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United Nations Development Programme

Government of Kazakhstan

**Terminal Evaluation of UNDP/GEF Project: Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan
(SGP 6 Project)**

(GEF Project ID: 9205; UNDP PIMS ID: 5469)

final report

by:

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Executing Agency

United Nations Office for Project Services

Implementing Agency

United Nations Development Programme

Other project partners

Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of Republic of Kazakhstan, Community Based organizations (CBOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

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SYNOPSIS

Title of UNDP supported GEF financed project: Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan (SGP 6 Project)

UNDP Project ID: PIMS 5469

GEF Project ID: 9205

Evaluation time frame: 5 July – 20 September 2021

CEO endorsement date: 2 June 2017

Project implementation start date: 18 August 2017

Project end date: 18 August 2020, extended: 17 October 2021

Date of evaluation report: 28 December 2019

Region and Countries included in the project: Kazakhstan

GEF Focal Area Objective: SGP: Small Grants Program - Effectively support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action

Implementing partner and other strategic partners:

Implementing partner: United National Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Terminal Evaluation team members: Ms. Lilit Melikyan, International Consultant and Team Leader, and Mrs. Lyubov Inyutina, National Consultant

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Title of UNDP supported GEF financed project: 6th Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan (SGP 6 for Kazakhstan).

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---------|--|
| APR-PIR | Annual Project Report - Project Implementation Review |
| ADB | Asian Development Bank |
| AWP | Annual Work Plan |
| BIOFIN | Biodiversity Financing Project (UNDP) |
| CAREC | Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre |
| CBO | Community-based Organization |
| CCM | Climate change mitigation |
| CO | UNDP Country Office |
| COMDEKS | Community Development and Knowledge Management of the Satoyama Initiative |
| CP | Country Programme |
| CPMU | Country Programme Management Unit |
| CSO | Civil service organization |
| EOP | End of project |
| EBRD | European Bank for Reconstruction and Development |
| EE | Energy Efficiency |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization (UNDP) |
| FGD | Focus group discussion |
| FB | Facebook |
| GoK | Government of Kazakhstan |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| HR | Human Resources |
| IA | International Agency |
| IO | International organization |
| ILDp | Integrated Local Development Programme |
| IFC | International Finance Corporation |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GHG | Green House gas |
| GoK | Government of Kazakhstan |
| LD | Land Degradation |
| LNOB | Leave No-one Behind |
| MoA | Ministry of Agriculture of Republic of Kazakhstan |
| MoEGNR | Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of Republic of Kazakhstan |
| MTR | Mid Term Review |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MEL | Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| MSLAG | Multi-stakeholder landscape advisory groups |
| MSLPDP | Multi-sectoral landscape policy dialogue platforms |
| NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| NIM | National implementation modality |
| NPC | National Project Coordinator |
| NSC | National Steering Committee |
| OFP | Official Focal Point for GEF |
| OP | Operational Programme |
| PA | Protected Area |
| PES | Payment for ecosystem services |
| PIMS | UNDP/GEF Project Information Management System |
| PIP | Project Implementing Partner |
| PPG | Project Preparatory Grant (GEF) |
| PRF | Project Results Framework |
| ProDoc | Project Document for the SGP 6 for Kazakhstan |
| RES | Renewable Energy Sources |
| RoK | Republic of Kazakhstan |
| RR | Resident Representative |
| SEPL | Socio-ecological production landscapes |
| SGP | Small Grants Programme |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SWM | Solid Waste Management |
| SMART | Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound |
| STAR | System of Transparent Allocation of Resources of the GEF |
| SFM | Sustainable Forest Management |
| SLM | Sustainable Land Management |
| tCO ₂ | Tonne of Carbon Dioxide |
| TOR | Terms of Reference |
| TL | Team Leader |
| UCP | Upgraded Country Programmes of SGP |
| UNCBD | United Nations Convention on Biodiversity |
| UNDAF | UN Development Assistance Framework |
| UNFCCC | UN Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNCCD | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| UNDP | UN Development Programme |
| UNOPS | United National Office for Project Services |
| WB | World Bank |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes the findings of the Terminal Evaluation for the UN Development Programme - Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF) Project entitled: “Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan” (hereby referred to as the SGP 6, the SGP 6 Project or the Project), that received a US\$ 2,649,726 grant from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in 2 June 2017.

Table A. Project Information Table

| Project Details | | Project Milestones | |
|---|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Project Title | Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan | PIF Approval date | June 9, 2016 |
| UNDP Project ID (PIMS #): | 5469 | CEO Endorsement Date (FSP) / Approval date (MSP): | June 2, 2017 |
| GEF Project ID: | 9205 | ProDoc Signature Date: | August 18, 2017 |
| UNDP Atlas Business Unit, Award ID, Project ID: | Atlas BU KAZ10 Award ID#102856 Project ID#:104757 | Date Project Manager hired: | 1 May 2005 |
| Country/Countries: | Kazakhstan | Inception Workshop Date: | October 20, 2017 |
| Region: | RBEC | Mid-Term Review Completion Date: | December 18, 2019 |
| Focal Area: | Multifocal area | Terminal Evaluation Completion date: | 17 July 2021-September 2021 |
| GEF Operational Programme or Strategic Priorities/Objectives: | BD-2 Program 4 LD-2 Program 3 CCM-2 Program 3 | Planned Operational Closure Date: | October 17, 2021 |
| Trust Fund: | GEF TF | | |
| Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity): | UNOPS | | |
| NGOs/CBOs involvement: | Beneficiaries; participants of the consultations at the project development stage and baseline assessment at the project implementation stage, participants of the multistakeholder groups | | |
| Private sector involvement: | Participants of the consultations at the project development stage and baseline assessment at the project implementation stage | | |

| Project Details | | Project Milestones | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Geospatial coordinates of project sites: | Almaty area landscape | Latitude 44.57831730198172 | Longitude 77.1335053674616 |
| | Akmola area landscape | 51.706211778530516 | 68.0214134406591 |
| | East Kazakhstan area landscape | 50.03404478637388 | 80.89145735569146 |
| | Karaganda area landscape | 47.93709417365705 | 70.77034968640346 |
| | Kostanay area landscape | 51.74066353028728 | 63.75326886930053 |
| | Kyzylorda area landscape | 45.45450236910353 | 62.94151019818178 |
| | Turkestan area landscape | 42.43953458534679 | 67.76230154234938 |
| | | | |
| Financial information | | | |
| PDF/PPG | at CEO Endorsement (US\$M) | | at TE (US\$M) |
| GEF PDF/PPG grants for project preparation | 90,000 | | 90,000 |
| Co-financing for project preparation | 0 | | 0 |
| Project | | | |
| [1] UNDP contribution: | 1,100,000 | | 1,937,880 |
| [2] Government: | 0 | | 0 |
| [3] Other multi-/bi-laterals: | 0 | | 0 |
| [4] Private Sector: | 0 | | 0 |
| 5] NGOs: | 3,602,400 | | 3,363,392 |
| 6] Total co-financing [1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5]: | 4,702,400 | | 5,301,272 |
| [7] Total GEF funding | 2,649,726 | | 2,649,726 |
| 8] Total Project Funding [6 + 7] | 7,352,126 | | 7,950,998 |

Brief Project Description

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) has been operational since 1997 in Kazakhstan. With over 323 community-led projects implemented over five (5) GEF operational phases (1997-2016), the SGP in Kazakhstan has supported projects to conserve biodiversity, arrest land degradation, and mitigate climate change and persistent organic pollutants, as a means to countering serious environmental challenges resulting from business-as-usual practices from agriculture, livestock grazing, and natural resource extraction.

The SGP 6 Project has sought to provide the necessary collective action in Kazakhstan for adaptive management of resources and ecosystem processes for sustainable development and global environmental benefits. After the completion of a community-led landscape strategic planning process in early 2018, the

SGP 6 grant projects for Kazakhstan were to be selected based on community consultations to ensure that community-led initiatives fit GEF criteria and advance the strategic landscape plans for generating global environmental benefits while sustaining local level development benefits, especially enhanced incomes, food security and disaster risk reduction. All of the landscapes in Kazakhstan are experiencing unimpeded environment degradation caused by:

- unsustainable farming practices and extensive natural resource usages;
- increasing annual harvest of riparian trees by local communities, local hunters and fishermen and farmers;
- overgrazing which is a major cause of land degradation of the country's rangelands;
- unsustainable hunting and fishing that stems mainly from poorly regulated fishing and unsustainable fishing practices of local fishermen; and
- increasing accumulation of household hazardous waste in rural and peri-urban areas that is creeping into local foods via cattle that pasture near dumps.

In addition, all of the above is exacerbated by the negative effects of climate change.

The SGP 6 focused on two broad landscapes: (a) the steppe landscape to include Akmola, Karaganda and Kostanai oblasts; and (b) the desert landscape to include Almaty, East Kazakhstan, Kyzylorda, and Turkestan oblasts. The SGP 6 was setup with the objective to “*build the socio-ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes of Kazakhstan by securing global environmental benefits from community-based management of biodiversity, ecosystem function, and land, water, and biomass resources*”. To achieve this objective, SGP 6 was designed to focus on achieving 5 outcomes:

- Outcome 1.1: Community Organizations in multi-stakeholder partnerships formulate and implement adaptive management plans to strengthen socio-ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes based on conservation of biodiversity, sustainable management of land and water resources and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change;
- Outcome 1.2: Multi-stakeholder landscape management groups, local policymakers and sub-national advisors organized in landscape policy platforms discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned;
- Outcome 1.3: Community organizations in target eco-systems build their adaptive management and organizational capacities by designing and implementing community and/or landscape level projects to sustain and revitalize biodiversity and ecosystem function; improve productivity and sustainability of production systems; develop viable livelihood alternatives; and strengthen formal and non-formal landscape;
- Outcome 1.4: Successful technologies, practices and systems from community-based initiatives are replicated and promoted for up-scaling by multi-stakeholder partnerships using knowledge and lessons learned from identifying, testing and adapting community innovations for landscape and resource management;
- Outcome 2.1: Knowledge products and lessons learned are systematized, organized and disseminated for policy recommendations.

Summary of findings

The Project **was relevant** in terms of correspondence to the context and national priorities (para 178-181). The design as overall relevant, albeit somewhat complicated to operationalize in Kazakhstan in terms of the multistakeholder landscape advisory groups (MSLAGs) and multisectoral landscape policy development programs (MSLPDPs), in the light of the existing structures of the public administration, as well as the vastness of the country – for the

application of the landscape approach while at the same time strive and effective cooperation building with the local and regional governments (para 45). The Results framework has some flaws (para 56-60). It could have had a clearer approach towards the needed level of innovation as a criterion for funding (para 182)

The **implementation was overall effective**. The program's goal and objective and overall outcomes of the SGP 6 Project are summarized in Table A against intended outcomes in the SGP 6 Project Results Framework (PRF). There was a good level of adaptive management (para 79-81) and the program was **overall efficiently implemented**, but synergies (para 92-96); the policy links could have been more actively sought and the engagement with the private sector could have been better articulated (para 92). Task management was overall good except that the risks related to the multistakeholder landscape policy advisory groups and multisectoral landscape policy development platforms needed earlier action (para 123-125). SGP 6 performance in relation to cross-cutting issues, like gender, socially vulnerable and youth engagement was impressive (para 219-225). The **sustainability is overall likely**, with the risks higher in terms of financial and institutional aspects (para 212-218)

Table B. TE Ratings & Achievement Summary

| Measure | Rating ¹ | Achievement Description |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Project Strategy | Achievement rating: 4 | Project strategy is overall sound and based on non-governmental organizations /Community-based Organizations (NGOs/CBOs) being the driving force in sustainable rural development. There are issues with expectations from the groups/platforms: while the design was based on the experience from other countries, the country variations could be vast in the light of the existing public administration structures and roles. Ways need to be found to link the two. Project design also has issues with the results framework and approach to sustainability (para 198-205) |
| Progress Towards Results | Objective Achievement Rating: 5 | SGP 6 grants are contributing to efforts by CBOs and direct beneficiaries in building up socioeconomic and ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes. This includes progress towards achieving end-of-project (EOP) targets for: i) areas under use for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; ii) number of CBOs/NGOs with strengthened capacities to prepare baseline assessments and landscape development strategies; and iii) number of energy efficient and renewable energy technologies that have been piloted. The rating is 5 and not higher since the indicator on increased resilience is problematic and hence its assessment. Plus, the overall level of innovation, magnitude of impact could have been even more impressive, provided synergies were sought with the initiatives of development partners. |
| | Outcome 1.1 Achievement Rating: 5 | Baseline assessments were conducted for seven landscapes and seven landscape management strategies were developed through a participatory approach involving multi-stakeholder landscape advisory groups (MSLAGs), key community members, local government representatives, communities, farmers, university representatives and the business sector with roughly 50% of participants being women. Landscape strategies could have been cross compared with oblast development strategies, which would have increased the overall level of effectiveness and sustainability prospects provided that in addition links to akimats/maslikhats and public councils were stronger (para 181-184) |

¹ Evaluation rating indices (except sustainability – see Para 77): 6=*Highly Satisfactory (HS)*: The project has no shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives; 5=*Satisfactory (S)*: The project has minor shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives; 4=*Moderately Satisfactory (MS)*: The project has moderate shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives; 3=*Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)*: The project has significant shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives; 2=*Unsatisfactory (U)* The project has major shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives; 1=*Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)*: The project has severe shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives.

| Measure | Rating ¹ | Achievement Description |
|---|---|---|
| | Outcome 1.2 Achievement Rating: 4 | MSLAGs, local policymakers and other advisors have met in a format of multisectoral policy platforms in each oblast (landscape) to discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned. Already there are a few instances of innovations emanating from these, but to say that these platforms are regularly meeting and effectively and efficiently functioning already would be a stretch. Regional consultation meetings that defined their missions, mandate, and responsibilities for drafting 2-year work plans for MSLAGs were held, but mandates are too ambitious, while the foundation principles for their continuous existence are unclear. Oblasts have maslikhats (local parliaments), and public councils, and the modes of engagement of the project supported MSLAGs with those need to be found. (para 182-187) |
| | Outcome 1.3 Achievement Rating: 6 | Targeted community organizations have enhanced their adaptive management and implementation capacities through the implementation of the grant projects and training received (para 188-195) |
| | Outcome 1.4 Achievement Rating: 5 | SGP 6 in Kazakhstan followed a different route for replication than the one in the Project Document for the SGP 6 (ProDoc), i.e., not via strategic projects, but rather, through multiple routes for supporting replication and upscaling of successful technologies, practices and systems of other community-based initiatives, and already there are several cases of replication outside the landscape area. However, the potential is larger provided enhanced cooperation with akimats and central government and development partners (including UNDP projects) is achieved. The rating is 5, because the indicator is problematic: it overestimates the scale of replication by counting the number of replicated technologies rather than pilots. (para 196_) |
| Project Implementation & Adaptive Management | Achievement rating: 5 | The Country Programme Management Unit (CPMU) is guided by the National Steering Committee (NSC) that effectively leads the grant projects' approval processes, ensuring proposals meet all the SGP 6 criteria and gender mainstreaming requirements. Project has been adaptively managed to ensure quality of implementation and efficient use of time. The co-financing targets were met, despite the difficulties resulting from the local context and COVID. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems of the SGP 6 are satisfactory considering the quality of Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs), and verification of field conditions against information from PIRs with inputs from the part-time technical experts of the SGP 6. The Project has also reached out to a wide range of stakeholders, but the policy link could be stronger both horizontally and vertically. Communication/public awareness could be stronger in terms of reaching all potential beneficiaries, including farmers and agronomists. the achievement of the target on co-financing falls slightly short of the target. (para 79-134) |
| Sustainability | Sustainability rating ² : L | The "likely" rating as opposed to Highly Likely pertains to some of the SGP 6 grantees needing further financial support (para 212-218) |

Table C: Evaluation ratings

| 1. Monitoring and Evaluation | Rating | 2. IA & EA Execution | Rating |
|------------------------------|--------|---|--------|
| M&E design at entry | 5 | Quality of Implementation Agency - UNDP | 5 |
| M&E Plan Implementation | 5 | Quality of Execution – Implementing Partner (UNOPS) | 5 |

² Sustainability Dimension Indices: 4 = *Likely (L)*: negligible risks to sustainability; 3 = *Moderately Likely (ML)*: moderate risks to sustainability; 2 = *Moderately Unlikely (MU)*: significant risks to sustainability; and 1 = *Unlikely (U)*: severe risks to sustainability. Overall rating is equivalent to the lowest sustainability ranking score of the 4 dimensions.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---|---------------|
| Overall quality of M&E | 5 | Overall quality of Implementation / Execution | 5 |
| 3. Assessment of Outcomes | Rating | 4. Sustainability | Rating |
| Relevance ⁴ | 2 | Financial resources | 3 |
| Effectiveness | 5 | Socio-political | 4 |
| Efficiency | 5 | Institutional framework and governance | 3 |
| Overall Project Outcome Rating | 5 | Environmental | 4 |
| | | Overall likelihood of sustainability | 4 (L) |

Summary of Conclusions

The overall rating the SGP 6 Project for Kazakhstan is *satisfactory*. The Project has generated some outstanding and positive environmental initiatives. This conclusion has been drawn from over 105 interviews, covering all the grant projects, with seven of them visited, as well as interviews with National Steering Committee (NSC) members, government authorities at all levels and independent experts. Therefore, this instils a high degree of confidence in reaching these conclusions.

Field visits indicated strong community involvement and enthusiasm for the receipt of SGP resources, CBO/NGO guidance, implementation of activities related to environmental rehabilitation, sustainable livelihoods, and low carbon technologies. A significant proportion of these projects involve participation and the generation of benefits to females, youth and the socially vulnerable of these communities. There have been a number of these projects that have “self-replicated” based on the success of the original SGP 6 grant projects. The replication of some others was promoted by akimats and in a few cases is being pursued by the central government. There has also been some interest by the private sector in upscaling of some of the SGP 6 projects. The potential for replication could be larger provided closer ties with the policy making bodies (Ministries, Committees, etc.), closer engagement with akimats⁵/maslikhats⁶/public councils, and pursuit of synergies with the projects of international organizations and bilateral aid agencies, with the latter including UNDP projects (and here closer integration with UNDP CO is needed).

The efficiency of delivery of the 49 grant projects within SGP 6 has been impressive with all 49 grant projects expected to report completion by October 2021: in the COVID environment this is truly remarkable, and the team must be commended for this. However, without finding the effective modes of interaction of the multistakeholder groups/multisectoral platforms with the public councils, these groups/platforms are likely to not be long-standing. The public councils, at least *de jure* are open for joining, and so this is one route that could be pursued. Similarly, there could be a regular meetings’ mechanism established with the maslikhats. Pursuing these avenues requires closer and more intense consultation with the oblasts’ administrations. Joining forces with UNDP’s planned integrated local development programme could help break the barriers to closer engagement with akimats. More effective ways of communication/awareness raising need to found to reach all constituents and not predominantly ecologically aware social media users, as is currently, i.e., to reach also the farmers, agronomists, mid-to senior level ministry staff. For that, an effective and well-designed communication strategy was needed to be in place. As for this phase, the developed Lessons Learnt and Case studies need to be effectively promoted using both online and offline (COVID permitting

⁴ Relevance is evaluated as follows: 2 = Relevant (R); 1 = Not relevant (NR)

⁵ In Kazakhstan, an äkim is the head of an akimat, a municipal, district, or provincial government (Presidential representative)

⁶ A Mäslihat (Kazakh: Мәслихат) is a local representative body (parliament) in Kazakhstan that is elected by the local population.

routes). For these, thematic cluster-based round tables could be useful, along with linking with the Ministry of Agriculture's Knowledge Management centers (25 in total) and utilizing a wider spectrum of social and other media. It is also essential to inform other development partners of the benefits of the SGP 6 interventions and catalyze their interest in replicating and upscaling these initiatives. This would include, *inter alia*, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank (WB), etc. Earlier delivery of the production and dissemination of knowledge products and case studies by the Country Programme Management Unit (CPMU) for SGP 6 initiatives might have resulted in formal proposals for replication financing. The outreach of SGP 6 to the Ministry of Agriculture as well as the State Forestry Committee and State Committee on Water Resources also presented more potential replication avenues. The integration of SGP 6 with the UNDP Country Office (UNDP CO) needs to be stronger with the National Project Coordinator (NPC) participating in all the meetings and events organized by the Energy and Environment Unit by default, as a matter of procedure. One of the contributors to the fact that the above points have not happened in any sizeable manner, is the location of the SGP 6 office in Almaty: while justified in the sense of proximity to the grantees, it is of equal importance for the SGP 6 to be able to convey the important work being done by the SGP 6 initiatives to the UNDP CO which in turn can inform the Government and also for the Unit to be able to meet the Government and to take part in government-organized events, as well as to meet the large network of donors and donor projects in Nur-Sultan to find synergy opportunities, which would make the SGP grants more impactful and open up more opportunities for replication and innovation.

The overall rating for Kazakhstan SGP 6 Project is *satisfactory*. SGP 6 was the first Upgraded Country program in Kazakhstan, and it laid the ground for the identification the landscapes to concentrate on, develop landscape strategies and form the multistakeholder groups in each landscape area (oblast) and multipolicy platforms. These groups and platforms are in their infancy yet and effort and clarification are needed to ensure their longevity and efficacy, especially in terms of their cooperation with the existing public councils. SGP 6 Kazakhstan has supported some outstanding and positive environmental initiatives from its 49 grant projects. This has generated considerable attention from some local governments. In some cases, there was also interest in some projects from the central government. However, there is a certain "policy gap" to close for which there is a need for more systematic engagement with the central government. Several projects are innovative but there is room to enhance this and one way is close synergy building with the development partners. There is only one case of synergy with UNDP GEF projects: while the UNDP CO has extended considerable support to the Unit, there is a need for closer integration and more synergy building, both with the GEF projects and the planned Integrated Local Development Program, with the latter helping to establish closer cooperation with akimats. Several projects were replicated or there is a firm commitment to replicate: to support this potential, apart from the closer engagement with the Government and development partners, there is a need to enhance the communication work to reach the agricultural expert community and the farmers better.

Lessons Learnt

- ✚ Lesson #1: Initial intensive local consultations are able to generate genuine interest by the communities and lead to plans that are reflective to the genuine needs;
- ✚ Lesson #2: Engagement with the policy circles (all relevant ministries, state committees) is essential to ensure they are informed about the grants, that they facilitate piloting important innovative ideas with the view of replication in case of successful results, and in the view of synergies with the ongoing projects. In the case of the SGP 6 for Kazakhstan this was a weak point;

- ✚ Lesson #3: SGP Country Programs should have communication plans/strategies especially if dissemination of knowledge products to upscale and replicate useful SGP initiatives is an important intended outcome. The result of the absence of a communications plan has been the fact that the outlets for the dissemination of the materials developed were decided by the NGO which had the grant to handle the communication activities and this was skewed towards the ecological dimension at the expense of the adaptive agriculture and hence potentially not reaching out to part of the potential beneficiaries, like agronomists;
- ✚ Lesson #4: Care is required in locating an SGP project field office in a location remote from a UNDP Country Office. Moving the office to Nur-Sultan would have multiple benefits for SGP in terms of its exposure with the national governments and bilateral and multilateral donors, and increasing its potential for replication, scale up and continued implementation after the SGP 6;
- ✚ Lesson #5: Closer integration is needed with UNDP projects. This will help with closing the “policy gap” and produce synergies that would benefit not only SGP but also these other projects. For that, routine procedures need to be set up, but most importantly there should be attitude shift to SGP, especially now that it is a UCP;
- ✚ Lesson #6: Engagement with the development partners is essential for identifying potential synergies, whereby SGP projects could become pilots of the reform programs supported by them. This would help with funding and the scale of impact as well as enhanced chances for replication;
- ✚ Lesson #7: Engagement with the central government should be pursued by the CPMU – with the support of the UNDP and UNOPS, and not just leave it to happen via the grantees. This is essential for replication and while some grantees have these links to the central government bodies, others- do not;
- ✚ Lesson #8 To achieve co-financing from the akimats there is a need to engage with them early on and intensively, as they have approved budgets to change the allocation of which would require great deal of effort;
- ✚ Lesson #9. Public administration systems in the countries vary and hence the forms and expectations from the multistakeholder policy advisory groups and multisectoral platforms that are needed for them to be truly functional. Their effectiveness could be affected also by level of vertical integration and hierarchy of the economic/environmental decision making the presence/lack of large number of NGOs/CBOs engaged in environmental issues. In Kazakhstan, for them to become truly functioning and effective, they need more time, effort, and (re) conceptualization, in particular with regards to the modes of interaction to the existing structures, namely maslikhats and public councils; and
- ✚ Lesson #10. Engagement with the private sector (including financing institutions) requires closer attention and systemic efforts.

Recommendations

Table C: Recommendations

| | TE Recommendation | Entity Responsible | Time frame |
|----|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| A | <i>Category 1: Corrective Actions for the Design, Implementation, M&E of the project</i> | | |
| A1 | <u>Action 1: To improve the design of future SGP projects in Kazakhstan and other UCPs:</u> ✓ Prepare defined and budgeted activities to build strong institutional partnerships that lead to institutionalized project results. This would include activities such as meetings, workshops, field trips and awareness-raising material targeting ministries and other central bodies, akimats, and IOs. While this did occur in the | to UNDP and UNOPS | For OP7 and beyond |

| | TE Recommendation | Entity Responsible | Time frame |
|----|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| | <p>case of a number of SGP 6 projects, the IA (UNDP) or IP (UNOPS) need to take the lead on promoting institutionalization of positive project results in helping the CPMU with links to the key ministries/governmental programs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Allocate sufficient funds to support CPMU for its own capacity building, for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) and reporting and for the thematic experts' guidance till the end of the projects; ✓ Ensure that future SGP projects, notably those with a field office located remotely from a UNDP Country Office, have sufficient support from the CO, including sufficient travel budgets, qualified personnel to manage communications between the two offices; and procedures to be followed to ensure that ICMU participates in all programme meetings within UNDP and with key partners; ✓ Ensure that UNDP project managers are kept informed of the SGP grants that are related to their own project portfolios and are actively seeking synergies between them. This should start with them reviewing SGP proposals at the final review stages; ✓ Ensure better PRFs with SMART indicators; ✓ Revise the reporting template for the grantees, including a Section on Sustainability; and ✓ Ensure Ministry of Agriculture representation on the NSC for SGP 7 in Kazakhstan. | | |
| A2 | <p><u>Action 2: To improve implementation towards the conclusion of the SGP 6.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Based on consultations, develop a concept note on the future of the MSLPAGs and MSPDPs, especially the mode of engagement with the public councils, but also more broadly, concrete actions that would support their continued functioning; ✓ Enhance the current plan for the dissemination of the lessons learnt and case studies with thematic roundtables (especially with the Ministry of Agriculture) and presentations to development partners; ✓ Already in this phase identify and follow through in identifying potential synergies with the SFM, BIOFIN and ILDP projects | to CPMU and UNDP | September - October 2021 |
| A3 | <p><u>Action: SGP Country Teams (or CPMUs) or SGP Implementing Partners should maintain and regularly update an SGP database that can generate a coherent global outlook on SGPs progress and performance.</u> Ensure updating of the list of SGP projects on the global SGP website: www.sgp.undp.org.</p> | to UNDP and UNOPS | OP6 and OP7 |
| B | Category 2 Actions to follow up or reinforce initial benefits from the project | | |

| | TE Recommendation | Entity Responsible | Time frame |
|----|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| B1 | <p><u>Action 4: Support SGP's links to state and development partners' programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Invite other relevant government entities and provide time to the CPMU to present their development results from SGP grant initiatives and to assess possible linkages to nationally supported programs; ✓ Identify potential synergies with the development/reform programs led by the MoEGNR with the SGP 6 and support SGP in initiating synergistic initiatives; ✓ Formalize institutional and financing arrangements resulting from any positive discussions from an SGP 6 Terminal Workshop that could provide support for the replication and upscaling of the SGP initiatives. This could include an outcome of the Terminal Workshop where potential policies emanating from an SGP grant project leads to financing made available by public institutions to support these SGP initiatives. This should result in the drafting of a forward-looking plan of action for supporting community level interventions that are fully aligned with the rest of the UNDP CO programme as well as the priorities of the Government of Kazakhstan. | UNDP/NSC | OP 7 |
| B2 | <u>Action 5:</u> Clearly define the criteria in terms of the extent of innovation, that would be acceptable for funding under SGP | NSC | OP7 and beyond |
| B3 | <u>Action 6:</u> Restructure the CPMU with (together with full time NC and driver) full time Program Associate and full time Finance and Administrative Associate. Engage thematic experts and the gender expert for the whole duration. | UNOPS/UNDP | OP 7 |
| B4 | <u>Action 7:</u> Employ innovative methods of M&E (e.g., remote data collection), as well as third party monitoring. | UNOPS | OP 7 and beyond |
| C | <u>Proposals for future directions underlining main objectives</u> | | |
| C1 | <p><u>Action 8: Future projects should enhance their focus on project selections using a geographically and thematically clustered approach as an overall approach, but also allowing for breaking into new locations/themes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ By clustering them within a particular district, learning between grant projects can be more easily facilitated and global benefits would be more easily generated and credibly claimed by the SGP; ✓ Similarly, thematic clusters could help join the efforts of the grantees in tackling certain thematic/sectoral barriers. ✓ However, when well justified, there could be projects in new locations/themes to boost innovation | to UNDP, UNOPS and NSC | OP7 and beyond |
| C2 | <p><u>Action 9: have a more highlighted focus on innovation.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Potentially use innovation as one of the criteria for project selection; ✓ Coordinate with UNDP Accelerator Labs. | to UNDP, UNOPS and NSC | OP7 and beyond |

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---------|--|
| APR-PIR | Annual Project Report - Project Implementation Review |
| ADB | Asian Development Bank |
| AWP | Annual Work Plan |
| BIOFIN | Biodiversity Financing Project (UNDP) |
| CAREC | Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre |
| CBO | Community-based Organization |
| CCM | Climate change mitigation |
| CO | UNDP Country Office |
| COMDEKS | Community Development and Knowledge Management of the Satoyama Initiative |
| CP | Country Programme |
| CPMU | Country Programme Management Unit |
| CSO | Civil service organization |
| EOP | End of project |
| EBRD | European Bank for Reconstruction and Development |
| EE | Energy Efficiency |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization (UNDP) |
| FGD | Focus group discussion |
| FB | Facebook |
| GoK | Government of Kazakhstan |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| HR | Human Resources |
| IA | International Agency |
| IO | International organization |
| ILDp | Integrated Local Development Programme |
| IFC | International Finance Corporation |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GHG | Green House gas |
| GoK | Government of Kazakhstan |
| LD | Land Degradation |
| LNOB | Leave No-one Behind |
| MoA | Ministry of Agriculture of Republic of Kazakhstan |
| MoEGNR | Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of Republic of Kazakhstan |
| MTR | Mid Term Review |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MEL | Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| MSLAG | Multi-sectoral landscape advisory groups |
| MSLPDP | Multi-sectoral landscape policy dialogue platforms |
| NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| NIM | National implementation modality |
| NPC | National Project Coordinator |
| NSC | National Steering Committee |
| OFP | Official Focal Point for GEF |
| OP | Operational Programme |
| PA | Protected Area |
| PES | Payment for ecosystem services |
| PIMS | UNDP/GEF Project Information Management System |
| PIP | Project Implementing Partner |
| PPG | Project Preparatory Grant (GEF) |
| PRF | Project Results Framework |
| ProDoc | Project Document for the SGP 6 for Kazakhstan |
| RES | Renewable Energy Sources |
| RoK | Republic of Kazakhstan |
| RR | Resident Representative |
| SEPL | Socio-ecological production landscapes |
| SGP | Small Grants Programme |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SWM | Solid Waste Management |
| SMART | Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound |
| STAR | System of Transparent Allocation of Resources of the GEF |
| SFM | Sustainable Forest Management |
| SLM | Sustainable Land Management |
| tCO ₂ | Tonne of Carbon Dioxide |
| TOR | Terms of Reference |
| TL | Team Leader |
| UCP | Upgraded Country Programmes of SGP |
| UNCBD | United Nations Convention on Biodiversity |
| UNDAF | UN Development Assistance Framework |
| UNFCCC | UN Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNCCD | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| UNDP | UN Development Programme |
| UNOPS | United National Office for Project Services |
| WB | World Bank |

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose and objective of the Terminal Evaluation

1. This report summarizes the findings of the Terminal Evaluation (TE) conducted during July – September 2021 for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) -supported Global Environmental Facility (GEF)-financed Project entitled: *“Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Kazakhstan”* (hereby referred to as the SGP 6 Project or the Project) that received a US\$ 2,649,726 grant from the GEF. United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), based on the agreement signed with UNDP Country Office (CO) of Kazakhstan is the implementer of the project activities for the SGP 6.
2. The goal of the SGP 6 Project is to “support the achievement of global environmental benefits and the protection of the global environment through community and local solutions that work in harmony with local, national and global action”. The objective of the SGP 6 Project is to *“build the socio-ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes of Kazakhstan by securing global environmental benefits from community-based management of biodiversity, ecosystem function, and land, water, and biomass resources”* by supporting community-level organizations (CBOs) in steppe and desert landscapes in developing and implementing adaptive management projects.
3. The TE is expected to promote accountability and transparency. The objective of the evaluation is to assess the overall relevance of the project and the relevance of design, performance, i.e., the extent of the achievement of the expected immediate results and objectives, including the contribution to capacity development, as well as the potential for the broader project impact and the contribution to the general goal/strategy, together with the analysis of the contributing factors (see [Annex 1: Terms of reference](#)). The TE assesses the quality of management and the project partnership strategy, as well as draws lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming and the achievement of global and national environmental goals. The TE makes recommendations that project partners and stakeholders might use to improve the design and implementation of other related projects and programmes.

1.2. Scope

4. The TE addresses the following criteria:
 - *Relevance* – the extent to which the outcome is suited to local and national development priorities and organizational policies, including changes over time;
 - *Effectiveness* – the extent to which the intended target and intended outcomes stated in the Project Results Framework (PRF) as well as objectives were achieved, as well as the potential for replication and impact;

- *Efficiency* – the extent of results’ delivery with the least costly resources possible, including the key financial aspects of the Project to cover also the extent of co-financing planned and realized; the strengths and weaknesses of the SGP 6 Project monitoring, as well as the quality of management, including adaptive management, among others; and
- *Sustainability of Project outcomes and the Project exit strategy*, i.e., the likely ability of an intervention to continue to deliver benefits for an extended period of time after completion.

1.3. Methodology

5. This TE is an evidence-based assessment that was conducted in a participatory and consultative manner, ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts, implementing Partners, the UNDP CO, the SGP Global Coordinator for Upgraded Country programmes (UCPs), direct beneficiaries and other stakeholders. The methodology (including interview schedule, field visits and data used in the evaluation) emerged from consultations with the above-mentioned parties regarding what is appropriate and feasible for meeting the TE objectives, given limitations of budget, time and data.
6. **Triangulation** was the main methodology used, bringing together information gathered from the sources listed above. This method, allows for a high degree of cross-referencing and is suitable for finding insights which may be both sensitive and informative. In addition, **contribution analysis** was used when attribution of the observed outcomes to the project was not possible. [Annex 6: Methodology of assessing the project formulation, implementation and results](#) describes the methodology. Rating is provided for the criteria required (see

7. [Annex 11: TE rating Scale](#)). The progress is colour- coded in a “traffic light system”, as required.
8. For the ***Progress Towards Outcomes Analysis***, progress made towards the end-of-project (EoP) targets is taken from the 2021 Project Implementation Report (PIR). The TE includes ratings of the project’s results (see

9. [Annex 11: TE rating Scale](#)). A brief description of the associated achievements with ratings is presented in the TE Ratings and Achievement Summary Table in the Executive Summary (ES)). In addition, the TE involves the review of the Tracking Tool of GEF Core Indicators (see [Annex 9: GEF 6 core indicator Worksheet for SGP 6 Kazakhstan](#)). The assessment identifies the factors behind these. Assessing the attainment of objective and outcomes is also informed by the evidence of progress towards planned and achieved outputs, as documented in the grant agreements for the projects selected for in-depth review and their respective final reports.
10. This Evaluation report was prepared to comply with
 - GEF’s “Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluations, Evaluation Document No. 3” of 2008: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/Policies-TEguidelines7-31.pdf>;
 - the UNDP Document entitled “UNDP GEF – Terminal Evaluation Guideline”: <http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/guidance/GEF/UNDP-GEF-TE-Guide.pdf>;
 - the UNDP Document entitled “Handbook on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating for Development Results”, 2009: <http://www.undp.org/evaluation/handbook/documents/english/pme-handbook.pdf>; and
 - the “Addendum June 2011 Evaluation”: <http://www.undp.org/evaluation/documents/HandBook/addendum/Evaluation-Addendum-June-2011.pdf>

1.4. Data Collection and Analysis

11. An evaluation matrix of indicative questions (see [Annex 5: Evaluation Matrix](#)) - prepared based on the GEF guidelines- was used as quality assurance tool. In developing it, gender perspective was kept in focus to ensure that gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and SDGs are incorporated in the TE report. The sources of information included:
 - **Document review of:**
 - ✓ **UNDP and project documents**, namely (a) documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. Project Identification Form (PIF), Initiation Plan, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure/ Social and Environmental Screening Procedures /(SESP), the Project Document), (b) the project reports including annual PIRs, project budget revisions, lesson learned reports, and (c) the baseline and midterm GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools submitted to the GEF at the Chief Executive officer (CEO) endorsement and midterm stages and the terminal Core Indicators/Tracking Tools that (see [Annex 3: List of Documents Reviewed](#)) This list will be amended as more information is obtained, and the final list of information reviewed will be included in the final report;
 - ✓ **Government papers** (strategies, laws and policies);
 - ✓ **third party reports** (e.g., reports by other international development agencies).
 - **One hundred and five (105) Interviews in total** with (see the list in [Annex 2: List of Persons Interviewed](#)) including
 - ✓ twenty-two (22) project personnel (including the current Project staff, technical advisors, and Project developers, UNDP CO, government counterparts and Steering Committee members; international partners, and independent experts; and

✓ all forty-nine (49) grantees.

- **Focus Group Discussion** (FGD) with one of the multi-stakeholder landscape advisory groups (MSLAG) with twelve (12) participants (see [Annex 2: List of Persons Interviewed](#)); and
- **Field Validation:** field missions conducted to seven projects, selected during the interviews' stage, with the criteria being not only the representativeness, and proximity, but also being closed projects with mature results to allow to interview the ultimate beneficiaries. The list of the seven (7) projects visited is presented in [Annex 4: Site Visits](#).

1.5. Ethics

12. The evaluation team put all efforts to comply with the requirement of ethical conduct of evaluations, namely the four UNEG guiding ethical principles for evaluation: Integrity, Accountability, Respect, and Beneficence⁷. In particular, the team ensured the anonymity of the interviewees (i.e., not citing without their permission, UNDP SGP staff not present during the interviews), engaging with the interviewees in a way that honours their dignity, well-being, personal agency and characteristics, honesty, truthfulness, impartiality and professionalism in communication, etc.

1.6. Limitations to the evaluation

13. The TE was being planned with tight time and resource constraints, with only two (2) weeks allocated for interviews.
14. COVID implied that the Team leader (TL) was not able to travel to the country, which imposes limitations. As for the local consultant, despite COVID and resource constraints, seven (7) sites were possible to visit.
15. All possible efforts were put in place to minimize the limitations of this independent TE. e.g., using weekends for the interviews, thanks to what it was assured that all the grant recipients were interviewed.

1.7. Structure of the report

16. The rest of this report is organized as follows:
 - An overview of SGP 6 activities from commencement of operations up to August 2021 is presented in Chapter 2;
 - Chapter 3, on Findings, covers an assessment of relevance of Project design, assessments of the results and efficiency; Assessment of monitoring and potential for sustainability; and
 - Chapter 4 summarizes conclusions, recommendations; and Lessons Learnt

⁷ <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/2866>

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1. Project start, duration and milestones

17. The GEF SGP has been operational since 1997 in Kazakhstan. With over three hundred and twenty-three (323) community-led projects implemented over five (5) GEF operational phases (1997-2016), the SGP in Kazakhstan has supported projects to conserve biodiversity, arrest land degradation, and mitigate climate change and persistent organic pollutants, as a means to countering serious environmental challenges resulting from business-as-usual practices from agriculture, livestock grazing, and natural resource extraction. The SGP 6 Project started on 17 July 2017. The project should have been completed by August 2020. Based on the GEF Mid-Term Review (MTR) conducted in 2019 and its recommendations, in order to enable the project to meet its commitments in relation to completion of the community-based grant projects, analysing achievements to generate knowledge products containing lessons learned and results, replication of successful measures and technologies, a 10-months no-cost extension was requested in February 2020 and approved by the GEF within the project originally approved budget. To mitigate the risks associated with Covid-19 additional four months no-cost extension till October 2021 was initiated and approved by the GEF, with the hope that will give the Project enough time to complete all the project activities, to ensure evaluation of the results achieved, generate and disseminate knowledge products and to replicate technologies and approaches in the aftermath of the pandemic. Due to the Project extension for 14 months, the TE was re-scheduled for July 2021.
18. SGP 6 has sought to provide the necessary collective action in Kazakhstan for adaptive management of resources and ecosystem processes for sustainable development and global environmental benefits. SGP 6 was set up with the objective to “*build the socio-ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes of Kazakhstan by securing global environmental benefits from community-based management of biodiversity, ecosystem function, and land, water, and biomass resources*”. This was the first operational phase for SGP Kazakhstan under the SGP UPC modality, supported through GEF System of Transparent Allocation of Resources of the GEF (STAR) financing via a standalone full-size project: this new funding regime was meant to enable more budgetary control by Country Programmes and the opportunity to raise increased funding on their own.
19. The project is implemented by UNDP and executed by UNOPS, through its New York Service Cluster (NYSC) which supports the UN Secretariat, as well as other New York-based UN organizations, bilateral and multilateral partners in the delivery of UNOPS mandate in project management, infrastructure management, and procurement management. Its Sustainable Development Cluster (SDC) supports diverse partners with their peacebuilding, humanitarian and development operations. The project is executed through the existing mechanism of the GEF SGP, including the approval of each initiative by the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) and follow-up and monitoring provided under the leadership of the SGP Upgraded Country Program Coordinator. Total project budget is US\$ 7,352,126, of which US\$2,649,726 is a contribution from GEF. Similar to other UCPs, the SGP 6 execution is undertaken by an Almaty-based Country Programme Management Unit (CPMU) with support from UNOPS for financial management and administration, the UNDP CO for the SGP 6 oversight, and the NSC for grant criteria and approvals. These implementation arrangements reflect standard SGP Operational Guidelines.

