

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Supporting SLM in steppe zone**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5358 |
| GEF ID | 5699 |
| Title | Supporting sustainable land management in steppe zone through integrated territorial planning and agro-environmental incentives |
| Country(ies) | Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Medium Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| This 5 year project is designed to transform land use practices in critical, productive, steppe, arid and semi-arid landscapes of Kazakhstan, which constitute the vast majority of its territory, thus ensuring ecological integrity, food security and sustainable livelihoods. Building upon the past experience of GEF funded projectsÂ efforts, the project will create a more conducive policy and legal framework for establishment of agro-environmental incentives for sustainable and better integrated pasture and land use planning and management, and build national and local capacity for practical implementation of such planning in the field. Existing best practices and approaches will be replicated at a wider scale within selected representative oblasts namely Â Akmola, Kostanai, North and East Kazakhstan Oblasts (i.e., the northern steppe zone: forest steppe, meadow steppe and dry steppe ecosystems), and Almaty and Kzyl Orda Oblasts (i.e., the southern arid zone: desert and steppe semi-desert ecosystems) of the country. |

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| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

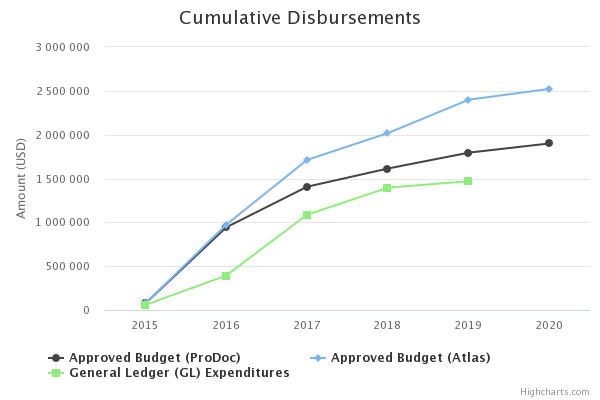
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **to transform land use practices in steppe and semi-arid zones of Kazakhstan to ensure ecological integrity, food security and sustainable livelihoods** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Area of productive landscapes (pasturelands, crop and fodder production lands) in steppe and semi-arid zones under ILUPs that include a focus on maintaining ecosystem services of agricultural landscapes through SLM practices | Zero | *(not set or not applicable)* | 750,000 hectares by project end (the indirect area of influence of the project is the entire agricultural landscape of the country – pasture and other agricultural lands – which totals 222.6 million ha) | 341,040 hectares of productive landscapes under ILUPs in targets ecosystems as direct project impact areas.  The following additional hectares in target regions were covered by the project within the FY 2018 under ILUPs.  1,420 ha – after reconstruction of two water reservoirs.  31,120 ha –Out of 39,400 ha of the land cultivated last year, the project has planted 4,930 ha for seed production and the remaining land (34,470 ha) was used for fodder crops (39400ha-4930ha =34470ha). Out of 4,930 ha of seed lands, the project has gained 101 kg of seeds per hectare, 4,930 x 101kg = 497,930 kg of seeds. Total 497,930 kg of seeds were re-cultivated in the area of 31,120 ha with a planting norm of 16 kg/ha. (497,930kg/16kg=31,120 ha).    The project has implemented the following demonstration activities in the reporting period to achieve its overall target indicators:  - 17,300 ha in Almaty region: the project has reconstructed 2 main water catchments with 5 km of irrigation canal to deliver irrigation water. In 2018, thanks to availability of irrigation water the project in partnership with 18 local farmers was able to re-cultivate 17,300 ha of abandoned lands.  - 24,700 ha in Kyzylorda region: resulting from the rice diversification activities and rehabilitation of drainage water collectors, the project in partnership with the Rice Research Institute and 31 local farmers has improved the ameliorative condition of 24,700 ha of lands where other crops such as Sudan grass, legumes and maize were cultivated as a cash crops.  32, 300 ha in Kostanay region: the project has extended the area of organic soy and maize using the nutritious organic stimulators in cooperation with Farmer’s union and Kostanay Organic farming community.  In total, this reporting period, the project recultivated 106,840 ha of lands. Cumulatively since the start of the project, it has been able to rehabilitate 341,040 ha of abandoned agricultural lands including both pastures and crop production lands. | 701,380 hectares of productive landscapes under ILUPs through development of effective cropping technology maps, long term pasture grazing plans, rice crop diversification cards in targets ecosystems as direct project impact areas.    Additional 360,340 ha in target regions were covered under ILUPs and were returned back to the cultivation of agricultural cropping systems by the project within the FY 2019.    The project has implemented the following demonstration activities in the reporting period to achieve its overall target indicators:    1. 98,918 ha in East-Kazakhstan Region: In the reporting period the project planted pasture seeds on 11,900 ha for seed multiplication in Ayagoz region, the project’s pilot site. In the fall of 2018, the project gained 1,392 MT of seeds with average productivity of 117kg/ha (11,900ha x 117kg=1 392 300 mt). With available seeds, the project re-seeded 87,018ha of abandoned pasture lands thus improving productivity and grazing capacity of distant pastures. The cumulative ha coverage of improved pasture lands in Ayagoz district of East Kazakhstan region constitute 98,918 ha (11,900ha+87,018ha)    The project has also improved the productivity of the seed yield per hectare in 2018 compared to the yield gained per hectare in 2017. For instance, in 2017 the pasture yield was 101 kg/ha and in 2018 the project was able to gain 117kg/ha which is 16kg of seeds pe hectare in 2018.    2. 21,890 ha in Almaty region: the project has reconstructed two major water supply canals to bring a water and return wastelands to cultivation. During the reporting period due to availability of irrigation water the project in partnership with 31 local farmers was able to re-cultivate 21,890 ha of abandoned lands.    3. 52,190 ha in total were directly covered by the project activity in Kyzylorda region:    The project has re-cultivated promising varieties of the rice crop through demonstration of best water harvesting technologies in the area of 42,890 ha. In total 19 local farmers benefited from setting up the demonstration plots.    In Kyzylorda, the project also planted Sudan grass, legumes and maize in the area of 9,300 ha as a cash crops to showcase diversification of rice crops.    4. 187,342 ha in Kostanay region: the project has expanded the area under organic wheat, barley, maize and oil crops.    Also, pasture seeds (from the East-Kazakhstan region) were cultivated in Kostanay region on 7,700ha with productivity rate of 121 kg of seeds per ha. The project then re-planted the harvested pasture seeds on 66,550 ha resulting in cumulative enhancement of distant (remote) pasture productivity in the area of 74,250 ha.    In total, this reporting period, the project re-cultivated 360,340 ha of lands. Cumulatively since the start of the project, it has been able to rehabilitate 701,380 hectares of abandoned agricultural lands including both pastures and crop production lands. |
| Improvement in % of soil humus content in area where ILUPs are in place | [Revised baseline as per MTR]  1.5-1.7%    [Original baseline]  2% on average | *(not set or not applicable)* | [Revised indicator as per MTR]  2.8 - 3.1% on average    [Original indicator]  8 to 10% on average | As per the soil micro and macro minerals diagnostic analyses the following improvements in % of soil humus content in area where ILUPs are in place were documented.  --Akmola region: Before - 3.5-3.9%, After – 3.8-4.1%  --North Kazakhstan region: Before – 3.3-3.7%, After – 3.7-3.9%  --Almaty region: Before – 2.2-2.3 %, After 2.7-2.9%  --Kyzylorda region: Before - 2.1-2.3%, After – 2.7-3.5%.  --Kostanay region: Before – 2.8-3.1% After – 3.8-4.1%  --East Kazakhstan region: Before – 1.8-2.2, After - 2.7-3.2%  Based on the present soil humus content shown above it can be said that the present soil humus content improved by 3.5 % for all target areas. According to the agronomic practices, upon re-cultivation of abandoned lands, the humus content of the soil will start getting a gradual shift in its humus content only after the 3nd year of its cultivation.  So, the project is expected to reach its EoP indicator in the fall 2019. | Results of soil nutritional and humus analyses have provided the same percentage rate of the humus content in the project sites with slight increase in Kyzylorda and East Kazakhstan region.    --Akmola region: Before - 3.5-3.9%, After – 3.8-4.1%  --North Kazakhstan region: Before – 3.3-3.7%, After – 3.7-3.9%  --Almaty region: Before – 2.2-2.3 %, After 2.7-2.9%  --Kyzylorda region: Before - 2.7-3.5%, After – 2.9-3.8%.  --Kostanay region: Before – 2.8-3.1% After – 3.8-4.1%  --East Kazakhstan region: Before – 2.7-3.2%, After – 3.0 - 3.3%    Cumulatively, it can be seen that the humus content across the project target sites increased quickly during the first three years of the project and has slowed down during the last reporting period which is physiologically is normal for the soil and ecological conditions of Kazakhstan.  So, the project has fully achieved its EoP indicator already. |
| Improvement in livestock productivity (as measured by weight gain) in area where ILUPs are in place | Average live weight in degraded pastures/ rangelands is 320 kg | *(not set or not applicable)* | [Revised target as per MTR]  4-5% weight gain over baseline    [Original target]  20% weight gain over baseline | 3.8% (332.1kg) weight gain vs the baseline of 320 kg in average. The pure gain weight is 12.1kg of live weight of cattle.  It has to be mentioned that out of 77 pilot cattle and 49 small ruminants, the project received different live weight increases.  The live weight reduction was observed in 9 piloted cattle and 14 small ruminants.  On average, the project has received an increase of 3.8% or 12.1 kg of live weight compared to baseline live weight.  The project analyzed the reasons behind the registered reduction in live weight at some pilot sites.  These reasons include sickness, unavailability of sufficient fodder crops during winter and early spring and deteriorated cattle trails to transfer the cattle from one grazing zone to other.  To support the targeted shepherds and the local fodder growers, the project has dedicated a specialized chapter in the ILUP with examples of pasture management rotation maps and technologies for grazing.  In partnership with the Almaty Research Institute of Pasture and Livestock Breeding, the project has established a library with online e-library in Kyzylorda and Almaty that contains more than 3,600 different printings and publications on step sustainable management and rehabilitation and can be easily accessed by targeted communities. | 5.1% (336.32kg) weight gain vs the baseline of 320 kg on average. The pure gain weight is 16.3kg of live weight of cattle.  It has to be mentioned that out of 69 pilot cattle and 29 small ruminants, the project received different live weight increases.  On average, the project has received an increase of 5.1% or 16.3 kg of live weight compared to baseline live weight.    In partnership with the Almaty Research Institute of Pasture and Livestock Breeding, the project has conducted 9 thematic trainings on the following subjects.  1. Organic farming,  2. Crop diversification and small-scale rotation system;  3. Pastoral livestock management system; reseeding and rehabilitation of degraded pastures;  4. Weight growing in livestock breeding system;  5. Rain-fed area management;  6. Water conservation and management;  7. Green technological conveyers in pasture resource management; integrated pest and disease management;  8. Farm business management;  9. Agricultural seed multiplication, storage and processing.  Overall 7131 farmers have benefited in all 6 target regions of the project. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Investment in integrated territorial planning and start-up of agro-environmental incentives** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Indicators of on-the-ground improvements in crop and fodder productivity, soil fertility, salt content, crop rotation, efficiency in water use, etc. (indicators vary by pilot site) | [see 9 following rows] | *(not set or not applicable)* | [see 9 following rows] | In FY 2018, the project has established the last water catchment to additionally deliver an irrigation water to 1,420 ha of abandoned lands.  As such, the project has finally established all 8 demonstration plots within the frameworks and targets set in the project documents.  The project document envisaged 9 pilot sites for demonstration of on-the-ground improvements. Eight demo project are already under implementation showing good progress. An attempt was made to select the 9th site but no agreement was reached with potential project proponents. When considering the time remaining for implementation of the remaining demo project, i.e. a maximum of 2 farming seasons, and the good results already achieved by ongoing 8 demonstration projects, the Project Board decided to assess whether the available resources would be better allocated for scale-up of project success stories in respective Oblasts and nation-wide rather than trying to implement another demonstration project. Thus, in agreement with the akimat of Kostanay region, the project has redirected resources set aside for the pitot 9 to expanding and upscaling the extension services.  In total, the project has re-cultivated 106,840 ha of lands in 2018.  Cumulatively since the start of the project, it has been able to rehabilitate 341,040 ha of abandoned pastures and crop production lands. | The project successfully implemented 9 demonstration plots with cumulative coverage of 701,380 (additional 360,340 ha this reporting period) hectares of productive landscapes under ILUPs in targets ecosystems as direct project impact areas.    Detailed progress of each pilot is provided below:  1. In Almaty regions, (2 sites totaling 14,978 ha).  a. Sustainable management of degraded irrigated lands in the semi-desert zone in the Balkhash district of Almaty Oblast. Implemented the results are being collected.  b. Restoration of abandoned irrigated lands by securing water supply through rehabilitation of an irrigation network and establishment of water collectors. Implemented the results are being collected.    2. Akmola Oblast (2 sites totaling 28,725 ha).  a. Sustainable landscape management by sowing perennial grasses and substituting wheat as monoculture with barley. Completed.  b. Restoration and transfer of wastelands to arable lands by planting forage grasses, creation of meadows and fundamental improvement of pastures. Results are being collected and analyzed.    3. East Kazakhstan Oblast (1 site totaling 17,300 ha).  a. Sustainable pastureland management in the semi-desert zone of Ayagoz district through mobile livestock breeding and conservation of agricultural landscapes. Results are being collected and analyzed.    4. Kostanai Oblast (2 sites totaling 62,200 ha).  a. Development of integrated land use planning and management for agricultural lands in the dry steppe zone. Results are being collected and analyzed.  b. Sustainable management of agricultural landscapes by expanding organic agriculture in the Kostanai Oblast. Results are being collected and analyzed.    5. Kzyl Orda Oblast (1 site totaling 1,300 ha).  Combating degradation of irrigated arable lands under rice production systems through introduction of soil and water saving technologies in Kzyl Orda oblast. Results are being collected and analyzed.    6. North Kazakhstan Oblast (1 site totaling 21,000 ha).  Conservation and improvement of soil fertility and expansion of forage supply through cultivation of grain legume and forage crops in the steppe zone. Results are being collected and analyzed. |
