



# Technical Assistance Report

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Project Number: 38464  
November 2006

## Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project

(Cofinanced by the Global Environment Facility and International  
Fund for Agricultural Development)



## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CACILM	–	Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management
CAC	–	Central Asian country
CCD GTZ	–	UNCCD Project of GTZ
CPP	–	Country Pilot Partnership
CMPF	–	CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework
FAO	–	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	–	Global Environment Facility
GTZ	–	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for Technical Cooperation)
ICARDA	–	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IFAD	–	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LADA	–	land degradation assessment in drylands
M&E	–	monitoring and evaluation
NAP	–	national action plan
NGO	–	nongovernment organization
NPF	–	national programming framework
PDF	–	Project Development Facility
SDC	–	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SLM	–	sustainable land management
SLMIS	–	sustainable land management information system
SPA	–	Strategic Partnership Agreement for UNCCD Implementation in the Central Asian Countries
SRAP-CD	–	Subregional Action Program for Central Asian Countries on Combating Desertification and Drought
TA	–	technical assistance
UNCCD	–	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	–	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	–	United Nations Environment Programme

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CLASSIFICATION

<b>Targeting Classification</b>	–	General intervention
<b>Sector</b>	–	Agriculture and natural resources
<b>Subsector</b>	–	Environment and biodiversity
<b>Themes</b>	–	Environmental sustainability, sustainable economic growth, regional cooperation
<b>Subthemes</b>	–	Natural resources conservation, developing rural areas

## GLOSSARY

Land degradation	–	Defined by the Global Environment Facility 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.”
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## NOTE

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

<b>Vice President</b>	L. Jin, Operations Group 1
<b>Director General</b>	J. Miranda, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD)
<b>Director</b>	K. Matsunami, Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Division, CWRD
<b>Team leader</b>	R. R. Everitt, Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist, CWRD



## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) is a partnership of Central Asian countries (CACs) and development cooperation partners<sup>1</sup> dedicated to combating land degradation and improving rural livelihoods. Based on previous analytical and resource mobilization support to the CACs from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),<sup>2</sup> these partners requested ADB to lead the design and development of CACILM. ADB, through technical assistance (TA) cofinanced by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Global Mechanism,<sup>3</sup> led the design of CACILM as a 10-year program of country-driven action and resource mobilization (July 2006–June 2016)<sup>4</sup> to achieve in the CACs (i) strengthened policy, legislative, and institutional frameworks to create conditions conducive to sustainable land management (SLM); (ii) increased capacity in key institutions responsible for planning and implementing SLM interventions; and (iii) improved land management and natural systems through the combined impact of enabling conditions and targeted project investments.

2. The design phase produced the CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework (CMPF), which guides the activities of the CACILM partnership. The CMPF has been submitted to the GEF Council for approval of its overall programmatic approach and the associated set of projects seeking financing from GEF-3 Replenishment resources. Over its 10-year planning horizon, the CMPF is anticipated to require \$100.7 million from GEF Replenishments: \$20.7 million (GEF-3), \$40.0 million (GEF-4), and \$40.0 million (GEF-5). Project Development Facility (PDF-B) funding for \$700,000 was approved earlier by the GEF secretariat to support the design of the CMPF.

3. ADB is responsible for leading the CACILM partnership, coordinating programs at the multicountry and national levels, and supporting activities at the multicountry level, which include developing an SLM information system, knowledge management and dissemination, and SLM research. The proposed TA is for necessary support for carrying out these activities during the first phase of the CACILM program.<sup>5</sup>

## II. ISSUES

4. Land degradation—mainly (i) erosion, salinization, and water logging; (ii) deteriorating fertility of pastureland; (iii) decreasing fertility of the arable drylands of the steppes; (iv) decreasing area and productivity of forests; (v) on- and off-site impacts of mining operations; (vi)

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<sup>1</sup> The main partners from the CACs are the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Working Groups on Partnership Development for UNCCD Implementation and the UNCCD national focal points. The development cooperation partners are members of the Strategic Partnership Agreement for UNCCD Implementation in the Central Asian Countries (SPA) of the Global Mechanism, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), CCD Project of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), International Center for Agricultural Research on Dry Areas (ICARDA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The World Bank is expected to join in 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Support was provided to the CACs for important sector work that developed priorities for action and organized resource mobilization efforts through ADB. 2000. *Technical Assistance for Combating Desertification in Asia*. Manila (TA 5941-REG, approved 9 October 2000 with cofinancing from the Global Mechanism).

<sup>3</sup> ADB. 2005. *Technical Assistance for Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management*. Manila (TA 6326-REG).

<sup>4</sup> While the resource mobilization period is 10 years, the implementation of various investments in the enabling environment and on-the-ground development will take place over 15 years.

<sup>5</sup> The TA first appeared in the *ADB Business Opportunities* on 13 June 2006.

exacerbated risks of landslides and flooding due to poor watershed management; (vii) reduced stability and functioning of desert, mountain, wetland, and riparian ecosystems; and (viii) contaminated sites from resource extraction and nuclear testing—is a serious economic, social, and environmental problem in the transition economies of Central Asia. Agricultural yields have declined by 20–30% across the region since these countries achieved independence, causing annual losses of up to \$2 billion in agricultural production and seriously harming the livelihood of the rural population.

5. The root causes of these problems are inappropriate agricultural and water policies, regulations, and incentives; the inability of governments to adopt and implement SLM due to their relatively weak capacity; and a host of environmental problems arising in part from inadequate, inconsistent, and weakly implemented environmental laws.

