Initiation Plan / GEF PPG

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Project Title: Support to Chu-Talas Basin Strategic Action Programme Implementation

Country: Kyrgyzstan

Country Programme 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.

Gender Marker rating: *GEN 2*

SES Pre-Screening Categorization: *Substantial*

Quantum Project ID: 01006105	**Total budget:**	**US$150,000**
	Allocated resources:	
Quantum Award ID: 1549617	• GEF	US$150,000
PIMS number: 6301	• Government	US$
Management Arrangement: *DIM*	• UNDP	US$

AGREED BY

Alexandra Solovieva — 12 August 2026

UNDP Resident Representative | Signature | Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Brief Description of the Initiation Plan/GEF PPG 3
II. Stakeholder Engagement, public disclosure, and other requirements 4
III. GEF PPG Activities 5
Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews 5
Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes 8
Component C: Validation Workshop and Report 11
IV. Total Budget and Work Plan for GEF PPG 11
V. GEF PPG Activities timeframe and budget 13
VI. Mandatory Annexes 14
Annex 1: GEF CEO PIF/PPG Approval Letter 14
Annex 2: Draft Terms of Reference (TORs) of Consultants Financed by the Project Preparatory Grant (GEF PPG) 16

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: PIMS- Support to Chu-Talas Basin Strategic Action Programme Implementation. As described in the project concept (PIF/child project concept note), this project aims to strengthen transboundary water security and climate resilience in the Chu and Talas River Basins through the coordinated implementation of the jointly endorsed Strategic Action Programme, strengthened capacity of the Chu–Talas Water Commission, and practical solutions for the sustainable management of shared water resources and associated ecosystems.

The project comprises five mutually reinforcing components:

1. Strengthening transboundary governance and monitoring for SAP implementation — improving coordination of SAP implementation, harmonizing basin monitoring and joint reporting, and strengthening the legal and institutional framework for bilateral cooperation.
2. Demonstrating priority measures to reduce irrigation losses and support ecosystem resilience — implementing pilot measures to reduce irrigation water losses, improve water-use efficiency, and strengthen the resilience of selected riparian and upper-catchment ecosystems.
3. Preparing follow-on investments for irrigation efficiency and wastewater pollution reduction — developing technically and economically viable investment packages for irrigation modernization, canal rehabilitation, wastewater treatment, and pollution reduction.
4. Knowledge management and communications — documenting and disseminating project results and good practices, facilitating knowledge exchange and learning, and establishing mechanisms for stakeholder engagement and feedback.
5. Monitoring and evaluation — establishing a participatory and gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation system, conducting joint reviews of project progress, and using lessons learned to support adaptive project management.

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.

Key Dates for the GEF PPG

Milestone	Date	Notes
Internal submission date for BPPS review and clearance	14/03/2027 – RTA 04/04/2027 - BPPS	RTA: within 9 months of PIF approval 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	*04/06/2027*	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	*04/12/2027*	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 *Country Office* will lead the project development process and manage the GEF PPG budget in full consultation with the UNDP Kazakhstan CO, BPPS VF unit and the Regional Technical Adviser (IW) and in cooperation with UNECE/Water Convention secretariat. The GEF PPG Quantum budget is presented in *Section IV: Total Budget and Work Plan*.

A Working Group will be set up to 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 *RR of the Kyrgyzstan CO* will chair the Working Group. Working Group members will include: *Environment Programme Officers, Programme Associates and Gender Associates from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan COs, RTA, UNECE/Water Convention secretariat, Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Ministries of Agriculture, Ministries of Environment of both countries, Chu-Talas Water Commission and key stakeholders.*

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, Chu-Talas Water Commission, CSO and other 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, 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.

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 (incl. activities in the framework of the Water Convention) 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.

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 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.

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 *Substantial* and highlighted potential safeguards risks to be further assessed during the PPG phase.

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)[1], a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that includes relevant elements of potential transboundary consultations, and a Gender Action Plan (GAP) will be prepared to ensure that the necessary assessment are carried out during the project implementation. The standard templates are available in the UNDP SES Toolkit. The Frameworks and ProDoc must clearly state that none of the associated project activities will commence until: the assessment have been completed; the required management plans have been prepared, and the plans have been publicly disclosed and approved by the Project Board.

The PIF pre-SESP will be reviewed during the PPG phase and further elaborated. The PPG team will identify relevant project sites, consult the relevant authorities and target communities on the proposed interventions and the potential environmental and social risks that should be considered, and prepare effective practical arrangements for the full implementation of the relevant UNDP SES during the project implementation. When doing so, it will consider applicable elements of the Espoo Convention and identify practical opportunities for integrating practice-oriented capacity development on the future application of this Convention in the basin alongside the UNDP required environmental and social risk management tools. 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.

Identification of project sites

Based on the TDA, SAP, national action plans and consultations with key stakeholders, the project demonstration sites will be identified within priority areas of the Chu and Talas River Basins in the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan. The proposed sites include irrigation water-loss hotspots in the middle and lower reaches of the Chu River, particularly upstream and downstream of the Tasotkel Reservoir and along selected pilot canals in both countries; the transboundary middle reach of the Chu River along the Kazakhstan–Kyrgyzstan border; selected floodplain and wetland areas in the lower reaches of the Chu River, including the Akzhar area; and selected upper catchments of the Chu, Talas and Asa river systems. The proposed sites are of high transboundary importance due to their role in water regulation, irrigation efficiency, environmental flow maintenance, sediment control, riverbank stabilization, wetland and riparian ecosystem conservation, and climate resilience. The final location, boundaries and scale of the demonstration sites, together with geographic coordinates, maps and shapefiles for inclusion in the

[1] Additional plans may be developed, depending on the pilot project sites, such as a Biodiversity Management Plan or Livelihood Restoration Protocol.

Project Document, will be confirmed during the PPG phase through technical assessments, environmental and social screening, and consultations with national and local stakeholders.

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).

Stakeholder analysis

Building on the initial identification of stakeholders in the PIF, an appropriately scaled analysis of project stakeholders will be undertaken and preliminary consultations with the relevant authorities will be conducted on the potential environmental and social risks and their appropriate management. 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.

