid in most parts and extremely mountainous. Unfortunately, in the past 2 to 3 decades this natural fragility has been heavily impacted by multiple anthropogenic pressures, which have caused extensive degradation and threaten the sustainability of livelihoods throughout the country. These pressures originate firstly from the past Soviet era development policies and approaches which placed little value on sustainable use of natural resources, caused extensive destruction of traditional land use practices (through collectivization, population relocation, etc) and in the lowlands emphasized irrigation agriculture development for cotton production on an inappropriate scale and quality. Furthermore, Soviet era centralized and top down management approaches and institutional arrangements prevented effective feedback on impacts and stifled effective efforts to adapt and change in response to the repercussions of policies. The breakup of the FSU followed by the civil war, together with rapid population rises in many areas, has created extensive new pressures and impacts ranging from widespread tree felling, overgrazing, and the collapse of the irrigated agricultural sector O&M system. As a result there is increased erosion from water and wind, increased slope instability and vulnerability to natural disasters such as landslides and flash flood, reduced productivity of pastures and rain fed arable land, loss of riverine “tugai forest” and other rare ecosystems, salinization and moving sands development, and various other typical outcomes of poor land use management in arid environments.

### PART II: Strategy

2) The project long-term goal is to achieve “the improvement of the sustainability of arid climate irrigation land management in Tajikistan in order to safeguard the livelihoods and economic well-being of rural populations and the functional integrity of national ecosystems”. Irrigated agriculture has been targeted because though irrigated agriculture makes up only about 4.6% of the Tajikistan land area, it constitutes almost 98% of arable land. Furthermore, its importance to the economy of the country, and the livelihoods of a vast proportion of the population is paramount (for example, the irrigated cotton growing regions of Khatlon and Sugd contain by themselves almost 64% of the total population and about 22% of national GDP is derived from irrigate agriculture). Despite being the source of such a significant proportion of the national GDP, irrigated areas are nonetheless the poorest in the country with about 74% of those classified poor in Tajikistan coming from Khatlon and Sugd alone (Source: World Bank 2004. Tajikistan Poverty Assessment Update). There are many existing efforts to improve irrigated agriculture productivity and sustainability, both in Tajikistan and the region as a whole, but the majority of these focus on addressing macro level reforms and issues – however, the crucial roles and potential of actual land users i.e. the farmers and farming communities, to improve sustainability of irrigated agriculture has thus far received limited attention. The strategy of this project is therefore to redress this gap and, through local on-ground pilot activities, test and demonstrate replicable ways in which rural farmers and communities can address key land degradation and livelihood problems. From these activities will be drawn lessons and best practices which can be directly replicable throughout the irrigated areas of the country, and the central Asian region as a whole. The project falls within the umbrella of the GEF/ADB Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CA-CILM) which will provide an additional mechanism for ensuring that key lessons and best practices learned and documented by the project, can be disseminated and replicated throughout Tajikistan and Central Asia as a whole.

### **PART III: Management Arrangements**

- 3) In recognition of the special development situation of Tajikistan and the limited capacity of local authorities to execute the project, it was agreed that the project will be directly executed in accordance with DEX guidelines under the umbrella of UNDP's Communities Programme (CP) in close collaboration with the Government. This arrangement will ensure effective project delivery, with the overall responsibility for the management of the project resting with the CP. For this purpose the CP will adapt its structures as required and establish effective, efficient and transparent project administration procedures and operation systems. A project financial management system will be established to ensure accountability, and annual audits will be performed.
- 4) Taking into account the limited local capacities available and the complexity of the project, which will require more expensive recruitment of highly qualified experts, an execution fee of 5% is proposed for the management of the GEF resources.
- 5) The project will work through the existing structure of the CP Shartuz Area Office. The Area Manager in Shartuz Area Office of the CP will coordinate and supervise the project work in the field. The National Project Director and the Programme Manager of the CP will have overall oversight and responsibility for ensuring the effective implementation of the proposed project.
- 6) Several local organizations will be involved in the delivery of the project, including Jamoat authorities, Jamoat Resource and Advocacy Centers (JRCs), District Development Committees, District level depts. of State Committee's for Land Management and for Environmental Protection and Forestry, *Vodhoz* and *Lezhoz*, District and Jamoat Dekhan Farmers Association structures, and Water User associations. International partners at the local level will include FAO and Winrock International.
- 7) A national Project Manager (PM) will be recruited to manage actual implementation of the project. The PM will be based at the Shartuz Area Office of the CP, with frequent travels to the Districts and Jamoat's selected for this project. The PM will directly report to the CP Programme Shartuz office Area Manager and will act under overall guidance from UNDP's Focal Point on Energy and Environment. The PM will be responsible for overall project coordination and implementation, consolidation of work plans and project papers, preparation of quarterly progress reports, reporting to the project supervisory bodies, and supervising the work of the project experts and other project staff. The PM will also closely coordinate project activities with relevant Government institutions and hold regular consultations with other project stakeholders, including FAO and Winrock International.
- 8) For the support of the PM a part-time Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) will be recruited. The main task of the CTA will be to provide expert advisory services and technical assistance to the PM and the other project experts. At the outset of the project the CTA's input will be on a semi- permanent basis but it will be gradually reduced in the subsequent stages, as internal project capacity grows. In addition to the CTA, an international expert on the FAO Field Farming school approach, and an international expert on Joint Forestry Management will be utilized on short term basis. The permanent core technical staff of the project will be two National Project Experts (NPE), one focusing on irrigated Agriculture SLM issues and the other on forestry and energy issues. The NPE's will supervise teams of national specialists in order to implement specific activities of the project. Finally, Deputy Project Manager (DPM) and Admin. Assistant (AA) will be recruited. The DPM will support the PM in all technical and operational issues related to project implementation. Under the direct supervision of the DPM, the Admin Assistant will be responsible for administrative and financial issues, and will work within and get support from the existing CP administration.

9) A Project Steering and Coordination Committee (PSC) will be established for strategic project activity management to ensure achievement of results on the primary outputs. The PSC will be composed of representatives of the relevant ministries and state committees (i.e. the State Committee's for Land and Nature Protection and Forestry, The Ministry of agriculture, Ministry of Water and Land Reclamation), representatives of district Authorities, representatives of the UNDP Country Office, the National Project Director and the Programme Manager of the UNDP Communities Programme, as well as representatives of other donor organizations and NGOs participating in the project. PSC meetings will be held based on project needs, but not less than once every six month. The Chairman of the State Land Committee or his representative will be the PSC Chairman.

10) UNDP CO will provide specific support services for project realization through the Administrative and Finance Units as required.

11) In order to accord proper acknowledgement to GEF for providing funding, GEF logo will appear on all relevant GEF project publications, including among others, project hardware and vehicles purchased with GEF funds. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by GEF will also accord proper acknowledgment to GEF. The UNDP logo will be more prominent -- and separated from the GEF logo if possible, as UN visibility is important for security purposes.

#### **PART IV: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget**

12) Generally, the project will be subject to monitoring by the UNDP Tajikistan Country Office in accordance with UNDP/GEF monitoring and evaluation rules and procedures. Thereby the project objectives, indicators and targets mentioned in the project logical framework matrix will serve as reference for the monitoring and evaluation of the project. Quarterly progress reports prepared by the Project Manager will provide a further basis for monitoring and evaluation of project progress. CO Tajikistan will share the reports with GEF Regional Coordination Unit, on quarterly basis, as required by GEF rules. A detailed monitoring and evaluation work plan and corresponding budget is provided in Annex 1 of the MSP proposal in Section IV of the Project Document. The project is further subject to the DEX audit and inventory in accordance with UNDP rules and regulations. Regular external financial audits as required according to UNDP/GEF rules will be conducted. An Annual Project Work Plan will be prepared by the Project Manager together with the CTA, the CP Programme Manager, UNDP's Focal Point on Energy and Environment and the Area Managers, as well as other leading project experts in consultation with the project stakeholders and agreed upon by the Project Steering and Coordination Committee (PSC). The Work Plan will generally serve as a planning, coordination and monitoring tool. Regular PSC meetings will be organized by the Project Manager to monitor project progress and implementation of project activities. Strategic management decisions will be taken by the PSC to meet UNDP's Country Program Action Plan (CPAP) and Annual Work Plan (AWP) outputs and outcomes. PSC meetings will be held based on project needs, but not less than once per six months. Additionally, leading UNDP CO staff will conduct annual monitoring visits to selected project sites. The Annual Project Report will be the key instrument to document and ensure project progress towards envisaged outputs and outcomes. A suitable project exit strategy will be developed during the second year of the project by the Project Manager in cooperation with the CTA and leading experts. The exit strategy will have to be approved by the PSC.

#### **PART V: Legal Context**

13) This Project Document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article I of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the United Na-

tions Development Programme, signed by the parties on 1 October 1993. The host country implementing agency shall, for the purpose of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, refer to the government co-operating agency described in that Agreement.

14) The UNDP Resident Representative in Dushanbe, Tajikistan is authorized to effect in writing the following types of revision to this Project Document, provided that he/she has verified the agreement thereto by the UNDP-GEF Unit and is assured that the other signatories to the Project Document have no objection to the proposed changes:

- a) Revision of, or addition to, any of the annexes to the Project Document;
- b) Revisions which do not involve significant changes in the immediate objectives, outputs or activities of the project, but are caused by the rearrangement of the inputs already agreed to or by cost increases due to inflation;
- c) Mandatory annual revisions which re-phase the delivery of agreed project inputs or increased expert or other costs due to inflation or take into account agency expenditure flexibility; and
- d) Inclusion of additional annexes and attachments only as set out here in this Project Document



## **SECTION II: STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK**

### **PART I: Logical Framework Analysis**

#### **Table 1: Objectively Verifiable Impact Indicators**

See Annex 1 of approved MSP proposal in Section IV of the Project Document.

#### **Table 2: Indicative Outputs, Activities and quarterly Work Plan**

See Annex 5 of approved MSP proposal in Section IV of the Project Document.

**SECTION III: TOTAL BUDGET AND WORKPLAN**

**Award ID:** 00044116

**Award Title:** PIMS 3366 LD MSP SLM in Tajikistan

**Project ID:** 00051718

**Project Title:** PIMS 3366 LD MSP SLM in Tajikistan

**Executing Agency:** UNDP

GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity	Responsible Party	Source of Funds	Atlas Code	ERP/ATLAS Budget Description/ Input	Amount (USD) Year 1	Amount (USD) Year 2	Amount (USD) Year 3	Amount (USD) Year 4	Total (USD)	
OUTCOME 1: Local government and civil society structures have the capacity and awareness to regulate, plan and monitor sustainable management of irrigated land	UNDP CP	GEF	71300	Local consultants	5,400	7,200	5,400	2,700	20,700	
		GEF	71600	Travel	3,000	4,000	3,000	2,000	12,000	
		GEF	72100	Contractual services Companies	8,000	15,000	9,000	3,000	35,000	
		GEF	72200	Equipment and Furniture	3,000	1,000	1,000		5,000	
		GEF	72400	Communication and Audio visual Equipment	3,000	2,000			5,000	
		GEF	72500	Supplies	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	7,000	
		GEF	72800	Information Technology Equipment	3,000				3,000	
		GEF	73200	Premis Alteration	3,000				3,000	
		GEF	73300	Rental and Maintenance of IT Equipment	500	500	500	500	2,000	
			73100	Rental and Maintenance - Premises	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,500	
		GEF	74200	Audio visual and Printing Production Costs	2,000	8,000	10,000	13,000	33,000	
		<b>GEF Sub-total:</b>		<b>33,400</b>	<b>40,700</b>	<b>31,900</b>	<b>23,200</b>	<b>129,200</b>		
		<b>Total Outcome 1</b>		<b>33,400</b>	<b>40,700</b>	<b>31,900</b>	<b>23,200</b>	<b>129,200</b>		
OUTCOME 2: Appropriate and viable local level initiatives for improving sustainability of land and water management tested and available for replication	UNDP CP	GEF	71200	International Consultants		20,000	8,000	12,000	40,000	
		GEF	71300	Local consultants		9,600	12,000	9,600	31,200	
		GEF	71600	Travel	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	11,000	
		GEF	72100	Contractual services Companies		6,000	8,000	2,000	16,000	
		GEF	72200	Equipment and Furniture		2,000	3,000		5,000	
		GEF	72400	Communications and Audio visual equipment	2,500	2,000			4,500	
		GEF	72500	Supplies	1,000	3,000	3,000	2,000	9,000	
		GEF	72600	Grants	5,500	141,000	150,000	20,000	316,500	
		GEF	72800	Information Technology Equipment		3,000	1,000	2,000	6,000	
		GEF	73200	Premis Alteration		3,000	2,000		5,000	
		GEF	73300	Rental and Maintenance of IT Equipment		1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	
		GEF	73400	Rental and Maintenance of Other Equipment		1,000	2,000	2,000	5,000	
		GEF	74200	Audio visual and Printing Production Costs		1,000	3,000	4,000	8,000	
				<b>GEF Sub-total:</b>		<b>11,000</b>	<b>195,600</b>	<b>196,000</b>	<b>57,600</b>	<b>460,200</b>
		UNDP	72300	Materials and Goods			20,000	30,000	20,000	70,000
		UNDP	72600	Grants			20,000	60,000	40,000	120,000
		UNDP	74200	Audio visual and Printing Production Costs					10,000	10,000
		<b>UNDP Sub-total</b>			<b>40,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>		
		<b>Total Outcome 2</b>		<b>11,000</b>	<b>235,600</b>	<b>286,000</b>	<b>127,600</b>	<b>660,200</b>		
OUTCOME 3: Project meets objective and outputs efficiently through effective management	UNDP CP	GEF	71200	International Consultant (CTA)	32,000	20,000	16,000	16,000	84,000	
		GEF	71400	Contractual Services Individuals	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	140,000	
		GEF	71600	Travel	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	12,000	
		GEF	72200	Equipment and Furniture	10,400	6,000			16,400	
		GEF	72500	Supplies	1,000	1,250	1,250	1,350	4,850	
		GEF	72800	Information Technology Equipment	3,000	1,000			4,000	
		GEF	73100	Rent&Maint - premises	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	9,600	
		GEF	73200	Premis Alteration	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	
		GEF	74100	Professional Services (5%)	12,190	12,190	12,190	12,180	48,750	
		<b>GEF Sub-total:</b>		<b>99,990</b>	<b>81,840</b>	<b>70,840</b>	<b>70,930</b>	<b>323,600</b>		
		<b>Total Outcome 3</b>		<b>99,990</b>	<b>81,840</b>	<b>70,840</b>	<b>70,930</b>	<b>323,600</b>		
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	UNDP CP	GEF	71200	International consultants		15,000		15,000	30,000	
		GEF	71300	National consultants	750	1,000	750	1,000	3,500	
		GEF	71600	Travel	250	4,000	250	4,000	8,500	
		GEF	74100	Professional Services	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	16,000	
		GEF	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	
				<b>GEF Sub-total:</b>		<b>6,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>62,000</b>
		<b>Total M&amp;E</b>		<b>6,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>62,000</b>		
		<b>GEF Total:</b>		<b>150,390</b>	<b>343,140</b>	<b>304,740</b>	<b>176,730</b>	<b>975,000</b>		
		<b>Project Total</b>		<b>150,390</b>	<b>383,140</b>	<b>394,740</b>	<b>246,730</b>	<b>1,175,000</b>		

<b>Summary of Funds:</b>					
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Year</b>				<b>Total (USD)</b>
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	
GEF (in-cash)	150,390	343,140	304,740	176,730	975,000
UNDP (in-cash)	0	40,000	90,000	70,000	200,000
UNDP (in-kind)	93,000	93,000	0	0	186,000
Government (in-kind)	66,750	66,750	66,750	66,750	267,000
CBOs (in-kind)	38,500	38,500	38,500	38,500	154,000
Winrock Int./USAID (in-kind)	20,000	20,000	0	0	40,000
CARE International (in-kind)	76,000	76,000	0	0	152,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>444,640</b>	<b>677,390</b>	<b>499,990</b>	<b>351,980</b>	<b>1,974,000</b>

## SECTION IV: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### PART I: MSP Proposal and Other Agreements

#### 1. Approved MSP proposal

Attached below



**REQUEST FOR GEF FUNDING  
Medium-sized Project proposal**

**AGENCY'S PROJECT ID:** 3366/TJK10/Award:  
00044116/Project No.: 00051718

**GEFSEC PROJECT ID:**

**COUNTRY:** Tajikistan

**PROJECT TITLE:** Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan (this project is a part of CACILM programme)

**GEF AGENCY:** UNDP

**OTHER EXECUTING AGENCY(IES):** N/A

**DURATION:** 4 years

**GEF FOCAL AREA:** Land Degradation

**GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM:** OP 15

**GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITY:** SLM SP2

**ESTIMATED STARTING DATE:** October 2006

**IMPLEMENTING AGENCY FEE:** \$90,000

Financing Plan (US\$)	
GEF PROJECT/COMPONENT	
Project	975,000
PDF A*	25,000
<i>Sub-Total GEF</i>	1,000,000
<i>CO-FINANCING**</i>	
GEF Agency	390,000
Government	267,000
Bilateral	40,000
NGOs	306,000
Others	50,000
<i>Sub-Total Co-financing:</i>	1,053,000
<i>Total Project Financing:</i>	2,053,000
FINANCING FOR ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY IF ANY:	

\* Indicate approval date of PDF A: March 2005

\*\* Details provided in the Financing Section

**CONTRIBUTION TO KEY INDICATORS OF THE BUSINESS PLAN:** The project will undertake "on the ground" demonstration activities to provide practical and proven methods of improved farming and other land use practices with both economic and environmental benefits on an area of about 16,000 hectares. Approximately 800 thousand hectares of irrigated land (i.e. 98% of Tajikistan's arable land) could potentially benefit from replication of project activities.

*(Enter Name, Position, Ministry)*

*Date: (Month, day, year)*

A. Karimov, GEF Political and Operational Focal Point

17 March 2006

**RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for a Medium-sized Project.

Yannick Glemarec  
UNDP/GEF Deputy Executive Coordinator

Vladimir Mamaev, Regional Technical Advisor

Date: (Month, Day, Year)

Project Contact Person  
Tel. and email: :421-2-59337-267  
Vladimir.mamaev@undp.org

## ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CACILM	Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CTA	Chief Technical Adviser
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organization
FFS	Farmer Field School
FSU	Former Soviet Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facilities
GM	Global Mechanism of UNCCD
GoT	Government of Tajikistan
JRC	Jamoat resource Centre
MA	Ministry of Agriculture
MWLR	Ministry for Water Resources and Land Reclamation
NAP	National Action Program
NAPCD	National Action Programme to Combat Desertification
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self Assessment to Implement Global Ecological Conventions
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGO	Non-Government Organization
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PM	Project Manager
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SCEPF	State Committee for Environment Protection and Forestry
SCLM	State Committee for Land Management
SLM	Sustainable land management
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
WB	World Bank

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### A - SUMMARY

1. Livelihoods in Central Asia continue to depend on land resources. Such dependence is particularly high in Tajikistan where nearly three-quarters of the country's population are employed in agriculture. Thus, reinforced by other factors, land degradation and economic well being are closely twinned.
2. Unfortunately, Tajikistan is naturally prone to rapid degradation of land as it is both arid in most parts and extremely mountainous. In the past 60 years, and particularly the last two decades, this natural fragility has been heavily impacted by multiple anthropogenic pressures, which have caused extensive degradation and pose an increasing threat to the sustainability of livelihoods in the country.
3. These pressures originate firstly from the past Soviet era development policies and approaches. Though such policies enormously increased the overall productivity of the country (for example, the area of arable land, most of it irrigated, quadrupled from about 200,000 hectares in the mid-1930's to 800 thousand hectares half a century later), they placed little value on sustainable use of natural resources, caused extensive destruction of traditional land use practices (through collectivization, population relocation, etc) and in the lowlands emphasized irrigation agriculture development for cotton production on an inappropriate scale and quality. Furthermore, Soviet era centralized and top down management approaches and institutional arrangements prevented effective feedback on impacts and stifled effective efforts to adapt and change in response to the repercussions of policies. Irrigated agriculture for cotton production dominated policies and development to the detriment of the development of other land use and the economy.
4. The breakup of the FSU followed by a civil war, together with rapid population rises in many areas, has created extensive new pressures and impacts ranging from widespread tree felling to meet energy needs, overgrazing, and the virtual collapse of the irrigated agricultural sector O&M system. As a result there is significant declines in irrigated agriculture productivity, salinization and moving sands development, water logging, increased erosion from water and wind, increased slope instability and vulnerability to natural disasters such as landslides and flash flood, reduced productivity of pastures and rain fed arable land, loss of riverine "tugai forest" and other rare ecosystems, and various other typical outcomes of poor land use management in arid environments.
5. Though irrigated agriculture makes up only about 4.6% of the Tajikistan land area, because of the highly mountainous and arid nature of the country, it constitutes almost 98% of arable land. Furthermore, its importance to the economy of the country, and the livelihoods of a vast proportion of the population is paramount (for example, the irrigated cotton growing regions of Khatlon and Sugd contain by themselves almost 64% of the total population and about 22% of national GDP is derived from irrigate agriculture). Despite being the source of such a significant proportion of the national GDP, irrigated areas are nonetheless the poorest in the country with about 74% of those classified poor in Tajikistan coming from Khatlon and Sugd alone (Source: World Bank 2004. Tajikistan Poverty Assessment Update).
6. In the light of the importance of irrigated areas to both the livelihoods and economy of the country, and in view of the extent of land degradation problems facing them, the overall long term development goal of this project is: *To improve the sustainability of arid climate irrigation land*

*management in Tajikistan in order to safeguard the livelihoods and economic well-being of rural populations and the functional integrity of national ecosystems.*

7. As a reflection of the significance of this sector of the economy, both the government and the donor community have addressed significant attention to addressing its development, including national efforts to reform the Soviet era legal, institutional and land use structures and build a sustainable free market based production system. Not surprisingly, given the general development situation of the country and the complexity of the reform and restructuring process, progress to date has been mixed and has yet to bear full benefits.
8. Despite the wide range of interventions past and present, efforts to address irrigated land use issues with those most directly concerned i.e. the newly created dekhan farmers and rural communities whose livelihood depends on it, have not been comprehensively attempted. Though national level actions to create an appropriate environment for effective land use is obviously crucial, so is ensuring that those who actually make their direct living from the land have the appropriate incentives, ability, opportunity and support to do so effectively.
9. The objective of this project is therefore: **to demonstrate the potential to implement replicable Sustainable Land Management initiatives at the local level in Tajikistan and to build the capacity of local structures and land users to do this.**
10. Expected outcomes of the project are that - 1). Local government and civil society structures have the capacity and awareness to regulate, plan and monitor sustainable management of irrigated land; 2). Appropriate and viable local level initiatives for improving sustainability of land and water management tested and available for replication.

## **B - COUNTRY OWNERSHIP**

### **1. Country Eligibility**

Tajikistan has approved and ratified the UNCCD Convention in December 1998.

The country is also eligible to borrow from WB and receive assistance from UNDP.

### **2. Country Drivenness**

11. The project responds to the priority actions identified in the National Action Program to Combat Desertification (NAPCD, 1999) which was endorsed by the government in 2001. Within the NAP are listed a number of key priorities some of which this project will directly contribute to addressing. In particular the project will address the NAPCD Recommendation No.9 - the development of methods of social and economic mechanisms to counter desertification and land degradation, Recommendation No.2. - To strengthen the monitoring of the land degradation processes at national, *oblast* and *rayon* levels, recommendation No.8 - Improvement of soil erosion and land subsidence control measures through forest rehabilitation, agro-technical steps and hydraulic engineering. Recommendation No.7. - Rational management of natural resources (soils, fauna and flora, forest resources, water resources, special protected territories, power resources).
12. The project goal is also a key priority identified within the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) which makes protection of all biological resources including forests and pas-

tures a strategic priority and addresses restoring the structures and functions of degraded ecosystems.

