Greening Drylands Partnership The Changwon Initiative







Project Document

Integrated Dryland and Drought Management in South Kazakhstan regions

Project Executive Summary:

Land degradation triggers destructive processes that affect the entire biosphere. For this reason, it has been recognized that the results of combating land degradation go well beyond national boundaries and isolated effects on climate and biodiversity. Vulnerability analyses for suggest that environmental changes over the coming decades present a serious threat to economic and social sectors. Amongst the 14 structural regions in Kazakhstan, the South Kazakhstan region was identified most prone region to drought. Water is a specifically fragile resource for the region as delta with the frequency and intensity of drought projected to increase. Addressing long-term climate change is thus required to reduce the impacts on livelihoods and boost major economic sectors such as agriculture, which is the mainstay of the region. Through enhanced farming practices and improvement of community-based natural resource management, rural communities are adapting to water scarcity and drought. This project is also establishing the use of drought early warning systems to boost resilience in the agricultural sector which may serve for the interest of the whole country. The project will contribute to the Goal of enhancing food security and the capacity to adapt to climate change in agricultural and pastoral systems in South Kazakhstan regions. In order to support progress towards this Goal, the project Objective is: to improve the livelihood and coping mechanisms of pastoral communities of 2 administrative sub regions in South Kazakhstan by enhancing their capacity to sustainably manage and use natural resources through the implementation of adaptation activities that are identified in the 2 administrative districts. It will secure this objective through activities generating three Outcomes: (1) Farmers/pastoralists in the selected pilot sites are aware of advanced practices to manage drylands; (2) Early warning systems provide timely and relevant information to farmers/pastoralists to assist them in coping with drought; (3) Farmers/ pastoralists inside and outside the pilot sites deploy and replicate successful approaches to cope with drought.

SIGN	ATURES			
Steering Committee Name: MUNKHTUYA ALTANGEREL	Review Signature:	Date:	93	/20 / 7
UNDP Representative	Review Signature:	s		
Name: UNCCD Secretariat Representative		Date:	_/	_/20
Name:	Approval Signature:			
KFS Representative		Date:	_/	_/20

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1 Project Overview

Project Information

Table 1: Required Project Information

Identification	
Project Title	Integrated Dryland and Drought Management in South Kazakhstan region.
Project Objective	To improve the livelihood and coping mechanisms of pastoral communities of 2 administrative sub regions in South Kazakhstan Region by enhancing their capacity to sustainably manage and use natural resources through the implementation of adaptation activities that are identified in the 2 administrative districts.
Post-management Plan	Regional long term development concept for agricultural sector.
Key Components of Projects/Cost	(1) Farmers/pastoralists in the selected pilot sites are aware of advanced practices to manage drylands; (2) Early warning systems provide timely and relevant information to farmers/pastoralists to assist them in coping with drought; (3) Farmers/ pastoralists inside and outside the pilot sites deploy and replicate successful approaches to cope with drought.
Managing Organization (UNDP or UNCCD)	UNDP
Project Manager and Org. Unit	UNDP Kazakhstan
Type/Location	National; South Kazakhstan regions of Kazakhstan
Country/countries	Kazakhstan
	South Kazakhstan region
Expected Accomplishment and work package	The project expected accomplishment and work package is threefold. Resilience of vulnerable farmers improved. Enhanced use of early warning systems. Replication of successful approaches.

Duration and Cost

Project Commencing: (04/2017)	Project Completing: (04/2018)	Total duration in Months: (12)
Cost to:		US\$ Total
KFS Contribution		97000
Programme Support Cost (KFS - 3%)		3000
Subtotal		100000
Contribution from the Partner: UNDP	Kazakhstan	90000
Total		190000

2 Project Justification

Land degradation triggers destructive processes that affect the entire biosphere. For this reason, it has been recognized that the results of combating land degradation go well beyond national boundaries and isolated effects on climate and biodiversity. The combination of vulnerability to climate change and the need to create synergies with existing/ongoing efforts on drought mitigation, have favored the selection of a pilot site within the Syrdarya Basin area, namely the South Kazakhstan district. The land degradation in the South Kazakhstan region results from unsuitable land uses and competition among different land users, which leads to short-term unsustainable land management decisions. The consequences of land degradation in the drylands that characterize the target sites include de-vegetation and desiccation of soils that lead to formation of aerosols and increased incidence of dust storms and lowering of soil moisture over vast expanses of land. Land degradation in these sites also leads to decrease in soil carbon and net primary productivity, which impacts on the global carbon cycle. The baseline scenario for this project represents a "business-as-usual" wherein Kazakh Farmers undertakes only those activities in its baseline development planning. This envisages a situation in which rural communities continue to use their current coping strategies, which will become inadequate as drought increases in frequency and intensity. Beyond the baseline scenario, the alternative the project's scenario includes activities that, in the absence of global warming, would generate the nature conservation benefits specifically, improvements to the sustainability of land management, thus reducing land degradation. Beyond this scenario the project will contribute to the robustness of the regional environmental conservation benefits by providing arena for scaling up the advanced best practices resilient to different climate factor and hence to increase adaptive capacity of farmers to cope with drought under changing climatic conditions. KFS funding will cover the difference between relative costs associated with the baseline scenario and the alternative scenario.

However, this project addresses the future impacts of long-term climate induces natural factors, which require that, in addition to the types of interventions that would be funded under the land degradation directives of the UNCCD, there is also a need to increase the adaptive capacity of local and national stakeholders to cope with increased frequency and intensity of drought which is as per the IPCC is a major consequence of climate change. This means that project stakeholders not only need to overcome barriers to the introduction of more sustainable land management practices, but also to build their capacity to adapt to changing climatic conditions. Thus, for example in a scenario without climate change, diversification of agricultural systems as a means of promoting sustainable land management would constitute a sufficient intervention. However, the project strategy presented here not only supports such interventions, but also builds capacity to continually review the sustainability of such systems and adapt them as the impacts of climate change alter the underlying drivers of productivity. The project promotes the contextual meaning of the adaptation to climate change terms starting with an understanding of current coping strategies for dealing with droughts experienced under current climate variability. Under the dry conditions, the South Kazakhstan region will become both more frequent and more intense due to its specific climatic conditions. The KFS funding to this project will support the cost of the adaptation activities that gives the opportunity to farmers to learn how to revitalize the abandoned salinized lands as well as to demonstrate the activities on sustainable pasture and rangeland management in the land degradation focal area. Through its logical components the project will overcome barriers to adaptive capacity that currently limit the ability of communities to cope with drought, leading to the model of coping strategies that can be exemplified for the scaling up to the broader regions. For this reason, recurrent costs in two pilot sites within the South Kazakhstan are negligible - once the barriers to adaptive capacity have been overcome, there is no necessity to deal with them again. The communities themselves, which developed the current coping strategies, will make use of their increased adaptive capacity to develop improved strategies, which will continue to evolve as the climate changes to ways that are socially and culturally appropriate ensuring a natural out scaling within the other regions and