2.2. Development context

20. Kazakhstan is experiencing environment degradation caused by⁸:
- unsustainable farming practices and extensive natural resource usages;
 - increasing annual harvest of riparian trees by local communities, local hunters and fishermen and farmers;
 - overgrazing which is a major cause of land degradation of the country's rangelands;
 - unsustainable hunting and fishing that stems mainly from poorly regulated fishing and unsustainable fishing practices of local fishermen; and
 - increasing accumulation of household hazardous waste in rural and peri-urban areas that is creeping into local foods such as eggs, milk, poultry meat and beef from cattle that pasture near dumps.
21. Climate change is projected to increase temperatures, extreme precipitation events and frequency and intensity of droughts, with consequences for agriculture and water management. More frequent droughts and reduced water security could damage agricultural productivity of crop and livestock⁹. Biodiversity underpins ecosystem function and the provision of ecosystem goods and services that sustain communities. In Kazakhstan, the loss of biodiversity can broadly be attributed to habitat loss and degradation due to overgrazing, soil erosion, salinity, and deforestation, among other factors.¹⁰
22. Considering the vastness of Kazakhstan, that extends 3,000 km from west to east, and 1,700 km from north to south, there are numerous challenges within the country that contains several ecosystems including deserts, forested steppes, mountain forests and meadows. The Kazakhstan SGP 6 Project focuses mainly on interventions in the desert and steppe ecosystems to produce measurable impacts within these landscapes.

2.3. Threats and barriers targeted

23. The SGP 6 sought to provide the necessary collective action in Kazakhstan for adaptive management of resources and ecosystem processes for sustainable development and global environmental benefits. Barriers to the provision of this collective action in Kazakhstan include:
- local communities lacking adequate skills and capacities for landscape level resource planning and management;
 - community reservations often lacking sufficient organizational capacities;
 - community organizations lacking sufficient financial resources; and
 - the lack of a systematic analysis, reporting and dissemination of knowledge from other project experiences that innovate and experiment with sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation for adaptive management and policy inputs.

2.4. Immediate and development objectives of the project

⁸ The Fifth National Report of Kazakhstan on Implementation of the UN Convention on Combatting Desertification (with comments and additions). 2014. Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

⁹ WB (2021): Climate Risk Country Profile- Kazakhstan (2018)

¹⁰ The 6th National Report on the Biological Diversity in the Republic of Kazakhstan

24. The project sought to strengthen local community-based organizations (CBOs) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) through:
- (1) **Capacity-building**, by providing the resources and technical support to allow these entities to test alternatives, monitor and evaluate results, adjust practices and techniques, and work with other organizations according to their comparative advantage and under the key principles of *learning-by-doing*. The approach was meant to be cross-cutting, so as to generate different environmental benefits, as well as promote social cohesion. The project was also to support the establishment of two mechanisms, (i.e., a multi-stakeholder policy platform and a multi-stakeholder group to identify landscape-level objectives and monitor results under Component 1) to increase coordination among different groups, so that they may liaise, plan, benefit from each other's comparative advantage and resources, and work towards common and broader objectives. The project was also supposed to share success stories and lessons learned from other pilots and trials (planned under Component 2) with the aim of benefiting other organizations with these experiences. Specific training on sustainable land management, energy efficient technologies, and conservation methods were to also to be disseminated (under Component 2);
 - (2) **Mainstreaming environmental issues** into other sectors and livelihood practices through inclusion of a variety of stakeholders with differing sectoral priorities as well as through knowledge-sharing and management of information generated through the SGP;
 - (3) **Promoting reversal of land degradation** with the use of appropriate land management systems and practices that enable users to maximize the socio-economic benefits to the land, while optimizing ecosystem function and the corresponding provision of ecosystem services. For example, this was supposed to cover re-forestation activities, promoting resilient agriculture, enhancing the sustainability of crop and livestock production, supporting water resources management, drip irrigation, crop rotation, zero-tillage, sustainable pasture management, sustainable fodder production, agro-ecological farming, agro-tourism, reclaiming degraded lands and testing innovations in land clearing, drainage, irrigation channels, floodgate restoration, using municipal wastewater as fertilizer for agricultural lands, etc.;
 - (4) **Mitigating and adapting from/to impacts related to Climate Change by** supporting the development, piloting and dissemination of energy efficient technologies, including, but not limited to: renewable energy sources (RES) such as wind or solar; promotion of biogas facilities; promoting the use of pyrolysis furnaces¹¹; piloting and disseminating water and heat saving technologies such as solar water heaters; energy efficient (EE) technologies. The project was also planned to promote adaptive practices to build community resilience to climate change. The SGP was to promote climate-smart agro-ecological practices, which take into account food security, people's access to resources, and adaptive capacity. Adaptive practices were to be explored for soil and land management, and livestock and fisheries management. Given the increase in salinity and droughts, along with the general lack of infrastructure, the project sought to promote water conservation methods and explore payment for ecosystem services (Component 1);
 - (5) **Reducing threats to biodiversity**, by supporting projects that provide monitoring and protection of endangered species; establish links between economic value and conservation at the local level; mainstream knowledge of biodiversity's role in climate regulation, pollination, disaster

¹¹ Pyrolysis is a gas-phase reaction at very high temperature. As the reaction is highly endothermic, it is carried out in tubular coils within a fired furnace.

protection, eco-tourism and nutrient cycling. The project was meant also to seek to improve conservation activities and introduce guidelines in protected areas (PAs) and their buffer zones, as well as in resting areas of migratory birds and hunting preserves;

- (6) ***Promoting sustainable livelihood options.*** To ensure that sustainable production practices are adopted by beneficiaries, it was deemed necessary for the project to demonstrate the economic benefits that can emerge from such practices. Under Component 1 the project was to support initiatives that enhance marketing capacities of smallholders, create more and stronger links between producers and consumers, and promote the production and certification of agro-ecological products. The project was also to promote new livelihood activities such as eco-tourism, and support access to financial resources through a revolving fund. Under Component 2, the project was to provide technical trainings on lessons generated through successful SGP interventions.

2.5. Expected results

25. To achieve its objective, the SGP 6 was designed to focus on achieving 5 outcomes:

- *Outcome 1.1:* Community Organizations in multi-stakeholder partnerships formulate and implement adaptive management plans to strengthen socio-ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes based on conservation, of biodiversity, sustainable management of land and water resources and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change;
- *Outcome 1.2:* Multi-stakeholder landscape management groups, local policymakers and sub-national advisors organized in landscape policy platforms discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned;
- *Outcome 1.3:* Community organizations in target eco-systems build their adaptive management and organizational capacities by designing and implementing community and/or landscape level projects to sustain and revitalize biodiversity and ecosystem function; improve productivity and sustainability of production systems; develop viable livelihood alternatives; and strengthen formal and non-formal landscape;
- *Outcome 1.4:* Successful technologies, practices and systems from community-based initiatives are replicated and promoted for up-scaling by multi-stakeholder partnerships using knowledge and lessons learned from identifying, testing and adapting community innovations for landscape and resource management; and
- *Outcome 2.1:* Knowledge products and lessons learned are systematized, organized and disseminated for policy recommendations.

2.6. Main stakeholders: summary list

26. The main stakeholders, together with their expected roles from the Project Document (ProDoc) are listed in [Annex 12: The list of stakeholders from the ProDoc](#). Whether these expectations materialized or not, or to what extent is discussed in Section 3.2.2

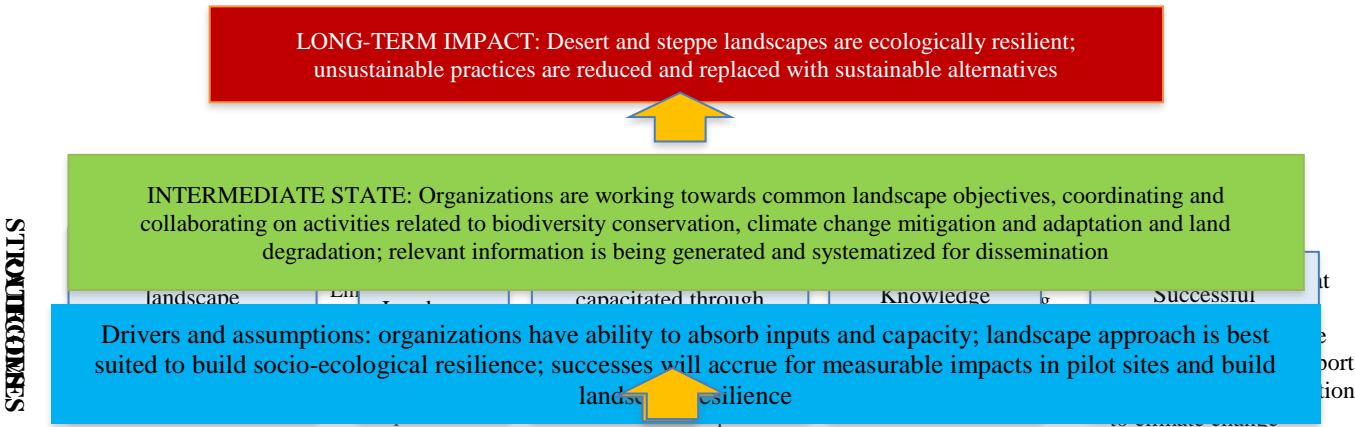
27. The SGP 6 has targeted the engagement of its *primary stakeholders- CBOs and local NGOs*, in seven (7) target steppe and desert ecosystems covering Akmola, Kostanai, Karaganda, East Kazakhstan, Kzylorda, Turkestan and Almaty oblasts. These CBOs and NGOs were to:
- receive GEF grant support to generate benefits for local sustainable development, the global environment, and ultimately to the communities to build their resilience within these landscapes;
 - facilitate participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes, serve as partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape, provide technical assistance to other CBOs to implement their projects and participate on policy platforms;
 - for the second-tier organizations at the landscape level – to collect and disseminate the best practices, participate in capacity building of target communities, contribute to increasing opportunities for market/capital access, and support partnership-building among local authorities, local communities, Protected Areas (PAs), private sector and other landscape-level stakeholders, to enhance replication potential of successfully piloted practices and policy mechanisms in target ecosystems. These hubs were expected to be active in promoting the following practices: drip irrigation, zero tillage, crop rotation, sustainable pasture management, fodder production, agro-ecological farming, and biodiversity-related products, including ecotourism and agrotourism;
28. The list of the stakeholders includes **partners**, such as:
- Union of Farmers’ Associations of Kazakhstan to work with national partners to raise awareness of the challenges involved in pasture and rangeland management;
 - the Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC) who have experience and expertise on developing payment for ecosystem services (PES) and implementing transboundary water management in Kazakhstan; and
 - the Association “NGOs Eco-forum of Kazakhstan”
29. **National/central government,**
- **Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources (MoEGNR) of the Republic of Kazakhstan (RoK)** (formerly, Ministry of Energy, Department of Green Economy and Climate Change)-responsible for coordination of the state programs on biodiversity conservation, PA management and sustainable land use. MoEGNR- a key implementation partner, was expected to be partner in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; selected member of National Steering Committee; and primary participant in policy platforms;
 - **Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)**, which identifies numbers and sites for pasture infrastructure, establishes grazing quotas and promotes land use, approves farming regulations, that strongly influence ecosystem sustainability, enforces agricultural laws/by-laws on all land types and categorized under different forms of agricultural land use systems. MoA was expected to serve as partner in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape and primary participant on policy platforms;
 - **Ministry of National Economy;** and
 - **Committee or Land Administration of the MOA of the RoK**-state agency that maintains maps for agricultural land use and other purposes, conducts land surveys, and engages in decision making for special land use regulations. The Committee was expected to serve as partner in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape and primary participant on policy platforms.

- 30. **local governments**, including oblasts’ akimats, expected to be key stakeholders for baseline assessments, landscape planning processes, and replication of tested sustainable resource use approaches in other areas; partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; and primary participants on policy platforms;
- 31. **academic and research institutions**. Kazakh Agrotechnical University, Research Institutes of Pastures and Fodder Production and alike, expected to (a) serve as partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; and (b) be primary participants on policy platforms; and
- 32. **private sector companies** – expected be partners in the projects.

2.7. Theory of Change

- 33. The Theory of Change (ToC) from the ProDoc is presented in [Figure 1](#). These are certain issues with this, which are discussed in Section 3.1.6.
- 34. The Project has two main Components:
 - **Component 1. Resilient rural and peri-urban landscapes of steppe and desert ecosystems for sustainable development and global environmental protection.** Here the project supports measures to improve community-based capacities and resources to promote and build ecosystem resilience through resource management planning at the landscape level and supporting measures to avoid GHG emissions by improving the adoption of energy efficient and renewable energy technologies and sequestering carbon through restoration of natural forests from cost-effective community-based efforts. Under this Component, the project also sought to build synergies and linkages among various community-level interventions, so as to harmonize them, increase value-added of existing initiatives, promote social cohesion and generate greater impacts and results on the landscape through cumulative interventions; and
 -
 - **Component 2. Knowledge Generation and Management, Information-sharing and Dissemination of Lessons Learned.** Under this component the project sought to harness that knowledge, apply it to different areas, replicate it and share it with relevant stakeholders.

Figure 1 Theory of change from the Project Document



Source: ProDoc

2.8. Status of project at the time of evaluation: a snapshot

35. After the completion of a community-led landscape strategic planning process in early 2018, under the guidance of the SGP NSC, constituted on 23 November 2017 (with new members rotated into NSC on 28 September 2018) commenced. The SGP 6 grant projects for Kazakhstan were to be selected based on community consultations to ensure that community-led initiatives fit GEF criteria for generating global environmental benefits while sustaining local level development benefits, especially enhanced incomes, food security and disaster risk reduction. The consultations were also a means of ensuring these initiatives were aligned with national development priorities.
36. Seven (7) landscape strategies were developed (each landscape to coincide with an Oblast), with Seven (7) Multi-stakeholder landscape advisory groups (MSLAGs) from active NGOs and seven (7) informal multi-sectoral landscape policy dialogue platforms (MSLPDPs) formed, with the latter including also representatives from akimats¹²/maslikhats¹³ and local branches of ministries and state bodies.
37. Under Component 1, the work of the Project focused on supporting NGOs and CBOs locally-implemented projects and ensuring successful implementation of the entire grant portfolio. Of 49 projects (see [Annex 8: Complete list of SGP 6 grant projects](#) for the full list) for a total amount of US\$ 1,527,383 covering seven focus landscapes and three thematic areas: *biodiversity conservation* (10 projects), *climate change* (16 projects), *and land degradation* (19 projects), and also including capacity development, awareness raising and results analysis, policy dialogue and baseline assessment projects (4 projects). At the time of the evaluation, most of the grant projects had completed their planned activities. Some still had planned activities for August- September 2021. To strengthen coordination and experience sharing between projects and landscapes, a number of project exchange visits were carried out. To broadly share grant projects' results, they were covered in social networks. Within Component 2, the results of the twenty-nine (29) grant project have been analyzed and lessons learned documents have been developed in addition to seven (7) case studies. The analysis includes the projects on EE lighting, waste collection, energy-efficient furnaces, solar installations, solar water heating system, adaptation water and land-saving practices, sustainable livestock grazing schemes, medicine plants gardens, sustainable agroforestry approaches, and others.
38. The quarantine measures implemented in the country starting mid-March 2020 due to COVID 19 have impacted the grant projects' activities. In particular, agricultural projects, some renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, ecotourism projects, beekeeping, etc. have had to re-plan/postpone project activities to a later time. However, most of the projects were able to quickly

¹² In Kazakhstan, an äkim is the head of an akimat, a municipal, district, or provincial government (akimat), and serves as the Presidential representative.

¹³ A Mäslihat (Kazakh: Мәслихат) is a local representative body (parliament) in Kazakhstan that is elected by a population of a region, district and city.

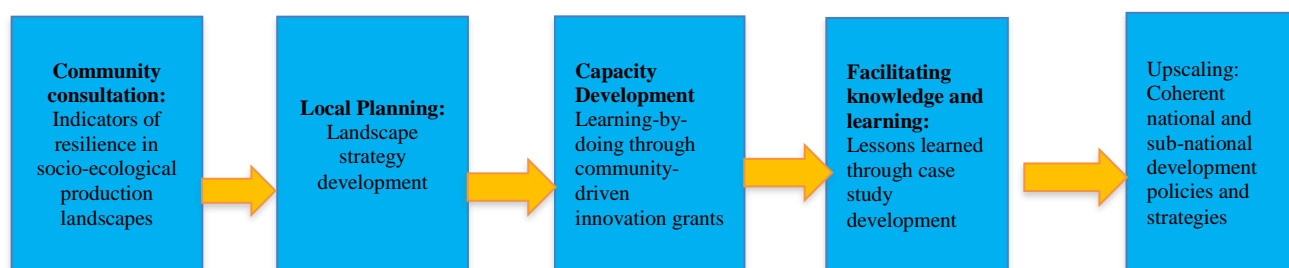
respond to changing situation and adapt the project activities accordingly to ensure achieving the project tasks and goals.

3. FINDINGS

3.1. Project Design/Formulation

3.1.1. Project logic and strategy

39. The SGP 6 Kazakhstan design was to address the barriers to community-based climate change mitigation and adaptation, reduction of land degradation and biodiversity conservation. The Project was to support the lowering of these barriers by:
 - improving community-based capacities and resources to promote and build ecosystem resilience through resource management planning at the landscape level; and
 - improving community capacities to adopt energy efficient and renewable energy technologies to avoid GHG emissions and to sequester carbon through restoration of natural forests from community-based efforts.
40. The project, as it was expected to, applied the COMDEKS process (see [Figure 2](#)), building on the experience and lessons learned from the COMDEKS Programme piloted in several countries, including several under the UNDP-SGP portfolio. The defining aspects of the COMDEKS programme are listed below:
 - CBOs being the driving force in rural development strategies and leading in project planning, landscape governance, project execution and monitoring;
 - Participatory landscape governance (see later in this section) as an effective foundation for the organization of community-based, multi-stakeholder approaches to land and resource management;
 - Multi-stakeholder groups becoming beneficiaries of the experience based on lessons learned and best practices from previous initiatives that serve as a foundation for replication and scale-up efforts during the implementation of the SGP 6; and
 - Integrated solutions are effectively addressed through action at the landscape level, and at a scale sufficient to include various communities, processes and systems that underpin ecosystem services, rural economic production and local cultures.

Figure 2: COMDEKS: adaptive Management Cycle Enhancing Resilience of Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes

Source: ProDoc

41. During the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase of the SGP 6, the steppe and desert landscapes of Kazakhstan were identified by stakeholders to be under structural and functional degradation with the loss of important biodiversity and ecosystem services. As such, the design of the SGP 6 was intended to build the social-ecological resilience of these landscapes by securing local and global environmental benefits from community-based management of biodiversity, ecosystem functions, and land, water and biomass resources. Achieving social-ecological resilience within these landscapes was to strengthen collective action in Kazakhstan for adaptive management of resources and ecosystem processes, as well as foster technology development and application that encourages sustainable development and generates global environmental benefits. Collective action was to be strengthened by addressing organizational, capacity and technical weaknesses that currently exist in targeted communities living and working in these landscapes.
42. Thus, the concept of the “landscape” was to be applied as a means of targeting landscape resilience and encouraging various types of community action to advance synergistically and achieve multiple global environmental and local development goals. Since Kazakhstan is a very large country with a low population density, landscape level results from the SGP 6 were assessed to be needed to cover large geographic areas through the actions of local CBOs. This was the rationale for the SGP 6 focusing on two *broad* landscapes:
 - 1) the steppe landscape to include Akmola, Karaganda and Kostanai oblasts; and
 - 2) the desert landscape to include Almaty, East Kazakhstan, Kyzylorda, and Turkestan oblasts.
43. It was decided that for the project purposes the *landscapes* would be defined as embedded in administrative “*oblast*” division. There are pros and cons to this approach. The desired replication requires resources which are at the administrative division level, i.e., akimats (oblast, rayon, village), while (a) landscapes may cut across several oblasts complicating replication and requiring coordination, which could be an added challenge; or (b) oblast may feature different zones which are, strictly speaking different landscapes theoretically (as is the case in Karaganda, for example. which in half of its territory features steppes, and in the other- mountains), and if this approach was followed this would result in similar complications.
44. By focusing on targeted communities in the steppe and desert landscapes, the SGP-6 design was expected to be able to access cost-effective delivery of community-level investments, processes and tools, within a measurable, limited geographic scope. SGP 6 sought to build synergies and linkages among various community-level interventions, increasing value-added of existing initiatives, and promoting social cohesion to generate greater impacts and results on the landscape through cumulative interventions. The design of the SGP 6 aimed at scaling-up efforts within these landscapes

to reach more communities in other oblasts. With these landscapes covering vast areas of the SGP 6 interventions, measures were needed by the SGP 6 to support grant activities able to produce results that could be disseminated through peer exchanges amongst communities that would provide a foundation for replication.

45. **Multi-stakeholder landscape advisory groups (MSLAG)** consisting of an average of 5 to 7 persons were formed. These advisory groups mainly consisted of the representatives of the NGOs and CBOs who were engaged in regional consultations, landscape assessments, development of the landscape strategies, and implementing projects. The advisory group's mandate was to foster cooperation between projects and landscape stakeholders during implementation of landscape strategies. This included the promotion of thematic exchange visits, the use and upscaling of existing SGP demo sites for knowledge dissemination, and creation of an online database of successful pilot initiatives of SGP projects.
46. With the realization that the operationalization of a **multi-sectoral landscape policy dialogue platforms (MSLPDP)** in a target landscape requires an organization with extensive policy work and knowledge of regional context (for wider engagement of various regional stakeholders), members of the seven (7) MSLAGs recommended a separate grant project to form MSLPDPs for each landscape. This was approved by the NSC on 29 October 2018 (complete with a detailed work plan endorsed by the NSC in September 2019). The 7 MSLPDPs were completed for 7 target oblast landscapes following a regional exercise to assess stakeholder capacity during the period of January to February 2018.
47. The interviews indicated several design issues with these MSLAGs/MSLPDPs. As a start, the mandate/TOR was not entirely clear to the members: it is rather vague indeed. Plus, these NGO representatives know each other most often, and so they do not see the need to meet regularly, especially after the first few meetings. This is compounded by the fact that there are not many NGOs with ecological mandate in a given Oblast, even if they were more active in attracting new/other NGOs to attend. The representative of Maslikhats/akimats attended (not everywhere however, e.g., not in Almaty oblast) and so did the representatives of the branches of government agencies, but rarely. Making these groups/platforms long-standing will require rethinking of the operations, most notably (a) a much stronger capacity and resources to attract new members/outreach and (b) strong cooperation with the formal "public councils". It could be argued that such cooperation should have been established already, as part of design, especially since according to the ProDoc "*multi-stakeholder policy platforms, ... [were] to inform the policy environment of its successes and ventures in increasing sustainable practices*". Without that, the potential for pursuing replication *within* these groups and platforms, exists – and in successful cases was utilized, but is limited, with a few examples of the state bodies (akimat) promoting it (e.g., for energy efficient heating, and drip irrigation), but at limited scale. The CPMU decided to pursue establishing these links in the next phase.
48. **Seven (7) landscape strategies were developed and approved** by the NSC on 10 October 2018 for targeted steppe and desert landscapes after March-April 2018 consultations with participants of the baseline assessment and members of the multi-stakeholder advisory groups. Here it should be noted that the oblast akimats have oblast development plans, formally approved for 3 years and for them to add/change certain programmatic/budget lines requires intensive consultations: especially if co-funding was expected under the SGP 6, then these consultations were to start early on, and moreover be based on a comparative analysis of the landscape strategies and oblast development plans early on, rather than towards the end of the SGP 6, as it happened.

3.1.2. Planned stakeholder participation

49. COMDEKS approach is a prominent example of strong stakeholder participation. The NSC, involving some of the key stakeholder representatives, as well as independent experts, is another. Plus, as mentioned, some of the “strategic” activities, like public awareness, capacity building, consultations were conducted by the NGOs, which is also a form of stakeholder participation. The expected roles of other stakeholders, like the Ministries and their branches, local, and regional akimats, research institutions were discussed earlier, in Chapter 2. To summarize, *by design*, the project expected high level of participation from a wide range of stakeholders.

3.1.3. Lessons from other relevant projects incorporated into project design

50. SGP 6 sought to use lessons learned from past community-based projects on conservation and sustainable development. Technology-wise lessons were used from the previous SGP phases. The fact that SGP has been active in Kazakhstan for many years was a strong advantage in this sense, as important best practices were accumulated. Plus, lessons learnt from the past and current main UNDP projects funded by the GEF were also utilized.
51. However, this is the first UCP in Kazakhstan, and the whole notion of applying landscape strategies with the multi-sectoral policy dialogue platforms and multi stakeholder advisory groups were novelties for the SGP in Kazakhstan.

3.1.4. Assumptions and Risks

52. “Assumptions” are reasonably well presented in the ProDoc. While other GEF PRFs contain both risks and assumptions, the Kazakhstan SGP 6 PRF only provides assumptions with a separate risk log table in the ProDoc, as well as in the Inception Report, identifying risks.
53. The list of the identified risks is rather basic, however: (a) Climate disasters such as droughts, floods, mudslides disrupt project implementation (b) Global environmental benefits and socio-ecological resilience are weakened by policies and private sector practices that undermine landscape management; and (c) Low capacity and awareness of local NGOs and CBOs to address global environmental problems. The low capacities of the CBOs and NGOs is not really a risk: it is a barrier already identified and one of the project components aims to enhance the capacities. The list surprisingly does not include such items as: lack of interest on behalf of akimats; financial risks, potentially affecting co-financing, etc. Of course, COVID could not have been predicted, and its impact turned out to be the biggest risk for any project.

3.1.5. Replication approach according to the ProDoc

54. Project funding were set aside for potential “strategic projects”, in line with SGP’s global guidelines. Strategic projects were meant to bring broader adoption of specific successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems to a tipping point in each landscape through engagement of potential financial partners, policy makers and their national/subnational advisors and institutions, as well as the private sector. These projects were to be defined in the first year of implementation, Case studies highlighting the process, obstacles to and opportunities for upscaling through the strategic projects were to be produced. the strategic projects (Output 1.4.1, up to USD 150,000) were

to implement strategies enabling and facilitating up-scaling of the identified successful portfolios and lines of work, with a systematic approach, including with:

- the analysis of the SGP project portfolio to identify the most cost-effective and sustainable technologies and practices on efficient water and land management, adaptation to climate change, biodiversity conservation etc.;
- design of a comprehensive methodology (how-to-guideline) for each identified and prioritized technology/practice to systematize the experience and practical knowledge,
- formulation of a strategy to upscale the prioritized technology/practice over the short, medium and long term, including financial aspects
- design of training modules for each selected technology/practice targeting different focus groups,
- piloting methodologies and training modules at SGP's existing demonstration plots, and refining proposed methodologies and training modules as needed,
- holding a national-level event to present strategies and piloted and refined methodologies for all focal areas to a diverse group of stakeholders
- replication and up-scaling may be implemented in other geographical zones for greater coverage and to share lessons learned and benefits with other regions

55. Two attempts were made with calls for proposal, but these did not generate results.

- On the 12 April 2019 the NSC discussed the two (2) grant applications for strategic projects: both were returned for further improvement and submission of additional information; and
- In July 2019 competition for strategic projects was announced for the second time, but no additional project concepts were received. The NSC reviewed the improved projects at the NSC meeting on 29 October 2019 but did not approve.

56. Thus, the overall approach with the initially intended "strategic projects" did not work, partly, as it could be concluded, because it was too early, and partly because the necessity of these was not evident for the NSC. Upon discussions on 29 October 2019 the NSC decided to follow a two-pronged approach for replication. It decided:

- 1) that the strategic project components could be shared between the Akbota project (that contained replication component), Association of Environmental Organization project (promotion component) and two capacity development projects (Public Awareness, Lessons Learnt, and training component) and;
- 2) to select four (4) ongoing grant projects with promising technologies and measures to be advanced as strategic projects for replication with the co-financing of the Akbota Public Foundation, pending approval of the SGP 6 project extension beyond the current EoP. It was envisaged that a strategic project approved by the NSC in April 2020 would lead the SGP-6 replication work covering three (3) regions: Karaganda, Eastern Kazakhstan and Akmola. Implementation of the strategic project was linked to the planned at the time UNDP/Government of Kazakhstan's (GoK) project "*Enabling innovative ecological education towards the country's sustainable development*" that, inter alia, targeted vocational, continuous and higher education institutions in 17 regions of Kazakhstan and aimed at creating 17 "model" environmental sites (educational platforms) to showcase effective renewable energy (RE), energy efficiency (EE) and agricultural technologies (including those successfully tested by GEF SGP 6) to promote and implement the model of environmental

education throughout the country. Due to institutional and personal factors (out of GEF SGP's control), the approved government project was initially postponed to August 2020, but then cancelled by the government due to prolonged COVID-19 measures and limited budget funds.¹⁴

57. Despite this unfortunate situation, the project has managed to meet its End-of-Project (EoP) targets on replication as envisaged in the project document through a combination of several approaches/pursuing several avenues. This is described in Section 3.2.3

3.1.6. Analysis of the Results Framework

58. The quality of the Project Results Framework (PRF) of the SGP 6 was judged as satisfactory in the MTR, with the indicators judged to be mostly Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound (SMART), but also noting, that:
- The PRF could have contained indicators and targets with less words, that would provide added simplicity and clarity for the CPMU to monitor; and
 - There were duplications of the indicators such as the one for RE/EE technologies (at the objective level and in Outcome 1.3).
59. At MTR changes were proposed to the PRF and implemented. This included modifications not only of the targets, but also of the indicators themselves and two (2) targets were revised down: (a) on the number of projects; and (b) the number of households reporting increased incomes. The latter took into account the Rapid Economic Assessment of six (6) SGP 6 community-based projects on sustainable agro-practices/land management (see [Annex 7: Project results framework for SGP 6 project](#)).
60. The MTR noted that proper language has been used to describe the outcomes and Project objective. None of the described outcomes or objective of the Project can be confused with an output. However, the TOC presented earlier from the ProDoc is causing confusion in relation to what is called output and outcome when compared to PRF.
61. The MTR noted that *achievement of targets is linked to “assumptions” that are linked to critical activities and delivery of outputs within each component that would lead to the intended outcome of that component*. However, as mentioned earlier, the TOC is flawed, in that it does not show non-linear linkages. In [Annex 13: The proposed TOC](#) an attempt is made to develop a different version of the Results Chain. With the expected (non-linear) linkages identified, these could serve as the basis to assess the validity of the assumptions. There is another issue with the TOC, in that it does not seem to explicitly state that replication is expected outside landscapes (as does the RRF), country-wide, but rather stresses the resilience of the landscapes *per se*.
62. The revisions as per the MTR have certain issues. For example:
- the original indicator of *“Number of community organizations and associations, whose resilience is strengthened by experimenting, innovating and learning through landscape planning and management processes in the landscape”* was replaced with *“Number of community organizations and associations and direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender, whose resilience*

¹⁴ this was then restarted by the Government in a revised format but SGP did not retry to reconnect its replication plans with it.

is strengthened by experimenting, innovating and learning through landscape planning and management processes in the landscape". The indicator contains two measures, which is not a good practice;

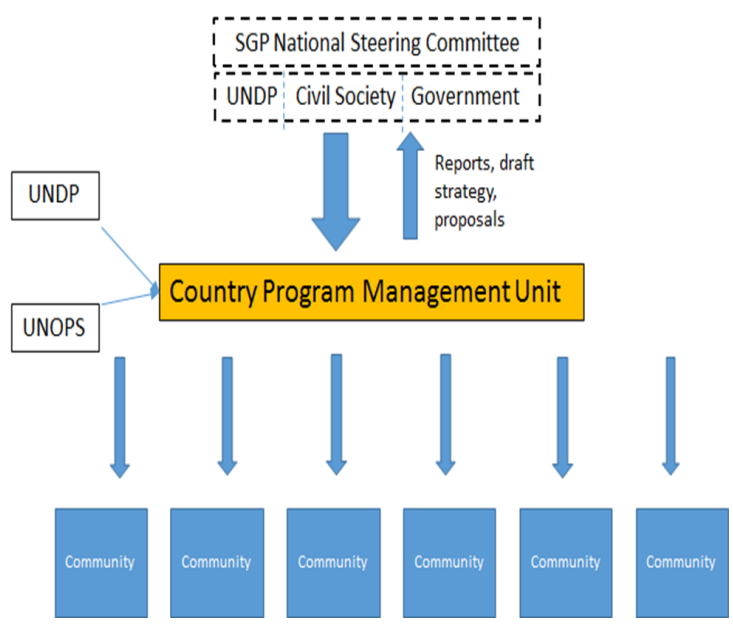
- New targets are added, for which there are no baselines, e.g., in the case of *"at least 30% of community-based organizations are led by women"*; plus, this indicator is not directly reflective of the indicator *"Number of multi-stakeholder governance policy platforms which include participatory landscape / planning and adaptive management in the landscape"*;
- there are drawbacks pertaining to the indicator of *"percentage of beneficiaries with increased income..."*: increase in income of target beneficiaries depends on the type of adopted practice, as well as on the time required to produce visible results on the ground. Plus, the size of a demonstration site positively correlates with the increase in income: the larger the size, the higher the increase. Thus, the indicator fails to portray the actual changes on the ground and be comparable across regions as percentage can be influenced by many factors such a project's objective, number of target beneficiaries (including indirect beneficiaries); rather estimating the number of households or entities adopting sustainable land use practices would be a better way of accessing the project's progress. "Percentage of households/entities with increased income..." can be an additional indicator measuring economic effectiveness of applied practices/approaches;
- The indicator *"Number of community organizations and associations and direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender, whose resilience is strengthened by experimenting, innovating and learning through landscape planning and management processes in the landscape"* uses the term "resilience" without defining it. The PIR interprets it widely, as all of the ultimate beneficiaries, which is not in line with various definitions of resilience. At best, this should have applied to the households with increased incomes;
- The indicator on *"number of technologies replicated"* is somewhat problematic. In a given pilot there might be several new technologies used, and when it gets replicated, all of these are. Thus, the reported result could be (and is) four (4) replicated technologies, while it is the same one pilot that is being replicated;
- Ideally there should be a definition of what constitutes "a pilot", when this word is used as an indicator. This is surely related to the notion of innovation, discussed later under the Section 3.3.1.

3.1.7. Management arrangements

63. **Figure 3** represents the schematic management structure. The management setup of the SGP 6 in Kazakhstan Project appears to fully comply with the operations as described in the SGP Operational Guidelines and UNOPS SGP Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

64. SGP 6 is being executed by UNOPS under the UN execution modality. SGP 6 is managed by a CPMU that is led by an SGP National Coordinator (NC), or Country Programme Manager (CPM) who is assisted by a full-time Project Assistant, as well as four (4) part-time technical experts in specific technical areas of rangeland

Figure 3: SGP 6 organizational structure (from ProDoc)



management, energy efficiency, biodiversity, and gender. Three (3) of the technical advisers (rangeland management, energy efficiency and gender) were engaged until the midpoint of the project, after which their contracts were ended. The technical expert on biodiversity was engaged long-term, as she also helped the Unit with report writing (PIRs)

65. The CPM reports to the UCP Global Coordinator, the UNDP Resident Representative, and the NSC/ The mandate of the NSC is to provide overall guidance for the SGP 6 Project throughout its implementation, and be responsible for, amongst other responsibilities, coordination amongst various stakeholders (government, CSOs, NGOs and private sector), oversight of work carried out by grantees, monitoring progress and approving plans and reports, and providing oversight to financial management and production of financial reports generated from UNOPS. The CPM also undertakes technical reviews of project proposals, providing technical assistance to grantees during project design and implementation, mobilizing cash and in-kind resources, implementing a capacity development program for communities, CBOs and NGOs, as well as preparing a communications and knowledge management strategy to ensure appropriate visibility of GEF investments.
66. UNDP CO provides management and operational support to the SGP Country Programme as outlined in the SGP 6 ProDoc. UNDP has competitive advantages to be implementing the SGP globally on behalf of GEF in comparison to other donor agencies, given (a) the long presence in Kazakhstan, during which, UNDP has amassed considerable knowledge in implementing SGPs globally; and (b) its focus on policy-based and cross-sectoral approaches as well as strengthening local capacities through effective collaboration with a wide range of local stakeholders, encompassing public and private sectors in addition to technical experts, civil society and grassroots level organizations. These factors are strongly applicable to implementing the SGP 6 Project

67. The UNDP GEF Global Coordinator for the SGP UCs, has been providing SGP 6 oversight that includes technical and managerial support to the CPMU and UNDP CO. The UNOPS has been providing the SGP 6 execution services including administrative, financial, legal, operational, procurement and project management for the SGP in compliance with the UNOPS SGP SOPs.
68. Overall, this has worked well, but there seems to be a need to review the structure. The Unit seems understaffed to meet the requirements from a UPC. Under the SGP 6 ICU used one of the consultants to help with reporting, while this could be a staff position, as a Program Associate (to combine also other programmatic functions). While the current position of the Program Associate could become a “Finance and Administrative Associate”: this would be a better reflection of the actual functions. Plus, they need the thematic experts and the gender expert for the whole duration.
69. The NSC consists of eleven (11) members representing a wide spectrum of stakeholders in natural resource management in Kazakhstan (Serving on a voluntary basis).
70. The NSC would have benefited from a participation of a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), especially its National Scientific-Educational center in Agriculture.
71. There is also a need for closer integration within UNDP operations. The fact that the team is based in Almaty, while having advantages (geographical proximity to the regions where most of the activities take place) is a certain hindrance, given that the Ministries, key International organizations (IOs) are in Nur-Sultan and the thematically close UNDP projects are housed there. Even with the location in Almaty there could be procedures set up to include the NC by default in all the meeting of the Energy and Environment Unit of UNDP, as well as in meetings with the Government (where justified) with remote links. Participation of the NC in the meetings of the portfolio started only in January 2020 when a new Portfolio leader joined, only because he required that, rather than as default matter, as part of a procedure.

3.1.8. Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector

72. The ProDoc has a mapping of the related initiatives of the development partners, but the expectations from SGP are only related to “*tapping into the resources*” of these, rather than building synergies. The listed initiatives were the ones below:
 - World Bank/GEF projects “**Biodiversity Conservation in Western Tian-Shan**”, “**Drylands Management Project**” and “**Forest Protection and Rehabilitation**” vis-à-vis participatory land and rangelands management: tapping into the lessons, e.g., demonstrating the environmental, social and economic viability of shifting from the current unsustainable agricultural production of monocultures and livestock raising in dryland ecosystems to a well-balanced and beneficial agricultural system for rural communities;
 - GIZ project on “**Sustainable rangeland management for rural livelihood and environmental integrity**”, utilizing the experiences and practices including functional zoning of pastures, reconstruction of water points at distant pastures, participatory approaches to herder engagement, integrated pasture and land use planning and management;

- **Central Asia Regional Environmental Center (CAREC)** in (a) promoting PES schemes¹⁵. promoting examples related to pasture rehabilitation and management, conservation and protection of land and water resources in agriculture, and wildlife management; and (b) other CAREC experience¹⁶ utilizing its expertise for long-term sustainable land, water and biodiversity use in target landscapes.
- **UNDP/GEF projects** on:
 - ✓ **“Supporting sustainable land management in steppe and semi-arid zones through integrated territorial planning and agro-environmental incentives”** (currently completed), utilizing the experiences and practices in critical production landscapes in steppe and semi-arid ecosystems. utilize the experiences and practices
 - ✓ **Improving sustainability of the PA system in desert ecosystems (currently there is the next step – Sustainable Forest Management project)**, utilizing the experience on landscape level planning, design and implementation of PES schemes, operationalization of a lending program, and protection of biodiversity outside protected areas within the ongoing.
 - ✓ **low carbon urban development** - employing the experience related to design and implementation of energy efficient and renewable solutions suitable (financially and technically feasible) for small towns in Almaty, Karaganda, and Kzylorda oblasts.

73. The list is incomplete, as for example it does not mention BIOFIN and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), let alone the activities of such multilateral financing institutions as the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

3.1.9. Approaches to cross-cutting issues

74. The project was supposed to (a) encourage and support participation of women in grant activities and in landscape level planning; (b) ensure equal representation of men and women in the project’s educational and awareness raising events; (c) assist in improving cooperation of women in rural districts with non-governmental women’s organizations in the region and the oblast and carrying out joint "round tables" and seminars on sustainable land, water, and biodiversity use practices, the use of energy efficient appliances and renewable energy sources, and waste management; and (d) engage women from women's organizations in M&E of grant projects, and in dissemination of good practices and environmental awareness raising activities in rural districts. The extent of success in implementing this is discussed in Section 3.3.8.
75. The ProDoc does not spell out explicitly as in the case of gender, a strategy of engaging with youth.
76. The ProDoc does not spell out the application of the principles of Leaving no one behind (LNOB), However, the portfolio has several grants whereby the most vulnerable segments of the society, e.g., elderly, physically and mentally disabled, are beneficiaries (see Section 3.3.8)

¹⁵ Summary of Recommendations on Payments for Ecosystem Services in the Republic of Kazakhstan, CAREC, Almaty, 2011 (32)

¹⁶ CAREC has been active in advancing PES in Central Asia and already generated some positive experience and lessons learned from PES application in Kyrgyzstan. In 2011, CAREC received several grants for wider introduction of PES schemes in Kazakhstan benefiting from previously matured schemes in Southeast and South Asia, such as in Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, China, India, Nepal and Vietnam.

