

# CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES INITIATIVE FOR LAND MANAGEMENT

## CACILM MULTICOUNTRY CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT PROJECT CONCEPT

### A. SUMMARY

#### 1. Rationale

1. Each country in Central Asia has developed a National Programming Framework as a part of Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management. In all countries, the National Programming Frameworks (NPFs) identified a need to develop national capacity to deal better with a variety of institutional, policy and other barriers to sustainable land management (SLM). These barriers were broadly divided into two groups, (i) absence of enabling conditions for SLM, and (ii) non-integrated practices of land use planning and management. Within these groups, each of the NPFs identified a number of specific activities or projects.

2. These proposed capacity building activities need to be better integrated into single set of activities in each country. However, it must be recognized that in many cases countries are proposing similar types of activities that would benefit from a common approach at the multicountry level. In addition, there are specific training activities that are best implemented at the multicountry level. These factors combined with the cost effectiveness of administering a single project, argue for a multicountry capacity building project.

3. It would be possible in principle to address the various weaknesses of capacity one by one, and country by country. This would take into account the specificity of each country and the differences in the speed of land and other reforms in each but such an approach would also carry a disproportionately high administrative cost since the weaknesses tend to be many and their average "size" relatively small. Under the proposed Multi-country Capacity Building Project ("MCB Project"), the weaknesses can be addressed in a more cost efficient way without compromising the need for country specificity.

#### 2. Objectives

4. The objective of the Multicountry Capacity Building for SLM ("MCB Project") is to help overcome the barriers to SLM and, in this way, contribute to the principal goal of NPFs, which is "improve incomes and livelihood of the rural populations through activities that reverse the trend of land degradation, and generate, at the same time, broader environmental benefits".

#### 3. Outcomes

5. The MCB Project will contribute to two outcomes:

- (i) Favorable environment for SLM investments supported by SLM mainstreaming, and policy, regulatory and land administration improvements; and
- (ii) Improved capacity of the institutions in Central Asia to adopt integrated land use planning and management

### B. Country Ownership

## 1. Country Eligibility

6. All five CACs are GEF-eligible. They have ratified UNCCD (Table 1) and designated focal points for national UNCCD implementation.

**Table 1: Dates of UNCCD Actions by the Central Asian Countries**

| UNCCD Action          | Year by Country |                 |            |              |            |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|------------|
|                       | Kazakhstan      | Kyrgyz Republic | Tajikistan | Turkmenistan | Uzbekistan |
| Ratification of UNCCD | 1997            | 1996*           | 1997       | 1996         | 1995       |
| Adoption of UNCCD NAP | 1997**          | 1999***         | 2000       | 1996         | 1999       |

Notes: \* Accession. \*\* Revised/updated in 2000. \*\*\* Formally approved in 2000.

NAP = national action plan; UNCCD = United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

## 2. Country Drivenness

7. All five countries have prepared national UNCCD action programs to prioritize and guide interventions to address land degradation (Table 1). Working Groups for UNCCD Implementation have been established in each country. These UNCCD Working Groups have recently prepared National Programming Frameworks, which have concept papers for a substantial number of capacity building projects. All the CACs recognize the importance of multicountry activities to support and synergize their national programs. The proposed project has been included into the CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework for early implementation; and has been endorsed by the CACILM Taskforce for inclusion of the list of projects to be funded from the GEF 3 replenishment.

UNDP has supported National Capacity Self-Assessment in Central Asia. NCSA, is a rigorous undertaking that has mobilized attention of key stakeholders and national expertise in order to assess the current environmental governance system and their response capacities to implement the three global conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification/Land Degradation. Countries have demonstrated their commitment to the capacity development endeavors through the NCSA process. Therefore, NCSA findings will also provide an important knowledge base for this targeted capacity building under CACILM. Some of the critical elements of capacity needs assessment methodologies tested by the countries through the NCSA can also be applied.

