

**Approved by  
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Council**

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Date: January, 2009**

**Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM)  
CACILM Multicountry Program Framework Support Project (CMPF-SP)**

## **Year End 2008 Report Uzbekistan**

**Prepared by  
CACILM National Secretariat  
of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	- Asian Development Bank
CACILM	- Central Asian Countries Initiative for Sustainable Land Management
CMPF	- CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework
CMPF-SP	- CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project
FAO	- Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	- Global Environment Facility
GM	- Global Mechanism
GTZ	- German Agency for Technical Cooperation
ICARDA	- International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
LoA	- Letter of Agreement
MSEC	- CACILM Multicountry Secretariat
NAPCD	- National Action Plan on Combat Desertification
NCC	- National Coordination Council
NPF	- National Program Framework for Sustainable Land Management
NSEC	- National Secretariat
NSIU	- National Support Implementation Unit
M&A	- Monitoring and Assessment
RUz	- Republic of Uzbekistan
SLM	- Sustainable Land Management
SLM-CB	- Sustainable Land Management Capacity Building
SLM-IS	- Sustainable Land Management Information System
SLM-KM	- Sustainable Land Management Knowledge Management
SLM-R	- Sustainable Land Management Research
SPCA	- Scientific Production Centre of Agriculture,
UNCCD	- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	- United Nations Development Program

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## **Introduction**

The Report presents results of NSEC activities for the period January-December 2008 according to NSEC Work Plan approved for 2008. The report has been prepared in accordance with requirements and proposals of MSEC.

### **I. National implementation of CACILM**

#### **A. Summary of National Coordination Council Activities**

National Coordination Council carries out supervision and coordination of overall implementation of CACILM Programm at national level. NCC membership underwent a change in 2008 due to staff transfer in some Ministries. Renewal list of NCC members is annexed (Annex 1).

In accordance with the Work Plan in 2008 three Meetings of CACILM National Coordination Council have been conducted, working meetings during ADB, UNDP missions, and field trips, training tours and discussions at a round table. Those contributed to awareness raising NCC members on SLM, improving of living standards and environment protection in context of CACILM priorities and new challenges connected with climate change, often-recurring droughts and critical shortage of water. Minutes of the Meetings and the list of participants are attached (Annexes 2-4).

First NCC Meeting was held on 15 April 2008 chaired by Prof.V.E.Chub – General Director of Uzhydromet, Chairman of the CACILM NCC. It was dedicated to consideration and discussion of the NCC Work Plan for 2008; report on monitoring of the National Programming Framework (NPF) implementation and realization of NPF projects and components of CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project. (Annex 2)

Second NCC Meeting (29 September 2008) was convened with aim to discuss SLM-CB Project proposal prepared by team of national and international experts under active support and assistance of NSEC and UNDP. In the course of the discussion questions concerning strategic priorities and needs for capacity building for introduction of SLM principles and prevention of future threats have been raised. Taking into account additions and remarks made the Project Strategic Result Framework has been approved by the NCC members. Minutes and list of participants are enclosed (Annex 3).

Third NCC Meeting was conducted on 23 December, 2008. It was dedicated to consideration and discussion of the report on NCC/NSEC activities for 2008 and Work plan for 2009, report of results of activities two national NPF projects (middle size GEF/UNDP project and full-size GEF/ADB project) and reports on implementation of components of CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project. In the course of discussion, participants of the NCC Meeting noted a significance of progress achieved in implementation of NPF and CACILM activities and necessity of overestimation and renewal of priorities of NPF in the context of new challenges connected with climate change, often-recurring droughts and shortage of water. (Annex 4).

After a long discussions and opinion exchange NCC members made a decision which was summarized below:

- (i) to approve the Report on CACILM National Coordination Council and National Secretariat activities for 2008 taking into account remarks and proposals of the NCC members and take as a basis of the NCC/NSEC Work Plan for 2009;*
- (ii) to renew National Programming Framework (NPF) taking into account new challenges ( climate change, often-recurring droughts and deficit of water resources). To include in a*

*renewal NPF issues concerning water management, adaptation to climate change and food safety;*

*(iii) to address to GTZ with request on rendering financial and technical support for NPF renewal. To charge NSEC with preparation of a financial proposal and an Action Plan on NPF renewal during the first quarter of 2009;*

*(iv) to approve reports on NPF project results achieved (middle size GEF/UNDP project and full-size GEF/ADB project and CMPF – NSIU report on SLM-IS; ICARDA report on SLM-R and reports on results of SLM- KM and SLM-CB components activities);*

*(v) to continue NSEC activities on involvement of interested organizations for preparation of portfolio of project proposals for CACILM Phase II and search of potential partners and finance resources and others.*

Decision made is given in Minutes of the NCC Meeting on 23 December 2008 (Annex 4). During the Meeting Mr. B.Kadyrov informed NCC members that Prof.Victor Chub - General Director of Uzhydromet, Chairman of the CACILM NCC has been elected as the President of Regional Association II (RA-II Asia) of World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

In first quarter of 2008 NCC and NSEC under support of MSEC carried out active work on preparation to the Second CACILM Steering Committee Meeting which was held in Ashgabat on 23-24 April 2008. The Republic of Uzbekistan has been represented by the following NCC members: Mr.B.Sh. Kadyrov – National UNCCD Focal Point in RUz. First Deputy General Director of Uzhydromet, U.V.Abdullaev – Director UZGIP Institute of Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, and Mrs/ Raisa Taryannikova – CACILM Head of National Secretariat. Two presentations have been presented to CACILM Steering Committee – “Progress of realization of National programming Framework in Uzbekistan” , B.Kadyrov and “Mobilisation of Internal Resources: Republic of Uzbekistan”, Mr.Umid Abdullaev. Representatives of Uzbekistan took active part in discussions of concrete actions on improving activities and monitoring of NPF projects and multicountry projects and strengthening activities on resource mobilization. Information on activities and decisions of the CACILM Steering Committee has been presented by Dr.Bakhtiyor Kadyrov to Government as brief report and to NCC.

In 2008 under support of GTZ and MSEC, NCC members (Mr. B.Kadyrov, Mr.M.Ganiyev, Mrs.R.Taryannikova, Sh.Abdullaev (Ministry of Finance), Mr.A.Nasritdinov) took part in workshops, meetings, field visits and training tours what promotes improving of their knowledge level and awareness on SLM approaches and mechanisms. In particular during field visits, NCC members became acquainted with results of GEF project activities in Kazakhstan on preservation and rehabilitation of pasture ecosystems and improving of living standards rural population (3-5 June, 2008), coordination mechanism and methods of combat desertification in Turkmenistan desert ecosystems (25 April 2008) and exchange their opinion and discuss possible ways of cooperation on common and cross-cutting directions.

Significant impulse in awareness raising on NCC members introduced Regional Workshop on on Adaptation of Integrated Financial Strategy in Central Asia (DIFS) organized by UNCCD Global Mechanism in cooperation with GTZ and Multicountry Secretariat on 25-26 April, 2008 in Ashgabat. NCC Members improved their understanding and knowledge on “Integrated Financial Strategy” (IFS) and processes going with development of the IFS and also took active part in discussion of further steps which are necessary to take for successful adaptation of IFS in Central Asia countries.

Especial attention in NCC activities was paid information dissemination on achievements and results of CACILM implementation and development of cooperation at diverse level. For reporting period NCC members took part in different regional and international workshops, meetings, forums and round tables discussions (see section 1.3). During Working Meeting

UNCCD participant countries (3-4 November, 2008 ) NCC member – Mr.Baktiyor Kadyrov took part in site-event organized by GTZ in discussion of SLM priorities, needs and approaches fulfilled in the NPF and CMPF projects and lesson learned, what promotes awareness raising donors and international organizations on CACILM activities. At International Workshop on Integrated Approaches in ecosystem Management organized by PRG-GEF Partnership on Land-Degradation in Dryland Ecosystem (6-7 November, 2009, Beijing, China) NCC member – Mr.Umid Abdullaev informed the workshop participants with Land degradation issues and sustainable land management in Central Asia. The workshop participants showed great interest to results of CACILM activities and outlined possible ways of cooperation.