3.1.10. Approaches to engaging with the Private Sector

77. The ProDoc does not have a well elaborated strategy of cooperation with the private sector. It only mentioned that private sector entities were expected to be Partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements, as appropriate; and potential participant on policy platforms

3.1.11. Approaches to ensuring sustainability

78. According to the ProDoc, the SGP Country Programme, was to foster sustainability in the long-term through the landscape approach, with the following means:
- *Promoting the learning-by-doing approach;*
 - *Knowledge management systems in place, e.g., with an online database of successful projects, training modules from successful interventions, case studies, promotion of peer-to-peer learning for knowledge-sharing purposes, etc.;*
 - *Promoting the livelihoods approach, ensuring that the beneficiaries see socio-economic benefits as a result, through demonstrations, trainings, alternative livelihood opportunities or access to markets and loans (e.g., with community guidelines for interventions in Protected areas, hunting zones, etc.);*
 - *Multi-stakeholder policy platforms, to inform the policy environment of its successes and ventures in increasing sustainable practices; and*
 - *Including local-level practitioners: directly working with farmers, fisherfolk, and technicians to contribute to their processes of innovation and action.*
79. Highlighting the financial aspects of sustainability is somewhat vaguely captured in the above. The necessary level of attention would have prompted the need to link to national and local level state programs, programs of the IOs and special lending program.
80. The format of the final reports of the grantees does not have a section on Sustainability, which not only makes analysing this aspect difficult for a reviewer, but also, does not help inducing the drive for sustainability among the grantees. Having this Section would help them get thinking about it early on and most importantly as part of application too.

3.2. Project Implementation

3.2.1. Adaptive management

81. The CPMU demonstrated good adaptive management skills, in the face of several adverse situations and challenges. First and foremost this concerns the COVID. At the time when the MTR was being conducted many grantees had stopped their activities and the report cast doubt on the feasibility of meeting the target on the number of grant projects (the original target was 50-60). At the time of the TE, not only 49 grants were awarded but also, all of them had mostly completed the planned activities, at times changing formats (e.g., shifting from in-person training to online in some cases, etc.), but with the ultimate result that the SGP 6 has achieved its indicators (with two of these revised

down). Also, when there were challenges with the Strategic grants, when no winner emerged after the 2nd round of announcement, an alternative approach was pursued.

82. This was supported by the NSC active engagement: for example, by the decision by the NSC on using four (4) NGOs to undertake strategic project tasks to avoid duplications and minimize the risks of delayed completion dates of all the tasks. Similarly, the adaptive management was supported by UNDP GEF Global Coordinator for the SGP UCPs.
83. The overall quality of management was adequate, including: the CPMU providing an appropriate level of guidance to NGOs - based on their baseline capacities in the process of the preparation of grant proposals for the SGP 6 NSC.

3.2.2. Actual stakeholder participation and partnership arrangements

84. The primary stakeholders of the Kazakhstan GEF 6 are the CBOs and local NGOs in seven (7) target steppe and desert ecosystems, covering Akmola, Kostanai, Karaganda, East Kazakhstan, Kyzylorda, Turkestan and Almaty oblasts, who received grants to produce benefits to local sustainable development, to the resilience of their communities and landscapes and ultimately, to the global environment. The bullet points below summarize the extent of actual participation of different stakeholder groups:
 - **NGO/CBO grantees.** Some of them were quite active in networking and outreach (see the next bullet point), while some operated on a very much local level. In some cases, they did not even make an effort to meet the local akimats;
 - **Second tier NGOs/Hubs were active in sharing experience, advising on contacts, etc.** These are NGOs and CBOs with a strong track record of improving local community livelihoods, empowering women, raising capacities of youth, assisting people with disabilities or vulnerable groups with social adaptation, training farmers on new agro-technologies, etc. Often they have knowledge and skills that advance landscape strategy objectives, including *inter-alia*, sustainable management of rangelands and pastures (including the use of livestock digital monitoring, development of pasture rotation schemes), hydroponic cultivation of fodder crops for sustainable supplies of fodder to livestock, sustainable climate adaptive agricultural practices (such as planting drought resistant crops), snow retention practices for drought prone areas, water conservation practices (e.g. drip irrigation, rain water collection and use), sustainable fish production in hatcheries and aquaculture development in fresh water lakes, community-based forestry development, sustainable wildlife monitoring and management in hunting concession areas (for biodiversity conservation in productive landscapes), and energy-efficient lighting and energy management in public schools, youth centers, communal areas of residential apartment buildings, greenhouses (see Section 3.2.3 for the list).
85. **Non-Grantee partners**, like the Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC). Even though there are no synergistic activities in the SGP 6 (there were before), they promote and support each other's activities in the country;
86. **Government stakeholders**, including:
 - the MoEGNR as the key partner with the GoK (with the Ministry of Energy being the predecessor) has expressed its full support for the work being done in the SGP 6. The partnership is further

strengthened by their representation on the NSC, conducting regular visits, and being informed by the UNDP CO on the SGP 6 progress. MoEGNR is now the GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP);

- The SGP 6 engagement with other government stakeholders including relevant departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of National Economy, the Committee for Land Resources Management, State Forestry committee, State Water Resources Committee (under MoEGNR) etc. was limited, and predominantly through regional branches: there are only up to ten (10) examples of support that the grantees received at the Central/Ministry Level. What was missing was more active exposure to the central level, and these were predominantly for the NGOs already known to them; and
 - Akimats and Maslikhats of different levels. At the lowest level there was most often (but not always) verbal support to the project (rarely co-funding, even in-kind). At the rayon and Oblast level, there were several cases where interest was expressed in replicating the successes, but concrete commitments were not common.
87. **Academic and research institutions.** Kazakh Agrotechnical University, Research Institutes of Pastures and Fodder Production and alike were involved, but on a grant-by-grant basis. Each of these institutions has a mandate for scientific research in its respective area, and ideally, they should have been involved on a more systematic basis, ensuring the validity of the recommended by the CBOs to-be-introduced new practices related to crops, land management etc. They were also expected to (a) serve as partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships groups for each landscape; and (b) primary participants on policy platforms. The latter has happened in a few cases only;
88. **Private sector companies** were partners in several projects. There are good examples, e.g., in the case of “CrossRoads” NGO, etc. There could have been a more systematic approach to working with the private sector, including financial/credit organizations;
89. **Direct beneficiaries** actively engaged in implementation of the community-level SGP projects;
90. Plus, through the NSC members, the SGP 6 has a network that has enabled it to engage in partnerships with over larger spectrum of local NGOs, CSOs, academia and government agencies to advance landscape strategies with their communities.
91. In summary, the SGP 6 have made satisfactory efforts to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders, but there is room for improvement in both the scope of those reached out to and what level of participation materialized.

3.2.3. Replication approach followed

92. After the launching of the ProDoc- prescribed “strategic projects” did not materialize (as described in Section 3.1.5), replication was pursued through multiple routes. namely:
- **the inclusion of specific replication activities in ongoing community-based projects;**
 - **promotion among SGP grantees partnership building** with other NGOs/CBOs, private sector and government representatives in and outside target landscapes during field and experience sharing visits;
 - **through grantees which acted as demo-hubs:** at the landscape level performing collection and dissemination of best practices, capacity building of target communities, increasing the opportunities for market/capital access, and partnership-building among local authorities,

local communities, PAs, private sector and other landscape-level stakeholders to enhance replication potential of successfully piloted practices and policy mechanisms in target ecosystems. These hubs were to be active in promoting the best practices in: drip irrigation, zero tillage, crop rotation, sustainable pasture management, fodder production, agro-ecological farming, and biodiversity-related products, including ecotourism and agrotourism. such as:

- 1) **the Akbota Public Fund**, a key knowledge-sharing and training center for communities in northern and central parts of Kazakhstan, which established a Model of Youth Environmental Education within the Technical and Vocational Colleges in the Focal Landscapes;
- 2) **Public Foundation "Yenbekshikazakh District Local Communities Fund"** (LCF) demonstrating opportunities of bringing small Farmers to the Sales Markets;
- 3) **Public Association "Incubator of Sustainable Development Projects"** promoting organic farming at local level by teaching communities to produce organic fertilizers as a method for restoring soil and increasing crops yields;
- 4) **Public Association Center for Coordination and Information on Environmental Education EcoObraz** promoting agrotechnologies to adapt to climate change in the desert zone of Zhezkazgan region;
- 5) **Public association Necklace of green practices** promoting drip irrigation and other resource saving technologies using the dacha cooperatives of Kostanay region as an example of approaches;
- 6) **Public association BIOGEN** demonstrating effective approaches to reduce land degradation of grasslands through the use of hydroponic cultivation of green fodder;
- 7) **Public association Ugam** developing agrotourism, to prevent degradation of desert and semi-desert agro-landscapes;
- 8) **Public Foundation "Zhassyl Azyk"** demonstrating ways for accelerated increase in productivity of degraded pastures to enhance the well-being of local communities;
- 9) **Public association Women Ray**. Demonstration of efficient use of energy-saving technologies on the example of social adaptation centers of the Akmola region;
- 10) **Private Charitable Foundation "Adal Niet Astana"** Demonstration of efficient use of energy-saving technologies on the example of social adaptation centers of the Akmola region through implementation of the network project
- 11) **Public association KASIIETTI OR ALTAI** - demonstration of energy-efficient technologies to improve livelihood of rural communities in Eastern Kazakhstan;
- 12) **Public association International Center for Energy Efficiency Resource Conservation and Environmental Technologies PRO ECO**: demonstration of social and economic benefits of energy-efficient lighting solutions and energy management with the examples of the schools of Satpayev city;
- 13) **Apartment owners' cooperative "UYUT"**. Approbation of co-financing mechanism to increase energy efficiency in multi-apartment houses in Temirtau city;
- 14) **Public fund "Crossroad"**. Promotion of Energy Efficient Technologies in Kostanai Area by Developing Pilot Demonstrational Sites within Social and Educational Facilities and Developing the School of Young Bloggers, EnergoEffect (Energy Efficiency)"
- 15) **Public Association "Origins of Good"**- implementing a scheme on separation of waste collection and disposal, with the proceeds from the payments going to the needs of condominium in Aksukent for further promotion of EE technologies and landscaping of the surrounding territory";

- 16) **Public association ARAL TENIZI**- demonstrating Conservation of fish resources in the lower reaches of the Kokaral dam by creating a cage farming and implementing resource-saving technologies for the needs of fish farming in the Aral region of the Kyzylorda region;
 - 17) **Private Foundation Socially Important Initiatives Development Fund**- Introduction of energy-efficient technologies on the basis of existing pilot sites in the East Kazakhstan and Turkestan region for further promotion purposes, and
 - 18) **Public Association Kazaly oasis** - Development of incubation center and pond fish culture in the Akshatau lakes system as a method to contribute to biodiversity conservation
- **the grant to "Association of Environmental organizations of Kazakhstan"**- was to, *inter alia*, promote replication;
 - **through Component 2**, through generation and dissemination of lessons learned and best practices; and
 - **through NSC and partners' efforts**, like: *the Association "NGOs Ecoforum of Kazakhstan"*; CAREC, who currently undertake research and have experience and expertise on developing payment for ecosystem services (PES) and implementing transboundary water management in Kazakhstan; and *Union of Farmers' Associations of Kazakhstan* to work with national partners to raise awareness of the challenges involved in pasture and rangeland management.

93. Still, avenues for replication were not fully covered in the design. In particular,

- **the weak policy links.** The project pursued horizontal experience sharing through the approach described above quite actively, but the vertical route/links with policy makers were not sufficiently explored. This is very important, especially in the context of Kazakhstan, where the akimats get funding for specific state programs (designed at ministry level) as implementation vehicles for specific policies and strategies, and have limited not- earmarked resources. In rare cases, the ministries were either involved from the start, viewing the SGP grants as pilots, as was the case of one of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) projects and fish farming (and in this case the grantees were already well-known individuals/ organizations), and (b) also rare, where some, local initiatives were so successful that attracted the attention of the ministries. The following cases could be mentioned: the cluster of projects on fish farming in Aral region (see [Box 3](#)), municipal solid waste management (SWM) project in Aksukent (see **Error! Reference source not found.**), Republican Association of Agricultural Cooperatives AgroUnion of Kazakhstan with the project on "Restoration of degraded irrigated lands by reusing drainage, discharged waters in the semi-desert zone of the Balkhash district, Almaty region", and a few more. What was missing however, was a systemic link to the ministerial level, via regular engagement with the Ministry of Agriculture, State Forestry Committee, State Water Committee, at a minimum; and
- **weak engagement with the private sector and credit organizations.** For example. linking the grantees with DAMU and similar credit organizations (including the credit programs of EBRD, IFC and alike, for energy efficiency) could have been pursued systematically, rather than just in a couple of projects (e.g., the pilot project in Temirtau, Apartment owners' cooperative "UYUT" "Approbation of co-financing mechanism to increase energy efficiency in multi-apartment houses

in Temirtau city” and Public Foundation “VIKINDA” Vita-Summer greenhouse in Novotroitskoe village” (see [Box 1](#)).

3.2.4. Synergy-building

94. There are strong links with the UNDP/GEF project on “Low carbon urban development “(see [Box 1: Synergy with SGP 6 - the pilot project in Temirtau](#)

Joint activities were aimed to demonstrate the possibilities of mixed financing, namely: raising funds from business (Energy Seirvice Company (ESCO)), apartment owners and grant financing for the implementation of a project for the comprehensive thermal modernization of standard multi-apartment residential buildings in the city of Temirtau. Mixed funding included: SGP 6 and UNDP grant - for works related to building insulation (approximately KZT 20 million) as well as funds from private business raised through the mechanism of the ESCO contract (2.5 million tenge). At the same time, a private business - Ekoservice2030 LLP - received a subsidy in the form of a 10% reduction in the cost of the bank rate on a loan taken to implement this project (covered by UNDP-GEF project “Sustainable Cities for Low Carbon Development”). As result, the homeowners' expenses had been reduced and the period of pay off reduced to a couple of years. This project was included in the list of activities of the Comprehensive plan on measures to improve the environmental situation of the Karaganda region”, developed on behalf of RoK President. The replication potential for the scheme is limited however without a source to cover the reduction in the interest rate/

Results of SGP 6 project was presented at the Final UNDP Conference, <http://sustainable.eep.kz/international-conference/presentation/on-line-prezentatsiya-rezultatov-pilotnogo-demonstratsionnogo-proekta-po-kompleksnoy-termomodernizats.html>

95.), whereby there is a case of synergy (joint activity) and also the manager advising other SGP projects.

96. With UNDP/GEF SLM the project cooperated less than in the previous phase, as is appreciated by the NC, due to SLM focusing more on water issues, as opposed to the previous project on Pasture Management. But SLM is involved in terms of often reviewing grant proposals. advising etc.

97. There is much less (no) cooperation with UNDP/GEF BioFIN and UNDP/GEF Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) projects, even though thematically there is a good scope for that, e.g., in the part of Protected Area (PA) management, ecotourism, and even though the MTR specifically recommended synergy-building with BIOFIN. Here SGP is viewed more as a source of funding for the local organizations that they engage with rather than an opportunity for joint synergistic activities and learning lessons from SGP projects. This reduced the already narrow opportunities for policy- links.

Box 1: Synergy with SGP 6 - the pilot project in Temirtau

Joint activities were aimed to demonstrate the possibilities of mixed financing, namely: raising funds from business (Energy Seirvice Company (ESCO)), apartment owners and grant financing for the implementation of a project for the comprehensive thermal modernization of standard multi-apartment residential buildings in the city of Temirtau. Mixed funding included: SGP 6 and UNDP grant - for works related to building insulation (approximately KZT 20 million) as well as funds from private business raised through the mechanism of the ESCO contract (2.5 million tenge). At the same time, a private business - Ekoservice2030 LLP - received a subsidy in the form of a 10% reduction in the cost of the bank rate on a loan taken to implement this project (covered by UNDP-GEF project “Sustainable Cities for Low Carbon Development”). As result, the homeowners' expenses had been reduced and the period of pay off reduced to a couple of years. This project was included in the list of activities of the Comprehensive plan on measures to improve the environmental situation of the Karaganda region”, developed on behalf of RoK President. The replication potential for the scheme is limited however without a source to cover the reduction in the interest rate/

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98. There are other projects in the UNDP CO Portfolio which could be linked to SGP grants, like *Ecological education, and Improving Irrigation and Drainage Networks at local level*, etc
99. Similarly, the links with the IOs active in the same field, e.g., the FAO, EBRD, WB, ADB are not pursued. Only one of the interviewed grantees had established ties with the FAO itself (Private Foundation EL-

RUKHY, Development of private forest plantations in Zerendinsky district of Akmola region and local capacity in agroforestry). Based on the information available at least in the case of the multilateral development banks there was an attempt by the CPMU to engage, but unsuccessful: it will need facilitation from UNDP to establish these links.

3.2.5. Project finance and co-finance

100. As per ProDoc the budget was divided into three-year period according to the breakdown as follows: Year 1 - US\$916,162; Year 2-US\$981,162; Year 3 - US\$752,402. Actual financing of SGP 6 and GEF fund disbursements are provided in [Table 1](#). When the ProDoc was approved, it became clear that to set up the project and budget in Atlas, the budget should be divided into four one-year long periods, and that was done according to the following breakdown: US\$150,300 (2017); US\$1,110,000 (2018); US\$957,000 (2019); US\$432,426 (2020).
101. Due to the delays in approving grant projects and then delays in implementation, originally scheduled for mid-2018 but only approved in December 2018 and early 2019, budget revisions considered by September 2018. Then each year a set of budget revisions took place. The cost of monitoring the grant projects was deferred from 2018 to the latter part of 2019 with the completion of most of these grant projects.
102. The Project has demonstrated that appropriate financial controls are in place, notably through:
 - Project Budget Balance Report (both as generated by ATLAS and oneUNOPS) which shows the expenditure and commitments in the current year up to date, allowing UNDP to monitor and adaptively manage SGP 6 budgets;
 - manual monitoring of Project expenditures against budget lines to attain an in-depth understanding of the financial progress and the pending commitments; and
 - the involvement of UNOPS New York to whom detailed information is provided if there are any deviations before releasing the ASL (authorized spending limit) for that particular year.
103. At the same time, the inability to exactly mirror expenditure in ATLAS as it is recorded in OneUNOPS, have resulted in discrepancies in the figures, to be resolved at the project close: this situation is not unique to SGP 6 in Kazakhstan and based on the information available, UNOPS and UNDP at the level of Headquarters are working on resolving the issue.
104. The amount that remains to be spent is US\$239,576.39, which is feasible to spend well on the remaining activities related to Component 2 and completion of the few grants that are yet ongoing.
105. Sectoral experts provided a very valuable service, but their contracts ended mid-way due to financial constraints. Had they stayed till the end they could bring in a much-needed contacts with policy circles for replication, as one example. This is an example of the budget being tight, which many interviewees explained by the fact that its expensive country compared to many others that SGP works in, while SGP has to comply with the GEF recommended ration of sixty-five percent (65%) of the funding going to the grants.

Table 1 GEF Project Budget and Expenditures for Kazakhstan SGP 6 Project (in USD as of July 2021)

| Component | Budget ProDoc) | 2017 ²⁹ | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Total Disbursed | committed funds | % of approved total | % Of disbursed funds | | Total remaining for 2021 |
|---|------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| COMPONENT 1: Resilient rural landscapes of steppe and desert ecosystems for sustainable development and global environmental protection | 1,992,240 | 94,921 | 842,500 | 487,810 | 510,971 | 92,260 | | 2,028,462 | 76% | | | |
| Expenditure | | 130,011.24 | 870,971.52 | 528,789.67 | 337,131.97 | Q1: 46,477.44 | 1,913,381.84 | | | 96% | | |
| COMPONENT 2: Knowledge Generation and Management, Information-sharing and Dissemination of LL | 525,000 | 34,039 | 46,600 | 90,965 | 145,673 | 177,600 | | 494,877 | 19% | | | |
| Expenditure | | 168.17 | 55,122.65 | 52,857.04 | 380,298.71 | Q1: 5,517.27 | 493,963.84 | | | 94% | | |
| Project Management | 132,486 | 21,418 | 21,000 | 19,608 | 50,540 | 21,711 | | 134,277 | 5% | | | |
| Expenditure | | | 227.33 | 7,519.64 | -4,943.04 | | 2,803.93 | | | 91% | | |
| GEF total | 2,657,616 | 150,378 | 910,100 | 598,383 | 707,184 | 291,571 | | 2,657,616 | | | | |
| | | 130,179.41 | 926,321.50 | 589,166.35 | 712,487.64 | 51,994.71 | 2,410,149.61 | | | 91% | | |
| Total | 2,649,726 | 150,378 | 910,100 | 598,383 | 707,184 | 291,571 | | 2,657,616 | 100% | | -7,890 The amount revised exceeds the approved one. The budget revision at project end will correct | 239,576.39 |
| | 100% | 6% | 34% | 23% | 27% | 11% | | | | | | |
| | | 130,179 | 926,322 | 589,166 | 712,488 | 51,995 | 2,410,149.61 | | | 91% | | |
| Total (Cumulative Actual) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Annual Planned Disbursement (ProDoc) | | na | na | na | na | na | | | | | | |

²⁹ ProDoc was signed by the Government of Kazakhstan on 18 August 2017

106. Co-financing commitments for SGP 6 were estimated at US\$1.45 million at MTR (comprising around thirty percent (30%) of the co-financing commitments in the ProDoc of US\$4.702 million) and US\$ \$5,301 at the TE, i.e., over planned EoP amount (see [Table 2](#)).

Table 2: Co-Financing for Kazakhstan SGP 6 Project (as of September 2021)

| Co-financing (type/source) | UNDP own financing | | Grantees Organizations | | Partner Agency | | Total | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|----------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| | (Million USD) | | (Million USD) | | (Million USD) | | (Million USD) | |
| | Planned | Actual | Planned | Actual | Planned | Actual | Planned | Actual |
| Grants ³⁰ | | | | | | | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Loans/Concessions | | | | | | | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| · In-kind support | 1.100 | 1.938 | 0.790 | 0.588 | 0.650 | 0.052 | 2.540 | 2.578 |
| · Other | | | 0.790 | 1.274 | 1.372 | 1.449 | 2.162 | 2.723 |
| Totals | 1.100 | 1.938 | 1.580 | 1.862 | 2.022 | 1.501 | 4.702 | 5.301 |

3.2.6. M&E: design at entry, implementation and M&E overall assessment

107. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) design for SGP 6 Kazakhstan is provided in the CEO Endorsement Document. The design, while fairly generic and similar to other M&E designs from other GEF projects, required Annual site visits – at least one site visit per year. Due to COVID the NSC approved a revised plan of visiting each grant at least once overall.

108. With regards to the monitoring of targets in Outcome 1.3, the CPMU has been reliant on reporting from grantees on the number of hectares of land that have been reforested, mitigated from land degradation, amongst other targets. While this involves many of the grantees reporting areas of influence under SGP 6 grants, the CPMU is not sufficiently staffed to provide oversight on the reporting of progress of these targets.

109. Despite the presence of a global SGP database (<https://sgp.undp.org/projects-154.html>) as a tool to report the monitored progress of SGP projects, this website does not appear to be updated regularly for the purposes of monitoring progress of grant projects. The global database does have the required fields of information (such as grantee name, date of grant, grant amount, grantee address, key words of work performed, progress status, etc.) that would be useful for customized progress reports for SGP 6 grant projects in Kazakhstan.

110. In conclusion, the M&E systems of SGP 6 are **satisfactory** in consideration of the quality of the PIRs, the local consultant's field visit to 7 grant project sites, the verification of field conditions against information from PIRs) and grant project stakeholders, and the M&E improvements needed in using the global SGP database that could add efficiencies and effectiveness in reporting progress. Plus, innovative methods of M&E could be used more, like using third party monitoring

111. The ratings: **M&E at design- 4; M&E plan implementation - 4; Overall quality of M&E – 4**

³⁰ Includes all cash contributions

3.2.5. Performance of Implementing and Executing Entities

112. UNDP CO has performed overall well in providing management and operational support to the SGP Country Programme as outlined in the SGP 6 ProDoc. To this end, the UNDP Resident Representative (RR) assigned its Deputy Resident Representative, and the Head of the Energy and Environment Unit to serve as the SGP focal points, having a seat on the NSC: this has resulted in the UNDP CO having face-to-face meetings with the MoEGNR to provide information on the developmental results coming from the 49 SGP 6 grant projects. There were changes however regarding the position of the UNDP portfolio lead – SGP focal point – four (4) times, which could not have not affected the continuity of the potential benefits.
113. Operational support from the UNDP CO also includes the Resident Representative signing grant project grant agreements (on behalf of UNOPS), appointment letters of NSC members, managing local grant disbursements, Human Resources (HR) administration, as well as participation in field visits and grant evaluations for the Project. Moreover, the UNDP CO appears to take a proactive role in future planning and strategy of the SGP with discussions being encouraged between the CPMU and the MoEGNR to launch efforts for an SGP 7 using GEF funds. During the MTR mission in September 2019, the Minister of Energy (GEF focal point at the time) expressed their support for the continuation of the Kazakhstan SGP beyond the SGP 6.
114. As discussed earlier, there is a room for improvement in the extent of CPMU integration in UNDP: ensuring participation in meetings, including with updates flowing in both directions, especially with the projects with which there are overlapping thematic topics.
115. The UNDP GEF Global Coordinator for the SGP UCPs has been providing SGP 6 oversight that includes technical and managerial support to the CPMU and UNDP CO (with one visit).
116. The UNOPS has been providing the SGP 6 execution services including administrative, financial, legal, operational, procurement and project management for the SGP in compliance with the UNOPS SGP SOPs).
117. As mentioned, the MoEGNR supported the SGP 6, being represented at the NSC, with site visits, etc. The support did not go into more tangible efforts and results however, e.g., in the form of pursuing joint initiatives, even with the projects for which the Ministry is the implementer, let alone supporting the CPMU in reaching out to other government bodies.

3.2.6. Work Planning

118. The SGP 6 workplans were somewhat dependent on the responses by SGP 6 grant applicants to calls for proposals, with the first call for grant proposals being in October 2018 followed by a call for strategic grant proposals in July 2019. With approved proposals of the SGP 6 grantees complete with signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), the individual workplans of each grantee served as the basis for the annual SGP 6 work plans that also included substantial resources and time for grant project monitoring to cover the vast distances between grant projects in Kazakhstan.
119. Activities aimed at building synergies with the IOs, participation in conferences and alike organized by the Ministries to present SGP do not feature in the workplans.

3.2.7. Reporting

120. SGP 6 progress reporting has been **satisfactory**. This is based on an assessment of the quality of the PIRs which provide detailed descriptions of progress and issues identified for adaptive management under the section entitled “Ratings and overall assessment”. However, as mentioned in the MTR also, there is a need to augment the capacity of the CPMU to improve detailed progress reporting from each of the grant projects.

3.2.8. Communications

121. Many, but not all, grantees use various social media platforms to post updates on the projects they are implementing: this is of course more evident for the experienced NGOs. Approximately half of them is active on social media.³¹
122. As for the SGP 6 CPMU, it had outsourced its communication activities to the Public Foundation "Socio-Environmental Fund" (one of the 4 cross-thematic grants): this included maintenance and updates of the website (<http://gefsgp.kz>), Facebook (FB) page (<https://www.facebook.com/gef.sgp>) and the Instagram page (https://instagram.com/gefsgpkz?utm_medium=copy_link). The project team reports that 55 posts were prepared and posted on the activities of the SGP and projects on the SGP website and SGP FB and Instagram, in addition to the articles about projects published etc.), see **Annex 14: Articles on web portals Liven, blog yvision.kz and portal <http://ca-climate.org>**
123. The Public Foundation "Socio-Environmental Fund" was also tasked to raise awareness about the projects in other media. They visited almost all the projects, producing high quality video and photo materials. Some were posted on “Liven” (<https://livingasia.online/>), which is a web portal with a specialization in mostly environmental issues. The same applies to the other two mediums they used: blog portal <https://yvision.kz/explore> and <https://www.facebook.com/paketamnet> (by Michael Beliakov). These materials are interesting, but there are two issues of concern:
- a) to reach agronomists/farmers, perhaps other specialized media might have been useful, like <http://nasec.kz/en>; <https://atameken.kz/en/>; https://baraev.kz/o_centre/9-npczh-i-a-i-baraev.html; <https://margin.kz/>, <https://tengrinews.kz/>
 - b) the texts should have had more information on the economics of the projects, for the interested parties to understand the costs and benefits involved, and regulatory and other barriers if any.
124. Plus, UNDP has a webpage (www.undp-adaptation.org) which does not seem to include information from the SGP projects. The same applies to the SGP Global Page and Innovation platforms (: <https://sgp.undp.org/> and Innovation Library: <https://sgp.undp.org/innovation-library.html>)
125. Overall, it is clear that the CPMU needed a communications strategy, which would have identified the target audiences and the best mediums to pursue. Nonetheless, overall SGP 6 communications on its impact on local communities has been **satisfactory**.

³¹ Женский луч, Adal Niet, Crossroads, Necklace of Green Practices, ECO Kokshe, Birlik, Avalon, EcoObraz, El-RUKHI, Ugham m AgroUnionm, Istoki Dobra, Aral Tenizi, Incubator of Sustainable Development, Center for Promotion of Sustainable Development, Konsonar, Eko- Atameken, Zubr, Kassieti or Altai, Desenta.

3.2.9. *Risk Management*

126. The Risk Log in Atlas, maintained regularly, is more comprehensive than the list of the originally identified risks in the ProDoc (discussed earlier). The team could be commended on updating the log regularly.
127. The latest update of the Risk Log in Atlas includes also socio-economic risks.
128. The risks identified in the Atlas Risk Log are overall adequate, in conjunction with the actions taken to mitigate them. The risks associated with the efficiency of the functioning of the MSLAGs and MSLPDPs are the exception, where a more active intervention would have been warranted to identify the modes of interaction with the maslikhats and public councils. Similarly, the risks to financial sustainability of some of the grant projects should have ideally called for early attention and looking for solutions.

3.2.10. *Cross-cutting*

129. SGP 6 has made efforts to mainstream gender into its operations and grant projects. During the inception workshop, participants discussed the gender aspects of the project, leading to adjustments to the PRF to include gender indicators that enable Project implementers to ensure Project grant activities promote gender equality and provide opportunities for an appropriate proportion of women participants on these projects. To guide these adjustments, the CPMU also prepared a gender action plan during the Inception Workshop (contained in Annex 8 of the Inception Workshop report) with indicators within each component, outcome and output to ensure the gender issues were considered at all stages of project implementation
130. GEF SGP produced a final draft publication on gender issues related to implementation of the SGP 6, summarizing the results, lessons learned and recommendations for the next phase. Findings and recommendations of the gender publication have been used for the development of the gender action plan.
131. The Project had a gender consultant to monitor gender integration into SGP 6 implementation. There is also a gender focal point in the NSC to ensure inclusion of gender issues.
132. Gender equality has also been addressed in the SGP 6 through the following activities:
- Achieving fifty percent (50%) participation of women in all the SGP 6 discussions and consultations. This includes activities such as the participatory research and baseline assessment processes in each of the 7 focal landscapes where 100 out of 200 participants from NGOs, government agencies, farm households, and public social organizations were women;
 - Inclusion of gender aspects in the 7 landscape strategies in a separate section. This also included a document signed by the participants of advisory groups in focal landscapes clearly stating the consideration of gender aspects when forming the composition of the consultative groups and agreeing on including specific interests of women within the agendas;
 - Capacity development of the CBOs and NGOs on gender that included the participation of a gender specialist in all consultation meetings at the baseline assessment stage, where training was provided to participants on gender issues;

- Assistance by the gender expert to potential grant applicants on the inclusion of a gender component in their proposals- a key requirement for the selection of grant projects;
- Providing support to grant projects to strengthen women who are in lead roles in implementing grant projects; and
- Events to raise women's awareness and capacities. This included the National Rural Women Forum in Nur-Sultan in November 2018 with more than 200 female participants from different areas throughout Kazakhstan to exchange experiences on successfully implemented local grant projects of SGP.

133. As part of the revision of the PRF, based on the MTR, indicators were added or modified to capture gender aspects.

134. The SGP 6 has expended efforts to articulate and comprehend the issues of gender advancement and equality as it applies to grant projects. It has provided narratives in the PIRs on women being more impacted in rural areas in the agricultural sector due to climate change resulting in accelerated soil degradation and water scarcities.

135. And finally, the SGP 6 is also led by a team of competent women within the CPMU that includes the NPC, the Project Associate, along with 4 technical experts, including a gender specialist to monitor gender integration into SGP 6 implementation.

136. The SGP 6 benefitted from having a youth expert among the NSC members, but the approach on engaging youth was not as systematic as in the case of gender. The latter is true also in terms of social inclusiveness. For both cases, however, as in the case of gender the results were impressive (see Section 3.3.8).

137. The Ratings are as follows: UNDP implementation oversight: **satisfactory**; implementing partner execution: **satisfactory**; overall project implementation/execution: **satisfactory**

3.3. Project Results

3.3.1. Relevance

172. The SGP 6 Project is **relevant to the numerous policies and legislation** of Kazakhstan, which is signatory to several multilateral agreements in environment including the three major Rio 1992 agreements: Conventions on Biological Diversity; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), etc. The GoK has developed important and relevant legal and policy instruments that align with SGP 6 including:

- **Green Economy Transition Concept (2013).** Measures for the transition to a "green economy", according to the Concept, were to cover the following areas: sustainable use of water resources, development of sustainable and highly productive agriculture, energy conservation and energy efficiency, waste management system, reduction of air pollution and conservation and effective management of ecosystems. During 2013–2020, optimization of the use of resources and increasing the efficiency of environmental protection, as well as "green" infrastructure were pronounced as priorities. During 2020–2030 the priority was to

shift to transformation of the national economy on the efficient use of water, encouragement and stimulation of widespread introduction of renewable energy technologies, as well as the construction of facilities based on high standards of energy efficiency. During 2030–2050 the transition of the national economy to the principles of the "third industrial revolution" was to take precedent, based on sustainable use of natural resources. The concept became the basis for improving legislation, promoting new rules and procedures to achieve the set objectives;

- ***Strategic development plan of the RoK until 2025*** (2018) aimed at creating a new model of economic growth that will allow achieving the goals of the Third Modernization. The Strategy focuses on three key factors of economic growth: increasing the productivity and complexity of the economy, developing competencies, and attracting private capital. One of the main tasks is to encourage the leading role of private business and the development of the potential of the regions as a factor in maximizing growth. One of the main principles of the Strategy is to promote the active position of the regions and balanced regional development: from centralized planning and resource allocation to greater economic independence, responsibility, competition and cooperation between regions, creating conditions for the growth of local businesses;
- ***State Program for the development of the agro-industrial complex in the RoK 2017-2021*** (2017). The main goal of the State Program was to ensure the production of competitive agricultural products that are in demand in the markets;
- ***State program for the development of the tourism industry of the RoK 2019 - 2025*** (2019), including ecological tourism and agritourism, noting the trends in growth in these and the potential. The Program provides for the identification of mechanisms for the formation and development of SMEs in the regions involved in ecotourism and agritourism, the formation of methodological manuals and other training and guiding materials, the provision of advice to entrepreneurs opening guest houses, the identification of effective tools for information support and promoting guesthouses locally;
- ***Energy Efficiency Policy*** (2012), the Concept for the Development of the Fuel and Energy Complex of the RoK until 2030 and the laws of the RoK "On energy conservation and energy efficiency" and "On amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on energy conservation and energy efficiency". 22 regulatory legal acts have been adopted, providing, among other things, mechanisms for stimulating large industrial consumers of energy resources to save energy and improve energy efficiency;
- ***Development of the fish industry until 2030 in Kazakhstan*** (2020). It covers 4 main blocks for the successful development of fish farming in the country: improving legislation, providing high-quality fish seed material, and establishing feed production and staffing. As part of the program, it is planned to develop new mechanisms to reduce the financial burden on businesses involved in the development of the fishing industry. The Rules for the transfer of fishery reservoirs from fishing to fish farming have been approved, and a specific term for concluding an agreement for fish farming has been set for 49 years. It is planned to create breeding and genetic centers for 4 fish breeding zones, to build two new nurseries by 2022;
- ***Program on Development of Animal Husbandry 2018-2027;***
- ***The Program on crediting of development of cattle and small ruminants for meat production*** («Sibota»);
- ***Sectoral Program on sheep production development in Kazakhstan for 2021-2030;***

- **Government Decrees** on “*The approval of the Rules for subsidizing to reimburse part of the costs incurred by the subject of the agro-industrial complex with investment*” (2018) and “*The approval of the Rules for subsidizing the development of livestock breeding, increasing the productivity and quality of livestock products*” (2019);
- **Concept for the development of the National system for the dissemination of knowledge in the field of the agro-industrial complex for 2021-2025**; and
- **Law on Pasture Management, Law on producing organic products (2015), Law on Supporting the Use of Renewable Energy Sources (with amendments and additions as of 01.07.2021), etc.**

173. The SGP 6 is **relevant to GEF programmes**, specifically:

- BD-4 Program 9: Increased area of production landscapes and seascapes that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into management. The grant projects in the Indus Delta are strongly linked to this programme;
- CCM-2 Program 4: Accelerated adoption of innovative technologies and management practices for GHG emission reduction and carbon sequestration. The grant projects on energy efficient stoves throughout all landscapes of SGP 6, and the compressed earth bricks provide strong links to this programme; and
- LD-1 Program 1: Agro-ecological intensification.

174. The SGP 6 **is relevant to UNDP country program**. Initially it addressed UNDP Country program Document (CPD) 2016-2020, *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*. Due to approval of the UNDP CPD 2021-2025 the project contributes to

- Outcome 4: By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, in particular most vulnerable, benefit from increased climate resilience, sustainable management of environment and clean energy, and sustainable rural and urban development, more specifically - Output 4.1: Solutions developed, and resources mobilized for more sustainable use of ecosystems for the improvement of the well-being of local communities and nature and related strategic plan; and*
- Outcome 2. Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development.*

175. The SGP 6 is relevant to **Partnership Framework for Development, Kazakhstan, 2016-2020** and **UN Sustainable Development Partnership framework for Kazakhstan 2021-2025** (in particular to one of the thematic areas, namely- *Inclusive Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability*).

176. The project is **relevant in terms of addressing several SDGs** including: 1 (No poverty), 2 (Zero hunger), 3 (Good health and well-being), 4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender equality), 6 (Clean water and sanitation), 7 (Affordable and clean energy), 8 (Decent work and economic growth), 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), 10 (Reduced inequalities), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), 12 (Responsible consumption and production), 13 (Climate action), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land), 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

177. For Kazakhstan, most rural areas have mostly women engaged in agricultural activities while their husbands seek work in the cities. Thus, the SGP 6 has emphasized that women experience increased

pressure in combining domestic chores, care for children and agricultural work. As such, the **involvement of women** is crucial in the decision-making process for rural-based the SGP 6 projects and their approaches to sustainable agro-practices, adoption of current agricultural activities to changes in climatic conditions, and the development of local production chains. More importantly, women are better positioned to deliver environmental sustainability objectives for agro-ecosystems and reduce their economic vulnerability through improved sustainable agricultural management and generation of sustainable incomes.

178. The extent of **innovation** is not part of the Selection criteria for the grants. This has been a long-time discussion point within the SGP and it seems that different countries have followed different approaches. Under the SGP 6 in Kazakhstan there are highly innovative projects. Some were submitted to the SGP 6 as pilots supported by the relevant Ministries, and some emerged locally. But there are some of the others where the extent of the innovation could be questioned, e.g., in the case of the replacement of the school lighting with energy efficient lamps. The latter could be innovative to that locality (but the lamps are available on the market, and the Government has supported large scale programs, and information campaign several years ago). In the latter case, there is no question about the local benefits. There are questions however about the relative merits of using GEF funding for such a project as opposed of funding a genuinely innovative idea. SGP has defined the “innovativeness” if there is any of the following: *i. New way of thinking, ii. New way of organizing community resources, iii. New ways to connect (between communities and with markets), iv. Original product / service / model of delivery, v. Identifying and powering local innovators.*³² This definition is quite vague and for example in the described case there could be arguments both in favour or against it being “innovative”. It is advisable that the NSC adopts an agreed approach to this, but in consultation with UNOPS and UNDP.

3.3.2. GEF Additionality

179. There are only a few funding agencies that finance projects implemented by the NGOs/CBOs at the local level related to environment and climate change. The above is true also for the UNDP/GEF projects. From that point of view the SGP program fills an important niche, to complement the larger reform efforts by the GoK supported by the IOs and bilateral aid agencies. From that point of view the SGP program fills an important niche, to complement the larger reform efforts by the GoK supported by the IOs and bilateral aid agencies.
180. However, there has been increasingly more engagement by these large multilateral financing institutions, IOs and bilateral aid agencies in climate change adaptation; as for mitigation – this was high on their agenda for a long time. The recent joint initiative by EBRD/FAO on “*Accelerating adoption of climate technologies in Kazakhstan’s agrifood sector*” could serve as an example. Similarly, the WB has recently started the [Sustainable Livestock Development Program-for-Results](#) 2021 to 2025, which aims to facilitate a profound transformation of the beef sector in Kazakhstan to foster sustainability and climate-change mitigation throughout. It addresses issues of land degradation, biodiversity conservation, pollution control, and mitigation of Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions along the value chain. ADB has large scale commitment to support green finance, and boost agricultural productivity in the country, etc. The additionality could be demonstrated much stronger if there were synergistic initiatives with these agencies, e.g., modalities found for the SGP grants in some cases serving as pilots for the large-scale reforms.

