

**MINUTES**  
**Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) meeting**

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Government of  
Uzbekistan project “Strengthening Efficiency and Sustainability of Newly  
Established Lower-Amudarya State Biosphere Reserve”**

**Date:** April 17, 2012

**Time:** 10:00 - 11:30

**Venue:** UNDP CO Conference Hall

**Participants:** *(as per the attached List of participants)*

The purpose of the PAC meeting was to review the UNDP project document on “Strengthening Efficiency and Sustainability of Newly Established Lower-Amudarya State Biosphere Reserve (LABR)”, obtain feedback from partners, and seek partners’ endorsement for the project.

**Mr. Darkhon Abutalipov** (Programme Associate, Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP) opened the meeting. He introduced the purpose and agenda of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) meeting, and gave the floor to the representative of the national implementing partner, Main Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAWR), Mr. Roman Rasulov and Mr. Stefan Liller, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative.

**Mr. Roman Rasulov** (Deputy Head of Reserve, National Park and Game Hunting Directorate, Main Forestry Department of the MAWR) welcomed participants and noted that the proposed project had become possible owing to success of UNDP/GEF/Government of Karakalpakstan project “Conservation of Tugai Forests and Strengthening Protected Areas System in the Amudarya Delta of Karakalpakstan” (Tugai) implemented during 2005-2011 and its main results – nearly twofold increase of protected area territory in the region and adoption of Resolution of Cabinet of Ministers No. 243 «On Establishment of Lower Amu-Darya State Biosphere Reserve under the Main Forestry Department of MAWR” dd. 26 Aug 2011. He emphasized that the Biosphere Reserve (BR) was currently a flagman in sustainable management of biodiversity around the country. Mr. Rasulov also noted that in short term they would like to see the BR as a practical platform of sustainable use of biodiversity for protected areas staff and local population and as a means to further spread knowledge and good innovative practices (new jobs in ecotourism, development of applied and fundamental researches on sustainable nature resources use, restoration and use of degraded land and others). Mr. Rasulov thanked former PM of Tugai project Mr. Khalilulla Sherimbetov, UNDP and all partners for the achievements of Tugai project and the new follow-up initiative on LABR, and wished a productive work during the PAC meeting.

**Mr. Stefan Liller** (UNDP Assistant Resident Representative in Uzbekistan) welcomed participants on behalf of UNDP. He noted that establishment of BR was an important milestone for protected areas system in Uzbekistan and UNDP had an honor to take part in the process jointly with national partners. He also noted that the discussed project was a very important intervention to support sustainability of the BR, sharing lessons learned and best practices of the BR among protected areas system around the country. Mr. Liller thanked national partners for their support and wished a constructive discussion during the PAC meeting.

**Ms. Guzal Khodjaeva** (Programme Associate (Biodiversity focal point), Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP) presented prerequisites of the project initiation, project proposal, introducing



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expected project activities and results and budget allocated. She noted that the project duration was set for the period from May 2012 till Dec 2012 with around USD 100,000 budgeted for project activities. Some additional contribution from the Government was expected as well.

Following the project presentation the floor was open for **discussion**:

**Mr. Roman Rasulov** noted that as a national implementing agency they had a practical remark regarding project's Activity 2 - strengthening infrastructure of LABR to improve performance efficiency. When producing and installing landmarks he suggested to make sure that the landmarks would be in three languages and readable for local population, taking into account sizes of the landmarks and height of its installation. He stressed that the landmarks were essential components of informative work and it was important to take care of its quality rather than quantity. Another remark was regarding procurement of motor scooters (wide wheel motorcycles) and/or motorcycles "Izh" for inspectorate within the same activity component. He noted that the latter would be more applicable for local conditions.

**Mr. Bakhritdin Muradov** (Chief Specialist of the Agriculture and Water Development Department, Representative of Ministry of Economy) added that motor scooters do not allow to attach trailers which was also inconvenient for the local needs.

**Mr. Alexey Volkov** (National Coordinator, GEF Small Grants Programme) added that they had a very positive experience of employing motor scooters within GEF SGP project in "Djeyran" eco-center in desert conditions, and they were procuring weight motor scooter currently. Based on their experience, GEF SGP suggested this type of transport for LABR as an effective and modern option.

**Mr. Alexander Grigoryants** (a.i. Head, State Inspection of Flora and Fauna Protection (Gosbiocontrol) under State Committee for Nature Protection) expressed concern that within the project duration (May – Dec 2012) it would be impossible to finalize registration process to include the LABR into the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) in the frame of MAB programme, UNESCO.