could cover the whole country. Consequently, the major costs to be incurred following project completion are associated with replication and scaling up of experiences generated by the project for other sites and communities in Kazakhstan as well as other Central Asian countries through the regional cooperation framework to be pursued by the partnering project. Much of the replication will be spontaneous, taking advantage of long-established traditions of social learning and knowledge exchange. However, the regional Government of South Kazakhstan through the regional NGOs and institutions will also provide on-going funding as part of its development planning to support scale-up.On-going international exchange of experiences and lessons learned will be mainstreamed into the programmes of international partners, with the Drylands Development Centre expected to play a central role in sustaining this aspect of the project.

Interventions to bring together different and diverse sectorial ministries and departments and communities to ensure coordinated sustainable management of an ecosystem that is responsive to both the environmental and developmental needs of the regions and the country at whole.

The project will contribute to the Goal of enhancing food security and the capacity to adapt to climate change in agricultural and pastoral systems in South Kazakhstan regions. In order to support progress towards this Goal, the project Objective is: to improve the livelihood and coping mechanisms of pastoral communities of 2 administrative sub regions in South Kazakhstan by enhancing their capacity to sustainably manage and use natural resources through the implementation of adaptation activities that are identified in the 2 administrative districts. It will secure this objective through activities generating three Outcomes: (1) Farmers/pastoralists in the selected pilot sites are aware of advanced practices to manage drylands; (2) Early warning systems provide timely and relevant information to farmers/pastoralists to assist them in coping with drought; (3) Farmers/ pastoralists inside and outside the pilot sites deploy and replicate successful approaches to cope with drought.

Region and Country Focus

The forestry committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan has expressed its interest in the project that enhances the resilient of the agricultural production using contemporary and indigenous land degradation information produced in 2012 by the GEF/UNDP project on "Mobilizing Support to the National Action Plan Alignment and UNCCD Reporting and Review Process in Kazakhstan". Since then through regular consultations between UNDP-UNCCD and GEF and the Government of Kazakhstan, possible interventions on drought mitigation and climate adaptation have been identified. Kazakhstan, through BCPR support, has recently strengthened its drought awareness and mitigation activities through climate risk management project as well as within the framework of the USAID/UNDP project on "Improving resilience of Kazakhstan wheat and Central Asian Food Security".

Climate change induced drought is a critical issue as it bears directly on ecosystem services. In its third National Communication to the UNFCCC, Kazakhstan reported on V&A studies that identified six vulnerable sectors (e.g., agriculture, water resources, coastal resource, grass land, forest, meteorology/hydrology) and proposed adaptation measures for each. The Third National Communication shows the sensitivity of different economic sectors to future climate change, particularly stressing the issues of the land degradation and desertification in the southern regions of Kazakhstan. To address vulnerability in the agriculture sector, measures included: (1) adjust land management practices, such as changes in crop types, season and location of farming, development of intensified and mechanized farming; (2) promote drought tolerant crop varieties and livestock in drought vulnerable areas; (3) alternate grazing systems; (4) change stocking rates; (5) change the timing of the grazing period. Results from the simulated scenarios on climate change for the century 1960-2090 given by the National Communication was the starting point of vulnerability analysis for this project. In addition, the recently completed UNCCD NAP confirmed that sustainable land management, drought and agriculture are priority adaptation issues.

The project will add impetus to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), specifically to the implementation of Kazakhstan's National Action Plan (NAP). The NAP is being used as the framework for identifying key priority areas where efforts to combat desertification are to be directed.

Yet, the project will be linked to the regional initiatives such as the UNDP's CRM Programme, as well as to the Central Asia Regional Risk Assessment (CARRA)¹ which is convened annually by producers and users of climate risks forecast. During the forum, forecast from various national meteorological services and centers are presented and discussed to generate a consensus on the seasonal forecast for the region and its implications for different scenarios in ecosystem management. The focal point for the UNCCD has been involved in the site selection for this project.

The Committee on Forestry was closely involved in the preparatory process of this project proposal to guarantee full supervision from the government of all phases of the project preparation. Nine relevant institutions have been formally contacted and have actively participated, shared and prioritized the thematic topic of this proposal as well as have been advised during the preparation of the project log-frame containing the project objectives and outcomes.

The project is submitted under the UNCCD NAP as well as Strategic Priority on Adaptation and is designed to support the South Kazakhstan region of Kazakhstan in its efforts to: (1) adapt to future climatic change; and (2) sustain natural vegetation cover meaning the pasture and forest sectors in the face of dry ecosystem environment. The project qualifies for the UNCCD NAP as well as Strategic Priority on Adaptation because it bases the measures which would generate the environmental benefits under land degradation and desertification areas, while developing adaptive capacity for revitalization of the abandoned pasture lands due to harsh climatic condition such as long term climate induced drought.

The entry point for this project is the identification, development and/or upscaling of adaptive strategies, which are the result of indigenous knowledge and experiences, contemporary knowledge including scientific and technological innovations and social and economic issues, and which have led to sustainable livelihoods in arid and semi-arid lands.

The strategy adopted in this project builds on the development baseline, and the incremental activities required generating land degradation benefits under the current climate baseline. The project will therefore include additional activities to increase adaptive capacity to cope with drought under changing climatic conditions, thus ensuring sustainability of land degradation benefits.