³² SGP: SGP Annual Monitoring ReportSurvey 2020-2021

3.3.3. Effectiveness

181. This section provides an overview of the overall project results and assessment of the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency, country ownership, mainstreaming, sustainability, and impact of the SGP 6. In addition, evaluation ratings for overall results, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability are also provided against the Project PRF³³. For [Table 4](#) the “status of target achieved” is color-coded according to the scheme in **Error! Reference source not found..**

Box 2 Colour-coding guide for the rating the “status of target achieved”

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Green: Completed, indicator shows successful achievements | Yellow: Indicator shows expected completion by the EOP | Red: Indicator shows poor achievement – unlikely to be completed by project closure |
|---|--|---|

182. All the targets were achieved. In three cases the result is close to the target or expected to be reached by the EOP

Component 1: Resilient rural and peri-urban landscapes of steppe and desert ecosystems for sustainable development and global environmental protection

Outcome 1.1 Community Organizations in multi-stakeholder partnerships formulate and implement adaptive management plans to strengthen socio-ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes based on conservation, of biodiversity, sustainable management of land and water resources and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

183. For the indicator “[Number of baseline participatory landscape assessments for targeted steppe and desert landscapes](#)” the target of seven (7) participatory baseline assessments was met (conducted in 2019)³⁴. And against the indicator “[Number of strategies to achieve greater social and ecological resilience](#)”, seven (7) strategies were developed. Each landscape strategy includes objectives, baseline and target indicators; identified problems and threats; a set of measures for reduced land degradation and desertification, biodiversity conservation as well as mitigation and climate adaptation measures aiming at improving the well-being of local communities; a list of priority thematic areas that can be supported by the SGP 6 grants; grant eligibility criteria; and key focus groups (such as women, youth, disabled people. These are of satisfactory quality, based on highly participatory assessment. What was missing however was the comparative analysis with the regional (oblast) development plans to identify the areas of overlap, i.e., the areas where the akimats would have potentially allocated budgets, and the ones that were outside their scope. The “Barriers’ assessments to some extent covered this, but this was not exactly a comparative analysis of the two documents, and was done towards the end of the phase, as was discussed earlier;

184. There is no analysis of meeting any of the targets of the landscape strategies as yet.

Outcome 1.2, Multi-stakeholder landscape management groups, local policy-makers and sub-national advisors organized in landscape policy platforms discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned

³³ Evaluation ratings are on a scale of 1 to 6.
³⁴ Source: Final report of Decenta, 7 reports with results of baseline assessments in each target landscape

185. For the indicator [*Number of multi-stakeholder governance policy platforms which include participatory landscape / planning and adaptive management in the landscape*](#). Seven (7) multi-sectoral policy dialogue platforms in each target oblasts/landscapes have been established with the help of the already established seven (7) MSLAGs already established and operational in each target region since 2019. Given the ineffectiveness of online format (NB: this is the assessment of the grantee, that conducted the training), this was pursued with off-line meetings. For each target region, a list of relevant and specific questions for MSLPDP has been developed and discussed ³⁵, but there is no assessment whether and to what extent were the tasks and opportunities pursued and achieved as yet: indeed, the whole process was affected by the COVID situation. For example, they were expected to create online databases of successful pilot initiatives of SGP projects, and this has not happened. The extent of the participation of local regional akimats and government institutions is limited and varies (none in Almaty region for example). As argued earlier, there is a certain lack of clarity in terms of mandate. For that reason, it is not entirely straightforward whether these are “functioning”, as is the wording of the target, i.e., beyond the first few meetings, even though the PIR claims that the “*Dialogue platforms proved effective in initiating a meaningful and fruitful discussion between the government representatives and NGOs/CBOs in the regions providing a secure channel for voicing their concerns*”. Clearly there should have been a link to the public councils and clearer mandate.
186. Existing barriers to replication and upscaling of green technologies were discussed and summarized in the project's analytical report on GEF SGP's practices/technologies replication potential (see Outcome 1.4).
187. Out of forty-nine (49) CBOs/NGOs supported by GEF SGP, twenty-five (25) CBOs are led by women and implementation of four (4) SGP grant projects were led by women as project managers but from male-headed CBOs. Altogether, this sums up to twenty-nine (29) women-led CBOs/projects or fifty-nine percent (59%). And out of 59 members of MSLAGs fifty-one percent (51%) are women.

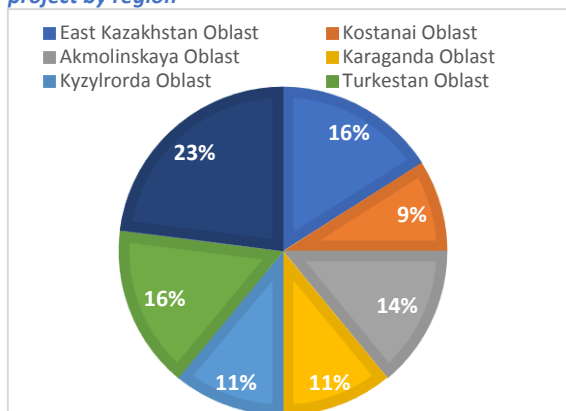
Outcome 1.3 *Community organizations in target eco-systems build their adaptive management and organizational capacities by designing and implementing community and/or landscape level projects to sustain and revitalize biodiversity and ecosystem function; improve productivity and sustainability of production systems; develop viable livelihood alternatives; and strengthen formal and non-formal landscape governance institutions and mechanisms*

188. The target for the indicator “[*Number and typology of community-based projects, implemented by CBOs and NGOs in partnership with others in the targeted landscapes, as outputs to achieve landscape level outcomes*](#)” was met with 49 community-level projects (100% of EoP target), in line with the respective landscape strategies and were designed to achieve their landscape level outcomes. These were reviewed and approved by the NSC (from the reviewed 92), totalling US\$1,537,297. Four (4) cross-thematic grant projects include:
- A project on MSLPDPs –this was being finalized at the time of writing this report;
 - A project on capacity building of the SGP 6 grantees, exchange/field visits (completed);

³⁵ (1) presenting generated results of completed/ongoing GEF SGP projects, (2) discussing how cooperation of various landscape level stakeholders can be strengthened and (3) searching for mutually beneficial mechanisms for further promotion and replication of GEF SGP successfully tested approaches

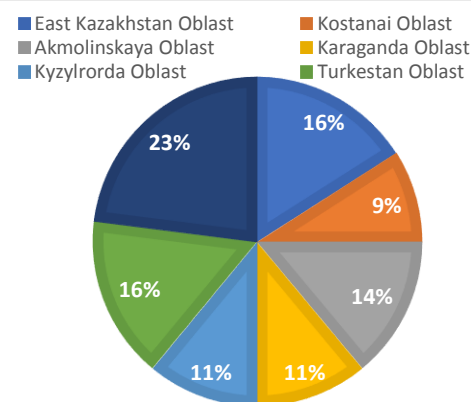
- A project on the promotion of public awareness of GEF SGP and its grantees in social/print/online media, photo-stories and videos of grant projects, compilation of lessons learned, case studies and a catalogue of best practices: it was being finalized at the time of the TE; and
- A project on baseline assessment completed in 2018.

189. The projects are unevenly distributed across the regions of Kazakhstan (see [Figure 4 Distribution of the project by region](#))



Source: Association of Ecological organizations of Kazakhstan report on "Analytical report on a comparative analysis of the current state programs and projects of the PF-6 SGP in order to develop recommendations for the development of the activities of the GEF SGP program."

Figure 4 Distribution of the project by region



Source: Association of Ecological organizations of Kazakhstan report on "Analytical report on a comparative analysis of the current state programs and projects of the PF-6 SGP in order to develop recommendations for the development of the activities of the GEF SGP program."

190.). The smallest number of projects is being implemented in the Kostanay region. It is unclear what is the reason for this, but not likely related to the SGP-6 activities. Rather this could be a reflection of the small number of local CBOs existing and capable of writing grant proposals there.

191. As a snapshot:

- new pilot sites have been created in each focus region and existing pilot sites have been strengthened using various approaches and technologies, which make it possible to demonstrate to stakeholders the benefits of green technologies;
- projects cover various focus groups: small and medium-sized farms, private households, schools, colleges, social facilities (centers for people with disabilities, crisis centers for women, centers for disabled children, etc.), the multi-apartment housing sector, dacha cooperatives, fishing associations, rural cooperatives, hunting islands, protected areas, etc.; which has made possible to demonstrate the efficiency of the implemented technologies at various sites for different focus groups;
- each thematic project portfolio includes different approaches. For example, the projects on animal husbandry cover distant pasture grazing, sustainable pasture rotation schemes, various approaches in feed production, introduction of digital technologies in the livestock monitoring system, etc. (see **Error! Reference source not found.**); and

- each project implemented educational and informational work,

Table 3: Taxonomy of the grant projects

| Thematic Area | Taxonomy |
|---|---|
| 1. Assistance in the reduction of land degradation processes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and promotion of new innovative practices in agriculture, which includes projects aimed at: development and dissemination of resource-saving approaches, overcoming the risks associated with climate change and adaptation to climate change in Kostanay, Karaganda regions; restoration of degraded irrigated lands through the introduction of crop rotations, improvement of soil fertility, comprehensive reclamation and restoration of soil fertility of arable lands in Almaty and Turkestan regions; promotion of organic agriculture issues at the local level in Almaty and East Kazakhstan regions; Restoration of degraded irrigated lands through the reuse of drainage and waste waters in the semi-desert zone of the Balkhash district of the Almaty region. • Introduction and promotion of new effective approaches in pasture management, which includes projects aimed at: restoration of pasture landscapes, development of a forage base and an increase in distant areas in Turkestan, Kyzylorda, Karaganda and East Kazakhstan regions; creation of a digital monitoring system for the rational use of pastures in the Akmola region; increasing the productivity of degraded pastures, through the use of new innovative approaches, the introduction of effective methods of crop rotation in the fields in the Kostanay and Turkestan regions; change in management methods in Almaty and East Kazakhstan regions. |
| 2. Mitigation and adaptation from / to impacts associated with climate change. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and promotion of issues related to energy efficiency, which includes projects aimed at: creation of pilot demonstration sites based on social facilities and educational facilities in Kostanay, Karaganda, Kyzylorda, East Kazakhstan and Akmola regions; testing innovative financial mechanisms to improve energy efficiency in multi-apartment residential buildings in the Karaganda region; introduction of renewable energy sources and increasing energy efficiency measures through the promotion of green initiatives in the Turkestan and Almaty regions; an introduction of energy efficient technologies in rural areas of Almaty and East Kazakhstan regions. • Introduction and promotion of issues related to the improvement of waste management, which includes projects aimed at: development of schemes for separate collection and disposal of waste in condominiums in the Turkestan region; development of schemes for the rational management of waste in rural areas in the Almaty region. |
| 3. Reducing threats to biodiversity conservation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity, which includes projects aimed at development of forest nurseries and capacity building in the field of agroforestry in Akmola and Almaty regions: restoration of medicinal herbs by the method of grass substitution at summer cottages in the Kostanay region; improvement of the monitoring system on the territories of hunting farms in the Akmola region. • Introduction of sustainable methods for the development of beekeeping in Akmola and Almaty regions; • Development of a sustainable model of environmental youth education in the Akmola region; • conservation of fish resources, development of fish farming, and capacity building of local communities in Kyzylorda |

192. The target (50,000 ha) (PIR page 26) for the indicator Increased area under management for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use was widely exceeded with 2,896,303.5 ha under biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The reported ha coverage stems from eight (8) completed community-based grant projects:³⁶

- Karaganda region: Area directly impacted by the community-based ecotourism project at the equipped recreation sites (Falcon Mountains) of the Yereimentau branch of the Buiratau State National Nature Park totals 7,830 ha, of which 82 ha are the PA core protection zone.
- Kyzylorda region: Two grant projects on sustainable fish production by means of: (1) creating an all-year round operational hatchery jointly with a private sector partner to ensure a sustainable supply of fish for export production as well as for replenishment of fish stocks in

³⁶ Paras 191-202 rely heavily on PIR, in terms of the actual results in quantitative terms. Verifications were sought during the interviews and site visits, but the Consultants' team is not equipped with the resources to verify these calculations independently

adjacent freshwater lakes of 3,295 ha in the Aral Sea region; and (2) piloting a cage fish farming in the lower reaches of the Kokaral dam (the Aral Sea) for sustainable fish production and replenishment of fish stocks in five (5) freshwater lakes (Karashalan, Domalak, Tuschy, Aimeken, Laikol) covering the area of 72,673 ha.

- *Akmola region*: (1) A grant project on improving wildlife inventory, monitoring and management completed a comprehensive professional training program for 170 rangers of 33 hunting concession areas of a total area of 2,664,005 ha (direct project impact); (2) A grant project that promoted a private (community) based approach to forest management with elements of agroforestry at an area of 0.5 ha; (3) An area of 7,800 ha directly impacted by a grant project on sustainable bee management through establishment of 15 bigger hives and construction of a carbon greenhouse for keeping bees indoor for winter.
- *Almaty region*: A grant project that demonstrated sustainable beekeeping and honey production approaches at 18 pilot sites covering 140,400 ha of steppe and semi-desert ecosystems in the Alakol district
- *Kostanai region*: A network of 7 pharmacy gardens sites at schools and dachas established contributing to conservation of medical herbs in adjacent forests in an area of about 300 ha.

193. The target for the indicator *Increased area of agricultural land under sustainable agro-ecological practices and systems that increase productivity and decrease land degradation* was met with 81,229 ha under sustainable agro-ecological practices and systems, with:

- *Almaty region*: geobotanical assessment of pastures, development of three pasture rotation schemes and introduction of an electronic pasture management system for a rural okrug--all components totalling 53,000 ha; processing of agricultural waste generated from 40 ha to produce bio-humus & production of bio-fertilizers; sustainable and effective methods of growing vegetables on 18 ha of crop land and 1 ha of greenhouse, of sorting, cooling and transporting vegetable products to supermarkets (improved market access); introduction of bio-fertilizers and phosphogypsum on 75 ha of crop lands.
- *Turkestan region*: 1,000 of severely degraded pastures near a pilot rural settlement rehabilitated, 2,200 ha of distant pastures are used sustainable with provision of adequate living conditions for herders, 100 ha under cultivated hayfields for fodder production; 2,242 ha of degraded lands restored by growing forage, legumes, oilseeds and applying crop rotation that enhance soil fertility & promotion of agro-tourism; 60 ha of fenced cultivated pastures containing mixtures of perennial legumes and cereals (alfalfa, sainfoin, ryegrass) under the "green" cover of grain fodder crops (barley, rye, triticale) were created.
- *Kostanai region*: crop rotation on 1,720 ha.
- *East-Kazakhstan region*: moving the community livestock to distant pastures of 850 ha, planting forage crops (wheatgrass, sainfoin, Sudanese herb) on 235 ha and reduced pressure on near village pastures of 936 ha.
- *Akmola region*: A digital monitoring system for livestock grazing introduced on 5,301 ha of pastures and 13,451 ha of degraded pastures restored.

194. The target for the indicator *Increased area under climate-adaptive practices* was achieved with 11,442 ha under climate adaptive practices with the following completed community-based project activities:

- *East-Kazakhstan region*: 145 ha of degraded lands sowed with forage and legume crops plus organic fertilizers applied on 5 ha.

- *Karakanda region*: 995 ha of degraded lands sowed with forage drought resistant crops (wheatgrass, Sudanese herb), organic fertilizer (bio-humus) applied on 0.27 ha, a demonstration sites of Sudanese herb created at 0,17 ha, 450 ha of degraded pastures restored using snow retention, wind protection belts created at 9 ha and replication of fodder production replicated at 845 ha; 4,000 ha of pastures inundated by means of flood water collection & use; estuary irrigation and sowing of wheatgrass applied on 40 ha of hayfields.
- *Kostanai region*: demonstration of drip irrigation, agrofibre, hydrogel, etc. on 2 ha plot at a countryside farming area for increased yield of vegetables, fruits and berries.
- *Kzylorda region*: sustainable seasonal use of 1,200 ha of pastures and 10 ha of arable lands under forage crop (alfa alfa).
- *Turkestan region*: successfully piloted hydroponic cultivation of fodder crops currently enough to substitute 2,625 ha of pastures for livestock grazing in desert and semi-desert areas; alfalfa crop rotation introduced on 20 ha resulting in restoration of degraded irrigated lands.
- *Almaty region*: successfully piloted an innovative water-saving irrigation technology for rice cultivation reusing drainage and collector waters covering an area of 1,094 ha of degraded lands in the semi-desert zone of the Balkhash district; five different approaches to sustainable agroforestry in combination with drip irrigation were successfully tested in the steppe zone at demonstration sites of 2 ha.

195. The target for the indicator *“Percentage of beneficiaries disaggregated by gender with increased incomes as a result of sustainable and/or alternative practices”* (for the problems related to this indicator see Section 3.1.6) Out of total number of beneficiaries (including both direct & indirect), the percentage of beneficiaries with increased incomes that adopted sustainable agroecological and land management practices/approaches in six (6) selected LD projects (or 31.5% of all OP-6 financed LD projects) ranges from 6 to 75%. The average estimate is 36% and the median (the average of two middle values in this case) is 39%. Given the scattered nature of collected data, the median value represents the most accurate estimate. Overall, the project came close to achieving its EoP target of 40% (or 97.5% of EoP)³⁷. The percentage of increased income of target beneficiaries as a result of applied sustainable agro-practices ranges from 2 to 80%, with a median value of 20%. In monetary terms, this value ranges from US\$ 4 to US\$ 1,224, a median of US\$ 140 and an average of US\$ 349 per person annually. The percentage of women from the total number of beneficiaries with increased income is equal to 42% on average, with a median value of 44.5%.

196. The target for the indicator *Number of energy efficient and renewable technologies piloted successfully* was surpassed with 13 EE and RE technologies piloted since the project start (162.5% of the target).

Outcome 1.4 Successful technologies, practices and systems from community-based initiatives are replicated and promoted for up-scaling by multi-stakeholder partnerships using knowledge and lessons learned from identifying, testing and adapting community innovations for landscape and resource management

³⁷ Source: Rapid Economic Assessment of Six SGP KZ OP-6 community-based projects on sustainable agropractices/land management.

197. The target for the indicator [*Number of new technologies, practices or systems successfully replicated and up-scaled beyond the landscapes*](#) was achieved with Six (6) technologies tested in GEF 6 successfully replicated beyond the seven target landscapes

- Four (4) technologies (EE greenhouses using polycarbonate, photodiode lighting, drip irrigation and agro-fibre) have been successfully replicated in a social center for persons with mental illnesses in the Michurin village, Pavlodar region (outside the target landscapes) based on experience and lessons learned of a completed grant project in the Akmola landscape on demonstrating the effectiveness of an integrated approach to the use of energy efficient technologies (including an EE greenhouse) in social facilities for vulnerable people. Source: Final report of Private Charitable Foundation "Adal Niet Astana"
- Two (2) technologies, i.e., installation of 3 energy efficient furnaces at guest houses and a small-scale solar station for provision of uninterrupted power supply in remote mountain rural areas of East Kazakhstan (outside of target steppe and desert ecosystems), as reported by the NGO Boomerang

Component 2- Knowledge Generation and Management, Information-sharing and Dissemination of Lessons Learned

Outcome 2.1- Knowledge products and lessons learned are systematized, organized and disseminated for policy recommendations

198. The target for the indicator [*Number of knowledge products \(case studies, pamphlets, advocacy campaigns\)*](#) was achieved. 29 lessons learned and 3 case studies produced and 4 case studies will be finalized by September 2021. Out of 29 documented lessons learned, 8 lessons learned are on climate change, 10 - on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and 11 on mitigating land degradation and adaptation to climate change.

- Some Climate change-related highlights include:
 - a. setting up a viable system of separate waste collection at the level of a condominium comprising of 8 multi-storey apartment buildings, engaging private waste recycling companies, creating a revolving fund for accumulation of waste generated income for EE investments and upgrades in the condominium (see **Error! Reference source not found.**);
 - b. demonstrating an integrated approach to energy efficiency in public buildings (secondary schools) including technical solutions - energy audit and EE light fixtures, organizational - setting up an energy management system at pilot schools, and institutional - development of city energy management documentation (PIR page 39)
 - c. an integrated approach to the construction and management of energy efficient greenhouses serving the needs of public schools, colleges, social facilities/institutions.
- Some Biodiversity -related highlights include:
 - a. a successful partnership of CBOs with a private partner in demonstrating sustainable fish farming practices (hatchery and cage farming) in the Aral Sea region, and active engagement of the regional and local administrations (akimats and department of natural resources), members of the Chamber of Entrepreneurs resulting in the inclusion of the project's demonstrated approaches/practices (cage farming, fry breeding workshops, fish

- restocking in natural lakes) to the regional fishery development plan for 2021-2030 with earmarked public funding and subsidy opportunities (see [Box 3](#));
- b. sustainable beekeeping and honey production in the vicinity of production (agricultural) landscapes as a co-benefit to agricultural producers (increased crop yields) and as a good job opportunity and sustainable source of income for the youth and marginal groups;
 - c. creation of pharmacy gardens at public schools and dachas as a means to conserve medical herbs (including Red Book or endangered species) in forests and grow a cultivated alternative, and setting up family health schools for herbal education and knowledge sharing.
- Some Land Degradation related highlights include:
 - a. piloting a digital livestock grazing control system that includes elements of distant monitoring, digital borders of public pasture areas, notifications and reporting of violations of an approved pasture use plan of a community;
 - b. the use of drainage and collector waters for rice irrigation as a means of water saving in semi-desert areas and adaptation practice;
 - c. demonstrating the effectiveness of cooperation of small farmers (farmers' cooperative) growing vegetables for market access and supply chain management.

3.3.4. Overall Outcome

Project Objective: *To build the socio-ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes of Kazakhstan by securing global environmental benefits from community-based management of biodiversity, ecosystem function, and land, water, and biomass resources*

199. With regards to the key objective-level targets of SGP 6, the Project was aiming to achieve the following by the EoP: 70,000 ha under resilient landscape management whose biodiversity, agro-ecosystems, and sustainable livelihoods are protected; at least fifty (50) CBOs strengthened in technical, organizational and financial capacities; at least 30% of CBOs are led by women; at least 8 EE technologies piloted successfully in 7 sites; and total number of direct beneficiaries - 15,000 persons.
200. For the Indicator *“Area under resilient landscape management whose biodiversity, agro-ecosystems, and sustainable livelihoods are protected”* the target was surpassed with ha with (a) 2,896,303.5 ha under biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; (b) 81,329 ha under sustainable agro-ecological practices and systems, of which additional 9,876 ha have been generated this reporting period by project end; and (c) 11,442 ha under climate adaptive practices. About 940,000 ha have received direct impact and 2.33 million ha of indirect impact (including agricultural lands, PAs and buffer zones) since the beginning of the SGP programme in 1998.
201. For the Indicator *Number of community organizations and associations and direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender, whose resilience is strengthened by experimenting, innovating and learning through landscape planning and management processes in the landscape* the Target was exceeded as reported:

- 81 organizations (162 % of the target) including 69 CBOs and associations, i.e., GEF SGP grantees and partners in grant projects, had strengthened their capacities since project start. Out of 49 -supported projects (including 46 completed and 3 in the final stages of implementation), 29 CBOs/community-based projects (or 59%) are led by women.
- As of June 30, 2021, the total cumulative number of direct beneficiaries that were actively engaged in implementation of GEF SGP projects was 45,307 persons (PIR page 10). Thus, the project exceeded the target of 15,000 persons as direct project beneficiaries (211% of the target).

202. Exchange visits contributed to lessening this “competition” culture among the CBOs/NGOs for grants and to capacity building, and were beneficial in terms of replication:

- A solar thermal system was replicated in two secondary schools, two state universities and the Kazakhstan Car Assembly Plant of JSC "Asia auto" (in a car assembly workshop) in East-Kazakhstan region with the partners' own financial resources (public and private);
- A system of separate waste collection (including a creation of a revolving fund) at the level of a condominium comprising of 8 multi-storey apartment buildings have been successfully tested and used by the Extended Producer/Importer Responsibility (EPR) Operator in Kazakhstan³⁸ (as a basis for replication in regions);
- Several CC adaptive agricultural practices/technologies in desert ecosystems have been successfully tested by Public Association "EcoObraz" (Coordination and Information Center for Environmental Education) and replicated by its partners in Karaganda region: two secondary schools (drip irrigation and hydrogel), a private greenhouse (drip irrigation, hydrogel, agrofibre, worm farming and vermicomposting, hydroponic fodder production), individual plots (drip irrigation), partner NGO Eco-Museum in Karaganda town (bio humus production), Young Naturalists Station in Karaganda town (bio humus production, drip irrigation, hydroponic fodder cultivation, hydrogel). Source: Final project report of PA EcoObraz; and
- Public Association "Aral Tenezi" has piloted a fish caging approach to fish farming in the Aral Sea region (Kzylorda landscape) as a way to conserve and restock fish resources in natural lakes and support sustainable fish production in the region. As a result, a Department of Natural Resources of Kzylorda Oblast included a cage farming technology that was successfully demonstrated by the Aral Tenizi project in the regional fish sector development plan for 2021-2030 with earmarked government funding. Source: Final project report of PA "Aral Tenizi".

203. The project on capacity building and training for GEF SGP grantees and project partners that started in April 2020 had to postpone all training events to fall 2020-winter 2021 due to the COVID- There were both offline (5 training) and 4 training online, with the latter more effective (PIR). 45 organizations, 433 people including 285 women directly (and 277 including 181 women indirectly) benefited from capacity building - workshops, training, exchange visits, according to the latest PIR. Training topics included: effective project management, commercial/business aspects, communication with stakeholders, project risks management, communication strategy. The interview analysis with grantees has shown that NGO leaders and staff want more training to improve their skills in project management and commercialization of their product/services.

³⁸ <https://recycle.kz/en/about-2/>

204. For the Indicator *Increased use of renewable energy or energy efficiency technologies at community level* target was surpassed_a total of 13 EE and RE technologies have been piloted since the project start (162.5% of the target). Completed CC/CW grant projects reported the reduction of 1,529.14 tons of CO₂e using the methodology on calculation of GHG emissions reduction annexed to the project document. The difference vs the originally estimated reduction stems from the fact that the methodology assumed 10 grant projects on CC (5 – RE, 5-EE): RE – wind energy, while EE included upgraded lighting fixtures and EE furnaces. In reality, the program had 14 CC projects and the majority were on EE. Of 14 EE projects, two projects in Karaganda region (upgrading lighting fixtures in 6 secondary schools and implementing an integrated approach to upgrading a 5-storey multi-apartments building (50 apartments)) reported a reduction of 732,41 tons of CO₂e, which is half of the reported amount. Source: Final reports of CC/CW projects with calculated emissions reductions.

Table 4 Project-level achievements against SGP 6 Project targets

| |
|--|
| This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals: please see page 28, above |
| This project will contribute to the following country outcome included in the UNDAF/Country Programme Document: <i>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.</i> |
| This project will be linked to the following output of the UNDP Strategic Plan: <i>Output 1. Selected settlements have adopted integrated models for sustainable growth</i> <i>Output 3: Natural resources are protected, accounted for and integrated in national and/or sub-national development planning</i> <i>Output 4. National and sub-national institutions have strengthened capacities in environmental governance in protected territories and adjacent settlements</i> |

| | Objective and Outcome Indicators | Baseline | Mid-term Target | End of Project Target | End of Project Result | | Comment | Rating |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--------|
| Project Objective: Project Objective: To build the socio-ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes of Kazakhstan by securing global environmental benefits from community-based management of biodiversity, ecosystem function, and land, water, and biomass resources | Area under resilient landscape management whose biodiversity, agro-ecosystems, and sustainable livelihoods are protected | About 940,000 ha have received direct impact and 2.33 million ha of indirect impact (including agricultural lands, PAs and buffer zones) since the beginning of the SGP programme in 1998 | 25,000 hectares | 70,000 hectares | 2,989,074.5 ha (PIR page 5) ha under resilient landscape management | | See Para 199 | 6 |
| | Number of community organizations and associations and direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender, whose resilience is strengthened by experimenting, innovating and learning through landscape planning and management processes in the landscape | 285 community organizations whose experience has been strengthened through implementation of GEF SGP-funded projects in target landscapes in previous GEF SGP programme cycles | 30 | At least 50 organizations strengthened in technical, organizational and financial capacities At least 30% of community-based organizations are led by women. Total number of direct beneficiaries - 15,000 persons | Target exceeded as in PIR with (a) 81 organizations (162 % of the target) including 69 CBOs strengthened and (b) 31,595 direct beneficiaries | | See Para 200 <i>There is a problem with the indicator and report: "resilience built" and "direct beneficiaries" are treated as the same. (discussed in Section 3.1.6)</i> | 4 |
| | Increased use of renewable energy or energy efficiency technologies at community level | 15 renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies successfully tested in previous SGP phase | At least 4 energy efficient technologies piloted successfully in 7 pilot sites | At least 8 energy efficient technologies piloted successfully in 7 pilot sites [Added as per Inception report]: | (1) Target achieved and even surpassed with a total of 13 energy efficient and RE technologies have been piloted since the project start (162.5% of the target). (2) Completed CC/CW grant projects reported the reduction of 1,529.14 | | Para 203 | 6 |

| | Objective and Outcome Indicators | Baseline | Mid-term Target | End of Project Target | End of Project Result | | Comment | Rating |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|--------|
| | | | | 795.6 tons of CO2e over three years | tons of CO2e using the methodology on calculation of GHG emissions reduction annexed to the project document. | | | |
| Component 1: Resilient rural and peri-urban landscapes of steppe and desert ecosystems for sustainable development and global environmental protection | | | | | | | | |
| Outcome 1.1 Community Organizations in multi-stakeholder partnerships formulate and implement adaptive management plans to strengthen socio-ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes based on conservation, of biodiversity, sustainable management of land and water resources and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. | Number of baseline participatory landscape assessments for targeted steppe and desert landscapes | 0 participatory landscape management plans elaborated | At least 7 baseline landscape assessments (1 per oblast) | At least 7 baseline landscape assessments (1 per oblast) | <i>Target achieved with seven (7) participatory baseline assessments conducted in in each target landscape</i> | | Para 183 | 6 |
| Outcome 1.2 Multi-stakeholder landscape management groups, local policy-makers and sub-national advisors organized in landscape policy platforms discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned | Number of multi-stakeholder governance policy platforms which include participatory landscape / planning and adaptive management in the landscape | There exist 8 River Basin Councils that discuss water management issues (different uses, supply and irrigation) specific to each river basin. However, these do not assess watershed issues holistically or in terms of landscape approach. | 7 policy platforms' organizational structures are elaborated | At least 7 functioning platforms (one per oblast), which include landscape policy considerations in their work-planning. at least 30% of community-based organizations are led by women | <i>Seven (7) multi-sectoral policy dialogue platforms in each target oblasts/landscapes have been established and are operational, according to the PIR</i> | | Para 185 <i>There are some reservations in calling these platforms as "operational"</i> | 4 |
| | Number of strategies to achieve greater social and ecological resilience | Oblast level Environmental Management Council is a second multi-stakeholder platform yet does not fully include landscape strategies | 7 landscape strategies | At least 7 landscape strategies, one for targeted sites | target achieved with seven (7) landscape strategies. | | Para 183 | 6 |
| Outcome 1.3 Community organizations in target eco-systems build their adaptive management and | Number and typology of community-based projects, implemented by CBOs and NGOs in partnership with others in the targeted landscapes, as outputs | 220 community-based projects implemented by CBOs and NGOs in target landscapes in the areas of climate change | 20 projects initiated and aligned with landscape | [Revised target as per MTR] 47-49 projects | Target achieved with 49 community-level projects (reviewed 92 project proposals) totaling US\$1,537,297. | | Para 188 | 6 |

| | Objective and Outcome Indicators | Baseline | Mid-term Target | End of Project Target | End of Project Result | | Comment | Rating |
|---|--|---|-----------------|-----------------------|---|--|---|--------|
| organizational capacities by designing and implementing community and/or landscape level projects to sustain and revitalize biodiversity and ecosystem function; improve productivity and sustainability of production systems; develop viable livelihood alternatives; and strengthen formal and non-formal landscape governance institutions and mechanisms | to achieve landscape level outcomes | adaptation/mitigation, biodiversity conservation and land degradation. | strategies | | | | | |
| | Increased area under management for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use | 750,000 ha of direct impact and about 2 million ha of indirect impact from previous phases of the SGP | 15,000 hectares | 50,000 hectares | Target achieved with 2,896,303.5 ha under biodiversity conservation and sustainable use with 8 projects | | Para 191 | 6 |
| | Increased area of agricultural land under sustainable agro-ecological practices and systems that increase productivity and decrease land degradation | 190,000 ha of direct impact and 330,000 ha of indirect impact | 5,000 hectares | 10,000 hectares | Target achieved with 81,329 ha (PIR page 27) under sustainable agro-ecological practices and systems, | | Para 192 | 6 |
| | Increased area under climate-adaptive practices | 10,000 ha under climate-adaptive practices | 5,000 hectares | 10,000 hectares | Target achieved 11,442 ha under climate adaptive practices | | Para 193 | |
| | Percentage of beneficiaries disaggregated by gender with increased incomes as a result of sustainable and/or alternative practices | Unknown to be calculated during baseline assessment | 15% | 40% | (1) Out of total number of beneficiaries (including both direct & indirect), the percentage of beneficiaries with increased incomes that adopted sustainable agroecological and land management practices/approaches in six (6) selected LD projects (or 31.5% of all OP-6 financed LD projects) ranges from 6 to 75%. The average estimate is 36% and the median (the average of two middle values in this case) is 39%. (2) The percentage of increased income of target beneficiaries as a result of applied sustainable agropractices ranges from 2 to 80%, with a median value of 20%. In monetary terms, this value ranges from US\$ 4 to US\$ 1,224, a median of US\$ 140 and an average of US\$ 349 per person annually. The percentage of women from the total number of beneficiaries with increased income | | Para 194 Problem with the indicator itself - challenges in estimating increased incomes (discussed in Section 3.1.6) | 5 |

| | Objective and Outcome Indicators | Baseline | Mid-term Target | End of Project Target | End of Project Result | | Comment | Rating |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------|--------|
| | | | | | is equal to 42% on average, with a median value of 44.5%. | | | |
| | Number of energy efficient and renewable technologies piloted successfully | 15 renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies successfully piloted in target landscapes | At least 4 technologies piloted | At least 8 technologies piloted | Target surpassed with 13 energy efficient and RE technologies have been piloted since the project start (162.5% of the target). | | Para 195 | 6 |
| Outcome 1.4 Successful technologies, practices and systems from community-based initiatives are replicated and promoted for up-scaling by multi-stakeholder partnerships using knowledge and lessons learned from identifying, testing and adapting community innovations for landscape and resource management | Number of new technologies, practices or systems successfully replicated and up-scaled beyond the landscapes | Zero | At least one new technology, practice or system is replicated and up-scaled through use of strategic projects | At least five new technologies, practices or systems are replicated and up-scaled beyond the landscapes through the use of strategic projects | Target surpassed with Six (6) technologies tested in GEF OP-6 successfully replicated beyond the seven target landscapes. Target achieved. | | Para 196 | 6 |
| Component 2- Knowledge Generation and Management, Information-sharing and Dissemination of Lessons Learned | | | | | | | | |
| Outcome 2.1- Knowledge products and lessons learned are systematized, organized and disseminated for policy recommendations | Number of knowledge products (case studies, pamphlets, advocacy campaigns) | 65 SGP-supported projects analyzed, lessons learned documented and published | 5 lessons learned documents | 20-25 lessons learned documents developed; 7 case studies developed (1 per landscape) [Added as per Inception report]:100% of publications are gender-sensitive | Target achieved. 29 lessons learned and 3 case studies produced and 4 case studies to be finalized by September 2021. | | Para 197 | 6 |

205. Many demonstrated approaches/practices were found particularly useful and timely during the COVID-19 pandemic

206. Overall Outcome is rated as **Satisfactory**

3.3.5. Efficiency

207. The efficiency of the SGP 6 has been **satisfactory** for a range of reasons, including the fairly efficient start-up of SGP 6 (from the date of CEO endorsement to the SGP 6 Inception Workshop; the achievement of the targets despite COVID and the completion of all 49 grant. Also, as described earlier, the team demonstrated good adaptive management skills. Having said that, the project team could be more active in participating in policy events, pursuing policy links and synergy building: It was also noted that the CPMU will need more support from the UNDP CO for that.

208. As discussed, this could then open up opportunities for the SGP grants to be pilots for the large-scale reforms and support the larger scale impact of the SGP grants and potential for replication.

209. As such, there remains just under 3 months for the project to complete its knowledge products including case studies and lessons learned with gender disaggregated results. The remaining project activities left for August-October 2021. The following was planned at the time of writing this report and looks manageable:

- ✓ Lessons learned documents and seven (7) case-studies finalization and completion, adaptation to a wide audience reading and placement in SGP social media and website for sharing
- ✓ *four (4) video-films* about SGP experience and practices completion and placement on social media, YouTube, website (including energy efficient technologies, youth-related activities, educational and approached to social facilities, etc.);
- ✓ *Best practices catalogue* production and presentation at the final workshop and placement on the SGP website; and
- ✓ *Virtual SGP projects exhibition completion and announcement in SGP social media;*
- ✓ *Final Workshop (online)* to present the OP6 results to the key landscape stakeholders and akimats, MoEGNR, etc. (planned for September 2021)

210. The list of the planned events could be larger, in particular (a) to include thematic workshops with the participation of the MoA, Committee of Forestry, and international organizations and (b) to enlarge the list of mediums thought which to disseminate the lessons learnt and case studies.

3.3.6. Country ownership

211. Country ownership could be assessed as somewhat strong, as there is a mixed picture. The strong support by the MoEGNR, but without linking the SGP even own projects was already discussed. The position of the other ministries and state bodies varied. They showed strong interest in some cases where the case concerned a well-known NGO, but not the others: however, this also needs to be qualified, as they were not kept in the loop of all the projects that relate to their mandate. As for the akimats, here while the project invested effort to inform them and get collaboration, it worked in some cases, even with confirmed intent to replicate, while in others they just showed an appreciation only; there was a case where the local akimat was not interested to even meet even with the NGO in

question. Here also, it must be mentioned that more and earlier engagement could have generated greater interest as discussed.

212. As for the local communities, they showed great commitment, interest and enthusiasm in the projects in almost all cases. At times, this was not the case initially but the NGOs managed to change the perceptions based in the accustomed practices.

3.3.7. Sustainability

213. **Financial sustainability.** There are many projects where there are sufficient grounds to be sure that the project activities would be sustainable. For example, the project on SWM in village of Aksukent (**Error! Reference source not found.**) is already functioning and expanding based on the completely self-financing basis. There are some projects where there is less certainty: for example, in the case of the market access project, one of the funders, Phillippe Morris will be withdrawing: it is a question for now as who would step in (not sure akimat will), because if not, the services will cost more for the users. Other examples include the AGRO GREEN PF NGOs project on “Creation of a digital system to monitor rational pasture use in Akmola region” and Aksu-MSH PA NGO’s project on “Restoration of degraded pastures in Karaungur by introducing local pasture resources management and the establishment of sowing hayfields”, etc. Such cases are rare and it seems that the beneficiaries are genuinely keen in keeping the projects going by fully covering the running costs. On the other hand, the fact that akimats so far have not contributed significant amounts is a concern, and ways need to be found to engage with them more effectively including in terms of financial support.
214. **Socio-Economic sustainability:** There are sufficient grounds to be expect that the socio-economic sustainability has good potential. This is true for the farmers who have increased income, residents in care centers who have better facilities now, students at schools who have better conditions for studying in terms of lighting and heating. And while women are very active in the community life in Kazakhstan in general, they had more opportunities to engage and lead as stakeholders in the grant projects. One risk factor is COVID and post- COVID, as it changed and might change further people’s lives in profound ways, including careers and jobs.
215. **Institutional Framework and Governance aspects of sustainability.** Several recent laws and policies/strategies will work favourably to support the sustainability: this is in particular true for the laws on EE, pasture management, social enterprises. The fact that Oblast akimats have active public councils, would support the sustainability of the initiatives provided SGP establishes effective working modalities with these. At the same time, the fact that there is ambiguity with regards to the long-term functioning/modality of the MSLAGs and MSLPDPs introduces risks to the sustainability of the governance framework – as per design.
216. **NGO capacity** improved and this will also support this aspect of sustainability. A video instruction was created on project development that incorporated experience and common mistakes, available on social media³⁹ and YouTube⁴⁰ Now it can be used by any potential applicant to develop a quality project that in addition to the project idea and plan of implementation addresses gender issues, community involvement in the decision-making process, cooperation with local authorities, etc.

³⁹ (<http://gefsgp.kz/newsinner/film-dlya-teh-kto-hochet-podat-zayavku-na-grant-v-gef-pmg>)

⁴⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBvYbQVJyDY>

217. Environmental sustainability: The grant projects aim at enhancing environmental sustainability, and as described all of them registered progress at least at their local level. Also, the risk log in Atlas cite risks to environmental sustainability and those risks are monitored.