## **B. Summary of National Secretariat activities in 2008**

By Statute on National Secretariat at 29 March 2009 NSEC is responsible for support of CACILM realization in Uzbekistan and monitoring of NPF and GEF projects and preparation of project proposals for CACILM Phase 2.

Organization and conducting of NCC Meeting is an important aspect of NSEC activities. In reporting 2008 the Secretariat carried out great work on organization of three NCC Meetings which included in preparation of agenda and delivery of NCC Members necessary materials and reports for preliminary consideration and study. Timely delivery and dispatch to NCC members the information rendered by NPF and CMPF projects, Multicountry Secretariat and participants of CACILM SP (ADB, GTZ and others) promotes their active participation and wide discussion of considered issues and attaining consensus when decision making.

NSEC conducts monitoring and assessment of realization of project of NPF and multicountry SLM CACILM components and promotes participation and contribution of NCC members to CACILM Coordination Committee activities. At the first half of the reporting year NSEC prepared report “Report on Monitoring of National Programming Framework Implementation for the period 2007-2008” and two presentations “Progress of realization of National programming Framework in Uzbekistan” (Mr. B.Kadyrov) and “Mobilization of Internal Resources: Republic of Uzbekistan”, (Mr.Umid Abdullaev) presented . at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of CACILM Steering Committee.

Staff of NSEC works closely with potential investors – international organizations, donors and projects with aim to preparation of new project proposals for CACILM Phase 2. Under support of NSEC wide consultation jointly with attending project territories and discussions with decision makers and stakeholders at all levels were organized during preparation two project proposals: (1) project on **sustainable pasture management with local community participation** ; (2) project on **adaptation of vulnerable ecosystems in the Amudarya river delta to climate change**.

In the reporting year NSEC was undertaken significant efforts in support of NPF and CMPF-SP projects realization: (a) Research on SLM; (b) Information system for SLM; (c) Knowledge management for SLM; (d) Capacity building for SLM. NSEC facilitated and assists to national unit on project implementation (NSIU) – UZGIP Institute (Uzmeliovodkhoz) in preparation of Technical and Finance Proposal, forming of national project team and in discussion of work program and Memorandums of cooperation and providing necessary information with related institutes and agencies of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

NSEC took direct and active part in preparation of CACILM multicountry project on capacity building (SLM-CB), fulfilled common coordination when development and discussion of draft of strategic result framework (SRF), conducted assessment and gave comments on national expert reports.

Since launching the CMPF component – SLM KM, NSEC controls dissemination and moving forward of the knowledge system through its main mechanism – SLM-KM web site and information products namely publications, workshops, meetings and presentations at a Round Table with participation of NPF and CMPF projects and CACILM partners including NGOs and mass media and other involved participants of CACILM. List and thematic of the workshops, meetings and discussions with participation of NSEC see section 4, common list of activities is in NSEC database.

NSEC carries out collection, processing and replenish of the database on NPF projects and other related SLM Programms. Information is storied in Excel and Access environment and reviews and reports in Word.

In reported year NSEC coordinated and fulfilled overall control for realization of Operational Plan for 2008 financed by GTZ including ToRs and recruitment of experts, analysis, assessment and summarizing analytic material prepared by the experts. Report on implementation of the Operational Plan is attached. (annex 5).

Replacement of NSEC personnel has not take place. However, lack of financing for support of NSEC activities led to reducing the salary. That limits possibilities of NSEC personnel in realization of received obligations.

## **II. Results of Work Plan implementation for 2008**

### **Component 1: NCC oversight for national programs**

#### **1.1 NCC oversight for NPF implementation**

National Coordination Council conducts supervision and coordination of NPF implementation basing on results of government and donor activity on SLM on the CACILM Phase 1. In its activity NCC uses integrated approaches, participatory principles and involvement of all stakeholders in NPF and CACILM activities.

According to Work Plan for 2008 three NCC Meetings, working meetings with UNDP international consultants, ADB, GTZ and other missions were conducted and also field visits, training tours, discussion at a Round Table with participation of stakeholders. Especial attention has been paid to activities on knowledge dissemination and awareness raising on SLM, improving of living standards and environment protection in context of CACILM priorities and new challenges evoking a serious unrest of national Government and public community of the country and CACILM participants.

In accordance with Operational Plan 2008 financed by GTZ in current year NCC coordinated analysis of NPF progress implementation and its mainstreaming into national programs and plans. The assessment was based on review of government activities and planned results of NPF and CMPF project. The results of analysis of NPF progress implementation carried out under support of GTZ are given in annex 5.

The assessment fulfilled shows that established mechanisms of coordination and monitoring of NPF implementation promotes coordinated moving forward of SLM approaches on restoration of land productivity functions and improving of ecological viability of ecosystems in NPF and CMPF project areas. Common program areas of NPF and environmental action programs and plans provide possibility for joining efforts on adaptation of SLM best practices, know how technologies and impact assessment for achieving of additional local and global ecological benefits. However it is extremely important to direct the efforts to (a) mobilization of human and finance resources

for SLM; (b) widening awareness raising of activities on food and ecological security, gender planning and others.

In course of discussions at NCC Meeting (23 December, 2008) strategic importance and significance of progress achieved in NPF implementation was underlined. The NCC members expressed a serious concern with growing new challenges connected with climate change and water shortage, which limit productivity of agriculture, decrease farmers incomes and rural living standards. Participants of the discussion underlined importance and necessity of strategic reassessment and renewal of the NPF to prevent new challenges and preserve the environment. With that aim the NCC members recommended to widen the program areas of NPF on the following directions: (i) adaptation to climate change; (ii) adaptive management of water resources; (iii) monitoring of Desertification on participatory basis. The Decision has been made to address GTZ with financial support request for revision and renewal of NPF of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

At NCC Meeting on 23 December 2008 the Decision was made to address GTZ with financial support request for revision and renewal of NPF of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the base of CACILM Implementation Phase for 2010-2014. NCC believes that support of the activities provides establishment of strategic framework on mobilization human and finance resources for adaptation to climate change and prevention of future challenges.

Especially attention in its activities NCC pays to analysis of NPF project proposal portfolio for CACILM Phase 2. The NCC and NSEC members closely work with decision makers, key organizations and conduct negotiations with potential investors – international organizations and donors. Common list of project proposals presented to NSEC during 2008 is given in table 1.

**Table 1. New project proposals for inclusion to CACILM Phase 2**

No	Title	Applicant	Status
<i>National level</i>			
1	Sustainable pasture management with local community participation		Considered by NCC and GTZ
2	Adaptation of vulnerable ecosystems in the Amudarya river delta to climate change	IFAD and Uzhydromet	Considered by NCC and GTZ
3	Integrated water and land resources management in Fergana valley	Uzqip of Minselvodkhoz and Uzhydromet	In preparation stage
4	Development of united scheme of afforestation of the dried Aral Seabed with using up-to-date forestry methods	Research Institute of Soil Science and Agro chemistry,	In stage of discussion and working out
<i>Subregional level</i>			
1	Diversification of agricultural crops and intensification of crop production for SLM and improving of living standards of CA farmers	ICARDA	Considered by NCC
2	Conservation agriculture for SM of land and water resources and improving of living standards of farmers in main agro-climatic zones of CA	ICARDA	Considered by NCC

At NCC Meeting (23 December, 2008) two project proposals prepared under GTZ support were considered: (i) **Sustainable pasture management with local community participation**, and (ii) **Adaptation of vulnerable ecosystems in the Amudarya river delta to climate change**. NCC members indicated importance and significance of the projects proposals in context of SLM mainstreaming and prevention of new threats and challenges. NCC recommended to NSEC to

complete the project proposals in accordance with GTZ comments and submit them to CACILM Steering Committee.

Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan pays a great attention to agriculture development and improving of living standards. Forthcoming 2009 has been declared as the Year of rural accomplishment and agriculture what predetermines strategic priority of activities in agriculture and water economy of Republic of Uzbekistan.

For the period 2006-008 more than 25 legislative documents were passed which are directly connected with SLM and aimed to increasing of effectiveness of agriculture and level of population incomes. Full list of the legislative documents given in annex 6.

