

**Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting for  
«Strengthening Sustainability of National Protected Area System by Focusing on  
Strictly Protected Areas»**

**UNDP, April 25, 2008.**

**Minutes of the Meeting.**

List of participants attached.

Moderator of the meeting, **Anvar Nasritdinov**, Head of Environment and Energy Unit of UNDP Uzbekistan, has opened the session by greeting the participant. He introduced the goal of the meeting which were review and validation of the project document in accordance with national priorities. The National Implementing partner being selected – the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan (MAWR).

Further **Alexey Volkov**, GEF SGP National Coordinator<sup>1</sup> made a presentation on the history of the project, initiators, partners involved at the stage of project elaboration. However, the prodoc has been modified since, mostly by UNDP/GEF Specialists, in order to meet modified GEF requirements. The project was submitted to GEF in December 2007 and received GEF approval for financing on 19 March 2008.

Mr. Volkov also stressed out the new formulation of the outcome of the project and its activities. The goal of the project is to strengthen the Protected Areas System in Uzbekistan. The outcome of the project will be demonstration of new management approaches. He also underlined that the project will use achievements and lessons learned by other GEF/UNDP biodiversity projects (such as Enabling Activity for the realization of BSAP, Conservation of Tugai Forest). The latter could, for instance, support with its parallel activities in development of financial mechanisms for budgeting Strictly Protected Areas (PA).

Absence of coordination between organizations managing PAs was set as baseline. Each of these agencies has its own standards of management. Unified Coordination Council is not established.

Surkhan Strict Reserve (SSR) was selected as pilot area for demonstration of new management approaches and establishment of “buffer zone”. Moreover, demonstration activity can be undertaken in any other of PAs. While in SSR, the project could pilot the establishment of non-governmental zone of protected area (such as nursery, hunting reserve, tourist area).

**Mr. Anvar Nasritdinov** opened the floor for questions and comments. Following questions were raised:

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<sup>1</sup> Full description of titles is provided in the attachment – List of participants.

<i>Comment/Question</i>	<i>Answer</i>
1. V. Myagkov, Uzhydromet: Which GEF budget will finance this project? The project is linking land degradation with the climate change, however, Uzhydromet is not listed among partners.	Uzbekistan has received GEF Thematic budget (Biodiversity) in the amount of USD 1.6 mln. up to year 2010. The project will be financed from these resources. Uzhydromet is one of the key partners under this project, thus will be specifically indicated as such in the Prodoc.
2. A. Ismatov, MAWR: Considering that the project has been modified since its approval by the Ministry, is it possible to correct it at this stage?	National Coordination Group for GEF portfolio has been established in 2007 only. Until this date, it was not possible to discuss the project with NCG. After the project is signed by the Gov., Inception Workshop will be convened to review comments of the parties, indicators to assess results. However, activities under the project cannot be changed.
3. T. Aripov, Academy of Sciences RUz: Which role does the science play in this document? Academy of Sciences is not listed as partner of the project.	The major functions of a <i>Zapovednik</i> are protection and research. Activity 2 of the project (Monitoring methodology and date management) includes scientific establishments that are responsible for these issues. Academy of Sciences will be specifically indicated as partner in this project.
4. T. Aripov, Academy of Sciences RUz: The Academy has been supplying scientific data and research results in <i>gratis</i> . We believe this is not good.	All GEF projects are carried out based Incremental Cost principle. GEF projects are aimed at supporting national efforts for sustainable development. GEF funding is additional to national funding in the form of research, baseline, infrastructure and other inner costs.
5. V. Myagkov, Uzhydromet: the project document shows non-correspondence of used terminology with appropriate national terminology. For instance, Business plan for PA, secondary legislation.	These are translation errors. Necessary corrections will be made. The Implementing Agency will provide help in this work.
6. T. Mavlyanov, Hydroingeo: Which criteria will be used for results assessment of the project?	GEF has developed METT. This is system of score gained throughout a number of relevant questions, (about 30). Number of gained score provides information about state/improvements in the Protected Areas System in the country. Assessing PAS under METT criteria will demonstrate the changes brought by the project activity since last METT assessment (October 2006).
7. A. Shukurov, MAWR: The budget of the project contains in-kind contribution of the Gov. of	The size of Governmental in-kind contribution was estimated based on public budget's amounts allocated for management of <i>Zapovedniks</i> . Also, this

<p>UZB totaling USD 1.40 mln. What exactly is included in this sum and how will the Government be accounted for this contribution?</p>	<p>sum contains estimates of opportunity costs for office premises renting, utility costs and working time of the National Project Coordinator that are ensured by the Implementing Agency. UNDP has so special format for reporting on Governmental in-kind contribution.</p>
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Mr. Nasritdinov proposed to go through GEF/UNDP questionnaire (mandatory PAC Checklist):