Box 3. Fish farming in Aral region: of replication with improving livelihoods

With three projects in Aral region, SGP 6 in Kazakhstan demonstrated a successful case of sustainable development of fish farming industry, contributing also to the preservation of the biodiversity in that region. Strong partnerships with the SMEs and the local government bodies (akimats) were the cornerstone of the approach. As a result, a **Regional Strategy on Fish Farming for 2021-2030** was adopted (formally by the Akimat of Kyzylorda oblast on December 15, 2020) that implies strong replication potential. Moreover later, the **State Program of Fish Farming 2021-2030** was adopted by the Government decree on April 5, 2021: the regional initiative had a clear strong contribution to it. Three local NGOs joined efforts to tackle the barriers together: «Aral Tenizi»: established cage farming infrastructure and improvements in the working condition in the remote region; «Kazali Oasis» established a hatchery and pond fish farming in Akshatau Lakes' system" and «Zhana Aral Tenizi» enhanced the capacity of local residents in fish farming and fish processing with training. The Association of Environmental Organizations ensured links with various structures of the local, rayon and Oblast levels: akimats, Chamber of Entrepreneurs in Kyzylorda region, the Department of Natural Resource management of Kyzylorda region; Kazakhstan State Research Institute of Fish farming; State Inspection Service of fish industry, etc. **Replication is supported by**

- **Built Human capacity.** On the basis of the NGO "Kazaly Oasis" and the NGO "Zhana Aral Tolkyny", an information and advisory center on sustainable fish farming technologies and a training center were created and a professional training program for fish farmers and fish processors was developed; 265 people were trained (of which 70% are women). 116 previously unemployed who completed training received a job in their specialty, and 71 improved their qualification
- **Demonstrated Socio-economic impact**
 - ✓ The economic potential of the cage farm (10 cages) is 10-15 million tenge per year and the payback period is 2-3 years. Profit from the hatchery and ponds in the village of Akshatau for 2019-2020 amounted to 23.3 million tenge. Profit is distributed among the members of the cooperative after deducting expenses (PC "Zhambyl" - 31 people), in FE "Igilkov" 60 workers received a 30% increase in wages. Besides, the systematic stocking of fish in three sections of the Small Aral Sea and 17 lakes in the Aral-Syrdarya basin will improve the sources of income for local fishermen and their families from 20 villages.
 - ✓ 4,765 people directly benefited from the projects, of which 2,738 were women (fishermen, shop workers, trainees and their families) and indirectly - 7,484 people, of whom 4,255 were women (with training).
 - ✓ Installation of energy efficient pyrolysis ovens improved the living conditions of 60 fishermen. The cost of heat consumption (coal purchase) was reduced by 236,000 tenge per year. These installations are used also for the disposal of dry household waste, preventing them from entering local ecosystems from open landfills.
 - ✓ 30 low-income families (268 people) received 50 kg / family of fish free of charge
 - ✓ NGOs involved KazGUU students and schoolchildren in joint actions with fishermen to clean the shores of lakes from abandoned nets and debris.
 - ✓ **Women**, especially the unemployed, were motivated by job prospects. Out of 265 people trained, 185 are women, 84 of them got a job in their specialty after training. The installation of a solar generator in the fishing center of the village of Karateren improved the working conditions of 25 female employees of the fishing center. Reduction of payment for electricity consumption for the year amounted to 418,000 tenge
- **Demonstrated Environmental impact:**
 - ✓ Reduced pressure on the biodiversity (a) of water bodies on the territory of 75965 hectares, due to lessened pressure resulting from annually increasing fish catches and insufficient stocking of water bodies; and (b) 3 hectares of coastal ecosystems of the 1st and 4th sections of the Small Aral has been reduced by installing energy-efficient pyrolysis stoves in these areas, which allow fishermen to efficiently use coal and significantly reduce the cutting of trees and shrubs in coastal tugai for heating.
 - ✓ For 2019-2021 (a) thanks to the use of a tanker truck and cages, 202880 fish were stocked. fish (23980 underyearlings reared in cages and 178900 fry) in seven lakes of the Aral region and three sections of the Small Aral, with a total area of 72,670 hectare; and (b) thanks to the hatchery and ponds, 9 million larvae were stocked in 10 lakes with a total area of 3295 hectares.

Sustainability. Participation of private business in projects (fishing centers in Karateren settlement, PK Akbasty, PK Zhambyl, IP Igilkov, and Kuanysh LLP, ROC Kambala Balyk) allowed them to provide real assistance to the development of entrepreneurship in the region through co-financing, participation in the preparation and implementation of projects. They invested their savings in projects in a total amount higher than the amount of the grant funds. The payback period for the work of a cage farm (10 cages) with the sale of fish grown to 1.5 kg (that is, with wintering) is 3 years, and from the 4th year it can potentially bring 14,854,400 tenge / year. The creation of the incubation shop pays off in the first year after the development and launch of production at full capacity. From the second year, it can generate income of 35 million tenge (with the sale of 56 million larvae). At least one of the participants in the workshop began construction of one on their territory. Through information and demonstration events, the interest of 540 fishermen from the other 18 sites in replicating the experience increased. Partners from local governments are interested in business development (these are new jobs and tax revenues), therefore, representatives of local akimats supported the actions of the projects, participating in monitoring, various meetings, and provided premises for the gathering of residents

218. Sustainability of livelihoods' improvements. Around fifteen thousand (15,000) people with higher incomes is a good ground to say that this is a factor to support the sustainability of the project results, in that they will have more financial resources available to them to cover the cost which were covered by the project before. This is especially important in the COVID environment and post -COVID recovery stage (see [Box 3. Fish farming in Aral region: of replication with improving livelihoods](#))

With three projects in Aral region, SGP 6 in Kazakhstan demonstrated a successful case of sustainable development of fish farming industry, contributing also to the preservation of the biodiversity in that region. Strong partnerships with the SMEs and the local government bodies (akimats) were the cornerstone of the approach. As a result, a **Regional Strategy on Fish Farming for 2021-2030** was adopted (formally by the Akimat of Kyzylorda oblast on December 15, 2020) that implies strong replication potential. Moreover later, the **State Program of Fish Farming 2021-2030** was adopted by the Government decree on April 5, 2021: the regional initiative had a clear strong contribution to it. Three local NGOs joined efforts to tackle the barriers together: «Aral Tenizi»: established cage farming infrastructure and improvements in the working condition in the remote region; «Kazali Oazis» established a hatchery and pond fish farming in Akshatau Lakes' system" and «Zhana Aral Tenizi» enhanced the capacity of local residents in fish farming and fish processing with training. The Association of Environmental Organizations ensured links with various structures of the local, rayon and Oblast levels: akimats, Chamber of Entrepreneurs in Kyzylorda region, the Department of Natural Resource management of Kyzylorda region; Kazakhstan State Research Institute of Fish farming; State Inspection Service of fish industry, etc.

Replication is supported by

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Sustainability. Participation of private business in projects (fishing centers in Karateren settlement, PK Akbastay, PK Zhambyl, IP Iglikov, and Kuanysh LLP, ROC Kambala Balyk) allowed them to provide real assistance to the development of entrepreneurship in the region through co-financing, participation in the preparation and implementation of projects. They invested their savings in projects in a total amount higher than the amount of the grant funds. The payback period for the work of a cage farm (10 cages) with the sale of fish grown to 1.5 kg (that is, with wintering) is 3 years, and from the 4th year it can potentially bring 14,854,400 tenge / year. The creation of the incubation shop pays off in the first year after the development and launch of production at full capacity. From the second year, it can generate income of 35 million tenge (with the sale of 56 million larvae). At least one of the participants in the workshop began construction of one on their territory. Through information and demonstration events, the interest of 540 fishermen from the other 18 sites in replicating the experience increased. Partners from local governments are interested in business development (these are new jobs and tax revenues), therefore, representatives of local akimats supported the actions of the projects, participating in monitoring, various meetings, and provided premises for the gathering of residents

219.)

220. Rating are as follows: Financial sustainability: **Moderately likely**; Socio-Economic: **Likely**; Institutional Framework and Governance: **Moderately Likely**; Environmental sustainability: **Likely**. Overall sustainability: **Likely**

3.3.8. Gender equality and women's empowerment

221. Performance of Gender has significantly expanded during SGP 6: all projects integrate gender consideration throughout the project cycle and bring advances in gender equality; all comply with the overall SGP, GEF, and UNDP gender standards; and took gender-disaggregated indicators into consideration during projects implementation.

222. Roughly fiftytwo percent (52%) of grantees are led by women, an impressive outcome. Of the total number of women covered by 49 projects, as direct beneficiaries, the CC theme accounts for sixty seven percent (67%), the biodiversity theme – eighty eight percent (88%) and land degradation – sixty nine percent (69%) percent, which indicates the importance of transformations and improvements that affect the improvement of living conditions and the lifestyles of women and their families, this analysis confirms the significant interest and participation of women in promoting innovation at the local level.

223. Approximately the third of the projects have a special focus on women empowerment (local production development, farming development, cooperative land management, medical care and education sphere; energy efficient technologies for cooking and heating, etc. Examples include solar dryers installed and the training of women in the processing of fruits and vegetables in the Almaty region in two projects. These projects enabled women to access opportunities to generate sustainable income streams while adopting sustainable management of their land resources and using renewable sources of energy. At the same time the remaining two thirds of the e only counted the share of women-participants– a rather passive approach

3.3.9. Other Cross-cutting Issues

224. ***Socially vulnerable***. SGP 6 features four (4) projects where the grantees supported social institutions, namely the care centers for elderly and mentally ill, shelters for women-victims of domestic violence, special schools for disabled children with energy efficient technologies and greenhouses, etc. These, resulted in savings for these institutions and also created opportunities for the residents to engage in productive activities (a mode of therapy for some) and earning income. These initiatives are supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the RoK; Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) were well targeted/integrated in four projects: three (3) of these projects are covered in [Error! Reference source not found.](#) Plus, PWDs were also included in the project by Public Association "ECO Atameken" on "Capacity and Activity Development to Implement RE and Improve EE Measures by Organizing a Competition of Youth Green Initiatives in Turkestan Oblast Kazakhstan").

225. Seven (7) people were employed from vulnerable groups involved in the implementation of projects carried out by the NGOs "Zhenskiy Luch" and "Adal-Niet Astana" and 2 people- from the participants of the project NGO "Vikinda". In general, representatives of vulnerable groups of the population improved their livelihoods: this is specifically the case for 5 projects, namely:

- ✓ Public association Women Ray Demonstration of efficient use of energy-saving technologies on the example of social adaptation centers of the Akmola region through implementation of the network project and Private Charitable Foundation
- ✓ “Adal Niet Astana” Demonstration of efficient use of energy-saving technologies on the example of social adaptation centers of the Akmola region through implementation of the network project,
- ✓ Public fund “Crossroad” Promotion of Energy Efficient Technologies in Kostanai Area by Developing Pilot Demonstrational Sites within Social and Educational Facilities and Developing the School of Young Bloggers, EnergoEffect (Energy Efficiency)”,
- ✓ PF Eco-Herbs “Restoration of medicinal herbs by grass-replacement on cottage plots and territories of educational organizations with women and youth participation in rural and urban areas of Kostanay region” and
- ✓ Public Association “ECO Atameken” “Capacity and Activity Development to Implement RES and Improve Energy-Efficiency Measures by Organizing a Competition of Youth Green Initiatives in Turkestan Oblast Kazakhstan”)

226. **Youth** SGP 6 has engaged with youth in many grants. This has come in the form of training and vocational activities with schoolchildren as part of the grants, supporting young eco-bloggers, engaging youth NGOs for the monitoring of specific project activities, etc. This has started early on from Akbota Fund. One of the grantees (CrossRoads) had started his activities after learning from Akbota. The sustainability of such projects seems to have better prospects now that a new Law was adopted changing the way schools are funded giving them more freedom in using the funds. One question that remains open is that of country-wide replication by the Ministry of Education with changes in the curricula. Based on the information available there is more progress in some of the oblasts.

227. Youth participation is reflected in seventeen (17) projects (or 35% of 49), of which 10 -are energy efficiency projects Youth direct beneficiaries were about 18000 persons in total. Examples of the biggest are:

- PRO ECO (6060 children) on Implementation of energy-efficient lighting solutions and energy management in 6 schools of Satpayev city to demonstrate social and economic benefits of energy saving and reduction of CO₂ emissions;
- Akbota Foundation (5000 pupils): Establishing a Model of Youth Environmental Education within the Technical and Vocational Colleges in the Focal Landscapes;
- Orleu- Consulting (1937 children): Demonstration of energy-efficient technologies in schools of the Aral area Kyzylorda region; and
- Public fund “Crossroad” (1042 children): Promotion of Energy Efficient Technologies in Kostanai Area by Developing Pilot Demonstrational Sites within Social and Educational Facilities and Developing the School of Young Bloggers, EnergoEffect (Energy Efficiency)”.

Box 4 Energy efficiency for social adaptation centers in Akmola and Kostanay region

With two projects in Akmola region and one in Kostanay region, SGP 6 in Kazakhstan demonstrated a successful case of sustainable development of energy efficiency introduction in the Centres of social adaptation.

- Two NGOs (Private Charitable Foundation “Adal Niet Astana” (Nur-Sultan city), and Public association “Women Ray” (Stepnogorsk city) implemented the so called network project to demonstrate integrated implementation of energy-saving practices based on 2 social rehabilitation facilities with further generalization, dissemination of project approaches based on social centers in other regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan: (1) A rehabilitation center for persons over 18 years of age with mental disabilities, in which 120 people undergo long-term rehabilitation (including 85% - rural residents) and (2) A rehabilitation center for persons who have fallen into a difficult life situation (temporary rehabilitation is provided to 160 people, 80 % of which are women). The facility includes a 40-bed hospice under the auspices of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan. . Strong partnerships with the business, public, the local government bodies (akimats) and Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan were the cornerstone of the approach in Akmola region
- Another NGO Public fund “Crossroad” (in Kostanay city) demonstrated EE technologies within two Social and one Educational Facilities (An Energy-efficient stove was installed and put into operation in the rehabilitation center for people with disabilities “Hachiko”; an automated heating station (ATP) was installed and put into operation in the building of the Public Association “Rudny Voluntary Society of Disabled People” and the building of the Kostanay Agricultural College; EE modernization of indoor and outdoor lighting was carried out in all three facilities). Good interaction was achieved in Kostanay region with the administration of pilot buildings, the structures of the akimat of Kostanay region, the Department for the coordination of employment and social programs; GU “Education Department of the Akimat of Kostanay region, as well as with the regional maslikhat. As a result the project’s approach will cover at least 10 social facilities of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Innovation, partnership: The experience of involvement of social objects in with a wide coverage of socially vulnerable groups of the population in participation in projects related to climate change – is the first time in Kazakhstan. Akimats of regions, departments of social protection of the region - divisions of the Ministry of Labor and Protection and Ministry of Health are involved in monitoring the results of the project in 2019-2020.

Replication potential is supported by:

- **Capacity enhancement:**
- Akmola region:, NGOs conducted exchange visits, with the participation of representatives of ministries and departments, NPP “Atameken” to the round table, media, site visits, building relationships between society and government agencies for the development and support of social centers for long-term rehabilitation in the Republic of Kazakhstan. 2,200 people, as well as at least 220 people of vulnerable groups of the population received training;
- Kostanay region: 53 thousand of the population of Kostanay region informed on the progress and benefits of the project, including 8200 people- through the media, 4950 -through social. chains, 24,500 people through local TV channel + 15 266 people. through the competition works of the school of ecobloggers.
- **Environmental, social, Gender and economic impacts:**
- Akmola region: At least 900 women, 800 - children and youth, as well as at least 220 people of vulnerable groups of the population have improved living conditions through energy-efficient lighting, access to quality food (at least 20 kg of vegetables per 1 m2 are obtained, providing 280 people with healthy eating). Besides, 5 energy-saving practices introduced: Energy-saving technologies in 2 greenhouses (use of solar collectors, phytodiode lighting) reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 70% and LED lamps in both Centers reduce energy consumption by up to 45% , reduction of CO₂ emissions- by up to 10%. 7 socially vulnerable people got new jobs.
- Kostanay region: Reduction of heat energy consumption - 271.2 Gcal; reduction of electricity consumption - 22.4 MWh; decrease in fossil organic fuel consumption - 70 tons of coal; reduction of CO₂ emissions - 209.4 tons.

Sustainability: The experience of the centers of social adaptation has been generalized and disseminated among the administrative structures of the Republican level, similar activity will cover at least 10 social facilities of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

3.3.10. Catalytic/Replication Effect

228. As mentioned earlier six (6) technologies tested in GEF-6 successfully replicated beyond the seven target landscapes. For example:

- A solar thermal system was replicated in two secondary schools, two state universities and the Kazakhstan Car Assembly Plant of JSC “Asia auto” (in a car assembly workshop) in East-Kazakhstan region with the partners’ own financial resources (public and private);
- A system of separate waste collection (including a creation of a revolver fund) at the level of a condominium comprising of 8 multi-storey apartment buildings have been successfully tested

and used by the Extended Producer/Importer Responsibility (EPR) Operator in Kazakhstan⁴¹ as a basis for replication in regions (see **Error! Reference source not found.**);

- Several CC adaptive agricultural practices/technologies in desert ecosystems have been successfully tested by Public Association "EcoObraz" (Coordination and Information Center for Environmental Education) and replicated by its partners in Karaganda region: two secondary schools (drip irrigation and hydrogel), a private greenhouse (drip irrigation, hydrogel, agrofibre, worm farming and vermicomposting, hydroponic fodder production), individual plots (drip irrigation), partner NGO Eco-Museum in Karaganda town (bio humus production), Young Naturalists Station in Karaganda town (bio humus production, drip irrigation, hydroponic fodder cultivation, hydrogel). Source: Final project report of PA EcoObraz; and
- Public Association "Aral Tenezi" has piloted a fish caging approach to fish farming in the Aral Sea region (Kyzylorda landscape) as a way to conserve and restock fish resources in natural lakes and support sustainable fish production in the region. As a result, a Department of Natural Resources of Kyzylorda Oblast included a cage farming technology that was successfully demonstrated by the Aral Tenizi project in the regional fish sector development plan for 2021-2030 with earmarked government funding (see **Box 3**).

229. **Error! Reference source not found.** describes 2 projects tackling the same problem – SWM in rural areas- but from different angles. **Box 3** demonstrated the successful cases of clustering fish production projects in the Aral region. There is thematic cluster of projects around pasture management, ecotourism, etc. Better formulated thematic clusters could serve as useful platforms for engaging with the policy circles whereby the innovative practices piloted in the projects could serve lessons for changing/developing new laws/regulations/policies.

3.3.11. Progress to Impact

230. Conservation agencies, local communities, stakeholders within development sectors and land-use planning authorities have few interactions regarding conservation strategies and objectives. This is particularly critical with respect to comprehensive policy making that stems from tested and workable solutions and approaches to sustainable landscape management. ‘

231. GEF-6 supported projects provided examples of sustainable farming, including container or hydroponic cultivation of leafy greens, production of bio-fertilizers for organic farming, effective use of water-saving techniques in summer cottages (agro-fiber, drip irrigation, hydrogel), sowing drought-resistant crops in arid areas, crop rotation for improved wheat cultivation, etc. All of the above approaches and practices not only generated visible environmental but also socio-economic benefits through higher yields and alternative means of production/supply. The area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding PAs) reached 2,977,632.50. GHG mitigated reached 1,529.14 tons of CO₂e. 45,307 people (of which 24,196) directly benefited from the SGP 6.

232. Several projects demonstrated ecological and socio-economic benefits and advantages of using energy efficient technologies in lighting (LED lamps, photodiode lighting systems for the greenhouses), heating (energy efficient techniques for heat insulation of walls, ceiling, roofing, and installing automated heat points, energy efficient furnaces), and RE (PV panels, PV water heaters).

⁴¹ (<https://recycle.kz/en/about-2/>)

Wide dissemination and upscaling of successful community-based practices require building a solid portfolio of demonstration projects offering feasible local solutions.

Box 5 From pilots to mainstreaming: two ases with SWM in rural areas

1st project: Top down: During the implementation of the project by the Center for Cooperation for Sustainable Development (grantee) <https://csd-center.kz/>; <https://www.instagram.com/csd.center/?hl=ru>, a SWM scheme was introduced for the first time in rural areas, and over 5 months of the project's operation, more than 300 kg were collected and processed. recyclable materials. Thus, a contribution was made to reduce the volume of waste disposed of in landfills and landfills, greenhouse gas emissions and POPs emissions were reduced. The younger generation and the female community from the village of Otegen batyr were involved in this process. The project strongly contributed to the SWM strategy at the oblast level. At the end of 2021, a system of separate waste collection from the population will be introduced in the Ili district with the support of the Regional Akimat using the tools of Operator ROP LLP. The center, together with a local volunteer team, regularly covered the activities and main results of the project in social networks. The grantee is a well-known NGO which had taken part in the development of the legislation and this project started as a pilot in rural areas. in consultation with the Ministry

2nd Project, Bottom up. SWM scheme on the regional was successfully demonstrated by SGP 6 project in Turkestan Oblast through application of a scheme for separate collection and disposal of waste by the residents of the village of Aksukent and using the receipt payments after subsequent sale for recycling for the needs of the condominium via arrangement of the Fund of this condominium on private basis (70% of which –goes for necessary renovation of housing and 30% for promotion of EE technologies) according to the decision of the residents. Implemented by the NGO "Istoki dobra (sources of kindness). The first grant came from ARGO Civil Society Development Association within the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The grant of GEF SGP followed next. The tenants' utility bills are the main motivator. Aksukent rural administration and Housing Services and Utilities Department of Sairam District support the initiative, which is in line with the new management arrangements of apartment houses being implemented including the associations of property owners and simple partnerships (SP) replacing the AOC's. There was a good environment in terms of legislation. In particular, the Environmental Code clearly states those types of waste that are prohibited from being taken out for burial at landfills. In the project implemented by the Istoki Dobra NGO, household waste (plastic, paper, scrap metal, glass) is sent for recycling, bringing environmental and economic benefits to the residents of the Moscow Railways - beneficiaries of the project, promoting the introduction of energy efficient technologies in their territory and reducing the impact on the global climate. This approach received a lot of support from residents and attention from local authorities in the framework of the project. In a short time, the project beneficiaries proved with their results that the introduction of energy-efficient technologies and separate collection of solid waste with its subsequent sale for recycling save the family budget and provide additional income.

Replication potential is supported by environmental, economic, social, gender and institutional effects:

- Reduction of emissions amounted in total 30,9 t CO₂, including from EE measures and 87% of which came from introduction of a scheme of separate collection of solid waste and the sale of secondary raw materials for processing (waste paper, plastic, glass and metal)
- Reduction of electricity consumption by 4,296 MWh (replacement of outdated lamps (incandescent lamps, mercury-containing fluorescent lamps) in the entrances with modern LED lamps with the simultaneous installation of motion sensors in 19 entrances of apartment buildings)
- Savings of beneficiaries' funds for electricity payments amounted to 58,941 KZT, or 2,183 KZT per family.
- Residents received high-quality and safe lighting, as mercury-containing lamps were seized.
- 4 pilot sites for the separate collection equipped for collection of waste paper, plastic, glass and metal.
- A financial mechanism has been developed and implemented to generate additional income for apartment owners from sold recyclable materials.
- Direct beneficiaries: 280 people, including: 170 women

Sustainability:

- Residents (more than 370 people) in the Aksukent-2 residential area expressed their intention to participate in separate waste collection activities.
- For the period of the SGP 6-th phase the residents are expected to receive about 500 thousand KZT to be allocated into Fund for further use on modernization and EE measures for neighbouring houses with the management company
- The project contractor, IE Aldabergenov, has launched a sorting line for primary processing and packaging of recyclable materials.
- The main partner of the project since 2020 has become the largest recycling plant in Shymkent, Korkem Dos LLP, which is ready to directly pick up at a high price: plastic, waste paper, cullet and metal in large volumes, as well as exchange the project's MSW for goods consumer goods, building materials, energy efficient equipment and materials.
- Local authorities provide support for scaling the project - after all, there are more than 5 large landfills in the Sairam district of the Turkestan region, and the implementation of the project has shown ways to reduce the load on them. Administration with. Aksukent of Sairam district notes the positive experience and contribution of the NGO "Sources of Good" in the development of separate waste collection, reduction of energy consumption at MZD Aksukent-2, improvement of the quality of the environment.

Scaling up/Replication:

- The project aroused interest in neighboring villages, districts, cities, regions, as well as Uzbekistan. The system have been successfully tested and used by the Extended Producer/Importer Responsibility (EPR) Operator in Kazakhstan (<https://recycle.kz/en/about-2/>) as a basis for replication in regions.

233. GEF-6 has represented a good start to producing such knowledge management products as lessons learned (25) and case-studies (7), but more is needed for rural communities and authorities to understand the economic benefits of applying these practices and for engaging with the policy circles and IOs.
234. All of the above marks good progress to intended impact. More needs to be done however in terms of supporting the modalities of the CBOs/NGOs working together towards the implementation of landscape strategies, in particular finding effective ways of linking with the existing structures of the public administration (public councils, maslikhats)
235. CGP 7 will be a mid-sized project and it is even more important to use lesser funding for catalysing on the achievements and bring in more, more scalable innovations/ This evaluation concurs with the main idea of the SGP7 – to consolidate the results achieved under the SGP 6, with a special focus on addressing the barriers identified in the commissioned study, most prominently linking with the state programs, as well as strengthening the MSLAGs and MSLPDPs with links to maslikhats and public councils.

4. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & LESSONS

4.1. Conclusions

236. Climate change represents a major threat to the lives and livelihoods of the poorest and most marginalized communities in Kazakhstan. Unless adaptation and disaster risk reduction support are provided, inequalities are likely to grow and poverty to prevail.
237. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has demonstrated the compounding impacts of adding yet another shock on top of the multiple challenges that vulnerable populations already face. However, there is also a unique opportunity to create economies that are more sustainable, inclusive and resilient.
238. SGP 6 has generated some outstanding and positive environmental initiatives. All the EoP targets were met. The efficiency of delivery of the 49 grant projects within SGP 6 has been impressive with all 49 grant projects expected to report completion by October 2021. In the COVID environment this is truly remarkable, and the team must be commended for that. Most of the projects are innovative, provided socio-economic and environmental benefits and improved livelihood opportunities. A significant proportion of these projects involve participation and the generation of benefits to females, youth and socially vulnerable of these communities.
239. There has been a number of projects that have “self-replicated” based on the success of the original SGP 6 grant projects (BIOGEN). The replication of some others was promoted by akimats (fish farming) and in a few cases is being pursued by the central government (SWM, EE solutions in social service institutions). There has also been some interest by the private sector in upscaling of some of the SGP 6 projects (SWM). The potential for replication could be larger provided closer ties with the policy making bodies (Ministries, Committees, etc), closer engagement with akimats/maslikhats/

public councils, and pursuit of synergies with the international organizations and bilateral aid agency projects, with the latter including UNDP projects (and here closer integration with UNDP is needed).

240. This being the first UCP phase, the project has set the foundation of the landscape approach with seven landscape strategies, seven MSLAGs and MSLPDPs. However, without finding effective modes of interaction of the multistakeholder groups/multisectoral platforms with the public councils, these groups/platforms are likely to not be long-standing. The councils, at least *de jure* are open to joining and so this is one route that could be pursued. Similarly, there could be a regular meetings' mechanism established with the maslikhats. Pursuing these avenues requires closer and more intense consultation with the oblast administration. Joining forces with UNDP's ILDP could help break the barriers.
241. The outreach of SGP 6 to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry Committee and Committee on Water could have been stronger.
242. More effective ways of communication/awareness raising need to be found to reach all constituents and not predominantly ecologically aware social media users, as is currently, i.e., to reach also the farmers, agronomists, mid-to senior level ministry staff. For that, an effective communication strategy is needed in the next phase. As for this phase, the developed Lessons Learnt and Case studies need to be effectively promoted using both online and offline (COVID permitting) routes. For these thematic cluster-based round tables could be useful, along with linking with the Ministry of Agriculture's National Scientific-Educational Center in Agriculture and utilizing a wider spectrum of social and other media. It is also essential to inform other development partners of the benefits of SGP 6 interventions and catalyse their interest in replicating and upscaling these initiatives. Earlier delivery of the production and dissemination of knowledge products and case studies by the CPMU for these SGP 6 initiatives would have likely resulted in formal proposals for replication financing;
243. The integration of SGP 6 with the UNDP CO needs to be stronger with the NC participating in all the meetings and events organized by the Energy and Environment Unit, including when the portfolio results are presented to relevant government bodies. The location of the SGP 6 office in Almaty is not helping with the latter: justified in the sense of proximity to the grantees, its location implies impediments to conveying the important work being done by SGP initiatives to the Government and to take part in government-organized events, as well as to meet the large network of donors and donor projects in Astana to find synergy opportunities, which would make the SGP grants more impactful and open up more opportunities for replication and innovation. Having said that, there could be better arrangements in place to do better along all these lines.
244. In the light of the above, the overall rating is rated as **Satisfactory**

4.2. Recommendations

245. the table below summarizes the list of the recommendations.

Table 5: Recommendations

| | TE Recommendation | Entity Responsible | Time frame |
|---|--|--------------------|------------|
| A | Category 1: Corrective Actions for the Design, Implementation, M&E of the project | | |

| | TE Recommendation | Entity Responsible | Time frame |
|----|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A1 | <p><u>Action 1: To improve the design of future SGP projects in Kazakhstan and other UCPs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prepare defined and budgeted activities to build strong institutional partnerships that lead to institutionalized project results. This would include activities such as meetings, workshops, field trips and awareness-raising material targeting ministries and other central bodies, akimats, and IOs. While this did occur in the case of a number of SGP 6 projects, the IA (UNDP) or IP (UNOPS) need to take the lead on promoting institutionalization of positive project results in helping the CPMU with links to the key ministries/governmental programs; ✓ Allocate sufficient funds to support CPMU for its own capacity building, for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) and reporting and for the thematic experts' guidance till the end of the projects; ✓ Ensure that future SGP projects, notably those with a field office located remotely from a UNDP Country Office, have sufficient support from the CO, including sufficient travel budgets, qualified personnel to manage communications between the two offices; and procedures to be followed to ensure that ICMU participates in all programme meetings within UNDP and with key partners; ✓ Ensure that UNDP project managers are kept informed of the SGP grants that are related to their own project portfolios and are actively seeking synergies between them. This should start with them reviewing SGP proposals at the final review stages; ✓ Ensure better PRFs with SMART indicators; ✓ Revise the reporting template for the grantees, including a Section on Sustainability; and ✓ Ensure Ministry of Agriculture representation on the NSC for SGP 7 in Kazakhstan. | to UNDP and UNOPS | For OP7 and beyond |
| A2 | <p><u>Action 2: To improve implementation towards the conclusion of the SGP 6,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Based on consultations, develop a concept note on the future of the MSLPAGs and MSPDPs, especially the mode of engagement with the public councils, but also more broadly, concrete actions that would support their continued functioning; ✓ Enhance the current plan for the dissemination of the lessons learnt and case studies with thematic roundtables (especially with the Ministry of Agriculture) and presentations to development partners; ✓ Already in this phase identify and follow through in identifying potential synergies with the SFM, BIOFIN and ILDP projects | to CPMU and UNDP | September - October 2021 |
| A3 | <p><u>Action: SGP Country Teams (or CPMUs) or SGP Implementing Partners should maintain and regularly update an SGP database that can generate a coherent global outlook on SGPs progress and performance.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure updating of the list of SGP projects on the global SGP website: www.sgp.undp.org | to UNDP and UNOPS | OP6 and OP7 |
| B | Category 2 Actions to follow up or reinforce initial benefits from the project | | |
| B1 | <p><u>Action 4: Support SGP's links to state and development partners' programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Invite other relevant government entities and provide time to the CPMU to present their development results from SGP grant | UNDP/NSC | OP 7 |

| | TE Recommendation | Entity Responsible | Time frame |
|----|---|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| | <p>initiatives and to assess possible linkages to nationally supported programs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify potential synergies with the development/reform programs led by the MoEGNR with the SGP 6 and support SGP in initiating synergistic initiatives; ✓ Formalize institutional and financing arrangements resulting from any positive discussions from an SGP 6 Terminal Workshop that could provide support for the replication and upscaling of the SGP initiatives. This could include an outcome of the Terminal Workshop where potential policies emanating from an SGP grant project leads to financing made available by public institutions to support these SGP initiatives. This should result in the drafting of a forward-looking plan of action for supporting community level interventions that are fully aligned with the rest of the UNDP CO programme as well as the priorities of the Government of Kazakhstan. | | |
| B2 | <u>Action 5: Clearly define the criteria in terms of the extent of innovation, that would be acceptable to for funding under SGP</u> | NSC | OP7 and beyond |
| B3 | <u>Action 6:</u> Restructure the CPMU with (together with full time NC and driver) full time Program Associate and full time Finance and Administrative Associate. Engage thematic experts and the gender expert for the whole duration. | UNOPS/UNDP | OP 7 |
| B4 | <u>Action 7:</u> Employ innovative methods of M&E (e.g., remote data collection), as well as third party monitoring | UNOPS | OP 7 and beyond |
| C | <u>Proposals for future directions underlining main objectives</u> | | |
| C1 | <p><u>Action 8: Future projects should enhance their focus on project selections using a geographically and thematically clustered approach as an overall approach, but also allowing for breaking into new locations/themes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ By clustering them within a particular district, learning between grant projects can be more easily facilitated and global benefits would be more easily generated and credibly claimed by the SGP; ✓ Similarly, thematic clusters could help join the efforts of the grantees in tackling certain thematic/sectoral barriers. ✓ However, when well justified, there could be projects in new locations/themes to boost innovation | <u>to UNDP, UNOPS and NSC</u> | OP7 and beyond |
| C2 | <p><u>Action 9: have a more highlighted focus on innovation.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Potentially use innovation as one of the criteria for project selection; ✓ Coordinate with UNDP Accelerator Labs. | <u>to UNDP, UNOPS and NSC</u> | OP7 and beyond |

4.3. Lessons Learnt

- Lesson #1: Engagement with the policy circles (all relevant ministries, state committees) is essential to ensure they are informed about the grants, that they facilitate piloting of important innovative ideas with the view of replication in case of successful results, and to obtain synergies with ongoing projects. In the case of the SGP 6 in Kazakhstan this was a weak point.

6. Lesson #2: SGP Projects should have communication plans/strategies especially if dissemination of knowledge products to upscale and replicate useful SGP initiatives is an important intended outcome. The result of the absence of a communications plan has been the fact that the outlets for the dissemination of the materials developed were decided by the NGO which had the grant to handle the communication activities and this was skewed towards the ecological dimension at the expense of the adaptive agriculture and hence potentially not reaching out to part of the potential beneficiaries, like agronomists.
7. Lesson #3: Care is required in locating an SGP project field office in a location remote from a UNDP Country Office. Moving the office to Nur-Sultan would have multiple benefits for SGP in terms of its profile with government authorities and bilateral and multilateral donors, and increasing the potential for replication, scale up and continued implementation after SGP 6.
8. Lesson #4: closer integration is needed with UNDP projects. This will help with closing the “policy gap” and produce synergies that would benefit not only SGP but also these other projects. For that, routine procedures need to be set up, but most importantly there should be attitude shift in favour of SGP now that it is a UCP.
9. Lesson #5: Engagement with development partners is essential for identifying potential synergies, whereby SGP projects could become pilots of the reform programs supported by them. This would help with funding and the scale of impact as well as enhance chances for replication.
10. Lesson #6: Engagement with the central government should be pursued by the ICMU – with the support of UNDP and UNOPS, and not just leave it to happen via the grantees. This is essential for replication and while some grantees have these links to the central government bodies, others do not
11. Lesson #7 To achieve co-financing from the akimats there is a need to engage with them early on and intensively, as their approved budgets would require a great deal of effort to change budgetary allocations.
12. Lesson #8: Engagement with the development partners is essential for identifying potential synergies, whereby SGP projects could become pilots of the reform programs supported by them. This would help with co-financing and funding and upscaling of impact as well as enhance chances for replication.
13. Lesson #9. Public administration systems in the countries vary and hence the forms and expectations from the multistakeholder policy advisory groups and multisectoral platforms that are needed for them to be truly functional. Their effectiveness could be affected also by level of vertical integration and hierarchy of the economic/environmental decision making the presence/lack of large number of NGOs/CBOs engaged in environmental issues. In Kazakhstan, for them to become truly functioning and effective, they need more time, effort, and (re) conceptualization, in particular with regards to the modes of interaction to the existing structures, namely maslikhats and public councils.
14. Lesson #10. Engagement with the private sector (including financing institutions) requires closer attention and more systematic effort.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Terms of reference

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Title: | Project Management Support – Advisor |
| Project: | FSP OP6 Kazakhstan |
| Duty station: | Home Based |
| Section/Unit: | NYSC SDC GMS |
| Contract/Level: | ICS-11/IICA-3 |
| Supervisor: | Kirk Bayabos, Head of Cluster |

1. General Background

UNOPS supports partners to build a better future by providing services that increase the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of peace building, humanitarian and development projects. Mandated as a central resource of the United Nations, UNOPS provides sustainable project management, procurement and infrastructure services to a wide range of governments, donors and United Nations organizations.

New York Service Cluster (NYSC) supports the United Nations Secretariat, as well as other New York-based United Nations organizations, bilateral and multilateral partners in the delivery of UNOPS mandate in project management, infrastructure management, and procurement management Sustainable Development Cluster (SDC) supports diverse partners with their peacebuilding, humanitarian and development operations. It was formed by combining the following portfolios: Grants Management Services (GMS), UN Technology Support Services (UNTSS), Development and Special Initiatives Portfolio (DSIP) It provides Services to partners' programmes that are designed, structured, and managed with a global perspective and primarily serving partners that are headquartered in New York. The SDC has a footprint of approximately 125 countries.

UNOPS has signed an agreement with the UNDO CO of Kazakhstan to implement the project activities for the Small Grants Programme.

In accordance with UNDP and GEF M&E policies and procedures, all full-sized projects supported by the GEF should undergo a Terminal Evaluation (TE) upon completion of implementation. The Final Evaluation is intended to assess the relevance, performance and success of the project. It looks at signed of potential impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global and national environmental goals. The Final Evaluation also identifies/documents lessons learned and makes recommendations that project partners and stakeholders might use to improve the design and implementation of other related projects and programmes.

The Final Evaluation is to be undertaken in accordance with the "GEF Evaluation Policy" (see http://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/files/gef-me-policy-2019_2.pdf).

This Terms of Reference (ToRs) sets out the expectations for the TE of the full-sized project titled Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan (PIMS#5469) implemented through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The project started on 17 July 2017 and is in its fourth year of implementation. The TE process must follow the guidance outlined in the document 'Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects'.

The **objective** of the Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan (PIMS#5469) full-sized project is to support community-level organizations in steppe and desert landscapes in developing and implementing adaptive management projects that build social, economic, and ecological resilience based on, and reinforced, by global environmental and local sustainable development benefits.

The Project has two main Components: (i) Resilient rural and peri-urban landscapes of steppe and desert ecosystems for sustainable development and global environmental protection; and (ii) Knowledge Generation and Management, Information-sharing and Dissemination of Lessons Learned.

Under Component 1, the project supports measures to improve community-based capacities and resources to promote and build ecosystem resilience through resource management planning at the landscape level and supporting measures to avoid GHG emissions by improving the adoption of energy efficient and renewable energy technologies and sequestering carbon through restoration of natural forests from cost-effective community-based efforts. Under this Component, the project also seeks to build synergies and linkages among various community-level interventions, so as to harmonize them, increase value-added of existing initiatives, promote social cohesion and generate greater impacts and results on the landscape through cumulative interventions. Under Component 2, the outcomes and components primarily address knowledge management. Items under this component seeks to harness that knowledge, apply it to different areas, replicate it and share it with relevant stakeholders.

Under Component 1, the work of the Project focused on supporting NGOs and CBOs locally-implemented projects and ensuring successful implementation of the entire grant portfolio. Of 49 projects for a total amount of \$ 1,527,383 covering seven focus landscapes and three thematic areas: biodiversity conservation (10 projects), climate change (16 projects), and land degradation (19 projects), and also including capacity development, awareness raising & results analysis, policy dialogue and baseline assessment projects (4 projects).

The project portfolio has ensured that 1) new pilot sites have been created in each focus region and existing pilot sites have been strengthened using various approaches and technologies, which make it possible to clearly demonstrate to stakeholders the benefits of green technologies; 2) projects cover various focus groups: small and medium-sized farms, private households, schools, colleges, social facilities (centers for people with disabilities, crisis centers for women, centers for disabled children, etc.), the multi-apartment housing sector, dacha cooperatives, fishing associations, rural cooperatives, hunting islands, protected areas, etc.; which has made possible to demonstrate the efficiency of the implemented technologies at various sites for different focus groups; 3) each thematic project portfolio includes different approaches. For example, the projects on animal husbandry cover distant pasture grazing, sustainable pasture rotation schemes, various approaches in feed production, introduction of digital technologies in the livestock monitoring system, etc. 4) each project implements educational and informational work, which ensures more widely covering the experience and achievements of the project, and raising awareness of the interested stakeholders. In general, this complex strategy has approached a variety of technologies and methods applied for a certain problem in different conditions and facilities.

The grant projects allowed reaching more than 30,000 people through direct participation in the project activities and educational events, information campaigns, actions, etc. A wide range of participants in all regions (81 organizations in total), such as NGOs, LLPs, rural cooperatives, social facilities, schools, colleges, and farms have strengthened their potential and gained practical knowledge in sustainable development, and also how to apply green technologies to improve local communities livelihoods.

Given the importance of the gender aspect, it should be noted that several important indicators of strengthening the role of women have been achieved: 1) out of 59 members of the multistakeholder groups 51% are women; 2) out of 49 grant projects 26 CBOs (or 53%) are led by women.

Quarantine measures implemented in the country starting mid-March 2020 till now have impacted the grant projects' activities. In particular, agricultural projects, some renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, ecotourism projects, beekeeping, etc. have to re-plan, and even postpone project activities to a later time. This did not make it possible to implement the planned activities and conduct a full analysis of the results achieved in 2020. Thanks to adaptive management plans timely developed for each grant project and regularly monitored by the Project team, most of the projects were able to quickly respond to changing situation and adapt the project activities accordingly to ensure achieving the project tasks and goals.

Within Component 2, 17 grant project results have been analyzed and lessons learned documents have been developed. The analysis includes the projects on EE lighting, waste collection, energy-efficient furnaces, solar installations, solar water heating system, adaptation water and land-saving practices, sustainable livestock grazing schemes, medicine plants gardens, sustainable agroforestry approaches, and others. To strengthen coordination and experience sharing between projects and landscapes, a number of project exchange visits were carried out. To broadly share grant projects' results were widely covered in social networks (55 posts were prepared and posted on the activities of the SGP and projects on the SGP website and SGP FB and Instagram), articles about projects were published etc.

