

Technical Assistance

TAR: OTH 38173

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

March 2005

Asian Development Bank

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CAC	–	Central Asian Country
CACILM	–	Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management
GEF	–	Global Environment Facility
GM	–	Global Mechanism
NPF	–	national programming framework
PDF	–	program development facility
SPA	–	Strategic Partnership for UNCCD Implementation in Central Asian Countries
TA	–	technical assistance
UNCCD	–	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
OP15	–	GEF Operational Program on Sustainable Land Management

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CLASSIFICATION

Targeting Classification	–	General intervention
Sector	–	Agriculture and natural resources
Subsector	–	Environment and biodiversity
Theme	–	Environmental sustainability
Subtheme	–	Natural resources conservation

## NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

This report was prepared by J. Whittle, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, East and Central Asia Department

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has supported the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), an international treaty aimed at fighting land degradation and poverty in dryland areas. Since 1999, ADB has been a member of the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism (GM)<sup>1</sup> of the UNCCD. The GM's mandate is to promote effective mobilization and use of resources for UNCCD implementation. In close collaboration with other members, the GM assists developing member countries in implementing the UNCCD. ADB's regional technical assistance (TA) for combating desertification in Asia<sup>2</sup> has supported the formulation and implementation of national action plans to fight desertification in arid, semiarid, and dry subhumid regions.

2. ADB was instrumental in the development of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) Partnership on Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystems, which was approved in 2002.<sup>3</sup> Subsequently, GEF, members of the Strategic Partnership for UNCCD Implementation in Central Asian Countries (SPA),<sup>4</sup> and countries of Central Asia asked ADB to develop a similar partnership for Central Asia. The Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) is under GEF's Operational Program on Land Degradation (OP15).<sup>5</sup> In February 2004, ADB led a consultation mission comprising multiple funding agencies to all Central Asian Countries (CACs)—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan and cochaired with the GM a workshop in Almaty for the CACs and funding agencies. The workshop culminated in the agreement to move forward with CACILM as a partnership among multiple countries and funding agencies to support the development and implementation of national programming frameworks (NPF) for more comprehensive and integrated approaches to sustainable land management in the region. The meeting also produced an agreement to establish a task force, comprising representatives of the CACs and funding agencies, and to review the concept note and program development facility (PDF) application to GEF. Chaired by ADB, the task force also is to facilitate the design of CACILM. In May 2004, GEF approved a concept note to proceed with a PDF application for cofinancing the design of CACILM. The task force held its initial meeting on 23–24 August 2004 to discuss a draft PDF application, and agreed on the TA objectives, scope, terms of reference, budget, and implementation arrangements. GEF approved the PDF application for \$700,000 on 31 January 2005. Appendix 1 provides the TA Framework.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Other members include African Development Bank, ADB, UNCCD Secretariat, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Food and Agriculture Organization, Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, Inter-American Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and World Bank.

<sup>2</sup> ADB. 2000. *Technical Assistance for Combating Desertification in Asia*. Manila.

<sup>3</sup> ADB. 2002. *Technical Assistance to the People's Republic of China for PRC-GEF Partnership on Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystems*. Manila.

<sup>4</sup> The SPA includes GM, ADB, Canadian International Development Agency, UNCCD Project of GTZ (Germany), Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas. UNDP and UNEP are in the process of acceding to the SPA.

<sup>5</sup> See [http://www.gefweb.org/Operational\\_Policies/Operational\\_Programs/OP\\_I5\\_English\\_Revised.pdf](http://www.gefweb.org/Operational_Policies/Operational_Programs/OP_I5_English_Revised.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> The TA first appeared in the ADB *Business Opportunities* (Internet edition) on 13 May 2004.

## II. ISSUES

3. Land degradation<sup>7</sup> is a serious economic, social, and environmental problem in the transition economies of the CACs. It directly affects the livelihood of the rural population by reducing the productivity of land resources and undermining the stability, functions of, and services derived from natural systems. Agricultural yields reportedly declined by 20–30% across the region since these countries achieved independence more than a decade ago, causing as much as \$2 billion in annual losses in agricultural production. The causes of land degradation are multiple and complex, and vary across these countries. However, they are attributed largely to the abuse and overexploitation of natural resources, particularly through inappropriate and unsustainable agricultural practices such as overgrazing, deforestation, and forest degradation. Natural disasters often exacerbate the impact of such practices.