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 as well as in cooperation with UNECE.

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).

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

- 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 (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.

Other required studies

List any additional surveys and studies not captured above, as needed (e.g., socio-economic survey, feasibility studies, vulnerability assessments).

- *Studies for community-based water saving and reduce water losses*
- *Studies on ecosystem supporting measures riparian or upper catchments areas*
- *Studies on basin monitoring and joint basin reporting*
- *Studies on investments for irrigation efficiency and wastewater pollution*

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.

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.

For fully designed projects with a SESP categorization of Moderate, Substantial, and High:

- 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.

For fully designed projects with a SESP rating of Substantial and High:

- A comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan is required (based on comprehensive stakeholder analysis).

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

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.

Social and Environmental Standards: Screening and Management Measures
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 SESP will be updated. 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.

Per the pre-screening, all risks can be managed through the design of the project's activities, and therefore no separate management plans are needed, though the risks identified in the pre-screening will be reconfirmed during the PPG and the planned management measures will be refined as needed for SES compliance.

See the SES Guidance Note on Assessment and Management for further guidance. Please contact UNDP for additional information as needed.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

IV. TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN FOR GEF PPG

Quantum Project ID:	01006105	Project Title:	PIMS-6301 Support to Chu-Talas Basin Strategic Action Programme Implementation
Quantum Award ID:	1549617	Award Title:	
Business Unit:	UNDP-KGZ		
PIMS number:	6301		
Implementing Partner:	UNDP		

GEF Outcome/Quantum Activity	Responsible Party	Fund ID	Donor Name	Quantum Budgetary Account Code	QUANTUM Budget Description	Amount Year 2026 US$	Amount Year 2027 US$	Total US$	Budget Notes
Project preparation grant to finalize the UNDP-GEF project document for project Support to Chu-Talas Basin Strategic Action Programme Implementation	UNDP	62000	GEF TRUSTEE	71200	International Consultants	61,900	0	61,900	1
				71600	Travel	16,600	0	16,600	2
				74100	Professional Services	0	6,000	6,000	3
				71300	Local Consultants	48,650	0	48,650	4
				74200	Audio Visual & Printing Prod Costs	1,200	1,200	2,400	5
				75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences	13,450	1,000	14,450	6
					PROJECT TOTAL	141,800	8,200	150,000	

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	- Total cost: US$61,900- International Consultant #1 Project Development (GEF PPG Team Leader) USD 43,400 (USD 700 / 62 days)- International Consultant #2 SESP USD 11,500 (USD 460 /25 days) International Consultant #3 on data sharing (water quantity and quality) USD 7,000 (USD 200 /35 days)
2	Total cost: US$16,600 - UNDP staff travel costs – USD 1,600 - participation in the meetings of the Chu-Talas Water Management Commission

	- International Consultant #1 Project Development (GEF PPG Team Leader) - USD 3,000 – one travel to Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek from NY, USA (round trip ticket cost, DSA, TA) - International Consultant #2 SESP – USD 2,000 – one travel to Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek from Slovakia, Bratislava (round trip ticket cost, DSA, TA) - International Consultant #3 on data sharing (water quantity and quality) - USD 2,000 - one trave l to Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek from CIS country (round trip ticket cost, DSA, TA) - NC on SESP (Binational) - USD 1,500 - two travels from Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek to Kazakhstan, Almaty (round trip tickets costs, DSA, TA) - NC Binational Coordinator and engagement expert – USD 1,500 - two travels from Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek to Kazakhstan, Almaty (round trip tickets costs, DSA, TA) - NC Binational legal, institutional policy – USD 1,500 - two travels from Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek to Kazakhstan, Almaty (round trip tickets costs, DSA, TA) - NC Expert on water efficiency and water losses in Kazakhstan – USD 500 - one travel from Kazakhstan, Almaty to Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek (round trip tickets costs, DSA, TA) - NC Expert on water efficiency and water losses in Kyrgyzstan – USD 1,500 - two travels from Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek to Kazakhstan, Almaty (round trip tickets costs, DSA, TA) - NC Binational Finance specialist – USD 1,500 - two travels from Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek to Kazakhstan, Almaty (round trip tickets costs, DSA, TA)
3	Total cost: US$6,000 - HACT Micro-assessments for potential implementing partners
4	Total cost: US$48,650 National Consultants working on the ground, led by the international team leader. The work team will be composed of a binational coordinator and a team of technical specialists: - NC on SESP (Binational) USD 5,400 (Rate USD 180 / 30 days) - NC Binational Coordinator and engagement expert USD 9,000 (Daily rate USD 150 / 60 days) - NC Binational legal, institutional USD 9,000 (Rate USD 150 / 60 days) - NC Binational on gender USD 5,250 (Rate USD 150 / 35 days) - NC Expert on water efficiency and water losses in Kazakhstan USD 6,000 (Rate USD 200 / 30 days) - NC Expert on water efficiency and water losses in Kyrgyzstan USD 6,000 (Rate USD 200 / 30 days) - NC Binational Finance specialist USD 8,000 (Rate USD 200 / 40 days)
5	Total cost: US$2,400 - Printing materials (banner, handouts, visibility items) and simultaneous interpretation services during the workshops and meetings
6	Total cost: US$14,450 - Inception and Validation workshops (rent of venue, ZOOM services, coffee-breaks)
	Overall total cost: US$150,000

V. GEF PPG ACTIVITIES TIMEFRAME AND BUDGET

PPG Activity	*Month 1*	*Month 2*	*Month 3*	*Month 4*	*Month 5*	*Month 6*	*Month 7*	*Month 8*	*Month 9*	*Month 10*	*Month 11*	*Month 12*	*Month 13*	*Month 14*	*Month 15*	*Month 16*	*Month 17*	*Month 18*	*Budget (US$)*
Component A: Technical studies, etc.																			*Component A 66,600 USD*
Component B: Formulation of ProDoc, etc.																			*Component B 68,950 USD*
Component C: Validation Workshop																			*Component C 14,450 USD*
Delivery of final outputs																			*Total: 150 00 USD*

VI. MANDATORY ANNEXES

Annex 1: GEF CEO PIF/PPG Approval Letter



Claude Gascon
Interim CEO

May 04, 2026

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 cleared the project concept detailed below for inclusion in the upcoming work program. I have also approved your request for Project Preparation Grant.