According to the project document, the project should be completed by August 2020. Based on the GEF Mid-Term Review conducted in 2019 and its recommendations, in order to enable the project to meet its commitments in relation to completion of the community-based grant projects, analyzing achievements to generate knowledge products containing lessons learned and results, replication of successful measures and technologies, a 10-months no-cost extension was requested in February 2020 and approved by the GEF within the project originally approved budget. To mitigate the risks associated with Covid-19 additional four months no-cost extension till October 2021 was initiated and approved by the GEF. This gives the Project enough time to successfully complete all the project activities, to ensure evaluation of the results achieved, generate and disseminate knowledge products and to replicate technologies and approaches in the aftermath of the pandemic. Due to the Project extension for 14 months, the Terminal Evaluation is re-scheduled for July 2021.

The project initially addressed UNDP CPD 2016-2020 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. Due to approval of the UNDP CPD 2021-2025 the project contributes to Outcome 4: By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, in particular most vulnerable, benefit from increased climate resilience, sustainable management of environment and clean energy, and sustainable rural and urban development, and related strategic plan// Outcome 2. Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development// Output 4.1: Solutions developed, and resources mobilized for more sustainable use of ecosystems for the improvement of the well-being of local communities and nature.

The project is implemented by UNDP and executed by UNOPS through the existing mechanism of the GEF Small Grants Program, including the approval of each initiative by the SGP National Steering Committee and proper follow-up and monitoring to be provided under the leadership of the SGP Upgrading Country Program Coordinator. Total project budget is US\$ 7,352,126, US\$2,649,726 of which is a contribution from GEF.

The incumbent of this position will be a personnel of UNOPS under its full responsibility.

2. Purpose and Scope of Assignment

The objective of the evaluation is to assess the achievement of project objectives, the affecting factors, the broader project impact and the contribution to the general goal/strategy, and the project partnership strategy.

The Project Management Support - Advisor will be working remotely, supported by the National Consultant to be hired on a short-term IC Contract via UNDP CO and based in Kazakhstan, who will facilitate the Project Management Support – Advisor and provide necessary substantive and operational support in carrying out this evaluation.

Project success will be measured based on the Project Logical Framework (see Annex 1), which provides clear performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification. The evaluation will assess the aspects as listed in evaluation

report outline attaching in Annex 2.

The Project Management Support – Advisor review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure/SESP) the Project Document, project reports including annual PIRs, project budget revisions, lesson learned reports, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the Project Management Support - Advisor considers useful for this evidence-based evaluation. The Project Management Support - Advisor will review the baseline and midterm GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools submitted to the GEF at the CEO endorsement and midterm stages and the terminal Core Indicators/Tracking Tools that must be completed before the TE field mission begins.

The Project Management Support - Advisor is expected to follow a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts (the GEF Operational Focal Point), Implementing Partners, the UNDP Country Office(s), the Regional Technical Advisor, direct beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

The specific design and methodology for the TE should emerge from consultations between the Project Management Support - Advisor and the above-mentioned parties regarding what is appropriate and feasible for meeting the TE purpose and objectives and answering the evaluation questions, given limitations of budget, time and data. The Project Management Support - Advisor must use gender-responsive methodologies and tools and ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and SDGs are incorporated into the TE report.

The final methodological approach including interview schedule, field visits and data to be used in the evaluation must be clearly outlined in the TE Inception Report and be fully discussed and agreed between UNDP, stakeholders and the Project Management Support - Advisor.

The final report must describe the full TE approach taken and the rationale for the approach making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses about the methods and approach of the evaluation.

The Project Management Support - Advisor will assess project performance against expectations set out in the project's Logical Framework/Results Framework (see ToR Annex A). The Project Management Support - Advisor will assess results according to the criteria outlined in the Guidance for TEs of UNDP-supported GEF-financed Projects.

3. Monitoring and Progress Controls

The TE is a mandatory evaluation of the GEF and must be performed by an external Consultant prior to the conclusion or effective closure of the Project. The TE for SGP Kazakhstan is scheduled to take place in June-July 2021.

The TE report will assess the achievement of project results against what was expected to be achieved and draw lessons that can improve the sustainability of the benefits of this project and assist in the overall improvement of UNDP programming. The TE report promotes accountability and transparency and assesses the scope of project achievements.

The TE will be conducted according to the guidance, rules and procedures established by UNDP and GEF as reflected in the UNDP Evaluation Guidance for GEF Financed Projects.

The objectives of the evaluation are to assess the achievement of project results, and to draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming. The TE report must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful.

The Project Management Support – Advisor is responsible for the below mentioned findings which will be delivered in the Findings Section of the TE Report. A full outline of the TE report's content is provided in ToR Annex C.

The asterisk "(*)" indicates criteria for which a rating is required.

Findings

Project Design/Formulation

National priorities and country driven-ness

Theory of Change

Gender equality and women's empowerment

Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

Analysis of Results Framework: project logic and strategy, indicators

Assumptions and Risks

Lessons from other relevant projects (e.g., same focal area) incorporated into project design

Planned stakeholder participation

Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector

Management arrangements

Project Implementation

Adaptive management (changes to the project design and project outputs during implementation)

Actual stakeholder participation and partnership arrangements

Project Finance and Co-finance

Monitoring & Evaluation: design at entry (*), implementation (*), and overall assessment of M&E (*)

Implementing Agency (UNDP) (*) and Executing Agency (*), overall project oversight/implementation and execution (*)

Risk Management, including Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

Project Results

Assess the achievement of outcomes against indicators by reporting on the level of progress for each objective and outcome indicator at the time of the TE and noting final achievements

Relevance (*), Effectiveness (*), Efficiency (*) and overall project outcome (*)

Sustainability: financial (*), socio-political (*), institutional framework and governance (*), environmental (*), overall likelihood of sustainability (*)

Country ownership

Gender equality and women's empowerment

Cross-cutting issues (poverty alleviation, improved governance, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster prevention and recovery, human rights, capacity development, South-South cooperation, knowledge management, volunteerism, etc., as relevant)

GEF Additionality

Catalytic Role / Replication Effect

Progress to impact

Main Findings, Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned

The Project Management Support - Advisor will include a summary of the main findings of the TE report. Findings should be presented as statements of fact that are based on analysis of the data.

The section on conclusions will be written in light of the findings. Conclusions should be comprehensive and balanced statements that are well substantiated by evidence and logically connected to the TE findings. They should highlight the strengths, weaknesses and results of the project, respond to key evaluation questions and provide insights into the identification of and/or solutions to important problems or issues pertinent to project beneficiaries, UNDP and the GEF, including issues in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Recommendations should provide concrete, practical, feasible and targeted recommendations directed to the intended users of the evaluation about what actions to take and decisions to make. The recommendations should be specifically supported by the evidence and linked to the findings and conclusions around key questions addressed by the evaluation.

The TE report should also include lessons that can be taken from the evaluation, including best practices in addressing issues relating to relevance, performance and success that can provide knowledge gained from the particular circumstance (programmatic and evaluation methods used, partnerships, financial leveraging, etc.) that are applicable to other GEF and UNDP interventions. When possible, the Project Management Support - Advisor should include examples of good practices in project design and implementation.

It is important for the conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned of the TE report to incorporate gender equality and empowerment of women.

The total duration of the TE will be approximately 35 *working days* over a time period of **12 weeks** starting on **5 July 2021**. The tentative TE timeframe is as follows:

| Timeframe | Activity |
|-------------------|---|
| 20 June 2021 | Application closes |
| 5 July 2021 | Selection of Project Management Support - Advisor |
| 6-11 July 2021 | Preparation period for Project Management Support - Advisor (handover of documentation) |
| 10-11 July 2021 | Document review and preparation of TE Inception Report |
| 16 July 2021 | Validation of TE Inception Report |
| 20-29 July 2021 | Stakeholder meetings, interviews, etc. |
| 2 August 2021 | Wrap-up meeting & presentation of initial findings; |
| 3-23 August 2021 | Preparation of draft TE report |
| 24 August 2021 | Circulation of draft TE report for comments |
| 31 August 2021 | Incorporation of comments on draft TE report into Audit Trail & finalization of TE report |
| 7 September 2021 | Preparation and Issuance of Management Response |
| 10 September 2021 | Expected date of full TE completion |

TE DELIVERABLES

| # | Deliverable | Description | Timing | Responsibilities |
|---|---------------------|--|---------|---|
| 1 | TE Inception Report | Project Management Support - Advisor clarifies objectives, | 16 July | Project Management Support - Advisor submits Inception Report |

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | methodology and timing of the TE | | to RTA, UNOPS and Project Team. |
| 2 | Presentation of the TE preliminary findings | Initial Findings | 2 August | Project Management Support - Advisor presents to RTA, UNOPS and Project Team. |
| 3 | Draft TE Report | Full draft report (<i>using guidelines on report content in ToR Annex C</i>) with annexes | 23 August | Project Management Support - Advisor submits to Commissioning Unit; reviewed by RTA, UNOPS, UNDP CO and Project Team |
| 5 | Final TE Report* + Audit Trail | Revised final report and TE Audit trail in which the TE details how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final TE report (<i>See template in ToR Annex H</i>) | Within 5 days of receiving comments on draft report: (31 August) | Project Management Support - Advisor submits both documents to UNDP CO and RTA |

*All final TE reports will be quality assessed by the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO). Details of the IEO's quality assessment of decentralized evaluations can be found in Section 6 of the UNDP Evaluation Guidelines.⁴²

4. Qualifications and Experience

The consultant cannot have participated in the project preparation, formulation and/or implementation (including the writing of the Project Document and should not have a conflict of interest with project's related activities.

a. Education

Master's degree in the areas of environment and sustainable development, or other closely related field

b. Work Experience

Minimum 7 years' experience in environmental management, sustainable development or a related field

Knowledge of and experience with UNDP and/or GEF projects is required

Experience with the GEF Small Grants Programme is an advantage

Experience with results-based monitoring and evaluation methodologies

Demonstrated understanding of issues related to Gender and Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change and Land Degradation is an asset

Fluency in English, spoken and written

c. Key Competencies



Develops and implements sustainable business strategies, thinks long term and externally in order to positively shape the organization. Anticipates and perceives the impact and implications of future decisions and activities on other parts of the organization.



Treats all individuals with respect; responds sensitively to differences and encourages others to do the same. Upholds organizational and ethical norms. Maintains high standards of trustworthiness. Role model for diversity and inclusion.



Acts as a positive role model contributing to the team spirit. Collaborates and supports the development of others. **For people managers only:** Acts as positive leadership role model, motivates, directs and inspires others to succeed, utilising appropriate leadership styles

⁴² Access at: <http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guideline/section-6.shtml>



Demonstrates understanding of the impact of own role on all partners and always puts the end beneficiary first. Builds and maintains strong external relationships and is a competent partner for others (if relevant to the role).



Efficiently establishes an appropriate course of action for self and/or others to accomplish a goal. Actions lead to total task accomplishment through concern for quality in all areas. Sees opportunities and takes the initiative to act on them. Understands that responsible use of resources maximizes our impact on our beneficiaries.



Open to change and flexible in a fast-paced environment. Effectively adapts own approach to suit changing circumstances or requirements. Reflects on experiences and modifies own behaviour. Performance is consistent, even under pressure. Always pursues continuous improvements.



Evaluates data and courses of action to reach logical, pragmatic decisions. Takes an unbiased, rational approach with calculated risks. Applies innovation and creativity to problem-solving.



Expresses ideas or facts in a clear, concise and open manner. Communication indicates a consideration for the feelings and needs of others. Actively listens and proactively shares knowledge. Handles conflict effectively, by overcoming differences of opinion and finding common ground.

| | | | |
|--|------|-------------------------------|------|
| Project Authority (Name/Title): Kirk Bayabos Head of Cluster | | Contract holder (Name/Title): | |
| Signature | Date | Signature | Date |

Annex 2: List of Persons Interviewed

GEF SGP

1. Katerina Yushenko GEF SGP
2. Daniya Arrusova, GEF SGP
3. Diana Salvemini, UNDP UCP Global Coordinator
4. Rosanna De Luca , Associate Portfolio Manager ,UNOPS focal point for financial, HR, and admin-related issues
5. Nataliya Panchenko, Project expert
6. Nataliya Druzd, Project expert
7. Gulnar Bekturova, Project Expert
8. Aliya Iliasova, Project expert

NSC

1. Ms. Nazilya Birzhanova NSC. Youth expert. Strong experience in youth &volunteers work, also experienced in grant programmes implementation
2. Ms. Svetlana Dolgikh NSC Kazhydromet, Climate change adaptaton, Leading national expert in CC tendencies, mitigation &adaptation
3. Ms. Svetlana Ushakova NSC. Institute of National and International Development Initiatives PF, NGO representative. Expert in CD, projects research& monitoring.
4. Ms.Svetlana Dolgikh, Kazhydromet, member of NSC
5. Ms.Vera Voronova, CAREC, Member of NSC
6. Ms.Asem Butabaeva, Department of Climate Policy and Green Technologies, Expert of the Department of Green Technologies / Ministry of Ecology, Member of the NCC

Independent experts

1. Alexander Nikolayenko GIZ Regional Programme
2. Irina Yesserkepova, Kazhydromet
3. Iskander Mirkhashimov, Kazakhstan Association of Applied Ecology, expert in Biodiversity, eco-monitoring.
4. Askhat Suleimanov, Coalition for Green Economy and G-Global (partner)
5. Saltanat Zhakenova, Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (partner)

UNDP

1. Zhanetta Babasheva, Resource management specialist
2. Viktoria Baigazina, Project Manager
3. Firuz Ibragimov , Project Portfolio Manager, SLM Projects
4. Alexander Beliy, Project Manager
5. Tolgat Kerteshev, Project Manager
6. Vitalie Vremis, DRR
7. Erlan Zhumabayev, Project Manager
8. Meruert Sarsenbayeva, Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)

Grantees:

1. Bibisara Bissenbayaeva, Adal Niet Astana NGO (grantee)
2. Vera Mustafina, Center for Cooperation for Sustainable Development (grantee)
3. Sakan Aubakirova, Birlik NGO (grantee)
4. Vadim Akhtyamov, Heart of Asia (grantee)
5. Alik Sagyndykov, AGROSOYUZ, partner / grantee
6. Natalya Blokh, Youth Public Association “Ecological and Tourist Center "TEK"(grantee)
7. Tleukabyl Esembekuly, Public association “Farmers Association of Shetsk district (grantee)
8. Ekaterina Panchuk, Public association NUR MAKHABBAT (grantee)
9. Oksana Volkova-Mikhalskaya, Public association Women Ray” (grantee)
10. Vladimir Levin, Public Fund Farmer of Kazakhstan (grantee)
11. Valentina Fedorenko, Public Fund EcoHerbs (grantee)

12. Kydyrali Zhunisov, Public association Aksu MSH (grantee)
13. Galina Schneider, Public association Necklace of green practices (grantee)
14. Vitaly Shuptar, Public foundation Avalon(grantee)
15. Marat Auezov, Public Foundation “AGRO GREEN” (grantee)
16. Svetlana Bylinskaya , Public Association Center for Coordination and Information on Environmental Education EcoObraz(grantee)
17. Didar Dalimanov, Public association KASIETTI OR ALTAI (grantee)
18. Vladimir Zemlevsky, Republican Association of Public Hunters’ and Hunting Entities’ Unions "Kansonar", Nur-Sultan City Office (grantee)
19. Maria Genina, Public Association "Center for Agroecological Culture" Living House (grantee)
20. Gulsum Bahova, Public Association Gaiberen (grantee)
21. Ainakul Baimakhanova, Public Association Kazaly oasis (grantee)
22. Altyn Toktamysova, Public Association "Zhana Aral Tolkyny" (grantee)
23. Karimjan Jagpar, Private Foundation EL-RUKHY (grantee)
24. Inna Duck, Public Foundation "VIKINDA" (grantee)
25. Marina Zaitseva, Apartment owners' cooperative “UYUT” (grantee)
26. Rita Nusupova, Public Association "ECOOASIS ALAKOL" (grantee)
27. Alexey Kulikov , Public fund “Crossroad” (grantee)
28. Irina Nemtsan, Public Foundation"Akbota" (grantee)
29. Lyudmila Mikhailova, Public Association “Center for Children and Youth “Istock” (grantee)
30. Alikhan Abdeshev, Public association Ugam (grantee)
31. Ermek Mazhitov, Private Foundation Socially Important Initiatives Development Fund (grantee)
32. Ainakul Baimakhanova, Public association ARAL TENIZI (grantee)
33. Natalia Terekhova, Vitaly Kulik, Social Corporate Foundation "ZUBR" (grantee)
34. Oksana Tarnetskaya, Nurzhan Ayazbaev, Public Foundation "Socio-Environmental Fund" (grantee)
35. Ilya Sukhonosenko, Association of legal entities "Association of Environmental organizations of Kazakhstan" (grantee)
36. Anar Sarsenova, Public Association "Environmental Centre "Eco-Kokshe" (grantee)
37. Daria Miroshnichenko, Public association International Center for Energy Efficiency Resource Conservation and Environmental Technologies PRO ECO (grantee)
38. Serik Makashev, Public association BIOGEN (grantee)
39. Dastanbek Mayor, Youth NGO “Orleu-consulting” (grantee)
40. Bakhtiar Sadyk, Public Foundation "Zhassyl Azyk” (grantee)
41. Bakytgul Elchibaeva, Public Foundation "Yenbekshikazakh District Local Communities Fund" (LCF) (grantee)
42. Aigul Habsattarova, Public Association International Ecological Association of Orient Women (grantee)
43. Denis TEN, Public Association “Incubator of Sustainable Development Projects” (grantee)
44. Tatiana Butvilene, Public Association “Cultural and Ecological Association “Bumerang” (grantee)
45. Igor Mironchuk, Public association “Society of hunters and fishermen of Astana and Akmola region” (grantee)
46. Beken Belkeshev, Public Association of Farms in Turkestan Area "Syrdariy (grantee)
47. Vladislav Golyarko, Public Association “Origins of Good” (grantee)
48. Sergei Gulyaev, Public Fund “Decenta” (grantee)
49. Niyazova Gulnar, Public Association "Eco Atameken" (grantee)

Academia

1. Mr. Baiserek Isabekov, Deputy Rector of Turkestan High Agricultural College, community recipient of Agro technologies related to this projectShimkent city
2. Mr. Baiserek Isabekov, Deputy Rector of Turkestan High Agricultural College, recipient of Energy Efficiency(LED lighting in classrooms of AgroEcoCenter, fitolighting, solar drying fruit) technologies related to this project Shimkent city

Local and regional Governments

1. Mr. Askhat Aimbekov, Akimat Tolebi rayon , member of Department of Agriculture Turkestan Oblast
2. Mr. Serik Eshimbetov, Akimat Ordabasy raion, member of Department of internal tourism Turkestan Oblast
3. Mr.Ulan Malikovich Sagynbekov, Akim of rayon, Assinsky rural district, Almaty Oblast
4. Mr.Berik Altynbekov, Department of land relations , Akimat of Ordabasyrsky rayon,Turkestan Oblast

5. Mr. Amalbek Omirtay, Head of Akim's Administration of Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast (the participant of the Committee on project's selection), Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast
6. Mr. Nusenov Asan Serikovich, Akim of rayon ,rural district "KYZYLKIYA", Turkestan Oblast

Beneficiaries

1. Mr. German Gagiev, farmer, project participant, Almaty Oblast
2. Ms. Olesaya Ruzhkova, farmer, project participant, Almaty Oblast
3. Mr. Baybak Kunanbay, farmer , participant, Turkestan Oblast
4. Mr. Bayzhan Turganbek, farmer, participant, Turkestan Oblast
5. Mr. Shokan Zgumadilov, farmer, participant. Turkestan Oblast
6. Mr. Tolgat Boltayev, Head of Farmer's Committee, Turkestan Oblast
7. Mr. Zhandos Boltayev, Executive Director of farm "Karasha Agro" Turkestan Oblast
8. Mr. E. Tomashov, farm manager of the Kazygurt Consumer Cooperative, Turkestan Oblast
9. Mr. Karum Tursunov, Farmer, project participant, member of ACC, working in greenhouse, Almaty Oblast
10. Ms. Shiryn Mansurova, female representative, project participant, Almaty Oblast
11. Mr. Sergey Tashevsky, Farmer, project participant, worker in greenhouse, Almaty Oblast
12. Ms. Ibragimova Ahbobe, the EE project winner, schoolgirl of 11'th class (solar collector for hot water in the school named after Pushkin) Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast
13. Ms. Aset Akbota, physics teacher, member of the Project Selection Commission Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast
14. Ms. Nurat Azhibayeva, physics teacher, member of the Project Selection Commission Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast
15. Mr. Nuraly Anvarovich Abdiyev, Deputy Director of the Special College for the Disabled", GOK college (phyto- lighting in greenhouse, drip irrigation, solar panel 1,2 KW) Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast
16. Mr. Pavel Kavunov, Chief Agronomist of LCF (training), Almaty Oblast
17. Mr. Marat Mansurov, Head of Agricultural Consumer Cooperative (ACC), Almaty Oblast
18. Mr. Marat Zhaldosov, Agricultural Department of rayon Akimat, Turkestan Oblast
19. Ms. Bibigul Abesheva , Deputy Director of school #6 (solar panel)
20. Ms. Bibigul Aliakbarova, farmer, project participant Almaty Oblast
21. Ms. Anna Vladimirovna Belaz, farmer, project participant. Almaty Oblast

FGD participants

1. Galina Schneider, NGO "Necklace of Green practices", Project Manager
2. Saule Kavidulova, NGO "Necklace of green practices", Project Manager
3. Sergey Mukushev, Senior Inspector of the Tobolo-Turgai reservoir
4. Serova Lyubov, PF "Eco Herbs", Project Manager, phyto consultant.
5. Danilchenko Alexander, project beneficiary, TV host of "In harmony with nature" show.
6. Sofia Shangina, project beneficiary
7. Alexey Kulikov, PF Crossroad, Project Manager, Head of the Energy-saving Technologies Project.
8. Gulmira Kapenova, Deputy of the regional Maslikhat
9. Vitaly Siyukhov. Director of Ecoservice-2030 LLP, consultant
10. Sanash Eschanov, Head of the NGO " Rudnensky City Society of Disabled People
11. Ipatov Gennady, Blogger, Eco-Activist
12. Panchuk Katerina, NGO " Nur Mahabbat, Project Manager

Annex 3: List of Documents Reviewed

| # | Item (electronic versions preferred if available) |
|----|--|
| | Project Identification Form (PIF) |
| 2 | UNDP Initiation Plan |
| 3 | Final UNDP-GEF Project Document with all annexes |
| 4 | CEO Endorsement Request |
| 5 | UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) and associated management plans (if any) |
| 6 | Inception Workshop Report |
| 7 | Mid-Term Review report and management response to MTR recommendations |
| 8 | All Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) |
| 9 | Progress reports (quarterly, semi-annual or annual, with associated workplans and financial reports) |
| 10 | Oversight mission reports |
| 11 | Minutes of Project Board Meetings and of other meetings (i.e., Project Appraisal Committee meetings) |
| 12 | GEF Tracking Tools (from CEO Endorsement, midterm and terminal stages) |
| 13 | GEF/LDCF/SCCF Core Indicators (from PIF, CEO Endorsement, midterm and terminal stages); for GEF-6 and GEF-7 projects only |
| 14 | Financial data, including actual expenditures by project outcome, including management costs, and including documentation of any significant budget revisions |
| 15 | Co-financing data with expected and actual contributions broken down by type of co-financing, source, and whether the contribution is considered as investment mobilized or recurring expenditures |
| 16 | Audit reports |
| 17 | Electronic copies of project outputs (booklets, manuals, technical reports, articles, etc.) |
| 18 | Sample of project communications materials |
| 19 | Summary list of formal meetings, workshops, etc. held, with date, location, topic, and number of participants |
| 20 | Any relevant socio-economic monitoring data, such as average incomes / employment levels of stakeholders in the target area, change in revenue related to project activities |
| 21 | List of contracts and procurement items over ~US\$5,000 (i.e., organizations or companies contracted for project outputs, etc., except in cases of confidential information) |
| 22 | List of related projects/initiatives contributing to project objectives approved/started after GEF project approval (i.e., any leveraged or “catalytic” results) |
| 23 | Data on relevant project website activity – e.g., number of unique visitors per month, number of page views, etc. over relevant time period, if available |
| 24 | UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) |
| 25 | List/map of project sites, highlighting suggested visits |
| 26 | List and contact details for project staff, key project stakeholders, including Project Board members, RTA, Project Team members, and other partners to be consulted |
| 27 | Project deliverables that provide documentary evidence of achievement towards project outcomes |
| | <i>Add documents, as required</i> |

Annex 4: Site Visits

Table 6 List of Site Visits and Persons

| # | Persons interviewed\ Stakeholder involved | Location | Contact information |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Ugam NGO's grant project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/12) "Degradation prevention of desert and semi-desert agro-landscapes through development of agro-tourism" and partially "Private Foundation Socially Important Initiatives Development Fund" grant project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/21) "Introduction of energy-efficient technologies on the basis of existing pilot sites in the East Kazakhstan and Turkestan region for further promotion purposes, and training of focus groups" | | | |
| 1 | Mr. Abdeshev Alikhan, SGP Grantee | Turkestan Oblast | +7-701-222-03-28 |
| 2 | Mr. Baiserek Isabekov, Deputy Rector of Turkestan High Agricultural College, community of both grants related to Agro technologies and Energy Efficiency (LED lighting in classrooms of AgroEcoCenter, fitolighting, solar drying fruit) and training https://turkistan-agro.kz/ | Shimkent city | +7-702-2302381 isabekovbaiswrik@mail.ru |
| 3 | Mr. Askhat Aimbekov, Akimat Tolebi raion, member of Department of agriculture | Turkestan Oblast | +72547-5-94-13 Ashat_s93@mail.ru |
| 4 | Mr. Serik Eshimbetov, Akimat Ordabasy raion, member of Department of internal tourism | Turkestan Oblast | +72547-5-95-40 Siko_86@mail.ru |
| 5 | Mr. Eb Tomashov, farm manager Kazygurt Consumer Cooperative | Turkestan Oblast | +7-771-882-84-53 |
| "Private Foundation Socially Important Initiatives Development Fund" grant project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/21) "Introduction of energy-efficient technologies on the basis of existing pilot sites in the East Kazakhstan and Turkestan region for further promotion purposes, and training of focus groups" at the pilot site of the Turkestan region | | | |
| 1 | Mr. Baiserek Isabekov, Deputy Rector of Turkestan High Agricultural College, community of both grants related to Agro technologies and Energy Efficiency (LED lighting in classrooms of AgroEcoCenter, fitolighting, solar drying fruit) and training https://turkistan-agro.kz/ | Shimkent city | +7-702-2302381 isabekovbaiswrik@mail.ru |
| BIOGEN grant project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/10) "Demonstration of effective approaches to reduce land degradation of grasslands through use of hydroponic cultivation of green fodder" | | | |
| 1 | Mr. Makashev Serik, SGP Grantee | Turkestan Oblast | +7-778-1816802 serik-06@mail.ru |
| 2 | Mr. Berik, Representative from Ordabasynsky rayon Akimat, Department of land relations | Turkestan Oblast | +7 (72530) 2-10-72 |
| 3 | Mr. Kadrali Baibak, Procurement Deputy, village Kainar, farmer | Turkestan Oblast | +77056884909 |
| 4 | Mr. Baybak Kunanbay, farmer, participant | Turkestan Oblast | +77054352722 |
| 5 | Mr. Bayzhan Turganbek, farmer, participant | Turkestan Oblast | +7778-9504906 |
| 6 | Shokan Zgumadilov, farmer, participant | Turkestan Oblast | +77028132060 |
| "Zhassyl Azyk" grant project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/20/45) "Accelerated increase in productivity of degraded pastures to enhance the well-being of local communities" | | | |
| 1 | Mr. Bahtiyar Sadyk, SPG Grantee | Turkestan Oblast | + 7777 116 0091 b.sadyk@mail.ru |
| 2 | Nusenov Asan Serikovich, the rayon Akim | Turkestan Oblast | 8775-688-32-38 |
| 3 | Tolgat Boltayev, Head of Farmer's Committee | Turkestan Oblast | +701-768-59-65 |
| 4 | Zhandos Boltayev, Executive Director of farm " Karasha Agro" | Turkestan Oblast | +7701-555-73-86 5557386@mail.ru |
| 5 | Marat Zhaldosov, Agricultural Department of rayon Akimat | Turkestan Oblast | +7771-381-70-83 |
| "ECO Atameken" grant project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/CC/19/42) "Capacity and Activity Development to Implement RES and Improve Energy-Efficiency Measures by Organizing a Competition of Youth Green Initiatives in Turkestan Oblast, Kazakhstan" | | | |
| 1 | Representative of SPG Grantee, Mr. Zhaparov Rainat, organizer of meetings during site visit (instead of Grantee, who is ill) | Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast | +7747-716-42-57 |
| 2 | Mr. Amalbek Omirtay, Head of Akim's Administration of Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast (the participant of the Committee on project's selection) | Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast | +7701-4684244 professorkaznu@gmail.com |

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| | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 3 | Bibigul Abesheva, Deputy Director of school #6 (solar panel) | | +7702-60972015 |
| 4 | Ibragimova Ahbobe, theEE project winner, schoolgirl of 11'th class (solar collector for hot water in the school named after Pushkin) | Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast | +7747-3096509 nuray0386@mail.ru |
| 5 | Aset Akbota, physics teacher, member of the Project Selection Commission | Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast | aset.bota2017@mail.ru |
| 6 | Nurat Azhibayeva, physics teacher, member of the Project Selection Commission | Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast | +7701-3448945 |
| 7 | Mr. Nuraly Anvarovich Abdiyev, Deputy Director of the Special College for the Disabled", GOK college (phyto-lighting in greenhouse, drip irrigation, solar panel 1,2 KW) | Kentau city, Turkestan Oblast | +7705-4346996 |
| Yenbekshikazakh District Local Communities Fund" (LCF) grant project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/19/40) "Using the Best Possible Opportunities to Bring Small Farmers to the Sales Markets in order to Improve the Wellbeing of Rural Inhabitants in Yenbekshikazakh District, Almaty Oblast" | | | |
| 1 | Mrs. Bakytgul Elchibaeva, Grantee | Almaty Oblast | +7705-5421104 |
| 2 | Pavel Kavunov, Chief Agronomist of LCF (training) | Almaty Oblast | +7777-1247834 |
| 3 | Ulan Malikovich Sagynbekov, Akim of rayon, Assinsky rural district | Almaty Oblast | +7 7282 -97-75-45, 97-75-36. E-mail: u.sagynbekov@zhetysu.gov.kz |
| 4 | Marat Mansurov, Head of Agricultural Consumer Cooperative (ACC) | Almaty Oblast | +77075348444 Marat.m1974@mail.ru |
| 5 | Karum Tursunov, Farmer, project participant, member of ACC, working in greenhouse | Almaty Oblast | |
| 6 | Shiryn Mansurova, female representative, project participant | Almaty Oblast | +77075348444 |
| 7 | Mr. Sergey Tashevsky, Farmer, project participant, worker in greenhouse | Almaty Oblast | +7777-3923111 |
| Zhivoy dom" grant project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/19/39) Demonstration OF Agroforestry Practices within the Farms' Community of Almarai Ecovillage | | | |
| 1 | Ms. Maria Genina, SGP Grantee | Almaray village Almaty Oblast | +7777-2610798 |
| 2 | Mr. German Genin, farmer, project participant | Almaty Oblast | +7777-2484535 |
| 3 | Olesaya Ruzhkova, farmer, project participant | Almaty Oblast | +77774003347 |
| 4 | Bibigul Aliakbarova, farmer, project participant | Almaty Oblast | +77052641987 |
| 5 | Anna Vladimirovna Belaz, farmer, project participant | Almaty Oblast | +7705-2035096 |

Table 7 Travel report of Lyubov Inyutina, 02-07 August 2021 during TE site visits

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Date of visit | 02 August, 2021 | | | | | |
| Project Title | SGP 6 | | | | | |
| Organization - executor of the project | SGP 6 Country Unit | | | | | |
| Purpose of the visit | Site visits during Terminal Evaluation Assessment. Interview of project participants | | | | | |
| Participants of the visit | Lyubov Inyutina, TE National Consultant | Ekaterina Yushenko, Project Manager, SGP 6 | Dmitry Dybov, Driver, SGP 6 | | | |
| Coverage of the project area | Site visits starts from Almaty on 02.08.21 upon arrival to airport of Almaty Meeting with Project Manager prior to site visits <ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussion of the Plan of site visits and travel arrangements | | | | | |
| Progress in the implementation of project activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project Manager arranged meetingsNational TE Consultant provides site visits, meetings and interview with Grantees, project participants and partners, prepares required reporting | | | | | | |
| The projects for site visits were chosen both by Consultants of TE and Project Manager | | | | | | |
| Using of financial project resources | Financial resources are used according to plan and agreed with UNOPS management | | | | | |
| General Recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Following planned site visits➤ Meetings with SGP 6 Grantees, grants participants and partners➤ The list of Inyutina Lyubov Itinerary is attached.➤ The list of persons interviewed during site visits is attached. | | | | | |
| Date of visit | 03 August, 2021 | | | | | |
| Project Title | (1) KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/12: Degradation prevention of desert and semi-desert agro-landscapes through development of agro-tourism"; (2) KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/21: "Introduction of energy-efficient technologies on the basis of existing pilot sites in the East Kazakhstan and Turkestan region for further promotion purposes, and training of focus groups" (3) KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/10: "Demonstration of effective approaches to reduce land degradation of grasslands through use of hydroponic cultivation of green fodder" | | | | | |
| Organization - executor of the project | (1) Ugam NGO, Grantee (2) Private Foundation Socially Important Initiatives Development Fund, Grantee (3) BIOGEN, NGO, Grantee | | | | | |
| Purpose of the visit | Site visit to Turkmenistan Oblast during Terminal Evaluation Assessment. Interview of project participants | | | | | |
| Participants of the visit | Lyubov Inyutina, TE National Consultant | Ekaterina Yushenko, Project Manager, SGP 6 | Dmitry Dybov, Driver, SGP 6 | | | |
| Coverage of the project area | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- During TE, a visit to the project areas was carried out on 08/03/21, 5 meetings were held with the main project participants, project partners, representatives of executive bodies, namely:- Site visit to Ugam NGO's grant project on AgroEcoCenter (Shimkent city) to strengthen educational center of farmers agro-practices as degradation prevention of desert and semi-desert agro-landscapes through development of agro-tourism (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/12)- Site visit to "Private Foundation Socially Important Initiatives Development Fund" pilot site, project on EE technologies and training groups (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/21)- Deputy Rector of Turkestan High Agricultural College, recipient of Energy Efficiency (LED lighting in classrooms of AgroEcoCenter, fitolighting, solar drying fruit) technologies related to this project- Site visit to BIOGEN's hydroponic feed project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/10), Kaynar (10 km northwest of Shymkent) Meetings with stakeholders, interview of Grantees, project participants, partners involved (list attached) <ul style="list-style-type: none">The scope of work performed on the projects was examined, photos were takenMeetings and interviews were held with project participants, private business and representatives of executive bodies (list attached) | | | | | |
| Progress in the implementation of project activity | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <p>(1) All project activities were completed in full, on time, despite COVID. The final report has been submitted. The number of interviewed on the project is 5 people.</p> <p>(2) All project activities were completed in full, on time, despite COVID. The final report has been submitted. The number of interviewed on the project is 1 person.</p> <p>(3) All project activities were completed in full, on time, despite COVID. The final report has been submitted. The number of interviewed on the project is 6 people.</p> <p>The participants in the three projects are satisfied with the results. All stakeholders (12 people), including private business, farmers, the management of the agricultural college, representatives of the rural akimat, confirmed their interest and spoke approvingly about SGP 6 projects.</p> | | | | | |
| Using of financial project resources | Project funds were used as intended | | | | |
| General Recommendations | ➤ Use data for TE reporting. | | | | |
| Date of visit | 04 August, 2021 | | | | |
| Project Title | (1) KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/20/45: Accelerated increase in productivity of degraded pastures to enhance the well-being of local communities (2) KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/CC/19/42: “Capacity and Activity Development to Implement RES and Improve Energy-Efficiency Measures by Organizing a Competition of Youth Green Initiatives in Turkestan Oblast, Kazakhstan” | | | | |
| Organization - executor of the project | (1) Public Foundation "Zhassyl Azyk", Turkestan oblast (2) Public Association "ECO Atameken", Kentau city, Turkestan oblast | | | | |
| Purpose of the visit | Site visit to Turkmenistan Oblast during Terminal Evaluation Assessment. Interview of project participants | | | | |
| Participants of the visit | Lyubov Inyutina , TE National Consultant | Ekaterina Yushenko, Project Manager, SGP 6 | Dmitry Dybov, Driver, SGP 6 | Participants interviewed, see list attached | |
| Coverage of the project area | During TE, a visit to the project areas was carried out on 08/04/21, 7 meetings were held with the main project participants, project partners, representatives of executive bodies, namely:. Site visit to "Zhassyl Azyk" grant project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/20/45) “Accelerated increase in productivity of degraded pastures to enhance the well-being of local communities” <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Site visit "ECO Atameken" grant project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/CC/19/42) “Capacity and Activity Development to Implement RES and Improve Energy-Efficiency Measures by Organizing a Competition of Youth Green Initiatives in Turkestan Oblast, Kazakhstan” Meetings with stakeholders, interview of Grantees, project participants, partners involved (list attached) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The scope of work performed on the projects was examined, photos were taken• Meetings and interviews were held with project participants, private business and representatives of executive bodies | | | | |
| Progress in the implementation of project activity | | | | | |
| <p>(1) All project activities were completed in full, on time, despite COVID. The final report has been submitted. The number of interviewed on the project is 5 people.</p> <p>(2) All project activities were completed in full, on time, despite COVID. The final report has been submitted. The number of interviewed on the project is 7 people.</p> <p>The participants of the two projects are satisfied with the results. All stakeholders (12 people), including private business, farmers, representatives of the rural akimat, confirmed their interest and spoke approvingly about SGP 6 projects.</p> | | | | | |
| Using of financial project resources | Project funds were used as intended | | | | |
| General Recommendations | ➤ Use data for TE reporting. | | | | |
| Date of visit | 06 August, 2021 | | | | |
| Project Title | (1) KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/19/40: “Using the Best Possible Opportunities to Bring Small Farmers to the Sales Markets in order to Improve the Wellbeing of Rural Inhabitants in Yenbekshikazakh District, Almaty Oblast “ (2) KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/19/39: “Demonstration OF Agroforestry Practices within the Farms’ Community of Almarai Ecovillage” | | | | |
| Organization - executor of the project | (1) Public Foundation "Yenbekshikazakh District Local Communities Fund" (LCF)\ (2) Public Association "Centre for agri-environment culture "Zhivoy dom" | | | | |
| Purpose of the visit | Site visit to Almaty Oblast during Terminal Evaluation Assessment. Interview of project participants | | | | |
| Participants of the visit | Lyubov Inyutina, TE National Consultant | Ekaterina Yushenko, Project Manager SGP 6 | Dmitry Dybov Driver, SGP 6 | | |
| Coverage of the project area | During TE, a visit to the project areas was carried out on 08/06/21, 4 meetings were held with the main project participants, project partners, representatives of executive bodies, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Site visit to Yenbekshikazakh District Local Communities Fund" (LCF) grant project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/19/40) “Using the Best Possible Opportunities to Bring Small Farmers to the Sales Markets in order to Improve the Wellbeing of Rural Inhabitants in Yenbekshikazakh District, Almaty Oblast” | | | | |

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|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site visit to Zhivoy dom" grant project (KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/19/39) Demonstration OF Agroforestry Practices within the Farms' Community of Almarai Ecovillage <p>Meetings with stakeholders, interview of Grantees, project participants, partners involved (list attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scope of work performed on the projects was examined, photos were taken • Meetings and interviews were held with project participants, private business and representatives of executive bodies (list attached) |
| Progress in the implementation of project activity | |
| <p>(1) (1) All project activities were completed in full, on time, despite COVID. The final report has been submitted. The number of interviewed on the project is 7 people.</p> <p>(2) (2) All project activities were completed in full, on time, despite COVID. The final report has been submitted. The number of interviewed on the project is 5 people.</p> <p>The participants of the two projects are satisfied with the results. All stakeholders (12 people), including private business, farmers, representatives of the rural akimat, confirmed their interest and spoke approvingly about SGP 6 projects.</p> | |
| Using of financial project resources | Project funds were used as intended |
| General Recommendations | ➤ Use data for TE reporting. |