Since the project cannot be implemented in the whole South Kazakhstan regions of Kazakhstan due ot its vast territories it will start in two communities of the selected Administrative Post. District authorities have identified the Administrative post of Makhtaral and Shardara in the southwest of South Kazakhstan district. Although any location within the district is drought prone area, the selected Administrative Post has been chosen for the following reasons:

¹ Central Asia faces many risks of natural disasters, water, energy and food security, external economic shocks and conflicts. In recent years these risks have confronted the region in quick succession and often compounded each other. In response to this challenge, UNDP has initiated the Central Asia Regional Risk Assessment (CARRA) forum, an inter-agency regional risk assessment process, which began with a meeting of some 30 multilaterals, regional and bilateral international agencies in Almaty in July 2008, followed by a second one in July 2009. The third CARRA conference was held in Almaty in April 2011. The purpose of these meetings was to exchange information about the risks and about the responses by the agencies, and to develop coordinated approaches, including risk monitoring and early warning initiatives, by the international community in support of the countries in Central Asia, with a special focus on the regional dimension of the risks and the required response. While the CARRA discussions initially responded to the regional drought and energy crisis of 2007/8, over time their focus expanded to consider other risks, such as the fall-out from the global economic crisis of 2008, the pervasive risks of natural disasters, as well as the impact of the food price crises of 2007/8 and 2010/11.

- It has the three district livelihood zones (The upper Makhtaral, the Semi-Arid Interior and the Lower Shardara);
- It is the most populated Administrative Post in the district;
- It has a privileged geographical location for easy access from outside;
- Most vulnerable farmers are centered and most prone regions to the drought.
- High area of abondoned productive lands for the last 5 years compared with the other regions of Kazakhstan which are the best options to showcase the practices to revitlize the abondoned productive landscapes.
- Highest number of farmers/pasture, livestock and rain fed areas at the region.

Inputs from the local stakeholder meeting in South Kazakhstan, suggest that the best implementing approach is through farmers associations.

3 Project Statement & Approach

In order to achieve the project objective, the project is structured around one **Outcome**, which is followed by three main outputs and these are followed by a number of indicative activities. While specific activities will be formulated by the implementing national agency through an interactive process with local authorities and communities during the inception process, the activities described below are indicative.

Project Statement²

Activities and Timetable

Key Component	Objective	Activities	Pudgat(SUS)		1 st	year		2nd year
•	}		Budget(\$US)	1/4	2/4	3/4	4/4	1/4
phot sites improved a	od strategies and indestrated to continued to continued to continued to continued to continued to continue and indestructions.	resilience of vulnerable fa	irmers and pas	storal	comn	nunitie	es in th	ne selected
Output 1: Farmers/pastoralists in the selected pilot sites are aware of advanced practices to manage drylands;	Institutional and community education and awareness programme on dryland and drought management developed and mainstreamed.	Conduct drought vulnerability risk assessment. Assessment of local and traditional approaches to coping with drought Develop sustainable land management training modules and plans on forest, agriculture and pasture lands, value addition and markets for dryland products. Introduction and mainstreaming new training modules, TOT, learning& adaptation kits for the agro-extension service agencies.	2500 5000	X	X	X		
		Broadcast different radio spots and movie on the impact of land degradation and desertification.	5400	X	Х	Х		

² Typically, the Project Objective identified in the Project Concept is carried forward and captured in the Project Statement.

Output 2:	Thomasiant				- _I		· ₁ ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Early warning systems provide timely and relevant information to farmers/pastoralists to assist them in coping with drought	The project will support the establishment of effective early warning systems that will provide timely and	Strengthening of national drought early warning system.	22000	X	X	X	X	
	relevant information, so as to allow individual stakeholders and communities to adopt	Procurement of computers for establishment of national drought mitigation center at the bases of the national space research instute.	5000	X	X	X	X	
	appropriate response strategies.	Regional workshop/field days based on the established demo plots for awareness creation and exchange knowledge.	7000	X	X	X		
Output 3 Farmers/ pastoralists inside and outside the pilot sites deploy and replicate successful approaches to cope with drought.	Establishment of a platform for exchange of knowledge	Establishment of demonstration plot on restoration of abandoned pasture lands through cultivation of pasture plants as well as nurseries.	9000	X	X	X	X	
PDO IFCT BAANIA	EMENT	Set up agroforestry demonstration plots to showcase the advanced crop and plot diversification technology with drought tolerant crops\trees and develop eroded slope lands and ensure income generation from the abandoned lands.	7300	X	X	X	X	
PROJECT MANAG COST:	EMENT							
Programme Support C	Cost (KFS - 3%)	Provide overall technical guidance when needed.	1500	X	X	X	X	X

	Support the project to upload and disseminate best practices and essential results achieved.	1500	X	X	X	X	X
	Project Manager	5000	X	X	X	X	
	LPAC/National Steering committee	2200				X	X
	Feasibility/Monitoring travel	1100		X	X		X
Project management cost	Feasibility and Monitoring missions	1200					X
	Printing and publications	5000	X	Χ	X	X	X
	Admin staff	5700	<u> </u>				- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Evaluation	6200					
	GMS	7400					
Total:		100 000					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Project Approach

A maladaptive characteristic of local agricultural systems is their dependence on a narrow range of crops and a narrow genetic base within each crop species. In favorable climatic conditions, such systems can produce adequate yields, which can meet local food requirements and provide for income generation. However, the systems are very sensitive to drought. Furthermore, techniques to improve crops yields are rarely applied. The project will therefore support the diversification of agricultural systems and increases in productivity. One of the barriers to diversification is the capacity of the local agricultural extension agencies to support diversified agricultural systems, so the project will seek to build the capacity of extension services.

- Increase quality and improve control of seeds distributed at fairs;
- Promote reforestation with native drought tolerant species;
- Provision of agriculture technical assistance:
- Encourage communities to grow drought resistance crops as a strategy to reduce crop losses in the future.
- Apply new agriculture technique for soil conservation including mulching.

Rural communities in dry regions of Kazakhstan have employed a variety of mitigation and coping strategies to withstand drought risks which will be complementary to the above mentioned approaches and activities proposed, as elaborated in Table-2 below.