4. The principal forms and causes of land degradation across the CACs include: (i) erosion, salinization, and water logging; (ii) deteriorating fertility of pasture land; (iii) decreased fertility of the arable drylands of the steppes; (iv) decreased area and productivity of forests; (v) on-site and off-site impacts of mining operations; (vi) exacerbated risks from landslides and flooding due to poor watershed management; (vii) reduced stability and functioning of desert, mountain, wetland, and riparian ecosystems; and (viii) inadequate and incorrect assessment and monitoring of land degradation.

5. Efforts to address land degradation generally have had limited success due to: (i) the focus on technical solutions; (ii) the lack of coordination across agencies; (iii) inadequate policy, legislation, regulation, and incentives for sustainable development; and (iv) inadequate attention to economic and social implications, and the incidence of poverty. The implementation of measures to control and reverse land degradation through more comprehensive and integrated approaches to sustainable land management would generate multiple benefits at local, national, and global levels.

6. Recognizing the challenges of implementing sustainable land management initiatives, the GM spearheaded the formulation of the SPA. In mid-2003, the SPA convened a partnership-building forum in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, bringing together relevant national actors and funding agencies to identify the challenges and opportunities for addressing land degradation issues. The forum generated the Tashkent Joint Platform of Action for UNCCD Implementation, as well as the call to establish in each CAC a working group on partnership development for UNCCD implementation. The working groups were established in all of the CACs, and comprise a wide range of national actors, including line ministries, civil society organizations, and funding agencies.

7. The involvement of GEF, through OP15, is expected to catalyze the mobilization of the political will and financial resources needed to address these problems effectively, and to achieve incremental global benefits. During the proposed 10-year program, as much as \$100 million in grant funds, depending on the availability of replenishments of GEF, are anticipated to be available.

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<sup>7</sup> Land degradation is defined by GEF as "...any form of deterioration of the natural potential of land that affects ecosystem integrity either in terms of reducing its sustainable ecological productivity or in terms of its native biological richness and maintenance of resilience." Cited in GEF. 2003. Operational Program on Sustainable Land Management (OP 15).

8. Given the region's high vulnerability to land degradation, and the progress in partnership formation with the SPA's support, the CACs are positioned well to cooperate with GEF's OP15 in developing an initiative to promote additional measures for addressing land degradation in the region. Such an initiative would support: (i) incorporating sustainable land management into national development planning processes; (ii) encouraging the adoption of integrated natural resource management; (iii) building synergies between the environment and other sectors of the economy; and (iv) consolidating and coordinating external financing, while reducing transaction costs through the streamlining of partner's project cycle procedures, among other activities. Sources of external assistance, including GEF resources, can be more efficiently and effectively allocated to maximize the cost effectiveness of scarce development funds. CACILM will also bring benefits to the CACs by supporting the active exchange of knowledge, experience and lessons, expertise, and training.

### **III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

#### **A. Impact and Outcome**

9. The goal of this program is to combat land degradation and improve rural livelihoods in the CACs. The objective is to establish CACILM as a partnership among countries and funding agencies to support the development and implementation of NPFs for more comprehensive and integrated approaches to sustainable land management in the region.

10. The TA has four outputs: (i) NPFs for each country, including a prioritized program of projects and technical assistance, and related concept papers; (ii) the CACILM partnership brief and supporting GEF documentation, prepared in accordance with GEF guidelines on the programmatic approach; (iii) established mechanisms for consultation and coordination within and between countries that enhance the participation of all stakeholders; provide efficient and effective mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of CACILM; and enhance harmonization of funding agencies; and (iv) increased awareness and commitments by national and funding agency stakeholders. Key stakeholders in each country will be fully aware of the partnership approach, and its advantages and disadvantages. Further, they will commit to their respective responsibilities to address land degradation in a comprehensive and integrated manner. Commitments from key stakeholders and development partners will be required throughout implementation, with more specific commitments for the first 2 years.