6. The CACs have responded by acceding to or ratifying the UNCCD and preparing UNCCD national action plans or programs (NAPs), the Subregional Action Program for Central Asian Countries on Combating Desertification and Drought (SRAP-CD), and national environmental action plans and a regional environmental action plan that gives prominent attention to drought and desertification. However, the NAPs lack (i) a participatory approach, (ii) strong problem analysis, (iii) adequate discussion of policy implications, (iv) strong linkages with national planning and budgetary processes, and (v) structural interactions between CAC governments and development cooperation partners. These problems have stalled implementation of the NAPs and SRAP-CD.

7. CACILM was designed to overcome these problems through a coordinated program of national and multicountry activities that will create an enabling policy and institutional environment for SLM and strengthen the capacity of CACs to develop and implement SLM.

8. The Global Environment Facility has been active in land degradation issues in the CACs. To improve the impact of its investments, GEF felt that a multicountry pilot partnership under the GEF Country Pilot Partnerships (CPP) program was desirable. CACILM entered the GEF pipeline as a multicountry CPP in May 2004, and a PDF-B grant to elaborate the design of CACILM was approved in February 2005. Combining the CPP concept—which caters to countries' needs in a holistic way for the long timeframe needed to reverse land degradation—with a partnership of virtually all the major development cooperation partners active in Central Asia offers the best chance for the CACs to resolve their land degradation problems in a manner that will result in extensive global environmental benefits.

9. The CMPF is a 10-year program of national and multicountry activities to improve the productivity of land in the CACs and the economic well-being of those who depend on the land. The national activities are sets of priority capacity-building and on-the-ground investments emanating from national programming frameworks (NPFs) developed under CACILM.

10. At the multicountry level, two projects are central to the successful outcome of the overall CMPF programmatic approach. These are the CMPF Support Project (the subject of this TA) and a multicountry capacity-building project to be funded separately. The CMPF will undertake (i) support for implementing the NPFs, (ii) multicountry activities, and (iii) program coordination.

11. The CMPF Support Project is necessary to achieve the strategic objectives of CACILM. Without support for continuing multicountry activities, the national activities will revert to independent, uncoordinated projects, losing economies of scale and increasing transaction costs for donor agencies. There would be less, if any, coordination of GEF and non-GEF

activities in land degradation. The likely result would be lost motivation and political will. Stakeholders would participate less in planning and implementation, incentives would be limited for further expanding cooperation among development cooperation partners, and motivation would be reduced for refocusing assistance programs on land degradation.

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

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

12. The impact of the CMPF is expected to be the restoration, maintenance, and enhancement of the productivity of land in the CACs, improving the economic and social well-being of those who depend on these resources, while preserving the environmental functions of the land. Partnership framework support is needed to coordinate and integrate the national activities.

13. The CMPF has six programmatic outcomes: (i) a favorable environment for SLM investments in CACs, supported by SLM mainstreaming and improvements in policies, regulations, and land administration; (ii) improved institutional capacity in the CACs to adopt integrated land-use planning and management; (iii) the rehabilitation and improved productivity of selected lands, leading to improved livelihoods, foreign exchange earnings, and food security, and providing indirect protection to threatened ecosystems; (iv) enhanced protection of ecosystem integrity and landscapes; (v) broader involvement of civil society and other stakeholders in SLM; and (vi) long-term, sustained, and harmonized commitments of financial and human resources by mainstreaming SLM in development cooperation partner programs.

14. The CMPF Support Project contributes to two of the above outcomes—improved institutional capacity and long-term, sustained, and harmonized commitments of financial and human resources—that are vital in achieving the other outcomes.

15. The outputs of the CMPF Support Project will be (i) a sustainable land management information system (SLMIS) designed, developed, and operated; (ii) a knowledge management plan developed and the first set of knowledge products disseminated; (iii) an SLM research program designed and implemented; (iv) the strategic development of the CMPF, promotion of policy dialogue, and efficient and effective coordination of CMPF implementation; (v) and efficient and effective coordination of NPF implementation.

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

16. The outputs above will contribute to the improved capacity outcome by providing the knowledge and information needed to underpin the adoption of SLM and to the long-term commitments outcome by providing an enabling environment that will promote mainstreaming SLM, in both national and development cooperation partners' planning and budgeting.

17. The multicountry activities will bring improved capacity to support policy dialogue, strengthen institution building to make efficient investments that generate global benefits, and store and disseminate the requisite knowledge that will form the basis of a common approach and integration of activities toward SLM. There are three main types of multicountry activities: (i) the design, development, testing, and deployment of an SLMIS, (ii) a program of integrative SLM research, and (iii) the development of a knowledge management plan and information dissemination. A fourth set of multicountry capacity-building activities is considered sufficiently important to warrant focused attention through a separate but linked project, as noted in

paragraph 10. The CACILM steering committee and secretariat at the multicountry level, as well as the national coordination councils and secretariats, will coordinate CMPF activities. The major program coordination activities will be to establish multicountry and national units for program coordination and management, as well as project monitoring and evaluation systems.

18. Program implementation will be in three phases: (i) inception, focusing on capacity building, from 1 July 2006 to 31 December 2008; (ii) full implementation, mainly on-the-ground investments, from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2013; and (iii) consolidation, finalizing institutional arrangements and disseminating results, from 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2016. TA will take place during Phase I with the following key activities: (i) an SLMIS will be designed, developed, and made operational, and the land degradation baseline established; (ii) the SLM research program will be designed and initiated; and (iii) the knowledge management and information dissemination program will develop a knowledge management plan and initiate knowledge generation, capture, and dissemination; and (iv) multicountry and national units for program coordination and management will be established, including necessary capacity building in finance and administration, and project monitoring and evaluation systems will be designed, developed, and implemented.