Table-2: Common mechanisms for coping with Drought

Interventio	Informal mechan	ism	I	Formal Mechanisms
n type	Individual and household	Group	Market	Public based
	level	based	based	

Reducing Drought Risk	Migration (rural-urban) Off-farm employment	Common resource managem ent		 Sound macro- economic policy Environmental policy Education & training
Mitigating Drought Risk	 Use of wetlands Crop and plot diversification Small scale irrigation Income source diversification Investment in physical and human capital Income diversification with off farm work 	Rotating savings	 Savings accounts in financial institutio ns Microfin ance 	policy Land-use policy Agricultural policy Public health policy Infrastructure (dams, road, irrigation,) Agricultural extension Liberalization of trade Early warning systems
Insurance (risk transfer)	 Marriage Reliance on extended family Buffer stocks 	Investme nt in social capital	• Insuranc e (especial ly for livestoc k)	Pension systems
Coping with shocks	 Sale of assets (mostly livestock) Purchase grain from market Increased reliance on natural resources (maladaptive) Traditional resettlement 	• Transfers from networks of mutual support	 Liquidat ion of savings Loans from financial institutio ns 	SubsidiesCash transfersFormal resettlement

Livestock provide an important component of local food needs as well as the potential for income generation. However, as is the case for crop production, the genetic base of livestock in the target sites is narrow. One effect of this is to lower prices, since the same limited range of livestock products is widely marketed. Local livestock are also susceptible to various diseases which lower their tolerance of adverse conditions such as drought.

- Rehabilitation and/or reconstruction of infrastructures to water the animals (wells and oasis irrigation systems), to guarantee animals watering even during the drought period;
- Demonstrate the production and conservation of forage products for drought season, thus avoiding animal loss during that season and so reinforcing forage security;
- Any existing early warning system will only be effective if information is delivered to the end users. An effective integrated drought information system through revision of the monthly agro meterological bulletins that allows all stakeholders to assess their drought risk in a timely fashion, before the onset of drought in order to make informed decisions. The project will collaborate with local communities, the KAzhydromet, and the national Space Research Institute to develop this output whilst also strengthening capacity for local level monitoring (including indigenous knowledge systems) and prediction of the diverse physical indicators of drought, as well as relevant economic, social and environmental impacts. The project will ensure that communities have access to the information produced by the technical institutions as Kazhydromet and national Space Research Institute and etc).

An important aspect of this Output is the strengthening of seasonal forecast information that has been produced since 1999 in Kazakhstan. It was established following the recommendation made by the Workshop on improving the resilience of the agro production sector organized by the USAID and UNDP in collaboration with Kazhydromet and national Space Research Institute. Currently, communities lack access to this information, and similarly, the regional forecasting process does not benefit from information feedback from local communities. Consequently, the project will support improvements in this two-way flow of information.

In order to ensure the establishment of effective early warning system, the project may carry out the following activities:

- Support in the establishment of the center for land desertification and management committee at the bases of the Kazhydromet or National Space Research Institute;
- Train volunteers and communities on land degradation and desertification preparedness and mitigation;
- Establish Geoportal climate information portal in close financial and technical cooperation with the USAID/UNDP project on climate resilient wheat project. It will strive to build Kazakh model of geoportal with the functional coverage to post updated cartographic and weather data information in regards the optimal planting period as well as track the drought season in the agricultural production sector of the southern regions of Kazakhstan.
- Incorporate the drought mitigation and management practices into the community radio;
- Establish a flow of information mechanism from the information producer to the end users (communities); Guarantee that the flow of information from information producers to the end user is disseminated in a timely fashion.

The project will support the development of methodologies to integrate data on climate, hydrology, socioeconomic and ecosystem conditions in decision support for the benefit of farmers to increase their capacity to cope with drought. Local stakeholders, particularly women usually lack skills and have no access to information on their risks from environmental degradation and climate change. The project will therefore raise awareness among local communities, particularly women and children through advocacy, information kits, educational materials, training workshops. In order to ensure the enhancement of community capacity, the project may carry out the following activities:

- Assessment of local and traditional approaches to coping with drought;
- Identification of gaps in local adaptive capacity;
- Provision of technical support to overcome barriers to increased adaptive capacity;
- Design and implementation of community awareness programme.

In order to ensure the reduction of land degradation to the level of indicated values and promote environmental education to the public, the project will carry out the following activities:

- During the first four months, measure the rate of land degradation in the targeted site to be used as the reference value;
- Develop community-based plans through a participatory approach
- Promote technical expertise required to enhance capacity to cope with drought and to reduce land degradation;
- Monitor the capacity to cope with drought and land degradation rate;
- Undertake public awareness campaigns

Stakeholder Analysis

The success of the project implementation depends on the timely and effective engagement of key stakeholders in Kazakhstan and the region. The executing organization considering the principles of the participatory approach will start from stakeholder consultation, where all interesting parties will be invited for project discussion and development of coordination mechanism.

For the first component, the main stakeholders on national level are KazHydroMet, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture and their substructures (KazAgroInnovation), Academic institutes (Barayev Institute, Institute of Geography, KazNIEK and etc). On local level, we can highlight: Local Akimats, local branches of KazAgroInnovation, KazHydroMet, associations of agricultural producers (NGOs, CBOs), private sector, MassMedia.

Within the second component, the main partner will be the Ministry of Agriculture and their substructures. Also we will involve the Ministry of Energy, because their positions is critical for correction of any line strategic programmes/ plans. All other stakeholders, including private sector, local authorizes, civil society will be involved on consultation stage. Their vision is critical for development of implementation schemes/mechanisms.

The main stakeholders of the project are members of rural communities, rural consumer cooperatives of water users, peasant farmers in particular pastoralists, farmers, as well as farms that are specialized farms for forage production, who occupies a massive part of the territory in the south east regions of South Kazakhstan watershed. As per the conducted preliminary survey, the populations of the targeted region were very keen to increase the gross harvest of agricultural products and hence to generate additional income that may be valuated up to tens of millions of Tenge in the 1-2 years. These figures cannot be reached unless the usage of abandoned pasture lands as well as agriculturally fertile lands are restored i.e. vast amount of the pasture lands are abandoned due to drought and degraded pasture lands due to inefficient conditions of the wells which can be easily rehabilitated through well reconstructions using the underground water