#### **B. Methodology and Key Activities**

11. The underlying focus of the approach is to maintain the integrity of this CAC initiative by facilitating and strengthening country ownership and drivenness, expanding and deepening stakeholder participation, and facilitating an expanded and transparent dialogue with development partner agencies.

12. This approach is to be achieved principally by: (i) ensuring that key national stakeholders are fully aware of CACILM and its preparation at all times; (ii) the national working groups' providing the principal entry point for project activities; (iii) extending participation from national agencies to communities and land users directly affected by land degradation; and (iv) the task force's providing the required oversight on progress and transparency, and dialogue between representatives of the CACs and the partner aid agencies.

13. The strong participatory approach envisaged for the Project will include regular task force meetings, with at least one meeting in each of the five CACs; two multi-country

workshops; national workshops; and regular working group meetings in each country. In addition, national workshops, group interviews, and surveys will form part of an increased and sustained effort to engage the private sector, additional elements of civil society, and communities and land users directly affected by land degradation in each country. A stakeholder participation plan will be prepared at TA commencement to define more precisely the activities to broaden stakeholder involvement.

14. The key activities include: (i) increasing the awareness of national stakeholders, and agreeing on the implementation approach at national workshops in each country; (ii) reviewing and analyzing the incorporation of sustainable land management into policy, legislation, planning, and budgeting; capacity and institutional arrangements; and the current and planned TA and investments in sustainable land management; (iii) preparing NPFs for each country, and reviewing and discussing them through national and multi-country workshops; (iv) preparing the CACILM partnership agreement, and reviewing and discussing it through multi-country workshops and task force meetings; and (v) agreeing on coordination arrangements with government and funding agency partners, as well as the monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the NPFs and the CACILM partnership agreement. The CACILM partnership agreement will cover the five CACs and funding agency partners, including GEF. This agreement, together with the NPFs, will determine indicative allocations of GEF resources for TA and investments in sustainable land management activities. As an executing agency of GEF, ADB—along with World Bank, UNDP, and UNEP—is expected to receive substantial resources from GEF to support ADB's TA and lending program in the CACs.

### **C. Cost and Financing**

15. The TA is estimated to cost \$1.5 million. ADB will provide a grant of \$500,000 through its TA funding program. GEF and GM will provide grants of \$700,000 and \$50,000, respectively, both of which ADB will administer. The governments will finance \$250,000 through their: (i) provision of counterpart staff, office space, and facilities; (ii) data and documents; and (iii) participation in workshops. The cost estimates and financing plan are in Appendix 2.

### **D. Implementation Arrangements**

16. The countries that will be involved in the TA are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The TA is expected to commence in April 2005, and be completed in December 2005.

17. The Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Division of East and Central Asia Department will be the Executing Agency for the TA. ADB will continue to chair the task force, which will meet at least three times during the study. In each country, the UNCCD working groups will collect and organize information, coordinate with the consulting team, and facilitate workshops and government approvals. These working groups are attached to relevant agencies in each country: Ministry of Environmental Protection (Kazakhstan); Kyrgyz Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Processing Industry (Kyrgyz Republic); State Committee for Land Management (Tajikistan); National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna, Ministry of Nature Protection (Turkmenistan); and Hydrometeorological Research Institute (Uzbekistan). Development partners under the SPA will participate in national and multi-country workshops and task force meetings, and exchange information on the respective strategies and programs in each country. Substantial material is available, which has been used in the preparation of country reports under the TA on combating desertification in Asia, and for ADB's

country environmental assessments. The NPF's will be based on these documents and the national action plan of each country.