**Ms. Guzal Khodjaeva** explained that significant part of the package of documents was prepared within Tugai project and they were being agreed with the State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre of Uzbekistan at the moment. She noted that within LABR project duration the objective was to finalize the process at the national level and submit application to UNESCO Commission.

**Mr. Stefan Liller** noted that since budget of UNDP was limited, they allocated resources to strategic areas interesting for the Government. The project proposal being discussed was welcomed by Government, and cost-sharing resources have been allocated from the Government part. Mr. Liller thanked national partners for their support and asked whether they agreed with the activities incorporated into the project document as the most relevant to support efficiency and sustainability of BR or they would add/replace some of them instead.

**Mr. Alexey Volkov** clarified that UNDP was not intended to allocate additional money for the project currently, but would like to know whether all planned activities were relevant and enough for the goals pursued.

**Mr. Alisher Shukurov** (Chief Specialist of the Main Forestry Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources) stated that even though Tugai project had implemented a considerable amount of work on reorganization of protected area into Biosphere reserve (BR), still a lot needed to be done to ensure its sustainability. He said that amount allocated for the project was not enough to finalize the process in short term. For example, infrastructure for



ecotourism still needed to be developed. Government contribution was allocated for management expenses only, mainly for salaries, safeguarding the BR and research activities. Whereas, BR required a lot of awareness rising and outreach activities, work with local communities, dissemination of information materials, sharing result with other entities – all of that required large investments. Another area that required additional budget was capacity building. Local authorities, local population and BR staff needed trainings on management of buffer and transition zones; a lot of debates on those issues were taking place in the region. He emphasized that it was important to attract additional funding from donors for that purposes, otherwise transition from protected area to BR mode would progress slowly.

**Mr. Bakhritdin Muradov** asked a number of questions regarding projects activities: (1) As per Activity 1.5.1 it was planned to deliver workshops on new regulations in the field of environmental management of the BR territory for land-users and representatives of khokimiyats. Mr. Muradov asked what kind of new regulations was mentioned, whether it was about Article 3 of Seville strategy, and whether any amendments were introduced there. (2) According to Activity 1.5.2 it was envisaged to carry out awareness campaign with involvement of mass media regarding operation, regulations and business activities in the territory of LABR. Mr. Muradov recommended to involve Zhokargy Kenes and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan for this activity to have a comprehensive effect and larger coverage. (3) Regarding Activity 2.2 - purchase and installment of solar panels with total capacity of 2 kW for administration building and visit-center) - Mr. Muradov expressed doubts about capacity of solar panel and whether it would be enough to provide electricity for the premises. Another concern was about country of production – if import panels were procured, then additional costs would be incurred; if local ones would be chosen, then capacity of panels might be low. A thorough analysis would be needed. (4) The representative of Ministry of Economy also asked about procurement of uniform within Activity 2.4.1. – in particular, whether it was meant a standard uniform of Main Department of Forestry or some other analogues. If it was a standard one, then he did not see the meaning of procuring uniform, which should be provided by the Forestry Department. (5) Mr. Murodov also wondered why the project office was supposed to be located in Tashkent, rather than in Karakalpakstan, closer to project area.

**Ms. Guzal Khodjaeva** thanked for lively interest to the project proposal and responded that new regulations were related to the new status of the protected area as per Seville strategy (adopted in 1995). The regulations clearly defined load of human activity on each of the protected area's zone. As per uniform issues, Ms. Khodjaeva noted that since Government's contribution was allocated to managerial expenses only (salaries, safeguarding and research activities), uniform expenses should be paid from the project budget. Local enterprise for women with disabilities, established within another UNDP project, was considered to be contacted for production of those uniforms. Answering to the last question from the Ministry of Economy regarding the project office, Ms. Khodjaeva reminded that the project would have one staff only (Task Manager), and activities would be related mainly to procurement and conclusion of contracts. Since most of companies and UNDP CO (processing body) located in Tashkent, it was chosen as the most efficient location for project office to run the project implementation process as scheduled. Task Manager would be able to travel to the project territory in Karakalpakstan when required though.