| - Pilot 1 | Consumption of irrigation water 29,000 m3/ha    Rice yield 46-52 hwt/ha    Lucerne share in crop rotation 29%    Salt content in inundated rice paddies 1.0 %    % of soil humus in monoculture fields 0.7%    Crop products output 45-60 hwt/ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | Consumption of irrigation water 24,000 m3/ha  Rice yield 56-62 hwt/ha  Lucerne share in crop rotation 35%  Salt content in inundated rice paddies 0.3 %  % of soil humus in monoculture fields 1.2 %  Crop products output 80 hwt/ha | Consumption of irrigation water: 17,110 m3/ha  The figure is lower for 1190 hwt per ha which means the project is demonstraing good results and per the expectation of the experts the figure can be even lower by the 3rd or fourth years as a result of full aged growth of the plants.  Rice yield: 50-52 hwt/ha  A rice yield was increased due to the two main factors, 1) improved land reclamation and drainage and 2) improved agro-technology, the impulse irrigation system in particular.  Lucerne share in crop rotation: 38%  The farmers are seeing good results from the use of crop rotation system and introduction of such crops as Sainfoin (lat.Onobrýchis) that resulted in higher land productivity of fodder and forage crops.  Salt content in inundated rice paddies: 0.5 %  As per the laboratory and diagnostic analyses the salt content was different in different lands. But thanks to improved drainage system and cultivation of salt resistant crops at pilot sites, the project observed improved productivity of salinized soils.  Soil fertility (% of soil humus in monoculture fields): 0.8-0.9 %  The soil humus content remains exactly the same percentage and no physical soil humus content changes were observed. According to experts, it may get changed every four or five years considering the impact of different factors such as climate, coil microbiological activity, crops cultivated, precipitation, snow, etc.  Crop products output: 70-71 hwt/ha  The crop productivity has largely improved in the area where the IULP and the pilot sites were established. The agro technical effect and resilient adaptation technologies were used to enhance the soil productiveness.  The following adaptation technologies were introduced.  - No tillage  - Minimum or complex tillage  - Integrated pest and disease management  - Laser leveling and drip irrigation.  - Accurate climate information to farmers on planting and harvesting period. | 1. The micro project is being implanted in the Balkhash district of Almaty region.  Consumption of irrigation water: 15,321 m3/ha: 24,000 m3/ha (at project start) -8,679 m3/ha (registered decrease after pilot implementation).    The consumption rate of irrigation water at pilot site has been decreasing since the start of the project in 2015 as a result of improved drainage wells and canals. The project already exceeded its EOP for consumption of irrigation water.    2. Registered rice yield in 2018: 55-61 hwt/ha, which is within the envisaged EOP range of 56-62 hwt/ha.    3. Lucerne share in crop rotation: 40% The project exceeded its EOP for Lucerne share.  More farmers in the pilot area are getting to know that crop diversification and the use of legume crops favorably impact the health status of farm lands and started switching to legume crops and apply diversification without any fear or doubt.    4. Salt content in inundated rice paddies: 0.3 %. Target achieved.    The project has set up several small-scale water collectors where the salty water is being temporarily kept allowing minerals to settle out and then let the treated water for irrigation. The use of water collectors for treatment resulted in further reduction of salt content in the irrigation water.    5. Soil fertility (% of soil humus in monoculture fields): 1-1.1 %  The soil humus content gradually increases due to the use of best technologies such as no tillage, minimum tillage, laser leveling and impulse technology to avoid soil compaction and keeping the right approach in the farm business management.    6. Crop products output: 69-71 hwt/ha. On target to achieve EOP.    The adaptation technologies that were introduced by the project last year are being implemented in the pilot site contributing to good output of crop products.    These include no, minimum or complex tillage; integrated pest and disease management; laser leveling and drip irrigation; accurate climate forecast information for planting and harvesting. |
| - Pilot 2 | Area of irrigated arable land 3,558 ha    Area of restored wastelands 0 ha    Number of water collectors 0    Volume of water collected 0 m3    Restored irrigation network 0 km | *(not set or not applicable)* | Area of irrigated arable land 4,978 ha  Area of restored wastelands 1,420 ha  Number of water collectors 3  Volume of water collected 1.5 mln. m3  Restored irrigation network 5 km | Area of irrigated arable land: 4,978 ha    Area of restored wastelands: 1,421 ha    Water collectors: 3    Water collected: 1.5 mln. m3    Restored irrigation network: 5 km    The milestone has been reached through reconstruction of two water catchments in Almaty in close partnership with the Committee on Water Resources and association of farmers in Almaty region.    The first water collector is now able to store about 1.5 mln m3 of water to irrigate 1,629 ha, meaning that about 1,059 ha of abandoned lands are being irrigated. Presently more than 277 farmers benefit from the access to a constant supply of irrigation water even during summer peaks when water supply is limited.    The second collector is now able to store about 700 mln m3 of water to irrigate 410 ha, meaning that about 361 ha of previously abandoned lands are being irrigated. Presently more than 51 farmers benefit from the access to regular irrigation water supply even during summer peaks when water availability is limited.    In total, the project has rehabilitated 1,420 ha of previously abandoned lands. | 1. A small project is being implemented in the Baikonur micro district of Almaty region.  Area of irrigated arable land: 6,110 ha. Already exceeded the envisaged EOP target of 4,978 ha.    Additional 1,132 ha of wastelands were added to the area of irrigated arable land this reporting period using water conservation and saving agro-technologies at the pilot site.    2. Area of restored wastelands: 2,553 ha    3. Water collectors: 3 for storing irrigation water. Target achieved.    4. Water collected: 1.5 mln. m3  All three water catchments have been fully rehabilitated with total storage capacity of 1.5 mln m3 of irrigation water. The rehabilitated water catchments play an important role for flood prevention and provide opportunities for additional economic activities for women and the youth through fishing and ecological tourism. All three catchments were approbated with comprehensive water counters for regulation of inflow and outflow and monitoring of water flows.      5. Restored irrigation network: 9 km cumulatively. Exceeded the envisaged target of 5 km    This reporting period local farmers rehabilitated 4 km of canals with their own resources to bring water to additional 1,132 ha of previously abandoned lands.    Presently more than 519 farmers benefit from the access to a constant supply of irrigation water even during summer peaks when water supply is limited.    The water distribution gates at the rehabilitated water catchments were hidden under the water to prevent t vandalism. |
| - Pilot 3 | Area under forage crops 0 ha    Green fallow land area 0 ha    Humus content of arable land    Wheat yield growth 8-10 hwt/ha    Amount of hay stocked 500 tons    Agricultural areas managed sustainably 0 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | Area under forage crops 700 ha  Green fallow land area 360 ha  Humus content of arable land incr. by 2%  Wheat yield growth 12-15 hwt/ ha  Amount of hay stocked 1,200 tons  Agricultural areas managed sustainably 18,725 ha | Area under forage crops: 911 ha  Green fallow land area: 357 ha  Humus content of arable land: 1.1. %  Wheat yield growth: 20-25 hwt/ha  Amount of hay stocked: 1700 tons  Agricultural land areas managed in a sustainable manner: 39,330 ha  Soil humus content is still less than the envisaged EoP target in the hay field. But considering the physiology and the agronomic peculiarities of the legumes crops in abandoned lands, the experts noted that in the third and fourth years of cultivation, the productivity of pasture crops, especially wild crops such as rye grass.    Wheat crop productivity was good in 2017-2018 because of higher precipitation and snow retention activities applied by the project. | 1. The pilot plot is located in Akmola region, Stepnogorsk town, Karabulak village.  Here, the project has enhanced the soil productivity under abandoned remote pasture areas with twofold purposes to improve the pasture plants volume through reseeding with cultural and wild relatives of the natural pasture plants as well as improve the soil humus through increasing the density of the plants. The project has also ensured the principles of the carbon sequestration through LDN.    Area under forage crops: 1,029 ha. Exceeded the envisaged EOP target of 700 ha.    2. Green fallow land area: 378 ha. Slightly exceeded the EOP target.    3. Humus content of arable land: 2.1%.  The humus content doubled since last year due to fact that the density of the pasture plants in the target plots were high through reseeding and enhanced the potential of the carbon sequestration which contributed the increase of humus in the soil. Meantime, the project has applied innovative cropping technology as the mixed crops of cereals and legumes planted together and this way, it enhances the forage productivity and extends the potential of the plant’s root system.    4. Wheat yield growth: 22-26 hwt/ha. Exceeded EOP target.    Good productivity of wheat crop was observed in 2018-2019 because of higher precipitation and snow retention techniques applied by the project at the pilot site.    5. Amount of hay stocked: 1,741 tons. Exceeded EOP target.    6. Agricultural land areas managed in a sustainable manner: 82,043 ha. The project has conducted a campaign for reseeding of those remote pastures using the mixed cropping system of cereals and legume crops which has compared to the traditional methods has a double effect on productivity of land resources. Meantime, the project has explicitly used the wild varieties of pasture seeds which are naturally tolerant or well adapted to the regional soil and climate condition which has high generative capacity to sustainably manage the land resources. The project has also developed a place specific pasture management and rotation plans which was well kept and launched geoportal on pastures enhanced the farm business processed at the decision-making level. |
