



Technical Assistance Consultant's Report

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Regional: Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (Cofinanced by the Global Environment Facility and Global Mechanism)

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For The Asian Development Bank

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Asian Development Bank

CACILM Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (PDF-B)

TA No. 6236

FINAL REPORT

of

Shiv N. Saigal, Policy and Institutions Specialist, contract no. S-06419; NTP: 11 April 2005

1. Scope of Work Undertaken

As a member of the team of international consultants, I focused on policy and institutional aspects of natural resources and economic development of program design of the national programming frameworks (NPFs) and development of the CACILM multi-country partnership agreement. The tasks involved review of government policies and legislation affecting land management as well as associated institutional frameworks at the national and sub-national levels. The actual outputs were tailored to the evolution of the NPF formulation process, which commenced with the inception phase focused on sensitizing national working groups and other key stakeholders and the recruitment of the teams of domestic consultants. During this phase my main activities could be summarised as follows:

- The consultant participated in the Multi-Country Task Force Meeting in Dushanbe in April 2005, and I established close working relations with the country Deputy Team Leaders and the domestic consultants responsible for policy and institutional issues.
- Immediately after the Dushanbe meeting, the consultant prepared a short note on the key issues in the area of policy, legislation and institutions for use of the mission leader and other members of the international team for use in the various initial meetings of the National Working Groups.
- Prior to the next meeting of the Multi-Country Task Force and the preparatory meeting of the international and national consultants in Almaty in June 2005, the consultant prepared a detailed Approach Paper on Policy and Institutional (P&I) Issues for the use of the my domestic counterparts and the deputy team leaders (DTLs) as they started gathering necessary background materials for the preparation of the country situation analysis related to Policy, Legislative and Institutional aspects of sustainable land management (SLM). The Russian translation of this paper was provided to the domestic consultants (P&I) and the DTLs. he also had a meeting with them in Almaty where the approach to the preparation of the P& I sections of NPF was discussed. It was agreed to maintain an active contact and collaboration via email as their work in this area progressed.
- The consultant also held detailed discussions with the Kyrgyz DTL and consultants on the preparation of the Kyrgyz NPF based on the draft outlines. It was agreed that as far as Part I was concerned, the international consultant would prepare the initial draft, leaving the domestic team to focus on the Part II concerning the Situation Analysis.

After the Almaty meetings, the focus shifted from inception phase to the preparation of the NPFs according to a uniform outline of the NPF as provided by the CACILM Task Manager. A time frame for this purpose was also established. It was also decided that each of the five international consultants will be assigned the overall responsibility for the preparation of the NPF for one Central Asian Country. I was assigned the responsibility for the Kyrgyzstan NPF exercise. Accordingly, I worked on the draft NPF partly from my home office and undertook two missions to Kyrgyzstan during the period mid-August through November to work closely with the Kyrgyz domestic team, the UNCCD Focal Point and the Kyrgyz National Working Group in order to prepare the first draft

of the Kyrgyz National Programming Framework in time for the next meeting of the Multi-Country Task Force in Tashkent in November, 2005.

I also prepared overview presentations on Policy & Institutions aspects of the NPFs for the preparatory meetings and for the Tashkent Task Force meeting, which were given and discussed in these meetings.

2. Preparation of the Kyrgyz NPF

(a) Research and Analysis of Background Material

Much of the months of July and mid August were devoted by the consultant on working from his home office in Washington D.C., researching background materials from the World Bank on the Central Asian countries, particularly on main issue areas on policies and institutions, and more detailed material on Kyrgyzstan.

(b) First Mission to Kyrgyzstan

The preparation of the Kyrgyz NPF in English was the main focus of my mission to Kyrgyzstan- August 20- September 16. With some prompting, the outputs of the domestic team picked up, and at the point of my departure, the team had completed most of the sections of the situation analysis in Russian were ready. A few gaps, however, still remained. Our mission received excellent guidance from the CACILM Task Manager, Mr. Everitt, who visited Bishkek from 6-8 September to review the NPF work in progress. He also attended a meeting of the Kyrgyz National Working Group. Towards the last week of my mission, we had meetings with key Government Ministries and some donor agencies to brief them on the NPF and pursue some policy issues. At the same time, work on needs assessment as a basis of options analysis was taken in hand, as were discussions on organisational structure and financial mechanisms, with Mr. Kulov, as important building blocks for Part III and Part IV. Back in home-office in Washington DC, I revisited my draft NPF in English and largely completed a revised Part I and II.