19. The main assumptions, common to all CACILM activities at all levels, are the continued commitment of CAC governments to a coordinated approach to tackling land degradation within and among their countries and to improved economic and environmental governance. More specifically, the assumptions are that (i) fundamental support exists and can be sustained in central governments for a multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to dealing with land degradation, (ii) the flow of information from research to extension services and on to farmers' fields is maintained, (iii) the land-reform situation continues to provide incentives for farmers to adopt SLM, (iv) donors can make commitments beyond their normal programming cycle, and (v) donor programs will place increasingly high priority on SLM in the short term and maintain that priority in the long term.

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

20. The total cost of the CMPF Support Project is \$6.325 million equivalent. Funds directly administered by ADB under TA are estimated at \$4.025 million, which will be financed on grant basis by the Global Environment Facility (\$3.025 million), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (\$200,000), and the ADB TA funding program (\$800,000). Detailed cost estimates and financing plan are provided in Appendix 2.

21. The CACs will make in-kind contributions totaling \$500,000. In addition, the German Development Cooperation through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ, or German Agency for Technical Cooperation) will provide parallel financing of \$300,000. In-kind contributions will be made by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (\$300,000) and the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) (\$500,000). ADB TA 4375-KAZ: Environmental Monitoring and Information Management for Sustainable Land Use (\$600,000) will be implemented in parallel with this TA. ADB will also provide an in-kind contribution of staff time and travel expenses estimated at \$100,000.

### **D. Implementation Arrangements**

22. TA will be carried out in the five CACs and have a term of 2.5 years (1 July 2006–31 December 2008). A CACILM steering committee responsible for coordinating the 10-year program will be chaired by ADB and comprise (i) representatives of the governments of the

CACs; (ii) the GEF implementing agencies World Bank, UNDP, and UNEP; (iii) the GEF executing agencies ADB, FAO, and IFAD; (iv) bilateral agencies; and (v) other participating international organizations.

23. A CACILM secretariat (Appendix 3) will be created to support the CACILM steering committee and require the services of international consultants (32 person-months) and national consultants (112 person-months). Outline terms of reference for consultants are presented in Appendix 4. Consultants will be engaged individually by ADB in accordance with the *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants by the Asian Development Bank and Its Borrowers* (April 2006) and other arrangements satisfactory to ADB for the recruitment of local consultants. Equipment for the CACILM secretariat and the national secretariat offices will be procured according to ADB *Procurement Guidelines* (April 2006). Agreements with FAO and ICARDA are expected to be made for implementing the information system and research components, respectively.

24. Coordination will be mainly through national coordination councils and their national secretariats. All major bodies (i.e., the CACILM steering committee and CACILM secretariat, national coordination councils, and national secretariats) will operate under a set of specific guidelines and procedures to be developed by the CACILM secretariat under the direction of the CACILM steering committee and based mainly on ADB operational guidelines and procedures.

25. Annual work plan and budgets will be submitted by the national coordination councils through the CACILM secretariat to the CACILM steering committee. Annual reports on multicountry activities and program coordination will be prepared and disseminated to all stakeholders. In addition, information and knowledge products will be prepared and actively disseminated in forms useful to the different groups of stakeholders.

26. To cover operating costs, an advance payment facility, to be replenished on liquidation, will be used to disburse funds to (i) national secretariats; (ii) development cooperation partners like FAO and ICARDA that have partnership agreements with ADB to undertake activities under TA, and (iii) the CACILM secretariat office. The national secretariats and development cooperation partners will be required to maintain accounts that will be audited annually.

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

27. The President recommends that the Board approve ADB administering a portion of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$3,025,000 for the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project, to be financed on a grant basis by the Global Environment Facility. If the Board approves ADB's administering the technical assistance, the President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, will approve (i) ADB administering a portion of the technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$200,000, to be financed on a grant basis by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and (ii) ADB providing the balance not exceeding the equivalent of \$800,000 on a grant basis for the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project, 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>Restoration, maintenance and enhancement of the productive functions of land in Central Asia to improve the economic and social well-being of those who depend on these resources, while preserving the environmental functions of these lands in the spirit of UNCCD</p>	<p>No net increase in the area of degraded land in each land management class</p> <p>10% reduction in the total area of degraded land</p> <p>Improved welfare of those relying on land resources</p>	<p>Enhanced consolidated national reporting on the productive use of lands</p> <p>Sustainable land management information system (SLMIS) monitoring reports</p> <p>Enhanced and consolidated national reporting on the state of the country's land resources</p> <p>SLMIS monitoring reports</p> <p>Poverty assessment updates and/or livelihood surveys</p> <p>Ministries of finance and International Monetary Fund</p> <p>SLMIS monitoring reports</p>	<p><b>Assumptions</b></p> <p>Commitment of CAC governments to a coordinated approach to tackling land degradation in the region</p> <p>Commitment of CAC governments to improving economic and environmental governance</p>
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Improved capacity of institutions in Central Asia to adopt integrated land-use planning and management</p>	<p>Integrated approach to land-use planning and management used in 100% of relevant public investment projects.</p> <p>All monitoring and evaluation reports of relevant public investment projects meet CACILM standards.</p> <p>Improved land use practices adopted by no fewer than 50% of land-using households.</p>	<p>CACILM and national secretariat reporting</p> <p>SPA members' periodic assessments</p> <p>SLMIS monitoring reports</p> <p>SLMIS monitoring reports</p>	<p><b>Assumptions</b></p> <p>Fundamental support exists and can be sustained in central governments for a multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to dealing with land degradation.</p> <p>Flow of information from research to extension to farmers' fields is maintained.</p> <p>Land reform situation continues to provide incentives for farmers to adopt SLM practices.</p>