*	Question of the PAC check list	Opinions of the participants
1.	Relevance	<p><u>A. Grigoryanz, Gosbiocontrol</u>: The project is definitely important for the country. It will allow demonstrating management approaches of Strict Reserve Areas; will disclose existing challenges within our system.</p> <p><u>Kh. Sherimbetov, GEF/UNDP project «Conservation of Tugai forest»</u>: The relevance of this project is not doubtful. It's importance is conditioned by improving of management tools, financing mechanisms of Pas, capacity building of staff.</p> <p><u>A. Ismatov, MAWR</u>: The project is important for the country. It will support the adoption of legal acts to the «Law on Protected Areas», that were developed by the Department of Reserves, National Parks and Hunting Areas in collaboration with Gosbiocontrol.</p>
2.	Stakeholder participation and partnership-building	All key partners are represented.
3.	Contribution to poverty reduction.	Affirmative. The project will stimulate alternative income-generating activities in the buffer zone where rural population lives.
4.	Gender equality and the advancement of women	The project advocate for more active involvement. The project personnel will be trained with gender needs assessment techniques with respect to male and female beneficiaries.
5.	Protection and regeneration of the environment	Affirmative.
6.	Feasibility and technical soundness.	During the Inception Workshop, Strategy and Indicators will be re-confirmed.
7.	Management arrangements	Affirmative
8.	Integration, synergies, complementary	Affirmative. The project will use the results and lessons learned by other GEF/UNDP biodiversity projects (such as Enabling Activity

		for the realization of BSAP, Conservation of Tugai Forest, and Establishment of the Nuratau-Kyzylkum Biosphere Reserve).
9.	Result orientation	Affirmative.
10.	Resources and inputs	Affirmative.
11.	Governance	Affirmative. The project will be coordinated at 2 levels: national and local (via involving regional khokimiyats, local communities).
12.	Most promising strategy (risks and external factors)	Risk Log is provided in the Prodoc.
13.	Incorporation of lessons learned	Affirmative
14.	Capacity development and sustainability	Affirmative

**The LPAC decided to:**

1. Edit the Russian translated version of the project Document in accordance with appropriate terminology and other comments received from the parties.
2. Submit the project Document to the Government of Uzbekistan for endorsement and signing.
3. Hold the Inception Workshop within the first month after personnel recruitment, in order to finalize the LogFrame (Strategy, Indicators).

UNDP  
Head of Environment and Energy Unit  
Anvar Nasritdinov




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## List of participants

Local Project Advisory Committee meeting of the medium-size project UNDP/GEF/Government of Uzbekistan « Strengthening Sustainability of the National Protected Area System by Focusing on Strictly Protected Areas »

**Place:** UNDP Conference Hall

**Date:** April 25, 2008

#	Name	Title
<b>Partners:</b>		
1.	Tulkin Farmonov	Head of Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAWR)
2.	Alisher Shukurov	Leading Specialist for international projects, Main forestry department under Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.
3.	Alexander Grigoryanz	Acting Head of Gosbiocontrol, State Committee for Nature Protection of RUz
4.	Akmal Ismatov	Deputy Head of Department of Reserves, National Parks and Hunting Areas, of the Central Administrative Forestry Board under Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan
5.	T. Mavlyanov	Leading specialist of Hydroingeo, State Committee on geology and mineral resources,
6.	Myagkov Sergey Vladimirovich	GEF Operational Focal Point in Uzbekistan
7.	Tahir Fatihovich Aripov	Vice-President of Academy of Sciences, Academician
8.	Tursunbai Kamilovich Kamilov	1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy Khokim of Tashkent region
9.	Ergash Yuldashevich Sarymsakov	Ugam-Chatkal National Park
<b>UNDP:</b>		
10.	Anvar Nasritdinov	UNDP Head of Environment & Energy Unit
11.	Aziza Umarova	UNDP Head of GG Unit
12.	Khalilulla Sherimbetov	Project Manager of UNDP/GEF project “Conservation of Tugai Forest and Strengthening Protected Area System in the Amu-Darya Delta of Karakalpakstan”

13. Alexey Volkov UNDP GEF Small Grants Program Coordinator
14. Gulnara Akramova UNDP Programme Assistant of E&E Unit
15. Irina Bekmirzaeva Project Manager of UNDP/GEF project "Achieving Ecosystem Stability on Degraded Aral seabed and Kyzylkum Desert"
16. Sergey Zagrebin National Technical Coordinator of UNDP/GEF project "Achieving Ecosystem Stability on Degraded Aral seabed and Kyzylkum Desert"