| - Pilot 4 | Area under monoculture 3,100 ha    Restored area of degraded arable land 0 ha    Meadows created in sown pastures 0 ha    Forage crop areas 0 ha    Increased humus content in soil -    Forage crop yield 8 hwt/ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | Area under monoculture 3,100 ha  Restored area of degraded arable land 160 ha  Meadows created in sown pastures 200 ha  Forage crop areas 360 ha  Increased humus content in soil by 8 %  Forage crop yield 20 hwt/ha | Area under monoculture: 1,121 ha  Wheat and rice monocultures still dominate in the pilot areas. It takes time to change the conventional crop practice and perception of wheat and rice producing farmers. But those farmers who already switched to oil crops from rice, for example, noted that though oil crops were less productive and the yield was lower, a higher price and demand in the market compensated all those initial loses of farmers.  Restored area of degraded arable land: 201 ha  Increase compared with 2017 is 80 ha.  It has to be mentioned that the rehabilitation of the abandoned lands required higher financial investments in the first two years resulting in lesser productivity but with the use of the right agro-technology during the third year, it will start giving a higher productivity and profit.    Meadows created in sown pastures: 179 ha  The project gradually increases the area under meadows considering availability of pasture seeds and readiness of a farmer to take care of the maintenance.  Forage crop areas: 253 ha  The project cannot significantly extent the area under forage crops, due to fact that it uses the wild pasture seeds as these are more resistant and tolerant to different climate extremes.  Increased humus content in soil: 3.7 %.  Increase of soil humus content remains at the same level. No changes have been observed due to fact that the soil humus cannot fluctuate on an yearly basis.  Forage crop yield: 12 hwt/ha  In the plots where the legumes were cultivated, the project has received a higher productivity, around 12 hwt/ha. But in the areas where wild pasture seeds were planted the project observed lower productivity, around 8-9 hwt/ha. | 1. The pilot is being implemented in Akmola Oblast, Akkol district, Azat village.  Area under monoculture: 1,091 ha.  The project still faces some difficulties in changing the perception of some farmers in the pilot area in regard to switching to other crops as a more favorable option. Slowly but gradually the change in cropping patterns occur with the project showcasing the advanced agro-technologies and economic benefits associated with these technologies.    2. Restored area of degraded arable land: 367 ha. The project exceeded EOP target of 160 ha.    On top of restoration works, the project managed to reduce costs of production at previously abandoned lands with the help of best agro-technologies such as deep plough at 75 cm using special equipment for the first year and the rest year proceed with no tillage, water saving technologies such as drip irrigation, sprinkler and impulse technologies. The project has also used mulching and snow retention technologies.    If on average the cost of production for annual crops per 1 ha was 201 USD in 2017, already in 2018-2019, the project reduced the costs per ha to 178 USD (by 23 USD lower).    3. Meadows created in sown pastures: 211 ha. Target achieved.  The project gradually increases the area under meadows considering availability of pasture seeds and readiness of a farmer to maintain the area at his own costs.    4. Forage crop areas: 360 ha  Pasture productivity has been enhanced through application of mixed cropping system of cereals with legumes and re-seeding with wild verities of pasture plants.    5. Increased humus content in soil: 4.1 %.  The project has used green manure and has ploughed the green plants inside the soil and has increased the organic composition in the soil, this way the humus content of the soil was significantly increased.      6. Forage crop yield: 16 hwt/ha  The project has planted the seeds of ryegrass and sainfoin which are more productive and have a higher potential for crop reproduction. |
| - Pilot 5 | Area of distant pastures that are in use 0 ha    Pasture productivity 2 hwt/ ha    Area of restored hayfields 0 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | Area of distant pastures that are in use 17,300 ha  Pasture productivity 8 hwt/ ha  Area of restored hayfields 900 ha | Area of used distant pastures: 37,900 ha  The area of additional improved distant pasture in this reporting period is 19,100 ha.  The project has doubled its area of impact due to availability of the pasture seeds produced by the two seed farms established by the project.  Pasture productivity: 7.3 hwt/ ha on average  In the plots where the legumes were cultivated, the project has received a higher productivity, around 12 hwt/ha. But in the aress where wild pasture seeds were planted, the project observed lower productivity, around 8-9 hwt/ha.  Area of restored hayfields: 3,000 ha  The area of hay field has also increased to 2,100 ha owing to availability of legume seeds. | 1. The project is being implemented in East Kazakhstan Oblast, Ayagoz district, Malgeldin rural okrug, Kosagash rural okrug, Saryarkin rural okrug    Area of used distant pastures: 57,500 ha. Additional 19,600 ha of distant pastures were improved this reporting period. Envisaged EOP target of 17,300 ha has been exceeded by the project.    2. Pasture productivity: 11.7 hwt/ ha on average. In the plots where legumes were cultivated, a higher pasture productivity, around 16 hwt/ha, was observed. Compared to the last year the productivity per ha increased by 4 hwt/ha. Exceeded the envisaged EOP target of 8 hwt/ ha.    3. Area of restored hayfields: 7,700 ha. 4,700 ha of additional hayfields were restored this reporting period owing to availability of legume seeds. Exceeded the envisaged EOP target of 900 ha. |
| - Pilot 6 | Area under monoculture 15,979 ha    Area under forage crops 7,906 ha    Area under green fallow 0 ha    Increased humus content in soil 2%    Wheat yield 8.9 hwt/ ha    Ameliorated pasture, hayfields 0 ha    Pastures under seasonal rotation 0 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | Area under monoculture 11,979 ha  Area under forage crops 11,906 ha  Area under green fallow 4,000 ha  Increased humus content in soil Incr. by 10%  Wheat yield 12 hwt/ ha  Ameliorated pasture, hayfields 2,000 ha  Pastures under seasonal rotation 10,000 ha | The project undertook persistent efforts to select and launch a pilot on crop rotation and moving away from wheat monoculture, but no agreement was reached. As reported in the 2107 PIR, a potential pilot project partner finally decided not to engage in implementation of this pilot project.  When considering the time remained for implementing this pilot project for maximum 2 farming seasons, and having already attained good results from implementation of other eight (8) demonstration projectssites, the Project Board discussed this reporting period whether the efficiency of available resources from the ninth pilot could rather be maximized from scaling-up project results in target Oblasts and nation-wide. Thus, in agreement with the akimat of Kostanay Oblast, the project redirected these resources to strengthening the extension services for wider replication and up-scaling of pilots to be followed by trainings, workshops and other learning events. | Last year both the PB and the MTR has recommended to re-divert financial resources allocated to this pilot plot to strengthening the extension services in the Kostanai region. In 2018, the project managed to mobilize additional funds from IsDB and the Coca-Cola company, for covering the costs of expanding and improving extension services in the area.    Thus, the decision has been made to go ahead with the 9th demo plot following a request and recommendation of the akimat of the Kostanai oblast.    The project is in progress to deliver the 9th demo plot in Zarechnoe village in Kostanay region. The project has already covered the area of 100,000 ha to demonstrate oil crops to reduce the wheat monoculture, cultivate wheat crops using the no tillage technology. |
| - Pilot 7 | Area under green fallow 0 ha    Area of re-seeded pastures 0 ha    Humus content of arable land Tbd at start    Increase in wheat yield 10 hwt/ha    Increase in hay yield 8 hwt/ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | Area under green fallow 500 ha  Area of re-seeded pastures 100 ha  Humus content of arable land Incr. by 8%  Increase in wheat yield 12 hwt/ha;  Increase in hay yield 20 hwt/ha | Area under green fallow: 710 ha  This pilot activity includes organic farming and a minimized use of synthetic fertilizers. In cooperation with the Kostanay agricultural research institute the project cultivated alfalfa and sainfoin as a green manure at farmers’ lands to demonstrate how to increase the land productivity. Cultivation of legumes such as alfalfa and sainfoin instead of fallow proofed to be the most cost-effective option that enhances the land productivity. Farmers were explained that instead of keeping the land under black fallow and not using it for 2-3 years it would be better to cultivate green crops, which improves organic content of the soil and farmers may get additional hay as fodder.  Area of seeded pastures: 143 ha  The project has extended its area under seeded pastures to decrease the rate of weeds and extend the growth of the cultural wild pasture plants.  Humus content of arable land: 3.2%  Humus content remained at the same level with minor improvement of soil productivity owning to the quality of seeds and the use of best adaption technology (green manure).  Increase in crops yield: The oil crops increased from 12 to 17 hwt/ha on average.  Productivity of maize and the wheat increased to 2-5 hwt/ha. | 1. Area under green fallow: 849 ha  The project improved its previous year result by 139 ha and exceeded the EOP target for green fallow by 349 ha, which is a significant achievement.  The project has taken an approach to develop those abandoned pasture lands through green fallow to re plough the green plants for the first year and the next year re-seed wild varieties of the pasture seed, This way, the project will significantly enhance the soil and pasture productivity.    2. Area of re-seeded pastures: 74,250 ha. The project has enhanced the soil and pasture productivity at 100 ha as envisaged by the EOP target. Then, since 2015, with improved pasture seed productivity at 100 ha the project used highly productive pasture seeds to re-plant the additional pasture area of 74,250 ha.    3. Humus content of arable land: 3.2-3.4%. Humus content slightly increased but still below the envisaged target of 8%. The specific site that the project has selected and re-planted the pasture seeds were classified as highly eroded and degraded lands which agronomically not possible to increase the humus content in the sooner timeframe, but upon the expertise and consultation with the project experts, the EOP of 8% is still possible to attain by project closure. The project monitors implementation of this pilot closely.    4. Increase in wheat yield - 16 hwt/ha. Exceeded the EOP target of 12 hwt/ha.    5. Increase in hay yield - 24 hwt/ha. Exceeded the EOP target of 20 hwt/ha.    Productivity of maize remains at the same level 2-5 hwt/ha.  The yield of oil crops reduced: 13-15 hwt/ha. It was reasoned due to shortage of precipitation and the farmers were late with planting period. |
| - Pilot 8 | Restored area of degraded arable land 0 ha    Areas under lucerne and other forage crops 300 ha    Increased humus content in soil Tbd at start    Rice yield 40 hwt/ha    Installed equipment for water delivery to inundated rice fields and its accounting 0 units    Installed equipment for water discharge from inundated rice fields and its accounting 0 units    Consumption of irrigated water 29,500 m3/ ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | Restored area of degraded arable land 200 ha  Areas under lucerne and other forage crops 500 ha  Increased humus content in soil by 10 %  Rice yield 45 hwt/ha  Installed equipment for water delivery to inundated rice fields and its accounting 200 units  Installed equipment for water discharge from inundated rice fields and its accounting 200 units  Consumption of irrigated water 23,000 m3/ ha | Restored area of degraded arable land: 316 ha  The rehabilitated area in 2018 is 69 ha.  The project rehabilitated the degraded arable lands under rice by cultivating mainly sudan grass and legume crops.  Areas under Lucerne (Lat. Medicágo) and other forage crops: 587 ha  in 2018, the land area under Lucerne and forage crops increased by 76 ha.  The area under Lucerne and legume crops for forage production was formerly used for cultivation of rice. Due to its deterioration and salinization, the land was abandoned and not used for agricultural purposes. By 2018, the project already restored 587 ha of the abandoned land.  Increased humus content in soil: 3.8 %  The soil humus condition increased to 4,1 percent owing to legume crops and application of the free manure technology. It has to be said that Kyzylorda is the only project area where the soil humus content increased resulting from prolonged legume cultivation and higher density of the plants per m2.  Rice yield: 53 hwt/ha  Rice yield has indeed increased to 55 hwt/ha, which is insignificant. Compared to the baseline it increased by 10 hwt /ha - maximum land productivity at the time of pilot implementation given prior significantly deteriorated soil conditions.  Installed equipment for water delivery to inundated rice fields and its accounting: 200 units  Consumption of irrigated water: 17,101 m3/ha  The project has decreased the consumption rate by 5,899 m3/ha. This figure was reached mainly as a result of a controlled use of irrigation water per hectare.  The pilot was implemented in Kzylorda city in close partnership with the Kazakh Research Institute of Rice Cultivation. The total project’s site area is 1,300 ha. | The pilot was implemented in Kyzylorda city in close partnership with the Kazakh Research Institute of Rice Cultivation.    1. Restored area of degraded arable land: 437 ha  The project brought additional 121 ha this reporting period. The project kept cultivating rice, sudan grass and legume crops at the pilot site. During the implementation of the pilot plot through planting of Lucerne, the project experts has also considered planting an additional the sudan grass, and sainfoin as mixed crop. It is well known that Sudan grass and sainfoin are much productive and tolerant to the harsh climatic conditions then Lucerne. This, way the project will get a higher productivity and increase the soul humus.    2. Areas under lucerne (Lat. Medicágo) and other forage crops: 871 ha, the area formerly used for rice cultivation. Exceeded the EOP target of 500 ha.    3. Increased humus content in soil: 3.8 %. The project envisages to fulfill the set EOP of 10% increase of soil humus by the 2020 per consultations with agronomists and the ongoing progress of crop cultivation in the pilot.    4. Rice yield: 53- 55 hwt/ha. EOP target of 45 hwt/ha has been exceeded. The increase of rice productivity were achieved due to appropriate agro technology used i.e. converting the rice rotation system in the rice pads from long term rotation system to the short term rotation system with cultivation of the legume crops that have enhanced the soil productivity. The project has also cultivated the early ripening varieties of rice which has right seasons before the hot weather comes to the region and is best suitable for such climatic condition.    5. Installed equipment for water delivery to inundated rice fields and its accounting: 200 units. The project has installed 200 water metres to regulate the inflow of irrigation water to the rice pads in order to track the exact amount of irrigation water inflows to the single rice pads. This, way the project was showing the ways to measure and reduce the irrigation norm. Regulation of irrigation norm will hold the process of soil salinization and improve the rice productivity.    6. Installed equipment for water discharge from inundated rice fields and its accounting: 200 units. This equipment was put in order to measure the level of water in the rice pad. The water leveling equipment regulates the amount of flooding water in the rice pads and automatically stops the water inflow to the pads when the necessary water is taken. All 200 units of water leveling devices are installed and being in use.    7. Consumption of irrigated water: 15,321 m3/ha. Lower than envisaged consumption rate was registered at the pilot site due to effective installation of two parallel water regulating devises. If the water counters regulate the amount of water per hectare the second devise regulates the water level by heights and hence irrigation nor per hectare will be abided and no water logging will be occurred. |