Design Summary	Performance Targets/Indicators	Data Sources / Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
	<p>100% increase in research budgets</p> <p>100% increase in SLM budgets in disaster-preparedness programs</p>	<p>SLMIS monitoring reports</p> <p>National agencies responsible for disaster preparedness</p>	
<p>Long-term, sustained, and harmonized commitments of financial and human resources through mainstreaming of SLM in donor programs for Central Asia</p>	<p>Sustained average annual disbursements for SLM multicountry activities</p> <p>Complete accounting for all donor-implemented SLM activities in the region</p> <p>Shared understanding about the technical content of proposed SLM interventions</p> <p>Inclusion of SLM in donors' assistance programs</p>	<p>Donor financing for the NPFs and the CMPF</p> <p>Analyses of the full range of activities in donor programs in Central Asia</p>	<p>Donors will be able to make long-term commitments beyond their normal programming cycle.</p> <p>Donor programs will place increasingly high priority on sustainable land-management activities in the short term and continue to place high priority in the long term.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <p>1.1 Efficient and effective coordination of the implementation CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework</p> <p>1.2 Efficient and effective coordination of the implementation of NPFs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan</p>	<p>Timely disbursement of funds and reporting</p> <p>Quality of project monitoring and evaluation reports</p> <p>Performance monitoring systems established</p> <p>National projects submitted, approved, and implemented in timely manner</p> <p>Timely disbursement of funds and reporting</p> <p>Performance-monitoring systems established</p>	<p>CACILM secretariat annual reports</p> <p>Evaluation reports at end of Phase I</p> <p>CACILM secretariat annual reports</p> <p>National secretariat annual reports</p> <p>Evaluation reports at end of Phase I</p>	<p>CACILM secretariat will be established, and its procedures developed, in a timely manner.</p> <p>National secretariats will be established, and their capacity built, in timely manner.</p>
<p>2.1 SLMIS designed, developed, and operated</p>	<p>SLMIS functional in all CACs</p> <p>Multicountry SLMIS collating and analyzing national M&amp;E data</p>	<p>SLMIS monitoring reports</p> <p>Annual report on implementation of SLMIS</p>	<p>National SLMIS established, and capacity built, in timely manner.</p>

Design Summary	Performance Targets/Indicators	Data Sources / Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p>2.2 Sustainable land management research designed and Implemented</p> <p>2.3 Knowledge management system established</p>	<p>Land degradation baseline established</p> <p>SLMIS providing reports on key land degradation indicators</p> <p>Research prospectus developed</p> <p>Research projects initiated</p> <p>Workshops, scientific meetings, reports, and pilot SLM schemes</p> <p>Knowledge management plan developed</p> <p>CACILM: LEARN becomes operational</p> <p>Knowledge products disseminated</p>	<p>Research prospectus</p> <p>Annual report on SLM research program</p> <p>Knowledge management plan</p> <p>Annual report of knowledge management system</p>	
<p><b>Activities with Milestones</b></p> <p>1. Program Coordination</p> <p>1.1 Program Coordination at Multicountry Level</p> <p>1.2 Program Coordination at National Level</p> <p>2. Multicountry Activities</p> <p>2.1 Sustainable Land Management Information System</p> <p>2.2. Sustainable Land Management Research</p> <p>2.3 Knowledge Management and Information Dissemination</p>		<p><b>Financial Inputs</b></p> <p>GEF – \$3,025,000</p> <p>IFAD – \$200,000</p> <p>ADB – \$800,000</p> <p>Subtotal – \$4,025,000</p> <p><b>Other Contributions:</b></p> <p>CAC Countries – \$500,000</p> <p>CCD GTZ –\$300,000</p> <p>FAO – \$300,000</p> <p>ICARDA – \$500,000</p> <p>ADB – \$100,000 (in-kind)</p> <p>ADB TA 4375-KAZ – \$600,000 (in parallel)</p> <p>Subtotal – \$2,300,000</p> <p>Total – \$6,325,000</p>	

ADB = Asian Development Bank, CAC = Central Asian country, CACILM = Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management, CCD GTZ = UNCCD Project of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for Technical Assistance), CMPF = CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework, ICARDA = International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, IFAD = International Fund for Agricultural Development, GEF = Global Environment Facility, M&E = monitoring and evaluation, NPF = national programming framework; SPA = Strategic Partnership Agreement for UNCCD Implementation in the Central Asian Countries; SLM = sustainable land management; TA = technical assistance, UNCCD = United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

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

Item	ADB	GEF	IFAD	Total
<b>Asian Development Bank (ADB), GEF, and IFAD Financing<sup>a</sup></b>				
1. Consultants				
a. Remuneration and Per Diem				
i. International Consultants	300.0	110.0	50.0	460.0
ii. Domestic Consultants	52.0		50.0	102.0
b. International and Local Travel	10.0	40.0		50.0
2. National Program Implementation <sup>b</sup>		200.0	100.0	300.0
3. Partnership Agreements <sup>c</sup>		2,300.0		2,300.0
4. Equipment <sup>d</sup>		40.0		40.0
5. Training, Seminars, and Conferences				
National Secretariat Capacity Building		60.0		60.0
CACILM Steering Committee Meetings		100.0		100.0
6. Knowledge Management				
Publications and Knowledge Products	150.0	175.0		325.0
CACILM Learn Operations	210.0			210.0
7. Office Administration and Support	50.0			50.0
8. Contingencies	28.0			28.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>800.0</b>	<b>3,025.0</b>	<b>200.0</b>	<b>4,025.0</b>

ADB = Asian Development Bank, CACILM = Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management, GEF = Global Environment Facility, IFAD = International Fund for Agricultural Development.