Decision Sought:	Project Identification Form (PIF) Clearance for Work Program Inclusion and Project Preparation Grant Approval
GEFSEC ID:	12280
Agency(ies):	UNDP
Agency(ies) ID:	6301 - UNDP
Focal Area:	International Waters
Project Type:	Full-sized Project
Country(ies):	Regional, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan
Name of Project:	Support to Chu-Talas Basin Strategic Action Programme Implementation
Indicative GEF Project Financing:	$5,785,500
Indicative Agency Fee:	$549,622
PPG:	$150,000
PPG Agency Fee:	$14,250
Funding Source:	GEF Trust Fund

Break-down:		Project Financing Amount (US$)	Agency Fee (US$)				Total Project Cost (US$)
Agency	Trust Fund		20% to be committed at Council approval (US$)	50% to be committed at first disbursement (US$)	30% to be committed at mid-term review (US$)	Total Agency Fee (US$)	
UNDP	GEF TF	5,785,500	109,924	274,811	164,887	549,622	6,335,122
Total		**5,785,500**	**109,924**	**274,811**	**164,887**	**549,622**	**6,335,122**

Break-down:		PPG Fee (US$)	Total (US$)

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Ms. Bennet

Agency	Trust Fund	Project Preparation Grant (US$)		
UNDP	GEF TF	150,000	14,250	164,250
Total		**150,000**	**14,250**	**164,250**

This PIF clearance and PPG approval are based on the understanding that the project is in conformity with GEF Trust Fund focal area strategies and with GEF policies and procedures. Please ensure that your final project document, having fully addressed all Secretariat, STAP, Convention Secretariats and Council comments, will be endorsed within 18 months of Council approval of the work program.

Sincerely,

Claude Gascon
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, Trustee

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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, Responsibilities and Deliverables, Qualifications
Consultant 1: International Project Development Specialist (GEF PPG International Team Leader) Type: IC Inter. Total cost: $43,400 Daily rate: USD 700 / 62 days Number of person month needed: 12 (62 days)	Role: The PPG International Team Leader will work under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator, the UNDP Climate, Energy, and Environment Cluster Team Leader, and the IRH IW Regional Technical Adviser as well as in cooperation with UNECE/Water Convention Secretariat Responsibilities and Deliverables 1) Management of the GEF PPG Team a. Define and submit a detailed PPG methodology, work plan and delivery schedule in consultation among International and National Consultants (NCs); b. Coordinate the work of the multidisciplinary PPG team and ensure timely delivery, technical consistency, and quality assurance of all analytical, technical, safeguards, gender, financial, institutional, and stakeholder engagement inputs c. Ensure that project development is participatory, gender-responsive, conflict-sensitive, and based on on meaningful engagement with relevant stakeholders in the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan, including the Chu-Talas Water Commission, national authorities, basin institutions, local governments, water users incl. farmers, utilities, civil society, and other relevant partners.; d. Ensure that all project components remain aligned with the approved PIF, GEF-8 programming directions, UNDP-GEF requirements, national priorities, and the jointly endorsed Chu-Talas Basin Strategic Action Programme; and e. Maintain a clear record of key design decisions, stakeholder inputs, comments received, and actions taken during the PPG process. f. Verify and ensure that all project components are technically sound and cost effective, feasible, and mutually reinforcing g. Create, maintain, and update the online repository of all the documentation necessary for ProDoc/CEO ER submission 2) Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews (Component A): a. Lead the preparation of the inception approach for the PPG, including inputs to the inception workshop agenda, key discussion points, stakeholder mapping, and consultation plan, and produce a PPG Inception report. b. Compile baseline/situational analysis for the full-size project (FSP). 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; c. Lead and oversee the stakeholder analysis and consultations, with support from national consultants, and ensure that they are complete and comprehensive, including consultations with national and basin-level institutions (e.g. the Chu-Talas Water Commission), local authorities, water management organizations, water users associations and farmers (where this applicable), communities, civil society, academia, development partners, and private sector actors relevant to irrigation efficiency, wastewater treatment, pollution reduction, and investment mobilization. ;

	d. 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, budget, stakeholder engagement approach, and monitoring arrangements.; e. Ensure that action points, including risk assessments, from the pre-SESP (prepared at the concept stage) are fully addressed during the PPG, and Oversee the iterative updating of the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure and the preparation of any required environmental and/or social management instruments.; f. Oversee the assessment of institutional, legal, procedural, and technical arrangements for transboundary cooperation, considering the experience of the Water Convention, basin monitoring, data exchange, joint reporting, and SAP implementation, including the key role of the Chu-Talas Water Commission. g. Ensure the preparation of technical assessments required for the design of project interventions, including community-based water-saving measures, reduction of irrigation water losses, riparian and ecosystem-supporting measures, basin monitoring and joint reporting, irrigation efficiency, wastewater pollution reduction, and follow-on investment preparation. h. Oversee the identification and design of the project demonstration sites as per respective component , ensuring that site selection criteria are transparent, technically justified, gender-responsive, socially acceptable, environmentally sound, and suitable for generating lessons for replication and scaling beyond the project and making sure that geo-referenced data and maps are clearly presented , as applicable and deliver these justifications and process in all parts of the project documentation as necessary; i. Lead and oversee the identification of opportunities for co-financing, private sector engagement, development partner alignment, and investment mobilization, particularly in relation to Component 3 follow-on investment packages. j. Ensure the design of appropriate project knowledge management processes and platforms (incl. IW:LEARN and Water Convention), ensuring appropriate linkages to existing mechanisms and knowledge sharing in project landscapes; k. Ensure the preparation of partner capacity assessments and discussions on management arrangements (on both regional/transboundary and national levels) early in the PPG process; l. Oversee the consultations with partners regarding financial planning, , co-financing commitments, implementation roles, governance arrangements and sustainability .; and m. Ensure completion of any additional studies that are determined to be needed for the preparation of the ProDoc, CEO Endorsement Request, and all mandatory and project-specific annexes. . 3) <u>Formulation of the ProDoc, CEO Endorsement Request and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes (Component B)</u>: With inputs from the national consultants, as detailed in their respective TORs, and based on international best practice: a. Lead the development, presentation, and articulation of the project's Theory of Change, ensuring clear causal logic from barriers and baseline conditions to project outcomes, impacts, sustainability, and replication.; b. Develop the Results Framework in line with UNDP-GEF requirements, , ensuring that indicators, baselines, targets, means of verification, assumptions, and risks are realistic, measurable, and supported by validated data.;

