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Initiation Plan / GEF PPG

Project Title: Promotion of sustainable food systems and improved ecosystems services in Northern Kazakhstan Landscape	
Country: Kazakhstan	
Country Programme Outcome: 1.3 - Ecosystems and natural resources are protected and sustainably used, and human settlements are resilient to natural and human-induced disasters and climate change.	
UNDP Strategic Plan Output: 1.4.1 Solutions scaled up for sustainable management of natural resources, including sustainable commodities and green and inclusive value chains	
Gender Marker rating: GEN 2	
SESP Pre-Screening Categorization: Moderate	
ATLAS Project ID: 00112781	Total budget: US\$ 150,000
ATLAS Output ID: 00111139	Allocated resources:
PIMS ID: 6396	• GEF US\$ 150,000
Management Arrangement: DIM	

AGREED BY UNDP:

Yakup Beris
UNDP Resident Representative


Signature

05.07.2019
Day/Month/Year
Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Brief Description of the Initiation Plan/GEF PPG	3
II. Stakeholder Engagement, public disclosure and other requirements.....	5
III. GEF PPG ACTIVITIES.....	5
Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews	5
Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes	9
Component C: Validation Workshop and Report.....	13
IV. Total Budget and Work Plan for GEF PPG.....	13
V. Mandatory Annexes	16
Annex 1: GEF CEO PIF/PPG Approval Letter.....	16
Annex 2: Draft Terms of Reference (TORs) of Consultants Financed by the Project Preparatory Grant (GEF PPG)	18
Annex 3: Draft outline for the green crops value chain report.....	31
Annex 4: Suggested content of the LDN report	33

I. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATION PLAN/GEF PPG

Background

This PPG Initiation Plan describes how the project preparation grant of \$150,000 from the GEF will be programmed to develop a full project document for the Project "Promotion of sustainable food systems and improved ecosystems services in Northern Kazakhstan Landscape", with supporting documentation for submission to the GEF for CEO endorsement. The child project Concept Note (PIF equivalent) was approved by the June 2019 GEF Council as part of a package of child projects under the Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program, outlined in the Programme Framework Document (PFD) of that name submitted through the World Bank as Lead Agency for the program as a whole.

Objective & Final Outputs

The objective of the GEF PPG is to develop the project concept into a full-sized Child Project "Promotion of sustainable food systems and improved ecosystems services in Northern Kazakhstan Landscape". As described in the Child Project concept note, this project aims to trigger wide-scale adoption of efficient land management technologies and promote green value chains to reduce degradation of productive agricultural land and associated high value ecosystems in the Northern Kazakhstan Landscape. The project will support Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) policies, capacities and incentives, thus ensuring the enabling environment for transformation of land use practices to avoid ecosystem and land degradation. The project will support establishment of the cooperative platform with wheat exporters and retail companies, lead by the Government and focusing on green wheat as key commodity. For the agricultural landscape, the project will support diversification and improved management of productive croplands, introduce agro-environmental incentives for sustainable food production, restore pasture land and introduce sustainable pasture management techniques. The project will support the establishment of a network of high-nature value ecosystems within game reserves, high nature value forest districts, wetlands, local protected areas and connecting corridors. The project will finance innovative reforestation pilots and highly replicable restoration demos for dryland forests, degraded lake and wetland ecosystems. Within its knowledge management component, the project will assist the sectoral stakeholders with the establishment of a national experience exchange network on sustainable food production, organization of vocational and academic training programs in agricultural colleges and universities, awareness raising and advocacy for sustainable food production, SLM, conservation and sustainable use of valuable natural ecosystems in productive landscapes.

The following documents are to be consulted as background for the GEF PPG phase:

- GEF Council-approved PFD (FOLUR)
- Child Project concept note cleared for WP inclusion
- SESP pre-screening
- Comments from GEF Secretariat, Council, STAP
- Annotated UNDP-GEF Project Document Template and associated guidance included therein

The final outputs of the GEF PPG are:

1. UNDP-GEF Project Document (ProDoc), using the latest standard template.

2. Mandatory annexes to the ProDoc, including gender analysis and action plan, and stakeholder engagement plan, among others, and project specific annexes (e.g. landscape profile, institutional and legal analysis, feasibility studies etc).
3. GEF CEO Endorsement Request.
4. Validation Workshop report: becomes mandatory once and if the *moderate/high* SESP risk rating is confirmed for the Child Project

Any additional studies and other reports produced under the GEF PPG and not included in Annex to the project document will be submitted to UNDP and saved for future reference.

Key Dates for the GEF PPG

Milestone	Date	Notes
Internal submission date for UNDP-GEF review and clearance	March 30, 2020	Must be at least two (2) months prior to CEO Endorsement Submission Deadline. Date to be confirmed with RTA during PPG.
CEO Endorsement Submission Deadline after which the project will be cancelled.	May 30, 2020	Failure to submit a ProDoc and CEO ER to the GEF Secretariat by this deadline will lead to the automatic cancellation of the project by the GEF Secretariat.
CEO Endorsement Deadline after which the project will be cancelled.	November 30, 2020	Failure to receive CEO endorsement by this deadline will lead to the automatic cancellation of the project by the GEF Secretariat.

Management Arrangements

The UNDP Kazakhstan will lead the project development process and manage the GEF PPG budget in full consultation with the UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser. The GEF PPG Atlas budget is presented in *Section IV: Total Budget and Work Plan*.

The GEF PPG team will be guided by a Working Group consisting of the UNDP-GEF RTA, UNDP CO SD&U Programme Leader, and responsible personnel within the Ministry of Agriculture. The Working Group will be responsible for ensuring that the deliverables outlined in this GEF PPG are completed on time and in line with UNDP and GEF requirements, and respond to country programme priorities and stakeholder expectations from the PPG process.

The GEF PPG team will be composed of the following:

- 1) International Specialist for Project Development
- 2) International Consultant for Knowledge Management and Coordination*
- 3) International Specialist in Commodity Supply Chains (wheat)
- 4) International Specialist in Multi-stakeholder Commodity Platforms*
- 5) National Stakeholder Outreach Specialist and PPG Coordinator/Environmental Management Specialist
- 6) National Specialist in green crops value chains
- 7) Agronomist and farmer support specialist
- 8) Agricultural Economist

- 9) Integrated landscape planning expert
- 10) Pasture & livestock management expert
- 11) Biodiversity and forest expert
- 12) Wetland and water resource management expert
- 13) Gender specialist

** These international positions should be logically covered by the global parent PPG on FOLUR, as they are common approaches for all participating countries that are going to be employed by the global program. They will be recruited only in case the global PPG fails to provide for them.*

Draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for each team member is included in Annex 2 of this Initiation Plan.

II. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

To ensure strong country ownership, and in line with the stakeholder engagement requirements outlined in UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES), the development of the project to be undertaken during this GEF PPG phase will be done in full consultation and close engagement with government, CSO and other relevant stakeholders – in particular those who will benefit from and be directly involved in the implementation of the project (i.e. direct project beneficiaries).

A list of key project stakeholders with their roles and engagement mechanisms is presented in the Child project Concept. This list will be further elaborated for the project document and included in an Annex.

If the Social and Environment Screening Procedure (SESP) included in Annex to the project document, has an overall safeguard risk rating of moderate or high, the following disclosure requirements apply:

1. A final validation workshop report will be prepared summarizing the outcomes of the validation workshop and other consultations undertaken during the PPG phase. This report must demonstrate strong country ownership and will become a key reference document should an environmental and social safeguard complaint/grievance be filed during project implementation.
2. Before CEO endorsement (if appropriate given the GEF cancellation policy) or at the latest by the LPAC meeting, the UNDP-GEF project document, SESP and related management plans, and other relevant information/documents (e.g. ProDoc annexes) will be made available to the public on the UNDP website or open.undp.org. It is recommended to make these documents available for 30 days in advance of the LPAC meeting for moderate risk projects, and 120 days in advance for high risk projects.