<sup>a</sup> ADB financing is to be on a grant basis including (i) \$3,025,000 from the Global Environment Facility, (ii) \$200,000 from the International Fund for Agricultural Development; and (iii) \$800,000 from the ADB technical assistance funding program.

<sup>b</sup> National program implementation is for additional support to the operations of the national secretariats and national coordination councils.

<sup>c</sup> An agreement will be struck with FAO to undertake the sustainable land management information system activities. An agreement will be made with ICARDA to undertake sustainable land management research activities.

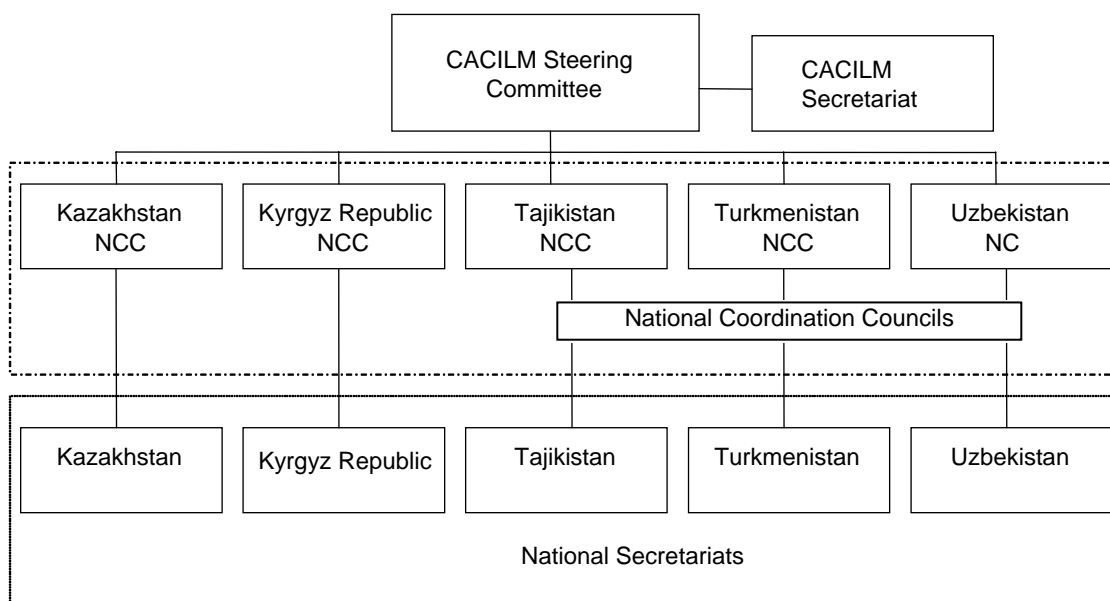
<sup>d</sup> This is for basic office equipment for the CACILM Secretariat offices. Upon completion of TA, the equipment will remain in the CACILM secretariat offices to be used during further implementation of CACILM. Equipment with remaining useful life at the end of the 10-year CACILM program will be offered to the relevant agencies in the participating countries.

Source: ADB estimates

## CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES INITIATIVE FOR LAND MANAGEMENT MULTICOUNTRY SECRETARIAT

1. **Background.** The Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) Multicountry Partnership Framework (CMPF) is a mechanism to carry out a 10-year program of national and multicountry activities with the expected impact of restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the productive functions of land in Central Asia to improve the economic and social well-being of those who depend on these resources while preserving the environmental functions of these lands. The CMPF has been endorsed by all the major development cooperation partners active in the Central Asian countries (CACs). These partners have confirmed cofinancing for the first phase of the 10-year CMPF program from 1 July 2006 to 31 December 2008, which is the period covered by this technical assistance. The CMPF has been submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for additional cofinancing.
2. The CMPF will be guided by the CACILM steering committee, which will be supported by the CACILM multicountry secretariat (CACILM secretariat).
3. **Functions.** The CACILM steering committee will be responsible for
  - (i) the strategic development of the CMPF on the bases of lessons learned from the process,
  - (ii) policy dialogue,
  - (iii) approving and endorsing proposals for submission to GEF,
  - (iv) overseeing those multicountry projects and activities that are its direct responsibility,
  - (v) monitoring the performance of the multicountry projects and activities undertaken under the CMPF, and
  - (vi) reporting to GEF on all projects and activities undertaken under the CMPF that receive GEF cofinancing.
4. The CACILM secretariat will
  - (i) provide guidance and assistance for further policy dialogue within CACILM and the further strategic development of the CACILM initiative;
  - (ii) collate and analyze the results of performance monitoring of all projects and activities undertaken by national coordination councils;
  - (iii) ensure that national performance monitoring continually meets agreed CACILM-wide standards;
  - (iv) monitor performance of the multicountry projects and activities undertaken under CMPF;
  - (v) periodically report to the CACILM steering committee on CMPF implementation, and to GEF on GEF-supported elements of CMPF;
  - (vi) provide secretarial and logistical support to steering committee meetings and workshops; and
  - (vii) supervise specific activities that are the direct responsibility of the CACILM steering committee.
5. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will chair the CACILM steering committee and operate the CACILM secretariat.
6. National activities will be guided by national coordination councils supported by national secretariats. The councils will report to the CACILM steering committee. This organizational structure is illustrated in Figure A3.1.

