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Initiation Plan / GEF PPG

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Project Title: Enhancing the Conservation in the Tian Shan mountain regions in Central and Eastern Kyrgyzstan

Country: Kyrgyz Republic

UNSDCF Outcome 3. By 2027, the Kyrgyz Republic started the transition to low-carbon development and risk-informed climate resilience, contributing to people's fair and equitable access to ecosystem benefits and to empowerment of vulnerable communities in the governance of natural resources and disaster prevention.

Country Programme Outcome: Output 3.2.: National and subnational mechanisms and systems are in place to introduce solutions for improved conservation of biodiversity and management of natural resources.

Gender Marker rating: *GEN 2*

SES Pre-Screening Categorization: *Moderate*

Quantum Project ID: 01004890 Quantum Award ID: 1421407 PIMS number: 6733 Management Arrangement: *DIM*	**Total budget:** Allocated resources: • GEF • Government • UNDP	**US$**111,200 US$100,000 US$ US$ 11,200

AGREED BY

ALEXANDRA SOLOVIEVA	DocuSigned by: Alexandra Solovieva 0D0F1B37D78143B...	*Day/Month/Year*
UNDP Resident Representative[1]	Signature	Date 17-Sep-2025

[1] Edit as necessary. Include other Agency as necessary.

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I. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATION PLAN/GEF PPG

Objective & Final Outputs

The objective of the GEF PPG is to develop the project concept into a full project: *Enhancing the Conservation in the Tian Shan mountain regions in Central and Eastern Kyrgyzstan*. As described in the project concept, this project aims to preserve local and global biodiversity and promote rational use of natural resources in the Central and Eastern regions of Kyrgyzstan. These globally significant Tien Shan mountain areas encompass protected areas (PAs), Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), Important Bird Areas (IBAs), and Ramsar wetlands like Lakes Issyk-Kul, Son-Kul, and Chatyr-Kul, hosting endangered species such as the snow leopard, Marco Polo sheep, and Siberian ibex. The region supports critical ecological services (water regulation, carbon sequestration) and Kyrgyzstan's nomadic heritage, but faces threats from overgrazing, poaching, pollution, mining, tourism, and climate change.

Developed within the GEF and co-financing framework, the project addresses the drivers of biodiversity loss by strengthening biodiversity management, integrating conservation into broader land-use planning, and promoting ecological connectivity across the Central and Eastern Tien Shan. It aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Kyrgyzstan's newly developed National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (State Program on Biodiversity Conservation for 2025–2040), the National Adaptation Plan, NDC 3.0, and lessons from initiatives such as the GEF-funded Western Tien Shan Project.

Component 1: Enabling framework strengthened for conservation of biodiversity and improving the rational use of natural resources in the Central and Eastern regions of Kyrgyzstan.

This component focuses on enhancing policy, regulatory, planning, financial, and institutional frameworks to support integrated biodiversity conservation in the Tien Shan ecosystem. It aims to harmonize national legislation, including the Laws on Protected Areas, Flora, Fauna, etc., to address gaps in implementation, funding, and community participation. Through policy reviews, multi-stakeholder consultations, and legislative updates, the initiative promotes inclusive governance, gender-responsive practices, and transboundary collaboration. It includes developing guidelines for PA management, establishing a unified PA financing system, and fostering community-based economic activities in buffer zones, prioritizing women, youth, and disadvantaged groups. A centralized monitoring system using GIS and remote sensing will track conservation outcomes, supported by capacity-building programs. A gender-sensitive Framework plan for the Tien Shan ecosystem will be developed through participatory processes to ensure sustainable management and equitable benefit-sharing.

Component 2: Improved management of protected areas, buffer zones and ecological corridors in the Central and Eastern regions of Kyrgyzstan.

This component emphasizes effective management of PAs, buffer zones, and ecological corridors, recognizing them as vital conservation hubs within broader productive landscapes in the region. It seeks to balance biodiversity conservation with sustainable livelihoods by strengthening inter-sectoral coordination through multi-stakeholder platforms. A national framework plan will enhance PA networks, improve ecological connectivity, and integrate KBAs and other conservation zones. The component supports community-based conservation, restoration, and sustainable practices like conservation agriculture, ecotourism, and pastoral systems, with targeted interventions for women and marginalized groups. Private-community partnerships will promote small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, and value chains, ensuring economic benefits align with conservation goals. Investments will focus on habitat restoration, climate-smart practices, and market access for sustainable enterprises, fostering long-term ecological and economic resilience.

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Component 3: Stakeholders demonstrate increased awareness and capacity to enhance conservation, outcomes, improved connectivity and sustainable resource use, and climate mitigation
This component enhances stakeholder awareness and capacity for biodiversity conservation, connectivity, sustainable resource use, and climate mitigation in the Tien Shan ecosystem. It develops gender-sensitive communication materials to highlight the socio-economic value of PAs, ecocorridors, and KBAs, using media like social media, newspapers, TV, radio, and educational resources such as documentaries and school materials. Targeted outreach engages women, youth, and disadvantaged groups, with events like competitions and festivals promoting nature-based solutions and women's leadership in conservation. An advocacy plan targets policymakers to bolster support for the Tien Shan ecosystem, while a digital knowledge platform and a citizen-monitoring app with sex-disaggregated data ensure accessibility. A replication and scaling-up strategy documents case studies, produces policy guidance, and facilitates workshops and inter-regional site visits to share best practices. Regional exchanges with neighboring countries via platforms like the Tian Shan and Pamir World Heritage Network foster transboundary cooperation, sharing gender-specific knowledge products to enhance conservation outcomes.

Component 4: Effective project monitoring and evaluation ensured and supporting adaptive management and TOC
This component ensures effective monitoring and adaptive management for biodiversity conservation in Issyk-Kul and Naryn. An M&E system, aligned with UNDP, GEF, and NBSAP policies, tracks environmental and socio-economic benefits, guiding stakeholders. It includes a monitoring framework, compliance with gender and social safeguards, and regular progress reports. Mid-term and terminal evaluations assess progress, adjust strategies, and share findings to inform future policies and GEF projects.

The following information is to be consulted as background for the GEF PPG phase:

- PIF cleared for WP inclusion or GEF Council approved PIF (PFD and child project concept note for projects that are part of a program)
- SES pre-screening (of PIF)
- Comments from GEF Secretariat, Council, STAP
- Annotated UNDP-GEF Project Document Template and associated guidance included therein
- UNDP policies and procedures
- UNDP-GEF guidance notes on GEF project development (which will be provided by the RTA) and
- GEF polices on: Project Cancellation; Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies; Project and Program Cycle; and Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agency (in particular sections dealing with the required separation of oversight and execution support services). All GEF policies are available here.

The final outputs of the GEF PPG are:

1. UNDP-GEF Project Document (ProDoc).
2. Mandatory annexes to the ProDoc
3. GEF CEO Endorsement Request and all mandatory annexes; and
4. Validation Workshop report (required for projects with a high SESP categorization, as appropriate for all others).

Any additional studies and other reports produced under the GEF PPG and not included in Annex to the project document will be submitted to UNDP and saved for future reference.

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Key Dates for the GEF PPG

Milestone	Date	Notes
Internal submission date for BPPS review and clearance	*February 11, 2026*	FSP: within 10 months of PIF approval MSP: within 6 months of PIF approval PFD or IP child projects: within 8 months before the program commitment deadline included in the PFD
First GEF Submission Deadline for CEO Endorsement	*April 11, 2026*	FSP must be within 12 months of PIF approval MSP: must be within 8 months of PIF approval PFD or IP child projects: must be within 6 months before the program commitment deadline **Failure to submit a ProDoc and CEO ER to the GEF Sec by this date will lead to the automatic cancellation of the project by the GEF Sec.**
CEO Endorsement Deadline after which the project will be cancelled if not endorsed	*August 11, 2026*	FSP: must be within 18 months of PIF approval MSP: must be within 12 months of PIF approval. PFD or IP child projects: program commitment deadline **If the project has not been CEO endorsed by the deadline, it will be automatically cancelled by the GEF Sec.**

Management Arrangements

The UNDP Kyrgyzstan will lead the project development process and manage the GEF PPG budget in full consultation with the BPPS VF unit and the Regional Technical Adviser. The GEF PPG Quantum budget is presented in *Section IV: Total Budget and Work Plan*.