| - Pilot 9 | Monoculture (wheat crop) areas 10,590 ha    Forage crop areas 1,800 ha    Improvement of soil fertility -    Increase in forage crop yield -    Reduced costs of forage procurement - | *(not set or not applicable)* | Monoculture (wheat crop) areas 10,190 ha  Forage crop areas 2,200 ha  Improvement of soil fertility by 0.5%  Increase in forage crop yield by 2 hwt/ ha  Reduced costs of forage procurement by 20% | Monoculture (wheat crop) areas: 8,439 ha  The project has decreased the area under wheat by 904 ha by changing the perceptions of the local farmers to switch to other more productive or promising crops rather than wheat.  Forage crop areas: 2340 ha  The area under forage crops was extended by 410 ha. The farmers are ready to even extend the area under the fallow but unable due to unavailability of the quality of pasture seeds.  Improvement of soil fertility – 0.5%.  In the area where the wheat has been cultivated no improvement of soil fertility has been documented. But in areas where the legumes and forage crops were cultivated the soil fertility improved by 0,5 % resulting from the use of adaptive agro technology such as green manure and legume crop rotation system.  Increase in forage crop yield:  The yield of forage crops cultivated in the area of 2,340 has been increased by 3-5 percent only. As it was mentioned before, this was the first year when forage crops such as sainfoin were cultivated. According experts, higher profitability is expecting in the next 2 years.  Reduced costs of forage procurement through reduction of primary costs associated with forage procurement and yield increase:  The forage production increased by 5 percent on average resulting from application of innovative threshing technology. Production and transportation costs decreased minimum by 20 percent. | 1. Monoculture (wheat crop) areas: 5,101 ha  The project decreased the area under wheat from 10,590 at the baseline year to 5,101 ha by persuading farmers switch to oil crops.    2. Forage crop areas: 6,135 ha  The area under forage crops was extended by 4,335 ha in 2018-2019 resulting in the cumulative coverage of 6,135 ha compared to 1,800 ha at the baseline year. The project re-seeded abandoned farm lands that cultivated forage crops before. The project provided forage seeds to farmers.    3. Improvement of soil fertility – 1.9%. As stated by the local researchers, increasing the soil fertility from 0.5% to 1.9% constitutes a great project achievement. As a result of improved soil fertility, the productivity of forage crops likewise increased from 9.6 Mt per ha in 2017 to 17.8 MT per ha in 2018- 2019. The ray-grass and the sainfoin was cultivated as mixed crop.  Both crops are well adjusted to the soil and climatic condition and in terms of mixed cultivation of two crops will improve the soil environment and activate the soil biology. Meantime, such mixed cropping system will enhance the units of forage crop and hence reduce the germination of weeds.    3. the increase the yield of the forage crop was increased by 2.3 hwt/ ha. The project has planted sainfon and alfalfa as legume crops.    4. Furthermore, the project has reduced the cost of forage crop by 20% through rehabilitation of forage crop seed production and multiplication farm and supplied the drought tolerant varieties of rye grass, alfalfa and sainfoin available at the market. |
| Access of small and medium farmers in pilot sites to agro-environmental incentives | At present, the nature of agricultural subsidies is such that they are mostly accessible only to large-scale farms | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 40% of small and medium farms eligible for agro-environmental incentives have access to them by project end | 37% of small and medium farms eligible for agro-environmental incentives have access to different project output activities and materials.  The project conducted several activities to make the state subsidy programmes accessible to small and medium size farms. 36% of small and medium farms eligible for agro-environmental incentives participated in project activities and accessed materials. This is higher by 9% compared with FY2017.  Using project knowledge, Ministry of Agriculture abolished 11 types of subsidies out of 65 in total, which were mostly favoring the needs of large scale farms. Forty (40) remaining subsidy schemes were also revised. A new state programme on state subsidies were endorsed by the Government in February 2018 for a total of KZT 29B (USD 83.5M)  In 2018, the total number of applications for state subsidies by SMEs totaled 310; in 2017 - 480 SMEs, so cumulatively 511 SMEs have applied for state subsidies. | Using project knowledge, Ministry of Agriculture has optimized the subsidies rules and presently, 34 effective subsidy programmes are taken forward.    A new state programme on state subsidies were endorsed by the Government in February 2019 for a total of KZT 43B (USD 112.56M), compared to 2018, the amounts of subsidies have increased to 29M USD.    The project conducted two national and 6 regional workshops based on the conducted agro incentive analyses. The schemes and norms for the new subsidies proposed by the project was aimed to make the state subsidy programmes accessible to small and medium size farms. In this reporting period 53% of small and medium farms eligible for agro-environmental incentives participated in project activities and accessed project relevant publications and methodological guidance. This is higher by 13% compared to FY2015.    53% of small and medium farms are now eligible for agro-environmental incentives through access to the SLM related activities. The dynamics of access to the subsidies is as follow as confirmed by the project’s agro-economist and a famers survey report:  2015 – 296 SMEs  2016 – 300 SMEs  2017 – 310 SMEs  2018 – 480 SMEs  2019 – 561 SMEs |
| Successful training program run by affiliates of KazAgroMarketing and KazAgroInnovation for small and medium farms on sustainable crop and forage production and livestock breeding | Training does not adequately cover needs of small and medium farms | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 75% of small and medium farms in areas where training is delivered send representatives to attend sessions by project end | 75% of small and medium farms in project areas have send representatives to attend training sessions. So far, 776 farmers from 6 targeted regions participated in training activities supported by the project.  Capacity development activities has been conducted in close cooperation and partnership with the following research institutes and agricultural extension centers:  - State Unitary Enterprise of “national agricultural educational center”  - Republican State Enterprise “Kazhydromet”  - National Space Research Institute  - Ministry of Agriculture  - Scientific and Production Grain Institute named after A. I. Baraev.  - Kostanay research Institute of Agriculture  - North Kazakhstan Research Institute of livestock breeding and crop husbandry  - Union of Farmers associations of Kazakhstan  - Agricultural extension center “Shortandy”  - Agricultural extension center “Kostanay”  - Agricultural extension center “Kyzylorda”  So far, 11 new training modules have been developed. There were successfully integrated into the education programs of the three targeted extension centers covering the following thematic areas: organic farming, crop diversification and small-scale rotation system; pastoral livestock management system; reseeding and rehabilitation of degraded pastures; weight growing in livestock breeding system; rain-fed area management; water conservation and management; green technological conveyers in pasture resource management; integrated pest and disease management; farm business management; agricultural seed multiplication, storage and processing. | 79% of small and medium farms in project areas have send representatives to attend SLM related training sessions. So far, 893 farmers from 6 targeted regions participated in training activities supported by the project.    Capacity development activities has been conducted in close cooperation and partnership with the following research institutes and agricultural extension centers:  - State Unitary Enterprise of “national agricultural educational center”  - Republican State Enterprise “Kazhydromet”  - National Space Research Institute  - Scientific and Production Grain Institute named after A. I. Baraev.  - Kostanay research Institute of Agriculture  - North Kazakhstan Research Institute of livestock breeding and crop husbandry  - Union of Farmers associations of Kazakhstan  - Agricultural extension center “Shortandy”  - Agricultural extension center “Kostanay”  - Agricultural extension center “Kyzylorda”    So far, 18 new training modules have been developed.  - No tillage  - Minimum or complex tillage  - Integrated pest and disease management  - Laser leveling and drip irrigation.  - Accurate climate information to farmers on planting and harvesting periods. |
| Successful training program on SLM run by KazAgroInnovation for akimat staff from land relations and agricultural departments in areas where pilot projects are to take place | No such targeted training program | *(not set or not applicable)* | 80% of target audience attend sessions by project end | An estimated 75% of the target audience have taken part in sessions organized with the support of the project.  Field days conducted in Akmola, Almaty, Kyzylorda, Kostanay and East Kazakhstan regions with the collaboration of the National Extension Institute and the participation of about 1,200 participants, including 44 state representatives. 44 best practices were introduced.  The project has established a favorable cooperation mechanism with the national agricultural educational center and its subordinated substructures such as Agricultural extension center “Shortandy”, Agricultural extension center “Kostanay” and Agricultural extension center “Kyzylorda”.  In close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Astana Agricultural University a national wide conference was conducted on organic food production with participation of 57 decision makers, 245 farmers and 91 researchers of various institutional background.  A practical training workshop was conducted in close partnership with the Kostanay research institute with participation of international experts from the International Organic Foundation. More than 78 farmers from SME and 55 local decision makers have improved their professional expertise in organic agriculture, including theories and practices in advanced organic food production systems.  The project held two exchange visits to Kyzylorda and Almaty regions with participation of 711 farmers. A total of 711 people was involved in these events.  The project established an electronic market platform providing buyers and sellers a market place to buy or sell agricultural commodities targeting the domestic market but also the Central Asia markets. It provides a market for producers and dealers. So far, sales through this electronic marketplace totaled KZT 2,7M (USD 8,000). | The project was able to cover all 80% of the target audience in pilot project areas by trainings and other project’s upgrade qualification and mobilization events. The total percentage was measured by the registered list of participants participated in the project’s events i.e. trainings, workshops, on job trainings, field day, conferences and etc.  The project has contracted existing local extension institutes (as KazAgroInnovation no longer exists) in each region to deliver SLM related trainings to the targeted farmers and land users.    The following institutes were taken on board for the outreach and capacity building activities and capacity development campaigns i.e. trainings workshops and exchange visits to the project’s demonstration plots:  - Scientific and Production Grain Institute named after A. I. Baraev.  - Kostanay research Institute of Agriculture  - North Kazakhstan Research Institute of livestock breeding and crop husbandry  - Agricultural extension center “Shortandy”  - Agricultural extension center “Kostanay”  - Agricultural extension center “Kyzylorda”  Total number of beneficiaries through a training and capacity building programmes are 2111 farmers.    The e-market platform established by the project has been upgraded and follow up consultations including logistic support were mainstreamed to the platform to ease the process of export and import of agricultural inputs and products between producers and importers. |