18. Up to 25 person-months of international consultants and 125 person-months of domestic consultants will be required. The international consultants will include team leader and natural resource management specialist (7 person-months), land use specialist (6), policy and institutions specialist (4), sociologist and gender specialist (2), natural resource economist (3), and unallocated (3). The domestic consultants will include deputy team leader and natural resource management specialist (8), policy and institutional specialist (7), sociologist and gender specialist (7), and unallocated (15, or 3 person-months per country). The unallocated person-months are to accommodate additional expertise identified during the study, or extensions of some members of the consulting team's expertise, if required. Individual consultants will be engaged in accordance with the *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants* by ADB and its Borrowers, and other arrangements satisfactory for the engagement of domestic consultants. Terms of reference for the consulting services are in Appendix 3. Consultants will purchase equipment in accordance with ADB's *Guidelines for Procurement*. This will include computer, printer, and fax, and related accessories as required in each country. The equipment will be handed over to the respective agency of the UNCCD working group.

19. At least 15 national workshops, two multi-country workshops, and three task force meetings will be held during the study. These workshops and meetings are designed to increase the participation of stakeholders at national, local, and community levels. The aim is for stakeholders to monitor the progress of the study, and ultimately to agree on the NPFs and the CACILM partnership agreement.

20. The team leader will be responsible for submission to ADB, GEF, and the task force an inception report within 6 weeks of the Project's initiation, and two bimonthly progress reports (within the third and fifth months of the Project, respectively). Rather than dwelling on routine activities, these reports shall provide brief highlights of developments that depart from the expectations, and the remedial steps or adjustments envisaged or made. Another key reporting requirement will be NPFs for each country, which will cover all aspects of the Project that were reviewed and analyzed. An initial format for this report will be agreed upon at the first task force meeting, while a revised format will be agreed upon at the first multi-country workshop. The final reporting requirement will be the CACILM partnership agreement. Based on the NPFs, this will include the partnership arrangements for cooperation and coordination, as well as an implementation monitoring and evaluation mechanism. The format for this report will be agreed upon at the second multi-country workshop.

#### **IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION**

21. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved: (i) ADB administering a portion of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$700,000 to be financed on a grant basis by GEF; (ii) ADB administering a portion of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$50,000 to be financed on a grant basis by GM; and (iii) ADB providing the balance not exceeding the equivalent of \$500,000 on a grant basis for Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

## DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Design Summary	Performance Targets/Indicators	Data Sources/Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Land degradation in Central Asian countries arrested, allowing improved rural livelihood</p>	<p>Land degradation in each country is at least stabilized</p> <p>Standard of living of communities most affected by land degradation is improved</p>	<p>National reports on land degradation</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E) system established under Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM)</p>	<p><b>Assumption:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sufficient funds available from Global Environment Facility (GEF) for 10-year program</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM), a partnership involving multiple countries and funding agencies for the support of comprehensive and integrated approach to sustainable land management, developed and prepared for implementation</p>	<p>GEF approves the partnership agreement</p>	<p>Letter of approval and commitment of funds</p>	<p><b>Assumptions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governments provide necessary resources and political will to implement national programming frameworks (NPFs)</li> <li>Mechanisms for coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and funding agency harmonization are efficient and effective</li> <li>Funding support is sustained for 10-year program</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing partners headquarters slow in submitting approvals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <p>1. NPFs for each country</p>	<p>NPFs are approved by national governments, and subsequently endorsed by task force</p>	<p>Report of consultants</p> <p>Government submits authorized document</p> <p>Protocol of task force meetings</p>	<p><b>Assumption:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective participation of national stakeholders</li> </ul>

<b>Design Summary</b>	<b>Performance Targets/Indicators</b>	<b>Data Sources/Reporting Mechanisms</b>	<b>Assumptions and Risks</b>
2. CACILM partnership brief and GEF documentation	Brief and related documents agreed through multi-country workshop, and subsequently endorsed by task force	<p>Report of consultants</p> <p>Protocols of multi-country workshop and task force meetings</p> <p>Submission of approval by funding agency partner headquarters.</p>	
3. Mechanisms for coordination, monitoring, and evaluation, and funding agency harmonization	NPF and CACILM briefs present efficient and effective mechanisms that are endorsed by national governments and task force funding agency members	<p>Report of consultants</p> <p>Government approval of NPF through authorized document</p> <p>Protocol of task force meetings</p>	
4. Increased awareness of and commitments by national and funding agency stakeholders	<p>Participation at national workshops is representative of national and local government, private sector, civil society, and communities</p> <p>Governments commit financial resources to incorporate land degradation into national budgets</p> <p>Funding agency partners commit financial resources for land degradation for at least the first 2 years of the program</p>	<p>Report of consultants</p> <p>Protocol of workshops</p> <p>List of participants</p> <p>Government budgets reflect increased funding for land management</p> <p>Aid programs and funding demonstrate increased focus and funding for land management</p>	