13. The project will also directly contribute to two other endorsed policy documents, namely the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP2002, from 2006 will be transferred into NDS, National Development Strategy), and the Millennium Development Needs Assessment (2005).
14. Within the PRSP the issue of land degradation is firmly linked to rural poverty and land reform is placed at the center of efforts to help improve rural livelihoods. In its section on agricultural productivity, the Millennium Development Needs Assessment (2005) makes a number of recommendations for both short term urgent actions and longer term actions to consolidate reform. Out of the 10 short term recommendations this project will address at local level at least 6 to a varying extent. These are: 1. Increase availability of and access to key agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, quality seeds, transportation and storage facilities for small farmers 3. Increased access to low-interest micro-credits to small farmers and vulnerable groups (especially women) and establishment of community-managed revolving funds 4. Measure aimed at increasing soil quality and decreasing soil erosion and desertification (through planting of trees and bushes, crop rotation, etc) 5. Building of the capacity of small farmers and improving their technical and business skills 7. Breaking up the local monopolies in inputs supply and cotton ginning 9. Move from supply of in-kind farmer inputs to cash credits and creating of alternative financing mechanisms, especially low-interest micro-credit schemes
15. The project is fully inline with the National SLM programme currently being developed within the framework of the ADB led regional GEF SLM initiative "Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management" (CACIML), and will form a integrated component of that initiative.
16. The UNCCD National Focal Point has been fully informed and involved in the instigation and preparation of the project and will ensure its proper coordination and integration with CACILM.

## **C – PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY**

### **1. Program Designation and Conformity**

17. The project long term goal is "The improvement of the sustainability of arid climate irrigation land management in Tajikistan in order to safeguard the livelihoods and economic well-being of rural populations and the functional integrity of national ecosystems". This is fully inline with the objective of the GEF OP 15<sup>1</sup>. The project objective "to demonstrate the potential to implement replicable Sustainable Land Management initiatives at the local level in Tajikistan and to build the capacity of local structures to do this" is directly targeted towards addressing the OP15 Strategic Priority 2<sup>2</sup>.
18. Specifically the project will undertake activities to improve drainage to prevent water logging and salinization, improve water use efficiency, promote judicious use of fertilizers and other agrochemicals and develop general technical capacity of irrigated areas farmers. These activities will

<sup>1</sup> See OP15 document , para. 31

<sup>2</sup> On-the-ground interventions to address land degradation at the community level with packages of interventions to improve both livelihoods and economic well-being of local people and to preserve or restore ecosystem stability, functions, and services through sustainable land management.

also impact rain fed agricultural land peripheral to irrigated areas as well as limited areas of pasture.

19. To do this the project will undertake “on ground” demonstration activities to provide practical and proven methods of improved farming and other land use practices with both economic and environmental benefits. These will include improved tillage methods that do not adversely affect the stability of soil structure; improved methods for water application that reduce use, erosion, water logging and salinization; establishment of collaborative state/community approaches to establish windbreaks, buffer strips, and filter strips to reduce water or wind erosion; and protection of riverine forest to stabilize hydrological flows and reduce erosion. In addition, practical demonstrations of how to more efficiently utilize biomass for energy needs, as well as renewable alternatives, will be undertaken to reduce tree and shrub clearance.
20. In order to establish a positive enabling environment for these pilot / demonstration activities some targeted regional and local capacity building will also be undertaken and thus the project also contributes to SP1.

## 2. Project Design

### *Country Background and Context*

21. Tajikistan lies at approximately 39°00’N and 71°00’E, in Central Asia and is a landlocked country sharing its borders with Afghanistan, China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. Its total land area is 143,100 km<sup>2</sup> and of this water bodies cover 400 km<sup>2</sup>. Some 6% of land is considered as arable, 25% as permanent pasture and 4% as forests and woodland. Irrigated land covers 6,390 km<sup>2</sup> or about 4.6 % of the land area. The country is divided into 3 administrative provinces (Gorno-Badakhshan, Sughd and Khatlon) and 11 Regions of Republican Subordination (administered directly by the central government from Dushanbe). Within these, there are 52 ‘rayons’ or, administrative divisions. These are further subdivided into Jamoat’s (district sub-divisions consisting of a number of villages).
22. The mountain systems of Pamir-Alay and Gissaro-Darvaz dominate the landscape, occupying 93% of Tajikistan’s territory of which, almost half lies above 3000 m. Lowland areas are confined to the Fergana Valley in the extreme north, and the lower reaches of the tributaries of the Amu Darya in the Southeast, specifically the Vakhsh and Kafirnigan river valleys in Khatlon Oblast which are important irrigated agricultural areas.
23. *Natural ecosystems were heavily modified during the Soviet period by large-scale projects for irrigation, hydroelectricity, water reservoirs, mining, agricultural expansion and logging. Indiscriminate industrial pollution and discharge of mining wastes have had a particularly severe impact on aquatic and riparian ecosystems. The protracted civil war and economic problems that followed independence caused additional threats, in particular from uncontrolled deforestation for fuel wood, rain fed agricultural expansion, hunting and fires.*
24. National Economic Context: Tajikistan experienced a deeper and longer contraction of GDP in the wake of independence than almost all other NIS with GDP in 2004 equaling only 67.6 % of the 1990 figure. Once population growth is added, Tajikistan’s real GDP per capita today is only about half of what it was in 1990. Tajikistan is undoubtedly the poorest of the Central Asian Countries today.

25. The 1997-1998 economic rebounds from its most depressed levels during the civil war has been greater in agriculture sector than in industry. For example, Tajikistan's major industrial activity, aluminum production, is now at about two thirds of the 1990 output levels while most other industrial output is at less than 20 per cent of the 1990 levels. The most dynamic sector of the economy has been the service sector, the share of which has steadily climbed to about 35 per cent of the total GDP compared with 19.6 per cent for industry and 21.6 per cent for agriculture.
26. Of the total economically active population of Tajikistan of just under 2 million in 2003, 67.6 per cent were engaged in agriculture. If working age population at home is added to the former total, the percentage of those whose livelihood depends on agriculture increases further, to perhaps 75 per cent. Government employed about 25 per cent of the total economically active population in 2003, or about half a million people.
27. Tajikistan's exports, worth \$915 million in 2004, depend disproportionately on just two commodities: aluminum (62.5 per cent of the total) and cotton fibre (about 18 per cent) while imports (with the exception of alumina accounting for about 27 per cent of all imports in value terms) are much more diversified. Tajikistan continues to import wheat, flour, cooking oil and sugar. Food-stuffs accounted for about 12 per cent of the country's total imports in 2004. Tajikistan has consistently recorded a deficit on its trade account partly compensated for by the inflow of remittances estimated at between \$400 and \$600 million per annum in 2003 and 2004 or about 20-25 per cent of the GDP.
28. At independence, Tajikistan had no external debt. This rapidly changed against the background of political chaos, civil conflict and poor governance in the initial months of independence. The authorities had to import fuel, grains and consumer staples. The external debt (mainly to suppliers in other CIS countries) went from zero to 15 per cent of GDP in 1992, 60 per cent of GDP in 1993 and the peak of about \$1,200 million (or 128 per cent of GDP) in 2000. Since 2000, more prudent policies reversed the pattern of a rising debt burden and in 2004, public debt stood at around 40 per cent of GDP.
29. In addition to public external debt, private external debt (mostly by the cotton sector) stood at about \$170 million in 2004 or about 8 per cent of GDP. The importance of the cotton debt issue, both external and internal, is discussed later in this document.

*Policy, Institutional and Legislative context*

30. *General Development Policy Directions*: Following the collapse of the Former Soviet Union countries such as Tajikistan had virtually no choice but to adopt a long term development policy aimed at establishing a democratic and capitalist state based on the free market system. However, in the initial period most Central Asian states were too preoccupied with staving off total economic and civil disintegration to be able to pursue targeted policies towards this goal. In the case of Tajikistan such efforts were only of limited success as internal political conflicts degenerated into civil war. Fortunately, though costly in terms of life, economy and environment, stability was fairly rapidly restored. Thus since 1996-97 both the economy and the capacity to govern has gradually grown and likewise the opportunity to comprehensively start the process of developing and implementing concrete policies towards the long term development goal.

31. *Policies and Development Strategies:* A large number of reforms have been initiated in Tajikistan since political stability was restored in 1996-97. The most successful have probably been the macro-economic stabilization, an important pre-condition for other reforms and investment.
32. The main thrust of the government's efforts to raise land productivity has been focused on the land reform. The aim is to transform the old collectivized agriculture consisting of about 500 large kolkhoz and sovhoz into a more responsive and efficient sector by creating new forms of farm enterprises supported by the right to lease land. By 2004, a total of about 13,500 entities had been created of which 10,600 were individual dekhans and another 2,100 dekhans "farm groupings" (essentially kolkhoz under another name). Thus from a formal point of view the reform process has been mostly completed. However, in practice there is a significant number of unresolved problems, superficial change (as in the case of the "farm groupings") and a weakness or absence of several attributes which would provide the incentive to invest time and money in good husbandry of land (length of the lease, adequate legal protection, etc.).
33. In addition, efforts to support dekhans, particularly in the irrigated areas, to take over the responsibility and successfully manage land has been inadequate with limited technical or management training, an absence of cooperative mechanisms to allow effective maintenance of extensive irrigation systems and economies of scale, inadequate credit facilities and development of structures to equitably provide farm inputs and sales etc.
34. In the context of the latter issues a major and intractable debt problem has developed with private creditors (so-called "futures companies") filling the credit gap. As a result almost all farms are heavily in debt. This situation is compounded by the fact that creditors use this indebtedness to dictate terms in regard to purchase of farm inputs, cotton processing and sales, so deepening the debt and dependence. In effect many farmers have become bonded producers.
35. *Development Strategy Documents:* The 3 main policy and strategy documents of importance in the context of land use and land degradation are:

Governments Program of Economic development until 2015: This is the long term overall strategic planning instrument for the government and includes all aspects of the economic and social development of the state. Because of the importance irrigated land has for the economy and society it constitutes a significant component and in this context land degradation is clearly recognized as a major negative factor requiring urgent attention.

National Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP 2002), Poverty Reduction Support Program (PRSP 2005) and National Development Strategy (to be finalized in 2006): These documents, primarily instigated and prepared by the donor community with close involvement of the Government, form the background for the governments own strategic plans. Within the PRSP the issue of land degradation is firmly linked to rural poverty and land reform is placed at the center of efforts to help improve rural livelihoods. Renewed investment in land productivity depends of the institutional and policy preconditions and PRSP enumerates the most important among them.

National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAPCD - 1999): This document makes wide-ranging recommendations on priorities to be addressed in regard to desertification and land degradation generally. Unfortunately, these recommendations are rather general in nature and as an instrument for change the NAPCD has not proved very effective to date.

Legal framework for Land use

36. The basic elements of the legal and regulatory framework relating to the use of land resources are:
- Legal Acts (the Constitution, the Land Law, the criminal code, the civil code, the administrative code, the Law on Wildlife Management, etc.)
  - Regulatory instruments (Presidential decrees, Government decisions)
  - Agreements under international conventions
37. The Tajik Constitution fundamentally limits the scope of land privatization because “the land and its natural resources are the exclusive property of the State and the State guarantees their efficient use in the interests of the people”. Since independence this has been qualified by a series of laws and decrees. By now, land use is regulated by no fewer than nine different laws (the Civil Code, the Land Leasing Law, the Land Law (Code), the Land Reform Code, the Law on Property, the Law on State Property, the Law on Local Land and the Law on Dekhan Farms).
38. Land law: Article 5 of the Land Law spells out the Government’s responsibilities related to land as consisting of (a) identifying lands of national importance and assigning authorities responsible for enforcement of the lands’ status; (b) formulation of programs on lands’ rational use, land productivity, and protection of lands as a component of other nature protection activities; (c) coordination of the activities of enforcement authorities in matters relating to land use; (d) preparation and submission to the Parliament of state budget for the use and protection of land resources; (e) delineation of borders of protected nature territories in agreement with local enforcement authorities; (f) specification and collection of land taxes and payments for lease of land; (g) overall responsibility for land administration, setting up the land cadastre and monitoring of land use
39. Article 6 makes the State Committee on Land Management (SCLMM) the body with overall competence in land management and responsible for land protection. Among others, SCLMM and its units are responsible for the state ground cadastre and monitoring of land use, prevention of any land use activities contradicting the law and reporting on the cases of law infringement, drafting of laws and regulations related to the use of land, developing the basis for assessment of the land tax, estimates of economic damage relating to land use, and size of penalties for infringement of land legislation. The Article makes SCLM responsible for improving (“perfecting”) the method of land management.
40. Article 7 of the Land Law describes the competence of *Khukumats* in land-related matters including the land cadastre and monitoring duties, allocation of land for (or withdrawal from) agricultural and non-agricultural use, protection of the rights of land users, registration of the rights of use.
41. Article 8 of the Land Law addresses the competence of *Jamoats*: to participate in the allocation of land for management within their area of administrative competence; allocation and withdrawal of household plots and household subsidiary plots; collection of tax on household plots; registration of the right of use and; preparation of the state cadastre and tax records, oversight over household plots; and preparation of all documentation relating to land administration.
42. The law does not recognize private land ownership but only certain rights of use. The primary right of use is the life-long inheritable tenure. The tenant may not pledge or mortgage the land.



While, under certain strict conditions, the Land Law permits transfers of private dekhan land plots, in practice the common understanding is that land may not be sold, nor may it be transferred other than through inheritance. In short, there is no land market for the time being. The fact that the principal land right is a land use entitlement and not a title restricts the actual rights attached to the land. Whereas a landowner freely exercises his ownership right, constrained only by law, a land user may take only those actions that are specifically permitted by law.

43. Law on Land Administration (2001) and Law on Land Valuation (2001) provide the necessary detailed guidance to the work of SCLMM. The Tajikistan Penal Code makes damage to land an offense and contains extensive provision dealing with it.
44. Law on Nature Protection: Tajikistan's first post-Soviet Law on Nature Protection (LNP) dates back to 1993. It has since been amended twice, in 1997 and 2002. The Law assigns responsibilities to "specially authorized state bodies of the Republic of Tajikistan", in practice the State Committee for Environmental protection and Forestry (SCEPF), and oblast, rayon and city environmental committees.
45. Other laws and regulations that have implications for land management in Tajikistan include the 1993 Forestry Code, the 1994 Mineral Resources Law, the 1995 Administrative Code (amended in 1996 and 2000), 1998 Land Code (amended in 2004) and the 2002 Law on Specially Protected Territories. Some fifty environment-related implementing decrees and decisions have been issued since 1992, addressing a variety of environment-related subjects including some that relate to land management, Tajikistan's participation in international environmental conventions, regional environmental cooperation, setting up of specialized committees (e.g. National Sustainable Development Committee) and others. These and more detailed instructions taken together are the reference framework for policy-makers in SCEPF.
46. The duties of the Ministry of Water Resources and Land Reclamation are spelt out in the 2000 Water Code. Among other responsibilities, MWRLR is tasked with land rehabilitation (understood by most as rehabilitation of irrigated lands) and irrigation of new land, collection of the irrigation fees, monitoring of water use efficiency, establishment of the land rehabilitation cadastre, issuing "passports" to individual irrigation, drainage and land reclamation systems and analyze data on their performance.

#### Institutional Context

47. At national level there are 2 ministries and 2 State Committees which are key to the management of land resources and prevention of land degradation. These are:
48. Ministry of Agriculture (MOA): Besides a general responsibility for the "development of agriculture" and for meeting the nation's food requirements, the charter of the Ministry makes it responsible for efficiency of land use and the maintenance of land quality
49. The Ministry has about 60 departments, sections and sub-ordinate institutions. Among them – though not particularly prominent-- is the Department of Land Improvement, Water Management and Ecology. The main concerns of the Ministry have been a Five-Year Plan for Grains Development and interim Plans for Agricultural Production. Under the first, wheat production was to increase to 1 million tons in 2005 (the actual output on 2004 was 892,000 tons). The focus of the 2000-2003 Interim Plan was to increase annual seed cotton production to 700,000 tons by 2004 (the actual production was 557,000 tons). Three departments dominate: Econom-

ics, Technical Crops and Grains and Food Crops. The traditional function of these departments has been to prepare production schedules for oblasts and rayons. The Ministry's attempts to control production of supposedly "transformed" farms remains one of key issues of policy. Subordinated to MOA are (among others) the Tajik Academy of the Agricultural Science and Tajik Agricultural University.

50. The Ministry of Water Resources and Land Reclamation (MWRLR): The Ministry of Water Resources is responsible for the supply of irrigation water for arable land and pastures for the "rational use of irrigation water". It is responsible for inter-farm and intra-farm irrigation channels and collector drain systems as well as for pumps, pump-houses and for the power supply infrastructure feeding them. Although subordinate organizations under the Ministry have financial and operational autonomy, responsibility for the performance of the Ministry lies with the Minister personally.
51. The Ministry comprises a central ministry made up of eleven departments led by a Minister and five Deputy Ministers, six Oblast Departments of Water Resources, and a large number of subordinated units, enterprises and institutes. Since 1996 the Ministry's relationship with water users has been that of a service provider charging for services supplied. Supply contracts with irrigation users are now required. Payment rates are set by the Ministry of Economy and Trade. Figures for 1999 from six rayons placed the payments received at about 15 percent of the amount due. However, according to the Minister the situation is said to be improving gradually. Up to now, payments for irrigation water have been made mainly in kind with Oblast Dept.'s of Water Resources converting commodities to cash. Most of the professional staff of the Ministry were engineers, the remainder were economists, accountants and legal specialists. There were no social scientists.
52. As land is transferred from the state sector, the Rayon Departments of Water Resources face the problem of making irrigation supply agreements with a vastly increased number of users. The Ministry is facing severe difficulties adjusting to this change. International agencies are promoting Water User Associations (WUAs) as a mechanism for managing farm level irrigation systems and providing a point of contact for the rayon departments. Formation of Water Users' Associations is an element of loan funded projects under implementation or anticipated but MWR itself has no skills or experience in promoting the formation of such organizations.
53. The State Committee on Land Management (SCLMM): The Committee, created in 1996, is tasked with implementing Government policy in the field of land relations and land reform, controlling land use, creating and maintaining land cadastre and a land registration system, monitoring land, implementing land reform, ensuring rational use of land, maintaining land quality, creating conditions for farm diversification and implementing international commitments of the Republic of Tajikistan in the field of land management. Subordinate to the State Land Committee are local committees covering the country plus other organizations. These employ 525 persons.
54. The specialized organizations of SCLMM are (1) State Project Institute on Land Management (or "Tojikzaminsoz"), (2) Design and research institute "Fazo" (Cosmos); and (3) State enterprise "Markaz Zamin"(Land Center). "Tajikzaminsoz" is in charge of keeping the inventory of all lands, monitoring transfers of lands, establishing land values, and various land assessments (economic, geo-botanical etc.). "Fazo" is in charge of urban land inventories, inventories of population distribution, topographic mapping and cartographic material.

55. State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry: The Committee, created in 2003 to succeed the former Ministry on Nature Protection, has inherited an overall mandate for environmental protection in Tajikistan. Like MOA, MWR and SCLMM, SCEPF has a number of subordinate organs, the most important of which for land degradation issues are several units directly or indirectly concerned with land degradation (Research Laboratory on Water Protection, Research Laboratory on Nature Protection, Environmental Monitoring and Standards Department, Forest and Hunting Agency, Forest Research Institute).
56. The scientific community: A number of scientific and education institutions are involved in different aspects of SLM. Most of them are attached to a particular ministry or state committee. The most important are the Academy of Agricultural Sciences and its sub-unit the Tajik Soil Science Institute (under MOA), Tajik Forestry Research Institute (under SCEPF), and Hydraulic Engineering and Land Reclamation Research Institute (MWRLR).

#### Regional, District and Sub-district Authorities

57. Local government (*khukumat*) in Tajikistan is administered at three levels: *oblasts* (provinces), *rayons* (districts) and *Jamoats* (sub-districts, group of villages). The Government appoints governors and deputy governors of oblast and rayon administrations. In principle, heads of *Jamoats* are elected.
58. With respect to each sector (e.g. agriculture), a deputy governor at oblast and district level is responsible for the sector concerned. Often this is the first deputy. Each of the ministries and state committees operating in the sector has a department office attached to the local administration. Organizations sub-ordinate to the ministries and state committees also have offices attached to the local administration of the area in which they are located. Heads of the offices are appointed by the local administration subject to approval a higher level in the organizations hierarchy.
59. Local governments have extensive powers related to land and its use. Among others, they may withdraw land from existing use if such use is deemed inappropriate. They keep property and land certificate registers. They establish the rule of water use in their jurisdiction, and in collaboration with local personnel of technical ministries monitor the use of natural resources (forests, mineral extraction, etc.) and enforce them through fines and other means. The responsibilities of the local government in land-related matters are spelt out in Articles 7 and 8 of the Land Law.
60. National Union of Dekhan Farm: The Union was founded in 1996 in accordance with the 1992 Law on Dekhan Farms. It is the apex of Oblast and Rayon Associations of Dekhan Farms. It sees itself as an “independent institution reporting to the Government and implementing “Government policies”. At the national level, there are 15 staff. At the rayon level, associations of dekhan farms range from little more than renamed brigades of former state and collective farms to farmer self help organizations. The National Union endeavours to provide a large range of services to member farmers such as preferentially-priced fuel, advances of seed (repayable in kind) and legal support but in practice has limited capacity to do this currently.
61. Village Organizations and Jamoat Resource Centers: During the period of local administration capacity vacuum in the late 1990s, Village Organizations were pioneered by the Aga Khan Foundation mainly in Gorno Badakhshan as local level representative bodies tasked with administration of emergency and rehabilitation assistance, and later on, in planning local devel-

opment. Similarly, UNDP and others strove to establish a viable local level mechanism to implement the Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Project (RRDP) between 1996 and 2000. In the end the mechanism created took the form of Jamoat Resource and Advocacy Centers (JRCs). These centers typically identify local development needs and administer a revolving fund contributed by various donors. They have the advantage of having a legal status and to be formally linked to the official structure of the Government (the Jamoats). Elsewhere, the ordinary Jamoat structure (Jamoat Development Committee) perform development oriented tasks and is considered the lowest governmental structure in accordance with the existing legislation.

### Project Site description

#### Geographical location and Features (see relief map in annex)

62. The project area of Shartuz lies within the southern part of the Khatlon Oblast (region) which itself is located in the south west of Tajikistan. The project area thus borders to the south with Afghanistan and to the west with Uzbekistan. The southern border with Afghanistan is formed by the Panj River, which then becomes the Amu Darya after entry by the Vakhsh tributary. The other major tributary to the Amu Darya in the area is the Kafirnigan River. In terms of relief and ecology the area consists of two lowland river valleys running north/south (Vakhsh and Kafirnigan) which broaden as they run south, flanked by high mountains. Historically, these valleys contained extensive areas of tugai riverine forest but due to massive conversion to irrigated agriculture in the Soviet period these are reduced to just under 500km<sup>2</sup> of strictly protected area (Tigrovaya Balka) and remnants along the two river banks and islands. They nonetheless constitute some of the largest and most rich areas of Tugai remaining in Central Asia. Land use in the area is dominated by irrigated agriculture in the valleys and lower slopes, rain fed agriculture on some foothills and pasture in the remaining areas.
63. Within the project area 4 specific districts and 4 specific Jamoats (sub-districts) were selected, namely: the Jamoat named after S. Khudoikulov (Kabodiyon district), Jamoat Jura Nazarov (Shartuz district), Jamoat Nuri Vakhsh (Jilikul district) and Jamoat Telman (Kumsangir district). For map of these sites please see the annex.