**Mr. Khalilulla Sherimbetov** (Project Manager of "Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Uzbekistan's Oil-and-Gas Sector Policies and Operations" project, former Project Manager of "Conservation of Tugai Forests and Strengthening Protected Areas System in the Amudarya Delta of Karakalpakstan" project, UNDP) added that in the framework of Tugai project a number of trainings on BR operation, Seville strategy and other related issues were conducted for local



authorities. They had general idea about it. Moreover, now Cabinet of Minister's Resolution was available as a reference document. However, it was important now to explain provisions of the Resolution and BR functioning regulations to the local authorities in more details. Government of Karakalpakstan highly supported the project, so there would be no difficulties with engaging local authorities and Government into outreach and awareness raising campaigns and trainings.

**Mr. Khurshid Norov** (National Consultant on Development of Project "Strengthening Efficiency and Sustainability of Newly Established Lower-Amudarya State Biosphere Reserve", UNDP) noted that 2 kW solar panels have been chosen based on results of field trip and discussions with BR authorities. So, 2kw capacity has been selected as the optimum one taking into account budget constraints and BR minimum needs for additional energy sources. Extra facilities would be provided by Government. As per procurement procedures, it would be run according to UNDP procedures on a competitive basis. Quality-price ratio would be taken into account when solar panels to be procured.

**Mr. Khalilulla Sherimbetov** clarified that the BR currently had electricity supply, however due to frequent power cuts, renewable energy sources would be installed within the LABR project as a security supplement. Another option in that case, as proposed by Mr. Sherimbetov, was decrease of power cuts in the district, if BR could apply to district authorities on that issue.

**Mr. Bakhritdin Muradov** asked whether the BR would have additional financial or other benefits, when included into UNESCO WNB.

**Ms. Guzal Khodjaeva** responded that the primary objective of inscription into UNESCO WNB was information exchange (best practices, methodologies, techniques) between biosphere reserves worldwide, so that LABR could adopt those invaluable assets to enhance its effectiveness. Some fund raising practices could be adopted as well. But no direct financial support was expected.

**Mr. Khurshid Norov** commented that the project document contained additional useful recommendation (proposed by Mr. Roman Rasulov, Main Dept. of Forestry) to establish guest houses/hotels in the project area. The ultimate goal of UNDP and Government's efforts was to ensure sustainability, i.e. self-sufficiency of the BR after completion of the project. As one of the most effective sources of funding recommended for the BR was ecotourism. Even though there were some obstacles, such as location of the BR in remote area and lack of infrastructure, UNDP created a basis for resource mobilization through ecotourism - provided a thorough analysis of the sector and recommendations, ensured legal framework etc. On the basis of that, BR jointly with local authorities and local population could boost development of ecotourism in the region in short term – branding of the protected area could be developed, infrastructure development through involvement of local population etc.

**Mr. Roman Rasulov** informed that a tender on the best project on ecotourism infrastructure development (hotels, camping etc.) was recently announced in the region. The tender have arisen a high interest among local companies and population.

**Mr. Santeri Eriksson** (Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative) for monitoring and evaluation purposes asked to share a full list of areas of trainings and training participants within Activity 1. He stated that it would be difficult incorporate monitoring and evaluation activities within the project budget of 100,000 USD. Mr. Eriksson also wondered how sustainability of the project (dissemination of best practices) would be related to monitoring and evaluation framework. He expressed a concern that 67.5% of the project budget was allocated for hard contributions (i.e. equipment,



facilities, etc.), which outweighed costs for administrative issues, even though the latter was one the project objectives as well.

**Ms. Guzal Khodjaeva** assured that the required lists of trainings and participants was ready and would be shared with monitoring & evaluation focal points. Capacity building activities would be targeted mainly at the BR staff, local authorities and population. Preliminary it was planned to train 50 representatives of local authorities on their role in the BR management. As a result of Tugai project, a number of important documents have been prepared, such as business plan, BR management plan, training materials and a concept note on visit center. So, fundamental part of work for BR functioning was done, whereas technical facilities needed to be enhanced further. Management capacity could not be improved without availability of the technical tools. That was why at that stage, in order to ensure sustainability of the LABR, they should work in two directions: intellectual capacity building and development of institutional basis. As mentioned by Mr. Alisher Shukurov, the BR was currently functioning as a normal protected area. If sustainability of the BR would be ensured, that could serve as a platform for further similar initiatives in that area (e.g. Surkhan protected area). The project document has been developed on the basis of gaps identified, that was why it accurately met the needs of the BR, local population and administration. Capacity building component by building a significant intangible asset had a large "hidden cost". Training materials would be revised according to the new status of the BR, and would be transferred for further use of the BR.