	c. Develop a detailed Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget; d. Oversee and ensure the preparation of a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, including a grievance redress mechanism and arrangements for continued engagement during project implementation.; 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) and other SES related tools as required and coordinated with the SES TA; g. Oversee the preparation of the required GEF tracking tools (if required) and GEF Core Indicators worksheet and ensure these are supported by robust and validated data; h. Support UNDP in preparing, reviewing, and obtaining co-financing letters and ensure that co-financing commitments are clearly reflected in the project budget, results framework, and CEO Endorsement Request.; i. Prepare the indicative procurement plan and provide inputs to the overview of technical consultancies and Terms of Reference for key project staff; j. Support the preparation and finalization of agreements on project execution, implementation, governance, and management arrangements, including roles and responsibilities of national and transboundary partners.; k. Support UNDP and national partners in the preparation and follow-up of required official endorsement letters and related documentation; 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 and annotated guidance 4) Validation Workshop (Component C): a. Lead the preparation and facilitation of 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 the documentation of feedback received during the validation workshop and ensure that all necessary revisions are incorporated into the final project package; and c. Ensure completion of Validation Workshop Report, , including key discussion points, decisions, agreed revisions, and follow-up actions. 5) Final Deliverables: a. Consolidation of all technical and consultation inputs and comments including from national stakeholders, UNDP, GEF Secretariat, STAP and GEF Council, and UNECE into a well written and concise UNDP-GEF ProDoc with all required sections and Annexes, in line with the standard UNDP-GEF ProDoc template and annotated guidance; o Completed GEF CEO Endorsement Request, including all required information and annexes. o Finalized SESP and any required environmental and/or social management plans or frameworks. o GEF-8 Core Indicators Worksheet and other relevant tracking tools, supported by validated data. o Stakeholder Engagement Plan, including grievance redress mechanism. o Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan with budget.

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

	o Baseline analysis, incremental reasoning, co-financing strategy, and relevant technical assessments. o Documentation of demonstration site selection criteria, site descriptions, maps, geo-referenced data, and replication/scaling approach. o Documentation of follow-on investment packages, including indicative financing sources, timelines, enabling conditions, and institutional responsibilities. o Indicative procurement plan, overview of technical consultancies, and Terms of Reference for key project staff. b. All documentation from GEF PPG (including technical reports, meeting minutes, comments matrix, and supporting datasets. etc.); and c. Validation Workshop Report. Qualifications • Master's degree or equivalent, in environmental management, water resources management, natural resources management, sustainable development, ecology, environmental policy, public policy, international development, rural development, or another relevant field. • Minimum 10 years of international experience in designing, developing, managing, or providing technical leadership for sustainable development, environment, water resources management, climate resilience, natural resources management, or related projects implemented with multilateral or international organizations. • Demonstrated experience in the formulation of GEF-funded projects, including preparation of full project documents, CEO Endorsement/Approval Requests, results frameworks, GEF incremental reasoning, co-financing strategies, and mandatory annexes, in line with GEF and implementing agency requirements. • Experience in Central Asia, preferably in Kyrgyzstan and/or Kazakhstan. Prior experience with transboundary cooperation mechanisms, or regional environmental governance in Central Asia will be an advantage. • Fluency in English. Knowledge of Russian is a strong asset. •
<u>Consultant 2:</u> International Consultant on Social and Environmental Standards Type: IC Inter. Total cost: $11,500 Daily rate: USD 460 / 25 days Number of person month needed: 12 (25 days)	Role: The International Consultant on Social and Environmental Standards will work under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator, the UNDP Climate, Energy, and Environment Cluster Team Leader, and the International Consultant on Project Development (GEF PPG Team Leader) as well as in cooperation with UNECE/Water Convention secretariat Responsibilities and Deliverables Task 1. Preparatory Reviews and Technical Studies as agreed with the GEF PPG Team Leader, including: 1.1. Review the SES pre-screening of the PIF; 1.2. Prepare the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) and prepare or any further assessments or management plans (if required); 1.3. 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;

	1.4. Support the consultations with local stakeholders on SES-related issues; and 1.5. 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. Task 2. Formulation of the ProDoc, CEO Endorsement Request and Mandatory Annexes as well as project specific annexes: 2.1. Complete the SESP following comments from the project's SES Technical Adviser; 2.2. 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; 2.3. Support the agreements on project management arrangements and ensure that gender and safeguards are adequately incorporated into these arrangements. Task 3. Inception and Validation Workshops: 3.1. Contribute to the Inception and validation workshop; and 3.2. Support all necessary revisions that arise during the workshop, as appropriate. 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 with similar assignments in the project beneficiary country(ies) or similar contexts. • Excellent written and oral communication skills in English. • Excellent analytical and/or writing skills
<u>Consultant 3:</u> International Expert for Basin Monitoring and Joint Reporting Type: IC Inter. Total cost: $7000 Daily rate: USD 200 / 35 days Number of person month needed: 12 (35 days)	Role: The International Expert for Basin Monitoring and Joint Reporting will work under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator, the UNDP Climate, Energy, and Environment Cluster Team Leader, PPG International Team Leader the Regional Technical Adviser as well as UNECE/Water Convention secretariat Responsibilities and Deliverables <u>1. Assessment of the current situation</u> • Review the existing monitoring systems for water quantity, water quality and key ecosystem indicators in both countries. • Assess the current arrangements for data collection, exchange and joint reporting between the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan. • Identify the main institutional, technical and capacity gaps affecting harmonized basin monitoring and information sharing. <u>2. Strategic inputs for Output 1.3 of the Project Document</u> • Develop recommendations and implementation strategy for Output 1.3: *"Harmonized basin monitoring and joint basin reporting*