#### Reasons and Justification for selection of the Demonstration sites for this project:

64. The project general area (Khatlon oblast) and the specific districts (rayons) of Shartuz, Kabodiyon, Jilikul and Kumsangir were selected for the following reasons: firstly, they are representative of the irrigated land use areas of Tajikistan and of the typical land degradation issues faced in such areas - the project therefore has the potential to have a significant impact and resonance within the country, and potentially the region where similar problems are also priorities; secondly, the area contains some of the poorest populations in the country and the largest number of people whose livelihood is threatened by land degradation; thirdly, UNDP, through the existing Communities program, has a ready made and tested mechanism for cost effective delivery. The 4 specific Jamoats selected were done so on the basis of severity of land degradation issues faced and the interest expressed by representative bodies (the Jamoat authorities and Jamoat Resource Centres) to participate.

#### Land degradation Problems in project sites:

65. The main land degradation problems facing the communities selected are:

- ❖ Irrigated land salinization
  - ❖ Irrigated land water logging
  - ❖ Wind deposition and movement of dust, sand and salt deposits onto productive land
  - ❖ Water erosion of pasture lands, rain-fed arable land and irrigated fields
  - ❖ Water erosion of riverbanks and bordering productive land and infrastructure.
66. The direct causes of salinization and water logging relate mainly to the breakdown of soviet era drainage systems due to lack of maintenance. A contributing factor is probably over application of water due to poorly maintained control systems and farmer error.
67. Wind erosion is largely a result of deforestation and overgrazing in the adjacent arid lands compounded by the arid climate, soil characteristics and strong seasonal winds (the Afghan).
68. Water erosion is also largely a result of reduced vegetative cover. Contributing factors are probably poor tilling practices in rain fed and irrigated lands. Water erosion and the resulting deposition of mud in the irrigation system drainage canals compounds problems with their maintenance and thus exacerbates salinization and water logging problems.
69. The problems described above effect all the Jamoats selected under this project but to different degrees. For example, the principle problems in all selected Jamoats relate to salinization and water logging but in the most southerly (Jura Nazarov) the problems of wind blown sand and dune formation is far greater than in other areas.

#### Global Biodiversity Value Of the Project Area:

70. Ecologically the area consists of semi desert and riverine (Tugai) forest. Both these ecotypes contain biodiversity of global biodiversity value including over 15 fauna and flora species included in the IUCN International Red Data Book (fauna species include - Horsfield's Tortoise, Great Bustard, Cinereous Vulture, Central Asian Cobra, Pallas's Cat, Eurasian Otter, Goitered Gazelle, and Bukharan Deer amongst others). The semi desert areas, particularly rich in reptiles, are extremely fragile and vulnerable to inappropriate land use. The Tugai has been heavily impacted by over use during the past decades and clearance for irrigated agricultural development and is a unique ecosystem on the verge of extinction in Central Asia. The ecosystem services provided by tugai forest and its local potential Non-Timber Forest Products values have never been valued by policy makers.

#### Population and Socio-economic Review

71. Cotton-growing is the key agricultural production of the four focus districts as well as of other areas in the Vakhsh Valley since 1920<sup>th</sup> – early 1930<sup>th</sup> when the Vakhsh irrigation system was established. Of other agricultural crops, these districts are famous for vine and vegetable cultures, grains and cattle-breeding.
72. By January 1, 2005, the local population was estimated at 358,900 people: 81,500 in Shartuz, 119,300 in Kabodiyon, 84,900 in Kumsangir, and 73,200 in Jilikul. Ethnic population groups include Tajiks and Uzbek-speaking population (Lokais, Congrates, Durmens, and others), as well as Turkmens and Kyrgyz. Both the indigenous population and relocated Tajiks maintain the traditional faith in Islam.

73. The total area of the four districts is 557,634 ha: 27% in Shartuz (of which arable agricultural land is about 19%), 33% in Kabodiyon (of arable agricultural land is about 20%); 17% in Kum-sangir (of which arable agricultural land is about 42%); and 22% in Jilikul (of which arable agricultural land is about 30%).
74. Total population is growing every year, which makes a negative impact on the use of natural resources. For example, total land (ha) per capita has fallen between 2003 and 2004 from 0.11 to 0.1 in Shartuz, and 0.21 to 0.2 in Jilikul (*Source: State Land Management Committee of the RT*).
75. This situation leads to an increased pressure on agricultural lands. At present, the condition of lands has considerably deteriorated which results in a decrease of agricultural product and population income, unemployment and large scale labor migration.
76. Incomes: Though there has been a steady growth of the average monthly salary in the target area in the past few years this is mainly indicative of a recovery after the extreme lows of the civil war period and incomes in fact are still lower than the official poverty line.
77. Research undertaken during the PDF-A indicated that on the one hand irrigated agricultural land use increased in recent years (by 312 ha. between 2003-04) while on the other hand reduced due to land degradation by 1,658 ha – this represents a net drop of 1,346 ha. All this leads to inevitable difficulties in the solution of socio-economic problems of the target districts.
78. At the same time that total land availability is dropping, the cotton ratio compared to other cultures is growing (from 67% to 74% of the total area). This is largely due to heavy indebtedness of farmers to the so-called “futures companies” whose main interest is to ensure cotton production. Debts of the cotton-growing farms are caused by inflated prices for farm inputs and low procurement prices for raw cotton. Therefore, these farms are unprofitable. This also accounts for low, if any, incomes of dekhan farmers. In the absence of the debt situation, and with free decision making on what crops to grow, it is highly probable that, dekhan farms could provide themselves and the whole region with agricultural product and have a reasonable income.
79. The socio-economic situation of the population is very much influenced by land degradation and *visa versa*. For example, land shortage has driven people to utilize steep slopes in the hope of additional income, lack of incomes prevents maintenance of drainage networks, etc.
80. Livestock play a significant role in the livelihoods of people in the project area. This ranges from intensive cattle-breeding on farms and subsistence livestock owned by households. Increased livestock number is caused by necessity. This way most farms and individuals try to raise their profits. Besides, very often livestock and cattle breeding play a major role in household economy. However, constant increase of livestock numbers makes a negative impact on the condition of pastures around residential areas. These lands suffer from serious degradation, which gets worse year after year.
81. The main source of supplementary income of rural population is the use of household plots (“Presidential lands”). People can use these plots for various agricultural products, which they can sell or consume. Besides, after the land reform aimed at the restructuring of former state farms into individual, family or collective dekhan farms, people turned into land-owners and received the opportunity to raise agricultural crops and get revenues from the sale.
82. Forestry: Shartuz forests are mainly represented by tugai forests and cannot provide people with food items such as nuts and fruit. Wood is used for fuel which makes a negative impact on the existing forests.

83. *Socio-economic Case Study* - Socio-economic situation of the population is demonstrated by an example of Jamoat “Djura Nazarov” of the target Shartuz district. The population of Jamoat is 14,218 people; of them, 6,398 male and 7,820 female. Of the total population, 1,776 people are unemployed and 2,300 are labor migrants. This year the latter earned and sent home an estimated \$1,380,000. At present, 250 families live below poverty line. This Jamoat has 6,634 ha of arable land – out of these, 1,552 ha are occupied by cotton, 733 ha by household plots; “Presidential lands” cover 281 ha and farms – 1,842 ha. Of these 4,792 ha are not currently used due to the lack of irrigation water, soil salination, stones and sand. 354 ha are secondary salinated soils resulted from the poor condition of the collector-drainage system. All this triggers resettlement, growing poverty and reduced agricultural production.
84. The key income generating source for the Jamoat population is agricultural production. Every year irrigated and non-irrigated lands are dropped from crop rotation due to the lack of water, salination and secondary salination of soils. Dekhan farms have no opportunities for development because of their debts to futures companies which are inherited from former state agricultural enterprises. Farm-debt resolution is thus a critical barrier.
85. Alternative sources of income: 1,600 residents of this Jamoat get income from livestock breeding, 20 people are engaged in small business (small-scale retailing), 5,000 grow grains, 1,500 are in poultry-breeding, 120 people grow vegetables, and 2 produce bee-honey. Besides, there are 30 small mills that provide income to 30 families, 2 small ginneries and 1 sowing workshop. There are also 2 small smith’s shops, 2 hairdressing saloons, 2 welding workshops, 1 carpentry and 1 shoe-making shop.
86. Workshops and small enterprises provide incomes only to their owners (after payment of all due taxes), however, due to the lack of electric power in winter time, they cannot be operational all the year round.

*Problem Analysis and Key Barriers*

87. The main land degradation problem being addressed by this project is the degradation of irrigated land agricultural systems, of which typical and severe examples occur in the project selected districts. A Problem Analysis and Root cause Matrix is provided in the annex.
88. The direct causes of this degradation are poor drainage of irrigation fields, over watering and severely reduced tree and shrub cover in adjacent areas and on riverbanks, which results in numerous direct threats including:
- Severe salinization of irrigation land
  - Water logging of fields
  - Dune formation on adjacent pasture and abandoned irrigation land
  - Sand encroachment on productive irrigation fields
  - Water erosion of riverbanks and loss of land or damage to infrastructure
  - Water erosion of rain fed arable areas on slopes adjacent to irrigated areas causing topsoil loss and siltation
  - Water erosion of irrigated fields causing topsoil loss and siltation
  - Watershed impacts including reduction of water quality and availability
  - Increased vulnerability to natural disasters.
  - Loss of biodiversity

89. The root causes of the above can be broken down into the following:
- Low awareness and understanding of root causes of land degradation and of possible new approaches to addressing them in the “Post-Soviet” era at all levels of local government (Rayon, and Jamoat).
  - No systematic and integrated planning of Jamoat resource use
  - Poor maintenance of irrigation infrastructure
  - Inadequate “technical” irrigation farming knowledge / skills
  - Excessive Tree / shrub cutting for fuel
  - Insufficient tree planting
  - Poor energy supply and efficiency
90. In the light of the root causes for the above, the following key barriers to improving the sustainability of irrigated land management in the project area and addressing current and future land degradation have been identified:

Barriers to addressing water logging and salinization:

**Barrier 1:** Irrigation support services from the state (Vodhoz and Leshoz) are not sufficient because of limited funding and unclear roles and responsibilities during reform process

**Barrier 2:** Difficulty for both state and farmers to undertake initial major repairs necessary to parts of irrigation infrastructure resulting from period of socio-economic and political disruption during the civil war

**Barrier 3:** Farmers do not have resources to invest in maintenance of irrigation systems due to inherited debts from former (state) system and unregulated / inequitable credit and trading conditions

**Barrier 4:** Limited incentives for farmers to invest in ongoing maintenance of irrigated infrastructure due to insecure tenure, unclear legal rights

**Barrier 5:** Limited regulatory and operational capacity of local authorities and CBO’s to absorb the new resource management responsibilities and opportunities resulting from the reform process due to its early stages and absence of targeted support in this regard.

**Barrier 6:** Absence of collaborative mechanisms for planning and coordination of land and water use due to early stage of reform process from centralized land management to farmers land management

**Barrier 7:** Inherited practices and limited technical knowledge lead to over application of water and thus water logging (and thence salinization)

Barriers to reducing cutting of trees/ shrubs and increased fuel wood/protection forestation:

**Barrier 8:** State energy supply does not meet local energy demand and the only way to fill the energy gap is by cutting trees/ shrubs

**Barrier 9:** Current reduced capacity of state agencies (Vodhoz, Leshoz, etc) [specify which state agency] to meet historical mandates due to national budget limitations in *post* civil war period and rapidly changing role of state institutions within the ongoing reform process (i.e. from direct implementers under the former Soviet system to a more regulatory and supportive role)



**Barrier 10:** Absence of historical involvement of land users and local communities in forest protection and planting (see above) and land use planning generally

**Barrier 11:** Limited awareness of the importance of trees and shrubs to prevent wind and water erosion (wind blown sand and soil loss/siltation problems)

**Barrier 12:** Historical lack of energy conservation concern during Soviet period and thus low awareness of the issue and limited local knowledge how to improve efficiency of their fuel use

**Barrier 13:** Local people do not have knowledge about or access to practical examples of viable renewable energy alternatives such as biogas

Barriers to improving poor agricultural practices which cause erosion

**Barrier 14:** Local farmers have some deeply ingrained poor practices from soviet era and limited technical knowledge of how to avoid wind and water erosion off fields (see also barrier 7).

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Baseline Situation

91. The Baseline is a description of the programs, initiatives and projects that are related to irrigated agricultural sector reform and sustainable development and related issues and that would take place even in the absence of this proposed, GEF-funded demonstration project for sustainable land management (SLM). After the Baseline is presented, it is then analyzed to identify gaps in terms of demonstrating replicable local level initiatives and approaches for comprehensively addressing SLM issues needed to overcome the root causes of current and likely future land degradation at the Jamoat level.

### *Baseline activities with regard to policy, legal framework and the agricultural reform process*

92. As previously described in this document the government has placed a high priority on the irrigated agricultural sector in Tajikistan as a cornerstone for sustainable economic development and poverty alleviation. Since independence and the end of the civil war there has been a sustained effort to radically reform the agricultural legal and institutional framework and divest responsibility for sound economic and environmental resource use to the actual farmers. In pursuit of this there has been developed a number of key policy documents such as Government's Program of Economic Development until 2015 and the National Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP 2002) and upcoming National Development Strategy (NDS 2006). Radical land tenure and institutional reforms have been instigated such as the break up of former state/collective farms into private long term leased holdings have been undertaken and extensive legal reforms to provide an appropriate legal environment framework for this have been developed such as the Land Law, Law on Land Administration, Law on Land Valuation, etc.

93. International donor support to this process has been substantial and includes, amongst many, the following relevant support:

Farm Privatization Project (World Bank) 2000-2005. This large USD 23 million project was aimed at assisting the government to develop procedures and institutional mechanisms at state and selected

region level to ensure fair and equitable transfer of land and other farm assets to private individuals or groups.

The Land Registration and Cadastre system for Sustainable Agriculture project (World Bank) 2005-2010: This USD 10.6 million project is a follow up to the above project and will further assist and expand the farm privatization process by providing secure land use rights certificates distributed in a fair and transparent manner and provide essential complementary support services. In the process it is aimed at building the capacity of the State Committee for Land Management to manage such processes and the President's Economic Advisors Office to ensure sound policy development.

Farm debt Resolution and Policy Reforms (ADB): The technical assistance has focused its attention on four core subjects: the scale and structure of farm debt; policy reform, especially land reform; cotton financing and marketing arrangements; and irrigation system finances.

Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project ADB2002-2009 USD 43.75: The main thrust of the Project is rehabilitation of the selected irrigation and drainage facilities, which are in the critical state of disrepair, provision of associated farm production support services, and construction of another key infrastructure, rural water supply, in main cotton production regions of Sugd and Khatlon. In parallel with these, the Project also aims to accelerate the ongoing agriculture reform process by building capacity of the public sector agencies as well as farmer organizations.

Sustainable Cotton Sub-sector Project (ADB) 2006 USD 6.5m grant plus 5.5m loan: The project consists of two components: farm debt resolution and cotton market development. Under farm debt resolution there are three subcomponents: (i) farm-by-farm analysis and debt resolution, (ii) focused policy support for the Independent Commission, and (iii) public outreach and information activities. There are four sub-components of the market development project component: (i) Tajik standard upgrade, (ii) joint venture on cotton grading, (iii) export facilitation methods including facilitation of bonded warehouse establishment for cotton, and (iv) training and cotton upgrading awareness.

Farmer Ownership Model Project IFC Private Enterprise Partnership (IFC PEP) 2001-2005 USD 3.92: This is an innovative pilot attempt by IFC to alleviate the acute poverty of cotton farmers in Tajikistan by enabling them to take control of their own commercial activities. FOM, which is owned by the farmers, uses the IFC Loan and a SECO grant to: (i) purchase and deliver to the farmers a complete input bundle (including seeds, fertilizers, agrochemicals, tools, implements, grain bags, crop storage, equipment rental, picking charges and transport); (ii) arrange for processing the farmers' crop; (iii) sell through its marketing service the farmers' crops directly on the market; and (iv) identify and develop market opportunities and enterprises to assist with improving farmer viability and enterprise diversification. The proposed project brings management skills and financial support to the agricultural sector and demonstrates the economic benefits to be gained by upgrading the quality and quantity of the cotton crop. The technical assistance is managed by Private Enterprise Partnership (PEP), who trains the farmers in proper production, irrigation, fertilization and financial management, in addition to appointing the manager. The project is expected to increase cotton yield and revenues for farmers currently living in abject poverty. It is also expected that the venture will bring an increase of foreign exchange in the country, as over 80% of Tajikistan's cotton is exported.

*Baseline Activities related to Poverty Reduction and rural development relevant to irrigated areas:*

94. Rural Poverty Reduction Project (ADB) Commenced 2001 (completion date not known) USD 2.9m grant: The objective of the project is to increase vulnerable households capacity to satisfy their basic needs through improved sustainable agricultural production and higher income. The

Project has three components: (i) raising agricultural production, (ii) improved income generating opportunities for women, and (iii) capacity building.

95. Communities Programme (UNDP): Since 1996, UNDP Tajikistan has supported the transition of the country from war to peace with a flexible mechanism for UN and donor partners to support essential peace-building interventions. Through area offices in Gharm, Khujand, Kulyab and Shartuz, efforts have concentrated on addressing the immediate needs of rebuilding basic social infrastructure and services, the creation of income and employment opportunities, reintegration of ex-combatants and the promotion of peace and stability. Civil society participation has been encouraged during all stages of implementation through locally established development committees. This approach has made the programme a partner of choice for 14 donors who have contributed a total amount of US\$ 27 million through the *Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Development Programme*.
96. The strategy of the subsequent phase of the programme is to support the efforts of the Government of Tajikistan to enhance partnerships between governments, civil society and the private sector in local development planning and the implementation of local development projects. The CP has a threefold approach: it strengthens the capacity of Jamoat authorities in delivering public services and partnering with civil groups and the private sector; it builds the capacity of civil groups now renamed to Jamoat Resource and Advocacy Centres (JRCs) to advocate on local development issues, public reforms and mobilize civic awareness; and finally it develops local entrepreneurship on the basis of their own Revolving Funds. Within the project area the CP has a regional office in Shartuz and established and functioning JRC's within each of the project proposed Jamoats. Currently support delivered through the JRC's has some minor impacts on SLM issues such repairs to irrigation infrastructure, etc. because these are requested by communities. However, the programme does not systematically and strategically attempt to address SLM issues at this time.
97. Community Agriculture and Watershed Management Project World Bank; Ministry of Agriculture; GEF; 2004-2011; USD 10.8 m: The project objective is to build the productive assets of rural communities in selected mountain watersheds, in ways which sustainably increase productivity and curtail degradation of fragile lands and ecosystems. The project activities will comprise: Component I - Rural Production Investments: (a) Farm Productivity Improvement Activities; (b) Land Resource Management and Productivity Improvements; (c) Improving Rural infrastructure; Component II - Community and Technical Support : (a) Community Mobilization and Preparation of Investment Plans; (b) Technical Infrastructure and Training. This project also makes use of the existing Jamoat level development delivery structures (i.e. JRC's) established by the UNDP CP. However, it differs significantly from the UNDP/GEF MSP in that it is focused on mountainous rain-fed agriculture areas, while the UNDP/GEF MSP focuses on irrigated agriculture in valleys.
98. Access to Food Security in Jilikul District, Khatlon Region (CARE) 2006-2007 EU 740,370: The specific objective of the project is to Improve access to food among poor and marginalized dekhan farm households in Jilikul District by 2007. Relevant activities include: Training on community mobilization, organizational strengthening, leadership, land reform, farmer rights and other development issues based on identified needs; rehabilitate irrigation systems; Provide technical training to dekhan farmers on agriculture and livestock production based on identified needs; distribute agricultural inputs including fertilizers, seeds and livestock to dekhan farmers using a cost recovery mechanism; organize 10 demonstration plots to promote new crop

types/varieties/livestock and improved agricultural production techniques; organize cross-visits for dekhan farmers to share best agricultural practices.

*Baseline activities related to irrigated farmer / community capacity development and support:*

99. Water User Association Support Project (Water and Energy Program USAID)2004-2009 USD1.50 million Winrock International / USAID Tajikistan; This regional program, funded by USAID and largely implemented by Winrock International, provides assistance to farmers to promote Water User Associations. The overall objective of the program is to create and strengthen WUA's so that farmers can operate, manage, and make the investment decisions needed to maintain and improve the on-farm irrigation and drainage systems. The specific objectives of the program are: to establish and develop the capacities of WUA's manage local water delivery systems, using sound business practices and democratic principles; to facilitate an improved legal and regulatory environment for WUA's and their sustainability; promote awareness of WUA's benefits. Within the selected area of the GEF/UNDP project this program has already established two WUA's and potentially will establish more during the UNDP/GEF project initial implementation period.

#### **Baseline activities related to combating land degradation**

100. The National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAPCD), drafted to fulfill Tajikistan's obligations under UNCCD in 2000, was endorsed by GOT in December 2001 (Decision of the Government № 598). NAPCD contains the basic statement of the problem as seen by GOT and the direction of necessary mitigation activities. It contains a full description of the physical processes of degradation based on a good understanding of soil properties and the role of topography. A section is devoted to the consequences of desertification, for the most part cast in agricultural productivity- and soil loss terms. The principal recommendations (simplified somewhat and grouped for convenience) are as follows:
- To create an information system on problems of desertification in Tajikistan.
  - To strengthen the monitoring of the land degradation processes at national, *oblast* and *rayon* levels
  - To strengthen monitoring and rational use of water resources, monitoring of climate, monitoring of the conditions of various categories of soils degradation; and environmental monitoring in general; Creation of databanks and information centers; support for exchange of information on rational use of land resources
  - Setting up of teams specializing in the cartography of desertification and enhancing technical skills needed to analyze the dynamics of land use change
  - Scientific and technical training in subjects relating to land degradation
  - Development of recommendations concerning rational land tenure
  - Rational management of natural resources (soils, fauna and flora, forest resources, water resources, special protected territories, power resources)
  - Improvement of soil erosion and land subsidence control measures through forest rehabilitation, agro-technical steps and hydraulic engineering.
  - Development of methods of social and economic mechanisms to counter desertification and land degradation.
  - Enhance international cooperation in the struggle against desertification
  - Improve legislation and regulations relating to protected areas
101. The formulation of NAPCD in Tajikistan started in 1998 and was completed and officially endorsed by the Government in 2001. Among other things this means that some of the latest developments observed in land use in Tajikistan (a much better understanding of the obstacles to

genuine privatization of suitable farmlands, the mounting cotton debt crisis, and others) are not captured in the document. This, together with the plan's heavy orientation towards technical solutions rather than institutional and socio-economic ones, resulted in it receiving little initial implementation support.

Participatory Integrated Watershed Management in Upland Areas (FAO) 2005:

102. The main objective of this project was to assist the Government of Tajikistan in its efforts to undertake the reversal of degradation of upland resources and deterioration of local peoples' income. The project provides assistance in establishing the prerequisites for the rehabilitation and development of the country's upland resources. These are to be addressed mainly through the promotion and implementation of interventions of integrated watershed management, the enhancement of required technical skills and managerial capacities and the identification of most appropriate institutional and organizational settings. The assistance includes the implementation of short term rehabilitation projects aimed at the sustainable use of the land resources and the increase of agricultural production. In addition to short-term impacts, FAO assistance focuses on interventions which are supportive of medium and long term initiatives aimed at creating conditions conducive to recovery and sustainable development. This project provides some potentially useful experience in regard to techniques to improve tillage, etc. However, it differs from the UNDP/GEF MSP in that, similar to the WB/GEF project mentioned above, it focused entirely on rain fed agriculture areas and did not deal with irrigated areas.