Figure A3.1: CMPF Organizational Structure



7. **Activities of the CACILM Secretariat.** The secretariat will be responsible for overseeing (i) the coordination of the 10-year program at both national and multicountry levels and (ii) multicountry activities.

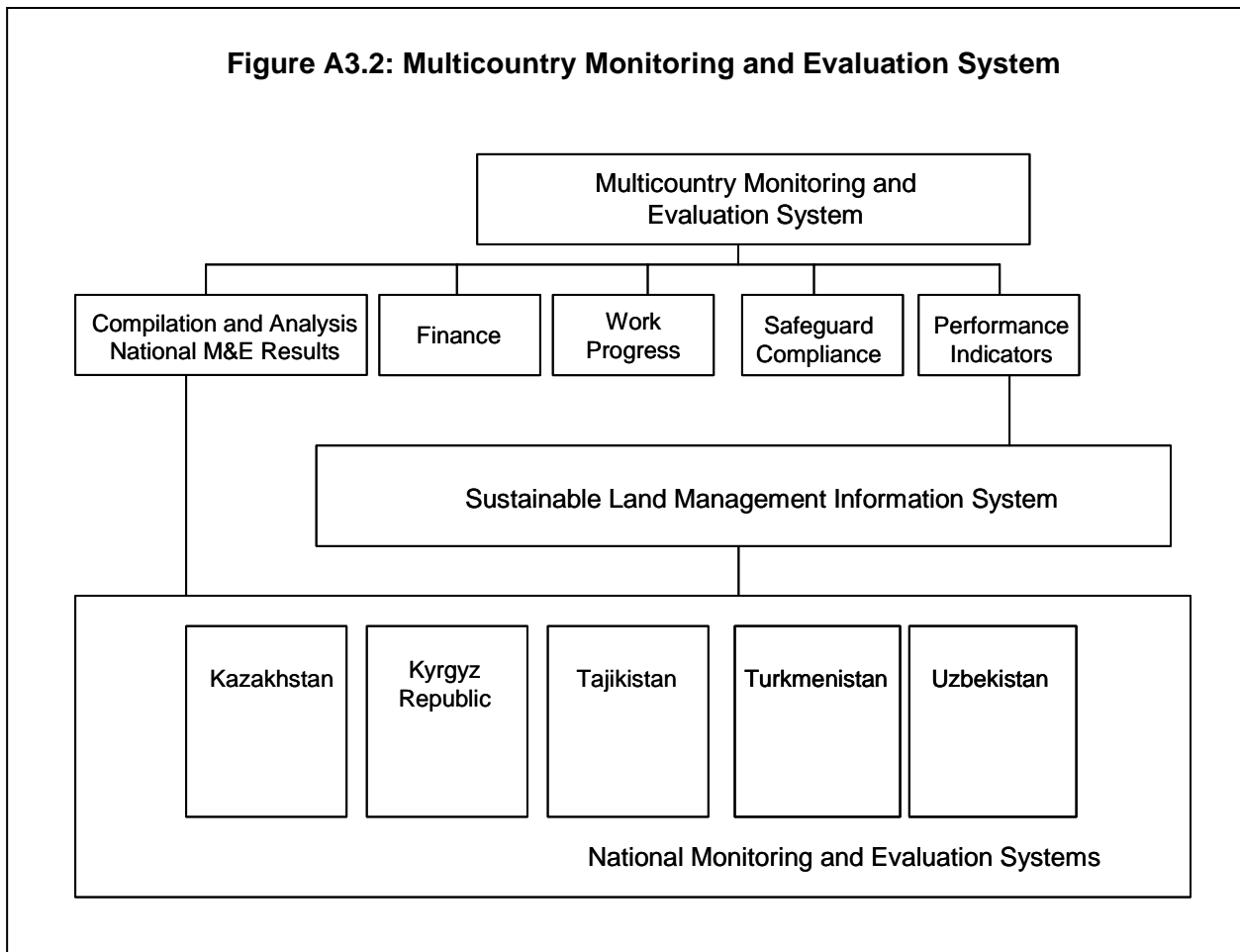
8. Program coordination provides connectivity between on-the-ground projects, national secretariats, and national coordination councils on the one hand, and the CACILM steering committee and development cooperation partners on the other. More directly, individual CACs may require assistance in planning and implementing national public participation plans.

9. During the period of technical assistance (TA), the CACILM secretariat will establish multicountry and national program coordination and management units with necessary capacity building in finance and administration, as well as design, develop, and operationalize project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems.

10. The multicountry M&E systems to be developed through this project are illustrated in Figure A3.2 and include

- (i) compiling and analyzing the results of national M&E;
- (ii) M&E of multicountry activities, consisting of
  - (a) monitoring programmed and disbursed amounts of donor SLM resources,
  - (b) monitoring physical progress, and
  - (c) gauging compliance of multicountry activities with the environmental and social safeguards of financing partners;
- (iii) monitoring performance indicators under the program logical framework, supported by the sustainable land management information system (SLMIS). This component will also monitor the quality of the multicountry coordination process, including
  - (a) the completeness of accounting for all donor-implemented SLM activities in the region and

- (b) the quality of the shared understanding about the technical content of proposed SLM interventions.



11. The multicountry activities under the CACILM secretariat that are included in TA are the
- (i) SLMIS, for which it will
    - (a) design, develop, and operationalize the system for evaluating changes in land degradation status and
    - (b) establish the land degradation baseline, using specific land degradation indicators;
  - (ii) sustainable land management research program, for which it will design and develop the sustainable land management research program and initiate research activities; and
  - (iii) knowledge management and information dissemination program, for which it will develop a knowledge management plan and initiate knowledge generation, capture, and dissemination.