III. GEF PPG ACTIVITIES

Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews

The following technical studies and reviews will be conducted, building on the PIF and the comments received to the PIF (e.g. from GEF Council and STAP).

a. Desktop and field-based studies and data collection

Targeted research and data collection should produce the background information required to prepare the ProDoc and CEO Endorsement Request, including but not limited to:

- Development challenge and strategy (including threats, problems and barrier assessment);
- Review of national policy and legislative frameworks;
- Problem and solution trees developed in consultation with project stakeholders, for a robust Theory of Change (to be prepared in **Component B**, below);
- Review of relevant past and ongoing projects for lessons; and
- Any other analyses required to address all comments on the PIF received from GEF Secretariat, GEF Council members and STAP

The PPG phase will result in a detailed analysis of threats, root-causes, problem and barrier assessment as a key part of the future project document.

A review of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation effects on the ecosystems and land use pattern in the Northern Kazakhstan Landscape will make one of the key desktop assessment products of the PPG phase.

A detailed review of relevant national policy and enabling environment will be performed at the PPG stage, addressing the comments on the Child Project Concept.

A detail analysis of the baseline programmes will be offered in response to the comments received at the Child Project Concept phase.

For the lessons learned, the PPG phase will look not only to the GEF and other major donor support and partnership projects of relevance, but specifically for the partner projects supporting green farming production, co-funded by UNDP and food retailer/wholesaler/export companies, such as JSCs Tesna, KazAgro, Grain Pool, Logos Grain and Kazakh Export.

The desktop studies supporting project strategy development for various project component are present in the respective consultancy ToRs (Annex 2) and mentioned in the section “f” below.

b. Gender Analysis

Key gender considerations relevant for the project are presented in the Child Project Concept note. A detail gender analysis will be carried out during the PPG phase to fully consider the different needs, roles, benefits, impacts, risks, differential access to and control over resources of women and men (including considerations of intersecting categories of identity such as age, social status, ethnicity, marital status, etc.) given a project’s context, and to identify appropriate measures to address these and promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. The analysis will form the basis of a Gender Action Plan and Budget to guide gender mainstreaming during project implementation. The Gender Analysis, and the Gender Action Plan and Budget must be developed in accordance with the respective guidance and attached as Annexes to the Project Document.

During the project preparation phase, gender specialist will be part of the project team who will undertake gender analysis and develop gender action plan to ensure that project interventions are gender responsive and improve the gender equality and women’s empowerment. The project will ensure close consultations with local communities in the target geographies to identify gender mainstreaming opportunities in the project design strategy.

c. Environmental and Social Safeguard Assessments

The social and environmental safeguards pre-screening (pre-SESP) prepared during the project concept design phase determined the overall risk categorization of this project as **Moderate** and highlighted potential safeguard risks to be further assessed during the PPG phase.

The purpose of these assessments is to identify ways to avoid negative environmental and social impacts where possible (e.g., through site selection). If risk avoidance is not possible, then mitigation and management measures must be identified, in line with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (see section B-f below).

The pre-SESP attached to the Child Project note will be reviewed during the PPG phase. The national PPG team will facilitate dialogue with target communities, identify areas where their rights might be threatened, ensure respect for the existing legislation related to socio-cultural rights.

In case some of the required assessments cannot be undertaken or finalized during the PPG, they must be completed during the first phase of project implementation.

d. Identification of project sites

Based on the above reviews, and through consultation with stakeholders, the targeted project pilot sites will be confirmed/identified.

Particularly, the PPG phase will confirm the pilot sites for the following FSP outputs:

- 2.2. "Diversification and improved management of productive cropland" with an ultimate focus on wheat production sites;
- 2.3 "Replacement of ineffective annual crops with sustainable perennial crops"
- 2.4 "Introduction of innovative pasture watering techniques and restoration of degraded pastures".

For each of the pilot sites, a so-called Site Information Form will be developed detailing the following:

- a. Name of the site
- b. Tenure / management arrangements for the site (including private sector partners)
- c. Identification of the current crop(s) produced and harvested there
- d. Identification of ecological problem(s) that leads to low-efficiency of the harvest
- e. Statement of the technologies the project will apply there
- f. Statement of the total budget that will be allocated to improve production at this site
- g. Description of how much will be funded by GEF and how much by a partner bank/credit institution
- h. Statement of what crop will be produced as a result of the project and what harvest is expected as a result of improvement(s).

The PPG phase will confirm the restoration pilot for pasture land; target farms for seed multiplication pilots; high value forest restoration pilots on the basis of the assessment of the sanitary conditions, biodiversity and economic values (role as buffer for productive landscape); future tree plantations and a model forest nursery; pilot areas for restoration of degraded lake and wetland ecosystems.

e. Financial planning

Co-financing will be confirmed and additional sources identified through a series of consultations with partners to ensure a coherent and sustainable financing package for the project, including post-GEF grant phase to the extent possible.

f. Knowledge management planning

In support of Component 4 of the future project, the relevant PPG expert in consultation with the PPG team will prepare a knowledge management strategy, that will detail how the project will connect and best engage with the other FOLUR IP projects, the FOLUR global platform, the UNDP Green Commodities Program (CGP), the Good Growth Partnership (GGP) as well as with other countries and platforms inside and outside of the country. The knowledge management strategy will serve as a means to scale results and impact the broader food system. The strategy will ensure that the project actively engages and connects with the other FOLUR participating countries, the CGP and GGP broader community to support collaboration, learning, and sharing and adoption of relevant lessons. The knowledge management strategy should also outline preliminary approach to producing the relevant knowledge management products such as collective guidance on sustainable crop and livestock management approaches and other products that can contribute to FOLUR IP - wide knowledge base.

g. Other required studies

The key strategic output for the full-sized Child Project, an integrated land use plan for the Northern Kazakhstan Landscape, should be elaborated, reviewed and adopted by authorities during a relatively tight timeframe. The integrated nature of the proposed planning instrument calls for an extensive cross-sector collaboration and stakeholder engagement process. For the long-term viability of the proposed plan, new finance assistance modalities for the national agriculture sector should be offered and justified, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Committee for Land Resource Management, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and other key agricultural sector stakeholders in Kazakhstan. The complexity and the integrated nature of the proposed land use plan create a risk that this key strategic instrument might not be put into operation within the proposed project lifetime. As an early response to this risk, a detailed road-map for the development of the integrated land use plan, including the stakeholder consultation mechanism, will be offered during the PPG phase (see TORs for the Stakeholder Outreach Specialist and PPG Coordinator/Environmental Management Specialist).

The full-sized Child Project seeks to address the issues of Government subsidies that do not favor green production and discriminate in favor of large-scale farmers, through a revision of the current fiscal agricultural system, amendment of relevant policies and regulation, and introduction of innovative agro-environmental incentives to transform existing arable farming and cattle management practices. A feasibility study of the possible agro-environmental incentives in law and policy revisions will be offered as one of the key analytical products supporting and detailing the interventions to be proposed for the FSP within its Outcome 1 (see TORs for the Agricultural Economist).

A comprehensive review of the recent positive policies enabling the access to SMEs to green markets, including capacity constraints and long-term sustainability effects, will also be carried out during the PPG phase. The PPG phase will analyze the relevant experience (EU in particular) and best applicable

knowledge for the application of wide-scale fiscal instruments, such as agro-environmental incentives, aimed at promoting green agriculture and removing the barrier related to the limited access of small-scale farmers to financial assistance for green production. The PPG will propose a set agro-environmental incentive for piloting in the vegetable, grain and pasture farms, applicable within the existing legal and institutional frameworks and based on the best applicable practice from abroad (see TORs for the Agricultural Economist).