A working Group will guide the GEF PPG team and review and endorse the GEF PPG deliverables. The Working Group is responsible for ensuring that the deliverables outlined in this GEF PPG are completed on time and in line with UNDP and GEF requirements. The UNDP Resident Representative and GEF OFP will chair the Working Group. Working Group members will include: UNDP-GEF RTA, UNDP CO Programme Specialist/Team Leader of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, and responsible personnel within the Ministry of Nature Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic, Directorate Biosphere Territory “Yssyk-Kol”, Forest Service under the Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Agriculture, oblast state administrations, National Academy of Sciences. .

The GEF PPG team will be composed of the consultancies described in the draft Terms of Reference (TORs) in Annex 2.

II. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

To ensure strong country ownership and in line with the stakeholder engagement requirements outlined in UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards (SES), the SES Guidance Note of Stakeholder Engagement, the GEF’s Guidelines on the Implementation of the Policy on Stakeholder Engagement and the GEF Policy on Gender Equality, the development of the project to be undertaken during this GEF PPG phase will be done in full consultation and close engagement with government, CSO and other

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relevant stakeholders – in particular those who will benefit from and be directly involved in the implementation of the project (i.e., direct project beneficiaries) and those who may be impacted (positively or negatively) by the project. Stakeholder Engagement and analysis must be conducted in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner so that the rights of women and men and the different structural barriers, knowledge, needs, roles, and interests of women and men are recognized and addressed.

Careful and complete documentation of stakeholder engagement is vital. Detailed evidence of all consultations will be prepared and submitted to UNDP. A list of the consulted stakeholders and details of the associated meetings will be included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (see section B-a below).

If the fully designed project has an overall Social and Environment Screening Procedure (SESP) categorization of moderate, substantial, or high, then the following disclosure requirements apply:

1. A final validation workshop report will be prepared summarizing the outcomes of the validation workshop and other consultations undertaken during the PPG phase. This report will become a key reference document should an environmental and social complaint/grievance be filed during project implementation. This is mandatory for high and substantial risk projects and recommended for moderate risk projects.
2. The UNDP-GEF project document, SESP and related draft management plans and frameworks, and other relevant information/documents will be made available to the public on the UNDP Country Office website or open.undp.org. These documents should be available 30 days before the LPAC meeting for moderate risk projects, 60 days in advance for substantial risk projects, and 120 days in advance for high-risk projects.

See the SES Supplemental Guidance on Disclosure for more information.

III. GEF PPG Activities

Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews

The following technical studies and reviews will be conducted.

a. Desktop and field-based studies and data collection

This research should produce the background information required to prepare the ProDoc (including its Annexes) and CEO Endorsement Request, including but not limited to the following:

- Development challenge and strategy (including threats, problems, and barrier assessment);
- Review of national policy and legislative frameworks;
- Problem and solution trees, assumptions and risks, developed in consultation with project stakeholders for a robust Theory of Change, Results Framework, and solid M&E plan;
- Review of relevant past and ongoing projects for lessons, including project evaluations; and
- Any other analyses required to address all comments on the PIF received from GEF Secretariat, GEF Council members, and STAP.

b. Gender Analysis

A gender analysis will be prepared to fully consider the different needs, roles, benefits, impacts, risks, differential access to and control over resources of women and men (including considerations of

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intersecting categories of identity such as age, social status, ethnicity, marital status, etc.) and to identify appropriate measures to address these and promote gender equality and women's empowerment. See the guidance available here.

c. Social and Environmental Standards: Screening and Assessments

The social and environmental safeguards pre-screening prepared during the PIF design phase has initially determined the overall risk categorization of this project as *Moderate* and highlighted potential safeguards risks to be further assessed during the PPG phase.

An SES Framework –namely, (i.e., the Environmental and Social Management Framework – ESMF) - will be prepared to ensure that the necessary assessments are carried out during project implementation. The standard templates are available in the UNDP SES Toolkit**.** The Framework(s) and ProDoc must clearly state that none of the associated project activities will commence until: the assessment(s) have been completed; the required management plan(s) have been prepared, and the plan(s) have been publicly disclosed and approved by the Project Board.

The required targeted assessment of the different risks rated as Moderate at pre-screening (such as Risk 5. in particular related to P1.6, P2.10, P4.14, S1.1-1.4, S1.8, Risk 6. P4.14, S1.1-1.4, S1.6, S1.8, S1.9, S2.3, S5.1-5.2, S8.5) will be undertaken during the PPG. The assessment will identify ways to avoid negative environmental and social impacts where possible. If risk avoidance is not possible, mitigation and management measures must be identified and documented.

The PIF pre-SESP will be reviewed during the PPG phase. The national PPG team will facilitate dialogue with target communities, identify areas where their rights might be threatened, ensure respect for the existing legislation related to socio-cultural rights. In case some of the required assessments cannot be undertaken or finalized during the PPG, they must be completed during the first phase of project implementation.

d. Identification of project sites

Based on the above reviews and through consultation with stakeholders, the targeted project *demonstration* sites will be identified and detailed. This should include providing geographic coordinates, maps, and shapefiles for inclusion in the ProDoc.

The project's geographic area lies within two oblasts – Naryn Oblast (41.18°N – 41.53°N, 75.58°E – 76.34°E) and Issyk-Kul Oblast (42.07°N – 42.47°N, 77.99°E – 78.48°E)
. The entire territory of Issyk-Kul oblast has been designated as the Biosphere Territory "Ysyk-Kol", covering the full administrative boundaries of the oblast with a total area of 4,314,400 ha (43,144 km²). Within these two oblasts, the project will focus on seven specially protected natural areas (SPNAs) of national significance, covering 328,430 hectares, along with approximately 200,000 hectares of KBAs/IBAs, associated buffer zones and ecological corridors for restoration and threat mitigation, state nature sanctuaries, and the Biosphere Territory "Ysyk-Kol."

- Issyk-Kul State Nature Reserve – 18,999 ha; established in 1948; IUCN Category Ia; located at ~42.4167°N, 77.25°E; focuses on wetland conservation around Lake Issyk-Kul.

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- Sarychat-Ertash State Nature Reserve – 149,117.9 ha; established in 1995; IUCN Category Ia; located at ~41.95°N, 78.533°E; critical habitat for snow leopard and other high-altitude species.
- Naryn State Nature Reserve – 36,969 ha; established in 1983; IUCN Category Ia; located in Naryn district; protects mountain ecosystems.
- Karatal-Japyryk State Nature Reserve – 36,392.6 ha; established in 1994; IUCN Category Ia; located in Naryn district; conserves alpine meadows and river ecosystems.
- State Nature Park "Karakol"– 38,314 ha; established in 1997; IUCN Category II; located in Issyk-Kul district; notable for diverse mountain landscapes and tourism potential.
- State Nature Park "Khan-Tengri" – 275,800.3 ha; established in 2016; IUCN Category II; located near ~42.2108°N, 80.175°E; encompasses glaciers, high peaks, and the Khan Tengri summit.
- State Nature Park "Salkyn-Tor" – 10,419 ha; established in 2001; IUCN Category II; located in Naryn district; protects mountain forest and meadow habitats.

Overlapping KBAs/IBAs include

- Eastern Issyk-Kul Lake (KBA/IBA, Issyk-Kul Oblast, ~100,000 ha, 42.4167°N, 77.25°E, Ramsar site, supports migratory waterbirds, threatened by overfishing and pollution)
- Western Issyk-Kul Lake (KBA/IBA, Issyk-Kul Oblast, ~2,700 ha, 42.4167°N, 77.25°E, Ramsar site, critical for avian biodiversity, faces tourism and pollution pressures)
- Sary-Djaz and Khan-Tengri (KBA, Issyk-Kul Oblast, part of ~200,000 ha, ~42.2108°N, 80.175°E, high-mountain habitat for snow leopard, threatened by poaching and mining)
- Karkyra Valley (KBA/IBA, Issyk-Kul Oblast, part of ~200,000 ha, ~42.2°N, 78.5°E, supports migratory birds and pastoral systems, threatened by overgrazing)
- Lake Chatyr-Kul (KBA/IBA, Naryn Oblast, 18,100 ha, 40.6329°N, 75.2712°E, Ramsar site, breeding ground for black-necked crane, threatened by pollution)
- Gorge Tash-Rabat (KBA/IBA, Naryn Oblast, part of ~200,000 ha, ~41.3°N, 75.8°E, supports rare mammals and birds, threatened by illegal resource extraction)
- Son-Kul Lake (KBA/IBA, Naryn Oblast, 30,000 ha, 41.8409°N, 75.1657°E, Ramsar site, vital for avian and pastoral systems, threatened by overgrazing)

Additionally, about 20 State Nature Sanctuaries (Zakazniks) covering more than 150 thousand ha (IUCN IV) will be integrated, with specific names and areas to be refined during the PPG.
These sites form a connected landscape aimed at improving management effectiveness, restoring degraded areas, and reducing threats to endangered species. Geographic coordinates provided are approximate centroids or central points; more accurate coordinates and detailed maps will be prepared via GIS during the PPG. Shapefiles will be sourced or developed using data from MNRETS.

e. Financial planning, co-financing, and investment mobilized

Co-financing and investment mobilized – as defined in the GEF Policy and Guidelines on co-financing - will be confirmed, and additional sources identified through a series of consultations with partners to ensure a coherent and sustainable financing package for the project, including post-GEF grant phase to the extent possible. The GEF is seeking high co-financing/investment mobilized to GEF grant ratios with a preference for grants, loans, and other public investments over in-kind co-financing. The GEF also expects the Government to significantly support the costs associated with project execution (i.e., PMC).