Key stakeholder's contribution analyses matrix

Organization	Role	Technical Capacity
	Accountability to KFS for funds disbursement to for overall delivery of the project results.	Ensure project implementation adheres to guidelines of the
	Project coordination.	UNCCD NAP and SPA and also alignment with UNDP-
	Hosting of a project secretariat annual basis.	USAID project on Climate Resilient Wheat Project as
	Reporting to GEF	well as NAP Alignment projects, Environmental
	Implementation of selected activities	management
UNDP Kazakhstan Sustainable Land Management Cluster	Co-sharing/co-financing, replication, scaling up and out scaling of best practices, Community facilitation, Technical support, Products and services, Marketing. Membership at the project steering committee.	Ensure achieving project's set goal, objective and targets. Ensure transparency and sustainability of the activities. Monitoring and Evaluation and reporting at the project steering committee. Technical support on coordination and communication between UNCCD secretariat and the KFS. Engage other donors and state funds to support the project implementation activities. Mainstreaming and incorporation the principles of SLM into the national and

		strategic documents.
Committee on Forestry under the Ministry of Energy of Republic of Kazakhstan	Production data management	Agricultural dryland management
	Agriculture early warning	
Ministry of Agriculture	Provision of Agro-climate information	Livestock production, Land
and its subsidiary organization	Provision of innovative agricultural techniques.	use planning, soil and water conservation, agricultural
AgroInnovations, Agricultural research and	Technical support for livestock development	research, training and extension, Irrigation
extension centres	Provision of extension support to communities	development, Agricultural research.
	Technical support for irrigation development, Operation and maintenance	
Regional land management committee	Land access facility	Policy, GIS, Mapping
and National Space Research Institute	Production of the land-use information	GIS and Remote Sensing
Kazhydromet	Provision of climatic information, Data analysis for drought risk mapping, development of agrometerological bulletins.	Weather instruments, climate monitoring and forecasting, Creation of drought preparedness plan
National Water	Provision of hydrological data and information	Rehabilitation of wells and oasis for resting place for the
Committee	Technical support on water resources management	herds, Catchments management
National Agrarian University	Revision of educational curriculums, technical cooperation, trainings and services.	Mainstreaming of new curriculums.
Non-Governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations	Partnership on community mobilization replication, of best practices, Community facilitation.	Community facilitation, Business
Communities	Decision making on implementation of project activities. Community projects implementation	Local knowledge of study site problems and adaptation strategies

Partnership Analysis

The stakeholders listed in the following table will assume specific responsibility for implementing the project under the overall leadership of the project. In South Kazakhstan, project activities will be carried out by existing representatives of the AgroUnion and Unions of Farmers and pastoralist. This strategy will allow for fund raising for non-project supported costs such as fertilizers and other agricultural inputs

in close cooperation with the international agricultural input supply companies. The implementation phase will also have the participation of NGOs currently working in South Kazakhstan. So far the list includes the following:

- · Agro Union of Kazakhstan
- · Farmers initiations support center

The involvement of local NGOs as partners in the implementation phase will contribute for the sustainability of the proposed project. Taking into account that each NGO has its own working plan based on its project strategies and objectives, the proposed project will seek to create complementary partnership

Committee on Forestry and local Central District Government commitment: The current project proposal meets one of the essential regional governmental objectives to combat against poverty through the reduction of vulnerability in the hazard prone zones. Thus, the underlying principle of the adaptation to drought and climate change is building on and responding to issues that are at the hearts of the communities concerned and government.

Institutional commitment: The formal commitment letters from the implementing agencies (government institutions) is to be guaranteed upon the request on continuity beyond the end of the project. For instance, the setting of the extension workers should be done under the project coverage and the responsible institution will guarantee its continuity after the project lifetime.

Local community commitment: Direct community involvement is a key factor to guarantee the project sustainability. The project will seek to carry out community based activities with direct benefits such as promotion of new land management techniques. Thus, community ownership will contribute to the self sustainable project.

Socio-economic Contribution, including Gender and Poverty Alleviation

The majority, namely 80%, of the population in South Kazakhstan region is active in the livestock and agricultural cropping husbandry. Of these, about 40% work in the family farm sector. The other regionally-defined sectors are the state farm sector and the commercial sector. The family agriculture system is characterized by family labor force and medium mechanization grade. The number of irrigated areas is mainly limited to bigger farms in lowland areas (rice) and mainly directed to vegetable production in small areas. In addition, productivity per hectare is low. Hence, the potential for agricultural growth is significant. The social division of labor in agriculture involves the whole family. There is usually little use of labor from outside the household. In South Kazakhstan, 30% of women are the basis of agricultural production; they are responsible for land preparation, digging, weeding and harvesting. They help to transport, store and market surplus production. Additionally, women carry the burden of the household tasks such as cooking, child caring, collection of firewood and drinking water. In some extent, men usually help in the initial opening of the field by cutting trees and heavy vegetation.

Due to the different climatic and socio-economic conditions there are significant differences in cropping patterns and farming systems. Main staple crops produced in the family agriculture sector are maize, rice, wheat and potatoes and oil crops. Grown vegetables (horticultural production) are most frequently tomatoes, cabbage, pumpkin, garlic, cucumber, tomato and onions. Cash crops most frequently grown by households are potato, wheat, buckwheat and sunflower. Most important domestic animals in terms of household consumption are horse, cattle, sheep, pigs and to a certain extent beef in the southern part of the region. The planting of fruit trees has been a priority in many districts, and in many cases fruit is an important complement to the household diet. Trees of importance are apple, almond, apricot, pear and peach. Besides their nutritional value, trees are of social and economic value to the population.

Besides, the project will support the development of methodologies to integrate data on climate, hydrology, socio-economic and ecosystem conditions in decision support for the benefit of farmers to increase their capacity to cope with drought as well as increased water ground table at the delta regions of

Syrdarya river. Local stakeholders, particularly women usually lack skills and have no access to information on their risks from environmental degradation and climate change. The project will therefore raise awareness among local communities, particularly women and children through advocacy, information kits, educational materials, training workshops.

Documentation and reporting of good practices and success-stories. The local agro extension centers will be responsible for developing a system of reporting aimed at domestic dissemination. In addition, however, the local implementing agency in the face of "UNDP Kazakhstan" will be responsible for regular reporting to the KFS, which will maintain a web-site or kind of web based portal where lessons will be uploaded/ documented. Within this cooperative project the internationally recognized best practices web platforms such as WOCAT as well as UNCCD Website will be widely used during bradcasting of tose documented best practices.