<b>Activities with Milestones</b>	<b>Inputs</b>
<p>1.1 Awareness raising activities through national workshops (Months 1-2)</p> <p>1.2 Review and analysis of situation in each country (Months 2-4)</p> <p>1.3 Preparation of NPFs, and discussion through national and multi-country workshops and task force meetings (Months 5-8)</p> <p>2.1 Preparation of documentation (Months 6-7)</p> <p>2.2 Discussion and agreement through multi-country workshops and task force meetings (Months 7-8)</p> <p>3.1 Review of existing mechanisms and recommendations for consideration through national and multi-country workshops and task force meetings (Months 2-6)</p> <p>4.1 Conduct of initial workshops in each country (Months 1-2)</p> <p>4.2 Clear specification of commitments required from government and funding agency partners (Months 5-7)</p> <p>4.3 Discussion through national and multi-country workshops and task force meetings (Months 7-8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADB will finance \$500,000 equivalent</li> <li>• Governments of KAZ, KYR, TAJ, TKM, and UZB will finance \$250,000 through their: (i) provision of counterpart staff, office space and facilities; (ii) data and documents; and (iii) participation in workshops</li> <li>• Cofinancing with GEF and Global Mechanism, providing grants of \$700,000 and \$50,000, respectively</li> </ul>

**COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN**  
(\$'000)

Item	Total
<b>A. Asian Development Bank (ADB) Financing<sup>a</sup></b>	
1. Consultants	
a. Remuneration and Per Diem	
(i) International Consultants <sup>b</sup>	257,000
(ii) Domestic Consultants <sup>c</sup>	25,000
b. International Travel	31,200
c. Local Travel	25,900
d. Reports and Communication	15,450
2. Workshops <sup>d</sup>	54,000
3. Office Equipment <sup>e</sup>	25,000
4. Miscellaneous Administration and Support Costs <sup>f</sup>	40,250
5. Contingencies	26,200
<b>Subtotal (A)</b>	<b>500,000</b>
<b>B. Global Environment Facility Financing</b>	
1. Consultants	
a. Remuneration and Per Diem	
(i) International Consultants	228,000
(ii) Local Consultants	305,000
2. Workshops <sup>d</sup>	95,000
3. Surveys <sup>g</sup>	20,000
4. Miscellaneous Administration and Support Costs	19,250
5. Representative for Contract Negotiations	
6. Contingencies	32,750
<b>Subtotal (B)</b>	<b>700,000</b>
<b>C. Global Mechanism Financing</b>	
1. Workshops <sup>d</sup>	50,000
<b>Subtotal (C)</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>D. Government Financing<sup>h</sup></b>	
1. Office Facilities and Logistics	99,000
2. Remuneration and Per Diem of Counterpart Staff	77,000
3. Miscellaneous Administration and Support Costs	74,000
<b>Subtotal (D)</b>	<b>250,000</b>
<b>Total (A+B+C+D)</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>

<sup>a</sup> Financed by ADB's technical assistance funding program.

<sup>b</sup> Includes administrative assistant at ADB headquarters in Manila.

<sup>c</sup> Includes a lump sum of \$5,000 per working group in each country.

<sup>d</sup> Includes 2 multi-country workshops (ADB-funded), 15 national workshops (Global Environment Facility- and Global Mechanism-funded), and 3 task force meetings (2 with multi-country workshops, ADB-funded).