Annex 5: Evaluation Matrix

| | Indicators | Sources | Methodology | Response / Finding | Opportunities for Improvement |
|---|---|--|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Project Strategy: To what extent is the project strategy relevant to country priorities, country ownership, and the best route towards expected results? | | | | | |
| Project Design: | | | | | |
| To what extent is the project in line with national and local priorities? | <i>Alignment with national policies and local development plans</i> | <i>ProDoc and AWP, National strategies, regional development plans</i> | Comparative analysis | | |
| | <i>Correspondence of the grants to the selection criteria</i> | | | | |
| | <i>Alignment with GEF focal area outcomes and outputs</i> | <i>GEF documents, ProDoc, AWP</i> | <i>Comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Have synergies with other projects and initiatives been incorporated in the design? | <i>Evidence of stakeholder mapping in the ProDoc and examples of synergistic activities planned</i> | <i>ProDoc, Inception report, interviews</i> | <i>Comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design? | <i>Evidence of lessons from other projects listed and considered in the design stage</i> | <i>ProDoc, Inception report, interviews</i> | <i>Comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, considered during project design processes? | <i>Evidence that the project design was informed by the perspectives of local stakeholders</i> | <i>KIIs, ProDoc and Inception report</i> | <i>Comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Have issues materialized due to incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document? | <i>Evidence of comprehensive risk analysis and mitigation measures in the ProDoc and AWP</i> | <i>Annual PIRs, AWP and ProDoc</i> | <i>Comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Results Framework: | | | | | |
| Are the project objective and outcomes clear, practicable, and feasible within its time frame? | <i>level of coherence between project objectives and outcomes, and resources</i> | <i>ProDoc, Inception report, KIIs, PIRs,</i> | <i>Comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Are the project's logframe indicators and targets appropriate? | <i>Evidence of the project logframe capturing key results at output and outcome level</i> | <i>ProDoc, Inception report, AWP, KIIs</i> | <i>Comparative analysis</i> | | |
| How "SMART" are the midterm and end-of-project targets (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound)? If applicable, what specific amendments or revisions to the targets and indicators are recommended? | <i>Evidence of the project targets being SMART</i> | <i>ProDoc, Inception report, AWP</i> | <i>Review of the targets</i> | | |
| Mainstreaming | | | | | |

| | Indicators | Sources | Methodology | Response / Finding | Opportunities for Improvement |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| To what extent were broader development and gender aspects factored into project design? Has there been progress so far that has led to or could in the future catalyse beneficial development effects (i.e., income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved governance etc...) that should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis? | <i>Evidence of alignment with broader development agenda, including gender roles</i> | <i>ProDoc and AWP, UNDP CPAPs and CPD, and UNDAF, PIRs and GEF Core Indicator tracking tools</i> | Comparative analysis | | |
| Progress towards Results To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved thus far? | | | | | |
| Progress towards Outcomes Analysis: | | | | | |
| Are the logframe indicators met? If not then why? Are the targets from the GEF Tracking Tool met? If not why? | <i>Evidence of meeting the midterm targets, evidence of concurrence of interviewee feedback on the factors</i> | <i>KIIs, PIRs, tracking tool</i> | <i>Triangulation, contribution analysis, "Progress towards results analysis"</i> | | |
| Considering the aspects of the project that have already been successful, what were the factors behind these? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |
| Which barriers have hindered achievement of the project objective in the remainder of the project? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |
| Project Implementation & Adaptive Management | | | | | |
| Management Arrangements, GEF Partner Agency: | | | | | |
| Has there been an appropriate focus on results? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |
| Has the UNDP/UNOPS support to the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner and Project Team been adequate? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |
| Has the quality and timeliness of technical support to the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner and Project Team been adequate? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |
| How has the responsiveness of the managing parties to significant implementation problems (if any) been? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents (Board meetings minutes)</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Are there salient issues (e.g., project duration and scope) that have they affected project outcomes and sustainability? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Management Arrangements, Executing Agency/Implementing Partner: | | | | | |
| Were the capacities of the executing institution(s) and its counterparts properly considered when the Project was designed? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents (e.g., Capacity Development Framework at baseline, ProDoc and Inception report)</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |

| | Indicators | Sources | Methodology | Response / Finding | Opportunities for Improvement |
|--|---|---|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Were partnership arrangements properly identified and roles and responsibilities negotiated prior to Project approval? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents (e.g., ProDoc)</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Were counterpart resources, enabling legislation, and adequate project management arrangements in place at Project entry? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Has there been an appropriate focus on timeliness? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review; as well as evidence of using appropriate management tools</i> | <i>KIIs, documents (esp., AWP)</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |
| Have management inputs and processes, including budgeting and procurement been adequate? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents (esp., Annual Work Plans and Board meeting minutes)</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |
| Has overall risk management been proactive, participatory, and effective? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Has there been sufficient candour and realism in annual reporting? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Has there been adequate mitigation and management of environmental and social risks as identified through the UNDP Environmental and Social screening procedure? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents (e.g., UNDP Environmental and Social screening document)</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Work Planning | | | | | |
| Has the project experienced delays in start-up and/or implementation? What were the causes of the delays? And, have the issues been resolved? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>KIIs, documents (AWPs and PIRs; Board Meetings minutes))</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Were the work-planning processes results-based? Has the project team used the project's results framework/ logframe as a management tool? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review; as well as evidence of using appropriate management tools</i> | <i>KIIs, documents (esp., Annual Work Plans and PIRs)</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Have there been any changes to the logframe since project start, and have these changes been documented and approved by the project board? | <i>evidence from document review;</i> | <i>ProDoc, Inception report, AWP and PIRs. KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Finance and Co-finance: | | | | | |
| Have strong financial controls been established allow the project management to make informed decisions regarding the budget at any time, and allow for the timely flow of funds and the payment of satisfactory project deliverables? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>PIRs, CDRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Are there variances between planned and actual expenditures? If yes, what are the reasons behind these variances? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>PIRs, CDRs, AWP,</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |

| | Indicators | Sources | Methodology | Response / Finding | Opportunities for Improvement |
|--|---|---|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Has the project demonstrated due diligence in the management of funds, including annual audits? | concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review | <i>PIRs, CDRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Have there been any changes made to the fund allocations as a result of budget revisions? Assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions. | concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review | <i>PIRs, CDRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Has pledged co-financing materialized? If not, what are the reasons behind the co-financing not materializing or falling short of targets? | concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review | <i>PIRs, CDRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems | | | | | |
| Was the M&E plan sufficiently budgeted and funded during project preparation and implementation thus far? Are sufficient resources being allocated to M&E? Are these resources being allocated effectively? | concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review | <i>PIRs, CDRs, AWP, KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Are the M&E systems appropriate to the project's specific context? Do the monitoring tools provide the necessary information? Do they involve key partners, stakeholders including groups (e.g., women indigenous peoples, children, elderly, disabled, and poor)? Are they aligned or mainstreamed with national systems? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they cost-effective? Are additional tools required? How well are the development objectives built into monitoring systems: How are perspectives of women and men involved and affected by the project monitored and assessed? | concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review | <i>PIRs, AWP, KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| To what extent have follow-up actions, and/or adaptive management measures, been taken in response to the PIRs? | concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review | <i>PIRs, AWP, KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Stakeholder Engagement: | | | | | |
| Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders? | concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review | <i>PIRs, AWP, KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Do local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation? | concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review | <i>PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| How has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives? Are there any limitations to stakeholder awareness of project outcomes or to stakeholder participation in project activities? Is there invested interest of stakeholders in the project's long-term success and sustainability? | concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review | <i>PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Reporting | | | | | |
| How have adaptive management changes been reported by the Project Team and shared with the Project Board? | concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from | <i>PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |

| | Indicators | Sources | Methodology | Response / Finding | Opportunities for Improvement |
|---|---|---|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| | document review | | | | |
| How well have the Project Team and partners undertaken and fulfil GEF reporting requirements? | evidence from document review | <i>Board meeting minutes and other documents KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| How have PIRs been shared with the Project Board and other key stakeholders? | concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review | <i>Board meeting minutes and other documents (GEF regional office) KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| How have lessons derived from the adaptive management process been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners, and incorporated into project implementation? | concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review | <i>PIRs, AWP, Lessons Learned reports, Board meeting minutes KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Communication: | | | | | |
| Was communication regular and effective? Were there key stakeholders left out of communication? Were there feedback mechanisms when communication is received? Did this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and long-term investment in the sustainability of project results? | concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review <i>evidence of appropriate feedback tools used</i> | <i>PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes, other documents KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Were proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?) | concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review <i>evidence of appropriate communication tools</i> | <i>PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes, other documents KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Were there possibilities for expansion of educational or awareness aspects of the project to solidify a communications program, with mention of proper funding for education and awareness activities? What aspects of the project might yield excellent communications material, if applicable? | concurrence of interviewee feedback | <i>Board meeting minutes, KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |
| Sustainability | | | | | |
| Risk Management | | | | | |
| Were the risks identified in the Project Document, Annual Project Review/PIRs and the ATLAS Risk Management Module the most important? And, are the risk ratings applied appropriate and up to date? If not, explain why. | <i>Evidence of adequate risk identification</i> | <i>Project Document, Annual Project Review/PIRs and the ATLAS Risk Management Module KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Financial Risks to Sustainability: | | | | | |
| What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GEF assistance ends (consider potential resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and other funding that will be adequate financial | concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review | <i>KII</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |

| | Indicators | Sources | Methodology | Response / Finding | Opportunities for Improvement |
|--|--|---|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| resources for sustaining project's outcomes)? What additional factors are needed to create an enabling environment for continued financing? | | | | | |
| Has there been the establishment of financial and economic instruments and mechanisms to ensure the ongoing flow of benefits once the GEF assistance ends (i.e., from the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and market transformations to promote the project's objectives)? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review</i> | <i>KII, PIRs and other documents (e.g., updated Capacity Development Framework)</i> | <i>Triangulation</i> | | |
| Socio-Economic Risks to Sustainability | | | | | |
| Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review</i> | <i>KII</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |
| What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review</i> | <i>KII</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |
| Is there sufficient public/ stakeholder awareness in support of the objectives of the project? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review</i> | <i>KII</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |
| Are lessons learned being documented by the Project Team on a continual basis? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review</i> | <i>Lessons Learned reports, KIIs</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Are the project's successful aspects being transferred to appropriate parties, potential future beneficiaries, and others who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review</i> | <i>KII</i> | <i>Triangulation,</i> | | |
| Institutional Framework and Governance Risks to Sustainability | | | | | |
| Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize project benefits? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review</i> | <i>KII</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Has the project put in place frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes that will create mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge transfer after the project's closure? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review evidence of the project using appropriate frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes</i> | <i>KII, document review</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |

| | Indicators | Sources | Methodology | Response / Finding | Opportunities for Improvement |
|---|--|---|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| How has the project developed appropriate institutional capacity (systems, structures, staff, expertise, etc.) that are likely to be self-sufficient after the project closure date? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review</i> | <i>KII Other documents (PIRs, government papers)</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| How has the project identified and involved champions (i.e., individuals in government and civil society) who can promote sustainability of project outcomes? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review</i> | <i>KII, document review</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Has the project achieved stakeholders' (including government stakeholders') consensus regarding courses of action on project activities after the project's closure date? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review</i> | <i>KII, document review (esp. the Board meeting minutes)</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Does the project leadership have the ability to respond to future institutional and governance changes (i.e., foreseeable changes to local or national political leadership)? Can the project strategies effectively be incorporated/mainstreamed into future planning? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review</i> | <i>KII, document review</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |
| Environmental Risks to Sustainability: | | | | | |
| Are there environmental factors that could undermine and reverse the project's outcomes and results, including factors that have been identified by project stakeholders? | <i>concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review</i> | <i>KII, document review</i> | <i>Triangulation, comparative analysis</i> | | |

Annex 6: Methodology of assessing the project formulation, implementation and results

| Assessment elements | Assessment methodology |
|--|--|
| <p><u>Project Design/Formulation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National priorities and country driven-ness Theory of Change Gender equality and women's empowerment Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) Analysis of Results Framework: project logic and strategy, indicators Assumptions and Risks Lessons from other relevant projects (e.g., same focal area) incorporated into project design Planned stakeholder participation Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector Management arrangements | <p><u>Project design:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the problem addressed by the project and the underlying assumptions. Review the effect of any incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document. Review the relevance of the project strategy and assess whether it provides the most effective route towards expected/intended results. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design? Review how the project addresses country priorities. Review country ownership. Was the project concept in line with the national sector development priorities and plans of the country (or of participating countries in the case of multi-country projects)? Review decision-making processes: were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, taken into account during project design processes? Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were raised in the project design. See Annex 9 of <i>Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects</i> for further guidelines. If there are major areas of concern, recommend areas for improvement. <p><u>Results Framework/Logframe:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a critical analysis of the project's logframe indicators and targets, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound), and suggest specific amendments/revisions to the targets and indicators as necessary. Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame? Examine if progress so far has led to or could in the future catalyse beneficial development effects (i.e., income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved governance etc...) that should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis. Ensure broader development and gender aspects of the project are being monitored effectively. Develop and recommend SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits. |
| <p><u>Project Implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptive management (changes to the project design and project outputs during implementation) Actual stakeholder participation and partnership arrangements Project Finance and Co-finance Monitoring & Evaluation: design at entry (*), implementation (*), and overall assessment of M&E (*) Implementing Agency (UNDP) (*) and Executing Agency (*), overall project oversight/implementation and execution (*) | <p><u>Management Arrangements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review overall effectiveness of project management as outlined in the Project Document. Have changes been made and are they effective? Are responsibilities and reporting lines clear? Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner? Recommend areas for improvement. Review the quality of execution of the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner(s) and recommend areas for improvement. Review the quality of support provided by the GEF Partner Agency (UNDP) and recommend areas for improvement. <p><u>Work Planning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they have been resolved. Are work-planning processes results-based? If not, suggest ways to re-orientate work planning to focus on results? Examine the use of the project's results framework/ logframe as a management tool and review any changes made to it since project start. <p><u>Finance and co-finance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the financial management of the project, with specific reference to the cost-effectiveness of interventions. Review the changes to fund allocations as a result of budget revisions and assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions. Does the project have the appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for timely flow of funds? |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Management, including Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed by the co-financing monitoring table to be filled out, provide commentary on co-financing: is co-financing being used strategically to help the objectives of the project? Is the Project Team meeting with all co-financing partners regularly in order to align financing priorities and annual work plans? <p><u>Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the monitoring tools currently being used: Do they provide the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Are they aligned or mainstreamed with national systems? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they cost-effective? Are additional tools required? How could they be made more participatory and inclusive? Examine the financial management of the project monitoring and evaluation budget. Are sufficient resources being allocated to monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources being allocated effectively? <p><u>Stakeholder Engagement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project management: Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders? Participation and country-driven processes: Do local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation? Participation and public awareness: To what extent has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives? <p><u>Reporting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess how adaptive management changes have been reported by the project management and shared with the Project Board. Assess how well the Project Team and partners undertake and fulfil GEF reporting requirements (i.e., how have they addressed poorly-rated PIRs, if applicable?) Assess how lessons derived from the adaptive management process have been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners. <p><u>Communications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Are there feedback mechanisms when communication is received? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and investment in the sustainability of project results? Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?) For reporting purposes, write one half-page paragraph that summarizes the project's progress towards results in terms of contribution to sustainable development benefits, as well as global environmental benefits. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of extending the project; |
| <p><u>Project Results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the achievement of outcomes against indicators by reporting on the level of progress for each objective and outcome | <p>The TE report will assess the achievement of project results against what was expected to be achieved (against expectations set out in the project's Logical Framework/Results Framework, as <u>in Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.</u> which provides clear performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification and draw lessons that can improve the sustainability of the benefits of this project and assist in the overall improvement of UNDP programming. Please note that that the indicators were revised at MTR and this is reflected in the table</p> <p>In addition to the progress towards outcomes analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and analyse the GEF Tracking Tool at the Baseline with the one completed right before the Midterm Review. Identify remaining barriers to achieving the project objective in the remainder of the project. |

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| <p>indicator at the time of the TE and noting final achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance (*), Effectiveness (*), Efficiency (*) and overall project outcome (*) • Sustainability: financial (*), socio-political (*), institutional framework and governance (*), environmental (*), overall likelihood of sustainability (*) • Country ownership • Gender equality and women's empowerment • Cross-cutting issues (poverty alleviation, improved governance, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster prevention and recovery, human rights, capacity development, South-South cooperation, knowledge management, volunteerism, etc., as relevant) • GEF Additionality • Catalytic Role / Replication Effect • Progress to impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By reviewing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits <p><u>Sustainability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validate whether the risks identified in the Project Document, Annual Project Review/PIRs and the ATLAS Risk Management Module are the most important and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate and up to date. If not, explain why. • Discuss what needs to be done to ensure the sustainability of the project; • In addition, assess the following risks to sustainability: <p><u>Financial risks to sustainability:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GEF assistance ends (consider potential resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and other funding that will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project's outcomes)? <p><u>Socio-economic risks to sustainability:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes? What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow? Is there sufficient public / stakeholder awareness in support of the long-term objectives of the project? Are lessons learned being documented by the Project Team on a continual basis and shared/ transferred to appropriate parties who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future? <p><u>Institutional Framework and Governance risks to sustainability:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project benefits? While assessing this parameter, also consider if the required systems/ mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge transfer are in place. <p><u>Environmental risks to sustainability:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any environmental risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes? |
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Annex 7: Project results framework for SGP 6 project

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| This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals: please see page 28, above |
| This project will contribute to the following country outcome included in the UNDAF/Country Programme Document: <i>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.</i> |
| This project will be linked to the following output of the UNDP Strategic Plan: <i>Output 1. Selected settlements have adopted integrated models for sustainable growth</i> <i>Output 3: Natural resources are protected, accounted for and integrated in national and/or sub-national development planning</i> <i>Output 4. National and sub-national institutions have strengthened capacities in environmental governance in protected territories and adjacent settlements</i> |

| | Objective and Outcome Indicators | Baseline | Mid-term Target | End of Project Target | Assumptions |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Project Objective: Project Objective: To build the socio-ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes of Kazakhstan by securing global environmental benefits from community-based management of biodiversity, ecosystem function, and land, water, and biomass resources | Area under resilient landscape management whose biodiversity, agro-ecosystems, and sustainable livelihoods are protected | About 940,000 ha have received direct impact and 2.33 million ha of indirect impact (including agricultural lands, PAs and buffer zones) since the beginning of the SGP programme in 1998 | 25,000 hectares | 70,000 hectares | Sufficient number of communities working within the landscape, promoting a landscape approach, will lead to a tipping point in building landscape resilience through adoption of best practices |
| | [Modified indicator as per Inception Report]: Number of community organizations and associations and direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender, whose resilience is strengthened by experimenting, innovating and learning through landscape planning and management processes in the landscape [Original Indicator]: Number of community organizations and associations, whose resilience is strengthened by experimenting, innovating and learning through landscape planning and management processes in the landscape | 285 community organizations whose experience has been strengthened through implementation of GEF SGP-funded projects in target landscapes in previous GEF SGP programme cycles | 30 | At least fifty organizations strengthened in technical, organizational and financial capacities [Added as per the Inception report]: At least 30% of community-based organizations are led by women. [Modified as per MTR report] Total number of direct beneficiaries - 15,000 persons [Original indicator] Average direct beneficiaries per project 50, total 2,500 persons. | Community-organizations will rally around thematic environmental concerns to improve their practices |
| | Increased use of renewable energy or energy efficiency technologies at community level | 15 renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies successfully tested in previous SGP phase | At least 4 energy efficient technologies piloted successfully in 7 pilot sites | At least 8 energy efficient technologies piloted successfully in 7 pilot sites [Added as per Inception report]: 795.6 tons of | Demonstrations and pilots will lead to broader uptake of energy efficient technologies |

| | Objective and Outcome Indicators | Baseline | Mid-term Target | End of Project Target | Assumptions |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | CO2e over three years | |
| Component 1: Resilient rural and peri-urban landscapes of steppe and desert ecosystems for sustainable development and global environmental protection | | | | | |
| Outcome 1.1 Community Organizations in multi-stakeholder partnerships formulate and implement adaptive management plans to strengthen socio-ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes based on conservation, of biodiversity, sustainable management of land and water resources and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. | <p>[Modified indicator]: Number of baseline participatory landscape assessments for targeted steppe and desert landscapes</p> <p>[Original Indicator]: Number of participatory landscape management plans for targeted steppe and desert landscapes</p> | 0 participatory landscape management plans elaborated | <p>[Modified target]: At least 7 baseline landscape assessments (1 per oblast)</p> <p>[Original target]: At least 7 landscape management plans (1 per oblast)</p> | <p>[Modified target]: At least 7 baseline landscape assessments (1 per oblast)</p> <p>[Original target]: At least 7 landscape management plans (1 per oblast)</p> | There is fair representation of various interest groups residing in landscapes in developing the management plan and committing to strategies espoused within |
| Outcome 1.2 Multi-stakeholder landscape management groups, local policy-makers and sub-national advisors organized in landscape policy platforms discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned | Number of multi-stakeholder governance policy platforms which include participatory landscape / planning and adaptive management in the landscape | There exist 8 River Basin Councils that discuss water management issues (different uses, supply and irrigation) specific to each river basin. However, these do not assess watershed issues holistically or in terms of landscape approach. | 7 policy platforms' organizational structures are elaborated | <p>At least 7 functioning platforms (one per oblast), which include landscape policy considerations in their work-planning.</p> <p>[Added as per the Inception report]: at least 30% of community-based organizations are led by women</p> | Platforms are effective mechanisms for informing policy development and planning |

| | Objective and Outcome Indicators | Baseline | Mid-term Target | End of Project Target | Assumptions |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| | Number of strategies to achieve greater social and ecological resilience | Oblast level Environmental Management Council is a second multi-stakeholder platform yet does not fully include landscape strategies | 7 landscape strategies | At least 7 landscape strategies, one for targeted sites | Landscape strategies are useful and adaptive tools by which to plan sustainable interventions. |
| Outcome 1.3 Community organizations in target eco-systems build their adaptive management and organizational capacities by designing and implementing community and/or landscape level projects to sustain and revitalize biodiversity and ecosystem function; improve productivity and sustainability of production systems; develop viable livelihood alternatives; and strengthen formal and non-formal landscape governance institutions and mechanisms | Number and typology of community-based projects, implemented by CBOs and NGOs in partnership with others in the targeted landscapes, as outputs to achieve landscape level outcomes | 220 community-based projects implemented by CBOs and NGOs in target landscapes in the areas of climate change adaptation/mitigation, biodiversity conservation and land degradation. | 20 projects initiated and aligned with landscape strategies | [Revised target as per MTR] 47-49 projects [Original target] 50-60 projects | New community-based projects supported by SGP will lead to fulfillment of landscape objectives |
| | Increased area under management for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use | 750,000 ha of direct impact and about 2 million ha of indirect impact from previous phases of the SGP | 15,000 hectares | 50,000 hectares | Supporting community organizations will result in biodiversity conservation |
| | Increased area of agricultural land under sustainable agro-ecological practices and systems that increase productivity and decrease land degradation | 190,000 ha of direct impact and 330,000 ha of indirect impact | 5,000 hectares | 10,000 hectares | Supporting community organizations will result in improved and sustainable agricultural practices |
| | Increased area under climate-adaptive practices | 10,000 ha under climate-adaptive practices | 5,000 hectares | 10,000 hectares | Supporting community organizations will result in improved climate adaptive practices |
| | Modified indicator]: Percentage of beneficiaries disaggregated by gender with increased incomes as a result of sustainable and/or alternative practices [Original indicator]: Percentage of beneficiaries with increased incomes as a result of sustainable and/or alternative practices | Unknown to be calculated during baseline assessment | [Modified target as per Inception report]: 15% [Original target]: 20% | [Modified target as per Inception report]: 40% [Original target]: 60% | Improvement in soil quality and livestock health indicates socioeconomic benefits |
| | Number of energy efficient and renewable technologies piloted successfully | 15 renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies successfully piloted in target | At least 4 technologies piloted | At least 8 technologies piloted | Communities will agree to try unfamiliar renewable energy technologies |
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| | Objective and Outcome Indicators | Baseline | Mid-term Target | End of Project Target | Assumptions |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | landscapes | | | |
| Outcome 1.4 Successful technologies, practices and systems from community-based initiatives are replicated and promoted for up-scaling by multi-stakeholder partnerships using knowledge and lessons learned from identifying, testing and adapting community innovations for landscape and resource management | Number of new technologies, practices or systems successfully replicated and up-scaled beyond the landscapes | Zero | At least one new technology, practice or system is replicated and up-scaled through use of strategic projects | At least five new technologies, practices or systems are replicated and up-scaled beyond the landscapes through the use of strategic projects | Mechanisms are in place to replicate and upscale technologies at the national level |
| Component 2- Knowledge Generation and Management, Information-sharing and Dissemination of Lessons Learned | | | | | |
| Outcome 2.1 Knowledge products and lessons learned are systematized, organized and disseminated for policy recommendations | Number of knowledge products (case studies, pamphlets, advocacy campaigns) | 65 SGP-supported projects analyzed, lessons learned documented and published | 5 lessons learned documents | 20-25 lessons learned documents developed; 7 case studies developed (1 per landscape) [Added as per Inception report]:100% of publications are gender-sensitive | Appropriate dissemination of lessons learned will result in widespread application |

Annex 8: Complete list of SGP 6 grant projects

| | Project number | Organization | Project Title | Amount | Landscape | Focal Area | MOA signed | End Date | Focal Point | Email | Mobile with Whatsapp |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|-----------|---------------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 1 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/02 | Public Foundation "AGRO GREEN" | Creation of a digital system to monitor rational pasture use in Akmol region | 37,330.00 | Akmola region | Land Degradation | 11-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Marat Auezov | auezov@inbox.ru | +7 771 211 1142 |
| 2 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/13 | Republican Association of Agricultural Cooperatives AgroUnion of Kazakhstan | Restoration of degraded irrigated lands by reusing drainage, discharged waters in the semi-desert zone of the Balkhash district, Almaty region | 32,746.00 | Almaty region | Land Degradation | 12-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Alik Sagindykov | a.sagindykov@mail.ru | +7 777 395 3366 |
| 3 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/14 | Public Fund Farmer of Kazakhstan | Development and implementation of a comprehensive management plan for the desert pastures of the Karazhotinsky rural district | 45,295.00 | Almaty region | Land Degradation | 12-Dec-18 | 30-Jun-21 | Vladimir Levin | kazfermer@mail.ru | +7 777 225 6230 |
| 4 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/19/34 | Public Association "Incubator of Sustainable Development Projects" | Promoting organic farming at local level by teaching communities to produce organic fertilizers as a method for restoring soil and increasing crops yields | 29,957.00 | Almaty region | Land Degradation | 5-Jul-19 | 30-Jun-21 | Denis Ten | ecolss@mail.ru info@ecofarmer.kz | +7 777 340 43 33 |
| 5 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/19/39 | Public Association "Centre for agri-environment culture "Zhivoy dom" | Demonstration OF Agroforestry Practices within the Farms' Community of Almarai Ecovillage | 12,200.00 | Almaty region | Land Degradation | 10-Feb-20 | 30-Jun-21 | German Gagiyeu Mariya Genina | maria_genina@mail.ru gagiyeu@dku.kz | +7 777 261 0798 |

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| 6 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/19/40 | Public Foundation "Yenbekshi kazakh District Local Communities Fund" (LCF) | Using the Best Possible Opportunities to Bring Small Farmers to the Sales Markets in order to Improve the Wellbeing of Rural Inhabitants in Yenbekshikazakh District, Almaty Oblast | 35,000.00 | Almaty region | Land Degradation | 10-Feb-20 | 31-Mar-21 | Bakytgul Yelchibaeva | belchibaeva@yandex.ru | +7 705 542 1104 |
| 7 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/20/47 | Public Association "Environmental Centre "Eco-Kokshe" | "Implementing the best practices and training local agricultural manufacturers in efficient optimal resource-saving technologies of integrated amelioration and reclamation of soil fertility of arable lands in Southern Kazakhstan | 31,000.00 | Almaty region | Land Degradation | 5-Jun-20 | 30-Jun-21 | Anar Sarsenova | anab76@mail.ru | +7 778 792 2146 |
| 8 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/23 | Youth Public Association "Ecological and Tourist Center "TEK" | Demonstration of complex of efficient practices to reduce land degradation in semi-desert and steppe ecosystems of East Kazakhstan on the example of Sarybel rural district, Kokpekty area | 44,000.00 | East Kazakhstan region | Land Degradation | 20-Dec-18 | 30-Jun-21 | Natalya Blokh | etctek@mail.ru | +7 775 266 9406 +7 705 540 8925 |
| 9 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/26 | Public Foundation "Resource Center for Rural NGOs "Birlik" | Reduction of land degradation processes on pastures of Karabas village through sowing of forage grasses and remote pasture use scheme implementation" | 20,075.00 | East Kazakhstan region | Land Degradation | 20-Dec-18 | 31-Mar-21 | Sakan Aubakirova | sonia1955a@yandex.ru | +7 747 657 1391 |
| 10 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/19 | Public association "Farmers Association of Shetsk district | Expansion of territories and raising productivity of the remote pastures in Akshokinskiy area by restoring the dam on the Sakalbay River | 39,850.00 | Karaganda region | Land Degradation | 20-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Tleukabyl Yessembekuly | kusbegi@mail.ru | +7 701 244 6569 |

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|----|------------------------------|--|--|-----------|------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| 11 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/20 | Public Association Center for Coordination and Information on Environmental Education EcoObraz | Promotion of agrotechnologies to adapt to climate change in the desert zone of Zhezkazgan region | 40,571.00 | Karaganda region | Land Degradation | 20-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Svetlana Bylinskaya | bilinskaya_sv@bk.ru | +7 700 469 7482 |
| 12 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/17 | Public association Necklace of green practices | Consolidation of dacha cooperatives of Kostanay region for development and distribution of resource-saving approaches to meet the risks associated with climate change | 26,600.00 | Kostanay region | Land Degradation | 10-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Saule Kabidulova | kabidulova@mail.ru | +7 775 790 9557 |
| 13 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/18 | Public association NUR MAKHABBAT | Introduction of effective methods of crop rotation on farming fields, to reduce land degradation | 15,480.00 | Kostanay region | Land Degradation | 12-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Ekaterina Panchuk | verika8710@mail.ru | +7 705 455 4334 |
| 14 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/30 | Public Association Gaiberen | Restoration of pasture landscapes and increase of livestock feed base of Karashalan village | 15,100.00 | Kyzylorda region | Land Degradation | 20-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Gulsum Bakhova | bahova24@mail.ru | +7 701 168 9163 |
| 15 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/10 | Public association BIOGEN | Demonstration of effective approaches to reduce land degradation of grasslands through use of hydroponic cultivation of green fodder | 28,095.00 | Turkestan region | Land Degradation | 10-Dec-18 | 30-Nov-20 | Serik Makashev | serik-06@mail.ru | +7 778 181 6802 |
| 16 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/11 | Public association Aksu MSH | Restoration of degraded pastures in Karaungur by introducing local pasture resources management and the establishment of sowing hayfields | 31,700.00 | Turkestan region | Land Degradation | 12-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Kydyrali Zhunissov | aksu_59@mail.ru | +7 705 354 8280 |
| 17 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/LD/18/12 | Public association Ugam | Degradation prevention of desert and semi-desert agro-landscapes | 40,000.00 | Turkestan region | Land Degradation | 10-Dec-18 | 31-Mar-21 | Alikhan Abdeshev | a3ugam@mail.ru | +7 701 222 0328 |

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|----|------------------------------|---|---|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | | | 18through development of 19agro-tourism | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/19/44 | Public Association of Farms in Turkestan Area "Syrdariya" | Restoration of Degraded Irrigated Lands by Implementing Lucerne and Cotton Crop Rotation, Soil Fertility Improvement, Cotton Fields Yield Enhancement | 18,000.00 | Turkestan region | Land Degradation | 10-Feb-20 | 30-Jun-21 | Beken Belkeshev | bel77748@mail.ru | +7 701 296 05 70 (no w/a) +7 747 221 39 15 (no w/a) |
| 19 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/LD/20/45 | Public Foundation "Zhassyl Azyk" | Accelerated increase in productivity of degraded pastures to enhance the well-being of local communities | 29,077.00 | Turkestan region | Land Degradation | 7-Apr-20 | 30-Jun-21 | Baktiyar Sadyk | b.sadyk@mail.ru | +7 777 116 0091 |
| 20 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/04 | Public association Women Ray" | Demonstration of efficient use of energy-saving technologies on the example of social adaptation centers of the Akmola region through implementation of the network project | 48,923.00 | Akmola region | Climate Change | 12-Dec-18 | 31-Mar-21 | Oxana Volkova-Mikhalskaya | 4-9-49@mail.ru | +7 701 149 7806 |
| 21 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/05 | Private Charitable Foundation "Adal Niet Astana" | Demonstration of efficient use of energy-saving technologies on the example of social adaptation centers of the Akmola region through implementation of the network project | 47,150.00 | Akmola region | Climate Change | 12-Dec-18 | 31-Mar-21 | Bibisara Beissenbayeva | bbibisara@mail.ru | +7 775 220 6599 |
| 22 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/CC/20/41 | Public Foundation "Akбота" | Establishing a Model of Youth Environmental Education within the Technical and Vocational Colleges in the Focal Landscapes | 40,000.00 | Akmola region | Climate Change | 29-Jun-20 | 30-Apr-21 | Tatyana Nemtsan | ak_bota@inbox.ru | +7 775 980 7465 |
| 23 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/28 | Public Foundation "Culture and Ecology Support Fund | Assistance to farmers of the Almaty region to switch from hydrocarbon electricity generators to renewable energy sources | 30,100.00 | Almaty region | Climate Change | 20-Dec-18 | 30-Apr-21 | Vadim Akhtyamov | serdceazii@yandex.kz avاديم7@yandex.ru | +7 705 188 4455 |

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|----|------------------------------|---|---|-----------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | | 24“Heart of As25ia” | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/29 | Publi26c Association International Ecological Association of Orient Women | Demonstration of renewable energy sources use in LCs of Uigur district of Almaty region” (Kun saulesi – auylga”) | 23,000.00 | Almaty region | Climate Change | 20-Dec-18 | 31-Mar-21 | Aigul Gabbastarova | artusha08@mail.ru | +7 700 231 3454 +7 777 518 1180 |
| 25 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/CC/19/35 | Public Foundation “The Center Cooperation for Sustainable Development” | Demonstrational Project to Develop the Rational Rural Waste Management System in Order to Reduce the Greenhouse Gas Emission and Prevent Climate Change | 20,000.00 | Almaty region | Climate Change | 10-Feb-20 | 30-Jun-21 | Assem Badauova | csd.assem@gmail.com | +7 702 488 0456 |
| 26 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/09 | Public association KASIIETI OR ALTAI | Implementation and demonstration of energy-efficient technologies to improve livelihood of rural communities in Eastern Kazakhstan | 46,000.00 | East Kazakhstan region | Climate Change | 10-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Didar Dalimanov | didardaliuk@mail.ru | +7 777 147 0910 |
| 27 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/21 | Private Foundation Socially Important Initiatives Development Fund | Introduction of energy-efficient technologies on the basis of existing pilot sites in the East Kazakhstan and Turkestan region for further promotion purposes, and training of focus groups | 40,510.00 | East Kazakhstan region | Climate Change | 20-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Yermek Mazhitov | mazhitov7@mail.ru | +7 701 712 6612 |
| 28 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/22 | Public Association “Cultural and Ecological Association “Bumerang” | Demonstration of energy efficient approaches installation as methods for reducing CO2 emissions in rural remote areas | 13,500.00 | East Kazakhstan region | Climate Change | 20-Dec-18 | 31-Aug-20 | Tatyana Butvilene | butvilene@bk.ru | +7 777 742 1761 |

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|----|------------------------------|--|---|-----------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 29 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/CC/20/46 | Public Foundation "VIKINDA" | Vita-Summer greenhouse in Novotroitskoe village | 21,270.00 | East Kazakhstan region | Climate Change | 7-Apr-20 | 30-Jun-21 | Inna Dak | innadak80@mail.ru | +7 705 601 8153 |
| 30 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/06 | Public association International Center for Energy Efficiency Resource Conservation and Environmental Technologies PRO ECO | Implementation of energy-efficient lighting solutions and energy management in schools of Satpayev city to demonstrate social and economic benefits of energy saving and reduction of CO2 emissions | 50,000.00 | Karaganda region | Climate Change | 11-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Darya Miroshnichenko | proeco.darya@gmail.com ergo-logistics@mail.ru | +7 747 493 7965 |
| 31 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/07 | Apartment owners' cooperative "UYUT" | Approbation of co-financing mechanism to increase energy efficiency in multi-apartment houses in Temirtau city | 49,755.00 | Karaganda region | Climate Change | 12-Dec-18 | 31-Mar-21 | Marina Zaitseva | marina-zaiceva63@mail.ru | +7 708 430 0460 |
| 32 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/19/33 | Public fund "Crossroad" | Promotion of Energy Efficient Technologies in Kostanai Area by Developing Pilot Demonstrational Sites within Social and Educational Facilities and Developing the School of Young Bloggers, EnergoEffect (Energy Efficiency)" | 37,625.00 | Kostanay region | Climate Change | 5-Jul-19 | 31-Mar-21 | Alexey Kulikov | aspprk@gmail.com | +7 777 302 0420 +7 701 808 04 20 |
| 33 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/16 | Youth NGO "Orleu-consulting" | Demonstration of energy-efficient technologies in schools of the Aral area Kyzylorda region | 34,782.00 | Kyzylorda region | Climate Change | 10-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Dastanbek Zhupan | aral.inet@mail.ru | +7 775 397 1647 |

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|----|------------------------------|--|---|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------|--|--|
| 34 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/CC/18/27 | Public Association "Origins of Good" | Wastes separate collection and disposal scheme implementation to collect the payments for the needs of condominium LC in Aksukent settlement for further promotion of EE technologies and landscaping of the surrounding territory" | 10,000.00 | Turkestan region | Climate Change | 20-Dec-18 | 31-Mar-21 | Vladislav Golyarko | vladislav.golyarko@mail.ru | +7 705 484 4430 |
| 35 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/CC/19/42 | Public Association "ECO Atameken" | Capacity and Activity Development to Implement RES and Improve Energy-Efficiency Measures by Organizing a Competition of Youth Green Initiatives in Turkestan Oblast, Kazakhstan | 19,900.00 | Turkestan region | Climate Change | 10-Feb-20 | 30-Jun-21 | Gulnar Niyazova | eco-atameken@mail.ru niyazova_gulnara@mail.ru | +7 701 668 6227 |
| 36 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/BD/18/01 | Private Foundation EL-RUKHY | Development of private forest plantations in Zerendinsky district of Akmol region and local capacity in agroforestry (public tree nursery YEL-ORMANY) | 14,215.00 | Akmola region | Biodiversity | 10-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Karimzhan Zhagpar | kt_78@mail.ru | +7 777 306 2336 |
| 37 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/BD/18/03 | Public association "Society of hunters and fishermen of Astana and Akmol region" | Improvement of the monitoring system on the territories of hunting farms through introduction of integrated training and capacity development approaches" (Huntsman professional training program) | 41,900.00 | Akmola region | Biodiversity | 20-Dec-18 | 31-Mar-201 | Igor Mironchuk | mironchuk.igor@bk.ru mironchuk.k.ivan@mail.ru | +7 701 390 7591 +7 777 305 3131 (son's w/a) |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|--|-----------|------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 38 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/BD/19/36 | Republican Association of Public Hunters' and Hunting Entities' Unions "Kansonar", Nur-Sultan City Office | To Implement the Sustainable Bee-keeping Development Practices as a Method to Conserve Biodiversity and Improve the Livelihoods of Local Communities in Akmola Oblast by Establishing a Stable Queen Bee Stock and Using Bigger Hives in Yereimentau District, Akmola Oblast | 15,000.00 | Akmola region | Biodiversity | 11-Feb-20 | 30-Jun-21 | Vladimir Zemblevskiy | sadak-kz@mail.ru | +7 705 167 37 61 |
| 39 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/BD/19/37 | Public Association "ECOOASIS ALAKOL" | To Implement the Sustainable Bee-keeping Development Practices as a Method to Conserve Biodiversity and Improve the Livelihoods of Local Communities in Almaty Oblast by Bee-keeping Training for the Local Communities in Alakol District, Almaty Oblast | 14,000.00 | Almaty region | Biodiversity | 10-Feb-20 | 30-Jun-21 | Rita Nussupova | rita.nus@mail.ru | +7 778 477 9221 |
| 40 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/BD/18/24 | Public Association "Center for Children and Youth "Istock" | Involvement of youth in biodiversity conservation in the East Kazakhstan region through working with school forestry groups and use of traditional knowledge | 22,960.00 | East Kazakhstan region | Biodiversity | 20-Dec-18 | 30-Jun-21 | Ludmila Mikhailova | vcistok@yandex.ru mihaylova.ld@mail.ru | +7 707 310 8137 +7 777 368 55 54 |
| 41 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/BD/18/08 | Public foundation Avalon | Introduction of sustainable methods of biodiversity conservation and alternative activities for local communities through development of ecotourism on the territory of Buiratau National Park | 35,511.00 | Karaganda region | Biodiversity | 13-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Vitaliy Shuptar | avalon@guide.kz vshuptar@gmail.com | +7 705 250 4256 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|--|-----------|------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|--|-----------------|
| 42 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/BD/18/32 | Public Fund EcoHerbs | Restoration of medicinal herbs by grass-replacement on cottage plots and territories of educational organizations with women and youth participation in rural and urban areas of Kostanay region" | 21,020.00 | Kostanay region | Biodiversity | 5-Jul-19 | 31-Dec-20 | Valentina Fedorenko | fedorenko.60@mail.ru | +7 708 214 0751 |
| 43 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/BD/18/15 | Public association ARAL TENIZI | Conservation of fish resources in the lower reaches of the Kokaral dam by creating a cage farming and implementing resource-saving technologies for the needs of fish farming in the Aral region of the Kyzylorda region | 31,900.00 | Kyzylorda region | Biodiversity | 20-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-20 | Ainakul Baimakhanova | aicyltan.kz@mail.ru | +7 701 594 8051 |
| 44 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y2/STAR/BD/18/31 | Public Association Kazaly oasis | Development of incubation center and pond fish culture in the Akshatau lakes system as method to contribute to biodiversity conservation; | 28,500.00 | Kyzylorda region | Biodiversity | 20-Dec-18 | 31-Mar-21 | Ainakul Baimakhanova | aicyltan.kz@mail.ru | +7 701 594 8051 |
| 45 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/BD/19/38 | Public Association "Zhana Aral Tolkyny" | Capacity-Building of Local Communities of the Aral Area in the Field of Sustainable Fishery Practices through the Personnel Training Program for Fish Farmers and Fish Processors" (proposed as New Approaches to Biodiversity Improvement of Fish Farms through Training and Capacity-building (Professional Training Program for fish farmers and fish processors) | 21,700.00 | Kyzylorda region | Biodiversity | 10-Feb-20 | 30-Jun-21 | Altyn Toktamyssova | altyntok2706@gmail.com | +7 701 8371554 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--|---|-----------|-------------------|--|-------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 46 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/CD/19/43 | Association of legal entities "Association of Environmental organizations of Kazakhstan" | Consolidation of Landscape Areas to Promote the Successful Project Approaches of GEF SGP OP-6 at the National and Regional Levels by Stepping up Public Councils in Provinces | 36,000.00 | All focus regions | Capacity Development (Policy dialogue strengthening) | 7-Feb-20 | 31-Jul-21 | Ilya Sukhonosenko | aeokazakhstan@gmail.com alyska_90@mail.ru | +7 747 917 3383 |
| 47 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/CD/20/48 | Public Foundation "Socio-Environmental Fund" | Public awareness in respect of SGP/GEF experiences and case studies/ analysis of the projects and lessons learned under SGP GEF | 50,000.00 | All focus regions | Capacity Development (PR activities & LL) | 7-Apr-20 | 31-Jul-21 | Oxana Tarnetskaya Nurzhan Ayazbaeyev | omaprem@mail.ru secofund@gmail.com | +7 771 580 2244 +7 707 217 1727 |
| 48 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/CD/20/49 | Social Corporate Foundation "ZUBR" | Series of training activities (workshops, training, exchange visits) for SGP GEF ongoing projects | 50,000.00 | All focus regions | Capacity Development (Training, experience exchange) | 7-Apr-20 | 30-Jun-21 | Nataliya Terekhova | zubr.ukg@gmail.com | +7 776 473 44 88 |
| 49 | KAZ/SGP/OP6/Y1/STAR/CD/2017/01 | Public Fund "Decenta" | Baseline assessment of the steppe, desert and semi-desert landscapes (within Almaty, Turkestan, Eastern Kazakhstan, Kyzylorda, Kostanay, Karaganda and Akmola focal areas (sub-landscapes) for the GEF SGP in Kazakhstan" | 50,000.00 | All focus regions | Capacity Development (Baseline assessment) | 15 Dec-2017 | 30-June-2018 | Sergey Gulyayev | sergey@decenta.org | +7 7051625484 |