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f. Stakeholder analysis

Building on the initial identification of stakeholders in the PIF, an appropriately scaled analysis of project stakeholders will be undertaken. This stakeholder analysis will provide the foundation for developing the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan and facilitate the prioritization of engagement activities with particular stakeholder groups and individuals. Projects with pre-screening categorizations of Substantial or High will prepare a **comprehensive** stakeholder analysis. See the UNDP SES Guidance Note on Stakeholder Engagement.

g. Appraise and formulate the most appropriate project implementation and execution modality

The design of the project will comply with the UNDP's Program and Operations Policy and Procedures (POPP), Financial Regulations, Programme and Project Management and Quality Standards, and UNDP-GEF guidance (which will be provided by the RTA). A full assessment of the most appropriate project implementation and management arrangements will be conducted in full consultation with the RTA, UNDP Country Office, Resident Representative (or their Deputy), the relevant government coordinating agency, and the GEF OFP.

Project management arrangements must be discussed and agreed upon early in the PPG phase and an assessment and selection of the most appropriate Implementing Partner and/or third parties (Responsible Parties) with full capacity to execute the project must be carried out.
During the first two months of the PPG phase:

- For all potential Implementing Partners, carry out capacity assessments to assess their capacity to implement the project and assess all related risks. This must include HACT and PCAT assessments[2].
- Discuss the level of co-financing the Government and Implementing Partner can commit to this project. As per GEF Policy, the GEF is seeking high co-financing to GEF grant ratios and expects the Government to significantly support the costs associated with project execution (i.e., PMC) for this project.
- Based on these assessments, select and confirm the Implementing Partner for the project in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. The selected Implementing Partner must express willingness to serve as the Implementing Partner for the Project, and the concerned government must agree to use the selected Implementing Partner for the Project. (Please see UNDP's Policy on Selecting Implementing Partners).
- If the Implementing Partner does not have full capacity to execute the project, and execution support is likely needed, discuss with the UNDP Resident Representative whether Implementing Partner is the correct choice. If not, select another Implementing Partner, if possible. If that is not an option, explore alternative options for providing execution support via Responsible Parties (see UNDP Policy on Selecting Responsible Parties). Discuss with the Implementing Partner the role of the responsible parties in project execution and the execution support these parties could provide.
- The GEF Policies on Minimum Fiduciary Standards require a separation of functions between project implementation (i.e., oversight) and project execution (which generally includes managing and administrating the day-to-day activities of projects in accordance with the legal agreements with the GEF). Oversight activities are the primary responsibility of the GEF Agency

[2] Including mandatory procurement assessment and construction assessment when applicable

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(i.e., UNDP). In contrast, the execution activities are the responsibility of the Executing Entity (i.e., the Implementing Partner and/or Responsible Party in UNDP terminology). While UNDP policy offers the possibility for UNDP to provide execution support to NIM or execute the project under a DIM modality in case there is a government request for such support, GEF policy only allows GEF Agencies to step into an execution role in 'exceptional circumstances', which are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Hence, whenever a project involves GEF funding, the exceptional circumstances where there is a clear and well-founded rationale for UNDP to perform certain execution functions **should always be well documented and transparently disclosed, discussed, and agreed upon with the GEF Secretariat at the project concept (PIF) stage before CEO Endorsement, regardless of whether the execution services are intended to be funded from the GEF grant or non-GEF resources.** See the UNDP-GEF ProDoc template guidance for further information.

- Consult with the RTA on the latest guidance regarding UNDP providing support services to the Implementing Partner. If the costs for UNDP to provide support services are to be charged to the GEF project budget, the UNDP support services must be approved by the GEF Secretariat before CEO endorsement.
- Consult with CO Head of Procurement Unit/Operations Manager and Regional Procurement Advisors on envisaged procurement/contracting project procurement requirements, identified risks, development of optimal procurement strategies, development of project procurement plans and opportunities to incorporate sustainable procurement considerations and indicators to the project.

h. Other required studies

- Besides the studies and research indicated in the section "a.Desktop and field-based studies and data collection", the PPG team will conduct:
    - (i) Field verification of key biodiversity sites, including identification of priority habitats and species, and areas requiring restoration. The results of this study will provide evidence-based baseline for project rationale, informs Results Framework, and guides selection of project interventions.
    - (ii) Land-use and landscape mapping to identify potential intervention sites and assess spatial connectivity. Produced maps and spatial data for project planning will support spatial targeting of project activities, justify site selection, and informs monitoring indicators.
    - (iii) Brefi hydrological and watershed assessment, including preliminary review of water availability and ecosystem dependencies. Obtained information on water-related ecosystem risks will be beneficial in climate and ecosystem vulnerability analysis, informs design of water-dependent interventions.
    - Further elaborate different baseline/external drivers affecting future scenarios (with and without GEF intervention) to address gaps in comparable baseline data and institutional capacities across the two target provinces
    - Further assessment will be undertaken of potential future climate projections and risks to help design management intervention to manage and mitigate these risks.
    -

The PPG team will also conduct the following:

- Analysis of previous METT will be performed, to inform tailored proposed project activities; preparation of METT for the existing PAs under the project's focus;

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- Analysis of the potential for local businesses and rural entrepreneurship, SME potential, etc. Assessment on the options for expanding opportunities to promote value chain enterprises related to forest, agricultural, pastoral and other economic products which can support improved, sustainable and environmental-friendly use of land and nature's resources and services.

- The PPG team will hold in-person bilateral meetings, on-line meetings (using available platforms) and a final validation workshop with key project partners and will conduct field missions to the project sites.

Data collection and studies conducted during the PPG will serve as basis for development of Theory of Change and project strategy. The PPG team will be responsible for the development of detailed content for the outcomes of the proposed project and will consult with the national stakeholders for the identification, design and consensus on project activities. The Results Framework will be further defined with appropriate Objective-level and Outcome-level quantitative and qualitative SMART indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets.

Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes

Based on the technical studies and reviews undertaken under **Component A**, the UNDP-GEF Project Document will be developed, and the GEF CEO Endorsement Request will be prepared. See additional guidance notes below.

The GEF PPG Team Leader will be responsible for consolidating and finalizing all required materials.

a. Stakeholder Engagement Plan:

At a minimum, the Plan must include the following elements:

- Stakeholders who have been and will be engaged (based on stakeholder analysis), including potentially marginalized or disadvantaged groups/individuals and stakeholders that will be involved in particular project outputs/activities (the 'who');
- Key stakeholder objectives and interests (the 'why');
- Steps and actions to achieve meaningful consultation and inclusive participation, including information dissemination and any special measures required to ensure inclusive participation of marginalized disadvantaged groups/individuals the dissemination of information (the 'how');
- Breadth and depth of stakeholder engagement throughout the project cycle and decisions that need to be made through stakeholder engagement (the 'what');
- Timeline for engagement activities and how they will be sequenced, including information disclosure (the 'when');
- Indicators of stakeholder engagement and monitoring plan on progress and issues that arise;
- Roles and responsibilities for ensuring effective stakeholder engagement through the implementation of the Plan, including the role of stakeholder representatives and whether stakeholder engagement facilitators are required; and
- Resource requirements and associated budget.