12. **Relationship to CACILM Multicountry Capacity Building Project.** The CACILM secretariat will also be responsible for supervising capacity building during CMPF implementation. Capacity building was seen as a priority need by the CAC governments in national programming frameworks for CACILM. Consequently, it is considered a vital part of the multicountry activities of CMPF. For this reason, capacity building has been made the subject of the separate Multicountry Capacity Building Project proposal, mainly for in-country implementation. Some capacity building is

included in this proposal, however, for effective implementation of a national and multicountry information system. The team leader for the Multicountry Capacity Building Project will report to the head of the CACILM secretariat.

13. **Staffing Structure.** Program coordination and multicountry activities will require the following secretariat personnel:

- (i) head of the CACILM secretariat;
- (ii) deputy head of the CACILM secretariat;
- (iii) financial, accounting, and management specialist;
- (iv) project implementation specialist;
- (v) knowledge and information management specialist;
- (vi) team leader, sustainable land management information system;
- (vii) team leader, sustainable land management research; and
- (viii) advisor, knowledge management and information dissemination.

14. **Reporting Relationships.** The Head of the CACILM Secretariat will report directly to the ADB task manager, in his capacity as Chairperson of the CACILM Steering Committee. The Head of the CACILM Secretariat will also report directly to the ADB task manager with respect to administration of the technical assistance. All other staff will report directly to the Head of the CACILM Secretariat.

## OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

### A. Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) Secretariat

#### 1. Head, CACILM Secretariat (international, 28 person-months)

##### 1. The consultant will

- (i) develop, under the direction of the CACILM steering committee and with key people in the Central Asian countries (CACs) (e.g., the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification [UNCCD] focal points), the terms of reference and operational guidelines and procedures for the CACILM steering committee and CACILM secretariat;
- (ii) collaborate, under the direction of the CACILM steering committee, with key people in the CACs to establish national coordination councils and their national secretariats, and assist in drafting their terms of reference and operational guidelines and procedures;
- (iii) organize a multicountry meeting of all key stakeholders to reach agreement on the terms of reference for these entities and formalize their existence, and organize subsequent annual meetings to review the progress of the CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework (CMPF);
- (iv) supervise the design of, and operate, the consolidated project monitoring and evaluation system, which includes (a) financial administration, (b) progress reporting, (c) environmental and social safeguard systems, and (d) sustainable land management performance indicators;
- (v) organize training for, and provide advisory services and support to, the national secretariats;
- (vi) administer multicountry activities, including (a) the sustainable land management research program, (b) the land degradation and sustainable land management information system, (c) knowledge management and information dissemination, and (d) multicountry capacity-building projects;
- (vii) administer Global Environment Facility (GEF) submission and approval processes;
- (viii) report to GEF on GEF-cofinanced elements of CMPF implementation;
- (ix) provide logistic and other support for all CACILM steering committee meetings; and
- (x) oversee the development and maintenance of a website bilingual in Russian and English.

#### 2. Deputy Head, CACILM Secretariat (domestic, 28 person-months)

2. The deputy head will provide support to the head of the CACILM secretariat to ensure that the various functions are carried out effectively and efficiently. Specifically the deputy head will assist the head of the CACILM secretariat in

- (i) collaborating with key people in the CACs (e.g., the UNCCD focal points) and members of the Strategic Partnership Agreement for UNCCD Implementation in the Central Asian Countries to develop draft terms of reference and operational guidelines and procedures for the CACILM steering committee and CACILM secretariat;
- (ii) collaborating with key people in the CACs to establish national coordination councils and their national secretariats, and assisting in drafting their terms of reference and operational guidelines and procedures;

- (iii) organizing a multicountry meeting of all key stakeholders to reach agreement on the terms of reference for these entities and formalize their existence, and organizing subsequent annual meetings to review progress of the CMPF;
- (iv) supervising the design of, and operate, the consolidated project monitoring and evaluation system, which includes (a) financial administration, (b) progress reporting, (c) environmental and social safeguard systems, and (d) sustainable land management performance indicators;
- (v) organizing training for and providing advisory services and support to the national secretariats;
- (vi) administering multicountry activities, including (a) the sustainable land management research program, (b) the land degradation and sustainable land management information system, (c) knowledge management and information dissemination, and (d) multicountry capacity-building projects;
- (vii) administering GEF submission and approval processes;
- (viii) reporting to GEF on GEF-cofinanced elements of CMPF implementation; and
- (ix) providing logistic and other support for all CACILM steering committee meetings.

### **3. Financial Accounting and Management Specialist** (domestic, 28 person-months)

3. The tasks of the financial accounting and management specialist will be as follows:
- (i) assist the head of the secretariat and all team leaders in devising guidelines for setting up and making disbursements, issuing invoices, and settling claims;
  - (ii) identify accountants in national secretariats and train them to open and maintain project account ledgers;
  - (iii) follow up on timely disbursements to national secretariats organizations;
  - (iv) follow up on the monthly liquidation of advance and imprest account facilities used by national secretariats and ensure that partners in the CAC countries submit properly documented claims on time so that payments can be made on time and field activities implemented smoothly;
  - (v) oversee the administration and miscellaneous budget line for CACILM secretariat operations and for travel advances and liquidation by consultants and secretariat staff, and submit liquidation requests to the ADB head office to initiate the replenishment of the CACILM secretariat advance payment facility; and
  - (vi) provide timely financial reports to the head of secretariat and team leaders for submission to the CACILM steering committee.