Learning and Media Tours. The project will support two types of learning tours. One type will be for Journalists, media representatives, farmers, and local decision makers to visit both the pilot sites and other drought-affected sites in Kazakhstan, to learn first-hand both of the impacts of drought and of measures that can increase adaptive capacity to deal with climate change. Such study tours will support Outputs under Outcome 2. The second type of study tour will be for farmers, decision makers and technical specialists to visit pilot sites in other country where UNCCD NAP Alignment project or any toher relevant projects are being implemented to learn from experiences in similar and differing climatic and socioeconomic situations.

Beyond the implementation activities, the project takes into consideration the three factors to ensure cost effectiveness. Firstly, an objective process of site selection, taking account of climate vulnerability and socio-economic factors, has identified the most vulnerable areas of the country. As project interventions will be undertaken in areas of South Kazakhstan, which stand most to benefit from innovative approaches to coping with dryland management technologies the cost-benefit ratio is maximized. Secondly, the inclusion of communities with contrasting capacities to cope with drought and drylands restorations within the selected area will allow the project to generate lessons of broader application than would otherwise have been the case, promoting greater cost-effectiveness in future relevant projects. Finally, the project has adopted some of the key lessons from the UNDP Kazakhstan's Small Grants Programme (SGP) in engaging the communities directly in assessing their vulnerabilities and the design of solutions. Evaluations of the SGP have consistently identified the community-based approach as being particularly cost-effective.

Ecological Contributions

Land degradation triggers destructive processes that affect the entire biosphere in the South Kazakhstan region. For this reason, the UNCCD has recognized that the results of combating land degradation go well beyond national boundaries. Land degradation in the target sites of this project results from unsuitable land uses and competition among different land users, which leads to short-term unsustainable land management decisions. The consequences of land degradation in the drylands that characterize the target sites include de-vegetation and desiccation of soils that lead to formation of aerosols and increased incidence of dust storms and lowering of soil moisture over vast expanses of land. Land degradation in these sites also leads to decrease in soil carbon and net primary productivity, which impacts on the global carbon cycle. However, this project addresses the future impacts of long-term climate change, which require that, in addition to the types of interventions that would be funded under the land degradation principles, there is also a need to increase the adaptive capacity of local and national stakeholders to cope with increased frequency and intensity of drought which is climate induced phenomenon. This means that project stakeholders not only need to overcome barriers to the introduction of more sustainable land management practices, but also to build their capacity to adapt to changing climatic conditions in the form

of climate induced droughts. Thus, for example in a scenario without drought condition, diversification of agricultural systems as a means of promoting sustainable land management would constitute a sufficient intervention.

Critical Success Factors

Successful approaches in South Kazakhstan, a drought prone district, will generate interest to replicate in other parts with similar problems. Ensuring the right replication strategy will entail packaging information on lessons of this project for other drought prone areas. Among other districts, suggested districts by the stakeholders in workshop group discussions include, Mangistau, Pavlodar, Almaty and other regions. Other districts are located in other drought prone areas such as southern Karaganda, Northern Kazakhstan regions. The experience gained in South Kazakhstan will be used by the implementing agencies to draw better strategies in those districts which are well considered to be part of the success factors. The right cooperation with the agro extension centers as well as with other relevant partners both from the regions and district level including the qualified trainers from the private and research institutions and academia will further provide extension support to the broad level of farmers on ongoing technological innovations i.e. how to restore the wells and support to bridge the farmers with the leading experts and scholars on hydraulic engineers, well rehabilitations and etc.

According to the expertise estimation to be used to create local partnership strategy will be based on the facts that this project would have no negative environmental and social impacts upon the implementation. The establishment of the adequate membership within the project steering committee will also ensure the project successes. By this mean, the role of the project steering committee is to facilitate the implementation of the project partnership processes. At the project steering committee, the project will actively collaborate with national governments, relevant agencies and local communities, as well as other regional partners as well as discusses matters of common interest to projects/activities. The goal of the project steering committee is to review the project past implementation activities, conduct preliminary analysis of new activities/ideas, discuss and agree the project activities. The project steering committee members will also set a time and date to monitor and evaluate the implementation activities, explore opportunities for resource mobilization, and assess final report and distribute the results of projects. Project steering committee will be established amongst the representatives of the local state authorities in particular representatives of Akimat of South Kazakhstan oblast, representatives of partner organizations, including Union of Farmers of Kazakhstan, the Association of Agro Union of RK and representative from the Rice Research Institute. The project holds a close contacts and consultations with the representatives of the above mentioned organizations and will be further engaged into the implementation.

Logical Framework

Table 2: Logical Framework¹

1. Project Outcome = Expected Accomplishment	Indicators ²	Means of Verification
Livelihood strategies and resilience of vulnerable farmers and pastoral communities in the selected pilot sites improved and sustained to cope with drought.	 Drought vulnerability reduction assessment Percentage of affected farmers is less than 60% of the 2014 value in the two pilot sites of Makhtaral and Shardara districts. Improved information management system on land degradation and desertification at the national level. 	Project reportsHousehold survey
2. Project Outputs:	Indicators	Means of Verification
A) Farmers/pastoralists in the selected pilot sites are aware of advanced practices to manage drylands;	 # of relevant publications/training modules developed/printed/distributed. # farmers mobilization events conducted. # of institutions and farmers is aware of national and international best practices. # of training modules, printings and publications produced. # of trainings and farmers mobilized. # of new best practices and training modules 	 Project Reports Workshop reports, minutes and resolutions. Farmers and pastorals survey Training modules Project publications
B) Early warning systems provide timely and relevant information to farmers/pastoralists to assist them in coping with drought and manage drylands.	 # of user tailored drought forecasts and other early warning centers established. % of farmers has access to user tailored drought forecasts. % land planners, extension agents receiving 	 Field survey (annual) Reports from Kazhydromet and National Space Research Institute Local Akimats reports Project reports.