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- A project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be described in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and established in the first year of project implementation. See the UNDP guidance on GRM and sample TOR.

See the UNDP SES Toolkit, which contains guidance on Stakeholder Engagement, the standard SEP template, and the GEF guidelines on stakeholder engagement.

b. Gender Action Plan and Budget

The gender analysis conducted in **Component A,** along with relevant findings from the stakeholder analysis and background studies, will form the basis of a Gender Action Plan to guide gender mainstreaming during project implementation. The Gender Action Plan must include indicators, targets, timeframe, responsible party, and budget, which are linked to the project's components/outputs, outcomes, and activities. As part of preparing the Gender Action Plan, indicators should be proposed for inclusion in the Results Framework to facilitate the monitoring of the proposed gender mainstreaming actions.

See the guidance available here.

c. Social and Environmental Standards:

In line with the assessments conducted during **Component A** (above) and UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) policy and all associated SES Guidance Notes, the pre-SESP will be updated and an Environmental and Social Management Framework will be elaborated for the project.

The preparation of the relevant SES documents will involve close consultations with the Regional SES Technical Adviser and further develop/revise the recommendations provided in the pre-SESP, while paying special attention to:

- the Output 1.5, Output 2.2, Output 2.3, will be screened and pre-SESP safeguards management measures will be taken into account in the formulation of activities
- Output 2.4 that will facilitate Private-Community partnerships in support of conservation, restoration and community-based small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and value chain developed- will follow the screening and planned interventions as per the pre SESP
- In terms of climate risk, all agriculture and livelihood related activities will take into account the possibility of drought, flooding and climate conditions and designed accordingly.

All risks identified in the SESP will be reflected in the risk table and risk section of the ProDoc, and in the Project's Risk Register.

d. GEF and LDCF/SCCF Core Indicators

The CEO endorsement-stage data for the relevant Core Indicators and sub-indicators will be prepared. For GEF Trust Fund projects, the completed GEF-8 Core Indicators Worksheet - with both the original PIF-stage data and the CEO endorsement-stage data—will be annexed to the ProDoc. LDCF/SCCF projects will use the CCA Results Framework worksheet.

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As part of the GEF Core Indicators requirement, the required METTs will be prepared in the GEF-7 Excel template; the relevant details will be included in the GEF-8 Core Indicators template, and the final Excel METT file will be submitted to UNDP (not be annexed to the ProDoc).

The relevant Core Indicators will be included in the project's Results Framework at the Objective level, where appropriate. See the GEF Guidelines on Core Indicators and Sub-indicators.

e. Completion of the required official endorsement letters

These letters include the official letters on the co-financing guarantee(s) from participating government institutions, bilateral development partners, multilateral development partners, NGOs, the private sector, or others who wish to provide cash or in-kind contributions to the project.

A GEF OFP endorsement letter will also be required for any new participating countries to a global or regional program/project not included in the PIF/PFD submission.

Updated GEF OFP endorsements letters are also required if the requested GEF grant amount has changed since PIF/PFD approval.

f. Mandatory Annexes

In addition to the documents listed above, the following Annexes should be prepared by the GEF PPG team:

- Project map and Geospatial Coordinates of project sites
- Multi-Year Work Plan
- Monitoring Plan
- UNDP Risk Register
- Overview of Technical Consultancies
- GEF 7 Taxonomy
- Initial Project Procurement Plan and TORs for key Project staff

Upon a request from the RTA during the PPG implementation, the PPG team may be required to prepare additional annexes.

g. Project Management Arrangements

Based on the stakeholder analysis and consultations undertaken in **Component A** above, agreement(s) on project management and governance arrangements—including roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities of lead and partner Agencies—will be secured early in the project development phase and will be fully detailed in the ProDoc. Standard text from the governance and management arrangement from the GEF-8 template should never be removed.

Component C: Validation Workshop and Report

A validation workshop will be held with relevant stakeholders to present, discuss and validate the project activities and the final draft of the UNDP-GEF project document. A validation workshop report will be prepared for projects with an overall safeguards risk rating of moderate or high.

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IV. TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN FOR GEF PPG

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Quantum Project ID:	01004890	**Project Title:**	PPG for Enhancing the Conservation in the Tian Shan mountain regions in Central and Eastern Kyrgyzstan Project
Quantum Award ID:	1421407	**Award Title:**	PIMS-6733 GEF PPG Enhancing the Conservation in the Tian Shan mountain regions in Central and Eastern Kyrgyzstan (01004890)
Business Unit:	KGZ10		
PIMS number:	6733		
Implementing Partner:	UNDP		

GEF Outcome/Quantum Activity	Responsible Party	Fund ID	Donor Name	Quantum Budgetary Account Code	QUANTUM Budget Description	2025	2026	Total	Budget Notes
Project preparation grant to finalize the UNDP-GEF project document for project *Enhancing the Conservation in the Tian Shan mountain regions in Central and Eastern Kyrgyzstan*	**UNDP**	**62000**	**GEF TRUSTEE**	71200	International Consultants	9,300	21,700	31,000	1
				71300	Local Consultants	9,900	23,100	33,000	2
				71600	Travel	13,500	3,600	17,100	3
				74200	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs	0	7,000	7,000	4
				72500	Supplies	300	300	600	5
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	300	500	800	6
				75700	Trainings, workshops	5,000	5,500	10,500	7
					TOTAL from GEF TRUSTEE	**38,300**	**61,700**	**100,000**	
	UNDP		**UNDP TRAC**	71200	International Consultants	3,600	3,600	7,200	8
				74100	Professional Services	4,000		4,000	9
					GRAND TOTAL			**111,200**	

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Budget Note No.	**Budget Note** *Budget note should detail the use of the use of the budget. For example, outputs/deliverables of the consultants must be clear. Include cost breakdown and calculation basis (e.g., daily fee and number of days/weeks, unit cost and quantity)*
1	International consultant as team leader for project preparation, delivering project design, stakeholder analysis, and risk mitigation. US$620/day × 50 days = $31,000 See TOR for details.
2	Local Consultants on biodiversity, policy, gender, economic, hydrological, forest, livelihood, and GIS inputs: a) Senior Biodiversity & Protected Areas Specialist: $120/day × 60 days = $7,200 b) Legal, Policy & Institutional Capacity Specialist: $110/day × 55 days = $6,050; c) Gender Specialist: $125/day × 26 days = $3,250 d) National Safeguard Specialist: $110/day × 25 days = $2,750, e) Environmental Economist: $110/day × 25 days = $2,750; f) Wetland Specialist: $110/day × 25 days = $2,750; g) Pastures Management Specialist: $110/day × 25 days = $2,750; h) Livelihoods & Outreach Specialist: $110/day × 30 days = $3,300; j) GIS Specialist: $110/day × 20 days = $2,200 Total: $33,000 See TORs for details.
3	Supports field visits and consultations for data collection and workshops. International Consultant travel: 2 trips x $1,600 = $3,200, Local Consultants DSA: 65 nights x $100 = $6,500, Project Staff Transportation $1,600 and DSA to the fields 30 nights x $100 = $3,000; Travel costs for national partners to the field level consultations and to a national validation workshop 8 person/trips x $100 = $800, 20 person/nights x $100 = $2,000 Total: $17,100
4	Translation service provider companies - account “Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs” Total: $7,000
5	Covers office/field supplies for documentation and assessments. Total: $600
6	Bank fee or other related costs. Total: $800
7	Stakeholder consultations in the field and in Bishkek, National Level Validation Workshop in Bishkek. Total: $10,500
8	International Social and Environmental Standards Consultant US$600/day × 12 days = $7,200 would be charged from UNDP CO TRAC funds. See TOR for details.
9	Professional Services for HACT micro-assessment of potential project implementation parties/responsible parties Total: $4,000 would be charged from UNDP CO TRAC funds.

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V. GEF PPG ACTIVITIES TIMEFRAME AND BUDGET

PPG Activity	Month 1 Sept 2025	Month 2 Oct 2025	Month 3 Nov 2025	Month 4 Dec 2025	Month 5 Jan 2026	Month 6 Feb 2026	Month 7 March 2026	Month 8 April 2026	Budget (US$)
PPG team recruitment (UNDP CO)									
Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews Desktop and field-based studies and data collection									
Technical studies, assessments, community engagement									
Financial Planning, co-financing and investment mobilized (including securing co-financing letters)									
Component B: Formulation of ProDoc and Annexes									
Component C: Validation Workshop									
Delivery of final outputs (Internal submission to UNDP/GEF)						11 Feb deadline			
Final Submission to the GEF Secretariat								April 11 deadline	

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VI. MANDATORY ANNEXES

Annex 1: GEF CEO PIF/PPG Approval Letter

.