**Mr. Alexey Volkov** reflected on the whole discussion: As per Mr. Stefan Liller's question regarding effectiveness of project budget distribution, he noted that the direction chosen was correct, but it would be very much important how the project would be implemented and how the resources would be spent. Results of the project would depend on quality of work.

He noted that there was a misunderstanding of nature reserves management. He expressed a hope that one of the main project results would be change of mind in that regard, redirection of approaches to nature reserves management. There have been mentioned that the BR did not have resources for its proper functioning. Indeed, it should not have it. Administration of the BR with the help of other parties (involving resources of private sector, local community) should be able to achieve its main goal – biodiversity conservation. That was why the BR to be included into UNESCO Programme "*The Man and the Biosphere*" (MAB); the title itself reflected the essence of BR activities.

So, if they wanted to develop ecotourism in LABR, the BR should not possess any hotels, guest houses or other infrastructure. All of those services should be provided by local community, because in that case, local population would be interested in biodiversity conservation. There would be an understanding among community that their income depended on biodiversity conservation directly. In that case, main functions of BR would be security guarding & charging an entrance fee only. All other supplementary products/services could be provided by local community to generate economic benefits for them. Referring to the BR map, we could conclude that the better local population would live in transition (green) zone, the better biodiversity would be conserved in core (red) zone. That was the essence of BR operation mechanism.

The training component of the project should be focused on improving interaction between the BR staff and local community, identifying and training on new income generation sources for local community. The better local community would live, the easier biodiversity conservation would go in the region.

Another management tool, mentioned by Mr. Volkov, was demonstration of new approaches to local community. Infrastructure was not essential in that case as well; instead, the BR could



help to local community to develop their own approaches. As an example, Mr. Alexey Volkov noted that within Tugai project jointly with GEF SGP they successfully had demonstrated laser leveling and zero tillage methods. All equipment procured within the mini project had been transferred to the BR. The BR would be able to rent that equipment to local farmers, generate income and maintain ecological sustainability in the transition zone.

There were mass of other approaches and methods that could be demonstrated, but the BR's role would be again not to possess facilities, but to transfer the practices to community. So he suggested choosing several key directions for BR's income generation, and leaving other activities for local community.

GEF SGP could be a partner/source of funds for the BR as well. For example, GEF SGP was currently promoting a new alternative energy for the region – microhydroenergetics. Jointly with GEF SGP benefits of microhyrdoenergetics could be demonstrated and promoted among local community on Amudarya River.

Mr. Alexey Volkov suggested “fund raising” as another important area for trainings. He told that it was important to train the BR staff on how to prepare proposals for funding, how to cooperate with donors, understand their requirements and needs, effective writing, budgeting etc. Additional funds from various donor organizations (conservation unions, special funds, WWF, research institutes, etc.) would still be needed for the BR's outreach activities, research activities, new demo projects, etc. As a case study for fund raising trainings, he suggested to demonstrate GEF SGP grant application process. He proposed to hold on job training and fill in SGP GEF application form. Sustainability of the BR would highly depend on initiative and resource mobilization skills of the BR staff.

**Mr. Khurshid Norov** thanked for the proposals and told that finance and fund raising were included into the training programme for the BR staff.

**Mr. Arzid Latipov** (Chief Specialist of the State Cadastre Department at the State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre of Uzbekistan) noted that according to the Resolution of Cabinet of Ministers, it was delegated to the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan to finalize the BR land allotment procedure within one month. As of that day, the process still was not finalized due to lack of budget. The core (strictly protected) zone of 11 568.3 ha could be considered as LABR land, buffer and transition zones were not protected areas. So LABR could manage only the core zone area, whereas buffer and transition zones belonged to land users, and could be managed by the district khokimiyats,. Thus, LABR could interact with those district khokimiyats only, not manage independently. Another Cabinet of Minister's order was to amend cadaster documents. Thus, activities allowable in the three zones were defined by legal documents as well. Trainings on legal issues should be delivered to local organizations, local community. Cadaster documents of local organizations should specify in which zone of the BR they were located. He told that installment of cordons was indeed necessary. But the problem was that not all organizations in that area had cadaster documents. The BR should also have cadaster documents for land, forests and constructions/buildings. So, it was important to resolve legal issues as well, especially if the LABR to be included into UNESCO WNBR.