	arrangements are established for water quantity, water quality, key ecosystem indicators and gender-disaggregated data." • Propose priority activities, institutional roles, coordination mechanisms and indicative capacity-building actions to be implemented during the full project. • Recommend approaches for improving compatibility of monitoring systems and joint basin reporting under the existing CTWC framework. • Discuss with relevant stakeholders the findings from strategic inputs for Output 1.3 of the Project Document <u>3. Indicative equipment needs</u> • Prepare a preliminary list of priority monitoring and laboratory equipment and locations required to support implementation of Output 1.3. • Provide indicative categories, technical specifications and quantities of equipment with indicative prices and possible locations agreed by national counterparts. <u>4. Consultations</u> • Conduct consultations with relevant national institutions, the CTWC and UNECE. • Present recommendations during Inception, Validation Workshops, PPG consultations and incorporate comments into the final ProDoc inputs. <u>5. Final Deliverables</u> • After discussion with relevant stakeholders prepare inputs for Output 1.3 for Final ProDoc-ready Technical Annex Package including: (a) concise ProDoc narrative for Output 1.3; (b) technical annex on harmonized monitoring and joint reporting; (c) baseline and target table for the Results Framework/M&E Plan; (d) procurement package: indicative equipment list, technical specifications, quantities, estimated costs, country allocation; (e) maps/GIS coordinates of proposed stations and sampling points; (f) risk, safeguards, and gender inputs • Provide technical inputs for the ESMF/SESP, including: (l) risks related to installation/rehabilitation of hydrological posts; (m) laboratory equipment, chemicals, waste handling, and sampling safety; (n) site access, land ownership/use issues; (o) occupational health and safety; (p) environmental risks from small works; (q) data gaps for the environmental baseline; • Provide inputs for the preparation of the indicative procurement plan, the Multi-Year Work Plan, and the relevant sections of the UNDP Risk Register pertaining to monitoring, data management, and equipment. Qualifications • Master's or PhD, in hydrology and/or environmental monitoring and/or hydrometeorology, or a closely related field. • Minimum 5 years of relevant experience, hydrological observation and/or water quality monitoring; • Experience in Central Asia, preferably in Kyrgyzstan and/or Kazakhstan, and familiarity with hydrometeorological, water resources and environmental institutions in the region would be a strong asset.

	• Excellent analytical, drafting and facilitation skills; ability to work in politically sensitive, multicultural and multi-institutional settings. • Excellent written and spoken English and Russian. Ability to prepare technical reports in English and conduct consultations in Russian
<u>Consultant 4:</u> National Consultant on Social and Environmental Safeguards Type: IC National - Binational Total cost: $5,400 Daily rate: USD 180 / 30 days Number of person month needed: 12 (30 days)	Role: National Consultant on Social and Environmental Safeguards will work under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator and the UNDP Climate, Energy, and Environment Cluster Team Leader, in close coordination with the International Safeguard consultant and with the International PPG International Team Leader and the National PPG and Engagement Coordinator, in close collaboration with the national CTWC focal points, as well as UNECE/Water Convention secretariat and respective programs Responsibilities and Deliverables 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, forests, and water management. 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/ecosystems stakeholders, water efficiency practices and/or water distribution integrated into the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. 5) Contribute context-specific inputs to the ProDoc, Results Framework, and Monitoring Plan, including 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. Qualifications • Higher degree 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. • Experience working with international organizations and/or donors, such as UNDP, World Bank, or GEF and other . • Experience working on policy and/or programmatic issues with national and/or local governments and/or civil society organizations. • Written and oral communication skills in Kyrgyz and Russian
	Role: Concultant on PPG Coordination, Institutional Arrangements and Stakeholder Engagement will work under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator

Consultant 5: National PPG and Engagement Coordinator Type: IC National - Binational Total cost: $9,000 Daily rate: USD 150 / 60 days Number of person month needed: 12 (60 days)	and the UNDP Climate, Energy, and Environment Cluster Team Leader, in close coordination with the International PPG International Team Leader and tin close collaboration with the national CTWC focal points, as well as UNECE/Water Convention secretariat and respective programs Responsibilities and Deliverables Task 1. Senior advisory support to PPG coordination and project design coherence 1.1. Provide senior-level advisory support to UNDP and the International PPG Team Leader on the overall coordination of the PPG process in the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan. 1.2. Develop and maintain an integrated PPG workplan and deliverables tracker covering all consultants, expected products, due dates, dependencies between assignments, status of delivery, comments received, pending inputs, and follow-up actions. 1.2. Develop and maintain an integrated PPG workplan and deliverables tracker covering all consultants, expected products, due dates, dependencies between assignments, status of delivery, comments received, pending inputs, and follow-up actions. 1.3. Support alignment of PPG outputs with the approved PIF, Chu-Talas SAP priorities, GEF International Waters requirements, UNDP-GEF project development guidance, and relevant CTWC institutional arrangements. 1.4. Identify key institutional, coordination, stakeholder and political-economy issues that may affect project preparation, approval and implementation, and advise UNDP and the International PPG Team Leader on practical ways to address them. 1.5. Review consultant deliverables for completeness, consistency with the approved PIF, alignment with UNDP-GEF ProDoc requirements, and coherence with inputs from other consultants, without replacing the technical responsibility of each specialist. 1.6. Support coordination with CTWC, national focal institutions, relevant ministries and agencies, basin institutions, local authorities, development partners and other key stakeholders in both countries. 1.7. Maintain a PPG coordination and decision-tracking matrix covering key deliverables, responsible consultants, institutional inputs, pending decisions, comments received, follow-up actions, risks and status of completion. 1.8. Provide concise advisory support for UNDP and the International PPG Team Leader on emerging issues, coordination risks, sensitive matters, stakeholder concerns and recommended follow-up actions. Task 2. Institutional and stakeholder analysis 2.1. Conduct stakeholder mapping and analysis at national, basin, regional and local levels in the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan. 2.2. Identify and categorize stakeholders relevant to project design and implementation, including CTWC members and working bodies, national ministries and agencies, basin councils, hydrometeorological and water management institutions, local authorities, academia, civil society organizations, water users, farmers, women's groups, youth, vulnerable groups, development partners and private sector actors.