M.Sc. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez
CEO and Chairperson

August 11, 2025

Ms. Nancy Bennet
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
New York City, USA

Dear Ms. Bennet,

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved the PIF for the medium-sized project detailed below. I have also approved your request for project preparation grant:

Decision Sought:	Medium-sized Project (MSP) PIF Approval and PPG Approval
GEFSEC ID:	11936
Agency(ies):	UNDP
Agency ID:	6733 - UNDP
Focal Area:	Multi Focal Area
Project Type:	Medium-sized Project
Country(ies):	Kyrgyz Republic
Name of Project:	Enhancing the Conservation in the Tian Shan mountain regions in Central and Eastern Kyrgyzstan
Indicative GEF Project Financing:	$2,183,104
Indicative Agency Fee:	$207,394
PPG:	$100,000
PPG Agency Fee:	$9,500
Funding Source:	GEF Trust Fund

Break-down:		Project Financing Amount (US$)	Agency Fee (US$)				Total Project Cost (US$)
Agency	Trust Fund		20% committed at CEO PIF approval (US$)	50% to be committed at first disbursement (US$)	30% to be committed at mid-term review (US$)	Total Agency Fee (US$)	
UNDP	GEF TF	2,183,104	41,479	103,697	62,218	207,394	2,390,498
Total		**2,183,104**	**41,479**	**103,697**	**62,218**	**207,394**	**2,390,498**

Break-down:	Project Preparation Grant (US$)	PPG Fee (US$)	Total (US$)

1818 H Street, NW • Washington, DC 20433 • USA
Tel: +1 (202) 473 3202 - Fax: +1 (202) 522 3240
E-mail: gefceo@thegef.org
www.thegef.org

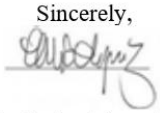
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Ms. Bennet

Agency	Trust Fund			
UNDP	GEF TF	100,000	9,500	109,500
Total		**100,000**	**9,500**	**109,500**

This approval is based on the understanding that the project is in conformity with GEF focal area strategies and in line with GEF policies and procedures. Please ensure that your final project document, having fully addressed all Secretariat comments, will be approved within 12 months of CEO approval of the PIF.

Sincerely,



M. Sc. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point(s), Trustee

1818 H Street, NW • Washington, DC 20433 • USA
Tel: +1 (202) 473 3202 - Fax: +1 (202) 522 3240
E-mail: gefceo@thegef.org
www.thegef.org

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Annex 2: Draft Terms of Reference (TORs) of Consultants Financed by the Project Preparatory Grant (GEF PPG)

Position, Type, and Cost	Role, Deliverables and Qualifications
Consultant 1: International Project Development Specialist (GEF PPG Team Leader) **Type:** IC **Cost per person day:** 620 USD **Number of person days needed:** 50 days	**Role** The International GEF Project Development Specialist will be the GEF PPG Team Leader, responsible for quality assurance and timely preparation of all reports and documentation, including the finalized UNDP Project Document (ProDoc) and CEO Endorsement Request, with all mandatory and project-specific annexes and supporting documentation. **Responsibilities and Deliverables** 1) Management of the GEF PPG Team a. Define and submit a detailed methodology and work plan in consultation with the other consultants with clear delegation of responsibilities among the team members; b. Ensure that project development is participatory, gender-responsive and based on extensive stakeholder engagements, including government, CSOs, and local communities in the Tian Shan region; and c. Verify and ensure that all project components are technically sound and cost effective. d. Coordination of all intersecting sectors (forests, pastures, water, biodiversity) to avoid duplication and ensure consistency in the findings of national consultants. 2) Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews (Component A): With inputs from the national consultants, as detailed in their respective TORs: a. Oversee and support the compilation of baseline/situational analysis for the medium-size project (MSP). This will include a precise definition of baseline projects, activities, budgets, goals, and co-financial links to GEF outcomes; a definition of GEF incremental value per outcome and output; and a presentation of results of the incremental cost-analysis in matrices as appropriate; b. Oversee the stakeholder analysis and consultations, with support from national consultants, and ensure that they are complete and comprehensive, involving government agencies, local communities, and private sector entities (e.g., tourism or agriculture sectors). c. Ensure the preparation of the gender analysis and ensure its findings are meaningfully integrated into the project's strategy, theory of change, and results framework; d. Ensure action points, including risk assessments, from the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) pre-screening (Moderate risk) are fully implemented during the PPG and update the SESP iteratively. e. Oversee the identification of the project sites, with documentation of selection criteria and making sure that geo-referenced data and maps, shapefiles are clearly presented both for targeted protected areas and broader landscapes ; f. Oversee the identification of opportunities for private sector engagement and co-financing;

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	g. Ensure the preparation of partner capacity assessments and discussions on management arrangements early in the PPG process; h. Oversee the consultations with partners regarding financial planning; and i. Ensure completion of any additional studies that are determined to be needed for the preparation of the ProDoc and all other final outputs. 3) Formulation of the ProDoc, CEO Endorsement Request and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes (Component B): With inputs from the national consultants, as detailed in their respective TORs, and based on international best practice: a. Develop, present, and articulate the project's theory of change; b. Develop the Results Framework in line with UNDP-GEF policy, integrating biodiversity, socio-economic, and hydrological indicators (with inputs from respective national consultants); c. Develop a detailed Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget; d. Oversee and ensure the preparation of a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan; e. Oversee and ensure the preparation of a Gender Action Plan and Budget; f. Oversee and ensure the updating of the SESP based on assessments undertaken during Component A, and ensure the development of required environmental and/or social management plan(s) as required; g. Oversee the preparation of the required GEF-8 Core Indicator Worksheet and METTs and ensure these are supported by robust and validated data; h. Secure all co-financing letters; i. Prepare the indicative procurement plan, Multi-Year Work Plan, Monitoring Plan, and Overview of Technical Consultancies.; j. Secure and present agreements on project execution and management arrangements and ensure that the project aligns to UNDP-GEF guidance on UNDP execution support; k. Ensure the completion of the required official endorsement letters; and l. Synthesize all analyses, studies, etc. that are prepared under Components A and B to produce the draft UNDP-GEF ProDoc, GEF CEO Endorsement, and all mandatory and project specific Annexes, using the templates.[3] 4) Validation Workshop (Component C): a. Lead the validation workshop to present, discuss and validate the final draft ProDoc and mandatory and project specific annexes, with a special focus on the SESP and any management plans; b. Oversee all necessary revisions that arise during the workshop; and c. Ensure completion of Validation Workshop Report. 5) Final Deliverables: a. Consolidation of all technical and consultation inputs and comments including from national stakeholders, UNDP, GEF Secretariat, STAP and GEF Council, into a well written and concise UNDP ProDoc with all required sections and Annexes, in line with the standard UNDP-GEF ProDoc template and annotated guidance; b. Completion of the GEF CEO Endorsement Request; c. Finalized SESP any required stand-alone management plans;

[3] Please verify with the UNDP-GEF team that the correct templates are being used.