Adopted Decree of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan # УП-3932 at 29 October, 2007 ***“On measures for radical enhancement of the irrigation system for land improvement”*** determined most important priorities of agriculture development for the period 2008-2012 and established a coordination mechanism - “Fund for improving of condition of irrigated lands “ for Uzbekistan districts. Overall financing of the Fond for 2008 as follows: - 75 billion sum (58 thousand US\$) including for main-line collectors rehabilitation (45%), equipment and techniques (20%) and leasing services (33%) for obtaining irrigation equipment.

In the course of first mission of Ms.Monique Barbut - GEF CEO in Uzbekistan (27-30 June, 2008) NCC members (Prof.V.Chub – Chairman of NCC; B.Kadydov, National UNCCD Focal Point, Mr. S.Myagkov – National Operational Focal Point GEF) discussed issues of CACILM implementation and organized a field trip for familiarization with problems land and water salinization in Syrdarya province. Taking into account scale and consequences of land degradation in Uzbekistan, Ms.Monique Barbut expressed her readiness to finance and support of development of Governmental Program on improving of meliorated land condition of the Republic of Uzbekistan fulfilled in accordance with resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan PY № ПП-817 от 19.03.2008г.. In interview to “Narodnoe slovo” newspaper Ms.M.Barbut actualized significance of CACILM for combat land degradation and adaptation of SLM approaches.

In context of stimulating sustainable pasture management high importance has Decree of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan №ПП-842 at 21.04.2008 г “On additional measures for strengthening stimulation of livestock growth in personal households, dekhan and farmer economies and improving of livestock production”. The Decree envisages (i) realization of complex activities on creation of favorable conditions for increasing livestock population and cattle-breeding production in personal dekhan and farmers households; (ii) widening rendering micro-credits for all categories of economies for purchasing cattle; (iii) creation of own base on artificial insemination of animals through modernization of productive capacity of Republican enterprise “Uznaslchilik” with organization of extensive network of service sites. In the decree is stipulated that irrigated land given to livestock and poultry farms set aside only for seeding forage crops and are not subject for growing cotton and grain-crops for government needs.

In connection with repeating water resource shortage, strong grows of prices at world market, for further increasing production volume and diversification of food crops and providing full satisfaction of population needs in provisions and grows of incomes and well-being of rural population the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan – “On measures on optimization of sown area and increasing agricultural crops production” has been adopted at 20 October, 2008. According to that Decree since 2009 a volume of cotton production will be decreased on agreements and contractions and respectively decreased the sown areas under cotton. Due to reducing of sown areas under cotton the following will be: (i) increased sown areas under grain/spiked crops of 2009 yield; (ii) done sawing vegetables and other food crops in rayons and house holds where for those there are appropriate conditions.

With aim of working out proposals on increasing effectiveness of functioning farms on the base of optimization of farmer land plot sizes the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan № Ф-3077 at 5 October, 2008 “On establishment of Special Commission on development of proposals on measures on optimization of farm land plot sizes which are under the farms” was issued. Control for the implementation of the Decree has been imposed on Mr.Sh. Mirziyeyeva – Premier-minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Special Commission on the base of deep workup (with visit of the local places) should:

- *To carry out a careful inventory of land plot sizes which are under the farms, in the context of areas on zoning, to study rationality of their utilization and effective functioning of farms;*
- *Critically analyze of financial situation of farms, condition of their material and technical basis;*
- *to pay especial attention to equipping of farms by necessary techniques, ability of farmers to organize legibly and keep effectively their households;*
- *to determine on every zoning area an optimal size of farm land plots with aim of realization of measures on increasing effectiveness of their functioning. At that especial attention to pay on specific conditions of zoning areas – density and employment level of rural population and branch specialization of farms (cotton-, grain-, fruit-, grape growing, cattle breeding and others)*
- *to prepare and introduce to the Cabinet of Ministers concrete proposals on optimization of land plot sizes which are under the farms for every zoning area, mechanism and order of unification of small farms which are not correspond to optimal standard size.*

In context of improving of legal framework and liberalization of community most significance has Joint Decree of Kengash of Legal Board and Kengash of Senate Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan “ **On Measures for Strengthening Nongovernmental and Noncommercial Organizations and Other Institutes of Civil Society**” adopted at 3 July, 2008. According to the Decree under Oliy Majlis, Common Fund for Support NGO and Other Institutes of Civil Society, and Parliament Commission for the fund finance management.

Total investments into agriculture and water economy, processing agricultural production and consumption goods included in the Investment Programm of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2008 is estimated as 997,0 million US\$. On the assessment of “Strategy on improving of living standards of population for 2008-2010” ADB (2007) investment portion for agriculture should increase and amount about 18% of total volume of budget investments in the country. At the expense of own industry funds may be invested only 14,1% of required investments. From the governmental budget it is proposed to appropriate 19,3% of required volumes and confirmed international investments - 23,3%. Main volume of the funds will be utilized for realization of the program of sustainable provision of rural population with irrigation water, that are projects connected with irrigation, drainage and pump station rehabilitation.

## **1.2 NCC oversight SLM projects, financed by CACILM/GEF**

At first phase of CACILM the NCC

At CACILM Phase 1 NCC fulfills oversight for implementation of two NPF projects, funded from GEF grant:

- Middle-size Project GEF/UNDP - “Achieving of ecosystem stability on the Degraded Lands of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Kyzylkum desert” (931 thousand USD)
- GEF/ADB full-size project “Land improvement in Bukhara, Navoi and Kashkadarya Regions” (3 million USD).

Implementation of the projects, aiming improving of ecological viability and rehabilitation of productivity of degraded lands has high significance for achieving desired outcomes of NPF on SLM at experimental level and at wide scale. NCC oversees regularly and supports mobilization and realization of the projects through conducting consultations and discussions at NCC meetings, workshops and meetings with responsible performers and others according to approved Work plan and Schedule for 2008.

GEF/UNDP middle-size project - "Achieving Ecosystem stability on Degraded land in Karakalpakstan and Kyzylkum Desert" (AES) (931 thousand USD), 2008-2012 aimed demonstration of best practices on stability of ecosystems at depredated lands in Karakalpakstan and the Kysylkum desert through testing, assessment and introduction of innovative addressing of land degradation issues in experimental scale in Kysyl Ravat (Bukhara province) and Kazakhdarya (Karakalpakstan), was launched in the beginning of 2008.

NCC promoted the process of approval of project document "Achieving of ecosystem stability on the Degraded Lands of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Kyzylkum desert" at Government level, approval of draft of Statute of Coordination Council and took part in Inception Workshop (see item 2.3). During discussions at the Workshop they highlighted necessity of providing tight cooperation the project and CACILM national and multicountry projects and reporting to NSEC.

Inception report of ASE Project presented by Ms. Irina Bekmirzaeva – project manager , was considered and approved at NCC Meeting (15 April, 2008).

The NCC members (Mr.B.Kadyrov, and Mrs.R.Taryannikova) took part in first Meeting of the Steering Committee of ASE Project, dedicated to consideration of the report on results achieved for 2008 and work plan for 2009. Mrs.R.Taryannikova – Head of CACILM NSEC participate actively in discussion of the activities reported. She indicated that a positive progress has been achieved and underlined necessity of cooperation and interlink of ASE Project with the NPF and CMPF projects and especially SLM–IS component of CMPF which activity is aimed to establishment of united information system of the CACILM projects. SLM-IS will support in training and assessment of land degradation with using of Remote sensing methods.

On 23 December 2008 CACILM NCC considered and approved report of activity results of the project presented by Ms. Irina Bekmirzaeva – project manager. In the course of discussions NCC members highlighted that the project only recently start working but some results have been already achieved and that all activities in the project framework are fulfilled in close cooperation with local community. CACILM NCC members have been included in Steering Committee of ASE project what provides effective coordination with CACILM program. In the discussion the issues of local consultants have been arisen and necessity to use all the available capacity for successful project implementation. The methods and ways of achieving goals and objectives of the project induced a wide discussion. It was proposed to apply an integrated approach and combining of diverse technologies for sand stabilization at pilot sites what would allow spending project funds effectively and achieving best results. It was recommended to use alternative energy sources for improving of local living conditions and reducing anthropogenic impacts on desert vegetation. NCC members proposed to study experience of Turkmenistan and China on sand stabilization and others. The project manager addressed to NCC members with request to support in searching donors for restoration of the dam at the Amudarya River in the project pilot site in Kysyl Ravat (Bukhara province).