| Higher education institutions producing graduates with sound understanding of SLM practices in the agriculture sector and distant rangeland management | Current national and regional higher education institutions are producing limited number of professionals with such training and skills | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 2 institutions[2] have strengthened curriculums by project end | 3 targeted universities such as Kostanay Agrarian University (101 students), Astana Agrarian University (143 students) and Kyzylorda Agrarian University (92 students) have strengthened their curriculums by mainstreaming the best practices obtained from the project demo plots. The project has also conducted 3 open lectures at these universities to exchange the experience and knowledge transfer to a Msc and Phd students.  Other local universities, research institutes, extension services from target regions also showed a keen interest in the approaches promoted and implemented by the project. As a result, these institutions will most likely include SLM practices implemented by the project in their respective curriculum and training programmes. | The project has continued its cooperation with the following agricultural education institutes, academia and universities to extend the number of professionals with appropriate sectoral skills and knowledge based on the documented best agro-technologies from the project’s demonstration plots:    - Astana Agrarian University – (232 students and 12 faculty staff).  - Kostanay Agrarian University (178 students and 7 faculty staff),  - Kyzylorda Agrarian University (193 students and 14 faculty staff).  Moreover, the project has also conducted open lectures on best cropping technologies in the Kazakh National Agrarian University (201 students and 19 faculty staff).    The project delivered a lecture on land rehabilitation, water resource management and organic farming at the Kazakhstan-German University attended by 17 international exchange students and 4 international staff of the university.    Jointly with the Kazakhstan Institute of Land Husbandry the project established a social farm and an agro-park as two independent extension centers in Almaty engaging the farmers from the Baikonur, Balkhash and Taldykorgan districts to mobilize and educate those farmers on crop diversification, rehabilitation of abandoned lands, development of farming integrated land use plans, pasture maps and etc. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Enabling policy environment for integrated land use planning and agro-environmental incentives** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Inter-agency mechanism for ensuring coordination of integrated land use planning and agro-environmental incentives operating effectively | Does not exist | *(not set or not applicable)* | Inter-agency Working Group has a clear mandate and method of operation to ensure coordination of different land use sectors by project end | Cumulative progress since project start  Since the new Minister of Agriculture has been appointed, the project has continued to intensively work with the Ministry of Agriculture and prioritized several key strategic directions for the future. The following priorities has been highlighted during the meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture.  1. Development of livestock breeding and pasture production.  2. Agricultural seed multiplication and  3.New efficient subsidy systems to support SMEs.  In the reporting period the project’s working group conducted about 8 working meetings to discuss the issues related to the development or amendments of policies, rules, regulations and laws in pasture and livestock breeding sectors. The working group was usually led by the Vice Minister of Agriculture.  It is expected that this group will play a bigger role near the end of the project by recommending the government to improve the current agroincentive schemes.  In FY 2018 , the project working group has elaborated the following legal and policy documents to support the distant pasture management system.  - National strategy for development of meat production  - State program to enhance the export potential of meat cattle production  - State programme on development of livestock breeding system  - State programme on Agro industrial sector development 2017-2021. | Interagency working group was established involving the experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, committee on Forestry, regional and local akimats including the representatives the regional maslikhats were brought together to form a working group for the project.    In close partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Trade and Integration, the project has elaborated two different regulatory acts, the first one is new development program on “Organic Farming” and a road map for organic farming certification and accreditation regulations. Both these documents drive the organic farming movement in Kazakhstan involving both state and none state partners at the national and international levels.    Development of a legal act on sustainable use of pasture lands under the “Neo Nomad” Program has been well coordinated merging the best experience of the two ministries: the Ministry of Agriculture and its Committee on Forestry and Wildlife and the Ministry of Trade and Integration.    In FY 2018-2019, the project’s working group continues to provide intermediately expertise, policy and legal support to mainstream and authorize the project’s legal and policy documents developed by the project at the higher governmental level. Particularly, the following regulatory acts were reviewed and elaborated by the WG.  - A Road map for development of Organic farming  - A government programme on National export strategy  - A government instruction to enhance the export potential of honey production  - A State programme on development of livestock breeding system “Neo Nomad”  - Subsidy rules for partial reimbursement of investment costs incurred by the subject of the agro-industrial complex, with investments. For instance, 80% of costs of pasture wells are covered by a subsidy whale the remaining 20% constitute a farmer’s contribution. |
| Inclusion of agro-environmental subsidies in State programs | Agro-environmental subsidies do not exist | *(not set or not applicable)* | Agribusiness 2020 program includes such subsidies | Following the approval of the State Programme on Development of Agro Industrial Sector for 2017-2021, the new state programme “New Nomad” (focusing on livestock raising and production) has been developed and approved in April 2018.    The new program covers the following key strategic directions:  - Ensure growth of farms from 20 to 100 thousand ha through creating farms associations or enterprises, which would allow accessing more financial resources from the subsidy programmes.  - Provision of jobs to 100,000 500,000 of rural farmers  - Increase the number of cattle from 7 million to 15 million heads;  - Production of beef and mutton from 600 thousand tons to 1.6 million tons;  - Grow export potential to $2.5 billion.  The above mentioned key messages were proposed by project experts following a detailed feasibility assessment. The Ministry of Agriculture fully relied on the results and data of the feasibility assessment produced by the project before finalizing its new programme on livestock (New Nomad). | The following agro-environmental subsidies were integrated into the following state programmes with project support:    - Subsidy for the mobile trailers  - Subsidy for the solar panels  - Acquisition of selection and seed-growing machinery and equipment.  - Creation of infrastructure for pasture irrigation and providing water for livestock farms (wells, wells, a pump for lifting water, a mobile trailer / trailer for a shepherd, solar panels with a battery).  - Creation of an artificial reservoir (digging) for collecting melt water.  - Creation and expansion of irrigation systems and drip irrigation.  - Acquisition of agricultural machinery and equipment (round baler). |
| Increase in government financing for SLM practices | No existing subsidies that are 100% SLM related | *(not set or not applicable)* | 20% of total agricultural subsidies are agro-environmental or green subsidies, 10 years after the agro-environmental scheme is up and running | 74% of increase over the baseline year in 2018 attributable to changes in the state priorities in regard to SLM subsidies.  In total, 5 trillion tenge (14,705.883 mln/ US dollars) wereis allocated from the state budget to implement the new subsidy program on plant production and livestock breeding.  The project has conducted a research to determine advantages and disadvantages of the state programme and came up with a specific list of recommendations for improvement of the several support programmes in terms of enhanced access to subsidies by SMEs:  - Reduce a number of heads to access subsidy for milk production.  - Reduce an area of pasture lands to access subsidy for pasture seed multiplication  - Increase the amount of subsidy fund for rehabilitation of pasture boreholes and watering the pasture lands. | 81% of increase over the baseline year in 2018 - 2019 attributable to changes in the state priorities in regard to SLM related subsidies only.  In total, government financing of 6.1 trillion tenge (15.96 mln/ US dollars) were allocated from the state budget to implement the new subsidy programs such as the following:  - Subsidy for the mobile trailers  - Subsidy for the solar panels  - Acquisition of selection and seed-growing machinery and equipment.  - Creation of infrastructure for pasture irrigation and providing water for livestock farms (wells, wells, a pump for lifting water, a mobile trailer / trailer for a shepherd, solar panels with a battery).  - Creation of an artificial reservoir (digging) for collecting melt water.  - Creation and expansion of irrigation systems and drip irrigation.  - Acquisition of agricultural machinery and equipment (round baler). |
| Amendments to existing polices, regulations, and rules such that the support for SLM is stronger | There are weaknesses in a number of existing policies, rules and regulations | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 7 types of amendments are developed | In FY 2018, the project has elaborated the following four (4) additional legal and policy documents to enhance the distant pasture management system.  - National strategy for development of meat production  - State program to enhance the export potential of meat cattle production  - State programme on development of livestock breeding system  - State programme on Agro industrial sector development for 2017-2021. | 9 types of amendments were developed and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture for revision and approval. The Ministry now handed over these programs to the sectoral departments for review and feedback.    In 2019, the project has supported the development of the following policy documents and regulations/instructions:  - A Road map for development of Organic farming  - A government programme on National export strategy  - A government instruction to enhance the export potential of honey production  - State programme on development of the livestock breeding system “Neo Nomad” |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 77.33% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 81.87% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 1,469,270 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 100,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 1,900,000 |
| Co-financing | 9,499,459 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Feb 21, 2014 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Apr 7, 2015 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Jun 1, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Sep 30, 2015 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Oct 16, 2017 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Oct 5, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Feb 1, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Jul 1, 2020 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2019-02-27 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| N/A | There are no critical risks in this reporting period. |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| There are no delays in this reporting period in achieving the key milestones. |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| There are no delays in this reporting period in achieving the key milestones. |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| No applicable |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | Overall, the project can be rated as "satisfactory " in view of the below stated facts and achieved results towards its target objectives.  The project is a direct response to national priorities and needs to transform land use practices in steppe and semi-arid zones of Kazakhstan. It is well aligned with relevant national strategies and programmes. The agricultural sector is an important economic sector for the government of Kazakhstan but also a sector that is facing land degradation issues that are affecting productivity. The government has been well engaged in the design and implementation of this project. This project is one response supported by the government to sustainably expand the agricultural sector. It is also an important project to demonstrate/test innovative agro-environmental incentive payments, which are tested and showcased through a large scale 9 demonstration plots and presently being scaled-up nation-wide. This is the first time in Kazakhstan and in the CIS region that agro-environmental incentive payments are being implemented as an incentive mechanism to promote investments in sustainable land management practices.  The project is making a good progress in regards achieving its targeted milestone which has been proofed and evaluated by the MTR in July 2017.  As for sustainability of the project’s results is concerned, the following can be reported:  • Many achievements such as the policy/legal documents are already institutionalized. They are now part of the government’s instruments used for development of its agricultural sector;  • No obvious critical financial, socio-economic, institutional and governance and environmental risks to the sustainability of project achievements.  