	2.3. Prepare a stakeholder and institutional analysis matrix, including mandates, roles, interests, influence, engagement needs, potential concerns, coordination risks and expected contribution to project design and implementation. 2.4. Analyze institutional roles and coordination arrangements relevant to future project implementation, including the roles of CTWC, national focal institutions, technical agencies, local authorities, basin-level institutions and other partners. 2.5. Provide recommendations on feasible implementation arrangements, coordination mechanisms, stakeholder roles and institutional linkages to be reflected in the ProDoc. Task 3. Stakeholder engagement, consultation strategy and national ownership 3.1. Prepare a PPG Consultation Plan to guide consultations during project preparation, ensuring that the process is inclusive, gender-responsive, socially appropriate, risk-sensitive and aligned with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. 3.2. Support the substantive preparation and facilitation of national, bilateral, technical and validation consultations in both countries. 3.3. Ensure that consultations capture the views of government agencies, CTWC-related structures, basin institutions, local authorities, civil society, water users, farmers, women, youth, vulnerable groups, development partners and private sector actors. 3.4. Prepare analytical summaries of consultations, identifying stakeholder concerns, institutional risks, opportunities for ownership, implementation constraints and recommendations for project design. 3.5. Ensure that stakeholder feedback and institutional recommendations are communicated to UNDP, the International PPG Team Leader and relevant technical consultants for consideration in the project design. Task 4. Stakeholder Engagement Plan, GRM and ProDoc-ready inputs 4.1. Prepare the Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan for CEO Endorsement, based on stakeholder mapping, consultation results, UNDP SES requirements, GEF standards and guidance from UNDP and the International PPG Team Leader. 4.2. Ensure that the Stakeholder Engagement Plan includes stakeholder identification and analysis, engagement principles, consultation methods, information disclosure arrangements, roles and responsibilities, timeline, budget, grievance arrangements, monitoring indicators and documentation requirements. 4.3. Identify existing grievance, feedback and consultation mechanisms in both countries and provide stakeholder-related inputs for the design of a practical and accessible project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism. 4.4. Develop stakeholder engagement indicators and support their integration into the Results Framework, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan and project monitoring arrangements. 4.5. Provide ProDoc-ready inputs on stakeholder engagement, institutional arrangements, project governance, implementation modalities, risks,

	sustainability, gender and social inclusion, knowledge management and stakeholder monitoring. 4.6. Provide stakeholder-related evidence and inputs to the SESP, Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan, ESMF/ESMP and GRM, in coordination with the relevant safeguards and gender consultants. Task 5. Validation, comments management and CEO Endorsement support 5.1. Consolidate stakeholder and institutional comments received during consultations, technical discussions, validation workshops and review processes. 5.2. Maintain a comments-response matrix for stakeholder engagement, institutional arrangements, national-level inputs and partner feedback, for review by UNDP and the International PPG Team Leader. 5.3. Support preparation of the validation process by identifying key issues requiring confirmation, clarification or endorsement by stakeholders. 5.4. Prepare analytical inputs for validation workshop reports, including stakeholder feedback, institutional issues raised, responses provided and recommendations for final project design. 5.5. Support UNDP and the International PPG Team Leader in addressing comments received during internal review, stakeholder review, validation and GEF review processes, particularly those related to stakeholder engagement, institutional coordination, CTWC linkages, national ownership and partner inputs. 5.6. Prepare final recommendations on stakeholder engagement, grievance management and institutional coordination for the project implementation phase. Qualifications • Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in water resources management, environmental sciences, natural resources management, international relations, development studies, public administration, social sciences, economics, or another relevant field is required;; • Minimum 5 years of progressively responsible experience in environmental governance, water resources management, transboundary cooperation, stakeholder engagement, institutional coordination or project design.. • Demonstrated experience in coordinating multi-stakeholder and/or transboundary initiatives involving government institutions, international organizations, development partners, and civil society organizations is required. • Experience with GEF International Waters, TDA/SAP methodology, UNDP-GEF project preparation, transboundary basin cooperation should be a strong asset. • Excellent written and oral communication skills in Russian languages. Good knowledge of English language.
Consultant 6:	Role:

Expert on legal, institutional policy Type: IC National - Binational Total cost: $9,000 Daily rate: USD 150 / 60 days Number of person month needed: 12 (60 days)	Expert on legal, institutional and IWRM will work under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator and the UNDP Climate, Energy, and Environment Cluster Team Leader, in close coordination with the International PPG International Team Leader and the National PPG and Engagement Coordinator, in close collaboration with the national CTWC focal points, as well as UNECE/Water Convention Secretariat and respective programs Responsibilities and Deliverables Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews (Component A) Assess the legal, policy, and institutional frameworks relevant to the intended outcomes of the proposed GEF project, including bilateral agreements, national Water Codes, transboundary water governance arrangements incl. The platform of the Water Convention, basin management institutions, water quality management, ecosystem protection, and climate resilience. 1. responsible for transboundary water resources management, basin monitoring, water allocation, ecosystem management, pollution control, and climate adaptation, and assess key institutional gaps and vulnerabilities affecting SAP implementation. 2. Develop recommendations to strengthen integrated water resources management, transboundary cooperation incl. referring to the experience of the Water Convention, harmonized monitoring, and institutional coordination to achieve global environmental benefits, improve water security, enhance ecosystem resilience, and support climate adaptation in the Chu-Talas River Basins. 3. Assess institutional, technical, operational, and individual capacities and capacity development needs of the CTWC, national institutions, basin councils, hydrometeorological services, water management agencies, municipalities, and other stakeholders. Evaluate existing coordination arrangements and propose practical measures and capacity-building strategies to strengthen governance and ensure sustainability of project interventions, also referring to the experience of the Water Convention. 4. Review existing bilateral instruments and procedures and prepare recommendations for strengthening the mandate and operational effectiveness of the Chu-Talas Water Commission and aligning bilateral cooperation mechanisms with the new Water Codes and sector reforms in the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan. Formulation of the ProDoc, CEO Endorsement Request and Annexes (Component B) Provide high-quality technical inputs and draft text sections for the ProDoc and CEO Endorsement Request package on legal, institutional, governance, and IWRM aspects, including institutional assessments, baseline analyses, barriers, capacity development measures, and policy recommendations. 5. Review deliverables prepared by other PPG Team members to ensure consistency, integration, and overall quality assurance of the project design.