Baseline activities related to energy sector in rural irrigated areas and renewable energy

103. Power Rehabilitation Project Phase 1, 2 (ADB) 1<sup>st</sup> phase 1999-2005 USD 34m, 2<sup>nd</sup> phase under development: The objectives of the Project were to (i) improve people's quality of life and support poverty reduction through increased availability of electricity; and (ii) assist in the post-conflict economic recovery of Tajikistan. This will be achieved by rehabilitating generation, transmission, and distribution facilities developed during the era of the Soviet Union, thus increasing the availability and reliability of energy supply in an environment-friendly manner. The Project (phases 1 and 2) include components addressing rehabilitation and power supply improvement to poor areas in Khatlon Oblast.
104. Promotion of Renewable Energy Use For Development of Rural Communities UNDP/GEF (ADB, others) 2006-2009 USD 5m: The *development objective* of the project is to reduce widespread poverty in Tajikistan by enhancing socio-economic development and increasing household incomes through the promotion of income-generating end-use applications of renewable sources of energy in areas with either only unreliable or no electricity supply at all. The *immediate objectives* of the proposed project are to: Significantly reduce the life-cycle cost of electricity supply in remote rural areas by facilitating investments in the development of local small-scale renewable energy resources, supporting implementation of renewable energy projects, and implementing institutional strengthening and capacity building measures; and Enhance the financial and economic viability of renewable energy based power generation in rural areas by encouraging productive end-use applications of electricity, thereby also improving the sustainability of individual renewable energy projects. This project has no direct activities foreseen in the project area but will help enhance the environment for the development of related activities.

Summary Analysis of Gaps in Baseline Situation

105. As can be seen from only a selection of the most pertinent baseline actions occurring, there is a substantial effort by the government and the donor community to really tackle the problems and

issues thrown up by the initial years of the agricultural and land use reform process. However within this there are two clear areas in which more attention and effort is required.

106. Land degradation: dedicated efforts to address land degradation issues generally have to date been limited and are basically accidental by-products of efforts to reform the system rather than deliberate aims (the exceptions are the WB/GEF and FAO projects, but these do not address land degradation issues in the irrigated areas). However, in the long run, such an approach will fail because to establish a “Sustainable Land management” system requires comprehensively addressing all issues related to maintaining viability of the ecosystem. Just as one example, even if all the direct on farm problems were addressed, without addressing the tree cutting problems land degradation would still occur and the system would still be unsustainable. Thus there is need to better integrate the wider sustainability issues at the outset and take a more holistic approach towards achieving long term irrigated agriculture development.
107. Role and potential of Irrigated Land Users: Within the whole system it is actually the land users themselves who most practically influence whether resource use is sustainable or not. One of the rationales of the reform process is that in a free market system it is those on the ground who are best placed to maximize benefits for themselves and the general economic prosperity of the country, and who have the most incentive to ensure sustainability - the task of the government in this context is to create the conditions in which they, and related private economic entities (such as banks, suppliers, traders) can most effectively pursue the sustainable use of the land and resources.
108. However, for many understandable reasons given the very early stages of reform and the centralized socialist past, the reform process so far has been to a large extent dominated by national legal, policy and institutional actions addressing with the “nuts and bolts” changes necessary to the institutional and land tenure systems, etc. Direct, comprehensive support to rural communities, and particularly the newly created “dekhan farmers” who have been launched into being, without much choice or appropriate capacity, has been patchy and unsystematic. This is a situation not unique just for irrigated areas.
109. International donors and the government have recognized this problem and a number of efforts such as the WB/ GEF Watershed Management project are aimed at addressing this comprehensively in upland non-irrigated sites. Within irrigated areas however, such support to date has tended to focus on specific aspects, such as helping to create collaborative mechanisms needed to manage shared resources (i.e. WUA's), credit facilities or to provide services formerly provided by the state. There has been little concerted effort either to holistically build the capacity or experience of land users to achieve SLM or to practically test what specific approaches and means they could utilize to do this.
110. This means that a key deficit currently exists in terms of having practical replicable examples and appropriate land user level experience of how to effectively address pressing land degradation problems.

#### *Project rationale and objectives*

111. The project will contribute towards the achievement of the following long-term goal:

*“The improvement of the sustainability of arid climate irrigation land management in Tajikistan in order to safeguard the livelihoods and economic well-being of rural populations and the functional integrity of national ecosystems”*

112. The project will, through local on-ground pilot activities, test and demonstrate replicable ways in which rural farmers and communities can address key land degradation and livelihood problems. From these activities will be drawn lessons and best practices which can be directly replicable throughout the irrigated areas of the country, and the central Asian region as a whole. The project objective is stated as follows:

**“to demonstrate the potential to implement replicable Sustainable Land Management initiatives at the local level in Tajikistan and to build the capacity of local structures to do this”**

113. The principal direct global benefit will be the demonstration of viable, community/ farmer driven approaches to achieve more sustainable land and water management of low land irrigated valleys leading to a reduction or prevention of continued land degradation processes.

114. This will directly lead to an improvement in the long term functional integrity of the southern lowland valley arid ecosystems in Tajikistan which can be replicated both in the country and other Central Asian States. Specific global benefits will include:

- Protection of vital watershed areas within trans-boundary river basins
- The improved conservation of biodiversity, particularly globally important and severely endangered “tugai” riverine forests remnants and desert foothills.
- Enhanced carbon sequestration through improved capacities to prevent desertification and sustainably manage forestry and land resources
- Increased institutional capacity to sustainably manage lowland valley irrigated farming systems through practical lessons learned, in-process experience and direct capacity building

115. The principal national benefit will be the provision of a tested and tried mechanism and best practices for achieving economic and financial sustainability of lowland irrigated farming areas, crucial to the livelihoods of a significant proportion of the population and to the national economy. Indirect national benefits include the following:

- Enhanced productivity and production of irrigated areas
- Greater empowerment and self-sufficiency of resource users and stakeholders to participate directly in the conception, monitoring and adaptive management of lands and resources.
- Improved socio-economic status and sustainability of rural communities
- Reduced risks of natural disasters.

*Expected project outcomes, and outputs:*

The project will have two outcomes and seven outputs as follows:

***Outcome 1: Local government and civil society structures have the capacity and awareness to regulate, plan and monitor sustainable management of irrigated land***

**Output 1.1.** Increased awareness at all levels within the project area of land degradation and unsustainable land management issues

116. There already exists a significant level of awareness within the various stakeholders involved (central government agencies, district and sub-district authorities, civil society structures, private sector and farmers themselves) of land degradation problems in irrigated areas because of their economic and social importance and high priority during the Soviet era. However, this awareness is generally restricted to stakeholders' own sphere of activities and there is a limited understanding of the wider impacts or significance of issues on other parties. This is accentuated by the extremely difficult economic situation, instability and confusion resulting from the traumatic post soviet transformation and reform process, all of which produce a tendency for institutions and individuals to focus on short term survival rather than longer term development. In addition there tends to be a focus on the direct problems rather than their root causes which prevents strategically effective and properly integrated effort to address the fundamental problems.
117. Activities under this output will therefore try to address this by: firstly, elaborating the principle land use issues and problems, secondly by surveying how these issues and problems are perceived by the various stakeholders, thirdly by identifying shortfalls and misconceptions of the various parties and therefore priorities for awareness building, and lastly by undertaking a carefully targeted awareness campaign to address these shortfalls. The desired final result will be a reasonably unified understanding of the main issues and root causes, and a unified vision of the long term desired development situation to be aimed for.

**Output 1.2.** Regulatory and operational capacity of Jamoat (local district authorities) and civil groups (JDC's and village committees) to sustainably manage land resources increased

118. The collapse of the Soviet era centralized governance and collectivized agricultural systems has left a management capacity gap – before local populations were largely “instruments” of the state but now they are expected to take over much of the local governance and land use decision making themselves. However, inevitably they lack fully developed structures and experience for taking on these new roles. Thus within this output there will be various activities to build relevant management capacities and clarify individual roles, culminating in collaboratively developed Jamoat level resource use management plans. These plans will include: a broad vision for the long term land use and economic development of the Jamoat; broadly agreed land use designations and rules, including environmental protection areas and uses; and most importantly, the agreed specific roles, responsibilities and obligations of all the various parties involved. In addition, as a basis for implementation and regulation of the land use plan a simple and robust monitoring system will be established.

**Output 1.3.** Establishment and capacity development of Water User Associations to collaboratively plan and manage water and land more effectively

119. As noted above the collapse of the former system and reform process has left management gaps. A classic example of this is the current unclear responsibilities and mechanisms for addressing inter-farm infrastructure maintenance and coordination of water use in many Jamoats. In order to address this gap and to build local level capacity to address shared problems Winrock International (financed by USAID) has been assisting newly formed dekhan farmers to establish Water User Associations, including two within the project area. Within this output it is planned to provide additional support in order to continue this activity in the two additional Jamoats within the project area which have in the recent past, or are at this moment, completing the break up of the former collective farms and are thus in need of such support. In addition to the establish-



ment of 2 new WUA's the project would also provide, on the basis of advice from Winrock International, priority support needed to ensure their secure establishment and sustainability.

120. Such support would include helping WUA members to investigate possible further collaborative efforts to secure cost effective and secure reliable sources for key farm inputs and for cotton processing and sale. In the context of the latter issue the project will look for opportunities to bring together WUA members, international cotton traders and local cotton processing concerns in order to establish more equitable and mutually beneficial terms of business.

***Outcome 2: Appropriate and viable local level initiatives for improving sustainability of land and water management tested and available for replication***

**Output 2.1.** Appropriate approaches and techniques for addressing immediate land degradation problems of land users tested and demonstrated

121. Some of the most immediate causes of land use problems and degradation are related to the decline of basic irrigation infrastructure over the past ten or so years due to civil strife, lack of state funds, and lack of clear new structures and mechanisms for local populations to collaboratively address the problem themselves. However, in addition to the above problems there is also the reality that farming communities lack funds and access to secure and equitable credit for the various reasons detailed in previous sections of this document (debts, etc). Thus, even if the project assists in the creation of appropriate structures to address inter-farm coordination and collaboration, the financial resources to take actions will be limited.
122. In order to address this problem the project will establish a revolving fund, on the basis of the extensive experience and tested methodologies of the UNDP Communities programme and JRC's. This fund would address the shortfall in financial resources necessary to invest in maintenance of infrastructure. In addition, access to secure, low interest credit for purchase of annual farm inputs (seed, fertilizer, fuel, etc) would help break the vicious circle that farmers are trapped in related to debts to the so-called "futures companies" as they would no longer be obliged to purchase such inputs at inflated prices from them but could source them directly from the open market.
123. However, after such a prolonged period with little or no maintenance, many parts of the existing on-farm and inter-farm infrastructure is in need of significant repairs. Though farmers and WUA, with the help of the revolving fund should be capable of covering periodic on-going maintenance, such initial repairs would be in many cases beyond their capacity to feasibly address. Thus, as an initial step, the project will establish a "land degradation" grant programme which will be targeted at mainly overcoming this initial hurdle.

**Output 2.2:** Increased technical and managerial capacity of 'dekhan' farmers to sustainably manage land and water resources

124. The practical knowledge of most dekhan farmers in regard to specifics of irrigated agriculture is extensive. However, the majority of farmers lack the all-round experience of how to manage a farm as a private enterprise with a responsibility for planning, purchasing inputs, sales and marketing, financial management etc. In addition, there are clearly some significant technical shortfalls and bad practices resulting from a lack of adequate training and extension services, and inherited tendencies and approaches from the Soviet era. The project will attempt to address these issues through the establishment of training and extension services in each of the 4 Jamoats selected. In order to do this the project will utilize the FAO Farmer Field Schools

model which has been successfully demonstrated in other Central Asian states and will work collaborative with FAO. A component of this will be the setting up of a number of demonstration activities, in collaboration with interested dekhani farmers, in order to ensure credibility and real practical application of the FFS's training and extension work. A evaluation and lessons learned report towards the conclusion of the project will assess the effectiveness and sustainability of the approach and provide recommendations for its potential replication.

**Output 2.3:** Replicable models for sustainable reduction of wind and water erosion

125. In the project area a number of significant wind and water erosion problems have been highlighted during project development including: wind blown sands and dune formation on or adjacent to irrigated fields, accelerated erosion of river banks and resulting loss of productive land and destruction of infrastructure, erosion of rain fed arable areas on hill slopes and resulting loss of top soils, siltation of irrigation drainage system and occasional significant mud slides. The root causes of this increased erosion are mainly related to deforestation driven by fuel wood needs due to a lack of gas and electricity. This is significantly contributed to by the fact that all trees and shrubs are state property – thus local populations do not feel a responsibility for their wise use and state lacks resources to regulate such use.
126. In order to address these root causes the project will develop pilot initiatives aimed at demonstrating mechanisms for achieving effective community and state joint effort in order to achieve mutually important goals. To address wind blown sands such efforts will focus on the planting of saxaul in problem areas adjacent to irrigated lands. In this situation a mutually agreeable arrangement can be reached between the state and local effected communities in terms of immediate and long term inputs by each party in regard to both planting, initial care and long term protection. In rain fed arable areas the emphasis can be placed more on establishing commercially productive species as well as saxaul. In this context local farmers will take the main responsibility but the state should provide technical advice and quality seedlings. In regard to river bank protection the main emphasis should again be on local populations to designate important areas of remaining tugai forest and areas of particularly high vulnerability as “river bank protection areas” and to work out, together with the state authorities concerned, roles and responsibilities for regulation of use and for ameliorative planting where urgent. The project will assist this process on the basis of lessons learned and best practices from other parts of Central Asia and through support provided under other components of the project (for example Output 1.2. Land use planning, and 2.1. Revolving funds).
127. Some of the water erosion problems both in rain fed areas and sloping irrigated land are due to poor practices and these will be addressed under Output 2.2 ( Increased technical and managerial capacity of ‘dekhani’ farmers to sustainable manage land and water resources)
128. The second part of this component will address the efficiency of use of fuel wood and other biomass used for heating and cooking (i.e. cotton residues and cow dung, etc) and piloting of viable renewable alternatives if they can be identified (biogas, etc). Both should reduce demand for biomass as an energy source and thus reduce excessive tree and shrub cutting. The latter will assess the effectiveness of heating and cooking systems and housing heat conservation and pilot viable means to improve efficiency.
129. Finally on the basis of the pilot activities undertaken, the project will evaluate the effectiveness of the various options tried for reducing wind and water erosion and provide recommendations and guidelines for possible replication.

**Output 2.4** Dissemination of best practices and lessons learned regarding appropriate local level approaches to improving sustainable land management

130. Activities under this output will focus on evaluating and capturing the relevant experiences and lessons learned from all initiatives undertaken by the project with principle focus on the specific community driven initiatives and approaches to improve sustainability of land and water use and reduce erosion. This will be done on the basis of individual evaluations of each kind of initiative and approach (i.e. credit support through revolving fund, Farmer Field schools, energy initiatives, etc) including practical guidelines on how to replicate. An overall evaluation will then be undertaken to identify the synergies and comparative effectiveness of implementing such initiatives individually or in combination.
131. Further activities will then be pursued in order to widely disseminate the results and replication material to all relevant levels of government in Khatlon Oblast, national institution level and within the donor community in order to encourage replication.

**Key indicators, assumptions and risks:**

132. Key Outcome Indicators for the project are as follows:

Under Outcome 1 (local government and civil society structures have the capacity and awareness to regulate, plan and monitor sustainable management of irrigated land).

- Individuals at farmer level, internal Jamoat authority and CBO level and at district level have understanding and consensus on key SLM issues by yr. 2
- Key individuals within Jamoat authorities, JRC's, Dekhan farmer association and WUA's, know how to undertake participatory planning and decision making by yr.2
- 4 Jamoat resource use plans which were consensually agreed and have clear implementation mechanisms by yr.3
- Key basic monitoring data available in the 4 Jamoats by yr. 3
- 2 WUA's in 2 Jamoats present and functioning by yr 3
- 4 WUA's in 4 Jamoats have increased operational capacity by yr.4

Under Outcome 2 (Appropriate and viable local level initiatives for improving sustainability of land and water management tested and available for replication)

- At least 10 key irrigation infrastructure repairs undertaken by yr. 3
- Ongoing farm maintenance of irrigation infrastructure observable, on basis of appropriate credit facilities by yr.3
- Debt of individual farmers reduced through more equitable credit facilities for purchase of farm inputs by yr. 4
- At least 2 dekhan farmer in each Jamoat has taken up one or a number of better farming practices demonstrated by yr.3
- A Farmer Field School present in each Jamoat by yr.4
- At least 1 farming extension person in each of the 4 Jamoat's exists and has sustainable support by yr. 4.
- At least 4 joint community and state forestry/ erosion control initiatives established by yr.4
- At least 4 river bank protection areas established and clear community/ state management and protection roles agreed by yr. 4
- At least 5 demonstrations of how to increase efficiency of biomass for energy (housing insulation, efficient stoves, etc) by yr. 3

- At least 2 demonstrations of appropriate renewable energy options (biogas, etc) for reducing biomass consumption for energy by yr 3.

133. These indicators are designed to both provide a real measure of project impact and be easily verifiable from a number of sources. For the majority, the major sources of verification will be the project quarterly and annual reports, mid and terminal evaluation reports and the evaluation reports of experiences and lessons learned.

#### **Assumptions and Risks:**

134. The main assumptions identified that must hold true if the project is to have the desired outcomes are as follows:

135. Assumptions under Outcome 1:

136. That agreed problem understanding will produce consensus and collaborative action - *Risk*: The main risk in this context is that state institutions, historically responsible for irrigation infra-structural maintenance, will be resistant to openly acknowledging on-ground realities which may be seen as undermining their historical roles. However, this is considered a small risk and significant effort and resources has been allocated in order to mitigate the risk and ensure consensus, as a basis for collaborative/coordinated actions, is achieved.

137. That WUA's can improve land and water management. - *Risk*: WUA's are a recent creation and there is no long term evaluation of how much impact they can really have on land and water management. However, from experience to date in Tajikistan and other countries in the region there is strong evidence that if established effectively they will have impact. This risk is therefore considered low and in order to mitigate it the project takes advantage of the experience and lessons learned by Winrock international / USAID not just in Tajikistan but throughout the CA region.

138. That institutional vested interests will not obstruct practical commitment. - *Risk*: periods of major reform inevitable involve many fundamental changes and uncertainties within institutional structures. This is especially true in a situation where historically these institutional structures were extremely powerful and had direct management roles in all aspects of irrigated land and water use and forestry. To move from being the main player to providing a regulatory and facilitation role is a difficult process for such institutions. However, 10 years after the collapse of the FSU some basic realities about the future are clear to everybody, including those within such institutions, and an understanding that the old centralized command system has gone forever is clear. What is not clear in many cases to these institutions is their future role. Thus the project will mitigate this risk but targeting resources to build awareness and clarity within all parties (state institutions, local government and farmers) of their various roles within the context of the ongoing land use reforms. It is considered that through such mitigating actions the risk of this assumption not holding true are small.

139. Assumptions under Outcome 2

140. That improved credit access will reduce debts – *Risk*: it is possible that, even with more equitable credit facilities, farmers will not be able to generate sufficient revenues from irrigation farming in order to service the required payments. This Risk is considered low on the basis of past experience from the UNDP Communities Programme. However, a major problem for farmers (described in previous sections of the document) is that they have inherited debts from former

Kolhoz and as a result a trapped in inequitable relationships with creditors in regard to purchase of farm inputs and processing / sale of outputs. This situation is currently the major focus of international donor and government efforts and thus is highly likely to be systematically addressed in the short term future and thus as a risk should substantially reduce. Furthermore, the project will attempt to mitigate this risk by supporting farmers to located alternative sources of farm inputs and farm output processing and sale (as well as increase productivity through infrastructure maintenance / better practices) – this will increase profitability and make it more viable for farmers to escape the debt trap.

141. That energy efficiency and renewable demonstrations will be technically and economically viable – There is always a risk when attempting to demonstrate new approaches and technologies that in practice they will not be viable, for either technical or economic reasons. The only way to judge this risk is to access the existing experience from other sites within Tajikistan or the region. In terms of energy efficiency (specifically housing insulation) there is positive experience and lessons learned from activities previously undertaken by the Swiss financed Central Asian Mountains Programme in this regard. In terms of renewable alternatives there have been numerous successful initiatives in other countries, particularly Kazakhstan, related to biogas production. This is considered viable within the project area because it would directly meet a specific need, the technology is relatively straightforward and locally manageable without outside material inputs, and there is sufficient stall livestock to provide input material. Furthermore, the by product of biogas production, high quality natural fertilizer, will be a valuable product in itself to farming communities suffering a shortage of fertilizer. It is considered therefore that, on the basis of the above, the technology will be transferable and economically viable and that the risk this assumption does not hold true is small.
142. That dissemination of lessons learned will result in replication. *Risk:* Whether lessons learned and best practices are replicated is highly dependant on how they are disseminated. Farmers by instinct have to be conservative in their adoption of new practices and they are often only convinced by solid field evidence. For that reason the project focuses strongly on providing exactly that kind of evidence. Furthermore the project is an integral part of the GEF CACILM project and will ensure dissemination and replication of the best practices and lessons learned at a national and regional level through multi country framework project of CACILM.
143. That the demonstration of economically and socially viable improved practices can be practical within the period of project – *Risk:* a problem noted in many international donor projects is that they contain unrealistic expectations in regard to the time necessary to adequately demonstrate natural resource use demonstration activities in a meaningful way. This project attempts to mitigate this risk by planning demonstration activities over not less than 3 seasons. Furthermore, during project implementation project technical staff will be expected to place emphasis on selecting demonstration activities viable within the time constraints of the project.
144. That adequate joint forestry initiatives will occur – *Risk:* to meet this assumption there has to be a fundamental shift in approaches for both the local communities and forestry agencies i.e. forestry agencies have to see the opportunities of joint efforts and local communities have to believe that such joint effort is of direct benefit to them and be committed. Achieving such change inevitably contains some risk – however, where such efforts have been tried in other areas of CA they have shown that, if well designed, they can work surprisingly well. The project will therefore utilize the lessons learned (particularly from other UNDP/GEF biodiversity projects in the region) to ensure that the most effective approaches to achieving joint forestry initiatives are utilized and that this risk is minimized.