The International Specialist in Multi-stakeholder Commodity Platforms will work together with the National Stakeholder Outreach Specialist to develop mechanisms for multi-stakeholder collaboration and commodity platforms for the FSP. The PPG will offer a concept and roadmap for the Cooperative platform with wheat exporters and retail companies, local farmers and the Government that will ensure a dialogue and linking of farmers to premium crop and forage markets and retail/wholesale companies.

The relevant PPG expert will perform a desk review and analysis of supply-demand chains, and offer prototype partner agreements between retail companies/exporters and farmers aimed at ensuring a sustainable market for diversified green farming products (see TORs for the Specialist in green crops supply chains and engagement of economic entities).

Additional studies that will be produced during the PPG include:

- Technical Report on LDN measures that will identify and justify concrete LDN techniques to achieve higher level of humus, lower impact on forests and water ecosystems in parallel to decent agricultural harvest (see TORs for Agronomist and Farmer Support Specialist).
- Technical report on Farmer Support that will include identifying and defining concrete mechanisms of supporting farmers under Output 2.5 (see TORs for the Agronomist and Farmer Support Specialist).
- A series of assessments on integrated landscape management planning (under Output 1.1) and application of SLM and LDN issues (Outputs 1.2 and 1.3) (see TORs for the Integrated landscape planning expert).
- A series of assessments on pastures and livestock management, especially related to the degradation of natural pastures and in particular under Output 2.4 (see TORs for the Pasture and Livestock Management expert).
- A series of relevant assessments on forest management and biodiversity, in particular under Component III (see TORs for the Biodiversity and Forest Management expert).
- Defining activities under Output 3.6 related to ensuring sufficient quantity and quality of water supply for agriculture and switch to organic fertilizer through restored productivity of degraded lake and wetland ecosystems in areas targeted in Component II (see TORs for the Wetlands and Water Management expert)

Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes

Based on the technical studies and reviews undertaken under **Component A** (detailed above), the full UNDP-GEF Project Document will be developed (following the 2017 annotated UNDP-GEF Project Document available [here](#)), and the GEF CEO Endorsement Request (available [here](#)) will be prepared.

The GEF PPG Team Leader will be responsible for the consolidation and finalization of all required materials.

Preparation of the UNDP-GEF ProDoc includes a specific focus on the following areas, which do not exhaustively capture the required ProDoc content:

a. Theory of Change

The detailed theory of change (ToC), based on the studies and data collection undertaken in **Component A**, will be developed. The selected approach will be identified, with a clear rationale backed by credible evidence, integrating gender concerns into the approach. Additional guidance is available in the Annotated UNDP-GEF ProDoc template.

The PPG team will be responsible for the development of detailed content for the four outcomes of the proposed project, and will consult with the national experts and stakeholders for the identification, design and consensus on project activities.

All child project outputs, outcomes, activities and indicators, as well as a detailed incremental cost analysis will be undertaken at the PPG stage, in coordination and consultation with global coordination unit of the IP FOLUR.

b. Results Framework

Based on the studies and data collection undertaken in **Component A**, the Results Framework will be further defined with appropriate Objective-level and Outcome-level quantitative and qualitative SMART indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets. It will be designed in line with the following parameters:

- Do not include outputs or activities in the results framework. Outputs and corresponding indicators can be included in the results section and/or in Annex to the project document.
- Prepare a maximum of 2-3 indicators for the Objective and each Outcome. Aim to keep the total number of indicators in the results framework (and that require annual reporting to the GEF) to 15-16.
- Give special attention to include gender-responsive outcomes and other socio-economic benefits.
- Collect baseline data for each indicator using existing national sources when feasible.
- Disaggregate indicators by sex, including number of direct project beneficiaries.
- For the “biodiversity indicators”, confirm IUCN species and indicator species whose populations will be used to measure success of project Outcome III (flora and/or fauna), based on their relevance and representativeness for the suggested intervention, as well as the availability of the regular monitoring data. Define their baseline population size / projective coverage at target areas;
- Set realistic mid-term targets and end-of-project targets that can be achieved by project closure.
- Summarize risks and assumptions, and sources of verification/data.
- Include all relevant UNDP IRRF indicators and all relevant GEF Core Indicators.

During the PPG, the team will be in contact with the global coordination unit to ensure that activities, while making sense from the national context, remain vested in the global IP FLOUR PFD framework.

The GEF Core Indicators Worksheet prepared as Annex A to the Child Project Concept will be updated to reflect the agreed results framework. The Taxonomy Worksheet for the Project Document will be prepared.

See the annotated UNDP-GEF Project Document template for additional guidance on developing the Results Framework.

c. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan and Budget

The on-the-ground monitoring could be undertaken by national institutes/universities as appropriate. Clarify the roles of various groups involved in project M&E, how project-level monitoring links with data collected at the national level, and specify the frequency of monitoring. Specify monitoring tools to be used. Complete the M&E budget included in the UNDP-GEF Project Document noting that the total budget should be between 3-5% of the GEF grant.

d. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Based on the initial stakeholder mapping at the project concept stage and the consultations undertaken during the PPG phase, a *Comprehensive* Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed, following the SES guidance and a standard outline.

The purpose of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) for the project is to ensure long-term sustainability of the project achievements, based on transparency and the effective participation of the key stakeholders. The objectives include the following: (a) to identify the main stakeholders of the project and their basic roles and responsibilities in relation to the project; and (b) to take advantage of the experience and skills of the main stakeholders, safeguard their active participation in different activities, reduce obstacles in project implementation, and sustain gains after project completion. The approach is based on the principles of fairness and transparency in selection of stakeholders, ensuring consultation, engagement and empowerment of relevant stakeholders. This is to ensure: (i) better coordination between them from planning to monitoring and assessment of project interventions; (ii) access of information and results to relevant persons; (iii) accountability of stakeholders; (iv) implementation of grievance and redress mechanism; and (v) sustainability of project interventions after its completion.

Mechanisms and strategies for stakeholder involvement will ensure that relevant stakeholders: (i) receive and share information, (ii) provide inputs in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of project initiatives, and (iii) play a role in sustaining the initiatives during and after the closure of the project. A Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement plan will ensure: (a) stakeholders' involvement in project planning, implementation and monitoring; (b) stakeholders engagement in social and environmental screening and risk monitoring; (c) free, fair and transparent methods of information sharing; (d) implementation of gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan; (e) measures to empower stakeholders and potential project beneficiaries; and (f) disclosure and accessibility of information.

The PPG will look specifically at strengthening the private sector involvement in the project, as suggested by the initial STAP review of the project concept. UNDP will reach out to its partners within the agricultural export sector, namely JSCs Tesna, KazIrAgro, Grain Pool, Logos Grain and Kazakh Export, and reach out to key retailers of farming products, such as Metro, Magnum, Small, Tamasha, Severny and Aushan, to ensure their active support and engagement to promote the sale and marketing of green products

generated within the project's Outcome II. The PPG stakeholder outreach effort will result in a clear definition of outputs and extent to which the mentioned stakeholders will participate in the project, and the co-financing volume and mechanism to be expected.

One of the tasks for the PPG would be to reach out to the small-scale farming representatives and cooperatives and unions, such as National Chamber of Entrepreneurs and Union of Farmers, to make sure that they take full advantage of the agro-environmental incentive opportunities, which will be available at the project main phase, and build capacities ensuring post-project sustainability of finance mechanisms.

The comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be closely connected with the moderate and high-risk areas identified by the SESP. For those areas, the stakeholder engagement plan will not only include information disclosure and other standard mechanisms mentioned above, but will also include iterative consultations, development of mitigation and management plans, participatory monitoring and evaluation. The plan will also outline a reasonable budget for stakeholder engagement activities, including potential support for groups to facilitate their participation where necessary.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan will include setting up of a project-level grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that would address project affected persons' (PAP) grievances, complaints, and suggestions, according to the sample TOR modified for the particular project SESP areas.

e. Gender Action Plan and Budget

Based on the Gender Analysis conducted in **Component A**, the Gender Action Plan and Budget will outline the gender-specific outputs to be delivered during project implementation in order to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and to ensure that inequalities are not exacerbated. As part of the work of preparing the Gender Action Plan, indicators should be proposed for inclusion in the Results Framework to facilitate the monitoring of the proposed gender mainstreaming actions.

f. Project Social and Environmental Standards

In line with the assessments conducted during **Component A** (above) and in line with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) policy and all associated SES Guidance Notes, the SESP will be finalized and all moderate and high risks identified in the SESP will be reflected in the risk table and risk section of the project document.

Mitigation and management measures for moderate and high risks will be developed and included in the project document, or included as a separate management plan in Annex to the project document, as required per UNDP's SES. If the mitigation and management measures cannot be fully detailed at the PPG phase (e.g., sites have not been determined), an environmental and social management framework (ESMF) will be prepared outlining the steps to be taken during the first phase of project implementation to address the moderate and high risks. The ProDoc must clearly state that none of the associated project activities will commence until: the assessment(s) have been completed; the required management plan(s) have been prepared; the plan(s) have been disclosed and approved by the Project Board.

g. GEF Core Indicators

GEF core indicator worksheet will be prepared, in line with the relevant GEF objectives, and included as an Annex to the ProDoc. Indicators from the GEF Core Indicators and Tracking Tools (if required) can be included in the Results Framework as appropriate. See the [GEF's website](#) for the most up-to-date templates as these may change.

h. Management Arrangements

Based on the stakeholder analysis and consultations undertaken in **Component A** above, agreement(s) on project management and governance arrangements—including roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of lead and partner Agencies—will be secured early in the project development phase and will be fully detailed in the ProDoc.

i. Completion of the required official endorsement letters

These letters include the official letters on co-financing guarantee(s) from participating government institutions, bilateral development partners, multilateral development partners, NGOs, private sector, or others who wish to provide cash or in-kind contributions to the project.

A GEF OFP endorsement letter will also be required for any new participating countries to a global or regional program/project that was not included with the PIF/PFD submission. Updated GEF OFP endorsements letters are also required if the requested GEF grant amount has changed since PIF/PFD approval.

Component C: Validation Workshop and Report

A validation workshop will be held with relevant stakeholders to present, discuss and validate the project activities, and the final draft of the UNDP-GEF project document if possible. A validation workshop report will be prepared for projects once and if an overall safeguards risk rating is confirmed as moderate (or updated to high).

IV. TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN FOR GEF PPG

Award ID:	00112781
Award Title:	Sustainable food systems
Business Unit:	KAZ10
Project Title:	UNDP-GEF PPG "Promotion of sustainable food systems and improved ecosystems services in Northern Kazakhstan Landscape"
Project (PIMS) ID:	6396
Implementing Partner:	UNDP

GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity	Responsible Party	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount Year 1, US\$	Amount Year 2, US\$	Total, US\$	Budget Notes
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Project preparation grant to prepare the UNDP-GEF project document "Promotion of sustainable food systems and improved ecosystems services in Northern Kazakhstan Landscape"	UNDP (DIM)	62000	GEF TRUSTEE 10003	71200	International Consultants	26,000	19,000	45,000	A
				71300	Local Consultants	44,000	6,800	50,800	B
				71600	Travel	10,000	10,000	20,000	C
				72100	Contractual services-companies	1,500	3,500	5,000	I
				72400	Communic & Audio Visual Equip	500	500	1,000	D
				72500	Supplies	500	500	1,000	E
				74200	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs	3,000	7,000	10,000	F
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	100	100	200	G
				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	8,500	8,500	17,000	H
PROJECT TOTAL						94,100	55,900	150,000	

Budget Note	Items	Total estimated person weeks	Budget	Budget Note
A	Int consultants (4)	4 international consultants will be hired for the assignment as follows: 1. International Project Development Specialist @\$2,000/week for 15 weeks = US\$ 30,000 2. International Consultant for Knowledge Management and Coordination @\$2,000/week for 3 weeks = US\$ 6,000 3. International Specialist in Commodity Supply Chains (wheat) @2,500/week for 2 weeks = US\$ 5,000 4. International Specialist in Multi-stakeholder Commodity Platforms @2,000/week for 2 weeks = US\$ 4,000	45,000	Please see Annex 2 for key responsibilities
B	Local consultants, Contact services-comp (9 positions)	8 national consultants will be hired for the assignment: 1. Stakeholder Outreach Specialist and PPG Coordinator/Environmental Management Specialist @\$600/week for 38 weeks = US\$ 22,800	50,800	

		<p>2. National Specialist in green crops value chains @\$500/week for 12 weeks = US\$ 6,000</p> <p>3. Agronomist and farmer support specialist @\$500/week for 12 weeks = US\$ 6,000</p> <p>4. Agricultural Economist @\$500/week for 12 weeks = US\$ 6,000</p> <p>5. Pasture& livestock management expert@\$500/week for 8 weeks = US\$ 4,000</p> <p>6. Biodiversity and forest expert@\$500/week for 4 weeks = US\$ 2,000</p> <p>7. Wetland and water resource management expert@\$500/week for 4 weeks = US\$ 2,000</p> <p>8. Gender specialist@\$500/week for 4 weeks = US\$ 2,000</p>			
C	Travel		20,000	National and International consultants' travel for stakeholder consultations and validation workshop	
D	Communic & Audio Visual Equip		1,000	Connectivity costs : Postage, landline charges etc	
E	Supplies		1,000	Paper and printing cartridges, other office supplies	
F	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs		10,000	Interpretation from and into English/Kazakh/Russian at the meetings; translation of expert inputs into English; translation of the project documents and its key sections into Kazakh/Russian for the national stakeholders	
G	Miscellaneous Expenses		200	Bank charges	
H	Training, Workshops and Confer		17,000	Stakeholder consultations, Validation Workshop	
I	Contractual services - Companies	Integrated landscape planning expertise outsourced from an institution@\$500/week for 10 weeks = US\$ 5,000	5000	Please see Annex 2 for key responsibilities	

V. MANDATORY ANNEXES

Annex 1: GEF CEO PIF/PPG Approval Letter



Naoko Ishii
CEO and Chairperson

June 27, 2019

Dear Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Kurukulasuriya:


I am pleased to inform you that I have approved your request for project preparation grant for the child project concept detailed below:

Decision Sought:	Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Approval for FSP Child Project
GEFSEC ID:	10265
Agency(ies):	UNDP
Agency(ies) ID:	6396
Focal Area:	Multi Focal Area
Project Type:	FSP
Country(ies):	Kazakhstan
Name of Child Project:	Promotion of sustainable food systems and improved ecosystems services in Northern Kazakhstan Landscape
Name of Program:	Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program
Program ID:	10201
Indicative Child Project Financing:	\$10,467,000
Indicative Agency Fee:	\$942,030
PPG:	\$150,000
PPG Fee:	\$13,500
Funding Source:	GEF Trust Fund

1818 H Street, NW • Washington, DC 20433 • USA
Tel: +1 (202) 473 3202 • Fax: +1 (202) 522 3240
E-mail: gefsec@thegef.org
www.thegef.org

This PPG approval is based on the understanding that it is in conformity with GEF 7 Programming Directions and in line with GEF policies and procedures. Please ensure that: (i) the final child project document incorporates comments from the Secretariat, Council Members and STAP on the PFD that are relevant to the child project; and (ii) the final child project is endorsed/approved by the CEO on or before the program commitment deadline.