## C. Program and Policy Conformity

### 1. Program Designation and Conformity

8. The project conforms to OP15 – Sustainable Land Management. It is an important part of the phase 1 activities of CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework (CMPF). The CMPF has been designed to be in complete conformity with GEF programs and policy. The MCB Project was developed to that the capacity was in place to ensure that the global benefits of the activities—with regard to land degradation, biodiversity, and atmospheric pollution—under the individual NPFs will eventuate. CMPF is designed to (i) ensure that the (national and

multicountry) activities during implementation of CACILM remain consistent with GEF strategic priorities; (ii) ensure the sustainability of both national and multicountry activities; (iii) ensure replicability of individual activities to benefit all CACs; and (iv) are designed and carried out with broad stakeholder involvement.

9. During development of the NPFs, care was taken to ensure consistency with the GEF Operational Programme 15 Sustainable Land Management under the Land Degradation Focal Area (OP15), and the strategic priorities of capacity building and implementation of innovative and indigenous sustainable land management practices.

Through the monitoring and evaluation system of this project, by collection and analysis of regular reports from National Coordination Councils to the CACILM Steering Committee, and subsequent recommendations from the Steering Committee to the National Coordination Councils, relevance of proposed and ongoing projects to OP 15 and GEF strategic priorities can be maintained.

## **2. Project Design**

10. **NPF Problem Analyses** Detailed problem analyses were undertaken during the preparation of the National Programming Frameworks to identify both the proximate and root causes of the land degradation. All of these problem analyses also identified variety of institutional, policy and other barriers to sustainable land management (SLM). Subsequent needs analyses identified a number of areas where capacity building and institutional strengthening is required. The proposed SLM programs in the NPFs included capacity building activities in two major areas: (i) capacity building for strengthening the enabling environment; and (ii) capacity building for integrated land use planning and management.

11. The proposed MCB Project is an important part of the overall implementation of activities planned under the CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework (CMPF). Without this GEF supported project many of the benefits of the Partnership will not accrue. Individual countries will be left to find alternate resources to fund their proposals for building capacity and strengthening of sustainable land management institutions. This will result in a fragmented approach to capacity building that is inconsistent with the CMPF and the NPFs.

12. With MCB Project, the countries and the Partnership will make accelerated progress towards the CMPF outcomes:

- (i) Favorable environment for SLM investments supported by SLM mainstreaming, and policy, regulatory and land administration improvements; and
- (ii) Improved capacity of the institutions in Central Asia to adopt integrated land use planning and management

13. Three set of core activities are proposed: (i) national capacity building activities, (ii) multicountry training activities, and (iii) land user and community mobilization.

### **a. National Capacity Activities**

14. National Capacity Building Activities will follow into two broad areas:

- (i) Establish an environment to encourage investment by national stakeholders into improved land productivity, which may include:

- Legislative streamlining, clarifications and additions
- Increasing the efficiency of land administration
- Mainstreaming of SLM into government documents, planning procedures and budgets
- Improved policies for the use of irrigated and non-irrigated lands

**Table 2. Proposed Capacity Building Activities in the National Programming Frameworks.**

| <b>Activity</b>   | <b>Kazakhstan</b> | <b>Kyrgyz Republic</b> | <b>Tajikistan</b> | <b>Turkmenistan</b> | <b>Uzbekistan</b> |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Strengthening Enabling Policy Environment   | X                 | x                      | x                 |                     | x                 |
| Strengthening Legislative and Regulatory Capacity   | X                 | x                      | x                 | x                   | x                 |
| Strengthening Institutional Framework   | X                 | x                      | x                 | x                   | x                 |
| Mainstreaming into National Poverty Reduction Strategies and Budgeting Processes            | X                 | x                      | x                 | x                   | x                 |
| Strengthening Support to Local Administration and Participatory Mechanisms – Pilot Projects | X                 | x                      |                   | x                   | x                 |
| Establishment of a new Marketing Mechanisms   |                   | x                      |                   |                     |                   |
| Expansion of Information Technologies in Remote Areas                                       |                   | x                      |                   |                     |                   |
| Strengthening local Government in Participatory Land Use Planning and Budgeting             | X                 | x                      | x                 |                     | x                 |
| Combating Desertification and poverty by means of Community Mobilization                    | X                 | x                      | x                 |                     | x                 |
| Strengthening Sustainable Land Management Information Systems                               | X                 | x                      | x                 | x                   | x                 |
| Strengthening Community Forest Management   | X                 | x                      | x                 |                     | x                 |
| Establishment of National Centre on Combating Desertification                               | X                 |                        |                   |                     |                   |
| SLM Higher Education  | X                 |                        |                   |                     |                   |
| Enhancement of Awareness and Public Participation   | X                 | x                      | x                 | x                   | x                 |