Under Outcome 1, the project has reached good progress with all 9 demonstration plots in 6 regions; demonstrating/strengthening the link between the Agriculture Research Institutes (new technologies, new practices), their Extension Services (knowledge dissemination) and Farmers (application of new knowledge in their production schemes); furthermore, the project has conducted three (1) exchange experience study tour with participation of 12 experts and decision makers from the Ministry of Agriculture and 3 extension centers.  South-south cooperation with participation of 540 farmers from South Kazakhstan regions to Almaty and Eat Kazakhstan regions all together.  Astana Agrarian University – (89 students and 12 faculty staff).  Kostanay Agrarian University (77 students and 7 faculty staff), Kazakh National Agrarian University (201 students and 19 faculty staff) and Kyzylorda Agrarian University (101 students and 14 faculty staff).  Meantime, the project has made a special lecture at the Kazakhstan-German University on the topic of land rehabilitation, water resource management and organic farming.  The project has established social farm and agro-park as two independent extension centers who mobilizes farmers in close cooperation with the Kazakhstan institute of land husbandry.  Under Outcome 2, the project created an enabling environment to facilitate the development of one integrated land use plans in East Kazakhstan and Almaty regions which are under consideration of respective akimats.  Furthermore, the project has conducted several international and regional events and campaigns dedicated to the promotion of the Kazakhstan organic farming business. Resulting from the project’s successful implementation and awareness rising activities more than 330 000 ha were certified as organic farms recognized by EkoAgros, Lithuania.  In 2019, the project did not elaborate new legal documents but has supported the development of the following policy and instructive documents.  - Road map for the development of Organic farming  - State program to enhance the export potential of honey production  - State programme on development of livestock breeding system “Neo Nomad”  In summing up the project’s cumulative progress over the last three years of implementation, the project has already achieved more than ¾ of its target indicators and plans to achieve remaining EoP targets by 2020 in the final year of its implementation year. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | In the reporting period, the overall rating of the project is “Satisfactory”. The project has been implemented in line with the project document, logical framework, and work plan. The project management is at the appropriate level. Project disbursement level in Cumulative delivery as of this year is 82%. Four Project Board meetings were held during the reporting period. The project has been able to deliver the Annual Work Plan (AWP), Annual Progress Reports (APR) in a timely. Financial transactions, reporting, and auditing are carried out in compliance with national regulations and established UNDP rules and procedures for national project execution. The progress in activities was regularly reported and well-documented in quarterly and annual progress reports, usually linked to the indicators of the logical framework.  UNDP has also monitored the Project through field visits and project board meetings. In the reporting period, UNDP had a monitoring mission to the Almaty project site. The project risks were identified as low and quarterly monitored by project management.  In general, the project is progressing well towards its targets and most of the project targets were already achieved despite that, we still have one year remained for the project closure. During the reporting period, the project has supported the government in upgrading its policy and legislation frameworks and capacity building.  Within outcome 1: The project made good progress with all 9 demonstration sites, demonstrating and strengthening the link between agricultural research institutes (new technologies and best practices), their extension services (knowledge sharing) and farmers. These demonstration sites cover a wide variety of techniques and investments adapted to each site located in 6 different regions of Kazakhstan.  The project conducted several training programs by affiliates of KazAgroMarketing and KazAgroInnovation for small and medium farms on sustainable crop and forage production and livestock breeding. 7 new training modules have been developed. There were successfully integrated into the educational programs of the three targeted extension centers.  The project has established two effective extension centers such as Social Farm and Agro- Park and to date, it’s been able to mobilize more than 9121 farmers and extended the area under the organic farming from 210 000 to 330 000.  The project has supported the organic food initiatives and funded missions of standard commissions from Saudi Arabia, China, EU, and the USA.  Kazakhstan is now the holder of the certificate for organic products such as meat, honey, emmer, spelt, wheat, chickpea, and buckwheat.  Within outcome 2: The project was able to develop ILUP for all 6 target regions and two of them for Almaty and East Kazakhstan regions are being considered by the local akimats.  It should be noted that the project supported the development of the following policy instructive documents.  • Road map for the development of Organic farming  • State program National export strategy  • State instruction to enhance the export potential of honey production  • State program on development of livestock breeding system “Neo Nomad”  • Subsidy rules for reimbursement of part of the costs incurred by the subject of the agro-industrial complex, with investments  Given that the project achieved all its targets I assessed the project IP and DO rating as Satisfactory. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | Highly Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | In the reporting period, the overall rating of the project is “Highly Satisfactory”.  The project is implemented by a strong technical team of professionals bringing together a broad range of skills and knowledge in the agriculture, water, pasture and capacity building areas. The project also benefits from a strong partnership between the government – the Ministry of Agriculture as the implementing partner of the project and also other government stakeholders – and UNDP, which was recognized as a partner of choice by the government based on its timely and significant contributions to the fast-paced development agenda of the government. This partnership is also reinforced by the fact that several Officers have UNDP experience and work in government entities and vice versa facilitating the communications between these partners. The result of these arrangements is a project implemented in close collaboration between entities such as research institutes, agriculture extension services and other agencies.  The project has been implementing a several innovative activities for rehabilitation of pasture seed farms which played a significant role for developing those abandoned lands. It has to be mentioned that the size of the project pilots are small considering the area of land to be rehabilitated but this has played a great role for development of the new subsidy program in Kazakhstan.  The mobile trailers, pasture borehole development and organic farming and certification programme introduced by the project were officially mainstreamed into the state program and the Government of RK has set more than 11 Billion towards those activities in the next 5 years.  Due to support of the project the ministry has also got lots of international knowledge and experience on organic farming, land management and ILUPs to ensure sustainability of the land resources.  The project has indeed to harmonize several legal and policy documents such as Road map for development of Organic farming, State programme National export strategy, State program to enhance the export potential of honey production, State programme on development of livestock breeding system “Neo Nomad” and - Subsidy rules for reimbursement of part of the costs incurred by the subject of the agro-industrial complex, with investments.  Considering the project’s best technologies demonstrated, the Mistry in close cooperation with the UNDP is now working on two Government cost share projects which under consideration of the Ministry of Economic development.  1. Increasing the competitiveness of the agrarian sector of Kazakhstan through capacity development and raising awareness of farmers  2. Sustained agriculture and value chain Management in Agro-industrial Sector of Kazakhstan.  Finally, the project’s publication and outreach materials were very helpful and being used as desktop document for the progressing of the most thematic issues here within the Ministry.  However, as the demonstration sites started to produce knowledge on SLM practices, more communication activities are expected in the next three years to disseminate this knowledge beyond the current stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project, to reach relevant stakeholders nation-wide and in the CIS region. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the project’s pre-terminal PIR. RTA concurs with the Project Manager and UNDP CO in assessing the project’s DO and IP progress this reporting period as Satisfactory. The RTA commends the project team and UNDP CO for sustaining a high level of trust and partnership throughout the project lifecycle with its national counterpart, the Ministry of Agriculture and its regional offices, that translated into buy in and ownership of the project’s results as reported in the PIR and ensuring that the project results are clearly vested in the Government policies and regulations, thus paving the way for project’s sustainability and replication. The next year will be concluding and it would be important for the project to focus on completion of remaining activities, summarizing lessons learned and following up with the national and district level partners for upscale of the project’s successful results, as recommended by the MTR.    The project is progressing well toward its objective that is to transform land use practices in steppe and semi-arid zones of Kazakhstan to ensure ecological integrity, food security and sustainable livelihoods and Outcome 1 on SLM investments (which are interrelated). Out of three Objective level indicators, the project already achieved two: improvement in % of soil humus content and in livestock productivity in area where ILUPs are in place. This reporting period, the project arrived close to attaining the third indicator on the area of productive landscaped under ILUPs reporting 701,380 hectares cumulatively (or 93.5% of EoP) through development of effective cropping technology maps, long term pasture grazing plans, rice crop diversification cards in targets ecosystems as direct project impact areas.    The project successfully implemented 9 demonstration plots (as originally envisaged in the project document) in Almaty, Akmola, East Kazakhstan, Kostanai, Kzylorda and North Kazakhstan regions of the country as direct project impact areas. The project demonstrates a good level of engagement and participation of stakeholders and good pilots to test/demonstrate agro-environmental incentives. As for end results for each pilot, the project managed to either already achieve the envisaged end values or arrive close to attaining final results. Now that the implementation phase is completed, the project can focus on summarizing and documenting the generated results to better inform the decision-makers at regional and national levels on available SLM agricultural techniques, related costs of production, generated economic, social and environmental benefits. In addition to being demonstration sites for new agricultural techniques, these nine sites serve as effective exchange platforms for researchers, extension agents, farmers and processors to exchange and disseminate knowledge. They have created opportunities for these groups to meet, discuss and disseminate knowledge to farmers on best practices that have been tested on these demonstration plots.    Under Outcome 1, the project has also supported the documentation of best practices on  pasture and rangeland management; these materials that has been used by local universities to conduct lectures on the topic. Jointly with the Kazakhstan Institute of Land Husbandry the project established a social farm and an agro-park as two independent extension centers in Almaty to mobilize and educate farmers from the Almaty oblast on crop diversification, rehabilitation of abandoned lands, development of farming integrated land use plans, pasture maps, etc. These extension centers can serve as a good example of agricultural advisory services run by a private entity, which is a new concept in Kazakhstan.    In close collaboration with 3 agricultural extension services, the project has also supported the development of 11 training modules on various topics related to the demonstration plots and a total of 2111 benefited from these training and capacity building programs in 6 target regions. Moreover, the project upgraded the e-market platform established earlier by the project to facilitate the process of export and import of agricultural inputs and products between producers and importers.    The Ministry of Agriculture abolished 34 out of 65 subsidies in total, which were mostly favoring the needs of large-scale farms. Remaining subsidy schemes were also revised. A new state program on state subsidies that includes recommendations of the project on incentives for small and medium sized farmers were endorsed by the Government in February 2019 for a total of KZT 43B (USD 112.56M). In 2019, the number of SMEs applications for state subsidies increased to 561 vs 480 in 2018. The project attributes this positive change to its persistent efforts, completed and ongoing work on agro-environmental incentives. The project has made good progress under this outcome and should achieve its targets set at the outset. The progress towards the Objective and Outcome 1 is rated as S (Satisfactory).    