<sup>e</sup> Lump sum of \$5,000 per country for computer, printer, fax, and related accessories.

<sup>f</sup> Local currency costs include translation and secretarial services and research assistants.

<sup>g</sup> Lump sum of \$4,000 per country.

<sup>h</sup> Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Source: ADB estimates

## OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

### A. International Consultants

#### 1. Team Leader & Natural Resource Management Specialist (7 person-months)

1. A natural resource management expert will lead a team of international and domestic experts in the preparation of national programming frameworks (NPFs) for five Central Asian Countries (CAC), and the development of the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) partnership agreement. The consultant will be qualified in natural resources management or a related discipline; and will have at least 10 years experience, including as a team leader, preferably with substantial experience in Central Asia and/or other transition economies. The consultant will have overall responsibility for coordinating the consultant team's inputs, and for consolidating their outputs at the national and multi-country levels. The consultant will report to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) project officer or a designate, while maintaining close liaison with the chairs of the five United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) working groups or their designates.

2. Within the approach described in the Program Development Facility (PDF)-B terms of reference (TOR), the specific responsibilities of the team leader and natural resource management specialist will be to:

- (i) establish and maintain a communications network among international and domestic consultants to ensure close contact, to maintain the schedule for producing the required outputs, and to establish an efficient system for document translation between the two working languages of English and Russian;
- (ii) serve as the principal liaison for management and communications relationships between the consultant team and the ADB project officer, working group chairs, and Strategic Partnership for UNCCD Implementation in Central Asian Countries (SPA) members;
- (iii) ensure that the participatory approach described in the PDF-B TORs is implemented effectively by providing for wide stakeholder involvement throughout the design process, especially in the development of the interventions to create the enabling environment for progress in addressing land degradation and specific complementary on-the-ground investments;
- (iv) assist with the organization of multi-country and national workshops during the design of the CACILM, including overseeing consultant inputs to produce necessary documentation (in English and Russian) and associated logistical support;
- (v) lead the development of guidelines for use by national working groups for the structure and contents of the NPF for agreement by, adaptation to, and application in each of the five countries, consistent with the elements described in the PDF-B proposal;
- (vi) oversee the inputs of the international consultants and country-level consultant teams in carrying out situation updates and analyses of sustainable land management problems and responses as the basis for preparing the NPFs for the five countries, and consistent with the specific tasks given in the PDF-B proposal and TOR;
- (vii) supervise preparation of concept papers summarizing the initial round of likely investments (to create enabling policy, legal, and institutional conditions, and/or to support on-the-ground projects) that will form core elements of the NPFs and

- will be subject to review and approval once the CACILM program framework is agreed upon;
- (viii) work with consultant team members to differentiate baseline investments from those that would achieve global or regional incremental benefits, or otherwise be eligible for Global Environment Facility (GEF) cofinancing;
  - (ix) manage NPF preparation for each of the five countries following the agreed general guidelines, and ensure suitability for national policy use and presentation to CACILM partnership members for incorporation into the umbrella CACILM partnership agreement, including supporting GEF documentation;
  - (x) be responsible for presenting to ADB and its partners an edited draft and final version of the CACILM partnership framework document, including a response matrix indicating comments received during national and multi-country consultations and corresponding edits made for the final version.
  - (xi) work with the ADB project officer and working group chairs to make appropriate adjustments to consultants' TORs, assist with consultant recruitment and otherwise help with all aspects of consultant team management; and
  - (xii) oversee all logistical aspects of consultant travel and time allocations by task and country, according to protocols for approvals and other arrangements to be specified by the ADB project officer.

## **2. Land Use Specialist (6 person-months)**

3. A land use specialist will participate on the team of international and domestic experts recruited to assist with the preparation of the NPFs and development of the CACILM program framework. The consultant will be qualified in environmental science or a related discipline; and will have at least 10 years experience, preferably with substantial experience in Central Asia and/or in other transition economies. The consultant will have primary responsibility for review of, and quality control over, technical dimensions of the diagnostic NPF analysis, especially relating to land degradation problems, and responses and recommended approaches for achieving sustainable land management. The consultant will report to the team leader, while maintaining close interactions with the five domestic natural resources management specialists assigned to each of the national consultant teams.