Sincerely,



Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, Trustee

Annex 2: Draft Terms of Reference (TORs) of Consultants Financed by the Project Preparatory Grant (GEF PPG)

The draft TORs below define the overall scope of substantive activities for the PPG stage. Full standard TORs will be prepared by UNDP Kazakhstan for the PPG recruitment process, pursuant to the templates to be offered by the UNDP-GEF RBM team. The cost per consultancy week and number of weeks provided below are indicative only and may be revised. The responsibilities can be further split or combined as deemed appropriate by the PPG recruitment committee.

Position, Type and Cost	Role, Deliverables and Qualifications
International Consultants	
<p>Position 1: International Project Development Specialist</p> <p>Type: IC</p> <p>Cost per person week: US\$2000</p> <p>Number of person weeks needed: 15</p>	<p>Role</p> <p>The International Project Development Specialist will be responsible for quality assurance and timely preparation of the UNDP Project Document (ProDoc) and CEO Endorsement Request, with all mandatory and project specific Annexes and supporting documentation based on GEF endorsed Project Identification Form (PIF)/Child Concept Note, and inputs provided by all partners.</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews (Component A):</u> Based on the inputs from the national PPG team, as detailed in their respective TORs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Compile baseline/situational analysis for the full-size project (FSP). This will include a precise definition of baseline projects, activities, budgets, goals and co-financial links to GEF outcomes; definition of GEF incremental value per outcome and output; and presentation of results of the incremental cost-analysis in matrices as appropriate; b. Oversee the stakeholder analysis and consultations and ensure that they are complete and comprehensive; c. Ensure the gender analysis findings are meaningfully integrated into the project's strategy, theory of change and results framework; d. Ensure action points, including risk assessments, from the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) at the PIF stage ("pre-screening") are fully implemented during the PPG, and update that screening in an iterative fashion throughout the PPG, as appropriate; e. Oversee the identification of the project sites, with documentation of selection criteria; f. Oversee the consultations with partners regarding financial planning; and g. Ensure completion of any additional input needed for the preparation of the ProDoc and all other final outputs. 2) <u>Formulation of the ProDoc, CEO Endorsement Request and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes (Component B):</u> With inputs from the national PPG team, as detailed in their respective TORs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop, present and articulate the project's theory of change; b. Develop the Results Framework in line with UNDP-GEF policy;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Develop Logframe of Outputs and Activities; d. Develop a detailed Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget; e. Oversee the preparation of a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan; f. Oversee the preparation of a Gender Action Plan and Budget; g. Update the SESP based on assessments undertaken during Component A, and oversee the development of environmental and/or social management plan(s) for all risks identified as Moderate or High in the SESP; h. Revise the GEF Core Indicators Worksheet prepared as Annex A to the Child Project Concept to reflect the agreed results framework; i. Prepare the Taxonomy Worksheet for the Project Document; j. Present the agreed project management arrangements; k. Be connected to the Global IP FOLUR, to exchange project products as they develop, benefit from advice, contribute to global knowledge management; l. Oversee the completion of the required official endorsement letters; and m. Synthesize all analyses, studies, etc. that are prepared under Components A and B to produce the draft UNDP-GEF ProDoc, GEF CEO Endorsement, and all mandatory and project specific Annexes, using the required templates.¹ <p>3) Final Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consolidation of all technical and consultation inputs including from national stakeholders, UNDP, GEF Secretariat, STAP and GEF Council, into a well written and concise UNDP ProDoc with all required sections and Annexes, in line with the standard UNDP-GEF ProDoc template and annotated guidance; b. Completion of the GEF CEO Endorsement Request; c. Updated Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) report; d. All documentation from GEF PPG (including technical reports, etc.). <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master’s degree or higher in a relevant field, such as environmental management, economics, public administration, Natural Resource Management, Environment, Natural Sciences, Agriculture, Development Studies or another closely related field; ▪ Minimum 7 years of demonstrable experience in the technical area of development and approval of the GEF project documents and working experience; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken English and knowledge of Russian would be an asset; ▪ Experience of work in the region is an advantage
<p>Position 2: International Consultant for Knowledge Management and Coordination</p>	<p>Role</p> <p>The International consultant for Knowledge Management and Coordination will be responsible for inputs into the Project Document and Annexes relating to knowledge management, experience exchange and coordination with other commodity-related FOLUR projects in the Impact Program. S/he will liaise with</p>

¹ Please verify with the UNDP-GEF team that the correct templates are being used.

<p>Type: IC</p> <p>Cost per person week: US\$2,000</p> <p>Number of person weeks needed: 3 weeks</p> <p>Note: Will be recruited for the individual child project (or shared) if not available corporately or covered by the global component</p>	<p>the UNDP Global Commodity Program (GCP) to ensure learning of UNDP and GGP best practices on supply chains, platforms, sustainable production, etc. is considered during the development of the project. The Consultant will provide substantive input to the concept and activity plan for the FSP Outcome IV and outline the knowledge management strategy for the FSP, conceptualise the national experience exchange network in integration with the Global FOLUR IP Platform, and plan concrete FSP activities ensuring awareness raising, advocacy, experience sharing and replication through relevant national and international learning networks.</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews (Component A):</u> Prepare inputs and support the required analyses/studies, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reach out to GCP advisors to obtain their inputs and guidance during the project development process, including on areas for coordination and knowledge exchange within FOLUR impact program; b. Formulate learning plan for the project; c. Support the International Project Development Specialist on M&E for the project; d. Collaborate with stakeholders on a plan/strategy to connect the country work to global UNDP (GCP) and FOLUR platform, with associated budget 2) <u>Formulation of the ProDoc, CEO Endorsement Request and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes (Component B):</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop activities to ensure linkages and contribution of the project to the Global FOLUR IP platform and the broader Green Commodities community b. Develop a detailed knowledge management strategy for the project 3) <u>Final Deliverables:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Plan/strategy to connect the country work to global UNDP (GCP) and FOLUR platform; b. A concept paper for the national experience exchange network; c. A detailed Knowledge Management strategy for the FSP; d. Project learning plan; e. Costed plan for concrete FSP activities ensuring awareness raising, advocacy, experience sharing and replication through relevant national and international learning networks <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Degree or higher in a relevant field, such as Natural Resource Management, Environment, Natural Sciences, Agriculture, Development Studies or related field ▪ At least 2 years of experience in one or more of the related technical areas of NRM, agriculture, conservation, biodiversity mainstreaming in development planning, sector and landscape, sustainable commodity production;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proven experience in knowledge management and coordination; ▪ Excellent writing skills in English
<p>Position 3: International Specialist in Commodity Supply Chains (wheat)</p> <p>Type: IC</p> <p>Cost per person-week: US\$ 2,500</p> <p>Number of person-weeks needed: 2 weeks</p>	<p>Role</p> <p>The International Specialist in Commodity Supply Chains will work together with the National Specialist in Green Crops Value Chains in designing the sustainable supply chain elements of the project. Based on the value chain report findings, the two specialists will work together to fine-tune the project strategy for Outcome 2, outputs 2.2., 2.3, 2.6.</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scope out and identify the key international private sector actors key to the success of the project, both companies (commodity buyers – traders, processors, brands) and networks/organizations, and articulate their contribution in terms of the project’s theory of change - Identify priority international partnerships to ensure that global market players – companies, associations and networks – are fully engaged in the project and project activities - Ensure linkages between the project and other UNDP projects working on similar commodities and private sector partnerships - Contribute to and participate in UNDP Green Commodities Community and FOLUR Global Platform - Recommend concrete knowledge sharing mechanisms that can be promoted under the project <p><u>Final Deliverables:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Report on international private sector role-players and opportunities b. Draft FSP strategy for Outputs 2.2, 2.3, 2.6 c. Costed plan for relevant FSP activities <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master’s degree or higher in a relevant field, such as business, economics, agriculture, development finance, development studies or related field ▪ At least 5 years of experience in sustainable commodity production and supply chains (focus on grain commodities)
<p>Position 4: International Specialist in Multi-stakeholder Commodity Platforms</p> <p>Type: IC</p> <p>Cost per person-week: US\$ 2,000</p>	<p>Role</p> <p>The International Specialist in Multi-stakeholder Commodity Platforms will work together with the National Stakeholder Outreach Specialist to develop mechanisms for multi-stakeholder collaboration and commodity platforms.</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p>