### **4. Information and Knowledge Management Specialist** (domestic, 28 person-months)

4. The main tasks and responsibilities of this consultant will be as follows:
- (i) assess information requirements and flows, data formats, and the scope of data generation;
  - (ii) assess system requirements, data storage and retrieval systems, web hosting, web security, identification-authentication requirements, and system-management specifications and costs;
  - (iii) prepare a detailed assessment report showing the (a) options and costs of installing, operating, updating, and maintaining the knowledge management system; (b) compatibility of upgrades and interface with other systems; and (c) resources required to sustain the knowledge management system after it is handed over to CAC institutions;

- (iv) set up and test the knowledge management system for CACILM, and test system accessibility, download speeds, and security features in the CAC countries;
- (v) improve the knowledge management system on the bases of the results of the test, and get it into operation in stages, starting within 9 months of the first phase of the CACILM secretariat;
- (vi) submit semiannual reports on knowledge management operations and feedback from users, and improve and update the knowledge management system;
- (vii) maintain the knowledge management system and submit a report on future operations and recommendations with cost projections by the end of Phase 1 (2008);
- (viii) develop and maintain a website bilingual in Russian and English; and
- (ix) regularly upload knowledge management updates on the Web.

**5. Project Implementation Analyst (domestic, 28 person-months)**

5. The specific tasks of this consultant will be as follows:
- (i) monitor the implementation of projects and ensure the timely delivery of funds, information, and knowledge;
  - (ii) organize CACILM-related multicountry and national technical workshops, meetings, and training courses, in close collaboration with the international and national teams and the knowledge management specialist;
  - (iii) monitor the progress of activities and output of the individual projects; and
  - (iv) review and revise cost estimates and budgets for individual project activities.

**B. Advisor, Knowledge Management Program (international; 4 person-months)**

6. The advisor will
- (i) organize national workshops to discuss the knowledge management plan with key stakeholders in the CACs to determine the specific needs of each country and key institutions for collaboration;
  - (ii) design a knowledge management plan that will facilitate the integration, exchange, and accessibility of data and information among CACILM projects, partners, and stakeholders, taking into account the special needs of the CMPF and CACs;
  - (iii) design the infrastructure—software, user interfaces, databases, website, etc.—of knowledge generation, capture, sharing, dissemination, and storage;
  - (iv) establish technical support for a series of structured face-to-face and electronically mediated learning activities—or learning exchanges—among related projects within the CACILM projects portfolio; and
  - (v) produce and disseminate the first set of knowledge products, mainly lessons learned from the CACILM process.

**C. Sustainable Land Management Information System**

7. The consultant will lead a team and be responsible for the design, development, and deployment of an SLMIS for application (i) at the multicountry level as a tool to monitor progress in combating land degradation in each country and (ii) at the national level, which will include capturing, storing, and processing the raw data.

8. The SLMIS will include
- (i) systems for acquiring economic, social, and environmental data and information;
  - (ii) procedures, protocols, and guidelines for acquiring data, including all necessary survey instruments, sampling methods, analytical methods, and reporting formats;

- (iii) computer databases and analytical programs, including geographic information systems, for storing and analyzing data and information;
  - (iv) computer-based systems, including geographic information systems, for presenting results and generating reports on the results of the project monitoring; and
  - (v) systems to manage monitoring field teams as they collect and report on all necessary economic, social, and environmental data and information.
9. The specific responsibilities of the consultant are to
- (i) identify, in collaboration with the national coordination council, a lead institution in each country to host the system (SLMIS administrative agency) and a national SLMIS coordinator in that institution to form and lead a multi-agency technical task force to work on designing, testing, and deploying the national SLMIS;
  - (ii) organize national meetings of stakeholders (national and local authorities, institutes, academe, and other interested sections of society) to develop the technical task force membership;
  - (iii) organize a multicountry workshop to bring together the national SLMIS technical task forces to discuss approaches and develop a project outline and work plan proposal for adaptation in the respective countries;
  - (iv) collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on capacity building in the CACs for implementing land degradation assessment in drylands (LADA) technology, which will be the basis of the national SLMIS;
  - (v) design, develop, test, and debug of the multicountry SLMIS;
  - (vi) arrange data-sharing protocols and specify the roles and responsibilities of database managers;
  - (vii) organize the initial deployment of the multicountry SLMIS; and
  - (viii) produce annual reports on key land degradation indicators at the multicountry level for the CACILM steering committee and at the global level for the LADA project.

#### **D. Sustainable Land Management Research Program**

10. The consultant will lead a team to develop and implement a research program that will fill knowledge gaps in the areas above and so (i) improve understanding of the policy and institutional failures that drive land degradation and (ii) help design innovative SLM practices and technologies.

11. The research program will be designed and developed at the multicountry level and based in an international research organization. However, most of the research activities will occur at the national level, with provision made for information flow between the national and multicountry levels. The consultant will collaborate in the design of projects with national coordination councils, the CACILM secretariat, and international organizations and agencies active in the area. The responsibilities of the consultant are to

- (i) organize a national workshop with key stakeholders in each of the CACs to discuss and validate their major land degradation problems as identified in the national programming frameworks;
- (ii) formulate, in close collaboration with the national coordination councils and identified institutions in the CACs, an integrative national land-degradation research prospectus for the 10-year CACILM period;
- (iii) administer multidisciplinary and participatory research projects on degraded and threatened lands and their production functions, ecosystem functions, and effects on human well-being, involving land users and local organizations in the research; and
- (iv) report the research results through publications and annual meetings.