4. Within the approach described in the PDF-B TOR, the specific responsibilities of the land use specialist will be to:

- (i) use land utilization information available from national governments or international organizations (possibly supplemented by remote sensing data) to prepare spatial analyses by country of land degradation that requires the attention of the CACILM program. This should include all aspects of land degradation from agriculture (rain-fed and irrigated), pastures and rangelands, deforestation, and natural disasters;
- (ii) determine the role of current land and water management practices in causing land degradation, and determine potential reforms to achieve more sustainable patterns of land use;
- (iii) identify important constraints to improving sustainable land use substantially at the country level;
- (iv) assist with identification of an action research agenda for sustainable lands management in Central Asia for potential support under CACILM; and
- (v) assist with preparation of concept papers summarizing the initial round of likely investments (to create enabling policy, legal, and institutional conditions, and/or

to support on-the-ground projects) that will form core elements of the NPFs and will be subject to review and approval once the CACILM program framework is agreed upon.

### **3. Policy and Institutions Specialist (4 person-months)**

5. An expert on policy and institutional aspects of natural resources and economic development program design will participate on the consultant team to assist with preparation of the NPFs and development of the CACILM partnership agreement. The consultant will be qualified in natural resources, environmental economics, or related discipline; and will have at least 10 years experience, preferably with substantial experience in Central Asia and/or in other transition economies. The consultant will be responsible primarily for reviewing government policies and legislation affecting land management, as well as associated institutional arrangements at the national and subnational levels. After the review, the consultant will make recommendations for appropriate adjustments to create the enabling conditions for sustainable land management and effective project interventions. The consultant will report to the team leader, while maintaining close interactions with the five domestic policy and institutions specialists assigned to each of the national consultant teams.

6. Within the approach described in the PDF-B TOR, the specific responsibilities of the policy and institutions specialist will be to:

- (i) work with the domestic policy and institutions specialist consultants, consultant team members, and UNCCD working group members to conduct in each CAC a critical review of policies and legislation—as well as the associated government and other institutions—directly affecting the incentives for sustainable land management to identify areas for reform that will create an enabling environment for positive policy and institutional reform;
- (ii) work with other international and domestic consultants and UNCCD working group members to assess the governmental and other institutional arrangements for land and water management—including the composition and management of the working group itself, and the establishment of coordination centers for sustainable land management—to identify appropriate areas for reform that will contribute to a sound enabling environment for sustainable land management;
- (iii) take the lead in developing policy, legal, and institutional recommendations for the NPFs in each CAC, including programmatic objectives, expected outcomes, and phasing of proposed actions;
- (iv) develop, in consultation with other team members, an appropriate strategy and specific measures common to all participating countries for monitoring and evaluating national and project-level implementation progress, as well as the achievement of results, including an agreed set of land management indicators for inclusion in the CACILM program framework;
- (v) oversee preparation of project concept papers summarizing the initial round of likely actions and/or investments in policy, legal, and institutional reform, as well as other measures needed to create a strong enabling environment for all investments under CACILM;
- (vi) work with consultant team members to ensure wide stakeholder involvement throughout the design process, especially in the development of interventions to create the enabling environment for progress in addressing land degradation; and

- (vii) assist with the organization of multi-country and national workshops during the CACILM design process.

#### **4. Natural Resource Economist (3 person-months)**

7. An expert on land and natural resources economics will participate on the consultant team to assist with preparation of the NPFs and development of the CACILM program framework. The consultant will be qualified in resource economics or a related discipline; and will have at least 10 years experience, preferably with substantial experience in Central Asia and/or in other transition economies. The consultant will be responsible primarily for assessing national planning and budgetary processes and trends to integrate sustainable land management into these processes. The consultant also will work with the policy and institutional specialists in reviewing government policies affecting land management, as well as associated institutional arrangements at the national and subnational levels, from an economic perspective. This review will include the impact on the environment and poverty as an input to creating the enabling conditions for sustainable land management and effective project interventions. The consultant also will take the lead in developing cost estimates for implementing programs under the NPFs and the CACILM framework. The consultant will report to the team leader, while maintaining close interactions with the domestic policy and institutions specialists and sociologist and gender specialists assigned to each of the national consultant teams.