	Inception and Validation Workshops (Component C) Participate in and contribute to stakeholder consultations, inception and validation workshops. 6. Present findings and recommendations related to legal, institutional, and IWRM aspects and support revisions arising from stakeholder consultations and workshops. Final Deliverables 7. Technical report summarizing legal, institutional, and IWRM assessments, including recommendations for strengthening transboundary governance (incl. Within CTWC and referring to the experience of the Water Convention), institutional coordination, and capacity development. 8. Inputs to the Final UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request package, and relevant annexes, as agreed with the PPG Team Leader and approved by UNDP Country Office. Qualifications • Master's degree in Water Resources Management, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Law, Public Administration, or related fields. • Minimum 5 years of professional experience in integrated water resources management (IWRM), water governance, institutional development, legal and policy analysis, and/or transboundary water cooperation. • Demonstrated experience in conducting institutional and legal assessments and preparing strategic and analytical documents. • Fluency in Russian is required; knowledge of English is an asset.
<u>Consultant 7:</u> National Consultant on Gender Type: IC National - Binational Total cost: $ 5,250 Daily rate: USD 150 / 35 days Number of person month needed: 12 (35 days)	Role: National Consultant on Gender will work under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator and the UNDP Climate, Energy, and Environment Cluster Team Leader, in close coordination with the International PPG International Team Leader and the National PPG and Engagement Coordinator, in close collaboration with the national CTWC focal points, as well as UNECE/Water Convention secretariat and respective programs 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 National PPG and Engagement Coordinator), 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. 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 in gender and/or development and/or environment • Minimum 7 years of demonstrable experience in gender mainstreaming and/or community development and/or participatory gender analysis. • Experience carrying out participatory gender analysis and/or collecting and formulating gender-responsive indicators and sex-disaggregated data and/or preparing gender action plans • Demonstrated experience working on policy and/or programmatic issues with national and local governments and civil society organizations, including community organizations • Excellent written and oral communication skills in Kyrgyz/ Russian languages.
<u>Consultant 8:</u> Expert on water efficiency pilots in Kyrgyzstan Type: IC National Total cost: $ 6,000 Daily rate: USD 200 / 30 days Number of person month needed: 11 (30 days)	Role: Expert on water efficiency pilots in Kyrgyzstan will work under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator and the UNDP Climate, Energy, and Environment Cluster Team Leader, in close coordination with the International PPG International Team Leader and the National PPG and Engagement Coordinator, in close collaboration with the national CTWC focal points, as well as UNECE/Water Convention secretariat and respective programs Responsibilities and Deliverables: 1. Coordinate with relevant national institutions, local authorities, development partners and ongoing projects in the Chu-Talas Basin to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication of activities related to irrigation efficiency and water-loss reduction. 2. Conduct assessments to identify and prioritize hotspot areas for Component 2 demonstrations based on transboundary relevance, irrigation water losses, technical feasibility, climate risks and replication potential. 3. Undertake field assessments and prepare site profiles for priority irrigation hotspots requiring pilot interventions. 4. Map proposed demonstration sites and identify existing, planned and ongoing investments and infrastructure developments in connected irrigation systems. 5. Identify and prioritize irrigation sections with significant conveyance losses and assess opportunities for rehabilitation and modernization of canals and associated water distribution infrastructure. 6. Prepare technical concepts and assessments for pilot interventions aimed at reducing conveyance losses and improving water-use

	efficiency at system level, including monitoring of water savings and implications for water availability. 7. Identify and prioritize complementary on-farm water-efficient and climate-resilient practices that can be scaled through the Low-Value Grant Mechanism. Based on assessments of irrigation hotspots and consultations with water users and relevant stakeholders, develop selection criteria and identify representative pilot sites and beneficiaries, taking into account water scarcity and losses, climate risks, technical feasibility, potential water savings, replication potential, and socio-economic benefits. Prepare recommendations for inclusion of the selected interventions, eligibility criteria, implementation arrangements, and indicative targets in the Project Document and CEO Endorsement package. 8. Support the design of the Low-Value Grant Mechanism to facilitate the adoption of water-efficient practices by farmers. Develop recommendations on grant windows, indicative technical packages, eligibility and selection criteria, and monitoring approaches to ensure sustainability and replication. Ensure that at least 50% of supported initiatives are led by women farmers and women's groups and provide inputs to the Project Document on implementation arrangements, targets, gender considerations, and scaling-up pathways 9. Prepare technical reports on site assessments, analyses, proposed interventions and demonstration packages. 10. Coordinate with the SES International Consultant and participate in consultations with water users, local authorities and other stakeholders to validate findings and proposed interventions. Prepare technical inputs and quality text sections for the Project Document and GEF CEO Endorsement Request package related to irrigation efficiency, water-loss reduction and pilot demonstrations, and contribute to the final Project Document as agreed with the PPG Team Leader. Qualifications • Education: master's degree in water resources management and /or hydrology or a related field preferred. • Minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in water planning, site assessment, feasibility studies in settings and infrastructure development in Kyrgyzstan. • Expertise in water risk assessment and management, water losses and infrastructure design. • Excellent written and oral communication skills in Russian languages.
<u>Consultant 9:</u> Expert on water efficiency pilots in Kazakhstan Type: IC National	Role: Expert on water efficiency pilots in Kazakhstan will work under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator and the UNDP Climate, Energy, and Environment Cluster Team Leader, in close coordination with the International PPG International Team Leader and the National PPG and Engagement