(ii) Making land use planning and management more integrated, which may include:

- Strengthening of a cross-discipline approach to, and practices of, land management
- Improving stakeholder participation and SLM activities
- Improved capacity for area- and community-based natural resource management and conservation

15. This project responds to capacity building needs and proposed activities in the National Programming Frameworks for Sustainable Land Management. Under this component, the MCB Project Team working closely with National Coordination Councils in each country will prioritize the activities identified under the NPFs' capacity building program (see Table 2). The proposed capacity building activities, particularly the technical soundness of each activity, will be reviewed by the MCB Project Team and National Coordination Council. The two working together (along with the CACILM Secretariat) will determine the allocation of resources for each activity. The allocations will seek to maximize the scope for cost efficiency and value added by, for instance, ensuring that reform recommendations developed for one country can be applied in another country (where the underlying conditions are sufficiently similar) and those relevant elements of analysis flow across the boundaries rather than each country developing them independently. The MCB Project's Team will also confirm (or proposed amendments to, as necessary) the implementation arrangements proposed for individual project activities in each country.

#### **b. Multicountry Training Activities**

16. The Multi country training activities address stake holders at different level involved in the implementation of the NPFs, including: policy and decision makers at national level, and project managers and experts. A stakeholder analysis and training need assessment will be prepared for training at the multicountry level. This plan will be designed to provide participants will provide modular courses, and relate to the NPF implementation needs. The programme will include a train the trainers component in order to contribute to in country development of own capacities. This is need as the programme cannot provide training for all, especially the direct project related needs, but should foster a multiplication of capacities.

17. The training plan will developed in consultation with National Coordination Councils and representatives of the CACILM development cooperation partners. The training plan will be designed to complement the other capacity building efforts under the national capacity building activities. Examples of multicountry training might include:

- Governance and Natural Resource Management
- Monitoring and evaluation of National Action Programs
- Shaping the future: key competences for sustainable development
- Land Use Planning/participatory land management
- Strategic environmental planning
- Train the trainers session
- Others

### **c. Land User and Community Mobilization**

18. The third component addresses the growing demand by each country's civil society for a role in SLM, such role often hinging on the room created in the implementation of investment project for stakeholder mobilization, community decision-making, and a multi-disciplinary approach to problem-solving.

19. The proposed projects will provide backstopping and training services to ongoing projects to help form partnerships between the stakeholders and the government for the stewardship of the natural dry lands. It will foster participation of residents in communities whose livelihood depends on the protection of the dry lands ecosystems. Activities will be designed to enhance community participation in the management, protection and rehabilitation of the dry lands ecosystems.

### **3. Sustainability**

20. The capacity building activities proposed in the MCB Project are designed to support the implementation of national programming frameworks (NPFs) for sustainable land management in each of the five Central Asia Countries. The NPFs have a ten year vision that in part will create; (i) a favorable environment for SLM investments supported by SLM mainstreaming, and policy, regulatory and land administration improvements; and (ii) improved capacity of the institutions in Central Asia to adopt integrated land use planning and management.

21. To ensure institutional sustainability, the capacity building activities will be developed in consultation with the CACILM National Coordination Councils in each country and implemented in conjunction with the CACILM National Secretariats. To ensure sustainability and the multicountry level, the MCB project will be overseen by the CACILM Steering Committee and administered by the CACILM Multicountry Secretariat

22. To ensure social sustainability, the project will emphasize the early involvement of key stakeholders in project preparation and implementation, including policy makers, local public officials and community leaders, farmers, their associations, NGOs. Such involvement will create a sense of ownership and contribute to social sustainability. Environmental sustainability is fundamental to CACILM. The overall capacity building under CACILM is designed to support the financial sustainability of other specific projects and investments.

### **4. Replicability**

23. While many of capacity building activities must and will take place at the national level, the multicountry nature of this project promotes replication of project activities in other Central Asian countries. To ensure knowledge capture and dissemination, the project will document the results of country activities and organize multicountry workshops to exchange information and report on country activities. To disseminate promising results and lessons learned, multicountry training activities will be organized.