GEF/ADB full-size project "Land improvement in Bukhara, Navoi and Kashkadarya Regions" (LIP) directly addresses combat desertification and restoration of productivity of degraded irrigated lands and improving living standards of rural population through large-scale introduction of SLM practice in in Bukhara, Navoi and Kashkadarya provinces at the area 162,300 hectares.

In accordance with decision made by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan at 1 August, 2008 № 6576-xx., Grant Agreement to the amount of 3 million USD was signed between Ministry of Finance of RUz and ADB for so-financing of LIP investment project fulfilled with attraction of loan ADB funds.

NCC and NSEC staff conduct supervision and participate in tender execution and preparation of launching GEF component of LIP project focused on building of additional local capacity for provision of incremental global benefits and introduction of new activity directions for land restoration having large-scale ecological benefits. Launch of GEF component is planned to March-April of 2009.

At NCC Meeting (23 December, 2008) a report on progress of preparation to launching the GEF component (Mr.A.Azimov – project manager) has been done. NCC members underlined a significance of launching the large-size project for realization of SLM approaches and receiving additional ecological and socio-economical benefits in wide scale. Especial interest provoked project activities on gender plan, realization of which is a priority of NPF.

With aim of widening activities on other priority areas of NPF, NCC coordinates development of project proposals for CACILM Phase 2 (table 1). NCC and NSEC members visited Farish rayon of Djizak province (13-15 June, 2008 ) under financial support of GTZ to discuss a project proposal on sustainable pasture management with participation of local community. The program of the field trip included: (i) meeting with Khokim of Farish rayon – Mr.B.Uzakov; (ii) A Round Table discussion on pasture management problems in Farish rayon; (iii) visit to Uzbek Research Institute on Caraculs Breeding and Desert Ecology with purpose to study and assess capacity of the Institute as a possible project partner. Report on the field trip approved by GTZ is in annex 7.

### **1.3 NCC oversight multicountry CACILM SLM components**

At multicountry level CACILM, NCC oversees implementation of CMPF-SP:

- (b) SLM- Research
- (c) SLM-Information Systems
- (d) SLM-Knowledge Management
- (e) SLM-Capacity Building

**SLM- Research** The SLM-Research Component, aimed to strengthen research capacity SLM of institutes-participants on planning and management of land use in reform conditions and institutional reorganization, has been fulfilled by ICARDA since 2007. The project spread its contacts and cooperation with international agencies specialized at sustainable agriculture (ICVARDA, CIMMYT, ICRISAT or ILRI) and other international academic initiatives.

Reports on activities and progress of implementation of demonstrations of SLM practices at experimental sites of the country are presented at NCC meetings regularly. At the first quarter of 2008 NCC members took part in ICARDA Regional workshop on Perspectives of SLM research in Central Asia. NCC Members recommended conducting analysis of results achieved of the research together with outcomes of NPF implementation and conducting of joint field visits at experimental sites with aim of improving of monitoring and assessment SLM-R activities. In July 2008 NCC and NSEC members took part in field farmer days they where acquainted with

schemes and experimental options on testing and adaptation of SLM methods and practice demonstrated at pilot sites in irrigated area of Djizak province.

At NCC Meeting (23 December, 2008) a report on activities of SLM-R project for 2008. National Coordinator of the component Mr .R.Ikramov presented to NCC NCC members with achievements and results of research at pilot sites in diverse agro-climatic zones of the Republic of Uzbekistan during 2008. NCC members highlighted active interventions have been fulfilled by SPCA and ICARDA on realization of the SLM-Research component in the Republic of Uzbekistan and approved the report for 2008. In the course of discussions requests have been said on dissemination of SLM-R reports to all NCC members with aim to study and introduction the demonstrated approaches and methods on SLM into the NPF projects and other SLM related projects. NCC recommended ICARDA to prepare proposals in SLM research area for inclusion to renewed NPF.

**SLM-IS** Since this year NCC under support of NSEC facilitates and assists MSEC in preparation to launching SLM-IS project.

At NCC meeting in April 2008 was considered the report on result of ADB/MSEC mission on assessment of capacity of institutes and decision was made on start of activities on forming SLM-IS national structure and supporting NSIU activities. NCC oversaw preparation of SLM-IS Technical and Finance Proposal from NSIU, promoted in agreeing draft of Contract between ADB and NSIU and memorandums on Cooperation with institutes-partners of the project. NCC and NSEC members assisted and facilitated MSEC in organization of Regional Inception Workshop and took an active part in sessions and discussions of the workshop. NSEC member – (Mrs. G.Khasankhanova) participated in a field visit of ADB international consultant (Mr. C. Y. Ji) and NSIU (R.Ibragimov) to degraded irrigated lands of Hunger Steppe and pasture zone (Djizak and Samarqand province) with using of satellite images – MODIS-2008.

At NCC Meeting (23 December, 2008) report on NSIU activities was presented by Mrs.T.Khamzina – head of NSIU team. Participants of the NCC Meeting highlighted importance of realization of the project for joining efforts of all responsible institutes at all levels and proposed to widen the program of training and assistance for NPF project teams. NCC approved the NSIU report for 2008 and recommended to prepare proposals on development of information system for SLM for renewed NPF.

**SLM-Knowledge Management** Since launching the CMPF component, NCC oversees progress of the component which aims wide involving of stakeholders, knowledge management and awareness raising at all levels of community on best SLM practices promoting more effective NPF implementation and CACILM activities.

NCC members under support on NSEC oversees dissemination and introducing of knowledge system through main mechanism –SLM-KM Web site and information products namely publications, workshops, meetings and presentations at Round tables with participation of NPF and CMPF projects and CACILM partners, including NGO and mass media and other stakeholders. List and themes of workshops, meetings and discussions with participation of members NCC/NSEC given in 3.3 and 4.1 items. Common list of the activities is available at the NSEC data base. For involvement of stakeholders which have no access to internet NCC facilitates to NSEC in organization of library/Knowledge center on SLM best practices. Additionally booklets on CACILM activities at local, national and regional level are preparing and issuing.

For awareness raising and access of all stakeholders to CACILM achievements and activities,

NCC members (15 April, 2008) recommended ADB/CACILM and MSEC to make the web site more simple and create Russian version of it.

NCC members considered (23 December, 2008) and approved report on progress of the component activities and highlighted importance of this component for awareness raising on SLM. Head of “Ecoforum” underlined readiness of the Ecological movement of RUZ in support and assistance of Information Dissemination Plan realisation and organisation of public companies and publications. NCC members recommended to NPF and CMPF project managers prepare and disseminate among stakeholders an information brochure on the project during first quarter of 2009.

## SLM- CB

For the reporting period in the scope of the component on capacity building work has been fulfilled on development of strategic result framework and project proposal preparation for submission to GEF.

Second Meeting of NCC in the reported year (29 September, 2008 ) was fully dedicated to preparation of multicountry project on capacity building in framework of CACILM (SLM-CB). In the course of the discussion questions concerning strategic priorities and needs for capacity building for introduction of SLM principles and prevention of future threats have been raised. In remarks given by NCC members it was highlighted that the project is vital in existing conditions of climate change, sharp shortage of water and worsening productivity of the agro-ecosystems and will serve for further berries overcome on SLM principles introduction and prevention of future threats. Taking into account additions and remarks made the Project Strategic Result Framework has been approved by the NCC members for inclusion in project proposal for GEF financing.

### 1.4 . NCC oversight projects financed by other donors and budgets of CAC (not CACILM)

NCC members from key national ministries and agencies participate in development of governmental programs through the organizations which they represent and as members of joint Commissions and Coordination Councils take direct part in consideration, discussion and implementation of governmental resolutions and decision related to SLM. They initiate pressing measures on overcoming and mitigation of drought consequences and other threats as well.

Membership of NCC in Committees of NPF projects and other projects and programs related to SLM is given in table 2.