Dacambar 2018	mation to plan their activities.	M5. At the end of the project more than 50% of farmers and pastoralists use climate information to plan their activities	M5. At the end of the proje
July 2018	ccess to updated information	M4.At the mid-point and end of the project, more than 70% of farmers/pastoralists have access to updated information	M4.At the mid-point and e
December 2018	s in the two pilot areas increase	M3 By end of project average crop production per HH among small and medium farmers in the two pilot areas increase by 60%	M3 By end of project aver by 60%
December 2018	end of project period.	M2 50% of farmers in pilot sites receive and use timely early warning information by the end of project period.	M2 50% of farmers in pilo
December 2018	alue added dryland products to	M1 By end of project number of poor households in the pilot sites engaged in non-farm value added dryland products to diversify their livelihood increased to 70%	MI By end of project number of poor house diversify their livelihood increased to 70%
Expected Milestone Delivery Date			3. Project Milestones ⁴ :
es Reports t of project	 Field visit reports Akimats and research institutes Reports Terminal evaluation Field surveys at end of project Interviews and surveys at end of project 	or using formal early warning information timely in 2017. • % of farmers receiving and using formal early warning information timely in 2017. • # of farmers is using climate and drought information in decision making. • % of productivity on drylands increased. • # of ministries is using the climate and drought information in decision making. • # of affected people sustainably managing the dryland and able to cope with drought. • # of farmers and pastoralists are able to describe the coping with drought learnt from another site. • # of best practices are piloted, documented and disseminated. • # of best practices are uploaded into the international WOCAT database. • % of abandoned drylands (pasture and productive landscapes) rehabilitated/restored in pilot sites by 2017.	C) Farmers/ pastoralists inside and outside the pilot sites deploy and replicate successful approaches to cope with drought and manage/restore abandoned drylands.

M6. By the end of project, at least 50% of communities in the target site to be applying sustainable development strategies/practices.	December 2018
M7. By end of project drought risk management plan integration in local Akimats annual development programme increase by 50%.	December 2018
M8. By the end of the project, senior officials in relevant sectoral ministries are able to describe strategies to increase December 2018 adaptive capacity to cope with drought and dry land management through active participation in the project events.	December 2018

management stage and be strictly answerable with a yes or no answer. 1: Risks and assumptions should be captured in the Section 4. 2: Include baseline and targets, 3: A milestone is not equal to a summation of tasks or activities. Rather, it should represent the achievement of a feasible Project

4 Risk Analysis

Table 3: Project Risk Log

[u			#
Local extension	Insufficient financial resources for implementation of project. (due to devaluation, luck of cofinancial contribution and etc). Extreme event other than drought strikes the area (severe flood, cyclone, etc.)	, postribraou	
03/2016	05/2016 02/2016	Identified	Poto
Operational	Financial		Tana
Both project and Kazvodkhoz may	The project cannot implement its full-fledged activities in time and mode. P=3 I=3 Both the project and the local key stakeholders may not be able to continue implementation of the project. P=2 I=3	Probability	Tommont D.
The project will introduce best	The project will use adaptive financial management allocations in order to address a current situation in the local markets. The project will cooperate with national partners such as Kazhydromet and national DoES to follow with the results of the early warning systems. Yet, the project will cooperate with the DRR projects, community and local partners to apply early response plans and measure.	/Mngt response	Commence
Portfolio manager	Portfolio manager/ Portfolio manager/	OWHE	Durman
SD&U Programme	SD&U Programme associate Chief Technical Advisor SD&U Programme associate Chief Technical Advisor	updated by	Culturate of
09/2016	11/2016	Update	1 204
Local extension	No change Created access to the geoportal for near real time monitoring and evaluation of natural factors.	Status	Distance

											4.															
technologies.	of innovative	implementation	institutions on	with research	collaboration	and	communication	improved	involvement for	commitment or	No community										cooperation.	cooperation	reductant for	institutions are	research	agencies and
											05/2016															
						.,		•			Other			• • • • •											.,	
			P=1	sustained.	may not be	innovative practices	approbation of	implementation or	learned and	priorities may not be	Community									***************************************		I=3	P =2	delivery system	effective water	not be able to ensure
	decision making.	for appropriate	bottom up approach	villages for ensuring	neighborhoods and	the target	communities around	the local	communicate with	closely	The project will	framework.	management	knowledge	for better	economic incentives	management and	organizational	experiences on	international	based on	terms of reference	preparation of solid	support for	provide expertise	solutions and
										manager	Portfolio												,		•	
						Advisor	Technical	Chief	associate	Programme	SD&U												Advisor	Technical	Chief	associate
											08/2016															
					analyses.	situational	based	community	based on the	proposal is	The project		modules.	training	extension	and	into learning	incorporated	practices are	project best	project and	with the	cooperating	actively	institutions	agencies and

Project Specific Opportunities

The specific opportunities from this project would be to assist the communities at the local level in enhancing their forage reserves and secure livelihoods and at the national level in formulating suitable policies to support sustainable development. The other opportunities includes:

- Enhancing the productive capacity of the abandoned land that is under threats of degradation that emanates from soil erosion, compaction, and loss of soil fertility.
- Empowering the communities economically through development of sustainable forms of diversified agriculture (both crops and livestock) and establishment of effective marketing systems.
- Enhancing food security amongst the communities and farm family income through promotion of indigenous food crop production on sustainable basis
- Conserved crop and pasture lands and their protection against erosion and other forms of degradation
- Increased agricultural production and conserved farming systems
- Climate proofing mechanism is to be applied at the different level of planning system
- New advanced training modules are to be introduced.
- New agro incentives methods and principles are introduced

5 Reporting & Evaluation

Progress & Financial Report

The Project will follow UNDP and UNCCD Secretariat standard reporting and evaluation processes and procedures.

Reporting is an integral part of the UNDP and UNCCD Secretariat Project Manager's responsibility, including getting the necessary inputs from any sub-contracted partners.

A unified half-yearly 'Progress & Financial Report' will be submitted to the Steering Committee in an electronic format by:

- 31 July for the period between 1 January and 30 June or parts thereof for any given year AND by
- 31 January for the period between 1 July and 31 December or parts thereof for any given year.
- The last Progress & Financial Report (Final Report) must be submitted within 60 days of Project Closure.

Monitoring

129. Monitoring will follow standard UN accepted procedure, reflecting guidance from the international level project implementation activities as well as guidance to be received from the M&E unit of UNDP Kazakhstan. As well as principles included at the 10 year UNCCD strategy e.g. Objective 2; Benchmark and Indicators for desertification monitoring and impact evaluation.