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	d. All documentation from GEF PPG, including technical reports, meeting minutes, etc.; and e. Validation Workshop Report. **Qualifications** ▪ Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as environmental management and/or economics and/or public administration and/or Natural Resource Management and/or Environment and/or Natural Sciences and/or Agriculture, Development Studies or other closely related field; ▪ Minimum 7 years of demonstrable experience in the technical area of Biodiversity conservation and/or Protected areas and/or Land degradation and in preparing high quality project documents, particularly for UNDP and GEF projects; experience with GEF 8 programming cycle will be an asset ▪ Excellent written and oral communication skills in English; ▪ Demonstrated understanding of the GEF rationale and procedures, and demonstrated experience in formulation of GEF-funded project proposals, using the logical framework and the results-based management approaches; ▪ Prior experience in working with METT ▪ Experience working in the region on related initiatives highly desired.
<u>Consultant 2: Senior Biodiversity and Protected Areas Specialist (National PPG Coordinator)</u> **Type:** NC **Cost per person-day:** 120 **Number of person-weeks needed:** 60	**Role** The Senior Biodiversity and Protected Areas Specialist **<u>(National Coordinator)</u>** will provide substantive input for the justification and design of project interventions on conservation mechanisms, focusing on biodiversity conservation and protected area management in the Tian Shan mountain regions. He/She will coordinate and support the national PPG team in delivery on their respective outputs. **Responsibilities and Deliverables** 1) Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews (Component A): • Document and review the biodiversity status of the Tian Shan region, including key species, habitats, and threats (e.g., habitat degradation, climate change). • Assess the effectiveness of existing protected area management plans, identifying gaps and opportunities for enhancement. • Analyze relevant past and ongoing biodiversity projects in Kyrgyzstan, extracting lessons learned from project evaluations. • Conduct consultations with environmental agencies and local communities to validate biodiversity data. • Support the identification of project sites, including criteria for protected area expansion or management improvements (with national cconsultants on forest, pasture, wetland). 2) Formulation of ProDoc and Annexes (Component B): • Provide inputs to the ProDoc on biodiversity conservation strategies and protected area management for Component 1 and Component 2. • Contribute to the Results Framework with biodiversity indicators aligned with GEF-8 Core Indicators (e.g., area of protected landscapes, species conservation outcomes). • Finalize the GEF-7 Biodiversity Protected Area Tracking Tool (METT) and other relevant tracking tools in the provided Excel template and ensure data is validated for inclusion in the GEF-8 Core Indicators Worksheet.

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	• Support the Team Leader in integrating biodiversity components into the theory of change. • Assess training needs and design ProDoc activities related to training on protected areas (PAs) under Output 1.4. Develop a capacity-building program targeting both men and women across government, private sector, NGOs, and community stakeholders at national, district, and local levels. The program will strengthen enforcement of mandates related to landscape and PA management planning, species conservation, ecosystem and habitat management, sustainable agriculture, tourism, forestry, and grazing actions. • 3) Validation Workshop (Component C): • Coordinate the organization of the inception and validation workshops • Present biodiversity and protected area findings during the validation workshop. • Support revisions to the ProDoc based on stakeholder feedback. 4) Final Deliverables: • Detailed narrative summarizing biodiversity assessments, threats, and management gaps in the Tian Shan region. • METT with baseline and target scores for targeted protected areas. • Inputs to the ProDoc and Results Framework for in terms of Copmponent 1 and 3. • Participation in the validation workshop and contributions to the Validation Workshop Report. • Prepare PPG consultation report Qualifications • Master's degree or higher in biodiversity and/or ecology and/or environmental sciences and/or NRM. • Minimum 5 years of experience in biodiversity conservation and/or protected areas management. • Prior experience with METT and GEF biodiversity focal area projects. • Working experience with national and local stakeholders, NGOs, and community representatives. • Written and oral communication skills in Kyrgyz and Russian and English
Consultant 3: Legal, Policy, and Institutional Capacity Development Specialist **Type**: Local Consultant (NC) **Cost per person-day**: US$110	**Role** The Legal, Policy, and Institutional Capacity Development Specialist will provide technical input for the justification and design of project interventions under Component 2, focusing on strengthening the legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in Kyrgyzstan. The specialist will also integrate sustainable forest practices into the landscape approach, addressing threats like deforestation and climate change in forest ecosystems within the project regions (e.g., Issyk-Kul and Naryn). The specialist will also assess and propose mechanisms for coordination and convergence at the landscape level, leveraging existing institutional structures and identifying community/local-level systems to ensure synergy with ongoing development projects and processes. **Responsibilities and Deliverables**

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Number of person-days needed: 55 days	• **Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews (Component A)**: ○ Document and review Kyrgyzstan's legal and regulatory framework for protected areas, biodiversity, and natural resource management and forests (including State Forest Fund and non-SFF areas), identifying gaps. ○ Analyze institutional frameworks and conduct capacity assessments of relevant agencies, focusing on landscape-level coordination and forest management. ○ Assess institutional and community systems for landscape-level coordination, mapping ongoing projects for synergy, including forestry initiatives. ○ Review forest resources and degradation drivers; propose restoration and sustainable management for integration into protected areas and ecological corridors. ○ Propose legal and policy amendments to enhance conservation in the project region, ensuring compliance with international standards (e.g., CBD, Ramsar) and supporting landscape-level coordination, including recommendations for nature-based solutions in forest-based livelihoods (e.g., community forestry, agroforestry) and private sector engagement. ○ Identify and describe similar ongoing initiatives (government or donor-funded) relevant to the project. ○ Conduct consultations with government, legal experts, and stakeholders to validate findings. ○ In consultation with other team members prepare FAO EXACT worksheet to estimate potential CO2 mitigation benefits from the project • **Formulation of ProDoc and Annexes (Component B)**: ○ Provide inputs to the ProDoc on legal, policy, and institutional strengthening activities for Component 2, including specific measures to support landscape-level coordination and synergy with other development initiatives, as well as sections on forest management, restoration, and co-financing opportunities from forestry initiatives. ○ Design feasible interventions to address identified barriers, including capacity-building measures. ○ Contribute to the Results Framework with policy-related indicators, including indicators to measure effective coordination and synergy at the landscape level, and define forest-related outcomes, indicators, and risks as part of the Theory of Change. ○ Provide technical inputs into assessments for identifying and prioritizing local business and entrepreneurship solutions related to forests (in coordination with other PPG experts). ○ Support the Team Leader in defining management arrangements and securing agreements with government agencies. ○ Contribute to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, focusing on government stakeholders. • **Validation Workshop (Component C)**: ○ Present legal and policy findings including recommendations for landscape-level convergence and community-level systems, as well as forest-related findings and recommendations,

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	○ during the validation workshop. ○ Support revisions to the ProDoc based on feedback. • **Final Deliverables**: ○ Legal and policy analysis with proposed amendments for enhanced biodiversity protection. ○ Institutional capacity assessment and recommendations for Component 2. ○ Assessment report on existing institutional coordination structures, ongoing development projects, and community/local-level systems, with recommendations for their integration into project design, including a section on forest assessments, restoration opportunities, and integration strategies (with maps and data where relevant). ○ Inputs to the ProDoc, Results Framework, and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. ○ Participation in the validation workshop and contributions to the Validation Workshop Report. **Qualifications** • Master's degree in law and/or public administration and/or environmental governance or other related fields. • Minimum 5 years of experience in environmental law and/or policymaking and/or institutional reforms in NRM or PAs. • Proven experience in legal drafting and policy review in Kyrgyzstan. • Working experience with government entities, NGOs, and local authorities. • Excellent written and oral communication skills in Kyrgyz and Russian, good command in English.
<u>Consultant 4:</u> *National Gender Specialist* **Type:** NC **Cost per person-day:** 125 **Number of person-weeks needed:** 26	**Role** The National Gender Specialist will lead the development of gender-related mandatory project annexes and ensure gender mainstreaming throughout the PPG process. The consultant will be a gender and social inclusion expert with experience in in-depth gender analysis and local community engagement, focusing on integrating women's roles, needs, and empowerment into biodiversity conservation and natural resource management. **Responsibilities and Deliverables** 1. Conduct a comprehensive gender analysis to identify differential needs, roles, benefits, impacts, risks, and access to resources for women and men (considering intersecting factors like age, ethnicity, and social status). 2. Ensure findings from the gender analysis are integrated into the project's strategy, Theory of Change, Results Framework, and activities. 3. Prepare a Gender Action Plan and Budget, including gender-responsive indicators, targets, timelines, responsible parties, and linkages to project components. 4. Lead gender-responsive aspects of stakeholder consultations (in collaboration with the Livelihoods Specialist – Consultant 10), ensuring inclusive participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups. 5. Review project documents (e.g., ProDoc, Stakeholder Engagement Plan) for gender responsiveness and recommend revisions. 6. Collaborate with the PPG Team Leader and other consultants to mainstream gender into technical studies, such as livelihood assessments and policy reviews.

