

PROTOCOL
Of the 2nd National Workshop on CACILM
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
September 20th, 2005

Introduction

The 2nd National Workshop was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on September 20th, 2005 with participation of the members of the national working group, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture of Turkmenistan, Ministry of Water Economy, Land Resources Service and velayats, State Service on Statistics "Turkmenmillihasabat", Ministry of Nature Protection, NIDFF, Association of Entrepreneurs and Leaseholders, NGOs. The international organizations were presented by the consultants of the ADB and UNDP (*See Annex 1 "Participants of the Workshop"*).

The objectives of the National Workshop:

- To present and discuss a draft of NFP;
- To discuss and analyze the received project proposals according to the criteria
- To discuss the follow-up activities on NFP design and development of partnership in the framework of CACILM

Agenda of the National Workshop:

- ✓ Presentation of the 1st draft of NPF
- ✓ Evaluation of the 1st draft of NPF by the International Consultants
- ✓ GEF criteria to the program and projects in context of CACILM
- ✓ Presentation and discussion of project ideas
- ✓ Achievement of Agreements

Introductory session

During the introductory session there were welcome speeches of the Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan as well as the representatives of ADB. This part was focused on presentation of the 1st draft of NPF.

National Programming Framework (NPF).

Presentation by Muhammed Nepesov (*See Presentation1*)

In the process of the development of the NPF the National Working Group has involved the specialists of the NDFF, Ministry of Agriculture of Turkmenistan, State Service on Statistics as well as the consultants of ADB. The main documents that used in the designing of the NPF draft were: NEAP, Strategy of economic development till 2010, Strategy of economic, cultural and political development till 2020, National Action Plan of UNCCD, results of the 1st National Workshop, field trips and meetings with stakeholders. As a result the 4 directions of the activity were developed:

- Awareness building and participation
- Monitoring and information flow
- On-the-ground investments;
- Research.

4 main priorities have been developed in NPF (*See Presentation2*):

1. secondary salinization of land
2. soil deflation

3. soil erosion
4. Knowledge and ability to act locally.

ADB (John Leake and Robert Everitt)

The work has focused on two issues:

- the development and design of NPF
- development of project ideas.

The main criteria of GEF and ADB on development of such programs are about 12 or 14, but practically important are only 3 or 4 of them:

- to understand the principals of GEF, so to develop and implement the project ideas which could be co- financed by the state and the Government,
- as well as other international donors, for example, UNDP, GTZ, ADB in Turkmenistan.

During the preparation stage it was necessary to correspond the project ideas to the strategy of sustainable development of GEF and NEAP as well as the Global Conventions which will be used, approval of contact people in the country, that are responsible for CCD and GEF. The National Programming Framework has to be approved by the Government of Turkmenistan as well. One of the disadvantages of current NPF is that the directions of the program satisfy the needs of the people more than the priorities presented in NPF.

Stakeholders.

In the process of discussion of the 1st draft of NPF the stakeholders expressed their opinions. In general, the draft was positively approved, however the stakeholders stressed the following weak points:

- some of the environmental issues are not presented properly, for example, ground water deposition, climate aspects in land management and its importance for development of project ideas,
- necessity of projects implementation in pilot regions of the country as well as support to the Land Cadastre of Turkmenistan and computerization of database,
- the issues of monitoring was not reflected although it is the basis for further successful implementation of CACILM, and the issue of the rangelands are not presented at all;
- there are no project ideas on agrochemical aspects of soils;
- monitoring of forests;
- the part on improvement of legislative base is absent;
- wrong hierarchy of problems identified in the group on soil deflation.

All the participants mentioned the long-term projects as the main advantage of the CACILM.

Discussion of project ideas.

Thirty-one project ideas were submitted from the different institutions dealing with land and water management; four project ideas were not included in the list, however their authors presented them during the workshop. Each project idea was presented according to the following plan: title, objective, project costs and results. There were some logistic questions raised during discussion as well as the requests of the stakeholders themselves to combine project ideas into large-scale projects.

According to the ADB recommendations all the project ideas have to be agreed with the priorities identified in the NPF and the agency implemented the project has to fix its own contribution into the project and not to focus on the CACILM contribution.

The ADB Consultants made their notes on all the project ideas that are as follows:

- most of the project ideas presented are focused on monitoring of lands;
- it is necessary to combine the project ideas into large-scale projects;
- the necessity to search the governmental programs where the presented project ideas could be co-financed;
- the necessity to search for additional donor partners for co-financing.

Besides, the consultants stressed the lack of the project ideas on prevention of water leakage, project ideas on fundamentals of the land management and projects satisfying to the priorities of NPF. Monitoring program that was mentioned by most of the applicants has to be focused on establishing of the basis with various methods and activities to evaluate further success of the CACILM. One more issue for project ideas discussion was applied researches and their need to apply in the future. There was any participation of farmers in the program. The ADB Consultants also noted the necessity of publicity through the articles, workshops, trainings and participation of the ministries in the program, their awareness on CACILM activities.

Achievement of Agreements.

As a result of the discussion of the 1 draft of NPF and project ideas presented within the framework of CACILM the following agreements were achieved:

1. to accept the preliminary NPF draft as the base;
2. to agree with priorities identified in the NFP, BUT taking into account all the remarks and recommendations;
3. to provide the opportunity of participatory development and design of large-scale and complex projects based on the submitted project ideas for GEF financing with the help of working meetings;
4. to charge the National Working Group with the development of the 2nd and amended draft of NPF till the end of October, 2005 and disseminate it to the ministries on land and water resources as well as to the CACILM Task Force;
5. to present the draft of NPF with amendments at the Task Force Meeting in November, 2005.

Schedule and responsibility of the stakeholders on further activities.

The ADB Consultants noted the responsibility of the stakeholders participated in the design of the NPF, the necessity of development of the integrated document (NPF) which has to be coordinated with documents of other countries. The NPF will be principally approved in May, 2006. In case of the new project ideas it is necessary to agree them with the program concept and to consult with the National Working Group. All the new project ideas must be proved correspondingly.

LIST
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Ashgabat, 19-20.08. 2005

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