Evaluation

Project evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established UN procedures and will be conducted both by the support of the members of the project board with support from UNDP Kazakhstan M&E evaluation unit representative as a in kind contribution. The Logical Framework Matrix provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification. These will form the basis on which the project's Monitoring and Evaluation system will be built.

The following sections outline the principle components of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and indicative cost estimates related to M&E activities. The project's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will be presented and finalized at the Project's Inception Report following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

A Project Inception Workshop will be conducted with the full project team, relevant government counterparts, co-financing partners, the UNDP Kazakhstan representative and representation from the international organizations as appropriate.

Periodic monitoring of implementation progress will be undertaken by the members of the project board through quarterly meetings with the project proponent, or more frequently as deemed necessary. This will

allow parties to take stock and to troubleshoot any problems pertaining to the project in a timely fashion to ensure smooth implementation of project activities.

Annual Monitoring will occur through the Tripartite Review (TPR). This is the highest regional policy-level meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of a project. The project will be subject to Tripartite Review (TPR) at least once every year. The first such meeting will be held within the first twelve months of the start of full implementation. The project proponent will prepare an Annual Project Report (APR) and submit it to UNCCD focal point at least two weeks prior to the TPR for review and comments.

6 Delivery Plan, Budget, and Organization

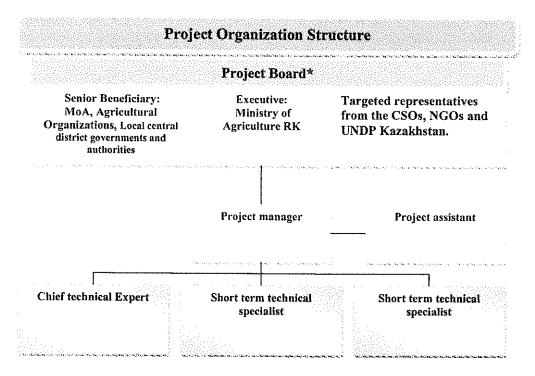
Project Delivery Plan and Budget

Table 4: Project Delivery Plan and Budget

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Organization (UNDP or	Partner(s)	2017	-2018	Budget \$US			
: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :		UNCCD Secretariat)		Start Date	End Date	2017	2018	Total	
) Project Output: Farmers/pare of advanced practices to			ites are		12900	0	12900	
1.1.	Conduct comprehensive drought vulnerability risk assessment. Assessment of local and traditional approaches to coping with drought	UNDP	KazAgolnnovaitio, Kazhydromet, Agricultural Research institutions, local government.	03/17	06/17	2500	0	2500	
1.2.	Develop sustainable land management training modules and plans on forest, agriculture and pasture lands, value addition and markets for dryland products. Introduction and mainstreaming new training modules, TOTs, learning& adaptation kits for the agro-extension service agencies.	UNDP	KazAgoInnovaitio, Kazhydromet, Agricultural Research institutions, local government.	05/17	07/17	5000	0	5000	
1.5.	Broadcast different radio spots and movie on the impact of land degradation and desertification.	UNDP	Project Team, experts from relevant state and none state structures.	05/17	08/17	5400	0	5400	
) Project Output: Early warn rmation to farmers/pastoral					34000	0	34000	
2.3.	Strengthening of national drought early warning system.	UNDP	Project team with consultation by UNDP Kazakhstan procurement office	05/17	10/17	27000	0	27000	

	Regional workshop/field			1	•			I
2.5.	days based on the established demo plots for awareness creation and exchange knowledge.	UNDP	Kazagroinnovation, research institutes, project experts, farmers.	08/17	7000	0	7000	
3, C) depl	Project Output: Farmers/ policy and replicate successful a	astoralists ins approaches to	side and outside the cope with drough	e pilot : t.	sites	16300	0	16300
3.1.	Establishment of demonstration plot on restoration of abandoned pasture lands through cultivation of pasture plants.	UNDP	Kazagroinnovation, research institutes, project experts, farmers.	05/17	05/17	9000	0	9000
3.2.	Set up agroforestry demonstration plots to showcase the advanced crop and plot diversification technology with drought tolerant crops\trees and develop abondoned lands and ensure income generation.	UNDP	Kazagroinnovation, research institutes, project experts, farmers.	05/17	05/17	7300	0	7300
4, Pı	roject Management	l				15200	2300	17500
4.1.	Provide overall technical guidance for the implementation activities.	UNDP	Programme	01/17	05/17			
4.2.	Support the project to upload and disseminate best practices and essential results achieved.	UNDP	Support Cost (KFS - 3%)	08/17	12/17	3000		3000
4.3.	Project manager	UNDP	Project team	01/17	12/17	5000		5000
4.6.	LPAC/National Steering committee	UNDP	Members of NSC	12/16	03/18	1100	1100	2200
4.7.	Feasibility and Monitoring missions	UNDP	Project team/UNCCD coordinator	12/16	03/18	1100	1200	2300
4.9.	Printing and publications	UNDP	Project team	05/17	10/17	5000		5000
		Admin staff		5000	700	5700		
5.0.	General Management	Evaluation				5000	1200	6200
.;	Sahbore	Support GMS						
6	Total:					95472	4528	100000
7	Grand total					البنينية السنيدا		100000

Project Organization and Management



Use of Legal Instruments

This project proposal shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the SBAA between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and International Organizations, signed on October 4, 1994 Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, the responsibility for the safety and security of the executing agency and its personnel and property, and of International organizations and in this case it is UNDP Kazakhstan property in the executing agency's custody, rests with the implementing agency.

The executing agency shall:

- a) put in place an appropriate security plans and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
- b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the executing agency's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

The implementing agency in the face of UNDP Kazakhstan agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the KFS funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by KFS hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

- 1. UNDP Kazakhstan acts in this Project as Implementing Agency of the Korean Forest Service with the mediatory technical and expertise support from the UNCCD, and all rights and privileges pertaining to implementing agency as per the terms of the SBAA shall be extended mutatis mutandis to KFS and UNCCD.
- 2. The Resident Representative of the UNDP Kazakhstan is authorized to effect in writing the

following types of revision to this Project Document, provided that he/she has verified the agreement thereto by KFS and is assured that the other signatories to the Project Document have no objection to the proposed changes:

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