**Table 2.** Membership of NCC in Committees of NPF projects and other projects and programs related to SLM

	Steering Committee/ Council	Uzb NCC members
1	Achieving of ecosystem stability on the Degraded Lands of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Kyzylkum desert	B.Kadyrov, UNCCD National Focal Point M. Ganiyev – Mivselvodkhoz B. Muradov B. Ministry of Economics R.Taryannikova – Head of NSEC

2	Council of Fund for improving of condition of irrigated lands	V.Chub – Chair of NCC/General Director of Uzhydromet U. Abdullaev – Director of UZGIP Institute
3	Project FAO on Forest Programm development	R.Taryannikova – Head of NSEC
4	GEF/UNDP Small grant program	N.Shulgina - NSEC
5	Interagency Working Froup on management and use of GEF grant funds under MFERIT	B.Kadyrov, UNCCD National Focal Point S. Myagkov GEF Operational Focal Point

## **Component 2. NSEC monitoring and NPF reporting for NCC**

### **a. Data base of SLM projects**

NSEC conducts collection, processing and renewal of the data base on NPF projects and other SLM programs and projects. Information is keeping in Excel and Access environment, reviews and reports in Word. Position of the NPF and CMPF project information is given at fig.1

At MSEC Workshop for specialists on realization and monitoring of projects (5-6 July, 2008) specification and formats for data and information storage in NSEC data base were discussed as well. Three categories of data have been accepted: (i) CACILM NPF projects; (ii) SLM projects financed by donors – members of CACILM Strategic Partnership; (iii) national projects and initiatives and projects of other donors.

On category 1 information on NPF project activities and reporting is regularly renewed and placed to CACILM web-site. Taking into account a great load to web-site some type of information is keeping in NSEC database.

On other data categories NSEC carries out collection and processing of information and reporting and assesses of results achieved with aim to summarize of the results and inputs of the projects for SLM moving forward.

Renewed data base of NPF and CMPF projects is given in annex 8.

Additionally NSEC continue widening of the data base on divers aspects and directions of CACILM. The following information was collected and introduced to the NSEC data base.

1. List of legislative and regulatory documents and resolutions related to SLM and adopted from 2006 to present time.
2. List of institutes and participants of CACILM
3. List and thematic of workshops, seminars, round tables on SLM and other themes related to CACILM.

## **2.2 Monitoring and assessment of NPF projects**

### ***Summary of NSEC work on preparation of the second Meeting of CACILM Steering Committee***

For the second CACILM Steering Committee Meeting NSEC prepared report - Report on "Monitoring of National Programming Framework Implementation for the period 2007-2008" under CMPF support and recommendations. The report has been approved by NCC and approved by MSEC. The main goal of the report – to monitor of NPF implementation and

consider weak sides and lacks and summarize of NPF implementation progress at national level. NCC members from the Republic of Uzbekistan presented two presentations to CACILM Steering Committee - "Progress of realization of National programming Framework in Uzbekistan" , (B.Kadyrov - UNCCD National Focal Point) and "Mobilization of Internal Resources: Republic of Uzbekistan", (Mr.Umid Abdullaev Director of UZGIP Institute).

In first quarter of 2008 NCC and NSEC under support of MSEC carried out active work on preparation to the Second CACILM Steering Committee Meeting which was held in Ashgabat on 23-24 April 2008/ The Republic of Uzbekistan has been represented by the following NCC members: Mr.B.Sh. Kadyrov – National UNCCD Focal Point in RUz. First Deputy General Director of Uzhydromet, U.V.Abdullaev – Director UZGIP Institute of Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, and Mrs/ Raisa Taryannikova – CACILM Head of National Secretariat.

Results of monitoring and assessment of NPF realization presented to CACILM Steering Committee (23-24 April, 2008, Ashgabat) may be summarized as follows:

- The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan entrusts Center of Hydrometeorological Service under Cabinet of Ministers (Uzhydromet) Uzhydromet with coordination of NPF implementation. Uzhydromet is national responsible organization for coordination of activities on UNCCD and NAPCD (resolution of RUz Cabinet of Ministers (№ 183 of 14.04.2004) and .UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC).
- Advantage of NPF is that it is oriented at concrete activities on priority program areas and promotes to strengthen of strategic framework and driving force for SLM, providing possibilities for joint efforts on common economic sectors and directions.
- At the same time, NPF insufficiently clear develops mechanisms of integration and synergy between ecological and sectoral action plans at local, national and global level. In the matrix of logical framework and monitoring activities which are necessary for achievement of NPF results were not reflected. NSEC Work Plan for 2008 envisages completion of development of NPF logical framework.
- NCC and NSEC activities on mobilization of additional recourses for SLM were aimed to analysis of NPF progress implementation, control of strategic prioritization of the project proposals for CACILM Phase 2 and attraction of external and internal financing through wide consultations and discussions with decision makers, stakeholders, donors.

### Progress of NPF implementation

**Outcome 1: mainstreaming.** NPF contributes significantly in realization of common priorities of NAPCD in close inter-linkage with environmental action programs and plans and strategy on improving of living standards of population. At present stage approaches and activities on SLM are integrated by diverse NPF program areas under support of ADB/CACILM and MSEC. A good level of awareness has been reached among governmental and public institutes and donor organizations. Significant contribution in mainstreaming of SLM knowledge gives development of CACILM web-site and active participation of NCC/NSEC members at workshops, forums and meetings with national institutes, donors and international organizations. Recently passed resolutions and initiatives of the government promote SLM mainstreaming.

**Outcome 2: Strengthening of institutional capacity for SLM .** NPF implementation is fulfilled on the base of strong institutional coordination under the direction of NCC that promotes improving of inter-sectoral cooperation and provision of group decision by parties-participants of CACILM. There is a significant progress in involving of responsible organizations, partner organizations and all stakeholders in NPF projects and their mobilization for joint activities on SLM. CMPF components envisage utility of national institutes in united network on SLM

research and information system what provides possibilities for joint usage of data and information exchange between national and multicountry systems, and global systems such as CACILM and LADA..

**Outcome 3: Restoration and improving of productive function of degraded land.** Project interventions of NPF projects and CMPF components envisage restoration of functions and ecological vitality of ecosystems and improving of living standards of the population, namely:

At experimental scale – (i) irrigated lands and pastures at pilot sites Shelly (Djizak) and Zumbol (Kysylkum, Navoi); (ii) degraded desert ecosystems in two rural communities Kyzyl Rovat (Bukhara) and Kazakhdarya (Karakalpakstan) and life support of rural community of these rayons.

Large-scale introduction – degraded irrigated lands in Bukhara, Navoi and Kashkadarya provinces with total area 162,300 hectares.

Taking into account necessity to assume urgent measures on other priority areas of NPF, NCC under support of GTZ coordinates preparation of project proposal for CACILM Phase 2 “Sustainable pasture management with local community participation”.

**Outcome 4: Strengthened protection of ecosystem integrity.** Realization of the GEF/ADB project on “Land improvement in Bukhara, Navoi and Kashkadarya Regions” will promote improving ecological vitality of degraded surface and water ecosystems in middle course of the Amudarya river with emanating local and global benefits for environment. In particular the project will test technical and managerial approaches in management of marginal resources at the project area along the Silk Road. With aim of widening those contributions in NPF implementation, under support of GTZ, NCC coordinates development of a project proposal for CACILM Phase 2 on “Adaptation of vulnerable ecosystems in the Amudarya river delta to climate change” under participation all stakeholders at national and local level.

### Recommendations

For achievement comprehensive NPF integration in national sectoral programs, NCC considers as necessary the following:

- *Develop joint training programs on common program areas and synergy areas what will provide not only local benefits and “free stream” of global ecological benefits but additional global ecological benefits at sub-regional level;*
- *Widen contributions and project interventions of NPF on most vulnerable nature ecosystems – pasture, rain fed lands, delta ecosystems and others which serve as main source of incomes and livelihood for the population;*
- *Develop the awareness raising program and knowledge dissemination on SLM to promote mobilization of internal resources and provide harmonic CACILM mainstreaming in international and donor programs and strategies of country support.*

### **Summary of progress development of Indicators of implementation for NPF results**

In accordance with Work Plan for 2008 NSEC conducts completion of logical framework development for M&A and reporting and renewal of NPF indicators.