Annex 9: GEF 6 core indicator Worksheet for SGP 6 Kazakhstan-FY21 / TE

| Core Indicator 1 | Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use | | | | | (Hectares) | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------|----|--|--|
| | | | | <i>Hectares (1.1+1.2)</i> | | | | | |
| | | | | <i>Expected</i> | | Achieved | | | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Indicator 1.1 | Terrestrial protected areas newly created | | | | | | | | |
| Name of Protected Area | WDPA ID | IUCN category | Hectares | | | | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | | | | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | (select) | | | | | | | |
| | | (select) | | | | | | | |
| | | Sum | | | | | | | |
| Indicator 1.2 | Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness | | | | | | | | |
| Name of Protected Area | WDPA ID | IUCN category | Hectares | METT Score | | | | | |
| | | | | Baseline | | Achieved | | | |
| | | | | | Endorsement | MTR | TE | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | (select) | | | | | | | |
| | | (select) | | | | | | | |
| | | Sum | | | | | | | |
| Core Indicator 2 | Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use | | | | | (Hectares) | | | |
| | | | | <i>Hectares (2.1+2.2)</i> | | | | | |
| | | | | <i>Expected</i> | | Achieved | | | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Indicator 2.1 | Marine protected areas newly created | | | | | | | | |
| Name of Protected Area | WDPA ID | IUCN category | Hectares | | | | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | | | | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | (select) | | | | | | | |
| | | (select) | | | | | | | |
| | | Sum | | | | | | | |
| Indicator 2.2 | Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness | | | | | | | | |
| Name of Protected Area | WDPA ID | IUCN category | Hectares | METT Score | | | | | |
| | | | | Baseline | | Achieved | | | |
| | | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | (select) | | | | | | | |
| | | (select) | | | | | | | |
| | | Sum | | | | | | | |

| Core Indicator 3 | Area of land restored | | | | | (Hectares) |
|------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| | | Hectares (3.1+3.2+3.3+3.4) | | | | |
| | | Expected | | | Achieved | |
| | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE | |
| | | | 10,000 | 3,149.5 | 11,442 | |
| Indicator 3.1 | Area of degraded agricultural land restored | | | | | |
| | | | Hectares | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | 10,000 | 3,149.5 | 11,442 |
| | | | | | | |
| Indicator 3.2 | Area of forest and forest land restored | | | | | |
| | | | Hectares | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Indicator 3.3 | Area of natural grass and shrublands restored | | | | | |
| | | | Hectares | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Indicator 3.4 | Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) restored | | | | | |
| | | | Hectares | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Core Indicator 4 | Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas) | | | | | (Hectares) |
| | | Hectares (4.1+4.2+4.3+4.4) | | | | |
| | | Expected | | | Achieved | |
| | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE | |
| | | n/a | 60,000 | 4,925.00 | 2,977,632.50 | |
| Indicator 4.1 | Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity | | | | | |
| | | | Hectares | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | n/a | 50,000 | 0.00 Comment: Small grant projects aiming at benefiting biodiversity | 2,896,303,5 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------|-------------|--|-------------------|
| | | | | | <i>have been on the ground for 4 mo prior to MTR with tangible results and impact to be visible by mid-2020 and reported at TE</i> | |
| Indicator 4.2 | Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations | | | | | |
| Third party certification(s): | | | Hectares | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| Indicator 4.3 | Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems | | | | | |
| | | | Hectares | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | 10,000 | 4,925 | 81,329 |
| Indicator 4.4 | Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided | | | | | |
| Include documentation that justifies HCVF | | | Hectares | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| Core Indicator 5 | Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity | | | | | (Hectares) |
| Indicator 5.1 | Number of fisheries that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations | | | | | |
| Third party certification(s): | | | Number | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| Indicator 5.2 | Number of large marine ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollution and hypoxial | | | | | |
| | | | Number | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| Indicator 5.3 | Amount of Marine Litter Avoided | | | | | |
| | | | Metric Tons | | | |

| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| Core Indicator 6 | Greenhouse gas emission mitigated | | | | | <i>(Metric tons of CO₂ e)</i> |
| | | Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (6.1+6.2) | | | | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | Expected CO ₂ e (direct) | | | 795.6 tons of CO ₂ e | 0,000 (comment: no CO ₂ e direct estimates are envisaged and available at MTR) | 1,529.14 tons of CO ₂ e |
| | Expected CO ₂ e (indirect) | | | | | |
| Indicator 6.1 | Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector | | | | | |
| | | | Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e | | | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | Expected CO ₂ e (direct) | | | | | |
| | Expected CO ₂ e (indirect) | | | | | |
| | Anticipated start year of accounting | | | | | |
| | Duration of accounting | | | | | |
| Indicator 6.2 | Emissions avoided Outside AFOLU | | | | | |
| | | | Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | Expected CO ₂ e (direct) | | | | | |
| | Expected CO ₂ e (indirect) | | | | | |
| | Anticipated start year of accounting | | | | | |
| | Duration of accounting | | | | | |
| Indicator 6.3 | Energy saved | | | | | |
| | | | MJ | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| Indicator 6.4 | Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology | | | | | |
| | | Technology | Capacity (MW) | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | (select) | | | | |
| | | (select) | | | | |
| Core Indicator 7 | Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management | | | | | <i>(Number)</i> |
| Indicator 7.1 | Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------|----------------------|
| | | Shared water ecosystem | Rating (scale 1-4) | | | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Indicator 7.2 | Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation | | | | | |
| | | Shared water ecosystem | Rating (scale 1-4) | | | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Indicator 7.3 | Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees | | | | | |
| | | Shared water ecosystem | Rating (scale 1-4) | | | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Indicator 7.4 | Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products | | | | | |
| | | Shared water ecosystem | Rating (scale 1-4) | | | |
| | | | Rating | | Rating | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Core Indicator 8 | Globally over-exploited marine fisheries Moved to more sustainable levels | | | | | <i>(Metric Tons)</i> |
| Fishery Details | | | Metric Tons | | | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| Core Indicator 9 | Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products | | | | | <i>(Metric Tons)</i> |
| | | | Metric Tons (9.1+9.2+9.3) | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | PIF stage | MTR | TE |
| | | | | | | |
| Indicator 9.1 | Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type) | | | | | |
| | POPs type | | Metric Tons | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | (select) | (select) | (select) | | | |
| | (select) | (select) | (select) | | | |
| | (select) | (select) | (select) | | | |
| Indicator 9.2 | Quantity of mercury reduced | | | | | |
| | | | Metric Tons | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|---|
| | | | | | | |
| Indicator 9.3 | Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Reduced/Phased out | | | | | |
| | | | Metric Tons | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| Indicator 9.4 | Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste | | | | | |
| | | | Number of Countries | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| Indicator 9.5 | Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities | | | | | |
| | | Technology | Number | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| Indicator 9.6 | Quantity of POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided | | | | | |
| | | | Metric Tons | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | PIF stage | Endorsement |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Core Indicator 10 | Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources | | | | | <i>(grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)</i> |
| Indicator 10.1 | Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air | | | | | |
| | | | Number of Countries | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| Indicator 10.2 | Number of emission control technologies/practices implemented | | | | | |
| | | | Number | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| Core Indicator 11 | Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment | | | | | <i>(Number)</i> |
| | | | Number | | | |
| | | | Expected | | Achieved | |
| | | | PIF stage | Endorsement | MTR | TE |
| | | Female | <i>n/a</i> | <i>1,000</i> | <i>4,935</i> | <i>24,196</i> |
| | | Male | <i>n/a</i> | <i>1,500</i> | <i>7,200</i> | <i>21,111</i> |
| | | Total | <i>n/a</i> | <i>2,500</i> | <i>12,135</i> | <i>45,307</i> |

Annex 10: confirmed sources of co-financing

Table 8: Planned co-financing: grantees

| Organization | Local community | | Grantee | | Partners/ State | | Media | | Private | | Academia | | Public | | Other | | Total | Total |
|---|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | in-kind | in-cash | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind |
| EL-RUKHY PF | | | | 4600 | | | | | 7250 | 1450 | | | 1500 | | | | 8750 | 6050 |
| AGRO GREEN PF | | 107500 | | | | | | 5000 | 11970 | | | 14500 | | 10000 | | | 119470 | 29500 |
| Society of hunters and fishermen of Astana and Akmola region PA | | 31000 | | | | | | | | 34000 | | 12000 | | | | | 31000 | 46000 |
| Women Ray Public Association | 12000 | 4500 | | 20000 | 6500 | 13500 | | | 4000 | 9000 | | | | | | | 15000 | 54500 |
| Adal Niet Astana PCF | 2000 | 11000 | 22000 | | | | | | 10000 | 2000 | | | | | | | 43000 | 4000 |
| PRO ECO PA | 11645 | 46306 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 46306 | 11645 |
| UYUT Apartment owners' cooperative | | | | | | | | | 18978 | 4400 | | | | | | 20462 | 18978 | 24862 |
| Avalon PF | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| KASIETTI OR ALTAI PA | | | 7200 | 3000 | | 51900 | | | | | | | | | | | 7200 | 54900 |
| BIOGEN PA | 10000 | 5000 | 1000 | 1000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6000 | 11000 |
| Aksu-MSH PA | | | 17085 | | | | | | 30600 | 17600 | | | | | | | 47685 | 17600 |
| Ugam PA | | | | 5100 | | | | | 38396 | 39445 | | 6000 | | | | | 38396 | 50545 |
| AgroUnion of Kazakhstan RAAC | 10300 | | | | | | | | 12450 | 18721 | | | | | | | 12450 | 29021 |
| Farmer of Kazakhstan PF | 24000 | | 3700 | 7300 | | | | | | | | | 22500 | | | | 26200 | 31300 |
| Aral Tenizi PA | | | 5800 | 2300 | | | | | 13000 | 27500 | | | | | | | 18800 | 29800 |
| Orleu-consulting YPA | | | 21000 | | | 9000 | | | | | | | | 2500 | | | 21000 | 11500 |
| Necklace of green practices PA | 26066 | 2516 | 21260 | 2274 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 23776 | 28340 |
| NUR MAKHABBAT PA | | | | | | | | | 13245 | 4941 | | | | | | | 13245 | 4941 |
| Farmers Association of Shetsk district PA | | | 29300 | 7700 | | 5000 | | | | | | | | | | | 29300 | 12700 |
| EcoObraz PA | | | 2806 | | | 6172 | | | 15310 | | | | | | | | 18116 | 6172 |
| Socially Important Initiatives Development Fund PF | | | 30000 | | | 30000 | | | | | | | | | | | 30000 | 30000 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---|-------|-------|------|------|--|-----|-------|-------|--|--|--|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Cultural and Ecological Association Bumerang PA | | | 2400 | 19600 | | 1300 | | | | | | | | | | | 2400 | 20900 |
| Ecological and Tourist Center TEK YPA | | | | 6052 | | 1900 | | | 24857 | | | | | | | | 24857 | 7952 |
| Center for Children and Youth Istok PA | 2500 | | 8000 | 2000 | | 4007 | | | 2405 | | | | | | | | 10405 | 8507 |
| Resource Center for Rural NGOs Birlik PF | 3000 | | | | 1500 | 2848 | | | 10419 | 7862 | | | | | | | 11919 | 13710 |
| Origins of Good PA | | | | 6000 | | | | | | | | | | | 5000 | | 5000 | 6000 |
| Cultural and Ecology Support Fund Heart of Asia PF | | | 12420 | 10000 | | 3500 | | | 35000 | 980 | | | | | | | 47420 | 14480 |
| International Ecological Association of Orient Women PA | | | | 4216 | | | | 500 | 500 | | | | | 1100 | | | 500 | 5816 |
| Gaiberen PA | | | 7800 | | | 6000 | | | 12000 | 17700 | | | | | | | 19800 | 23700 |
| Kazaly oasis PA | | | 3100 | | | | | | 33800 | 4400 | | | | | | | 36900 | 4400 |
| EcoHerbs PF | | | | 15000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 15000 |
| Crossroad PF | | | | 7000 | | | | | | 1100 | | | | 5480 | | 11200 | 0 | 24780 |
| Incubator of Sustainable Development Projects PA | | | | 4474 | | | | | 55706 | 1255 | | | | | | | 55706 | 5729 |
| Center for Cooperation for Sustainable Development | | | 4140 | | | 1500 | | | 9700 | 3500 | | | | | | | 13840 | 5000 |
| Republican Association of Public Hunters' and Hunting Entities' Unions "Kansonar" | | | | | | | | | | 10000 | | | | | | | 0 | 10000 |
| EcoOasis Alakol | 0 | 0 | 8316 | 4920 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 8316 | 4920 |
| Zhana Aral Tolkini | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Public Association "Centre for agri-environment culture "Zhivoy dom" | 10300 | | | 1700 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 12000 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--|-------|------|--|--|--|--|-------|--|---------|--------|
| Public Foundation "Yenbekshikazakh District Local Communities Fund" (LCF) | 19877 | 7594 | 3159 | 14292 | | | | | 6822 | 517 | | | | | | | 17575 | 34686 |
| Akbota | | | | 27000 | 45000 | 25500 | | | | | | | | | 50000 | | 95000 | 52500 |
| Eco-Atameken | 1750 | 1750 | 200 | 2800 | 1550 | 2800 | 1000 | | 6600 | | | | | | | | 11100 | 7350 |
| Association of legal entities "Association of Environmental organizations of Kazakhstan" | | | 9000 | | | 4000 | | | | | | | | | | | 9000 | 4000 |
| Association of Farms "Syrdariya" | 800 | | | 1100 | | | | | | 5136 | | | | | | | 0 | 7036 |
| Zhassyl Azyk | | | | 5000 | | | | | 25455 | 7922 | | | | | | | 25455 | 12922 |
| Vikinda | | | 9114 | 5937 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 9114 | 5937 |
| Eco-Kokshe | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Public Foundation "Socio-Environmental Fund" | | | 32900 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 32900 | 0 |
| Social Corporate Foundation "ZUBR" | | | 924 | 4656 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 924 | 4656 |
| Decenta Public Foundation | | | 4091 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4091 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1016894 | 806357 |

Table 9: Actual co-financing: grantees

| Organization | Local community | | Public | | Grantee | | Partners/ State | | Media | | Private | | Academia | | Other | | Total | Total |
|--|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind | in-cash | in-kind |
| EL-RUKHY PF | | | 1500 | | | 4600 | | | | | 7250 | 1450 | | | | | 8750 | 6050 |
| AGRO GREEN PF | 82500 | | | 823 | | | | | | | 5160 | | | 14500 | | | 87660 | 15323 |
| Society of hunters and fishermen of Astana and Akmol region PA | | | | | | | | | | 34000 | | | | | | | 0 | 34000 |
| Women Ray Public Association | | | | | 14000 | 20000 | | | | | | | | | | | 14000 | 20000 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|-------|-------|--|--|-------|--|-------|-------|
| Adal Niet Astana PCF | | | | | | 27431 | | | | | 23647 | | | | | | 23647 | 27431 |
| PRO ECO PA | | | | | 47496 | | | | | | | | | | | | 47496 | 0 |
| UYUT Apartment owners' cooperative | | | | | | | | | | | 18958 | | | | 37976 | | 56934 | 0 |
| Avalon PF | | | | | 12940 | 4260 | 2400 | 620 | | | 840 | 1440 | | | | | 16180 | 6320 |
| KASIETTI OR ALTAI PA | | | | | | | 43050 | 9000 | | | | | | | | | 43050 | 9000 |
| BIOGEN PA | 5000 | 10000 | | | 1000 | 1000 | | | | | | | | | | | 6000 | 11000 |
| Aksu-MSH PA | | | | | | | | | | | 25100 | | | | | | 25100 | 0 |
| Ugam PA | | | | | | | | | | | 25540 | | | | | | 25540 | 0 |
| AgroUnion of Kazakhstan RAAC | | | | | 3600 | 6700 | | | | | 19004 | | | | | | 22604 | 6700 |
| Farmer of Kazakhstan PF | | | 10000 | 12500 | 5500 | 5500 | | 24000 | | | | | | | | | 15500 | 42000 |
| Aral Tenizi PA | | | | | 6700 | 2300 | | | | | 14400 | 30000 | | | | | 21100 | 32300 |
| Orleu-consulting YPA | | | | 2500 | 8400 | 12600 | | 6000 | | | | | | | | | 8400 | 21100 |
| Necklace of green practices PA | 2152 | 22088 | | | 23534 | | | | | | | | | | | | 25686 | 22088 |
| NUR MAKHABBAT PA | | | | | | | | | | | 26448 | 325 | | | | | 26448 | 325 |
| Farmers Association of Shetsk district PA | | | | | 29300 | 7700 | | 6000 | | | | | | | | | 29300 | 13700 |
| EcoObraz PA | | | | | 2364 | 2006 | 18338 | 4015 | | | 20100 | 1140 | | | | | 40802 | 7161 |
| Socially Important Initiatives Development Fund PF | | | 396 | 9643 | 59784 | 2235 | | | | | | | | | | | 60180 | 11878 |
| Cultural and Ecological Association Bumerang PA | | | | | 1600 | 20400 | | | | | | | | | | | 1600 | 20400 |
| Ecological and Tourist Center TEK YPA | | | | | 2630 | 3430 | | | | | 35710 | 4680 | | | | | 38340 | 8110 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|--------|------|------|--|---------|--------|--|--|-------|--|---------|--------|
| Center for Children and Youth Istock PA | | | 1650 | 1800 | 14850 | | 1871.5 | 4570 | | | 2400 | | | | | | 20771.5 | 6370 |
| Resource Center for Rural NGOs Birlik PF | | | | | | | | | | | 14187 | 17327 | | | | | 14187 | 17327 |
| Origins of Good PA | | | | | | 3500 | | | | | | | | | 13824 | | 13824 | 3500 |
| Cultural and Ecology Support Fund Heart of Asia PF | | | 10580 | 80 | | | | | | | 25555 | 775 | | | | | 36135 | 855 |
| International Ecological Association of Orient Women PA | | | | 500 | | | | | | | 500 | | | | | | 500 | 500 |
| Gaiberen PA | | | | | 6700 | 1100 | | | | | 3000 | 20700 | | | | | 9700 | 21800 |
| Kazaly oasis PA | | | | | 3100 | | | | | | 35000 | 6200 | | | | | 38100 | 6200 |
| EcoHerbs PF | | | | | | 15000 | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 15000 |
| Crossroad PF | | | 500 | 100 | | 7000 | | | | | 8500 | 50 | | | | | 9000 | 7150 |
| Incubator of Sustainable Development Projects PA | | | | | | | | | | | 29282.1 | 8689.4 | | | | | 29282.1 | 8689.4 |
| Center for Cooperation for Sustainable Development | | | 6500 | 3000 | 4260 | 1500 | | | | | 3250 | 2350 | | | | | 14010 | 6850 |
| Republican Association of Public Hunters' and Hunting Entities' Unions "Kansonar" | | | | | | | | | | | 4711 | 5389 | | | | | 4711 | 5389 |
| EcoOasis Alakol | 19195 | 0 | | | 8316 | 4920 | | | | | | | | | | | 27511 | 4920 |
| Zhana Aral Tolkin | | | | | 1400 | 7000 | | | | | 4000 | 36000 | | | | | 5400 | 43000 |
| Public Association "Centre for agri-environment culture "Zhivoy dom" | | | | | 3420 | 32600 | | | | | | | | | | | 3420 | 32600 |
| Public Foundation "Yenbekshikazakh District Local Communities Fund" (LCF) | 633 | 1243 | | | 8713 | 54505 | | | | | 10549 | | | | | | 19895 | 55748 |
| Akbota | | | | | 25475 | | 94354 | | | | | | | | | | 119829 | 0 |
| Eco-Atameken | | | | | 200 | 2800 | 1550 | 2800 | 1000 | | 6600 | | | | | | 9350 | 5600 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|------|--|-------|------|--|--|--|--|--|-------|-------|--|------|--|--|---------|--------|
| Association of legal entities "Association of Environmental organizations of Kazakhstan" | | | | | 86500 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 86500 | 0 |
| Association of Farms "Syrdariya" | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Zhassyl Azyk | | | | | | 5000 | | | | | | 35000 | 10000 | | | | | 35000 | 15000 |
| Vikinda | | | 1050 | | 10465 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 11515 | 0 |
| Eco-Kokshe | | | | | | | | | | | | 69817 | 10950 | | 1293 | | | 69817 | 12243 |
| Public Foundation "Socio-Environmental Fund" | | | | | 42500 | 2000 | | | | | | | | | | | | 42500 | 2000 |
| Social Corporate Foundation "ZUBR" | | | | | 3838 | 1939 | | | | | | | | | | | | 3838 | 1939 |
| Decenta Public Foundation | | | | | 5363 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5363 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1274476 | 587566 |

Table 10: co-financing from partners

| Organization | in-kind | in-cash | |
|---|---------------|------------------|---------|
| Coalition for "Green Economy" and G-Global Development | 7,800 | 216,150 | 223,950 |
| Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK) | | 1,072,400 | |
| UNDP CO | | 1,937,880 | |
| AKBOTA PF | 45,000 | 160,000 | 205,000 |
| Total | 52,800 | 3,386,430 | |

Annex 11: TE rating Scale

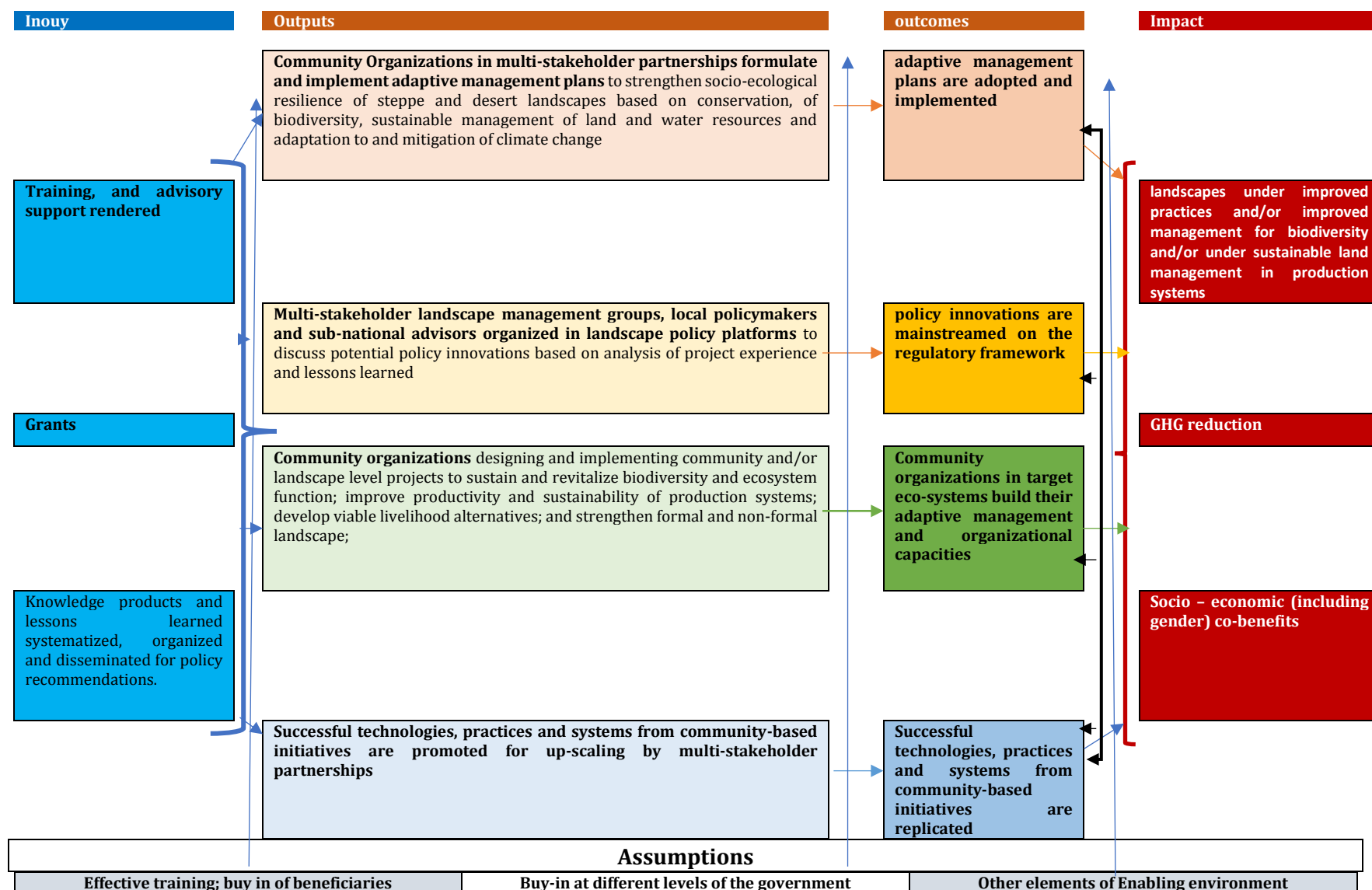
| Ratings for Progress Towards Results: (one rating for each outcome and for the objective) | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 6 | Highly Satisfactory (HS) | The objective/outcome is expected to achieve or exceed all its end-of-project targets, without major shortcomings. The progress towards the objective/outcome can be presented as “good practice”. |
| 5 | Satisfactory (S) | The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings. |
| 4 | Moderately Satisfactory (MS) | The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets but with significant shortcomings. |
| 3 | Moderately Unsatisfactory (HU) | The objective/outcome is expected to achieve its end-of-project targets with major shortcomings. |
| 2 | Unsatisfactory (U) | The objective/outcome is expected not to achieve most of its end-of-project targets. |
| 1 | Highly Unsatisfactory (HU) | The objective/outcome has failed to achieve its midterm targets, and is not expected to achieve any of its end-of-project targets. |
| Ratings for Project Implementation & Adaptive Management: (one overall rating) | | |
| 6 | Highly Satisfactory (HS) | Implementation of all seven components – management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications – is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. The project can be presented as “good practice”. |
| 5 | Satisfactory (S) | Implementation of most of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management except for only few that are subject to remedial action. |
| 4 | Moderately Satisfactory (MS) | Implementation of some of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with some components requiring remedial action. |
| 3 | Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU) | Implementation of some of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive, with most components requiring remedial action. |
| 2 | Unsatisfactory (U) | Implementation of most of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. |
| 1 | Highly Unsatisfactory (HU) | Implementation of none of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. |
| Ratings for Sustainability: (one overall rating) | | |
| 4 | Likely (L) | Negligible risks to sustainability, with key outcomes on track to be achieved by the project's closure and expected to continue into the foreseeable future |
| 3 | Moderately Likely (ML) | Moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained due to the progress towards results on outcomes at the Midterm Review |
| 2 | Moderately Unlikely (MU) | Significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on |
| 1 | Unlikely (U) | Severe risks that project outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained |

Annex 12: The list of stakeholders from the ProDoc

| Stakeholders | Relevant roles |
|---|--|
| NGOs and CBOs | |
| Local (rural) community organizations that reside inside PAs, in areas adjacent to PAs, and in production landscapes, including livestock raisers, shepherds, farmers, rural agricultural cooperatives, apartment-owners associations | Main participants in landscape planning exercises; first-order partners in the multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements; implementing agents of community and landscape level projects. Local communities are typically rural communities residing in target ecosystems covering Almaty, Akmola, East-Kazakhstan Karaganda, Kostanai, Kzylorda, and Turkestan oblasts. These communities represent key users and beneficiaries of PAs and the wider production landscapes and include both men and women. Local landscape management plans will be designed with their direct engagement, and replicable and sustainable resource use practices will be implemented directly by target communities. Local communities will generate a pool of best practices and lessons learned that will be used by regional and national authorities for policy making. |
| NGOs | Lead and facilitate participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements; provide technical assistance to community organizations for implementation of their projects; potential participant on policy platforms. Potential NGO stakeholders will include those with experience in the specific areas of action for resilient landscapes. |
| Second level organizations – landscape level: <i>Akbota Public Fund</i> | Primary participant in landscape planning exercises; first-order partner in the multi-stakeholder partnerships for relevant landscape; implementing agent of landscape level projects. Although initially created to address specific environmental problems of the Arnasai community, the Akbota Public Fund now represents a key knowledge-sharing and training center for communities in northern and central parts of Kazakhstan. This NGO has already completed 19 environment and sustainable development projects (drip irrigation, energy efficiency in heating and lighting, sustainable land management, etc.) generating important lessons learned and results, and actively sharing this knowledge with other communities by means of exhibitions, seminars and workshops. |
| Knowledge management and facilitating access to credit organizations | These stakeholders will perform collection and dissemination of best practices, capacity building of target communities, increase opportunities for market/capital access, and partnership-building among local authorities, local communities, PAs, private sector and other landscape-level stakeholders to enhance replication potential of successfully piloted practices and policy mechanisms in target ecosystems. These hubs will be active in promoting the following practices: drip irrigation, zero tillage, crop rotation, sustainable pasture management, fodder production, agro-ecological farming, and biodiversity-related products, including ecotourism and agrotourism. |
| <i>Union of Farmers' Associations of Kazakhstan.</i> | Cooperation on community capacity building activities, awareness raising and advocacy at national and regional levels for policy changes based on positive results of community-based projects. |
| <i>Central Asia Regional Environmental Center (CAREC)</i> | Sharing its research, experience and expertise on developing reward schemes (or PES) and implementation of transboundary water management in Kazakhstan |
| <i>Association "NGOs Ecoforum of Kazakhstan"</i> | Cooperation on energy efficiency, chemical safety and management of hazardous waste as well as in engaging vulnerable social groups in project implementation. |
| SGP Country Programme | |
| <i>SGP National Steering Committee</i> | Functions as the Project Steering Committee; reviews and approves landscape strategies; advises regarding multi-stakeholder partnership composition and TORs; approves criteria for project eligibility for each landscape based on proposals by multi-stakeholder partnerships and SGP Operational Guidelines; reviews and approves projects submitted by SGP Country Programme Manager; reviews annual project progress reports and recommends revisions and course corrections, as appropriate, representative participant on policy platforms |
| <i>SGP Country Programme Manager (National Coordinator), and team</i> | Responsible for the overall implementation and operations of the SGP Kazakhstan Country Programme, acting as secretary to the National Steering Committee, mobilizing co-financing, organizing strategic partnerships with government and non-governmental organizations, and, in general, for managing the successful achievement of Country Programme Objectives as described in the Project Document. |
| National, regional and local government | |
| Ministry of Energy, Department of Green Economy and Climate Change | Government institution and implementation partner responsible for coordination of the state programs on biodiversity conservation, PA management and sustainable land use; partner in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; selected member of National Steering Committee; primary participant on policy platforms. |

| Stakeholders | Relevant roles |
|---|---|
| Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) | Identifies numbers and sites for pasture infrastructure, establishes grazing quotas and promotes land use. Equally, approves farming regulations, which strongly influence ecosystem sustainability to ensure the global benefits of the project. Responsible for enforcing agricultural laws/by-laws on all land types and categorized under different forms of agricultural land use systems. MoA will serve as partner in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape and primary participant on policy platforms. |
| Ministry of Economy, Committee for Land Resources Management | State agency that maintains maps for agricultural land use and other purposes and conducts land surveys. Engaged in decision making for special land use regulations. The Committee will serve as partner in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape and primary participant on policy platforms. |
| Local governments, including Oblast and rayon akimats | Key stakeholders for baseline assessments, landscape planning processes, and replication of tested sustainable resource use approaches in other areas; partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; primary participants on policy platforms. |
| Academic and research institutions | |
| <i>Kazakh Agrotechnical University, Research Institutes of Pastures and Fodder Production</i> | Key knowledge-holder and scientific support for the development of landscape resilient practices. Institutes will share available scientific knowledge on practices for adaptive management of landscapes, provide capacity building training for local communities and farmers, will participate as experts in project development and monitoring. These institutions will serve as partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; and primary participants on policy platforms. |
| Private sector | Partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements, as appropriate; potential participant on policy platforms. |

Annex 13: The proposed TOC



Annex 14: Articles on web portals Liven, blog yvision.kz and portal <http://ca-climate.org>

1. Возобновляемые источники энергии на службе у фермеров Казахстана

12.04.2020

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/vozobnovlyaemye-istochniki-energii-na-sluzhbe-u-fermerov-kazahstana>

<https://livingasia.online/2020/04/12/vozobnovlyaemye-istochniki-energii-na-sluzhbe-u-fermerov-kazahstana/>

<https://yvision.kz/post/854306>

<http://ca-climate.org/news/vozobnovlyaemye-istochniki-energii-na-sluzhbe-u-fermerov-kazahstana/>

2. Меняем мусор на энергоэффективность

20.04.2020

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/menyaem-musor-na-energoeffektivnost>

<https://livingasia.online/2020/04/20/menyaem-musor-na-energoeffektivnost/>

<https://yvision.kz/post/854954>

07.07.2020

<http://ca-climate.org/news/menyaem-musor-na-energoeffektivnost/>

3. ГЭФ ПМГ В КАЗАХСТАНЕ: ПОМОЩЬ ЛЮДЯМ И ПРИРОДЕ

05.06.2020

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/gef-pmg-v-kazahstane-pomoshch-lyudyam-i-prirode>

<https://livingasia.online/2020/06/04/gef-pmg-v-kazahstane-pomoshh-lyudyam-i-prirode/>

<https://yvision.kz/post/935254>

4. 17 июня – международный день борьбы с опустыниванием и засухой

17.06.2020

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/17-iyunya-mezhdunarodnyy-den-borby-s-opustynivaniem-i-zasuhoy>

<https://livingasia.online/2020/06/17/17-iyunya-mezhdunarodnyy-den-borby-s-opustynivaniem-i-zasuhoy/>

<http://ca-climate.org/news/17-iyunya-mezhdunarodnyy-den-borby-s-opustynivaniem-i-zasuhoy/>

<https://yvision.kz/post/935256>

5. Победитель премии имени Дмитрия Терешкевича в 2020 году – Владислав Голярко

04.08.2020

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/pobeditel-premii-imeni-dmitriya-tereshkevicha-v-2020-godu-vladislav-golyarko>

<https://yvision.kz/post/862771>

<https://livingasia.online/2020/08/04/pobeditel-premii-imeni-dmitriya-tereshkevicha-v-2020-godu-vladislav-golyarko/>

6. Гидропоника как метод борьбы с деградацией пастбищ

20.08.2020

<https://livingasia.online/2020/08/20/gidroponika-kak-metod-borby-s-degradaciej-pastbishch/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/gidroponika-kak-metod-borby-s-degradaciej-pastbishch>

<https://yvision.kz/post/864261>

7. Восстанавливая деградированные земли Казахстана

18.09.2020

<https://livingasia.online/2020/09/18/vosstanavlivaya-degradirovannye-zemli-kazahstana/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/vosstanavlivaya-degradirovannye-zemli-kazahstana>

<https://yvision.kz/post/866966>

8. Спасение рыбы в Аральском море

09.10.2020

<https://livingasia.online/2020/10/09/spasenie-ryby-v-aralskom-more/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/spasenie-ryby-v-aralskom-more>

<https://yvision.kz/post/868232>

https://twitter.com/UNEP_Russian/status/1314454509201039365?s=20

9. Как выращивать гидропонный корм?

15.10.20.

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/kak-vyrashchivat-gidroponnyy-korm>

<https://web.facebook.com/livingasiaonline/posts/3441723935941117>

<https://yvision.kz/post/935257/edit>

10. Дети и экообразование: опыт ГЭФ ПМГ в Казахстане

05.11.2020

<https://yvision.kz/post/871040>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/deti-i-ekoobrazovanie-opyt-gef-pmg-v-kazahstane>

<https://yvision.kz/post/871040>

11. Как восполнить рыбные запасы на Арале?

18.11.2020

<https://livingasia.online/2020/11/18/kak-vozpolnit-rybnye-zapasy-na-arale/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/kak-vozpolnit-rybnye-zapasy-na-arale>

<https://yvision.kz/post/874401>

12. Цифровые технологии спасают земли от деградации

23.11.20

<https://livingasia.online/2020/11/23/cifrovye-tehnologii-spasayut-zemli-ot-degradaczii/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/cifrovye-tehnologii-spasayut-zemli-ot-degradaczii>

<https://yvision.kz/post/877483>

https://www.facebook.com/caneecca/posts/2795003824051096?notif_id=1607094234276702¬if_t=page_tag&ref=notif

13. Даёшь экоблогерство на всей планете

26.11.20

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/daesh-ekoblogerstvo-na-vsey-planete>

<https://livingasia.online/2020/11/26/dayosh-ekoblogerstvo-na-vsej-planete/>

<https://yvision.kz/post/879328>

14. Чтобы тепло не улетало в окно

13.01.2021.

<https://livingasia.online/2021/01/13/chtoby-teplo-ne-uletalo-v-okno/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/chtoby-teplo-ne-uletalo-v-okno>

<https://yvision.kz/post/917139>

15. Аптека в огороде

14.02.2021.

<https://livingasia.online/2021/02/14/apteka-v-ogorode/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/apteka-v-ogorode>

<https://yvision.kz/post/922482>

16. Уютнее и теплее

05.03.2021.

<https://livingasia.online/2021/03/05/uyutnee-i-teplee/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/uyutnee-i-teplee>

<https://yvision.kz/post/935128>

17. Скажем «нет» опустыниванию

29.03.2021.

<https://livingasia.online/2021/03/29/skazhem-net-opustynivaniyu/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/skazhem-net-opustynivaniyu>

<https://yvision.kz/post/928991>

https://twitter.com/UNEP_Russian/status/1376464213149954048

18. «Проект дал детям значимость, ведь они увидели пользу от своей работы в реальной жизни»
12.04.2021.

<https://livingasia.online/2021/04/12/proekt-dal-detyam-znachimost-ved-oni-uvideli-polzu-ot-svoej-raboty-v-realnoj-zhizni/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/proekt-dal-detyam-znachimost-ved-oni-uvideli-polzu-ot-svoej-raboty-v-realnoj-zhizni>

<https://yvision.kz/post/935402>

19. Как не бояться огорода?

28.04.2021.

<https://livingasia.online/2021/04/28/kak-ne-boyatsya-ogoroda/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/kak-ne-boyatsya-ogoroda>

<https://yvision.kz/post/935130>

20. О том, как жители сел Шетского района осуществили свою мечту

12.05.2021.

<https://livingasia.online/2021/05/12/osushhestvili-svoyu-mechtu/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/o-tom-kak-zhiteli-sel-shetskogo-rayona-osushchestvili-svoyu-mechtu>

<https://yvision.kz/post/934564>

21. Возрождение земель методом севооборота

01.02.2021.

<https://livingasia.online/2021/02/01/vozrozhdenie-zemel-metodom-sevooborota/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/vozrozhdenie-zemel-metodom-sevooborota>

<https://yvision.kz/post/919965>

22. Кооперативы для фермеров

24.05.2021

<https://livingasia.online/2021/05/25/kooperativy-dlya-fermerov/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/kooperativy-dlya-fermerov>

<https://yvision.kz/post/936472>

23. Агроресоводство в экопоселении алмарай

01.06.2021

<https://livingasia.online/2021/06/01/agrolesovodstvo-v-ekoposelenii/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/agrolesovodstvo-v-ekoposelenii-almaray>

<https://yvision.kz/post/937659>

24. В Казахстане сельские женщины развивают бизнес

23.06.2021

<https://livingasia.online/2021/06/23/v-kazahstane-selskie/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/v-kazahstane-selskie-zhenshchiny-razvivayut-biznes>

<https://yvision.kz/post/939717>

25. Интеграционный подход в экологическом образовании

01.07.2021

<https://livingasia.online/2021/07/01/integracionnyy-podhod/>

<http://gefsgp.kz/newsInner/integracionnyy-podhod-v-ekologicheskom-obrazovanii>

<https://yvision.kz/post/940528>

Отдельные источники:

https://express-k.kz/news/okruzhayushchaya_sreda/kak_selchanin_reshil_problemu_musora-167266

Annex 15: Signed UNEG Code of Conduct forms

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form³¹**Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System**Name of Consultant: Lilit Melikyan

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at : London, UK on September 15, 2021

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form³²**Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System**Name of Consultant: Lyubov Inyutina

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at Almaty, Kazakhstan on September 16, 2021

Annex 16: Signed TE Report Clearance form**Terminal Evaluation Report for the Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan (GEF Project ID: 9205; UNDP PIMS ID: 5469)****Reviewed and Cleared By:****Commissioning Unit (M&E Focal Point)**

Name: Dosbol Tursumuratov

Signature: Dosbol TursumuratovDate: 05-окт-2021**Regional Technical Advisor (SGP UCP Global Manager)**

Name: Diana Salvemini

Signature: Diana SalveminiDate: 05-Oct-2021