Total cost: $ 6,000 Daily rate: USD 200 / 30 days Number of person month needed: 11 (30 days)	Coordinator, in close collaboration with the national CTWC focal points, as well as UNECE/Water Convention secretariat and respective programs Responsibilities and Deliverables: 1. Coordinate with relevant national institutions, local authorities, development partners and ongoing projects in the Chu-Talas Basin to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication of activities related to irrigation efficiency and water-loss reduction. 2. Conduct assessments to identify and prioritize hotspot areas for Component 2 demonstrations based on transboundary relevance, irrigation water losses, technical feasibility, climate risks and replication potential. 3. Undertake field assessments and prepare site profiles for priority irrigation hotspots requiring pilot interventions. 4. Map proposed demonstration sites and identify existing, planned and ongoing investments and infrastructure developments in connected irrigation systems. 5. Identify and prioritize irrigation sections with significant conveyance losses and assess opportunities for rehabilitation and modernization of canals and associated water distribution infrastructure. 6. Prepare technical concepts and assessments for pilot interventions aimed at reducing conveyance losses and improving water-use efficiency at system level, including monitoring of water savings and implications for water availability. 7. Identify and prioritize complementary on-farm water-efficient and climate-resilient practices that can be scaled through the Low-Value Grant Mechanism. Based on assessments of irrigation hotspots and consultations with water users and relevant stakeholders, develop selection criteria and identify representative pilot sites and beneficiaries, taking into account water scarcity and losses, climate risks, technical feasibility, potential water savings, replication potential, and socio-economic benefits. Prepare recommendations for inclusion of the selected interventions, eligibility criteria, implementation arrangements, and indicative targets in the Project Document and CEO Endorsement package. 8. Support the design of the Low-Value Grant Mechanism to facilitate the adoption of water-efficient practices by farmers. Develop recommendations on grant windows, indicative technical packages, eligibility and selection criteria, and monitoring approaches to ensure sustainability and replication. Ensure that at least 50% of supported initiatives are led by women farmers and women's groups and provide inputs to the Project Document on implementation arrangements, targets, gender considerations, and scaling-up pathways 9. Prepare technical reports on site assessments, analyses, proposed interventions and demonstration packages. 10. Coordinate with the SES International Consultant and participate in consultations with water users, local authorities and other stakeholders to validate findings and proposed interventions.

	11. Prepare technical inputs and quality text sections for the Project Document and GEF CEO Endorsement Request package related to irrigation efficiency, water-loss reduction and pilot demonstrations, and contribute to the final Project Document as agreed with the PPG Team Leader. Qualifications • Education: master's degree in water resources management and /or hydrology or a related field preferred. • Minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in water planning, site assessment, feasibility studies in settings and infrastructure development in Kazakhstan. • Expertise in water risk assessment and management, water losses and infrastructure design. • Excellent written and oral communication skills in Russian languages.
Consultant 10: Finance and Investment specialist Type: IC National - Binational Total cost: $ 8,000 Daily rate: USD 200 / 40 days Number of person month needed: 11 (40 days)	Role: Finance and investment specialist will work under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator and the UNDP Climate, Energy, and Environment Cluster Team Leader, in close coordination with the International PPG International Team Leader and the National PPG and Engagement Coordinator, in close collaboration with the national CTWC focal points as well as UNECE/Water Convention Secretariat, and respective programs Responsibilities and Deliverables: 1. Prepare preliminary recommendations and analytical inputs on sustainable financing mechanisms for long-term implementation of the Chu–Talas SAP, including basin financing arrangements, trust funds, payment for ecosystem services, blended finance, climate finance, debt-for-nature swaps and other innovative approaches, as well as experience of the Water Convention for further consideration and development during the project implementation phase. 2. Prepare financial and economic inputs and identify priority investment opportunities for irrigation modernization, canal efficiency, wastewater management and pollution reduction measures to support the development of bankable investment concepts and follow-on financing packages. 3. Assess major investment barriers, financing gaps and opportunities for mobilizing public, private, IFI and climate finance resources and provide recommendations for consideration during project implementation 4. Prepare preliminary financial and economic inputs for the design of follow-on investment packages under Component 3, including indicative investment needs, potential financing sources, institutional responsibilities, enabling conditions 5. Prepare indicative financial sustainability considerations for selected demonstration measures and investment packages, including

	preliminary CAPEX/OPEX assumptions. and potential financing options for demonstration measures and investment packages. 6. Identify potential financing partners and investors, including IFIs, climate funds, development partners national public finance institutions, utilities, and private sector actors and other relevant financing sources,, considering the experience in funding transboundary cooperation of the Water Convention, and prepare inputs for financing engagement packages 7. Support the PPG team in designing the financial aspects of any proposed low-value grant or demonstration support mechanism, including eligible cost categories, indicative grant ceilings, co-financing requirements, sustainability considerations, and financial management implications 8. Support the collection and consolidation of information required for co-financing confirmation and preparation of draft co-financing letters. 9. Contribute to the preparation and updating of GEF financing tables, budget templates and other financial sections required for the Project Document and CEO Endorsement package. 10. Work closely with the PPG Team Leader and technical experts to ensure that proposed investments adequately reflect environmental, climate resilience, gender equality and transboundary water security considerations and long-term financial sustainability considerations. 11. Prepare a final narrative report summarizing all financial and investment-related inputs, recommendations, and responses to relevant comments received from UNDP, national stakeholders, GEF Secretariat, STAP, and/or GEF Council members, as applicable Participate in the inception and validation workshops to present findings and ensure their validation. Qualifications • Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in Finance, Economics, public finance, business administration, environmental economics, development finance, natural resource economics, or another relevant field. • Minimum 3 years of professional experience in finance, economic analysis, investment planning, sustainable financing, public finance, development finance, or financial mechanisms for environmental, climate, water, or natural resource management projects. • Demonstrated experience in preparing financial or economic analyses, investment assessments, financing strategies, business models, or resource mobilization inputs for development projects • Experience working with international development organizations, IFIs, climate funds, and/or GEF- or UNDP-funded projects will be considered an asset. • Fluency in Russian is required. Working knowledge of English is desirable.