As for my functional task of policy and institutions in other four countries, I remained in email contact with my counterparts in the other CACs, but did not receive any substantive outputs from my domestic counterparts, as they were all preoccupied with the preparation of their respective draft NPFs.

My approach on the Kyrgyz NPF was that, while supporting and assisting the domestic team in their work, I kept preparing in parallel the NPF in English and adjusting it in the light of their outputs and comments. The NPF was conceived as a country driven process and every effort was made to involve active participation of all concerned stakeholders.

(c) Second Mission to Kyrgyzstan

I returned to Kyrgyzstan on October 15, 2005, so we could speed up work on the remaining work on NPF and complete the NPF in English by the deadline of 25 October 2005. Although, a detailed questionnaire had been circulated to all the concerned government agencies and form for project concept papers were also circulated, their responses took much longer and much of this material was received by the UNCCD and National Coordinator much after the deadline for the first draft. Therefore, we had to make do with incomplete information while completing the first draft of the NPF. At this stage, I closely worked with the DTL and the National Coordinator, Mr. Kulov, to have the first draft of the NPF ready for consideration by the Kyrgyz National Working Group which

met in Bishkek from 9-10 October. The draft NPF was endorsed by the participants of the NWG in their resolution. The First draft was submitted to the ADB CACILM Task Manager on 25th October and its Russian translation was submitted later, but in time for being circulated to the members attending the Multi-Country Task Force meeting held in Tashkent from November 17-19, with preparatory meetings held on November 14-16, 2005.

(d) Preparation of revised final draft of Kyrgyz NPF

At the Task Force meeting in Tashkent, the draft NPFs were considered and it was agreed that a revised and abbreviated Final Draft version of the NPFs should be prepared (with a page limit of around 60 pages). The task of preparing the draft final NPF in English was entrusted by the CACILM Task Manager to the International Consultants for there assigned countries. A revised outline for the NPF was provided by the Task Manager to the International and Domestic Teams of consultants. Accordingly, I prepared the 2nd revised draft of the NPF for Kyrgyzstan from my home office, with additional inputs from the DTL and the National UNCCD /CACILM Coordinator. This draft NPF was submitted on 31st December 2005 to the Task Manager and others concerned for their review and comments. As on the first draft, Mr. Everitt provided highly useful comments. Comments were also provided by the Kyrgyz CACILM National Coordinator.

Reflecting these comments, a revised draft final NPF was submitted to the Task Manger, Mr. Robert Everitt, Senior Project Specialist (Natural Resources Management) ECRD/ECAE. The Kyrgyz NPF was thereafter circulated by him to the Task Force participants to the last Multi-Country Task Force Meeting in Bishkek in February 2006, as part of the documentation for that meeting.

(3) Summary of Outputs delivered

- (a) Preparation of note on policy and institutional issues and a paper on approach to treatment of policy and institutional issues in the NPF for use of domestic policy and institutions consultants in English, with translation in Russian.
- (b) Preparation of a framework approach to Options Analysis, which evolved into a detailed questionnaire to consult with domestic stakeholders (and donors) – as a basis for needs assessment to underpin “options analysis”.
- (c) Preparation of first draft NPF of Kyrgyzstan
- (d) Presentation on main policy and institutional issues/ recommendations impacting on sustainable land management in Central Asian Countries
- (e) Preparation of the revised draft final NPF for Kyrgyzstan

The consultant wishes to express his appreciation for the excellent guidance he received from his supervisor, Mr. Everitt and efficient support from his staff and from the ADB Resident Missions during his field travels

Washington D.C., April 15, 2006

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To

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