Taking into account decisions and recommendations of CACILM Steering Committee in (Ashgabat, 2008), MSEC conducts 3-rd Meeting on monitoring and assessment for NSEC specialists on project implementation (5-6 June, 2008, Kyrgyzstan). Aim of the Meeting to

improve understanding and strengthen capacity of NSEC Specialist on project implementation for working with NPF logical framework, indicators selection and information management for reporting on M&A and strengthen understanding connection between NPF and CMPF monitoring indicators and assessment and SLM-IS activities at national and multicountry levels.

In the course of the Working Meeting the issues of report construction on monitoring and assessment (to reveal with which difficulties NSEC has been confronted and how to improve the situation in future) have been discussed and also NSEC participation in mobilization and monitoring of the projects with aim to improve links and communications between NSEC and projects. The second session was dedicated to work on selection of indicators for three main Outcomes common for five NPFs. Common NPF indicators were compared with multicountry indicators of CMPF and conformity on a number of indicators was revealed. It was noted that at the initial stage an object for CACILM M&A will be directly CACILM projects, middle- and full-scale GEF projects, especially when assessment of quantity indicators (areas, number of communities etc.).

Further NSEC activity on revision of the NPF indicators was based on criteria and approaches discussed at the 3-rd working Meeting in accordance with expected results of NPF and CMPF projects. Renewed indicators of NPF were presented and discussed by NCC members and MSEC at Regional Workshop on SLM - Information system (October, 2008, Tashkent). Results of renewal of the logical framework and NPF implementation indicators are given at annex 9.

### **2.3 Monitoring and assessment of CACILM projects on SLM financed by GEF**

In Uzbekistan at CACILM Phase 1 at expense of GEF grant funding the following projects are implemented: (a) "Achieving of ecosystem stability on the Degraded Lands of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Kyzylkum desert" (931 thousand USD); and (b) "Land improvement in Bukhara, Navoi and Kashkadarya Regions" (3 million USD). Project documents and logical framework of NPF projects placed to CACILM web-site and available in renewed NSEC database. (Annex 8)

Middle-size Project GEF/UNDP - **"Achieving of ecosystem stability on the Degraded Lands of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Kyzylkum desert"** was signed/approved by GEF 28 August, 2007. Responsible national agency is Main Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of RUz. Implementing Agency is UNDP. Ms. Irina Bekmirzaeva is project manager. The Project Steering Committee Representatives consists of key Ministries and agencies, province and local authorities and NGOs representatives. Mr. B. Kadyrov – UNCCD National Focal Point and Mrs.R.Taryannikova - Head of NSEC included in the project SC. agencies

Inception Workshop on discussion of strategy, logical structure and technical plan of the project was held from 19-25 May, 2008 in Tashkent and Nukus. At the first Meeting of Steering Committee of the ASE Project (19 December 2008) the project implementation report for 2008 was approved and Work Plan for 2009 was taken into account.

Results of activities of the project were considered and discussed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> NCC Meeting on 23 December, 2008. NCC proposals and recommendations are given in Minutes of the NCC Meeting (Annex 4). Final Report on the project results for 2008 will be presented to NSEC in January, 2009.

The second NPF project - GEF/ADB full-size project **"Land improvement in Bukhara, Navoi and Kashkadarya Regions"** (LIP) (3 mln.USD) was approved by GEF 16 July, 2007. Agency

on Restructuring, Minselvodkhoz is the responsible organization for implementation of ADB investment project and GEF/ADB project of CACILM NPF. Mr. Umarkhon Azimov is national Coordinator of the project. In accordance with memorandum between ADB and Government of RUz the project launch is planned for March-April, 2008..

In February 2008 , NSEC jointly with MSEC (Mr. John Patterson, Ms.Djamal Annaklycheva) conducted two meetings with ADB mission and coordinator of the ADB project on discussion of issues of coordination, monitoring and reporting the project to NSEC and MSEC.

Results of activities on preparation of launching and mobilization of the project were discussed and approved at NCC meeting on 23 December, 2008 (annex 4).

In accordance with recommendations MSEC, NSEC has established good contact and interactions with NPF and CMPF projects what has been provided achievement of feedback and timely reporting. Available information on CACILM projects for reporting 2008 gives opportunity NSEC to prepare a report for NCC on every project implementation based on experience and lessons learned during preparation to the second CACILM Steering Committee Meeting.

However, still there is a lack of experience and skill of NSEC for assessment of ecological and economical volubility of ecosystem services and summarizing of impact progress and global benefits for environment. It is necessary to strengthen knowledge and ability of NSEC staff to support NCC in SLM mainstreaming and development mobilization resources strategy and mechanism of adaptation to climate change and adaptive management of water resources in changeable environment.

### **Component 3: NSEC support for SLM components of CMPF-SP**

#### **3.1 SLM-Research component**

a) Support for SLM-Research: NSEC and NCC closely cooperate with ICARDA and national coordinator SLM-R Mr. R.Ikramov and take part in multi-partner consultations, discussions, workshops, and activities on dissemination of SLM practices and technologies at the project areas and also support in awareness raising on SLM-R activities through mass-media.

b) Monitoring and Evaluation SLM-R: NSEC and NCC support in realization of research program on SLM and conduct monitoring and result assessment of research at national level. National coordinator of SLM-R component informs regularly NCC/NSEC on progress of implementation of SLM-R in the country and presents necessary information and reports.

In July 2008 NSEC members (Mrs.R.Taryannikova, Mrs.G.Khasankhanova) took part in field farmer's days where they were acquainted with results of testing SLM best practices at irrigated lands of Djizak province. Similar field days were organized by ICARDA at the pilot site in pasture zone (Navoi province) with participation of farmers, dechkan, scientists and local authorities. With awareness raising purpose 11 leaflets and 5 posters were prepared to improve experience of farmers, and involved stakeholders. .

Assessment of results achieved verify a high effectiveness of tasted pilot demonstration schemes on joint sowing and diversification of crops, methods of watering salted lands and agro-technologies. (annex 5 and NSEC Mid-year Report ).

#### **3.2 SLM Information System Component**

a) Start-up Support to SLM-IS: NSEC and NCC supported and facilitated a national unit on project implementation (NSIU) – UZGIP Institute in launching and mobilization of the project and establishment of partner links with NPF and CMPF projects. NSEC assisted MSEC in organization of Regional inception workshop on SLM-IS (4-14 October, 2008 and took active part in its work. A member of NSEC (G.Khasankhanova ) participated in field visit of ADB international consultant (Mr. C. Y. Ji,.) and NSIU team to degraded irrigated lands of Hunger Steppe and pasture zone (Djizak and Samarqand province) with using of satellite images – MODIS-2008.

b) Monitoring and Evaluation. In accordance with approved Work Plan for 2008 NSIU presented to MSEC/ADB and NSEC a report on results of the project implementation (Report on the Compilation of all Available Information on Land Degradation within Uzbekistan) After MSEC approval the report will be considered and adopted by ADB.

Report on initial stage of the work and results of NSIU activities achieved for 2008 were considered and approved at NCC Meeting on 23 December, 2008. (Annex 2)

NSEC will use **indicators of land degradation and improving of living conditions** at the CACILM project areas for monitoring and assessment of NPF implementation. On the base of MSEC recommendations, NSEC carried out renewal of the NPF indicators (annex 9). The renewed indicators of NPF are realistic, objective, reliable and measurable because they reflect quantitative figures (areas, types of degradation, number of communities etc.). They will be linked with GIS database of SLM-IS. NSIU will present indicators of spatial and time variation on project areas for the whole country as well for monitoring and assessment of NPF project impact and CACILM activities on environment and living standards of rural population. NSEC is developing a structure and data formats required for improving receiving/transferring information and monitoring and assessment of NPF and CMPF implementation.

### **3.3 SLM-Knowledge Management Component**

Since the launch of the CMPF component NCC oversees for the progress of SLM-KM which aims a wide involving of stakeholders, knowledge management and awareness raising at all levels of community on best SLM practices promoting more effective NPF implementation and CACILM activities.

NCC members under support on NSEC oversees dissemination and introducing of knowledge system through main mechanism –SLM-KM Web site and information products namely publications, workshops, meetings and presentations at Round tables with participation of all stakeholders and CACILM partners.