24. To ensure broader dissemination, beyond the CACILM Partnership and outside of Central Asia, the results from this project will be incorporate into the knowledge management and dissemination component of the CMPF.

## 5. Stakeholder Involvement

25. Strong and broad stakeholder involvement at various levels is an essential element of the CMPF. The public participation plan of the CMPF includes guidance on project specific mechanisms for stakeholder involvement. This MCB Project will be prepared with the full involvement of national and local stakeholders. These will include individual farmers, communities, farmer organizations, NGOs, local and national government officials. The project will ensure the involvement of women in the development of project activities as well as their full participation in capacity building activities

### D. Financial Modalities and Cost Effectiveness

#### 1. Financing Plan

| <b>Financing Plan</b>         |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Source</b>                 | <b>Amount (\$)</b> |
| Government Financing          | 500,000            |
| UNDP(to be confirmed)         | 1,950,000          |
| UNCCD – GTZ (to be confirmed) | 600,000            |
| ICARDA (to be confirmed)      | 300,000            |
| ADB (to be confirmed)         | 100,000            |
| IFAD (to be confirmed)        | 200,000            |
| GEF Financing                 | 3,000,000          |
| <b>Total Financing</b>        | <b>6,650,000</b>   |

#### 2. Co-financing

26. The Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, recognizing the importance of this multicountry capacity building project, have indicated their full support for the project and are willing to provide co-financing for project implementation through the life of the project. UNDP has pledged \$1,950,000 The UNCCD Project of GTZ has indicated their support of \$600,000; ICARDA has pledged \$300,000, ADB has pledged \$100,000 and IFAD has pledged \$200,000.

### E. Institutional Coordination and Support

#### 1. Core Commitment and Linkages

27. This project responds to capacity building needs and proposed activities in the National Programming Frameworks for Sustainable Land Management, which have been developed by each of the Central Asian Countries. These National Programming Frameworks build on earlier attempts to systematically address land degradation. These efforts include, in particular, the National Action Plans to Combat Desertification, and the 2004 Subregional Action Program for the Central Asian Countries on Combating Desertification within the UNCCD Context, which was formulated to give additional impetus to the implementation of national programs, In addition the NPFs attempt to the integrate the land degradation aspects of the countries' National Environmental Action Plans.

28. The CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework (CMPF) is one of six Country Pilot Partnerships. The overall design of the CMPF has benefited from interaction and information exchange with other CPPs and the guidance provided by GEF Secretariat. Lessons learned for other GEF activities in Central Asia, which are detailed in the CMPF, will help target and focus the proposed capacity building activities.

## **2. Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration between IAs, and IAs and EAs**

29. This project was designed in coordination with all members of the CACILM Task Force, which includes:

- (i) representatives of the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan;
- (ii) GEF implementing agencies, World Bank, UNDP, and UNEP;
- (iii) GEF executing agencies, ADB, FAO, and IFAD;
- (iv) bilateral agencies acting as CACILM implementing agencies or participating in projects or activities through cofinancing; and
- (v) other international organizations participating in CACILM projects and activities.

30. The project will be implemented under the oversight of CACILM Steering Committee, the successor for to Task Force, which is to be created at the outset implementation.

## **3. Implementation/ Execution Arrangements**

31. This is multicountry project of the CMPF. As such, it is under the supervision of the CACILM Steering Committee and will be administered by the CACILM Secretariat. Both multicountry projects will be co-located with the CACILM Secretariat.

32. UNDP will be the GEF Implementing Agency for the MCB Project, with responsibilities to: (i) to undertake the project coordination (ii) undertake monitoring and evaluation of the MCB Project in line with the arrangements agreed for all CACILM activities; and (iii) ensure full reporting to GEF and CACILM Secretariat for all project related activities.

For individual activities, UNDP will share project execution responsibilities for individual activities with other development cooperation partners as appropriate. This will allow the respective strengths of each development partner to be used to maximum advantage.

A multi development cooperation partner working group will participate in the preparation of the full size project and some mechanism for further involvement of the partners will be included in the Project implementation arrangements.