The project has been well advancing under Outcome 2 on enabling policy environment for integrated land use planning and agro-environmental incentives. The project has been successful in setting up a national Task Force to ensure the coordination of activities to strengthen land use planning in rural areas and improve agro-environmental incentives at national level. This Task Force was created by Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture in November 2015. Members of the Task Force include Ministry of Agriculture, Wildlife and Forestry Committee, regional and local akimats as well as representatives of regional maslikhats (parliaments). Since, its creation, this Task Force has been active in reviewing and advising the Ministry on several legal documents, which are now approved/endorsed by the government. They include: the state strategy on Agribusiness 2017-2021; the Law on organic farming and a Road map for Organic farming in the country; the Law of pastures; a government programme on National export strategy; a state certification program on export of organic honey to China; a master plan on livestock breeding sector; New Nomad Program that focuses on livestock raising and production; subsidy rules for partial reimbursement of investment costs incurred by the subject of the agro-industrial complex. On the subsidy rules, the project lobbied for 80% of costs of pasture wells be covered by a subsidy thus providing a good opportunity for expanding grazing at distant pastures that currently have just a few or no water sources for livestock.    The project has been successful in integrating seven agro-environmental subsidies related to sustainable pasture management (including grazing at distant pastures), sustainable seed production, use of renewables in agriculture, efficient resources use (drip irrigation, reuse of irrigated waters, etc.) into the Agribusiness 2017-2021 and other relevant government programs. The project reports an 81% increase in government financing for SLM practices over the baseline surpassing the envisaged target of 20%. In total, government financing of 6.1 trillion tenge (15.96 mln/ US dollars) were allocated from the state budget to implement the new subsidy programs. The reported values still need to be validated by the TE. But at this point in project implementation, the overall progress under Outcome 2 is S (Satisfactory).    The project implementation is rated as S (Satisfactory). The project team has managed to overcome inefficiency in work planning and funds disbursement as observed during the first half of project cycle. The financial management of the project has been getting more efficient this reporting period; expenditures to end of June 2019 represent 81.87% of the 2019 AWP and 77.33% of total approved amount in prodoc. RTA expects that in the remaining year the project will continue to diligently plan its activities and disburse funding accordingly. This is especially relevant for project activities under Outcome 2 where the project is expected to focus on review, documentation and dissemination of lessons learned from its piloting activities and make recommendation to the government to improve the enabling environment and replicate/scale-up the achievements.    The project is implemented by a strong technical team of professionals bringing together a broad range of skills and knowledge in the agriculture, water, pasture and capacity building areas. The project also benefits from a strong partnership between the government – the Ministry of Agriculture as the implementing partner of the project and also other government stakeholders – and UNDP, which was recognized as a partner of choice by the government based on its timely and significant contributions to the fast-paced development agenda of the government. The project implemented in close collaboration between entities such as research institutes, agriculture extension services and other agencies.    One innovative approach that the project has been implementing is “cross-fertilization” between people for various backgrounds such as government officials in MOA based in Astana, researchers in the regions, extension agents, farmers, processors, etc. It allows exchange of ideas and is a good way to disseminate knowledge on SLM, including best practices. Activities to facilitate this “cross-fertilization” include study tours, field days, and workshops.    The project demonstrates good engagement of stakeholders during its implementation. Since  the implementation began, stakeholders have been engaged through project activities including a Project Board (PB) meeting. The PB convened once in the reporting period in February 2019 to report on progress in 2018 and seek approval of the 2019 annual workplan (AWP). Outside PB meetings, members of the PB actively participate in project’s activities such as field days, workshops and conferences.    The project completed a gender analysis this reporting period that laid out important recommendations to ensure that women’s and men’s rights and gender equality are promoted through delivery of targeted trainings and capacity development courses rather than undermined, through all policies and interventions of the project. Gender recommendations were reflected in the project’s workplan and are being implemented.    The project's implementation proceeds as planned. At this point, there is no critical barriers limiting its implementation/effectiveness over the remaining implementation period.    The RTA commends the project team and UNDP CO for good achievements thus far. For the remaining year of project implementation, RTA recommends:    - Continue focusing on scaling-up the results at national level, including the development of capacities of extension services throughout Kazakhstan;  - Keep track of co-financing commitments for the TE;  - Develop ToR for the TE well in advance and run it by RTA for final approval;  - Ensure that key project results and documents summarizing project results and impacts be available for the evaluator during the Terminal evaluation;  - Allow enough time for the evaluator to visit pilot sites and interact with stakeholders on the ground  - Prepare relevant Tracking Tools for RTA review and approval prior to TE  - Prepare an exit plan that outlines actions that require follow-up after project closure, including timeframes and responsibilities. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** [Gender Analyses.pptx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5358/214083/1718678/1726001/Gender%20Analyses.pptx) |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: No |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN0:** no noticeable contribution to gender equality |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| not applicable |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| The project hired a national gender mainstreaming expert who performed a review of the gender situation in the agricultural sector in Kazakhstan. The gender mainstreaming analysis has been prepared. The objective of the gender mainstreaming analysis was to develop recommendations for comprehensive gender mainstreaming and its implementation within the UNDP-GEF Agroincentives Project in Kazakhstan in accordance with UNDP corporate guidelines and requirements. These recommendations were reflected in the project’s workplan. The recommendation provided by the project is set to ensure that women’s and men’s rights and gender equality are promoted through delivery of targeted trainings and capacity development courses rather than undermined, through all policies and interventions of the project.    Women beneficiaries in the Kyzylorda, Almaty and Ayaghoz have pointed out that now they know how to use the land, what to grow and where, and the types of land that can be used for livestock, for agricultural activities or the collect of by-products. Conjointly, women stressed learning about issues of land degradation and soil erosion (including re-seeding and pest infestation) and now know what plants or type of grass not to uproot, which one should be protected and not fed to livestock animals as per the Redbook or exploited by people from other villages (those located in and around protected areas). In Northern Kazakhstan regions, trainings have allowed women to use the land for small-scale independent subsistence food production (e.g. wheat, carrot and onions) and thus provided a substitute for market products. Moreover, women also dry and sale vegetables both locally and to Nur-sultan. In Akmola women have mentioned that the trainings have enable them to earn an income by teaching them how to profitably use land that was previously idle by growing and selling products and thus become more independent.    While the gender-disaggregated data on training attendance per se are insufficient and not necessarily correlate with the usefulness or impacts of the trainings themselves on women and men, they nonetheless indicate a propensity or at least a keen interest by rural women to learn about land and resources management, as well as to expand their knowledge through other, less traditional activities, such as computer training. Yet, in all and each of the six target regions, the gender disparity is notable, revealing some imbalances in access to information and informal education and important and widespread obstacles to rural women’s attendance and participation.    The project has sought to measure and appraise the effects and implications of core project interventions in upholding gender equality and women’s empowerment as a means to guide future project activities and strategies. The gender mainstreaming analyses emphasizes the experience, perceptions and challenges faced by rural women beneficiaries – and the lessons learned from them – in order to better inform future action and to strengthen both current and planned Agro-incentive project’s activities.    As per the gender report, the project has identified gender gaps, underlying causes, as well as has elaborated potential interventions designed to address them. This means, essentially, identifying the types of actions and measures needed to enhance gender equality and overcome gender-related obstacles with respect to equal access to land and financial resources, and the provision of accessible, gender-sensitive climate risk management and climate change adaptation trainings in rural areas, thereby contributing to gender-equitable human development.    Regarding this reporting period, gender related activities of the project (e.g. collection of gender segregated statistics of training and workshop participants, households survey) are being implemented and will be completed by December 2019. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| In line with UNDP’s Gender Policy, the project designed gender-specific and differential criteria to mainstream principles of gender to local level activities such as demonstration pilots where female farmers were given a priority. The project collects disaggregated data for its implementation activities such as demonstration plots and training to better understand participation perceptions by gender (for example, participation of female residents and training to be conducted by female trainers), and the potential influence it has on the project’s efficiency. The project explored gender-differential access to and participation in the project at multiple points in scaling up activities. In most cases, women apply different approaches than men but ending results are similar through it has to be mentioned that the agencies or farming institutions that had a proportion of both man and women in its administration were much profitable and successful. The institution or the project activities that were implemented with less women participation were less effective and more resources would have needed to make it more profitable or sustain the project activities.    The project used to collect both men and women perceptions and feedback on its training and other events. As such, the project developed specific questionnaires that are gender disaggregated to identify gender different approaches, way of thinking with respect to results and benefits. Based on the result of such assessment gender mainstreaming survey, the project trainings were adjusted/modified to respond to the needs of men/women, e.g. engaged female trainers for women. However, there was no any purposeful deviation of the women and man trainers and both women and man trainers were acting in close partnership and in conjunctions.    The project has also documented several case studies and lessons learned where a woman led farm or female headed household playing a key role to highlight the best practices obtained and to be replicated. Last but not the least, two (2) pilots out of 9 are being implemented by women. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| The project did not face any SESP listed threats or risk due to adaptive management applied and close coordination of its activities with the national partners. |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| No |

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| --- |