In scope of activities on awareness raising and stakeholder involvement representatives of NCC and NSEC took part in the following events:

- (i) **Round table** “Participation of governmental bodies and ecological NGOs in implementation of national obligations on environmental conventions” organize by ECOFORUM RUz (6 February, 2008);
- (ii) **Meeting** with representatives of Youth ecological network Central Asian Countries (4 March, 2008)
- (iii) **Round table** “Climate problems and adaptation to changes” organized in the scope realization of the British Council project on study of climatic changes (19 March, 2008).

- At the Round table climate change issues and wide range of ecological problems were discussed.
- (iv) **Round Table**, dedicated to international Environmental Day jointly with Group on Earth Observation (GEO) Capacity Building Committee Meeting on 5 June, 2008. At the Round Table was presented information on CACILM which interested participants very much. Representative of UN Economical Commission for Africa indicated that they have an experience of work on assessment of land degradation with using remote sensing in the LADA FAO framework and introduction of SLM approaches. He highlighted that cooperation and exchange of information in that area would be very useful.
  - (v) **Round Table** dedicated to international Combat Desertification Day, (17 June, 2008) with participation representatives of national ministries and agencies and mass media. Radio interview has been made to “Poytaht” radio-station on CACILM activities in RUZ. The interview was transmitted by radio on 18 June, 2008. Round table information was placed to web site <http://www.econews.uz> under title – “Combat desertification and sustainable agriculture”, and at web site of Uzhydromet <http://www.meteo.uz> in news section.
  - (vi) **Workshop** dedicated to issues of participation of civil society in activities on UN CCD implementation (17-18 June, 2008, Almaty, Kazakhstan). Head of NSEC Mrs.R.Taryannikova made a presentation on status of UNCCD implementation process in the Republic of Uzbekistan and activities in the scope of CACILM.

For awareness raising and involvement of local community meetings with local stakeholders are conducted as well during field visits, training tours and workshops. The work with mass media is also carried out.

In 2008 an Information Dissemination Plan was prepared (annex 10). Under support of GTZ a brochure has been prepared “Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management”. NCC/NSEC members promote collection of necessary information for inclusion it into Atlas “Natural recourses of Central Asia”. NSEC replenishes SLM-KM web-site.

In reporting year in Uzbekistan NSEC section the following information was placed and renewed: (i) about NSEC”; (ii) on NPF activities - there is information on projects implemented in the scope of NPF in the Republic of Uzbekistan, and also list of organizations-partners of CACILM and recently adopted laws; (iii) reports for 2008 and (vi) on NCC activities – where materials of NCC Meetings in 2008. In reported year a new page has been added to Uzbekistan NSEC section in SLM-KM web site. Unfortunately, difficulties arise when placing large in volume publications to the web site. For example «Climate change and its impact on hydro-meteorological processes, agro-climatic and water resources of RUZ” book by Prof.V.Chub – General Director of Uzhydromet, Chair of NCC in English was not placed to the web site for access all web site users.

For CACILM participants which have not access to Internet, NSEC is forming library/knowledge center on SLM best practices.

### **3.3 SLM – Capacity building component**

For the reporting period in the scope of the component on capacity building work has been fulfilled on development of strategic result framework and project proposal preparation for submission to GEF. NSEC/NCC supported to all those activities namely: (i) participated in Workshop on Strategic Result Framework, Bishkek, 7-8 July, 2008; (ii) assisted in selection of experts for national project team; (iii) took part in organization of international consultants meetings with national stakeholders and MSEC representative during their missions to

Uzbekistan (4-6 September, 2008 – Mr.T.Schwedersky’s visit ; 26 September – 1 October, and 9 September, 2008 – Mr. Ph.Tortell); (iv) assisted in providing of necessary information on the request of national experts (CACILM documents, NPF and others); (v) participated actively in all project meetings and discussions and disseminated related information among stakeholders; (vi) conducted evaluation and gave comments on national experts’ reports.

On 5 September, 2008 a working meeting was organized with participation of international consultant of CB Project proposal preparation team – Mr. T. Schwedersky and the following NCC members: Mr. Bakhtiyor Kadyrov - First Deputy General Director of Uzhydromet , UNCCD National Focal Point in Uzbekistan; Mr. Umid Abdullaev – Director, Institute “Uzgiplomeliiovodhoz”, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of RUz, Mr. Bakhretidin Muradov - Ministry of Economy of RUz,; Mr. Saidrasul Sanginov - Head of “ECOFORUM”, Mrs. Raisa Taryannikova –Head of NSEC and Mrs. Natalya Shulgina. At the meeting issues concerning development of draft strategic result framework of the project, selection of the project priority areas and priorities for distribution on finance funds of the project were considered.

National Coordination Committee Meeting on 29 September, 2008 was dedicated to discussion and adoption of strategic result framework of the project. (annex 3). NSEC has no final version of CB project proposal.

## COMPONENT 4: ADMINISTRATION

### Компонент 4: Администрирование

#### 4.1 NSEC reports and presentations

In 2008 for NCC, MSEC/GTZ were prepared the following NSEC reports:

- Year Report of the National Secretariat at the end of 2007 (January, 2008);
- Work plan of the National Secretariat for 2008 (January, 2008);
- Common Operational Plan for 2008 (February, 2008);
- Monitoring of National Programming Framework Implementation for the period 2007-2008, (April, 2008)
- Reports on field visit and training tour of NCC/NSEC members, financed by GTZ
  - at the project territory “Sustainable management of dry lands”, Shestsky rayon, Kazakhstan (4-6 June, 2008);
  - at Farish rayon, Uzbekistan (13-15 June, 2008).

All the NSEC reports approved by NCC and MSEC/GTZ placed to CACILM website. Presentations for NCC members given at CACILM SC in Ashgabat (i) “Progress of realization of National programming Framework in Uzbekistan” (B.Kadyrov NCC/ UNCCD National Focal Point); (ii) “Mobilisation of Internal Resources: Republic of Uzbekistan”, Mr.Umid Abdullaev – NCC/Uzgi Institute, Minselvodkhoz and others (see table 4.) presented in annex 11.

List of presentations prepared by NSEC members or with NSEC support is given in table 3.

**Table 3. List of presentations presented by NSEC/NCC for 2008.**

Presentations/reports/interview	Date	Place	Who presented
«Sustainable land resource management in the context of	22-24 .01.	International workshop on combat desertification,	R.Taryannikova Head of NSEC, NCC

UNCCD”		Beijing, China	member
«Combat desertification, national strategy and action plan”	6. 02.	Round table “ Participation of governmental bodies and ecological NGOs in implementation of national obligations on environmental conventions”, Tashkent	N.Shulgina NSEC
«Role and NCC and NSEC activities suitable for resource mobilization”	15.04	National Coordination Council Meeting, Tashkent	R.Taryannikova Head of NSEC, NCC member
«Monitoring report on National programming Framework Отчет по мониторингу Национальной рамочной программы УУЗР»	15.04	National Coordination Council Meeting, Tashkent	G.Khasankhanova Specialist on monitoring, NSEC
«Information system for sustainable land management of land resources”	15.04	National Coordination Council Meeting, Tashkent	R.Taryannikova Head of NSEC, NCC member
«Projects on Sustainable Pasture Management with local communities participation”	15.04	National Coordination Council Meeting, Tashkent	G.Khasankhanova Specialist on monitoring, NSEC
«Progress of implementation of CACILM National Programming framework in Uzbekistan”	23-24.04	Second Meeting of CACILM Steering Committee, Ashgabat	B. Kadyrov NCC member
«Mobilization of Internal Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan»	23-24.04	Second Meeting of CACILM Steering Committee, Ashgabat	U.Abdullaev NCC member
«Sustainable management of water-land resources in the Republic of Uzbekistan: progress, problems and ways of addressing”	3-5. 06	First international Forum “Sustainable development of Eurasian Continent” Astana	U.Abdullaev NCC member
«National and regional initiatives in environment observation”	5 .06.	Round table dedicated to International Environmental Day jointly with meeting capacity building committee of Group on Earth Observation (GEO), Tashkent	N.Shulgina NSEC
«Integrated management of land and water resource in dry areas with using of remote sensing”	5 .06.	Round table dedicated to International Environmental Day jointly with meeting capacity building committee of Group on Earth Observation (GEO), Tashkent	G.Khasankhanova Specialist on monitoring, NSEC
Project proposal on sustainable pasture management”	13-14.06	Round table on discussion of pasture development issues, Farish rayon, Uzbekistan	R.Taryannikova Head of NSEC, NCC member G.Khasankhanova , NSEC
«National and regional initiatives in the area of land degradation and land resources management.	17.06	Round table dedicated to international combat desertification day, Tashkent	N.Shulgina NSEC
«Integrated management of land and water resource in dry areas with using of remote sensing”	17.06.	Round table dedicated to international combat desertification day, Tashkent	G.Khasankhanova Specialist on monitoring, NSEC
Interview to radio station “Poytaht” on CACILM and national NPF projects	17.06.	Tashkent	N.Shulgina NSEC