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	7. Provide inputs on gender-disaggregated data collection for monitoring and evaluation, including Core Indicators. 8. Participate in the validation workshop to present gender findings and ensure their validation. 9. Contribute to the final ProDoc and CEO Endorsement Request by synthesizing gender-related inputs. **Qualifications** • Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as gender studies, gender and development, women and environment, or women and sustainable development. • Minimum 7 years of demonstrable experience in gender mainstreaming, community development, and participatory gender analysis. • Experience carrying out participatory gender analysis; collecting and formulating gender-responsive indicators and sex-disaggregated data; preparing gender action plans. • Demonstrated experience working on policy and programmatic issues with national and local governments and civil society organizations, including community organizations. • Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Kyrgyz/Russian.
<u>Consultant 5: International</u> *Social and Environmental Standards Specialist* **From UNDP TRAC Fund** **Type: IC** **Cost per person day: 600USD** **Number of person days needed: 12**	**The International Social and Environmental Standards Specialist** will develop mandatory project Annexes related to application of social and environmental safeguards and support adherence of project development to UNDP's SESP and specific requirements, as appropriate based on the guidance from the project's SES Technical Adviser: **Deliverables** 1) <u>Preparatory Reviews and Technical Studies as agreed with the GEF PPG Team Leader, including:</u> a. Review the SES pre-screening of the PIF a. Prepare the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) and prepare or any further assessments or management plans (if required); b. Identify management measures to mitigate risks to be incorporated into the ProDoc or be described in the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project (if required) including budgets for their implementation; c. Support the consultations with local stakeholders on SES-related issues; and d. Support the completion of any additional studies that are determined to be needed for the preparation of the ProDoc and all other final outputs as guided by the PPG Team Leader. 2) <u>Formulation of the ProDoc, CEO Endorsement Request and Mandatory Annexes as well as project specific annexes (Component B):</u> a. Complete the SESP following comments from the project's SES Technical Adviser; b. Finalise management measures to mitigate risks to be incorporated into the ProDoc or be described in the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project (if required) following comments from the project's SES Technical Adviser;

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	c. Support the agreements on project management arrangements and ensure that gender and safeguards are adequately incorporated into these arrangements. 3) <u>Validation Workshop (Component C):</u> a. Contribute to the validation workshop; and b. Support all necessary revisions that arise during the workshop, as appropriate. 4) <u>Final Deliverables:</u> b. Finalized Social and Environmental Screening (SESP) c. Appropriate inputs to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan d. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project (if required) or any further assessments or management plans (if required) e. Appropriate inputs to the final UNDP-GEF project document based on guidance from the PPG Team Leader. **Qualifications** ▪ Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as environment or sustainable development; ▪ Minimum 7 years of demonstrable experience in the technical area of social and environmental safeguards risk assessment and mitigation; ▪ Experience carrying out participatory analyses; ▪ Prior experience in the social and environmental standards screening, assessment and management used by UNDP, World Bank, GEF, etc; ▪ Prior experience with previous similar assignment in the project beneficiary country(ies) or similar contexts; ▪ Excellent analytical, writing, advocacy, presentation, and communications skills are required; and ▪ Excellent written and oral communication skills in English
<u>Consultant 6: *National Safeguard Specialist*</u> <u>Type: NC</u> <u>Cost per person-day: 110</u> <u>Number of person-weeks needed: 25</u>	***Role*** The National Social and Environmental Safeguards Specialist will support the international safeguard specialist to conduct the assessment and management of social and environmental risks, ensuring compliance with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and GEF policies. The consultant will conduct field visits and consultations to address risks to communities, ecosystems, and forests, contributing local expertise to project development. **Responsibilities** 1. Conduct field visits and consultations to produce a geo-referenced assessment of social and environmental risks, including impacts on vulnerable groups, cultural heritage, ecosystems, and forests. 2. Document community and local stakeholder inputs, including Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), to inform the SESP and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. 3. Provide local data and recommendations for the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), including forest-related risk mitigation, to support the International Specialist. 4. Design a GRM tailored to local communities and forest stakeholders, integrated into the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

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	5. Contribute context-specific inputs to the ProDoc, Results Framework, and Monitoring Plan, including forest-related risk indicators, aligned with UNDP SES and GEF policies. 6. Present local safeguards findings at the validation workshop and contribute to the Validation Workshop Report, incorporating feedback for ProDoc revisions. **Deliverables** 1. Geo-referenced assessment of social and environmental risks based on field visits and consultations. 2. Documentation of community and local stakeholder inputs to support the SESP and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. 3. Local data and recommendations for the ESMF, including forest-related risk mitigation, to support the International Specialist. 4. Detailed GRM design, integrated into the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, tailored to local and forest stakeholders. 5. Context-specific contributions to the ProDoc, Results Framework, and Monitoring Plan, including forest-related risk indicators. ***Qualifications*** • *Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as environmental management and/or social sciences and/or sustainable development.* • *Minimum 3 years of experience in social and environmental safeguards and/or risk assessment and mitigation.* • *Prior experience in safeguards assessments and processes of international organizations and donors, such as UNDP, World Bank, or GEF.* • *Experience working on policy and programmatic issues with national and local governments and civil society organizations.* • *Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and/or Russian*
Consultant 7: National Environmental Economist **Type**: Local Consultant (NC) **Cost per person-day**: US$110 **Number of person-days needed**: 25 days	**Role** The National Environmental Economist will provide substantive input for the justification and design of project interventions under Outcome 1.2 (sustainable financing) and Outputs 1.6/1.7 (economic incentives and ecosystem service valuation), ensuring a coherent financing package. **Responsibilities and Deliverables** 1. **Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews (Component A)**: o Conduct an economic analysis of ecosystem services in the Tian Shan region, focusing on valuation for Outputs 1.6/1.7 (e.g., water provision, carbon sequestration, tourism). o Identify and confirm co-financing sources (government, private sector, NGOs) through consultations, prioritizing grants and public investments per GEF policy. o Analyze sustainable financing mechanisms (e.g., payment for ecosystem services, ecotourism levies) for post-GEF grant phase sustainability. o Map similar initiatives and analyze donor projects for synergies. o Conduct consultations with financial and private sector partners to validate findings. o Undertake assessments related to Outcome 1.2 (Outputs 1.6 and 1.7), in coordination with the Biodiversity/PA Expert, including:

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	♦ Evaluation of institutional, policy, and regulatory constraints, as well as overlapping agency mandates for revenue collection, with recommendations to address these constraints and optimize innovative financial instruments for conservation; ♦ Assessment of income flows and innovative financial solutions: based on the above evaluation, and aligned with BIOFIN and BFP recommendations, define potential income flow options from various economic solutions (e.g., tourism, agriculture) and innovative mechanisms such as corporate social responsibility, payments for environmental services, crowdfunding, biodiversity and carbon credits; ♦ Mobilization of funding through partnerships: propose equitable and inclusive mechanisms for mobilizing revenues from third parties, such as private enterprises and entrepreneurs, to promote public-private-community partnerships that support SME development, environmentally-friendly value chains, and greening of private enterprises. 2. **Formulation of ProDoc and Annexes (Component B)**: o Provide inputs to the ProDoc on sustainable financing strategies for Outcome 1.2 and Outputs 1.6/1.7. o Contribute economic indicators to the Results Framework (e.g., value of ecosystem services, co-financing ratios). o Support the Team Leader in securing co-financing letters and preparing the Total Budget and Work Plan. o Provide inputs to the indicative procurement plan for financial mechanisms. o Contribute to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, focusing on private sector engagement scenarios. o Contribute to the development of a resource mobilization strategy for protected areas, including identification of suitable public and private sector financing mechanisms for inclusion in the ProDoc. 3. **Validation Workshop (Component C)**: o Present economic and financing findings during the validation workshop. o Support revisions to the ProDoc based on feedback. 4. **Final Deliverables**: o Economic analysis of ecosystem services and sustainable financing strategy for Outcome 1.2 and Outputs 1.6/1.7. o Co-financing commitments and inputs to the Total Budget and Work Plan. o Assessment report related to Outcome 1.2 (Outputs 1.6 and 1.7), including evaluation of institutional/policy/regulatory constraints, innovative financial instruments, income flow options, and financing partnerships. o Draft resource mobilization strategy for PAs, with recommended financing mechanisms and sample business planning approaches for inclusion in the ProDoc.Inputs to the ProDoc, Results Framework, and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. o Participation in the validation workshop and contributions to the Validation Workshop Report. **Qualifications** • Master's degree in environmental economics, finance, or a related field.