<p>Number of person-weeks needed: 2 weeks</p> <p>Note: Will be recruited for the individual child project (or shared) if not available corporately or covered by the global component</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of relevant GCP experience and best practice in relation to building up stakeholder cooperation mechanisms, applicable to the particular commodity - Based on the results of the value chain analysis, confirm the key potential partners for the future multi-stakeholder platforms - Assess existing collaboration mechanisms in country at national and sub-national level - Recommend how to strengthen existing mechanisms and/or develop new ones - Work with the National Stakeholder Outreach Specialist on national and local private sector partnerships - Ensure linkages between the project and other UNDP projects working on similar commodities and private sector partnerships <p>Final Deliverables: A concept paper for the national multi-stakeholder commodity platform (project Output 2.6)</p> <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as business, economics, agriculture, development finance, development studies or related field ▪ At least 5 years of experience in stakeholder outreach and multi-stakeholder partnerships
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National Consultants	
<p>Position 5: Stakeholder Outreach Specialist and PPG Coordinator/Environmental Management Specialist</p> <p>Type: IC</p> <p>Cost per person week: US\$ 600</p> <p>Number of person weeks needed: 38</p>	<p>Role</p> <p>The National Stakeholder Outreach Specialist and PPG Coordinator/Environmental Management Specialist will be responsible for managing all national consultants on the GEF PPG Team, and coordinating the Team's work.</p> <p>The key role for the PPG Coordinator is to make sure that project development is participatory, gender-responsive and based on extensive stakeholder engagement. The PPG Coordinator will play a key role in consultation with the government, first of all the Ministry of Agriculture, private sector partner, CSO and other relevant stakeholders – in particular those who will benefit from and be directly involved in the implementation of the project.</p> <p>The national PPG Coordinator will lead the stakeholder consultations and specifically the validation workshop to present, discuss and validate the final draft ProDoc and mandatory and project specific annexes, with a special focus on the SESP and any management plans.</p> <p>The Specialist will also prepare a number of substantive assessments and analyses mentioned below.</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed methodology and work plan in consultation with the other consultants with clear a) delegation of responsibilities for the PPG team, b) stakeholder engagement mechanism to make sure that the project

	<p>development is participatory and gender-responsive, c) consultation and quality control mechanism to make sure that all project components are technically sound and cost effective;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft sections of the project document: threats & barriers analysis; socio-economic situation and institutional layout; relevant national policy and enabling environment; baseline scenario description; project structure - objective, outcomes and outputs; lessons learned and knowledge management; - Establish baselines and targets for indicators related to socio-economic status within the target landscape and prepare the related socio-economic profiles of these landscapes; - A review of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation effects on the ecosystems and land use pattern in the Northern Kazakhstan Landscape; - Baseline and target data for project indicators collected from technical experts; - A road-map for the development of the integrated land use plan for the Northern Kazakhstan Landscape, including the stakeholder consultation mechanism; - A road-map for the national Grain Commodity Platform (Output 2.6 "Cooperative platform with wheat exporters and retail companies") - Detailed analysis of the baseline programmes; - Confirmation and description of co-financing arrangements for the project; - Draft FSP budget and incremental cost assessment; - Total Budget and Work Plan (TBWP) and the indicative procurement plan (work with the UNDP Country Office); - Link (indicator) for one of the outcomes of the IRRF (with the UNDP Country Office); - Draft management arrangements for the FSP; - Development, in consultation with the UNDP CO, of environmental and/or social management plan(s) for all risks identified as Moderate or High in the SESP; - A comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan; - Be connected to the Global IP FOLUR, to exchange project products as they develop, benefit from advice, contribute to global knowledge management; - Lead the validation workshop to present, discuss and validate the final draft ProDoc and mandatory and project specific annexes, with a special focus on the SESP and any management plans; and - Oversee all necessary revisions that arise during the validation workshop. - Prepare the Validation Workshop Report. <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as environmental management, economics, public administration or relevant related fields; - Minimum 7 years of demonstrable experience in the technical area of Land and Biodiversity management; - Fluency in written and spoken English and the knowledge of Russian and Kazakh will be an asset; - Excellent coordination and leadership skills, as well as relationship management skills; - Familiarity with GEF policies, templates and requirements for FSP preferred
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<p>Position 6: National Specialist in green crops value chains</p> <p>Type: IC</p> <p>Cost per person week: US\$500</p> <p>Number of person weeks needed: 12</p>	<p>Role</p> <p>The National Specialist in Green Crops Value Chains will prepare a value chain analysis for the green crops of Northern Kazakhstan origin, and together with the national Stakeholder Outreach Specialist and the international Value Chain Specialist develop mechanisms of collaboration with relevant economic entities.</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyse the production and storage pattern for wheat and other annual and perennial crops originating from Northern Kazakhstan - Identify the areas where replacement of unproductive monoculture (e.g. wheat) would be required - Identify the companies willing to cooperate with the project under Outputs 2.2 (improved wheat cultivation), 2.3 (crop diversification). Define co-financing opportunities and ensure co-financing commitments - Analyse domestic and export sale pattern for raw wheat grain commodity - Identify the companies interested in production and selling of flour from improved wheat production. Define co-financing opportunities and ensure co-financing commitments - Analyse production, storage, domestic sale and export pattern for wheat flour. - Identify the companies interested in production and selling of flour from improved wheat production. Define co-financing opportunities and ensure co-financing commitments - Propose marketing strategies that could help them promote such products (e.g. environmental branding, certification). - Analyse production pattern for final food products from wheat, as well as from other annual crops. - Confirm key food production companies engaged in production of food production from Northern Kazakh crops and their interest to produce products from "improved wheat" or other "green crops" originating from Northern Kazakhstan. - Propose marketing strategies that could help them promote such products (e.g. environmental branding, certification). - Analyse sale pattern for final food products domestic and export (if any). - Confirm key retail chains selling products of Northern Kazakhstan origin. Develop mechanisms for engagement of these companies in point-of-sale marketing strategies for green crop products originating from Northern Kazakhstan. - Analyse perennial crops sale pattern - Confirm key companies involved in sale of perennial crops. - Analyse growth potential of the perennial crops sales in case perennial crops are going to replace ineffective annual crops. - Describe other issues that the project can help resolve to raise volume of sustainable perennial crops. <p><u>Final Deliverables:</u></p>
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	<p>1. Report on value chains for targeted crops, according to the outline presented in Annex 3;</p> <p>2. Proposals on new policies or regulations that might need to be adopted to promote better market access of green crops from Northern Kazakhstan, remove trade barriers, restrain shadow economic activities (both domestic and international). Recommendations on the policies that can be supported under Output 1.3. (Summarized in a brief analytical report).</p> <p>3. Cofinancing letters and/or partnership agreements with the identified private sector partners</p> <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as agricultural economics, finance, marketing or related field; - Minimum 5 years of demonstrable experience in the technical area of agricultural economics; - Functional relationship and contacts with the relevant private sector stakeholders (small-scale farmer cooperatives, retailer companies, exporters); - Fluency in written and spoken Russian and the knowledge of Kazakh would be an asset.
<p>Position 7. Agronomist and farmer support specialist</p> <p>Type: IC</p> <p>Cost per person-week: US\$500</p> <p>Number of person-weeks needed: 12</p>	<p>Role</p> <p>The Specialist will develop and justify concrete LDN techniques to achieve higher level of humus, lower impact on forests and water ecosystems in parallel to decent agricultural harvest. These techniques will be agreed with land users and implemented under Outputs 2.2 and 2.3. The specialist will also contribute to defining concrete mechanisms of support to farmers under Output 2.5</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Propose concrete activities/interventions for the project Output 2.2 "Diversification and improved management of productive croplands for better incomes and less soil depletion" and 2.3. "Sustainable perennial crop systems as diversification away from unsustainable production of wheat and other annual crops" - Identify pilot locations for the proposed activities/interventions; - Identify sectoral partners for the proposed activities/interventions; - Provide the baseline situation analysis for each of the proposed sites; - Assess expected benefits and impacts <p>Final Deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project content for the Outputs 2.2 and 2.3. in the format presented in Annex 4; 2. Technical report on hand-handling support for farmers at target sites on LDN techniques, identifying locations, technologies to be applied, and the nature of capacity building activities and targeted support to be provided within the project Outcome 2.5.