8. Within the approach described in the PDF-B TOR, the specific responsibilities of the natural resource economist will be to:

- (i) work with the domestic policy and institutions specialist consultants, consultant team members, and UNCCD working group members to estimate the costs of land degradation conditions to each CAC economy and to vulnerable groups, and to project a baseline trend for the future;
- (ii) review the planning and budgeting processes, as well as expenditure patterns and trends on sustainable land management activities, and recommend changes within the resource and budgets of the respective countries;
- (iii) review the debt load and borrowing policies of each country;
- (iv) analyze, in consultation with other consultant team members, the current and planned projects and programs, identify appropriate criteria for priority investments and technical assistance, and prepare a realistic and sequenced program of projects and technical assistance to develop an enabling environment and financing of appropriate on-the-ground investments; and
- (v) serve as the lead consultant for all economic issues associated with policy and institutional measures and project development at the national and multi-country levels.

#### **5. Sociologist and Gender Specialist (2 person-months)**

9. An expert on social aspects of land and water resources management, as well as associated gender concerns in development program design, will participate on the consultant team to assist with preparation of the NPFs and development of the CACILM program framework. The consultant will be qualified in anthropology, sociology or related disciplines; and will have at least 10 years experience, preferably with substantial experience in Central Asia and/or in other transition economies. The consultant will be responsible primarily for reviewing government policies, institutional arrangements at the national and subnational levels, and the implications for sustainable land management, food security, poverty, and gender aspects. The

consultant will recommend appropriate adjustments to create improved conditions for the poor and women. The consultant will report to the team leader, while maintaining close interactions with the five domestic social scientist and gender specialists assigned to each of the national consultant teams.

10. Within the approach described in the PDF-B TOR, the specific responsibilities of the sociologist and gender specialist will be to:

- (i) work with the domestic social scientist and gender specialist consultants, consultant team members, and UNCCD working group members to analyze social, cultural, poverty, and gender dimensions of land degradation problems in each CAC as a critical input to NPFs; as well as background to, and context for, the CACILM program framework;
- (ii) design, in close consultation with the team leader and consultant team members, a participatory approach and tools for interaction with stakeholders, including structured and informal interactions ensuring the inclusion of women and gender disaggregated data collection;
- (iii) assist with the assessment of governmental and other institutional arrangements for land and water management to identify appropriate areas for reform that will contribute to improved conditions for the poor and women;
- (iv) working with consultant team members, lead the assessment of connections between the incidence of poverty and land degradation, as well as a review of whether these relationships are reflected in national and sectoral development plans; and recommend improved approaches in the NPFs and CACILM program framework;
- (v) work with consultant team members to ensure wide stakeholder involvement throughout the design process, and lead the organization of visits to characteristic sites of land degradation and structured and informal interactions with target beneficiary groups to enrich the on-the-ground context for the NPFs and CACILM program framework;
- (vi) develop a statistical and analytical baseline of social and gender conditions linked to land degradation, as well as specific measures common to all participating countries for monitoring results at national and project levels;
- (vii) prepare a gender plan as part of the NPFs and CACILM program framework, including measures for evaluating results, and a strategy for promoting executing agency involvement and ownership, and identifying resource requirements; and
- (viii) contribute to the preparation of project concept papers summarizing the initial round of likely investments (to create enabling policy, legal, and institutional conditions, and/or to support on-the-ground projects) by providing input on social, poverty, and gender issues.

## **B. Domestic Consultants**

11. Five national teams of domestic consultants will be engaged with the following expertise:

- (i) deputy team leader and natural resource management specialist (8 person-months);
- (ii) policy and institutional specialist (7 person-months); and
- (iii) sociologist and gender specialist (7 person-months).

12. Detailed terms of reference for each position are available on request.