«Condition of UNCCD implementation for today»	17-18.06.	Workshop dedicated to issues of participation of civil society in activities on UN CCD implementation, Almaty, Kazakhstan	R.Taryannikova Head of NSEC, NCC member
Integration of ecological releases in water management for improving of living standards of population»	1-2.07	UNESE Workshop , Amsterdam	G.Khasankhanova Specialist on monitoring, NSEC
“Assessment of vulnerability of the Amudarya delta ecosystems to climate change”	12-13.09	Forum of the Newater project, Tashkent	G.Khasankhanova Specialist on monitoring, NSEC
Country presentations, Problems of pastures, presentation of a project proposal	11th-12th November 2008	GTZ Workshop for Central Asia , Istanbul	R.Taryannikova Head of NSEC, NCC member
Planned activities of NSEC and NCC for 2009	23.12	National Coordination Council Meeting, Tashkent	R.Taryannikova Head of NSEC, NCC member
Review of CACILM implementation and NCC/NSEC activities for 2008”	23.12	National Coordination Council Meeting, Tashkent	R.Taryannikova Head of NSEC, NCC member
CACILM; multicountry Capacity Building Project	23.12	National Coordination Council Meeting, Tashkent	N.Shulgina NSEC

#### 4.2 Finance reports Of NSEC for the period from January to June 2008

Tranche in amount of 9 919 \$US was received on 18.04.2008. The liquidation financial report for that tranche has been approved by the MSEC and forwarded to MSEC for transferring to ADB on 8 July, 2008. The next tranche was received on 22 August, 2008 in amount of 9 919 \$US.

In the end of 2008 an inventory of the NSEC equipment has been fulfilled – none new equipment was purchased and no equipment was discarded during the reported period.

German agency on technical cooperation (GTZ) supports NCC activities in the scope of the NSEC Operational Plan. During 2008 funding in amount about 12500 US\$ was rendered by GTZ for the activities during 2008.

#### 4.3. Personal

NSEC staff activities carried out in accordance with Terms of References and also they fulfilled other activities necessary for implementation all the tasks for Work Plan realization and promoting of NCC activities on supervision and coordination Of national and multicountry projects of CACILM. List of NSEC staff is attached (annex 12).

The main responsibilities of NSEC staff as follows:

The Head of NSEC is responsible for overall functions of the National Secretariat including supporting the National Coordination Councils, supervising the design and the implementation of the monitoring system of the NPF projects and coordination of national activities on implementation of CMPF components and others.

The Project Implementation and Monitoring Specialist is responsible for compile, review relevant information, analysis and report on the progress of implementation of the NFP projects and national activities in the scope of CMPF components and for other implementation and monitoring activities in support of the National Secretariat, the National Coordination Council, and the CACILM Multicountry Secretariat.

The Finance and Administration Specialist is responsible for activities on finance reporting and administrative support to NSEC, NCC and MSEC activities. She carries out activities on maintenance of Uzbekistan Administrative corner at SLM-KM web site. The Finance and Administration Specialist translates NSEC/NCC reports and required materials as needed.

### III. Financial Report of NSEC for 2008 Финансовый отчет НСЕК за 2008

	Budget as per LOA	Expended		Balance
		2008	Cumulative	
Personnel	45000	19500	38186	6814
Communications	0	338	1648,5	-1648,5
Equipment	10000		9487	513
Contingency	0	162*	678,5	-678,5
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>55000</b>	<b>20000</b>	<b>50000</b>	<b>5000</b>

	Advances received	Liquidated	
		2008	Cumulative
Personnel	40000	19200	38186
Communications		638	1648,5
Equipment	10000		9487
Contingency		162*	678,5
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>50000</b>	<b>20000</b>	<b>5000</b>

\* bank charges

Expense Category 2008	Uzb	ADB	GTZ	TOTAL
1. NSEC Personnel	5000	19500	0	24200
2. NSEC/NCC Communications	2600	338	0	3238
3. NSEC Office & Operating Expenses	17100		0	17100
4. NSEC/NCC Travel & Transportation	6700		3410	10110

5. NSEC Equipment	10000		0	10000
6. NSEC/NCC Seminars, Workshops	6900		704	7604
7. NSEC/NCC Awareness Raising	6000		0	6000
8. NSEC/NCC Consultants and Contracts	1000		8300	9300
9. NSEC/NCC Contingency	500	162*	0	662
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55800</b>	<b>20000</b>	<b>12414</b>	<b>88214</b>

\* bank charges

### III. Recommendations on Work Plan of NSEC for 2009

*NSEC recommends the following main activities for inclusion in Work Plan for 2009.*

- To conduct assessment of GEF/UNDP/CACILM project - "Achieving of ecosystem stability on the Degraded Lands of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Kyzylkum desert" (ASE) and prepare report before beginning of field works and present to NCC for consideration.
- To carry out activity (preparation of diagram, technical and finance plan, selection of responsible organization – executing agency, assistance in recruiting of project team and etc.) on launching on new NPF project "Sustainable pasture management with participation of local community" under GTZ support.
- Conducting of National Workshop of stakeholders on discussion of CACILM results, renewal of NPF and initiation of new projects.
- To revise NPF with taking into consideration of new challenges (climate change, often-recurring droughts and critical shortage of water), national priorities (being developed strategy of investment planning in water and agriculture sectors), priorities of CACILM Strategic Partnership ( new country program ADB, GTZ, UNDP and others) and taking into account new 10-year Strategic Plan of UNCCD.
- Prepare finance proposal and work plan on NRP renewal during first quarter 2009 and request GTZ with a proposal to render financial and technical support for NPR renewal.
- Assist to MSEC in assessment and preparation of recommendations for the CMPF Support Project for next stage of CACILM (2010-2014).
- For more effective design and review of materials on Integrated Strategy of Financing (DISF) in Central Asian Countries with following conducting of working seminars and activities on capacity building it is necessary to strengthen training program and awareness raising on approaches and mechanisms of resource mobilization for SLM.

### IV. Recommendations of NCC/NSEC on MSEC Work Plan for 2009

There are the following proposals for inclusion into MSEC Work Plan for 2009.

1. To conduct training for NCC/NSEC members on the following directions:
  - a) *socio-ecological aspects (ecosystem service payment, assessment of social and ecological vulnerability, risk management and adaptive management);*
  - b) *project proposal preparation in context of new challenges and in accordance with requirements of GEF, ADB and GTZ;*
  - c) *methods, approaches and adaptation measures to climate change and other uncertainties.*
2. To initiate preparation of project proposal concept on Integrated Financing Strategy (DIFS), discussed at Bishkek Meeting by Heads of NSECs and specialists on monitoring of project implementation and submit it to ADB/CACILM.
3. To take part in training Courses and workshops in the scope of Subregional Training Program for Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SRTP) oriented to planning and realization of SLM program and technologies, monitoring and assessment of impact, finance strategies and mechanisms of intersectoral coordination.
4. To organize training tours for NCC/NSEC members to project areas of LADA FAO (China) for gaining experience and lessons on dry land degradation assessment, and also GTZ and GEF projects on monitoring and impact assessment and incremental benefits.

**V. Other issue.**

To request MSEC to support receiving financing from ADB and GTZ for NPF renewal.