	<p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as agricultural economics, agronomy and environmental management; ▪ Minimum 5 years of demonstrable experience in crop cultivation; ▪ Access to local farming enterprises in the Northern Kazakhstan; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken Russian and the knowledge of Kazakh would be an asset.
<p>Position 8: Agricultural Economist</p> <p>Type: IC</p> <p>Cost per person-week: US\$500</p> <p>Number of person-weeks needed: 12</p>	<p>Role</p> <p>The Agricultural Economist will (1) work to identify and develop green agro-economic incentives and agricultural production schemes based on relevant agro-economic assessments and analysis of land management in the steppe and semi-arid zones in the pilot regions (SKO, Pavlodar, Akmola, Kostanay region).</p> <p>The Specialist will also (2) agree on embedding of the agro-environmental incentives into the mainstream funding menus of key co-financing organizations, namely: JSC Agrarian Credit Center, Analytical Center of Economic Policy in the Agricultural Sector, JSC Fund for Financial Support of Agriculture, and JSC KazAgroFinance.</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of the existing LDN-related economic incentives (subsidies, concessional lending, etc.) for the agricultural sector in general and specifically for the grain and vegetable-growing and grazing livestock sub-sectors. The analysis should include an assessment of the existing institutional framework for the implementation and monitoring of the effectiveness of such mechanisms; assessment of existing problems and barriers in the effectiveness of economic incentives. Also, the analysis should touch upon the concrete examples in the four pilot regions (North Kazakhstan Oblast, Pavlodar, Akmola, Kostanay); - A comprehensive review of the recent positive policies enabling the access to SMEs to green markets, including capacity constraints and long-term sustainability effects; - A set of proposed agro-environmental incentives for piloting in the vegetable, grain and pasture farms, applicable within the existing legal and institutional frameworks and based on the best applicable practice from abroad; - Protocol of discussions with JSC Agrarian Credit Center, Analytical Center of Economic Policy in the Agricultural Sector, JSC Fund for Financial Support of Agriculture, and JSC KazAgroFinance about making agro-environmental incentives part of their regular financing systems. - Agreements reached on how much GEF will finance and how much a corresponding partner will finance, per each agro-environmental incentive, in each particular project site targeted under Outputs 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4. Details of these partnerships clearly defined (e.g. who qualifies for the incentives, how are applications from farmers and SMEs assessed, how funding from GEF and from partner is released; terms (loan/grant), repayment conditions and schedule; monitoring of compliance and repayment (if any) – <u>all clearly agreed and attached to project document as annex.</u>

	<p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as agricultural economics, agronomy and environmental management; ▪ Minimum 5 years of demonstrable experience in agricultural finance; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken Russian and the knowledge of Kazakh would be an asset; ▪ Knowledge of national and international practices and subsidy plans.
Contractual services - Companies	
<p>Position 9: Integrated landscape planning expert</p> <p>Type: IC</p> <p>Cost per person-week: US\$500</p> <p>Number of person-weeks needed: 10</p>	<p>Role</p> <p>The expert will prepare a series of relevant assessments and provide his/her technical input into the project document preparation where it concerns integrated landscape management planning (under Output 1.1) and application of SLM and LDN issues (Outputs 1.2 and 1.3).</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of land resources in the forest-steppe ecosystems and the pasture livestock sector, including statistical data, description of threats and management issues at the regional and local levels, in the whole country and in the context of pilot areas; - Assessment of productive landscapes (grain farms or pasture livestock farms) in four pilot regions. - Assist the agronomist with compiling detail recommendations on resilient agro-technologies to improve the condition of land in the steppe and semi-arid zone, focusing on the target areas of the project. Identification of measures to improve the condition of the land in case of (i) erosion; (ii) loss of organic carbon; (iii) other relevant land improvement measures in each target area. - Justification for selection of the pilot areas in four regions: Pavlodar, Akmola, Kostanay and Petropavlovsk regions. A description of each pilot area, including: Name and area map Social-economic data, tenure/management arrangements for the site, Crop(s) produced/harvested, environmental problems causing harvest low-efficiency - Details on how the current territorial planning is organized in NKL and how best Output 1.1. can be implemented. - Assist with baseline, co-financing and increment description and calculation for each of the proposed pilot areas. <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as Agriculture, land management, environmental science and management - Minimum 5 years of demonstrable experience in the technical area of sustainable land resource management; - Fluency in written and spoken Russian and the knowledge of Kazakh would be an asset

<p>Position 10: Pasture& livestock management expert</p> <p>Type: NC</p> <p>Cost per person-week: US\$500</p> <p>Number of person-weeks needed: 8</p>	<p>Role The Pasture& livestock management expert will prepare a series of relevant assessments and provide his/her technical input into the project document preparation where it concerns the degradation of natural pastures, in particular under Output 2.4.</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p> <p>Deliverables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment report on the ecological status of productive pasture agro-landscapes in four pilot regions; - Preliminary recommendations for the improvement of legislation in the field of pasture livestock; - Description of state and public administration, coordination, monitoring and control over pastures; - Recommendations on modern agro-technologies, equipment and devices, as well as possible economic incentives for sustainable use of pasture resources; - Justification for selection of the pilot areas in four regions: Pavlodar, Akmola, Kostanay and Petropavlovsk regions. A description of each pilot area, including: Name, area of active pastures, map Social-economic data, tenure/management arrangements for the site, Pasture livestock, grazing seed problems to solve Details on how the "normative" territorial planning should be carried out Statement of the pilot pasture management technologies Baseline, co-financing and increment description and calculation for each of the proposed pilot areas. <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as livestock breeding, agriculture, veterinary ▪ Minimum 5 years of demonstrable experience in the technical area of pasture management; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken English and the knowledge of Russian and Kazakh would be an asset
<p>Position 11: Biodiversity and forest expert</p> <p>Type: IC</p> <p>Cost per person-week: US\$500</p> <p>Number of person-weeks needed: 4</p>	<p>Role Expert on biodiversity and forest management will prepare a series of relevant assessments and provide his/her technical input into the project document preparation where it concerns forest management and biodiversity, in particular under Component III.</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p> <p>Deliverables</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A focused description of policies and tools for the management of biodiversity and forest resources in Kazakhstan; - A baseline analytical review of high-nature value forests and related biodiversity in four project pilot regions; - Carbon assessments and other baseline and target indicator values for the project concept (in the field of relevance); - Detail activity plan for a high-nature value forest protection; - Justified proposal for degraded forest restoration pilots based on the assessment of the sanitary conditions, biodiversity and economic values (role as buffer for productive landscape) at baseline and optimal scenarios; - A preliminary technical plan for the establishment of a model forest nursery for restocking harvested areas, creating snow and windbreaks to increase crop yields and improve hydrological conditions of adjacent rainfed croplands. <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as forestry, environment study or economics; ▪ Minimum 5 years of demonstrable experience in the government entities and organizations in the field of biodiversity conservation, forestry and forest management; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken Russian and the knowledge of Kazakh would be an asset;
<p>Position 11: Wetland and water resource management expert</p> <p>Type: IC</p> <p>Cost per person-week: US\$500</p> <p>Number of person-weeks needed: 4</p>	<p>Role: The expert will assist in defining activities under Output 3.6</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p> <p>Deliverables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A baseline analytical review on conservation and maintenance of the productive capacity of wetland ecosystems in the northern part of Kazakhstan; - Analytical review of the main functions of water resources for each project area (protective, water-saving, ameliorative, etc.); - An overview of measures required for sufficient quantity and quality of water supply for agriculture and switch to organic fertilizer; - Detailed restoration pilots the degraded lakes and wetlands using modern techniques for the removal of sludge and debris deposits, and further use of water for agricultural purposes, and use of sludge and debris to substitute chemical fertilizers used in crop agriculture. <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master's degree or higher in water management, biology, hydrobiology. ▪ Minimum 5 years of demonstrable experience in the government entities and organizations in the field of water resource management; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken Russian and the knowledge of Kazakh would be an asset;