| **SESP:** [5358\_SESP\_signed.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5358/214083/1689446/1689727/5358_SESP_signed.pdf)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| not applicable |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| Fostering Agroforestry Measures and Sustainable Livelihoods in the Aral-Syrdarya deserts  “Our main purpose is to help local communities grow by supporting activities that generate additional income, increase food security and improve resilience to climate change.”  – Mr. Zhanuzak Baymenov, Researcher, Kyzylorda Research Institute.  Partnering with UNDP Kazakhstan, Extension center of “Kyzylorda” has established a number of demonstration plots since 2015 under the GEF-UNDP Project on “Supporting sustainable land management in steppe and semi-arid zones through integrated territorial planning and agro-environmental incentives (PIMS 5358)”. The demonstration plots were aimed to help the local farmers to deepen their knowledge, experience and understandings on advanced technologies on application of diverse methodologies and agro-techniques on crop production in steppe and arid climatic conditions.  The activities were responding directly to restore the abandoned agricultural lands and thus, increasing interest and demands of local market for improved market chain supply. The demonstration plots established within the cooperation agreement with the Extension center of “Kyzylorda”, has yet promoted targeted south-south peer-learning/share/exchange experience opportunity amongst farmers to support and build focused bilateral and multilateral cooperation networks and practice of communities on different best practices implemented on abandoned lands of Syrdarya-Aral regions.  As an extension center, the center has so far wide spread the advanced practices on crop and soil science, livestock and horticulture activities in 66 villages of the target districts. The UNDP Kazakhstan’s contribution of USD 90 000 is focused on introducing sustainable productive agro-forestry tools, financing and implementation models in the Syrdarya river basin for the period 2015-2017. As such, the green agro-technologies demonstrated through pilot plots are designed to support small individual or group-based projects that both generate incomes and increase the capacity of the local population to address the issues of land degradation, restoration of abandoned and eroded land and hence to adapt to climate change and climate variability through agro-forestry.  Stemming from these two objectives, an extension center demonstrates different green practices that meet the criteria of agro-forestry technologies within sustainable management concepts. Agro-forestry techniques play a significant role in transforming vulnerable rural communities into more resilient and economically secure ones. They can be used to increase crop diversity, stabilize slopes, desserts, moving sands, concrete hillsides and gullies, expand productive lands, and rehabilitate topsoil layers on supplied and semi-supplied rain-fed areas.  Results and extended benefits  Thanks to the advanced practices she obtained from extension center, Mrs. Gulnara Bayanayeva, farmer, was able to cultivate 28 ha of rain-fed land in Aralsk district. With an initial financial contribution of USD 1,500 last year, she planted potatoes, melons and almond trees, making a net benefit of USD 750 with the sale of harvested products and updated her seed gen banks for the next year season. In addition to transfer of advanced technologies she has also participated in a number of trainings and attended introductory workshops given by the extension centre’s trainers in collaboration with the UNDP field experts on agro-forestry. Together, the UNDP’s field experts the extension center has conducted a total of nine days of trainings on deforestation, agro-forestry and agro-investment, SMEs and trade, as well as on organic farming among the whole community. According to Mrs. Gulnara Bayanayeva, new knowledge help women gain greater financial autonomy. With a second year of such successfully practices whereas she has started with cattle breeding, she increased her livestock from one to seven cows and expects to be fully economically independent within two years. She is also planning to set up a seven-hectare picnic area that will provide her with extra income.  In Aralsk district, through agroforestry the project has enabled residents to restore dessert areas which are formerly productive landscapes, enrich the soil and maximize their yields (up to three yields a year) by using the proper methods, schemes and type of crops. Together with agro-forestry training, an extension center has helped the community transform formerly eroded and degraded dessert lands by using an inter-cropping system, thereby securing their homes from moving sand and producing additional forage for animals for the winter.  Witnessing the tangible benefits and results of the extensive services from the extension centers, most residents of the district have now started to deal with crop cultivation and are collaborating with UNDP and extension center of Kyzylorda. One of the most significant impacts of extension services through innovative dessert land management was upholding rural community’s livelihoods and creating income generating opportunities can be observed by the reduced number of people moving to the central towns. Ms. Bayanayeva’s own son does not have to go to the regional city looking for a daily labor worker anymore and uses the car to work as a taxi driver and make a living. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| www. margins.kz  https://www.facebook.com/altynalkap  https://m.forbes.kz/article/203646#  https://kazakh-zerno.net/novosti/agrarnye-novosti-kazakhstana/259283-konferentsiya-proizvoditelej-organiki-kazakhstan-litva-prokhodit-v-vilnyuse  https://forbes.kz/process/ecobusiness/kak\_evropeyskie\_uchenyie\_stimuliruyut\_chistoe\_zemledelie\_v\_kazahstane/  https://forbes.kz/process/ecobusiness/skolko\_gotovyi\_platit\_kazahstantsyi\_za\_zdorovoe\_pitanie/  https://forbes.kz/process/ecobusiness/moda\_na\_zdorove\_kak\_kazahstanskie\_fermeryi\_vyiraschivayut\_organicheskuyu\_produktsiyu\_dlya\_zapada/  https://forbes.kz/process/proizvoditel\_detskogo\_pitaniya\_iz\_germanii\_zainteresovan\_v\_organicheskih\_produktah\_iz\_kazahstana/  https://forbes.kz/finances/markets/kak\_organika\_pomojet\_prevratit\_kazahstan\_v\_aziatskuyu\_shveytsariyu/  ПРОИЗВОДСТВО ПШЕНИЦЫ В УСЛОВИЯХ ИЗМЕНЕНИЯ КЛИМАТА ОБСУДИЛИ В ДУШАНБЕ http://khovar.tj/rus/agriculture/41005-proizvodstvo-pshenicy-v-usloviyah-izmeneniya-klimata-obsudili-v-dushanbe.html  Зелеными технологиями по засухе http://www.yujanka.kz/news/detail/3116  «Зеленые» технологии в сельском хозяйстве http://kazakh-tv.kz/ru/view/news\_kazakhstan/page\_61050\_#page  Сайт UNDP Kazakhstan (Выставка «Золотые поля»)  http://www.co.undp.org/content/kazakhstan/ru/home/presscenter/articles/2014/12/15/v-astane-sostoitsja-otkrytie-fotovystavki/  Радио ООН (Выставка «Золотые поля»)  http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/russian/archives/182525/#.VKt15iusWao  Платформа по управлению знаниями в области климатических рисков в Центральной Азии  http://www.ca-crm.info/ru/news-and-events/latest-news/170-v-astane-sostoyalos-otkrytie-fotovystavki-zolotye-polya  Выставка «Золотые поля» ИА «Казинформ»  http://www.inform.kz/rus/article/2729171  Выставка «Золотые поля» Sport.kz  http://sports.kz/news/talgat-jaylauov-prinyal-uchastie-v-hlebnoy-fotosessii  День поля проекта ПРООН/USAID в Кызылординской области,  http://margin.kz/index.php/news/931-den-polya-proekta-proon-usaid-v-kyzylordinskoj-oblasti  Проект ПРООН/USAID проводит Дни поля, Шортанды,  http://margin.kz/index.php/news/924-proekt-proon-usaid-provodit-dni-polya  ДЕНЬ ПОЛЯ, Кызылординские вести,  http://www.kzvesti.kz/kv/secondstrip/7190-den-polya.html  Эксклюзив: рекордного урожая зерновых не будет, подготовлено ТВ «Хабар»  http://khabar.kz/ru/news/obshchestvo/item/30427-ekslyuziv-rekordnogo-urozhaya-zernovykh-ne-budet  Шаруалар жаңа технологияны меңгере бастады, Кызылорда, подготовлено ТВ «Хабар»  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJaFMzjN8pM  Шортандыда жер ананы баптаудың тәсілдері талқыланды, Шортанды, подготовлено ТВ «Хабар»  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lI7ZYOfI93w  Новость о дне поля, на радио «Астана», подготовила Аида Баймакова  http://astanafm.kz/ru/view/social/page\_101019\_den-polya-proshel-v-akmolinskoi-oblasti  http://astanafm.kz/ru/view/social/page\_101025\_neustoichivost-pogody-i-slozhnost-prognozirovaniya-ob  Проект ПРООН/USAID проведет «Дни поля», подготовила Айнур Байгожа  http://margin.kz/index.php/news/885-proekt-proon-usaid-provedet-dni-polya  Проект ПРООН/USAID проведет «Дни поля»  http://www.kz.undp.org/content/kazakhstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/071/almaty-will-adopt-sustainable-transport-strategy-for-2013-2023.html  Знать об урожае все и вовремя или прибавка по 6-1- центнеров от ПРООН  http://margin.kz/index.php/news/654-znat-ob-urozhae-vsjo-i-vovremya-ili-pribavka-po-6-10-tsentnerov-ot-proon  Новый проект ПРООН по агростимулированию  http://margin.kz/index.php/news/642-novyj-proekt-proon-po-agrostimulirovaniyu-sozdast-usloviya-fermeram-dlya-razvitiya-zelenogo-selskogo-khozyajstva  http://www.us.undp.org/content/washington/en/home/presscenter/articles/2015/08/11/usaid-and-undp-partnership-working-on-food-security-in-central-asia.html  Negotiations help to reduce barriers of Kazakhstan wheat export to Afghanistan  http://www.kz.undp.org/content/kazakhstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2015/05/25/negotiations-help-to-reduce-barriers-of-kazakhstan-wheat-export-to-afghanistan/  Инфографика проекта по пшенице  Анализ влажности почвы в Северном Казахстане (брошюра)  Технология выращивания пшеницы в разных условиях засушливого климата  Система защиты пшеницы от сорняков и болезней.  Селекция и семеноводства в Зерновом секторе Казахстана и ЦА.  Каталог засухоустойчивых сортов пшеницы в ЦА.  Атлас засухоустойчивых сортов пшеницы в Казахстане  Климаттың өзгеруі жағдайында жерді тұрақты пайдалану (Каталог наилучших практик брошюра на казахском)  Агрономическая практика устойчивого производства яровой пшеницы в различных почвенно-климатических условиях северного Казахстана (брошюра)  Техническая инструкция по планировке земель с использованием лазерного нивелира  АО «КазАгроИнновация»/ПРООН/USAID реализует Проект «Повышение устойчивости сектора пшеницы в Казахстане к изменению климата для обеспечения продовольственной безопасности в Центральной Азии»  http://gbpp.org/2014/07/2282  Проект ПРООН/USAID проводит Дни Поля http://www.kz.undp.org/content/kazakhstan/ru/home/ourperspective/ourperspectivearticles/2015/-\_-\_-usaid-\_--\_--.html  &quot;День поля&quot; проекта ПРООН/USAID в Кызылординской области  http://www.kz.undp.org/content/kazakhstan/ru/home/ourperspective/ourperspectivearticles/2015/-\_-\_--\_-\_-usaid---.html  Отзывы участников о Дней поля  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J\_HYK6QfDUQ  Новые технологии обеспечивают устойчивость зернопроизводства в условиях меняющегося климата  http://www.undp.kz/articles/1/401.jsp  Глобальное потепление губительно влияет на сельское хозяйство  http://bnews.kz/ru/blogs/erlan\_jumabaev/post/209  Ерлан Жумабаев о развитии сельского хозяйства в Казахстане  http://articles.gazeta.kz/question-and-answer/erlan-zhumabaev-o-razvitii-selskogo-khozyajjstva-v-kazakhstane-respondentID187.html  Глобальное потепление губительно влияет на сельское хозяйство http://100kadam.kz/ru/eksperty/198-globalnoe-poteplenie-gubitelno-vliyaet-na-selskoe-khozyajstvo.html  Фермеры Казахстана смогут предсказывать засуху и готовиться к ней  http://inform.kz/rus/article/2700206  Урожай в этом году будет хороший, но не рекордный  http://inform.kz/rus/article/2700206  Рисовая житница под угрозой?  http://erkindik.kz/risovaya-zhitnitsa-pod-ugrozoy/  Kazakhstan's experts learn from US to create Geoportals for climate data  http://www.kz.undp.org/content/kazakhstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2015/04/23/usaid-undp-climate-resilience-wheat-project-provides-professional-study-tour-to-the-us-to-build-kazakh-experts-geoportals-capacity.html  Kazakhstan | USAID and UNDP Help 5 Million Tones of Kazakh Wheat Reach Afghanistan  http://www.us.undp.org/content/washington/en/home/presscenter/articles/2015/05/26/kazakhstan-usaid-and-undp-help-5-million-tones-of-kazakh-wheat-reach-afghanistan.html  Неделя поля от ПРООН  http://margin.kz/index.php/news/1014-nedelya-polya-ot-proon  [http://margin.kz/images/photogallery/Field\_week/1.jpg]http://margin.kz/index.php/news/1014-nedelya-polya-ot-proon  Агрометеорологическое прогнозирование В Казахстане (брошюра)  Технология возделывания яровой пшеницы в условиях изменения климата (брошюра)  Эффективность использования земель в пшеничном секторе  Анализ пробелов продовольственной безопасности Центральной Азии  Состояние и проблемы сектора производства пшеницы в условиях изменения климата |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |

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| --- |
| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| Yes |

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| --- |
| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| Yes |

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| --- |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| Yes |

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| --- |
| **Request for MSP Approval:** [PIMS5358 KAZ MSP Agroincentives CEO ER\_31 March 2015 final.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5358/214083/1689454/1689735/PIMS5358%20KAZ%20MSP%20Agroincentives%20CEO%20ER_31%20March%202015%20final.docx) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| No significant challenges have been met by the project, the only delays with implementation that the project has faced was related to the later appointment of the Minister in MOA and hence the member of the PBM has also been changed which took time before the project was able to proceed with implementation of planned activities during this year.    However, the project has very actively partnered with the national and local level CBOs/NGOs and the private sectors. The majority of the targeted community and demonstration plots were selected based o the prior agreements and cooperation with the UNDP GEF SGP. The project has organized field days where both land users from southern regions of Taraz and Almaty came to Kyzylorda and vice versa to share and exchange their experience and knowledge. For instance, the experts of Kyzylorda have shared their unique experience on cultivation of rice crops using a drip irrigation. Now, 4 farmers from Baikonur district of Almaty region have replicating to cultivate rice using a drip irrigation. Meantime, the experience on cultivation of onion and sudan grass to explore the abandoned lands were taken from Almaty to Kyzylorda region. More than 770 farmers were participated in the last field day event organized by the project. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.