**Mr. Akmal Ismatov** (Project Manager of “Strengthening Sustainability of the National Protected Area System by Focusing on Strictly Protected Areas” project) told that their project team was actively involved in project proposal development and, in response to Mr. Latipov's comment, informed that the Main Forestry Department had allocated 34 million UZS for cadaster issues, and there should not be any problems with resolving those issues.



**Mr. Khalilulla Sherimbetov** reflected on the whole discussion: The Resolution was adopted just in August 2011. Surely, the BR could not immediately transform into full-fledged biosphere reserve. It should be a gradual process. Mr. Arzid Latipov was right: first of all, legal issues and land issues should be resolved. The Resolution also defined that the BR would cooperate with local authorities in transition and buffer zone, it was not meant to manage them independently. Mr. Alexander Grigoryants was right that the project duration period was not enough to finalize the process of inscription into UNESCO WNBR. But, as mentioned by Ms. Guzal Khodjaeva, Tugai project initiated this work and a lot of documentation had been prepared. So, within the discussed project the main package would be finalized and submitted for review to UNESCO. Mr. Khalilulla Sherimbetov agreed that there was a need for fund raising trainings. He emphasized that they should stop relying on Soviet style centralized financing and start finding new ways for self-sustainability. Tugai project had prepared a business plan to show a lot of possible sources of fund raising for the BR. The objective of the new project was to prioritize those sources and choose the most feasible at the beginning stage of operation (e.g. joint projects with GEF SGP demonstrated within Tugai project).

Mr. Khalilulla Sherimbetov agreed with remarks of Mr. Alexey Volkov on ecotourism: the BR should not possess all infrastructures itself, business should be involved. Tugai project had procured yurts (nomads tents) for the BR. At the beginning stage the BR could employ them for attracting tourists and income generation. Four ancient cities were located on the territory of the BR - that could be another hook to attract tourists. Combination of biodiversity and cultural heritage conservation could be very interesting for tourists.

**Mr. Stefan Liller** agreed with suggestions on income generation for local community, trainings on fund raising, microhydroenergetics development and synergy areas with GEF SGP.

**Ms. Guzal Khodjaeva** thanked all the participants for valuable comments and recommendations that were highly appreciated and would be taken into account when finalizing project document.

#	PAC check list	Participants' conclusion
1.	Relevance	Affirmative.
2.	Stakeholder participation and partnership-building	Affirmative. All key stakeholders are involved
3.	Contribution to poverty reduction.	Affirmative. The project will support development of ecotourism and other sustainable business activities of local population.
4.	Gender equality and the advancement of women	Affirmative. Some activities to promote gender equality are envisaged (women enterprise as a vendor for production of uniform; gender balance will be maintained among trainings participants)
5.	Protection and regeneration of the environment	Affirmative. The project is aimed at ensuring sustainability of the first BR in Uzbekistan established within UNDP previous project. The biosphere reserve will play a crucial role in conservation of biodiversity and supporting economic wellbeing of local population of the region.
6.	Feasibility and technical soundness.	Affirmative.
7.	Management arrangements	Affirmative.
8.	Integration, synergies, complementary	Affirmative. The project will interact with other projects related to nature resources conservation and poverty reduction in the region.
9.	Result orientation	Affirmative.

10.	Resources and inputs	Affirmative.
11.	Governance	Affirmative.
12.	Most promising strategy (risks and external factors)	The Risk Log is provided in the project document.
13.	Incorporation of lessons learned	Affirmative.
14.	Capacity development and sustainability	Affirmative. The project will focus on capacity development of BR reserves staff, local population and local authorities in the region.

**Conclusion:**

**Mr. Roman Rasulov** summarized the discussion, thanked all the participants for valuable recommendations and interesting ideas.


**Mr. Darkhon Abutalipov** thanked all the participants for constructive work and exchange of opinions. With consent of participants, he announced approval of the project initiation taking into account recommendations provided.

**Ms. Stefan Liller** thanked Mr. Roman Rasulov, representative of the Main Forestry Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management and other participants on behalf of UNDP for their active participation in the meeting and supporting that initiative.

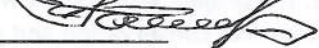
**PAC decision and immediate follow-up actions:**

The PAC noted the comments of participants and endorsed the project. The next steps outlined were the following:

1. Prepare and sign minutes of the PAC meeting for UNDP project “Strengthening Efficiency and Sustainability of Newly Established Lower-Amudarya State Biosphere Reserve (LABR)”
2. Submit the project document for counter-signing to the Main Forestry Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources Republic of Uzbekistan.
3. Launch the project, and recruit project personnel.