<p>Position 12: Gender specialist</p> <p>Type: IC</p> <p>Cost per person-week: US\$500</p> <p>Number of person-weeks needed: 4</p>	<p>Role</p> <p>The gender expert is to ensure integration of gender issues into all project document components. The Specialist's input should include a current situation analysis, action plan with target indicators and expected outcomes that would facilitate promotion of gender equity and contribute to efficient decision-making policy in the context of women's social and labor rights, employed in the considered by the project sectors of economy.</p> <p>Responsibilities and Deliverables: the list below outlines key responsibilities and deliverables of this contract. The PPG Initiation Plan for this project provides further and more detailed guidance regarding the responsibilities of the prospective PPG team and must be consulted accordingly.</p> <p>Deliverables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The gender analysis prepared, its findings are meaningfully integrated into the project's strategy, theory of change and results framework; - Support action points, including risk assessments, identified in the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) at the PIF stage ("pre-screening") are fully implemented during the PPG and, as appropriate, assist with the update of the SESP in an iterative fashion throughout the PPG; - Gender Action Plan and Budget prepared <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gender considerations fully mainstreamed into project CEO ER documents and Project Document <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as sociology, ecology, economics, gender studies, gender and development, environment, sustainable development or closely related area. ▪ Minimum 5 years of demonstrable experience in the gender policy and mainstreaming; ▪ Experience carrying out participatory gender analysis; experience collecting and formulating gender responsive indicators and sex-disaggregated data and preparing gender responsive project analysis; developing gender action plans. ▪ Experience in facilitating gender responsive stakeholder meetings is highly desired; ▪ Experience working in the region is advantageous; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken Russian and the knowledge of Kazakh would be an asset.
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Annex 3: Draft outline for the green crops value chain report

Below is the suggested content of the Green Crops Value Chain report to be prepared by the National Specialist on Value Chains.

NOTE for common understanding:

- All crops must originate from Northern Kazakhstan. The primary crop targeted by the project is wheat. The secondary crops that will be supported by the project as part of the "wheat diversification strategy (under Outputs 2.2 and 2.3) are barley, maize, linen, rapeseed, sunflower, safflower, chickpea, buckwheat; perennial crops: alfalfa, sainfoin, burbot, sorghum, sudangrass, and ryegrass.
- The value chains are:
 - a. crop production and storage – raw crop processing (e.g. flour) and storage – grain and flour export / grain and flour wholesale;
 - b. flour - food production from wheat and other crops originating from Northern Kazakhstan – domestic wholesale of food products / domestic retail sale of food products from crops originating from Northern Kazakhstan / export of food products.

Suggested table of content of the report:

Chapter 1. Production and storage of wheat and other annual and perennial crops originating from Northern Kazakhstan, covering wheat, barley, maize, linen, rapeseed, sunflower, safflower, chickpea, buckwheat; and perennial crops: alfalfa, sainfoin, burbot, sorghum, sudangrass, and ryegrass. For each crop:

Hectares of land in Northern Kazakhstan currently under the crop

Brief overview of environmental implications, e.g.:

Ha of land under degradation due to unsustainable production

Assessed loss of humus

Assessed requirements for irrigation and impact on water consumption and quality

Impact on neighbouring wetland and forest ecosystems

Hectares of land where unproductive monoculture (e.g. wheat) can be replaced by that crop. Statement of environmental benefits such switch can bring.

Quality, size and ownership (public/private) of enterprises involved in production of each crop.

Proposed partner companies who would agree to work with the project under Outputs 2.2 (improved wheat cultivation), 2.3 (diversification).

Preliminary agreements on engagement of the companies in the national Grain Commodity Platform, including co-financing.

Chapter 2. Domestic and export sale of raw wheat grain.

Volumes of wheat grain production originating from wheat in Northern Kazakhstan.

Environmental implications involved in flour production, storage and retail or wholesale

Key companies involved in grain trade originating from Northern Kazakhstan.

Proposed partners that would be interested to produce and sell flour from improved wheat production.

Preliminary agreements on engagement of the companies in the national Grain Commodity Platform, including co-financing.

Chapter 3. Flour production, storage, domestic sales and export. For wheat only.

Volumes of flour production originating from wheat in Northern Kazakhstan.

Environmental implications involved in flour production, storage and retail or wholesale
Key companies involved in flour trade originating from Northern Kazakhstan.
Proposed partners that would be interested to produce and sell flour from improved wheat production.
Possible marketing strategies that could help them promote such products (e.g. environmental branding, certification).
Preliminary agreements on engagement of the companies in the national Grain Commodity Platform, including co-financing.

Chapter 4. Production of final food products from wheat, as well as from other annual crops.
Description of products from crops originating from Northern Kazakhstan that are currently sold on the domestic market. State annual volumes of sale, total revenue generated from their production
Key food production companies engaged in production of food production from Northern Kazakh crops.
Proposed partner production companies that would be interested to produce products from “improved wheat” or other “green crops” originating from Northern Kazakhstan.
Proposed marketing strategies that could help them promote such products (e.g. environmental branding, certification).
Preliminary agreements on engagement of the companies in the national Grain Commodity Platform, including co-financing.

Chapter 5. Sale of final food products domestic and export (if any):
Key retail chains are selling products originating from Northern Kazakhstan.
Mechanisms for engagement of these companies in point-of-sale marketing strategies for green crop products originating from Northern Kazakhstan.

Chapter 6. Perennial crops sale: crops covered are alfalfa, sainfoin, burbot, sorghum, sudangrass, and ryegrass.
Proposed partner companies involved in sale of perennial crops.
Growth potential of the perennial crops sales in case perennial crops are going to replace ineffective annual crops.

Annex 4: Suggested content of the LDN report

Project Output	What is done	Geographic location	hectares	Land user / project partner	What is happening: why improvement needed (describe degradation symptoms)	Technologies to be applied	Expected rise in soil humus	Expected positive impact on water	Expected productivity of the crop after the application of technology (t/ha)
Output 2.2	Improved wheat cultivation	Almaty district, enterprise "Svetly Put"	3,500	SME Svet v Nochi	Wheat monoculture without proper plowing techniques and proper moisture regime have led to decrease of soil humus by 10% over the past 5 years and harvest loss by 10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of sapropel from neighboring restored wetland - Shallow plowing - Application of better seeds 	10% compared to baseline	Water requirement down by 5%	20
Xxxx									
Output 2.3	Replacement of ineffective wheat cultivation by legumes	Krasnaya zaria enterprise	4,200	Government holding Put Ilcha	Loss of humus due to monoculture is such that wheat production can no longer be sustained. In the current soil context, legumes are the only effective way forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sowing of legumes in spring over the whole area - Use of sapropel as fertilizer 	15% compared to baseline	No additional irrigation necessary	25
Etc.									

(continued until all sites under Outputs 2.2. and 2.3 are fully covered)