## Incremental Cost Analysis

145. Baseline Activities and Costing: The baseline activities described previously will contribute to the project objectives by:
- Providing an appropriate legal, policy and institutional environment for undertaking and replicating project activities on the basis of project experience and lessons learned. Investment by the government and donor community directly related to related land and agricultural reforms, relevant energy provision, and relevant community development during project implementation are estimated to total over USD 100 million in the next 4 years (see baseline description).
  - Providing a basis for country wide (and potentially regional) dissemination and replication of project experiences and lessons learned through government structures and through mechanisms developed within the framework of the Central Asian Initiative for Land Management.
  - Providing existing institutions, infrastructure (buildings), equipment and personnel at national, oblast, rayon and local level. It is estimated that at national level this is equivalent to at least USD 265,000 over the four years of the project consisting of national stakeholder inputs of approximately USD 125,000 (personnel time of MA, MWMLR, SCEPF, SCLM), at Khatlon Oblast level it is estimated that this is equivalent of USD 40,000 over 4 years (personnel time), at district level USD 60,000 (personnel time and infrastructure maintenance), and Jamoat level USD 40,000 (personnel time, buildings). This is considered as in-kind non-GEF co-financing for the project. In addition the GoT provided USD 2,000 in-kind co-financing for the PDFA – thus total GoT co-financing is estimated as USD 267,000.
  - Providing existing working mechanisms and tried and tested approaches plus existing on-ground facilities and logistical capacities to effectively implement appropriate locally driven SLM initiatives. It is estimate that this consists of about USD 420,000 from the UNDP Communities programme of which USD 186,000 is non-GEF co-financing, and USD 200,000 from Winrock International / USAID of which about USD 40,000 is in-kind non-GEF co-financing.
  - Providing existing Jamoat level CBO's with experience and capacity to implement credit facilities for members and other community based activities including experience with insuring not less than 20% cost sharing of members in local development initiatives. A total of approximately USD 154,000 is estimated as non-GEF co-financing during the 4 years of the project (20% co-financing of JRC managed initiatives by members, plus personnel time, and office / meeting support).
  - Providing existing in-country experience and appropriate equipment for undertaking demonstrations of better husbandry practices through existing FAO activities, of which USD 50,000 is considered non-GEF in-kind co-financing.
  - Providing within Jilikul rayon (one of the project districts) community organizational and technical capacity support to improve food security in the long term (CARE) totaling approximately Euro 740,000 of which USD 152,000 is considered parallel co-financing for the Project.
146. GEF Alternative: The GEF Alternative will complement the baseline by addressing gaps related to the development of SLM at a local level in irrigated agricultural areas. The GEF builds on an

estimated baseline of about USD 101.8 million. The total value of the GEF Alternative scenario is USD 103,853,000 (USD 101.8 m. baseline plus USD 2,053,000 of GEF and co-financing). Total co-financing (in-kind, cash and parallel) equals USD 1,053,000 of which USD 267,000 is considered co-financing from GoT, USD 186,000 is in-kind co-financing from the UNDP CP, USD 40,000 is in-kind co-financing from Winrock/USAID, USD 154,000 is in-kind co-financing from the JRC's, USD 50,000 is in-kind co-financing from FAO, USD 152,000 is parallel co-financing from CARE and USD 204,000 is cash from UNDP. This will be complemented by cash funds from GEF and UNDP. The UNDP co-financing of USD 204,000 will be targeted to related community and rural socio-economic aspects of the project, which though key supporting activities, are nonetheless of more national interest than global. The GEF increment equals USD 1,000,000 and will focus mainly on the development of local level initiatives that demonstrate replicable approaches to address land degradation and achieve more sustainable land management, and the dissemination and replication of the experience and lessons learned throughout Tajikistan and Central Asia region.

147. The global benefits that GEF will generate from this increment will be:

- Degradation of productive arable land reduced or possibly reversed thus preserving the functional integrity of economically critical lowland ecosystems in Tajikistan
- Protection of the watershed areas of important trans-boundary rivers
- Prevention of aridization of microclimate and maintained or improved carbon sequestration
- Preservation of habitat for globally important biodiversity

### 3. Sustainability (including financial sustainability)

148. During project formulation emphasis was placed on ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project. Key design features incorporated to ensure this were:

- Utilization and/or enhancement of existing institutional resources wherever possible rather than the creation of new ones.
- Building on existing appropriate experience and approaches / mechanisms: the project takes full advantage of a number of existing positive experiences and approaches used by the CP, Winrock International / USAID, FAO, CARE and others in order to minimize risk and maximize sustainability.
- Support to the implementation of pilot management and resource use activities during the project to ensure practical lessons are learned and appropriate adjustments in approaches and actions can be made.
- Incorporation of practical implementation lessons and positive experiences of related projects, past and present, both in Tajikistan and neighboring republics.
- Building of support and commitment in the long term for project activities and aims by improving awareness and understanding of all (from decision makers to local farmers) and providing basis for better education of future generations.

149. Financial Sustainability: This project is primarily intended to demonstrate and pilot community level initiatives which contribute towards SLM in lowland irrigated areas. In all of these initiatives the major emphasis is on full community / land user involvement and for initiatives to di-

rectly meet the needs of the people involved. This project is not aimed primarily at state institutions and does not seek to increase their financial sustainability except by demonstrating ways in which some of the financial burdens previously carried by the state in the former system, can now be realistically devolved to land users (maintenance of infrastructure, environmental protective measures such as tree planting, technical extension and improvement. There are direct incentives for communities and land users to take up this burden as their livelihoods depend upon it – their incentive and need is clear from the existing demands of land users to CP and other development assistance programmes. Evidence of communities and land users commitment is demonstrated by the fact they are ready to contribute substantial inputs themselves and that appropriately organized and equitable credit schemes have almost 100% repayment histories. The project builds upon this direct need and incentive of communities and land users and through the establishment of appropriate credit systems and collaboration (WUA's, etc) will ensure the capacity and mechanisms to sustainably undertake SLM activities.

#### **4. Replicability**

150. This project is a demonstration project and thus its *raison d'être* is replication. To achieve this efforts have been made:
  - a. To choose a representative location and situation
  - b. To pursue key outputs which will generate experience and lessons directly relevant and applicable to a significant, if not majority, of irrigated land use areas in Tajikistan and the region as a whole.
151. In addition to this the project has a specific output related to the evaluation of lessons learned and best practices and the dissemination of these at all levels of the Tajik government and donor community. In order to most practically facilitate replication, concrete manuals on how to implement those project initiatives which were successful will be developed as part of the dissemination package.
152. In regard to the donor community it should be noted that this project will be implemented under the umbrella of the GEF/ADB CACILM which should ensure that outputs from the project are taken and made use of not only within Tajikistan but the Central Asia region as a whole. Thus the project M&E process will directly feed into that of the CACILM and provide a basis for accurate evaluation of progress towards the overall objectives of the multi-country initiative. Concretely, common indicators used within the project and CACILM will be elaborated at the inception of CACILM multi country framework project.
153. Experiences and lessons learned during the project implementation will be widely disseminated through the planned CACILM multi country framework project.

#### **5. Stakeholder Involvement**

154. All major institutional stakeholders were fully consulted during the PDFFA project development process including: the State Committee for Land Management, State Committee for Environment Protection and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry for Water Resources and Land Reclamation; Oblast, district and local authorities; CCD Focal; civil society bodies such as the JRC's and general public; major relevant donor community players such as USAID/Winrock, ADB, WB, FAO and others. Please see the Annex for a list of the main stakeholders consulted.



155. A wide stakeholder consultation exercise was undertaken in the Project site aimed at gathering and discussing ideas and proposals for inclusion in the project. Of major importance in this regard was a seminar held in Shartuz to discuss practical issues and ideas for addressing the main issues identified. As broad a range as possible of regional and local stakeholders were involved in the process - at a Jamoat level this included the relevant Jamoat and JRC staff. A detailed Socio-economic Assessment was undertaken by local consultants recruited by the project and additional valuable information gathered by the NGO "Foundation of Civil Initiatives". The assessment was targeted towards understanding the needs and interests of the local population in respect to land use and degradation issues. The assessment also actively sought feedback from the local population on their recommendations / points of view regarding improving the situation and ideas raised by the project / national experts.
156. During the final stages of the PDFA (i.e. the project proposal design and formulation) a Logical Framework workshop was held in Dushanbe and attended by 14 of those most actively involved and concerned with the project. Following this workshop a seminar attended by a wider group of national and local stakeholders was organized to present the initial project design and receive feedback (attended by 21 people from over 10 stakeholder organizations, local and national, government and non-government and international community). The final stage in stakeholder consultation was the dissemination of the draft proposal and inclusion of comments and feedback received.
157. Within the project itself a deliberate strategic approach to be integrated into all major steps is full stakeholder involvement and participation wherever possible. Furthermore, through the development and capacity strengthening of the JRC's and Water User Associations the ability of these stakeholders to play a decisive role in the management of resources they ultimately depend on will be empowered.
158. Finally, via both local and national public awareness and dissemination efforts all relevant stakeholders will become better aware not just of the issues and best practices for addressing them but also their potential role and opportunity to contribute to this.

## 6. Monitoring and Evaluation

159. Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established UNDP and GEF procedures and will be provided by the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) with support from UNDP/GEF. The Logical Framework Matrix in Annex 2 provides *performance* and *impact* indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding *means of verification*. These will form the basis on which the project's Monitoring and Evaluation system will be built (see Annex 6).
160. The UNDP-CO will conduct monitoring field visits at least twice per year. The Project will prepare and submit quarterly narrative reports to the national Project Coordinator and UNDP. Short reports on update of the project's progress will be shared with GEF Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) on quarterly basis. The project will be required to produce an Annual Project Report/Project Implementation Report (APR/PIR). The report is designed to obtain the independent views of the main stakeholders of a project on its relevance, performance and the likelihood of its success. The APR/PIR then supports an annual Tripartite Review (TPR) meeting. Decisions and recommendations of the TPR will be incorporated into future project implementation and planning. Partner organizations will be actively involved in on-going monitoring and evaluation of the project.

161. Evaluation: Two independent evaluations will be conducted of the project – one mid-term and one final evaluation. These independent evaluations of project performance will match project progress against predetermined success indicators. Each evaluation of the project will document lessons learned, identify challenges, and provide recommendations to improve performance. The logical framework for this project sets out a range of impact/implementation indicators that will be used to gauge impact.
162. Financial Audit and budget revisions: This project will be subject to regular financial audits as required according to UNDP/GEF rules. In addition, all mandatory budget revisions will be submitted to GEF RCU for comments and approval.

<b>Project Implementation Arrangements</b>
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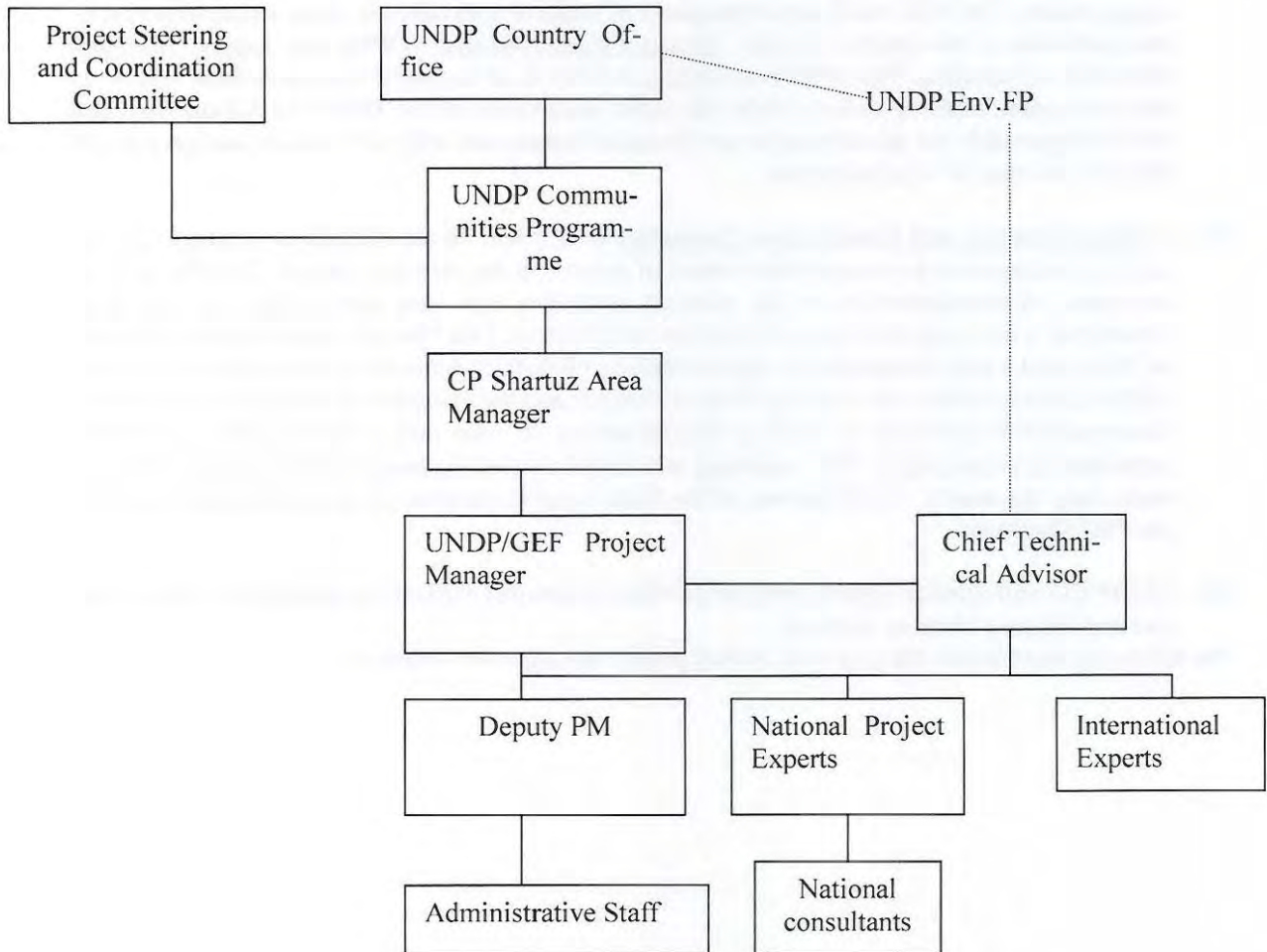
163. In recognition of the special development situation of Tajikistan and the limited capacity of local authorities to execute the project, it was agreed that the project will be directly executed in accordance with DEX guidelines under the umbrella of UNDP's Communities Programme (CP) in close collaboration with the Government. This arrangement will ensure effective project delivery, with the overall responsibility for the management of the project resting with the CP. For this purpose the CP will adapt its structures as required and establish effective, efficient and transparent project administration procedures and operation systems. A project financial management system will be established to ensure accountability, and annual audits will be performed.
164. The project will work through the existing structure of the CP Shartuz Area Office. The Area Manager in Shartuz Area Office of the CP will coordinate and supervise the project work in the field. The National Project Director and the Programme Manager of the CP will have overall oversight and responsibility for ensuring the effective implementation of the proposed project.
165. Several local organizations will be involved in the delivery of the project, including Jamoat authorities, Jamoat Resource and Advocacy Centers (JRCs), District Development Committees, District level depts. of State Committee's for Land Management and for Environmental Protection and Forestry, *Vodhoz* and *Lezhoz*, District and Jamoat Dekhan Farmers Association structures, and Water User associations. International partners at the local level will include FAO and Winrock International
166. A national Project Manager (PM) will be recruited to manage actual implementation of the project. The PM will be based at the Shartuz Area Office of the CP, with frequent travels to the Districts and Jamoat's selected for this project. The PM will directly report to the CP Programme Shartuz office Area Manager and will act under overall guidance from UNDP's Focal Point on Energy and Environment. The PM will be responsible for overall project coordination and implementation, consolidation of work plans and project papers, preparation of quarterly progress reports, reporting to the project supervisory bodies, and supervising the work of the project experts and other project staff. The PM will also closely coordinate project activities with relevant Government institutions and hold regular consultations with other project stakeholders, including FAO and Winrock International..
167. For the support of the PM a part-time Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) will be recruited. The main task of the CTA will be to provide expert advisory services and technical assistance to the PM and the other project experts. At the outset of the project the CTA's input will be on a semi-permanent basis but it will be gradually reduced in the subsequent stages, as internal project ca-

capacity grows. In addition to the CTA, an international expert on the FAO Field Farming school approach, and an international expert on Joint Forestry Management will be utilized on short term basis. The permanent core technical staff of the project will be two National Project Experts (NPE), one focusing on irrigated Agriculture SLM issues and the other on forestry and energy issues. The NPE's will supervise teams of national specialists in order to implement specific activities of the project. Finally, Deputy Project Manager (DPM) and Admin. Assistant (AA) will be recruited. The DPM will support the PM in all technical and operational issues related to project implementation. Under the direct supervision of the DPM, the Admin Assistant will be responsible for administrative and financial issues, and will work within and get support from the existing CP administration.

168. A Project Steering and Coordination Committee (PSC) will be established for strategic project activity management to ensure achievement of results on the primary outputs. The PSC will be composed of representatives of the relevant ministries and state committees (i.e. the State Committee's for Land and Nature Protection and Forestry, The Ministry of agriculture, Ministry of Water and Land Reclamation), representatives of district Authorities, representatives of the UNDP Country Office, the National Project Director and the Programme Manager of the UNDP Communities Programme, as well as representatives of other donor organizations and NGOs participating in the project. PSC meetings will be held based on project needs, but not less than once every six month. The Chairman of the State Land Committee or his representative will be the PSC Chairman.

169. UNDP CO will provide specific support services for project realization through the Administrative and Finance Units as required.

The following chart shows the proposed overall project management structure.



**D – Financing**

**1) Financing Plan**

**TOTAL BUDGET OF MSP PER ILLUSTRATIVE OUTPUT (IN US\$)**

**Award ID:** 00044116

**Award Title:** PIMS 3366 LD MSP SLM in Tajikistan

**Project ID:** 00051718

**Project Title:** PIMS 3366 LD MSP SLM in Tajikistan

**Executing Agency:** UNDP

Outputs	GEF	UNDP		GoT	JRC's	Win-rock	FAO	CARE	Total
		TRAC	CP+						
<b>Outcome 1: Local government and civil society structures have the capacity and awareness to regulate, plan and monitor sustainable management of irrigated land.</b>									
<b>Output 1.1: Increased awareness at all levels within the project area of land degradation and unsustainable land management issues</b>	55,000		10,000	20,000	5,000			20,000	110,000
<b>Output 1.2: Regulatory and operational capacity of Jamoat (local district authorities) and civil groups (JDC's and village committees) to sustainably manage land resources increased</b>	60,000		10,000	35,000	6,000			30,000	141,000
Monitoring system	20,000		4,000	10,000	2,000				36,000
Land use plan	40,000		6,000	25,000	4,000			30,000	105,000
<b>Output 1.3: Establishment and capacity development of Water User Associations to collaboratively plan and manage water and land more effectively</b>	140,000		15,000	5,000	8,000	40,000*			208,000



PDFFA		25,000	4,000							31,000
<b>Total Project Costs</b>		<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>204,000</b>	<b>186,000</b>	<b>267,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>154,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>2,053,000</b>

\* Winrock – In-kind contribution advisory services for establishing WUA's

\*\* FAO – In-kind contribution through provision of advisory services and in country equipment

+ CP – In-kind contribution through office facilities, logistics and advisory services. Parallel cash co-financing through 20% of CP revolving fund resources being utilized for sustainable land use initiatives.

- JRC members will provide in-kind contribution to grants and SLM revolving fund equivalent to not less than 20%.

## 2) Cost Effectiveness

170. The project design aims to achieve the desired project objectives in the most cost effective manner. Thus, in selecting project sites, the following two factors have also been taken into account. Firstly, sites have been chosen so that they are representative of the irrigated land use areas of Tajikistan and of the typical land degradation issues faced in such areas. The project therefore has the potential to have a significant impact and resonance within the country, and potentially the region where similar problems are also priorities. Secondly, project sites are benefiting from UNDP's existing Communities program that provides a ready made and tested mechanism for cost effective delivery. In addition, through close linkage with other international donor efforts such as the CACILM project, etc, the project ensures that costs are only incurred for those additional actions required to achieve global and national environmental benefits.

## 3) Co-financing

Name of Co-financier (source)	Classification	Type	Amount (US\$)	Status*
UNDP	Implementing Agency	Cash in grant	204,000	Confirmed
		CP In-kind	186,000	Confirmed
GoT	Government	In-kind	267,000	Confirmed
JRC's (x4)	CBO's	In-kind	154,000	
FAO		In-kind	50,000	Confirmed
Winrock Int./USAID	NGO/Bilateral	In-kind	40,000	Confirmed
CARE	NGO	In-kind	152,000	Confirmed
Sub-Total Co-financing			<b>1,053,000</b>	

## **E - Institutional Coordination and Support**

### 1) CORE COMMITMENTS AND LINKAGES

171. UNDP has been the major partner for the government in terms of developing and implementing GEF projects and undertaking other environmental initiatives. This includes assistance with the preparation of initial reports and strategies and action plans for Climate Change and biodiversity, and the development of a GEF Biodiversity conservation project. Through the National capacity self assessment project it has been assisting the government to identify key constraints for the implementation of the CBD, UNFCCC, and CCD and synergistic ways to overcome these constraints. UNDP is also implementing with government partners a GEF project to promote renewable energy use by rural communities. A number of GEF financed projects utilize the potential of the Communities programme (previously described in this document) in order to deliver cost effective support to the grass roots level using tried and tested mechanisms. These include the above mentioned renewable energy project implemented by UNDP, but also the WB/GEF FSP on Watershed Management.

172. In addition to GEF initiatives UNDP is also actively supporting projects to address sustainable rural livelihoods. The leading example is the Communities programme, which outside of GEF projects context, provides relevant grassroots support on a demand driven basis.



#### Other Relevant GEF Activities

173. *ADB- Central Asia Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM)* - CACILM is a multi-country and donor partnership to support the development and implementation of national level programmatic frameworks for more comprehensive and integrated approaches to sustainable land management in the region. In May 2004 the GEF Secretariat approved the inclusion of CACILM into the pipeline for funding consideration. Subsequently, an application for co-financing from GEF of the design phase of CACILM, in the form of the PFD-B document was submitted, approved and implemented. The final project proposal was approved by the GEF Council in August 2006.
174. National programmatic frameworks were elaborated as a result of a national consultation undertaken through the specially formed national working groups and a donor partnership (SPA) with overall supervision and guidance by the CACILM Task Force. Through the NPFs, CACILM will support the implementation of a 10-year program of country-driven activities and resource mobilization (2005–2014)<sup>3</sup> to (i) strengthen policy, legislative, and institutional frameworks to create conditions conducive for sustainable land management; (ii) increase the capacity of key institutions responsible for planning and implementing land management interventions, and of local communities directly affected by land degradation; and (iii) improve land management and natural systems through the combined impact of appropriate enabling conditions and targeted project investments. Thus, CACILM will encourage the adoption of a comprehensive and integrated approach to sustainable land management, build synergies between the environment and other sectors of the economy, and consolidate and coordinate external financing while reducing transaction costs through the streamlining of partners' project cycle procedures".
175. *World Bank* – The WB has initiated a large number of agricultural and natural resource use projects among which the most significant, for this project, is the GEF Watershed Management project the objective of which is to “to build the productive assets of rural communities in selected mountain watersheds, in ways which sustainably increase productivity and curtail degradation of fragile lands and ecosystems”. UNDP, through the CP is already involved and communicating with this project and thus existing pathways for building linkages exist.
- 2) CONSULTATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN AND AMONG IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES, EXECUTING AGENCIES, AND THE GEF SECRETARIAT, IF APPROPRIATE.
177. Overall coordination will be achieved through the establishment of a project Steering Committee which will include members of all the major stakeholders (see Implementation Plan section).
178. In the preparation of this project stringent efforts have been made to communicate and coordinate with the ADB CACILM initiative and to ensure that this project is properly dovetailed within that. The lead role of the GEF CCD focal point and the Centre for Combating Desertification in both projects should ensure that both projects coordinate effectively and are mutually supportive. UNDP will however, work with the ADB mission in Dushanbe and the CCD Focal point to establish more effective mechanisms for ensuring this during the project.
179. Within the CACILM GEF proposal the National Programme Framework for Tajikistan, organizational and financial structure have been elaborated. In brief it is proposed to have a SLM Umbrella Programme with investment and pilot projects, some financed and managed by the CACILM others

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<sup>3</sup> While the resource mobilization period is 10 years the implementation of various investments in the enabling environment and on the ground development will be over 15 years.

financed and managed by other partners such as GTZ, UNDP/GEF, etc., which will be managed / coordinated by a CACILM Project Secretariat. Over this will be a CACILM Project Steering Committee. In addition, there will be two supportive structures i.e. a Technical Screening and Review committee and a Multi-country/donor Task Force.

180. This project will be one of the pilot projects within the CACILM umbrella programme and will through the secretariat report and coordinate with other related initiatives. Furthermore, experience and lessons learned will be directly taken up by the secretariat and, after screening of the Technical Committee and with the approval and oversight of the CACILM Steering Committee, opportunities to replicate them on a wider scale, either with CACILM resources or funds from other sources, should be possible. In this context the CACILM multi-country/donor Task Force will be invaluable.
181. UNDP will actively liaise with other international development partners in Tajikistan, such as the WB Watershed Management Project and Winrock International etc., to ensure cross-fertilization and coordination of efforts.