Reviewed by:   
**Mr. Darkhon Abutalipov**  
*A.i. Head of Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP*

Approved by:   
**Mr. Stefan Liller**  
*UNDP Assistant Resident Representative in Uzbekistan*

Approved by:   
**Mr. Roman Rasulov**  
*Deputy Head of Reserve, National Park and Game Hunting Directorate, Main Forestry department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources*



**AGENDA  
of the Project Appraisal Committee**

**UNDP Project “Strengthening Efficiency and Sustainability of Newly Established Lower-Amudarya State Biosphere Reserve”**

17<sup>th</sup> April, 2012, UNDP Uzbekistan Country Office, 4, Taras Schevchenko Str., Tashkent

**09:30-10:00** Registration of participants

**10:00-10:10** Welcoming speeches

**Mr. Roman Rasulov**  
*Deputy Head of Reserve, National Park and Game Hunting Directorate, Main Forestry department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources*

**Mr. Stefan Liller**  
*UNDP Assistant Resident Representative*

**10:10-10:15** Presentation of the meeting agenda. Introduction of participants.

**Mr. Darkhon Abutalipov**  
*a.i. Head of Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP CO*

**10:15-10:40** Presentation of project output, targets, and activity results

**Ms. Guzal Khodjaeva**  
*Programme associate, Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP CO*

**10:40-11:10** Discussion

*Meeting participants*

**11:10-11:30** PAC decisions and immediate follow-up actions

**Mr. Darkhon Abutalipov**  
*a.i. Head of Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP CO*



**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
 Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) meeting of  
 “Strengthening Efficiency and Sustainability of Newly Established Lower-Amudarya State  
 Biosphere Reserve”

National Partner Organizations		
1	Mr. Roman Rasulov	Deputy Head of Reserve, National Park and Game Hinting Directorate, Main Forestry Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources
2	Mr. Azat Matyakupov	Director of the Lower-Amudarya State Biosphere Reserve
3	Mr. Alisher Shukurov	Chief Specialist of the Main Forestry Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources
4	Mr. Alexander Grigoryants	a.i. Head of the State Inspection of Flora and Fauna Protection (Gosbiocontrol), State Committee for Nature Protection
5	Mr. Arzid Latipov	Chief Specialist of the State Cadastre Department at the State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre of Uzbekistan
6	Mr. Sherzod Umarov	Chief Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources
7	Mr. Bakhritdin Muradov	Chief Specialist of the Agriculture and Water Development Department of the Ministry of Economy
8	Mr. Shodiyor Mamatkulov	Chief Economist, Ministry of Finance
UNDP Uzbekistan		
9	Mr. Stefan Liller	Assistant to UNDP Resident Representative
10	Ms. Natalya Pyagay	Head of Resource Management Unit/Learning Manager
11	Mr. Santeri Eriksson	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative
12	Mr. Alexey Volkov	National Coordinator of GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP)
13	Mr. Darkhon Abutalipov	Programme Associate, a.i.Head of Environment and Energy Unit
14	Ms. Rano Baykhanova	Climate Change Specialist, Environment and Energy Unit
15	Mr. Azamat Tashev	Land and Water Resources Management Specialist, Environment and Energy Unit
16	Ms. Guzal Khodjaeva	Programme Associate, Environment and Energy Unit
17	Ms. Roza Iskhakova	Programme Assistant, Environment and Energy Unit
18	Mr. Khurshid Norov	National Consultant on Development of Project “Strengthening Efficiency and Sustainability of Newly Established Lower-Amudarya State Biosphere Reserve”
19	Mr. Khalilulla Sherimbetov	Project Manager of “Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Uzbekistan’s Oil-and-Gas Sector Policies and Operations” project, former Project Manager of “Conservation of Tugai Forests and Strengthening Protected Areas System in the Amudarya Delta of



		Karakalpakstan” project
20	Mr. Akmal Ismatov	Project Manager of “Strengthening Sustainability of the National Protected Area System by Focusing on Strictly Protected Areas” project
21	Mr. Umid Nazarkulov	National Technical Coordinator of “Achieving Ecosystem Stability on Degraded Land in Karakalpakstan and the Kyzylkum Desert” project
22	Mr. Aleksandr Bogdanov	Translator/Interpreter