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	• Minimum 5 years of experience in environmental economics and/or sustainable financing. • Experience in supporting SME and/or rural entrepreneurs • Experience with government entities and private sector stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan. • Fluency in Kyrgyz and/or Russian; working knowledge of English. •
Consultant 8: Water Ecosystems/Wetland Management Specialist Type: Local Consultant (LC) Cost per person-day: US$110 Number of person-days needed: 25 days	**Role** The Hydrologist/Wetland Management Specialist will provide technical input for the justification and design of project interventions under Component 2, focusing on sustainable management of water resources and wetlands in the Tian Shan region. **Responsibilities and Deliverables** • **Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews (Component A)**: o Document and review available reports and data on water resources and wetlands in the Tian Shan region, identifying data gaps and collecting additional information. o Analyze water use patterns, availability of river flow to wetlands, and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change (e.g., drought, water scarcity). o Review the legal and institutional framework for water management and its integration with biodiversity conservation. o Conduct field-based data collection in coordination with the GIS Specialist (Consultant 9). o Support consultations with water management authorities and local communities. • **Formulation of ProDoc and Annexes (Component B)**: o Design project interventions to optimize ecological water flows for wetlands, ensuring alignment with Component 2 objectives. o Contribute hydrological indicators to the Results Framework (e.g., wetland area conserved, water quality). o Support the Team Leader in integrating water management into the theory of change and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. o Provide inputs to the ProDoc on wetland restoration and management strategies. • **Validation Workshop (Component C)**: o Present hydrological and wetland findings during the validation workshop. o Support revisions to the ProDoc based on feedback. • **Final Deliverables**: o Assessment of water resources and wetlands, including threats and management gaps. o Strategy for wetland conservation, restoration and water management under Component 2. o Inputs to the ProDoc, Results Framework, and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. o Participation in the validation workshop and contributions to the Validation Workshop Report. **Qualifications** • Master's degree in hydrology, water resources engineering, or a related field. • Minimum 5 years of experience in wetland and water resource management. • Experience with hydrological studies in Central Asian mountain ecosystems. • Fluency in Kyrgyz and Russian; working knowledge of English.

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	Qualifications • Master's degree in hydrology, water resources engineering, or a related field. • Minimum 5 years of experience in wetland and water resource management. • Experience with hydrological studies in Central Asian mountain ecosystems. • Excellent written and/or oral communication skills in Kyrgyz and Russian.
Consultant 9: Pasture Management Specialist **Type**: Local Consultant (NC) **Cost per person-day**: US$110 **Number of person-days needed**: 25 days	**Role** The National Pastures Management Specialist will provide expertise on sustainable pasture and land management in the project areas, contributing to assessments and strategies for reducing overgrazing and enhancing biodiversity. The consultant will focus on integrating pastures into the broader landscape framework, supporting resilient livelihoods. **Responsibilities and Deliverables** • Review baseline data on pastures, including usage patterns, degradation levels, biodiversity impacts, and LDN indicators in Issyk-Kul and Naryn. • Conduct field studies to map pasture areas, evaluate threats (e.g., overgrazing, erosion), and identify climate-smart and LDN-aligned practices (e.g., rotational grazing, soil conservation). • Incorporate pastures and LDN-related inputs into the gender analysis and stakeholder consultations, focusing on pastoral communities and equitable access to resources. • Provide technical inputs into assessments conducted with a view of identification and prioritization of local business and entrepreneurship solutions (led by other PPG experts) • Contribute to the project's Theory of Change and Results Framework by defining pastures- and LDN-related outcomes, indicators (e.g., hectares under sustainable management, LDN metrics), and risks. • Recommend nature-based solutions for pasture-based livelihoods (e.g., community-managed pastures, agro-pastoral systems) and value chains, integrating LDN approaches to enhance soil health and productivity. • Prepare sections of the UNDP-GEF Project Document (ProDoc) on pastures management and LDN, including strategies for achieving LDN, linkages to co-financing from agriculture and land restoration initiatives, and alignment with UNCCD commitments. • Participate in the validation workshop to present pastures- and LDN-related findings and recommendations, ensuring stakeholder validation. • Deliver a technical report on pastures and LDN assessments, including maps, data, sustainable management strategies, and LDN integration plans for the project. • In consultation with other team members prepare FAO EXACT worksheet to estimate potential CO2 mitigation benefits from the project **Qualifications** • Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as rangeland management, agriculture, environmental science, or land resource management. • Minimum 5 years of experience in pastures management, sustainable land use, and biodiversity in pastoral systems.

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	• Experience with GEF or similar projects, including assessments of grazing impacts, land degradation, and integration into landscape planning. • Demonstrated knowledge of Kyrgyzstan's pastures policies, legislation, and challenges and familiarity with UNCCD LDN targets and methodologies. • Working experience with ministries, NGOs, and local communities. • Excellent written and oral communication skills in Kyrgyz and Russian.
Consultant 10: Local Livelihoods and Community Outreach Specialist **Type**: Local Consultant (NC) **Cost per person-day**: US$110 **Number of person-days needed**: 30 days	**Role** The Local Livelihoods and Community Outreach Specialist will prepare assessments and provide technical input into the ProDoc preparation for improved livelihoods and community engagement under Component 3, focusing on sustainable economic opportunities in the Tian Shan region. **Responsibilities and Deliverables** • **Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews (Component A)**: o Compile a detailed socio-economic profile of project sites, assessing local livelihoods (e.g., pastoralism, agriculture, ecotourism). o Assess economic opportunities for rural entrepreneurs, such as organic agriculture, ecotourism, or value-added products (e.g., dairy, wool). o Conduct consultations with local communities and stakeholders (e.g., local action groups) to identify challenges and solutions for alternative income sources. o Map similar initiatives and analyze donor projects for synergies. o Coordinate with Consultant 4 to ensure gender-responsive and inclusive stakeholder engagement. • **Formulation of ProDoc and Annexes (Component B)**: o Design project interventions to support rural entrepreneurship /value chain, livelihoods and ecotourism under Component 3. o Contribute livelihood-related indicators to the Results Framework (e.g., number of households benefiting from alternative livelihoods). o Provide inputs to the ProDoc on livelihood, value chain and community engagement strategies. o Support the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, ensuring local community involvement. o Determine if a Livelihood Action Plan is required. • **Validation Workshop (Component C)**: o Present livelihood, value chain and community engagement findings during the validation workshop. o Support revisions to the ProDoc based on feedback. • **Final Deliverables**: o Assessment of economic opportunities and socio-economic profile of project sites. o Strategy for livelihood support and ecotourism under Component 3. o Inputs to the ProDoc, Results Framework, and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. o Participation in the validation workshop and contributions to the Validation Workshop Report. o Prepare a communication and awareness strategy for the project, including Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions Framework (KAP) for the project **Qualifications**

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	• Master's degree in community development and/or economics, or a related field. • Minimum 3 years of experience in livelihoods assessment and community development in rural areas. • Experience with rural entrepreneurship programs and/or development of SME in Kyrgyzstan. • Working experience with local communities and NGOs. • Excellent written and oral communication skills in Kyrgyz and Russian; working knowledge of English
Consultant 11: GIS Specialist **Type**: Local Consultant (NC) **Cost per person-day**: US$110 **Number of person-days needed**: 20 days	**Role** The GIS Specialist will support the identification and geo-referencing of targeted project sites and clear presentation of all targeted project areas and surrounding landscapes in the Tian Shan region. **Responsibilities and Deliverables** 1. **Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews (Component A)**: ○ Conduct a GIS-based assessment of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the Tian Shan region, analyzing thematic maps and satellite imagery to represent project areas with key land use categories (forests, pastures, wetlands), and in close collaboration with Consultants 2, 6, and 7 delineate buffer and productive zones around protected areas and targeted restoration sites. ○ Create a general map of project sites, including targeted wetlands, forests, pastures, and areas proposed for conservation enhancements. 2. **Formulation of ProDoc and Annexes (Component B)**: ○ Provide geographic coordinates, maps, and shapefiles for inclusion in the ProDoc. ○ Support the Team Leader in integrating geospatial information into the project's strategy and Results Framework. ○ Contribute to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan by mapping stakeholder locations. 3. **Validation Workshop (Component C)**: ○ Support revisions to the ProDoc based on feedback. 4. **Final Deliverables**: ○ Geographic coordinates, maps, and shapefiles for all targeted project sites. ○ Inputs to the ProDoc and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. **Qualifications** • University degree in natural sciences and/or geography and/or GIS-related certification. • Minimum 5 years of experience in GIS applications for natural resource management. • Previous experience in preparing GIS products for NRM or conservation projects and/or land management projects. • Fluency in Kyrgyz and/or Russian; working knowledge of English