## LIST OF ANNEXES

- Annex 1: Problem and Root Cause Analysis
- Annex 2: Log-frame Matrix
- Annex 3: Maps of Project Area
- Annex 4: GEF Focal Point Endorsement Letter
- Annex 5: Work Schedule
- Annex 6: Indicative Monitoring and Evaluation Work plan and corresponding Budget
- Annex 7: Letters of co-financier commitments
- Annex 8: List of Main Stakeholders consulted
- Annex 9: References

*Annex 1: Problem Analysis and Proposed Solutions Table*

**Project title:** Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan  
**Problem statement:** Lands in irrigated arid valleys of south-west Tajikistan are facing degradation trends that are compromising ecosystem integrity, health and functions. The resulting impact is salinization and siltation of trans-boundary waters, changes in microclimate (increasing aridity), reduced carbon sequestration, and loss of habitat for globally important biodiversity. Land degradation is also leading to a decline in productivity of these lands.

<b>Threat and LD impact</b>	<b>Root/ underlying Causes</b>	<b>Barriers</b>	<b>Proposed Solutions</b>
Threat 1: Water logging and Land salinization	Irrigation infrastructure is not being properly maintained (neither by the state nor by farmers) and this leads to water logging of farms	Barriers to addressing water logging and salinization:	
		<p>1. Irrigation support services from the state (Vodhoz and Leshoz) are not sufficient because of limited funding and unclear roles and responsibilities during reform process from centralized system to free market system</p> <p>2. Difficulty for both state and farmers to undertake initial major repairs necessary to parts of irrigation infrastructure resulting from period of socio-economic and political disruption during the civil war</p>	<p><i>Baseline:</i> Substantial baseline activities by the donor community and the government is aimed at completing the reform process and clarifying the state role in support of irrigated farming (see baseline)</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i> substantial baseline activities by donor community (particularly development banks) and governments to invest in reestablishing the economic productivity of irrigated areas</p> <p><i>Project:</i> demonstrate capacity of local farmers to be an efficient and cost effective instrument for addressing this issue through Jamoat level grant programme – Output 2.1</p>
		3. Farmers do not have resources to invest in maintenance of irrigation systems due to inherited debts from former (state) system and unregulated / inequitable credit and trading conditions	<p><i>Baseline:</i> Substantial government and donor activities to resolve the debt legacy and create more equitable credit and farm trading conditions (i.e. to break the so-called “futures” companies monopoly on farm credit,</p>

Threat and LD impact	Root/ underlying Causes	Barriers	Proposed Solutions
			<p>inputs, processing and marketing).</p> <p><i>Project:</i> demonstrate approaches for provision of equitable and targeted credit facilities through existing mechanism at Jamaot level (JRC's revolving funds) – Output 2.1</p> <p>Support to farmers in identification and negotiation for alternative and more equitable sources of farm inputs, processing and sales – Output 2.1</p>
		<p>4. Limited incentives for farmers to invest in ongoing maintenance of irrigated infrastructure due to insecure tenure, unclear legal rights</p>	<p><i>Baseline:</i> Improvement of land tenure issues covered at a national level under substantial donor and government baseline activities (see baseline)</p> <p><i>Project:</i> activities to raise awareness of all local stakeholders, particularly farmers, of their legal rights and obligations in the new legal and institutional land use environment – Outputs 1.1, 1.3, 2.2</p>
		<p>5. Limited regulatory and operational capacity of local authorities and CBO's to absorb the new resource management responsibilities and opportunities resulting from the reform process due to its early stages and absence of targeted support in this regard.</p>	<p><i>Baseline:</i> Donor and government efforts to address this gap in reforms is being undertaken</p> <p><i>Project:</i> Build consensus and awareness within all local stakeholder groups regarding main development issues faced and how to address them in the new socio-economic and political conditions Output 1.1</p>

Threat and LD impact	Root/ underlying Causes	Barriers	Proposed Solutions
			Development of local government and CBO capacity to collaboratively plan, and operationally manage local land and water resources effectively and equitably – Output 1.2
		6. ABSENCE COLLABORATIVE MECHANISMS FOR PLANNING AND COORDINATION LAND AND WATER USE DUE TO EARLY STAGE OF REFORM PROCESS FROM CENTRALIZED LAND MANAGEMENT TO FARMERS LAND MANAGEMENT	<p><i>Baseline:</i> Donor and government efforts to address this gap in reforms is being undertaken</p> <p><i>Project:</i> Demonstrate effective farmer level mechanisms and approaches for establishing collaborative actions to manage and maintain shared infrastructure and issues— Output 1.3</p>
		7. Inherited practices and limited technical knowledge lead to over application of water and thus water logging (and thence salinization)	<p><i>Project:</i> Demonstration of effective local level approaches for building technical capacity of farmers through training, demonstration and establishment of long term extension services –Output 2.2</p>
Threat 2: Wind and water erosion (leading to wind blown sand, soil loss, infrastructure damage and siltation)	Excessive cutting of trees and shrubs land adjacent to irrigated areas by local people to meet fuel needs exposes land to wind and water erosion.	<p>Barriers to reducing cutting of trees/shrubs and increased fuel wood/protection forestation:</p> <p>1. State energy supply does not meet local energy demand and the only way to fill the energy gap is by cutting trees/shrubs</p>	<p><i>Baseline:</i> government and donor efforts to restore power infrastructure damaged during civil war</p>

Threat and LD impact	Root/ underlying Causes	Barriers	Proposed Solutions
		<p>2. Current reduced capacity of state agency to meet historical mandates due to national budget limitations in <i>post</i> civil war period and rapidly changing role of state institutions within the ongoing reform process (i.e. from direct implementers under the former Soviet system to a more regulatory and supportive role)</p> <p>3. Absence of historical involvement of land users and local communities in forest protection and planting (see above) and land use planning generally</p>	<p><i>Project:</i> development of mechanisms for collaborative efforts by local state and land users to undertake planting and protection of key areas (land users and community provide labour and protection, state provides technical support) – Outputs 1.3 and 2.3</p>
		<p>4. Limited awareness of the importance of trees and shrubs to prevent wind and water erosion (wind blown sand and soil loss / siltation problems)</p>	<p><i>Project:</i> awareness raising – Outputs 1.1, 2,3</p>
		<p>5. Historical lack of energy conservation concern during Soviet period and thus low awareness of the issue and limited local knowledge how to improve efficiency of their fuel use</p>	<p><i>Project:</i> Awareness raising on issues of energy efficiency and demonstration of approaches to improving efficiency of energy use (heat conservation in housing, more efficient cooking technology and practices) – Output 2.4</p>
		<p>6. Local people do not have knowledge about or access to practical examples of viable renewable energy alternatives such as biogas</p>	<p><i>Project:</i> Review viability of renewable alternatives, build awareness and undertake demonstrations of viable alternatives – Output 2.4</p>
	<p>Poor agricultural practices lead to wind and water erosion from fields</p>	<p><u>Barriers to improving poor agricultural practices which cause erosion</u></p> <p>1. Local farmers have some deeply ingrained poor practices from soviet era and limited technical knowledge of how to avoid wind and water erosion off fields</p>	<p><i>Project:</i> Demonstration of effective local level approaches for building technical capacity of farmers through training, demonstration and establishment of long term extension services – Output 2.2</p>

Threat and LD impact	Root/ underlying Causes	Barriers	Proposed Solutions



Annex 2: Logical Framework Matrix

Project Strategy	Objectively Verifiable Indicators		MoV	Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline		
<p><b>Long term Goal:</b> The improvement of the sustainability of arid climate irrigation land management in Tajikistan in order to safeguard the livelihoods and economic well-being of rural populations and to restore ecosystem integrity, services and functions.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> to demonstrate the potential to implement replicable Sustainable Land Management initiatives at the local level in Tajikistan and to build the capacity of local structures to do this”</p>	<p>Limited stakeholder consensus of priorities and capacity / experience of working together</p> <p>No approaches demonstrated</p> <p>No awareness and examples of appropriate local level SLM approaches</p>	<p>Consensus on priorities and capacity/experience to collaborate meaningfully</p> <p>New approaches demonstrated on not less than 6,400 ha.</p> <p>Communities of 4 target Jamoats covering over 16,000 ha. irrigated land, plus other communities at district and national level, have examples of appropriate local level SLM approaches</p>	<p>Project Monitoring and evaluation Final independent evaluation</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation systems established under CACILM</p> <p>Project records Final independent project evaluation</p>	<p>That project area provides a representative location and activities are replicable in other irrigated areas of Tajikistan/region</p> <p>That baseline activities by other parties regarding national legal, policy enabling environment will take place as planned</p>
	<p>By the end of the project, authorities, CBO's and farmers in 4 Jamoats in 4 districts will have the knowledge and improved capacity to collaboratively plan, implement and monitor sustainable resource management.</p> <p>Appropriate and sustainable local level approaches to addressing and reversing land degradation will have been demonstrated and tested by year 4</p> <p>By the end of the project stakeholders at local, district, region and national level will be aware of, and have the information required to replicate, appropriate local level SLM initiatives.</p>	<p>Local stakeholders have different perceptions of priority problems</p> <p>No historical experience or mechanisms for collaboration</p>	<p>Consensus and collective commitment on key SLM issues by yr.2</p> <p>Participatory planning and decision making mechanism</p>	<p>Awareness campaign progress / evaluation reports</p> <p>Training materials, workshop reports, and</p>
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> local government and civil society structures have the capacity and awareness to regulate, plan and monitor sustainable man-</p>	<p>Individuals at farmer level, internal Jamoat authority and CBO level and at district level have understanding and consensus on key SLM issues by yr. 2</p> <p>Key individuals within Jamoat authorities, JRC's, Dekhan farmer asso-</p>	<p>Consensus and collective commitment on key SLM issues by yr.2</p> <p>Participatory planning and decision making mechanism</p>	<p>Awareness campaign progress / evaluation reports</p> <p>Training materials, workshop reports, and</p>	<p>- That agreed problem understanding will produce consensus and collaborative action</p> <p>- That WUA's</p>

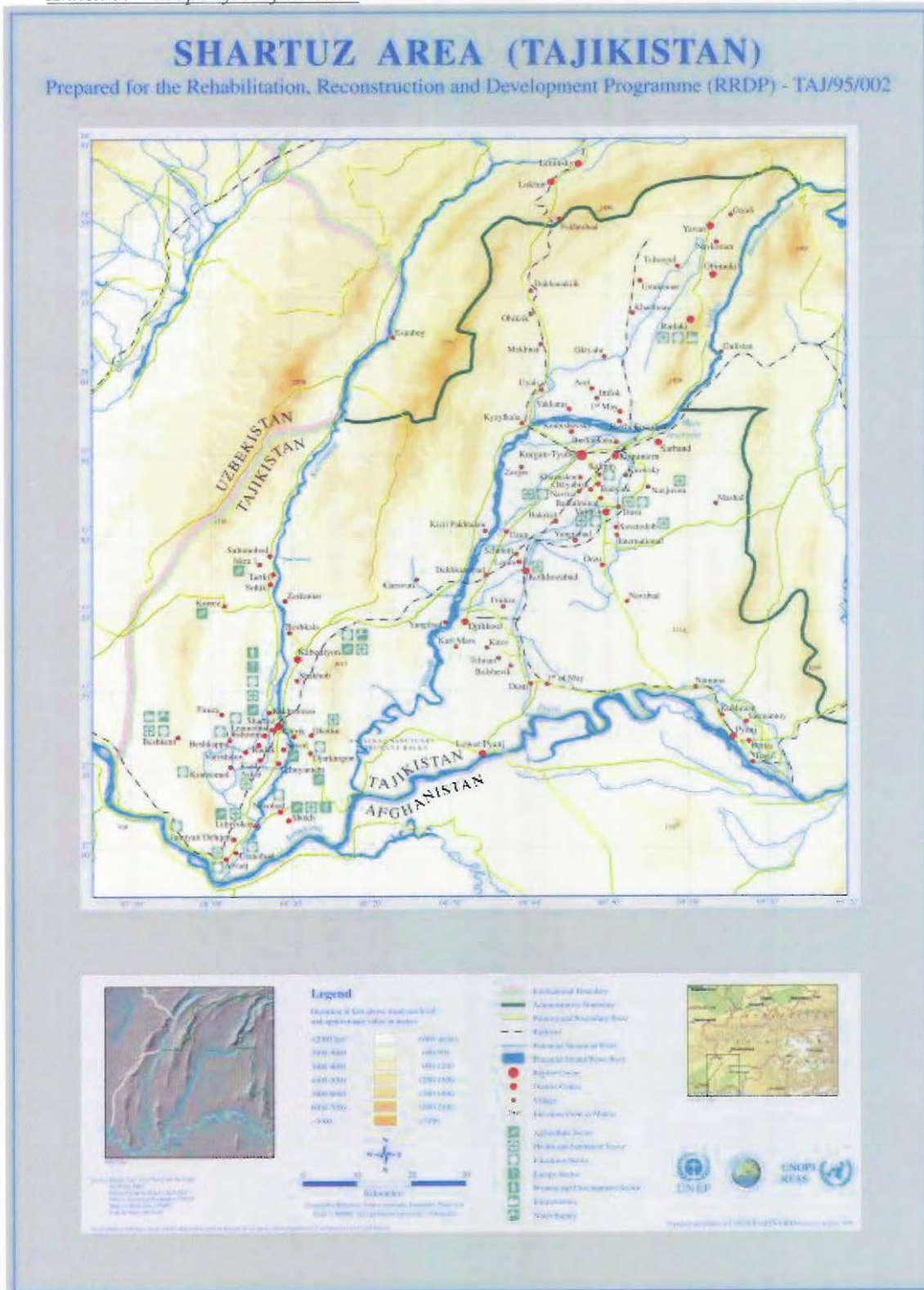
<p>agement of irrigated land.</p>	<p>ciation and WUA's, know how to undertake participatory planning and decision making by yr.2</p> <p>4 Jamoat resource use plans which were consensually agreed and have clear implementation mechanisms by yr.3</p> <p>Key basic monitoring data available in the 4 Jamoats by yr. 3</p>	<p>tive action</p> <p>No overall agreed resource use plans</p> <p>No local level means to track and monitor resource use and status</p> <p>2 WUA's established</p> <p>4 WUA's lack experience and skills to function effectively</p>	<p>tried and tested by yr. 2</p> <p>Consensually agreed Jamoat resource use plans and means to implement present by yr.3</p> <p>Robust and practical monitoring system present by yr.3</p> <p>4 WUA's established by yr.3</p> <p>4 WUA's have improved experience and skills by yr.4</p>	<p>progress/evaluation reports</p> <p>The 4 plans, records of meetings and materials used in planning process.</p> <p>Records of the monitoring system design process. The monitoring data itself.</p> <p>Project progress reports. WUA registration documents.</p> <p>Project progress reports. Records of trainings and inputs.</p>	<p>can improve land and water management</p> <p>- That institutional interests will not obstruct practical commitment</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Appropriate and viable local level initiatives for improving sustainability of land and water management tested and available for repli-</p>	<p>At least an additional 10 key irrigation infrastructure repairs undertaken by yr. 3</p> <p>Ongoing farm maintenance of irrigation infrastructure observable, on basis of appropriate credit facilities by yr.3</p>	<p>Few major irrigation repairs occurring</p> <p>Limited investment in recurrent maintenance (approx. USD50,000 in 4</p>	<p>10 or more additional repairs to key irrigation infrastructure by yr.3</p> <p>Extensive recurrent maintenance investments (USD 360,000) by yr.3</p>	<p>Grant disbursement records and field impact assessment reports</p> <p>Disbursement records of re-</p>	<p>- That improved credit access will reduce debts</p> <p>- that energy efficiency and renewable demonstrations will be technically</p>

<p>cation</p>	<p>At least 2 dekhan farmer in each Jamoat has taken up one or a number of better farming practices demonstrated by yr.4</p> <p>A Farmer Field School present in each Jamoat by yr.3</p> <p>At least 1 farming extension person in each of the 4 Jamoat's exists and has sustainable support by yr. 4.</p> <p>At least 4joint community and state forestry / erosion control initiatives established by yr.3</p> <p>At least 4 river bank protection areas established and clear community / state management and protection roles agreed by yr. 4</p> <p>At least 5 demonstrations of how to increase efficiency of biomass for energy (housing insulation, efficient stoves, etc) by yr. 3</p> <p>At least 2 demonstrations of appropriate renewable energy options (bio-</p>	<p>Jamoats)</p> <p>No improved farming practices</p> <p>No farmer training facilities</p> <p>No farming extension services available</p> <p>No joint forest/community forestry initiatives</p> <p>No river bank protection areas</p> <p>No examples of energy efficiency techniques / approaches available</p> <p>No examples of renewable energy alternatives</p> <p>Few examples or documentation on effective local ini-</p>	<p>At least 2 farmers per Jamoat practice at least one improved practice impacting not less than 4,800 ha. Land by yr. 4</p> <p>4 farmer training facilities available in target area by yr.3</p> <p>At least one extension service provider per Jamoat by yr.4</p> <p>At least 4 joint forestry / community initiatives covering not less than 400 ha. By yr. 3</p> <p>At least 1,200 ha. Of Riverbank protection area established by yr4</p> <p>At least 5 examples of techniques or approaches to improve energy efficiency by yr. 3</p> <p>At least 2 demonstrations of viable renewable energy options yr.3</p> <p>Practical examples and experience sys-</p>	<p>volving funds . Field Impact assessment reports Disbursement records of revolving funds. Field Impact assessment reports Project progress reports, independent evaluation. Project progress reports, specific evaluation report. Project progress reports, component evaluation report, independent evaluation.</p>	<p>and economically viable. - That dissemination of lessons learned will result in replication. - That the demonstration of economically and socially viable improved practices can be practical within the period of the project - That adequate joint forestry initiatives will occur.</p>
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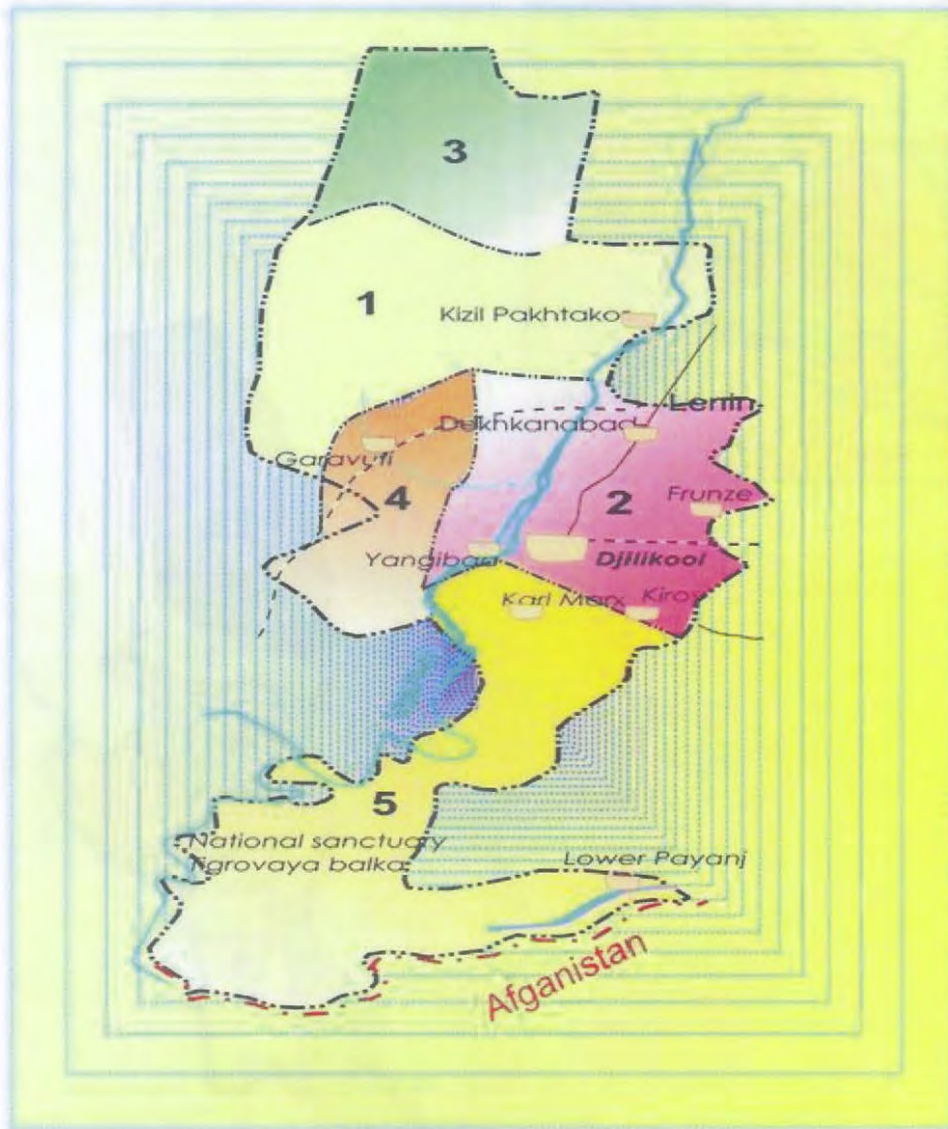
<p>gas, etc) for reducing biomass consumption for energy by yr 3.</p> <p>Appropriate local level SLM approaches lessons learned and replication guidelines available by yr 5</p> <p>Increased awareness and opportunity to replicated appropriate local initiatives to address SLM issues at district, oblast, national and international donor community level by yr 5</p> <p>Replication of best practices within CACILM initiatives</p>	<p>tiatives for addressing SLM</p> <p>Low awareness and belief in the opportunities for local communities / land users to address SLM issues effectively</p> <p>Few appropriate examples for replication by CACILM activities</p>	<p>tematically documented and guidelines manuals available by yr.5</p> <p>10 dissemination workshops undertaken at district, oblast and national level ensure wide knowledge of opportunities for addressing SLM through local initiatives by yr.5</p> <p>Concrete basis for replication by CACILM of appropriate local level initiatives for SLM by yr.5</p>	
<p><b>Output 1.1.</b> Increased awareness at all levels within the project area of land degradation and unsustainable land management issues</p>	<p><i>Activities:</i> Identify the key awareness building needs within different district and Jamoat stakeholders and implement a targeted awareness development campaign to ensure improved understanding and consensus of SLM problems and solutions.</p>		
<p><b>Output 1.2.</b> Regulatory and operational capacity of Jamoat (local district authorities) and civil groups (JDC's and village committees) to sustainably manage land resources increased</p>	<p><i>Activities:</i> Local level capacity building for participatory planning, development of agreed Jamoat resource use plans and robust system for resource monitoring.</p>		
<p><b>Output 1.3.</b> Establishment and capacity development of Water User Associations to collaboratively plan and manage water and land more effectively</p>	<p><i>Activities:</i> Establishment of two new WUA's on the basis of experience from existing two and support all to become sustainable and effective</p>		

<p><b>Output 2.1.</b> Appropriate approaches and techniques for addressing immediate land degradation problems of land users tested and demonstrated</p> <p><b>Output 2.2:</b> Increased technical and managerial capacity of ‘dekhan’ farmers to sustainably manage land and water resources</p>	<p><i>Activities:</i> Provision of initial grants to address accumulated irrigated infrastructural problems followed by local level credit assistance (JRC’s revolving funds) to support ongoing infrastructural maintenance, purchase of farm inputs and other appropriate inputs that impact farm land husbandry and sound management</p> <p><i>Activities:</i> Demonstration of sound agricultural techniques, establishment of Farmer Field Schools and development of long term sustainable extension service system.</p>
<p><b>Output 2.3:</b> Replicable models for sustainable reduction of wind and water erosion</p>	<p><i>Activities:</i> establishment and testing of joint community/state management approaches to reforestation in priority areas (sand dune stabilization, rain fed arable slopes, riverbanks, etc.), establishment of and testing of community managed river ecosystem protection areas (tugai fragments, etc).</p> <p>Pressure for tree / shrub cutting reduced through introduction of practical approaches to improve energy efficiency and conservation and provision of viable renewable alternatives</p>
<p><b>Output 2.4:</b> Dissemination of best practices and lessons learned regarding appropriate local level approaches to improving sustainable land management</p>	<p><i>Activities:</i> Systematic review and evaluation of activities undertaken by the project and identification of key lessons learned in regard to what works and how best to replicate, Preparation and publication of a comprehensive lessoned learned report summarizing the whole experience of the project and specific replication guidelines for each category of initiatives tested (i.e. SLM revolving fund, WUA’s, Farmer Field Schools, Joint forest management initiatives, energy efficiency activities and renewable initiatives), Activity 2.4.c: Dissemination workshops at Rayon, Oblast and national level to disseminate project experience and replication materials.</p>

Annex 3: Maps of Project Area








# Jilikul district



LEGEND		
Melk	- Villages	- Main road
	- Interstate border	- Secondary road
	- Interdistrict border	
	- Interjamoat border	
		1 - Dehkanabad Jamoat
		2 - Djiilikul Jamoat
		3 - Navzamin Jamoat
		4 - Nuri Vakhsh Jamoat
		5 - Sverdlov Jamoat

## Location Map of Kobadion district



LEGEND			
 Metk	- Villages	 - Main road	1 - Niyazov Jamoat
	- Interstate border	 - Secondary road	2 - Kobodion Jamoat
	- Interdistrict border		3 - Navobod Jamoat
	- Interjamoat border		4 - Nosiri Hisrav Jamoat
			5 - Saidnazar Hudoirkulov Jamoat
			6 - Ytarari Nazarov Jamoat
			7 - Yangiyul Jamoat

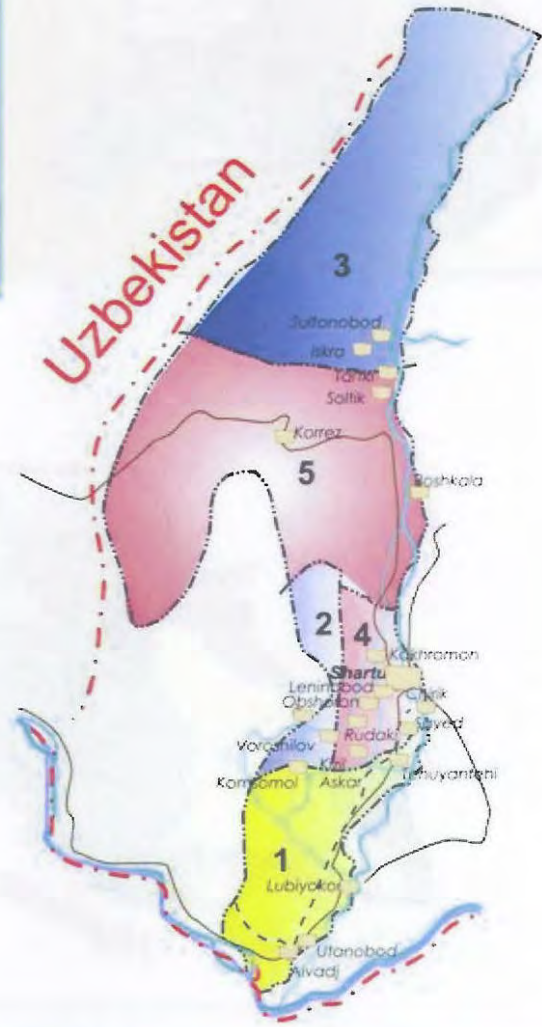
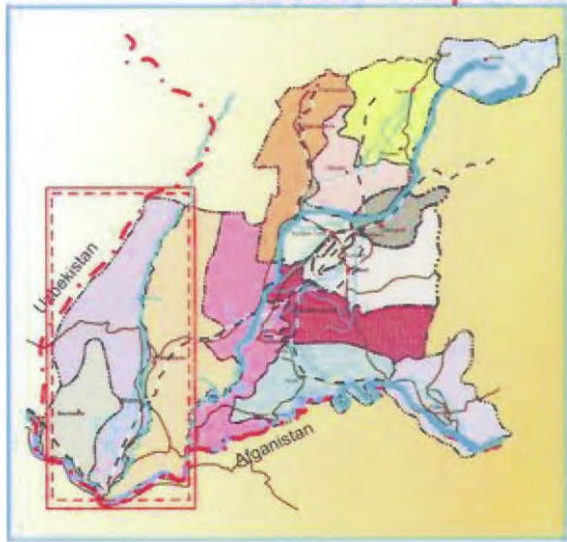


## Location Map of Kumsangir district



LEGEND		
Metk	- Villages	- Main road
	- Interstate border	- Secondary road
	- Interdistrict border	
	- Interjamoat border	
		<b>1</b> - Krupskaya Jamoat
		<b>2</b> - Kumsangir Jamoat
		<b>3</b> - Pyanj Jamoat
		<b>4</b> - Telman Jamoat
		<b>5</b> - Yakkadin Jamoat

## Location Map of Shaartuz district



LEGEND	
Melk	- Villages
	- Interstate border
	- Interdistrict border
	- Interjamoat border
	- Main road
	- Secondary road
	1 - Djura Nazarov Jamoat
	2 - Obshoron Jamoat
	3 - Pahtaobod Jamoat
	4 - Sayed Jamoat
	5 - Shaartuz Jamoat

ҶУМҲУРИИ ТОҶИКИСТОН

КУМИТАИ ДАВЛАТИИ  
ҲИҶЗИ МУҲИТИ ЗИСТ ВА  
ХОҶАГИИ ҶАНГАЛ



РЕСПУБЛИКА ТАДЖИКИСТАН

ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ КОМИТЕТ  
ОХРАНЫ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ  
И ЛЕСНОГО ХОЗЯЙСТВА

734055, ш. Душанба, к/ч Девотти-50  
тел.: (992372) 21-30-39  
факс: (992372) 21-18-39, 21-59-04  
Эл. почта: akanmou@tjtkistan.com

734065, г. Душанба, ул. Девотти-50  
тел.: (992372) 21-30-39  
факс: (992372) 21-18-39, 21-59-04  
Эл. почта: akanmou@tjtkistan.com

№ 265/14  
«17» 03 2006

Заместителю Постоянного  
Представителя офиса ПРООН  
Г-ну Боск И.

Уважаемый Игорь Боск,

Госкомитет одобряет реализацию проекта «Демонстрация ответных действий по борьбе с деградации земель и совершенствование устойчивого управления земельными ресурсами на юго-западе Таджикистана».

Надеемся, что проект поможет в улучшении управления земельными ресурсами, снижении бедности и устойчивого природопользования.

С уважением,

Политический  
и Операционный Координатор ГЭФ  
от Таджикистана

А. Каримов

Исп: К.Ботуров  
Тел: 221-18-39

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Republic of Tajikistan  
State Committee of Environment and Forestry

Mr. Igor Bosc  
Deputy Resident Representative  
UNDP Office

Dear Mr. Bosc,

State Committee supports the implementation of the project “Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan”.

We hope that the project will promote the development of land resource management, decrease of poverty and sustainable conservation.

Sincerely,

Tajikistan Political and Operational Coordinator GEF      /signed/      Karimov A.

Exc: K. Boturov  
Tel: 221-18-39

Annex 5: Work Schedule

Activities	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4	
	6m	12m	18m	24m	30m	36m	42m	48
<p><u>Activity 1.1a:</u> Identification of priority land degradation and sustainable land management issues in the Jamoat and long term desired situation (both those perceived by local population and those identified by experts)</p> <p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> On the basis of reports from PDFA, the project document and opinion of experts, prepare a concise report on the priority land degradation and sustainable land use issues in the 4 Jamoats.</p>								
<p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> Undertake a survey of the priority land degradation and sustainable land management issues perceived by district authorities, Jamoat authorities, JRCs, farmers, and relevant private sector stakeholders and their long term vision for development of land use in their areas.</p>								
<p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> Prepare a report identifying the principle gaps in awareness and understanding of various stakeholders and recommendations on the strategic approach and tailoring of future awareness raising activities.</p>								
<p><u>Activity 1.1b:</u> A target information and education campaign for each Jamoat.</p> <p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> On the basis of the approve report and recommendations develop a detailed plan for execution of a carefully targeted information and awareness building campaign</p>								
<p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> Carry out the implementation of the campaign planned above.</p>								
<p><u>Activity 1.2a:</u> Increase understanding and capacity within each Jamoat and JDC of participatory planning through training on effective approaches and methods for undertaking effective participatory planning</p> <p><u>Activity 1.2b:</u> An appropriate Information Management and Monitoring system with relevant data on land and natural resources established within each Jamoat</p> <p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> Key monitoring data needs identified and robust mechanisms for their collection identified.</p>								





<p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> Undertake training workshops and field training of farmers on the basis of lessons learned from demonstration activities and national / international experience</p>																			
<p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> Train local “farming extension” specialists to provide ongoing extension services to local farmers within the framework of the established FFS’s</p> <p><u>Activity 2.2d:</u> Evaluate the overall impact and benefits of the FFS approach and provide recommendations and guidelines for its replication in other areas.</p> <p><u>Activity 2.3a.:</u> Mechanisms for collaborative community and state efforts to reducing wind erosion and moving sands and water erosion from rainfed arable land, developed and tested</p>																			
<p><u>Sub-activity:</u> Review relevant collaborative (community / state) forestry initiatives in Central Asia and elsewhere and identify the most pragmatic and sustainable approaches for addressing specific forestation and erosion problems in the various parts of the project area (i.e. saxaul planting for preventing moving sands, saxaul and commercial species in rain fed arable land, protection and planting of trees in river bank protection zones, fuel wood reserves, etc)</p> <p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> On the basis of the above review, identify the best options and approaches for the specific needs of the 4 Jamoats and plan in detail pilot activities</p>																			
<p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> Establish appropriate pilot forestry initiatives in the 4 Jamoats.</p> <p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> Evaluate lessons learned and best practices and provide recommendations and guidelines for replication</p>																			
<p><u>Activity 2.3b:</u> Establish River ecosystem protection areas, incorporating all the remaining tugai fragments and areas of high vulnerability to erosion.</p>																			
<p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> Identify all remaining fragments of tugai forests (including on islands) and riverbank areas of high vulnerability.</p>																			
<p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> Discuss with JRC’s and local communities how best to ensure the protection and sustainable use of these remaining tugai areas and reforest most vulnerable areas.</p>																			
<p><u>Sub-Activity:</u> Work out with JRC’s and local communities most practical ways in which to protect and control use of these areas.</p>																			



Sub-Activity: On this basis establish “local river bank protection and sustainable use areas” with clear objectives, regulations and means for protection, forestation and sustainable use.																				
Activity 2.3b: Pressure for tree / shrub cutting reduced through introduction of practical approaches to improve energy efficiency and conservation and provision of viable renewable alternatives																				
Sub-Activity: Review existing appropriate experience in Tajikistan, Central Asia and internationally																				
Sub-Activity: Undertake an assessment of the current efficiency of biomass (fuelwood, cotton plant residue, etc) use and conservation in regard to house heating and cooking.																				
Sub-activity: Identify the most viable options for more effectively meeting needs currently provided by biomass (i.e. biogas, etc).																				
Sub-Activity: On the basis of the above two assessments, develop a set of pilot activities for demonstrating viable means to improve efficiency of biomass use, conservation of heat and provision of viable alternatives.																				
Sub-Activity: Undertake an evaluation of the pilot activities and document lessons learned and recommendations / guidelines for replication.																				
Activity 2.4a: Systematic review and evaluation of activities undertaken by the project and identification of key lessons learned in regard to what works and how best to replicate.																				
Activity 2.4.b: Preparation and publication of a comprehensive lessoned learned report summarizing the whole experience of the project and specific replication guidelines for each category of initiatives tested (i.e. SLM revolving fund, WUA's, Farmer Field Schools, Joint forest management initiatives, energy efficiency activities and renewables initiatives).																				

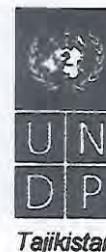
Annex 6: Indicative Monitoring and Evaluation Work plan and corresponding Budget

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget (Excluding Project staff time)	Time frame
Inception Workshop (IW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Coordinator</li> <li>- UNDP Country Office (CO)</li> <li>- UNDP/GEF</li> </ul>	USD 4,000	Within first two months of project start up
Inception Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Team</li> <li>- UNDP CO</li> </ul>	None	Immediately following IW
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress and Performance (measured on an annual basis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oversight by Project Technical Advisor and Project Manager</li> <li>- Measurements by regional field officers</li> </ul>	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation. Indicative cost: USD 6,000	Annually prior to APR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
Annual Project Report / Project Implementation Review (APR/PIR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Team</li> <li>- UNDP CO</li> <li>- UNDP/GEF</li> </ul>	None	Annually
Tripartite Project Review (TPR) and TPR report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government Counterparts</li> <li>- UNDP CO</li> <li>- Project team</li> <li>- UNDP/GEF Regional Coordinating Unit</li> </ul>	None	Every year, upon receipt of APR
Project Steering and Coordination Committee Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Manager</li> <li>- UNDP CO</li> </ul>	None	Following Project IW and subsequently at least every six months
Periodic progress reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Team</li> </ul>	None	To be determined by Project Team and UNDP CO
Technical reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project team</li> <li>- Hired consultants as needed</li> </ul>	Cost to be covered by consultancy budget	To be determined by Project Team and UNDP CO
Mid-term External Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project team</li> <li>- UNDP CO</li> <li>- UNDP/GEF Regional Coordinating Unit</li> <li>- External Consultants (i.e. evaluation)</li> </ul>	USD 20,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.

	team)			
Final External Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Team,</li> <li>- UNDP CO</li> <li>- UNDP/GEF Regional Coordinating Unit</li> <li>- External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)</li> </ul>	USD 20,000	At the end of project implementation	
Terminal Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Team</li> <li>- UNDP CO</li> </ul>	None	At least one month before the end of the project	
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Team</li> <li>- UNDP/GEF Regional Coordinating Unit (suggested formats for documenting best practices, etc.)</li> </ul>	USD4,000 (average USD 1,000 per year)	Yearly	
Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNDP CO</li> <li>- Project team</li> </ul>	USD 8,000 (average USD 1000 per year)	Yearly	
Visits to field sites (UNDP staff travel costs to be charged to IA fees)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNDP CO</li> <li>- UNDP/GEF Regional Coordinating Unit (as appropriate)</li> <li>- Government representatives</li> </ul>	USD 8,000 (average two visits per year)	Yearly	
<b>TOTAL INDICATIVE COST</b>		<b>USD 70,000</b>		
<i>Excluding Project Team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses</i>				

Annex 7: Letters of co-financier commitments –

Барномаи Тарақишоти Соҳибонии Миёнагии Муттаҳид  
United Nations Development Programme



UNDP/SKL/F0106/044

6 March 2006

**Letter of Commitment**

UNDP Tajikistan hereby confirms its commitment of a contribution in the amount of US\$390,000 (three hundred and ninety thousand US dollars only) to the implementation of the project entitled “Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan” based on the following distribution:

- US\$4,000 (four thousand US dollars only) were contributed to the PDFA stage of the project as UNDP’s in-kind contribution.
- US\$200,000 (two hundred thousand US dollars only) will be contributed to the future Medium-Size Project (MSP) as in-cash contribution from TRAC.
- US\$186,000 (one hundred and eighty six thousand US dollars only) will be contributed to the future MSP as in-kind contribution through ongoing activities of UNDP’s Communities Programme.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Igor Bosc'.

Igor Bosc  
Deputy Resident Representative

To: Global Environment Facility

ҶУМҲУРИИ ТОҶИКИСТОН

КУМИТАИ  
ДАВЛАТИИ ЗАМИНСОЗӢ



РЕСПУБЛИКА ТАДЖИКИСТАН

ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ КОМИТЕТ  
ПО ЗЕМЛЕУСТРОЙСТВУ

STATE COMMITTEE FOR LAND MANAGEMENT

734067 г. Душанбе Гипроземгородок, 15, тел. 217321; 213848; 31-16-83, факс: 21-70-02; 311487. E-mail: komzem@tajnet.com

« 07 » 03 2006 г. № 1/12-01-04

Постоянному Представителю  
Программы Развития ООН в  
Таджикистане

Государственный комитет Республики Таджикистан по землеустройству уведомляет о своей готовности внести вклад от имени Правительства в размере 267 тысяч долларов США в натуральном выражении в рамках текущей деятельности (представление картографических материалов, проведение крупномасштабного почвенного обследования, съемки засоленных почв, проведение кадастра земли) по проекту «Демонстрация местных возможностей для борьбы с деградацией земли и улучшения устойчивого управления земельными ресурсами на юго-западе Таджикистана».

Председатель

Д. Гулмахмадов

**Unofficial Translation**

**State Committee for Land Management**

To: Resident Representative  
UNDP Tajikistan

State Committee for Land Management of the Republic of Tajikistan would like to inform you about the readiness to contribute USD 267,000 on behalf of the government as an in-kind contribution containing the on-going activities (including: provision of the mapping materials, conduction of the land investigation, picturing of the salted soil, conduction of the land cadastre) to the project entitled "Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan".

**Chairman**

**D. Gulmahmadov**



CARE Tajikistan  
25 Bekhzod Street  
734013  
Dushanbe, TAJIKISTAN

March 16, 2006

To: Mr. William Paton  
Resident Representative  
UNDP Tajikistan

Subject: Letter of Commitment for GEF SLM project in Tajikistan

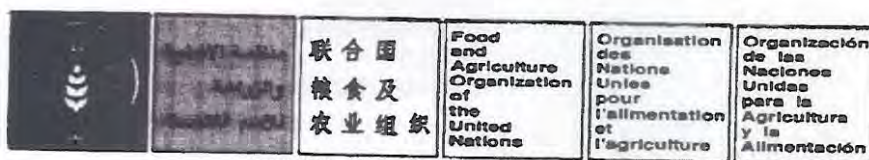
Dear Mr. Paton,

CARE International confirms its commitment of contribution of US\$152,000 (one hundred and fifty two thousand US dollars) to the implementation of UNDP/GEF's project entitled "Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan".

These funds will be spent through the projects directly executed by CARE within its fields of activities in land management that are directly linked to the sustainable land management practices in Tajikistan.

Best regards,

Louis Alexander  
Country Director  
CARE International in Tajikistan



FAO Office in Dushanbe, TAJIKISTAN, 39 Aini Street  
 Telephone (992-372) 21-18-49, 21-06-86, 21-06-80, 21-06-94, fax (992-372) 510021  
 E-mail: albert.longy@undp.org

Date: 13 March 2006  
 To: William Paton, Resident Representative, UNDP Tajikistan  
 CC: Global Environment Facility  
 Subject: Letter of Commitment for GEF SLM project in Tajikistan

FAO/2006/O/05

Dear Mr. Paton,

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations confirms its commitment to contributing human resources (mainly one soil and water conservation expert) and equipment (for low-tillage farming) available in the country. This contribution can be estimated as US\$50,000 towards the implementation of UNDP/GEF's project entitled "Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan".

UNDP is most welcome to consider use of these resources as FAO contribution to the sustainable land management practices in Tajikistan. FAO reasserts that it certainly has no objections to this partnership which is inline with its own country strategy of support to sound agriculture practices.

Kind regards,

Albert Longy  
 Emergency Coordinator  
 FAO Tajikistan

**RECEIVED**  
 Mar. 14, 2006

AL. DIV.	DATE
Registry	
Sukhrob	
DESCRIPTION	





6 March 2006

To: Mr. William Paton  
Resident Representative  
UNDP Tajikistan

#### Letter of Commitment

JRC Jora Nazarov, Shaartuz district, JRC Khudoikulov, Kabodion district, JRC Nuri Vakhsh, Jilikul district and JRC Telman, Kumsangir district hereby confirm their commitment of an in-kind contribution in the amount of US\$154,000 (one hundred and fifty four thousand US dollars only) to the implementation of the project entitled "Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan". The in-kind contribution will include communities' contribution to the local development initiatives (through revolving funds, at least 20% of co-financing of the pilot projects etc.), personnel time, office space and meetings support.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely,

Mr. Sharofiddin Nuriddinov,  
Mr. A. Abdusalomov,  
Mr. Norkul Yuldoshev,  
Mrs. Gulshan Kululova,

JRC Jora Nazarov chairman  
JRC Khudoikulov chairman  
JRC Nuri Vakhsh chairman





# Water User Association Support Program (WUASP)

Funded by USAID

Tel: 21-32-40 Tel/Fax 27-39-04  
Email: [wmcbell@tjinter.com](mailto:wmcbell@tjinter.com)  
[www.winrock.org](http://www.winrock.org)

Winrock International  
18/1 Lahuty Street  
Dushanbe, Tajikistan 734013

21 March 2006

To: Deputy Resident Representative  
UNDP, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

CC: Global Environmental Fund

From: William C. Bell, Country Coordinator, WUASP  
Winrock International  
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Subject: Letter of Commitment for "Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan".

Winrock International, through the Water User Association Support Program (WUASP), hereby confirms its commitment of in-kind contribution of US\$ 40,000 (forty thousand US\$) in implementation of UNDP/GEF's project entitled "Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan".

These funds will be in-kind parallel co-financing through the on-going Winrock International/WUASP project for activities as described in the proposal's Output 1.3: "Establishment and capacity development of Water User Associations to collaboratively plan and manage water and land more effectively."

We look forward to working in cooperation with the UNDP to implement this important project.

Best Regards,

*William C Bell*



*Annex 8: List of the project stakeholders consulted*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>1.Gulmakhmadov D.</b>	Head of State Committee of Republic of Tajikistan for Land Management, Focal Point of National Action Program to Combat Desertification
<b>2.Nosirova T.</b>	Deputy of Head of State Committee on Environment Protection and Forestry
<b>3.Bosc I.</b>	UNDP, Deputy Resident Representative
<b>4.Khoshmuhamedov S.</b>	UNDP, ARR/Programme
<b>5.Mahmoudov A.</b>	UNDP Communities Program, Program Manager
<b>6.Nozaninov N.</b>	National Consultant, Head of the Department of State Committee of Republic of Tajikistan for Land Management
<b>7.Akhunov M.</b>	National Consultant, Specialist of the Department of State Committee of Republic of Tajikistan for Land Management
<b>8.Akhmadov Kh.</b>	National Consultant, Director of the Forestry Research Institute under State Committee on Environment Protection and Forestry
<b>9. Nadiradze N.</b>	Environment Consultant
<b>10.Yatimov B.</b>	World Bank, Rural Development Officer
<b>11.Tariq Anvar</b>	ADB, Portfolio Management Specialist
<b>12.Longy A.</b>	FAO, Emergency Coordinator in Tajikistan
<b>13. Bell W.</b>	Winrock International, Director
<b>14.Nuriddinov Sh.</b>	Chairman of Jamoat Support Resource Centre “Jura Nasarov” of Shartuz district
<b>15.Yuldoshev N.</b>	Chairman of Jamoat Support Resource Centre “Nuri Vakhsh” of Jilikul district

*Annex 9: References*

PDF-A Document - Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan UNDP/GEF 2005 (M.Anstey)

Report on Sustainable Land Management (PDF/A), K. M. Akhmadov (2005)

Socio-Economic Report on SLM (PDF/A), A. Nozaninov, M. Akhunov (2005)

Background report Project Sites, Promoting Community Based SLM in Central Asia Project UNDP (2005)

National Framework Programme for SLM in Tajikistan, ADB CACILM (2005)

Moving Mountains, UNDP Communities Programme, UNDP (2004)

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP, 2002)

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP)

National Action Program to Combat Desertification (NAPCD, 1999)

ADB Website: <http://www.adb.org/Tajikistan/projects.asp>

WB Website: <http://web.worldbank.org/>

**2. Minutes of the Local Programme Advisory Committee**

Attached below

Minutes  
Of the Local Programme Advisory Committee (LPAC) for the project  
Concerning Local Programmes in Cornwall, Devon and Exeter  
Sustainable Local Programme in SW England, 2004-2006  
(21st August 2004)

11 January 2004, Exeter

Members of the meeting

Chairman  
Mr. John G. [Name], [Address], Exeter, Devon

Members  
Mr. [Name], [Address], Exeter, Devon  
Mr. [Name], [Address], Exeter, Devon  
Mr. [Name], [Address], Exeter, Devon

Agenda  
The minutes of the meeting of the LPAC, Exeter, 11 January 2004.  
The minutes of the meeting.  
A copy of the minutes is being sent to the LPAC.  
The minutes of the meeting of the LPAC, Exeter, 11 January 2004.


Minutes of the meeting of the LPAC, Exeter, 11 January 2004.  
The minutes of the meeting of the LPAC, Exeter, 11 January 2004.  
The minutes of the meeting of the LPAC, Exeter, 11 January 2004.  
The minutes of the meeting of the LPAC, Exeter, 11 January 2004.

**Minutes**  
**Of the Local Programme Advisory Committee (LPAC) for the project:**  
**Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving**  
**Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan, PIMS 3366**  
**(SLM Project in Shaartuz)**

18 January 2006, Dushanbe

**Participants of the meeting:**

**Chairman:**

  
Mr. Sukhrob Khoshmukhamedov, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative, LPAC Member

**Members:**

Mr. Farrukh Toirov, UNDP Programme Analyst, LPAC Member  
Mr. Karl Nilsson, UNDP Programme Analyst, LPAC Member  
Mr. James Gibson, UNDP Programme Analyst, LPAC Observer



**Agenda**

1. Presentation of the status of the SLM Project in Shaartuz
2. Clearance of the Project.
3. Approval of the execution modality for the Project.
4. Recommendations.

**Listened to:** The information of the Focal Point on Energy and Environment, Mr. Khoshmukhamedov, with regards to the status of the project and its approval by GEF Secretariat. Also, it was suggested to approve the project and start its implementation from January 2005.

**All LPAC participated in the discussion and it was decided to:**

- Agree that the process of the proposal development was transparent and with the involvement of the main stakeholders (State Committee on Environmental Protection, State Committee on Land Management, UNDP, FAO and other international organizations). All major stakeholders were consulted during the development of the Project Brief and participated in the Logframe Workshop that took place in February 2006.

- Approve the execution modality of the project (direct execution, DEX) through UNDP's Communities Programme (CP). The CP has the DEX authorization based on DEX authorization from Marta Ruedas, Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director of RBEC, dated 24 August 2007.
- Recommend the signature of the Project Document by UNDP with the Government.
- Approve the project and start its implementation as soon as Project Document is signed.
- Conduct the Inception Workshop within 3 months after the beginning of the project and prepare the inception report based on the outcomes of the workshop.

**Note:** The Government's approval of the project has been confirmed by their endorsement of the project and agreement to co-finance it.

**Minutes Prepared by**

**S. Khoshmukhamedov**

PART II: Organigram of Project

See approved MSP Proposal



### **PART III : Terms of References for key project staff and main sub-contracts**

<b><u>Post:</u></b>	<b>Chief Technical Advisor (Part-time)</b>
<b><u>Duration:</u></b>	Four years (4 person-months in year one, 2.5 pm in year two, and 2 pm in years three and four)
<b><u>Duty Station:</u></b>	Shaartuz, with frequent travel to the project areas
<b><u>Reports to:</u></b>	UNDP Focal Point on Energy and Environment (in close coordination with CP Programme Manager and Shaartuz Area Manager)

**Background:** This project is a part of the overall GEF/ADB Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM).

Within that context, the project goal is to contribute to “The improvement of the sustainability of arid climate irrigation land management in Tajikistan in order to safeguard the livelihoods and economic well-being of rural populations and the functional integrity of national ecosystems”.

The project will, through local on-ground pilot activities, test and demonstrate replicable ways in which rural farmers and communities can address key land degradation and livelihood problems themselves. From these activities will be drawn lessons and best practices which can be directly replicable throughout the irrigated areas of the country i.e. 98% of Tajikistan’s arable land), and the central Asian region as a whole.

The project will be directly executed in accordance with DEX guidelines under the umbrella of UNDP’s Communities Programme (CP). Accordingly UNDP as the implementing agency will also act as the executing agency. This arrangement will ensure effective project delivery, whereby the overall responsibility for the management of the project will be with the CP.

The two main components (outcomes) of the project, and their outputs, are:

1: Local government and civil society structures have the capacity and awareness to regulate, plan and monitor sustainable management of irrigated land

*Output 1.1.* Increased awareness at all levels within the project area of land degradation and unsustainable land management issues

*Output 1.2.* Regulatory and operational capacity of Jamoat (local district authorities) and civil groups (JDC’s and village committees) to sustainably manage land resources increased

*Output 1.3.* Establishment and capacity development of Water User Associations to collaboratively plan and manage water and land more effectively

2: Appropriate and viable local level initiatives for improving sustainability of land and water management tested and available for replication

*Output 2.1.* Appropriate approaches and techniques for addressing immediate land degradation problems of land users tested and demonstrated

*Output 2.2:* Increased technical and managerial capacity of ‘dekhan’ farmers to sustainably manage land and water resources

*Output 2.3:* Replicable models for sustainable reduction of wind and water erosion

*Output 2.4* Dissemination of best practices and lessons learned regarding appropriate local level approaches to improving sustainable land management

#### **Tasks:**

To provide technical support to the National Project Manager (PM) a part-time Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) will be recruited. The task of the CTA will be to provide overall project advisory services and

technical assistance to the National Project Manager (PM), the National Project Experts (NPE) and the other project consultants. In essence, the responsibility of the CTA is to ensure that the overall technical direction of the project is maintained and flexibly adapted to meet the practical challenges faced during implementation..

At the critical initial stages of project implementation the inputs of the CTA in Tajikistan will be on a semi-permanent basis, but will be gradually reduced once technical directions are firmly established and project implementation capacity is in place. Nonetheless the role of the CTA will remain critical throughout the project as he/she will continue to have inputs on key technical decisions at strategic moments in the project implementation through field missions and remote communication (email).

The CTA will work closely with the PM, the project National Project Experts (NPE's) and international consultants. Specifically his/her tasks include but are not limited to:

#### Project Organization and Management

- Work closely with the PM in coordinating and facilitating inputs of government agencies, partner organizations, scientific and research institutes, subcontractors, and national and international experts in a timely and effective manner;
- Provide guidance and assistance to the PM and the NPE's to ensure that the project activities conform to the approved project document;
- Assist the PM, during the initial 2 months of the project, in the preparation of an "inception report" which will more concretely elaborate the project Logical Framework Matrix and planned project activities, the 1<sup>st</sup> year Annual Workplan and Budget, TOR's for key project staff, and an M&E plan.
- Assist the PM and the NPE's in development of relevant TOR's and recruitment / mobilization of qualified national and international external experts and organizations as needed to provide specific consultancy and engineering services;
- In close cooperation with the PM, the NPE's, the UNDP CP Area and Programme Manager, UNDP's Focal Point on Energy and Environment, and in consultation with the project partner organizations and stakeholders, prepare Annual Project Work Plans to be agreed upon by the Project Steering and Coordination Committee (PSC);
- Provide "on job" technical guidance and mentoring to the PM and NPE's in order to build their capacity to effectively implement the technical aspects of the project.
- Support the PM in reporting to the PSC on the progress of project implementation and achievement of project results in accordance with the project's logical framework matrix;
- Support the PM and the NPE's in project-related meetings, as required;
- Review reports of national and international consultants, project budget revisions, and administrative arrangements as required by UNDP/GEF procedures;
- Prepare and submit to UNDP mission reports describing activities and outcomes of the work of the CTA;
- In cooperation with the PM and the NPE develop a suitable project exit strategy during the third year of the project, and present it for approval to the PSC;

#### Awareness Raising and Capacity Development (Output 1.1, 1.2, 1.3)

- Provide technical guidance to national project staff and counterparts on the process of a). identifying key land degradation issues, b). key target groups for awareness raising and critical gaps in their current knowledge, c). effective mechanisms for filling these awareness gaps in each target group.
- Provide ongoing advice and guidance to national project staff and counterparts on the implementation of awareness raising activities by the project.

- Provide technical advice and guidance to the national project staff and counterparts on efficient approaches for helping local communities to effectively review and plan, in a participatory manner, natural resource use in their Jamoats (i.e. initial capacity development and training in regard to participatory planning techniques, development of natural resource plans, identification / development of effective mechanisms and structures for their implementation).
- Provide support to the PM and NPE's in regard to liaison with Winrock International on development and capacity strengthening of WUA's in the project selected sites.

*Irrigated Land Use Demonstration Activities and Dekhan Farmer Capacity Development (Outputs 2.1 and 2.2)*

- Assist the PM in the identification, recruitment and supervision of relevant international and national project consultants
- Assist the PM in liaison and coordination with FAO and other key implementation partners.
- Provide technical oversight to the process of identifying appropriate demonstration activities and provide overall technical support and guidance during their implementation
- Provide technical oversight to activities aimed at building the long term capacity of dekhan farmers within project areas to undertake productive but sustainable land management (establishment of field farmer schools and extension services)
- Provide technical review and comments on demonstration and capacity building activities undertaken and in particular the key lessons learned and best practices identified.
- Assist in the finalization of best practices and lessons learned reports.

*Replicable Models for Addressing Wind and Water Erosion (Output 2.3)*

- Assist the PM in the identification, recruitment and supervision of relevant international and national project consultants
- Provide technical oversight to the process of identifying appropriate demonstration activities and provide overall technical support and guidance during their implementation
- Provide technical review and comments on demonstration activities undertaken and in particular the key lessons learned and best practices identified.
- Assist in the finalization of best practices and lessons learned reports.

*Dissemination of Best Practices and Lessons Learned (Output 2.4)*

- Assist the national Project technical Staff to integrated lessons learned and best practices into the existing natural resource plans of project target Jamoat's
- Provide advice and guidance to the PM and PSC on the best strategy for effective dissemination of best practices and lessons learned.
- Assist the PM and NPE's in the elaboration of a concrete dissemination plan and development of appropriate dissemination materials and tools.
- Provide ongoing advice and guidance to the PM and NPE's during implementation of the dissemination plan.
- Participate when appropriate in project "lessons learned and best practices" workshops and public relations events.
- Assist the PM in liaison with other key international players in regard to SLM (ADB CACILM, WB, etc) in order to ensure incorporation of the project lessons learned and best practices into their activities and their replication at national / regional level.

*Monitoring and Evaluation*

- Assist the PM in the development of a concrete Monitoring and Evaluation Plan at the outset of the project (within inception report).

- Support the PM in preparing project progress reports, information releases, as well as monitoring and review reports in accordance with UNDP/GEF monitoring and evaluation rules and procedures;
- Support the PM in the preparation and implementation of mid term and final Independent Evaluation Missions (TOR's, identification and recruitment of appropriate candidates, organization of missions, joint field missions and discussion with evaluators, etc).
- Accompany leading UNDP CO staff on their annual monitoring visits to project sites;

### **Expected Outputs:**

The primary expected project outputs are described in the project's logical framework matrix and in the background section of this TOR (see above).

Specific key outputs of the work of the Chief Technical Advisor include:

- Inception report and individual Mission reports (including concrete reviews of ongoing project activities and guidance on improving effectiveness).
- Technical Reports to the PSC
- TOR's for key national and International Project technical staff, contractors, and Evaluation Missions.
- Annual Project Work Plans and Annual Project Review Reports (APR/PIR's)
- Technical guidance notes on the implementation of key components of the project (awareness assessment and campaign, participatory natural resource use planning, demonstration activities and capacity development activities, best practices and lesson learned dissemination).
- Reviews and finalization of demonstration project reports
- Overall Project Best Practices and Lessons Learned Report.
- Best Practices and Lessons Learned Dissemination Plan
- Project Exit Strategy

### **Qualification/Experience:**

- Postgraduate or other advanced university degree in sustainable land management, natural resource management, agriculture, environmental management or related fields.
- At least 10 years of demonstrated working experience in areas relevant for Sustainable Land Use Management within arid environments.
- Prior knowledge and experience of the political, social and environmental factors and issues related to arid natural resource use and agricultural systems in Central Asia, preferably in Tajikistan.
- Prior experience in the use of local level, participatory approaches to natural resource management.
- Practical experience with the addressing of rural energy needs (demand reduction and mitigation/alternatives) and social forestry approaches an advantage.
- At least 5 years practical field experience in a similar professional role (i.e. CTA, manager or equivalent, of a natural resource management project implementing practical activities in the field).
- Familiarity with the goals and procedures of international organizations, in particular those of the GEF and UNDP;
- Good interpersonal, facilitation and training skills; and
- Excellent skills in English language, knowledge of Russian and/or Tajik is an advantage.

**Post:** National Project Manager (Full-time)  
**Duration:** 4 years  
**Duty Station:** Shaartuz, with regular travel to the project areas  
**Reports to:** Shaartuz Area Manager (in close coordination with Communities Programme Manager)

**Background:** This project is a part of the overall GEF/ADB Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM). Within that context, the project goal is to contribute to “The improvement of the sustainability of arid climate irrigation land management in Tajikistan in order to safeguard the livelihoods and economic well-being of rural populations and the functional integrity of national ecosystems”.

The project will, through local on-ground pilot activities covering approximately 16,000 ha., test and demonstrate replicable ways in which rural farmers and communities can address key land degradation and livelihood problems themselves. From these activities will be drawn lessons and best practices which can be directly replicable throughout the irrigated areas of the country i.e. 98% of Tajikistan’s arable land), and the central Asian region as a whole.

The project will be directly executed in accordance with DEX guidelines under the umbrella of UNDP’s Communities Programme (CP). Accordingly UNDP as the implementing agency will also act as the executing agency. This arrangement will ensure effective project delivery, whereby the overall responsibility for the management of the project will be with the CP.

The two main components (outcomes) of the project, and their outputs, are:

1: Local government and civil society structures have the capacity and awareness to regulate, plan and monitor sustainable management of irrigated land

*Output 1.1.* Increased awareness at all levels within the project area of land degradation and unsustainable land management issues

*Output 1.2.* Regulatory and operational capacity of Jamoat (local district authorities) and civil groups (JDC’s and village committees) to sustainably manage land resources increased

*Output 1.3.* Establishment and capacity development of Water User Associations to collaboratively plan and manage water and land more effectively

2: Appropriate and viable local level initiatives for improving sustainability of land and water management tested and available for replication

*Output 2.1.* Appropriate approaches and techniques for addressing immediate land degradation problems of land users tested and demonstrated

*Output 2.2:* Increased technical and managerial capacity of ‘dekhan’ farmers to sustainably manage land and water resources

*Output 2.3:* Replicable models for sustainable reduction of wind and water erosion

*Output 2.4* Dissemination of best practices and lessons learned regarding appropriate local level approaches to improving sustainable land management

### **Tasks:**

For the management of the project a National Project Manager (PM) will be recruited. The main task of the PM will be to lead a team of national and international staff towards the successful implementation of the project. The PM will have the overall responsibility for ensuring the Project and its staff functions effectively. The PM will be supported in his/her duties by the CTA (technical) and Deputy Project Manager (administrative).

The PM will work closely with the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) to ensure the technical direction of the project is maintained and key outputs are achieved in a cost effective and timely manner. Specifically his/her tasks will include but are not limited to:

- Work closely with the CTA in coordinating and facilitating inputs of government agencies, partner organizations, scientific and research institutes, subcontractors, and national and international experts in a timely and effective manner;
- Develop (with assistance from the CTA) TOR's for the project staff and National Consultants (NC) to undertake analysis and activities of different aspects covered by the project.
- Take the lead in recruiting and mobilizing qualified national and international external experts and organizations as needed to provide specific consultancy and engineering services;
- Provide overall supervision and leadership to the project team.
- In close cooperation with the CTA, the NPE's, the UNDP CP Programme Manager, UNDP's Focal Point on Energy and Environment and Area Managers, and in consultation with the project partner organizations and stakeholders, prepare Annual Project Work Plans to be agreed upon by the Project Steering and Coordination Committee (PSC);
- Play the lead role in representing the project and reporting to the PSC on the progress of project implementation and achievement of project results in accordance with the project's logical framework matrix, and report back to participating agencies and individuals on the Committee's comments, recommendations and concerns;
- Prepare project progress reports, information releases, as well as monitoring and review reports in accordance with UNDP/GEF monitoring and evaluation rules and procedures;
- Prepare project budget revisions and administrative arrangements as required by UNDP/GEF procedures;
- Ensure, through periodic coordination meetings and clear work planning, the effective execution of work by the project staff.
- Ensure that all financial and procurement procedures, in accordance with UNDP rules and regulations, are undertaken in an efficient and timely manner.
- Accompany leading UNDP CO staff on their annual monitoring visits to selected project sites;
- In cooperation with the CTA and the NPE's develop a suitable project exit strategy during the third year of the project and leading experts, and present it for approval to the PSC;
- Ensure that the Project M&E plan is implemented and in particular that the Independent Evaluation Missions are carried out in an effective manner.
- Ensure, with the assistance of the CTA, that all annual reporting requirements for both UNDP and GEF are fully met.
- Provide direct supervision and guidance to the DPM to ensure administration of the project is carried out effectively.

### **Expected Outputs:**

The primary expected project outputs are described in the project's logical framework matrix and in the background section of this TOR (see above):

Further key outputs of the work of the National Project Manager include:

- Progress reports in accordance with UNDP/GEF requirements and regulations
- Reports to the PSC and UNDP Quarterly Implementation reports
- Annual Project Work Plans and Annual Project Review Reports (APR/PIR's)
- Project Exit Strategy

**Qualification/Experience:**

- Undergraduate or Advanced degree in the field of natural resources management or appropriate other administrative fields.
- At least 10 years of working experience in the area of energy sector development and/or rural electrification
- Good knowledge and understanding of Tajikistan's agriculture sector, environment and development issues
- Demonstrated experience in capacity development initiatives in the country and/or region
- Knowledge of capacity development issues
- Good interpersonal, facilitation and training skills
- Fluency in Russian and English language; knowledge of Tajik is an advantage

**Post:** National Deputy Project Manager (Full-time)  
**Duration:** 4 years  
**Duty Station:** Shaartuz, with regular travel to the project areas  
**Reports to:** Communities Programme Manager

**Background:** This project is a part of the overall GEF/ADB Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM). Within that context, the project goal is to contribute to “The improvement of the sustainability of arid climate irrigation land management in Tajikistan in order to safeguard the livelihoods and economic well-being of rural populations and the functional integrity of national ecosystems”.

The project will, through local on-ground pilot activities covering approximately 16,000 ha., test and demonstrate replicable ways in which rural farmers and communities can address key land degradation and livelihood problems themselves. From these activities will be drawn lessons and best practices which can be directly replicable throughout the irrigated areas of the country i.e. 98% of Tajikistan’s arable land), and the central Asian region as a whole.

The project will be directly executed in accordance with DEX guidelines under the umbrella of UNDP’s Communities Programme (CP). Accordingly UNDP as the implementing agency will also act as the executing agency. This arrangement will ensure effective project delivery, whereby the overall responsibility for the management of the project will be with the CP.

The two main components (outcomes) of the project, and their outputs, are:

1: Local government and civil society structures have the capacity and awareness to regulate, plan and monitor sustainable management of irrigated land

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*Output 2.1.* Appropriate approaches and techniques for addressing immediate land degradation problems of land users tested and demonstrated

*Output 2.2:* Increased technical and managerial capacity of ‘dekhan’ farmers to sustainably manage land and water resources

*Output 2.3:* Replicable models for sustainable reduction of wind and water erosion

*Output 2.4* Dissemination of best practices and lessons learned regarding appropriate local level approaches to improving sustainable land management

### **Tasks:**

The main task of the DPM will be to provide full time support to the PM in regard to the effective administration and financial management of the project and the comprehensive and timely implementation of all administrative aspects of the project. The essential purpose of the DPM is to ensure that technical tasks of the project can be implemented without logistical, procurement or personnel constraints. The DPM will be assisted in his/her duties by the project Admin/finance Assistant and will be under the direct supervision of the PM.



Specifically his/her tasks will include but are not limited to:

- Provide assistance to the PM in the physical and technical establishment of the project office, including premises rehabilitation and furnishing, setting up of equipment and communications.
- Assist PM in the recruitment and mobilization of all project staff but in particular the project administrative staff (Admin/Finance Assistant, driver, guards, etc)
- Provide direct supervision of project administrative staff.
- Establish effective project office administrative procedures, systems and protocols, including, but not limited to: effective standardized paper and electronic filing systems; staff meeting and reporting schedules; financial book keeping and tracking; procurement processes; equipment and premises operation and maintenance.
- Ensure that all UNDP financial management and reporting requirements are met.
- Ensure that all UNDP rules and regulations in regard to procurement and project personnel recruitment are met and are undertaken in a timely and efficient manner.
- Provide support to the PM in reporting to PSC on administration and financial issues of the project.
- Ensure the effective provision of project administrative and logistical support to all field activities of the project (technical workshops, consultant missions, etc).
- Assist the PM in the preparation of relevant administrative / financial sections of UNDP and GEF annual reports and Annual Workplans / budgets.

**Qualification/Experience:**

- University or similar relevant qualification in business or project management, administration, finance, or other relevant fields.
- At least 5 years of relevant practical working experience, preferably within UNDP or similar international organization.
- Good knowledge and understanding of the practical conditions and opportunities regarding equipment and professional services procurement in Tajikistan.
- Demonstrated experience to effectively manage administration staff and a project/business office.
- Good interpersonal, facilitation and training skills
- Fluency in Russian and English language; knowledge of Tajik is an advantage

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

Country: Tajikistan

UNDAF Outcome(s)/Indicator(s): Overcoming mountains — Natural resources sustainably managed and fewer persons killed or affected by disasters  
*(Link to UNDAF outcome.. If no UNDAF, leave blank)*

Expected Outcome(s)/Indicator (s): same as in UNDAF  
*(CP outcomes linked t the SRF/MYFF goal and service line)*

Expected Output(s)/Indicator(s): Managing energy and environment for sustainable development  
*(CP outcomes linked t the SRF/MYFF goal and service line)*

Expected Output(s)/Indicator(s): Managing energy and environment for sustainable development  
*(CP outcomes linked t the SRF/MYFF goal and service line)*

Implementing partner: UNDP Communities Programme (DEX)  
*(designated institution/Executing agency)*

Other Partners: SCEPF, CARE, FAO, Winrock, ADB, JRCs  
*(formerly implementing agencies)*

Programme Period: 2007 - 2010  
 Programme Component: Managing energy and environment for sustainable development  
 Project Title: Promotion of Renewable Energy Use for Development of Rural Communities  
 Atlas Project ID: 00051718  
 Atlas Award ID: 00044116  
 Project Duration: 4 years  
 Management Arrangement: DEX

<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>USD 1,175,000</b>
<u>Allocated resources:</u>	
• GEF	USD 975,000
• UNDP	USD 200,000
<u>In-kind Contributions</u>	
○ Government	USD 267,000
○ UNDP CP:	USD 186,000
○ JRC's	USD 154,000
○ FAO	USD 50,000
○ Winrock	USD 40,000
○ CARE	USD 152,000

Agreed by (Government):  Kadirov, Minister, 16.02.07

Agreed by (Implementing partner/Executing agency): 

Agreed by (UNDP):  02.07

