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EVALUATION

Tajikistan (1999–2015)

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Foreword

The Tajikistan Country Portfolio Evaluation (CPE) is the last country-level evaluation of the fifth GEF replenishment period. Tajikistan was chosen because of its diverse and mature portfolio of projects in biodiversity and climate change, and its significant number of multifocal projects. The evaluation process was highly consultative and participatory. Stakeholders were continuously informed and solicited to provide data, information, and feedback throughout the evaluation process through various means including consultation workshops, individual and group interviews, and an online stakeholder consultation platform.

An aide-mémoire containing the key preliminary findings was presented to national stakeholders, including representatives of the Government of Tajikistan, GEF Agencies, the GEF Secretariat, nongovernmental and community-based organizations, and other civil society partners and academia, in Dushanbe on November 10, 2015. The feedback received was highly constructive and the comments received have been incorporated into this evaluation report.

The findings and conclusions of the Tajikistan

CPE were presented to the GEF Council in June 2016. They were also included in the *Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: June 2016* (GEF IEO 2016). The full report was made available to the GEF Council as an information document. The response to the evaluation from the Government of Tajikistan is included as [annex A](#) of this report, and the statement from the national independent peer reviewer is included as [annex B](#).

I would like to thank everyone who actively supported this evaluation. Through this report, the Office intends to share the lessons from the evaluation with a wider audience. The evaluation was launched when Rob D. van den Berg was Director of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. Final responsibility for this report remains firmly with the Office.



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Director, GEF Independent Evaluation Office

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Two independent national experts, Malika Babadzhanova (Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Specialist) and Farhod Khamidov (Monitoring and Evaluation specialist) provided peer review support to the evaluation.

Representatives of the Government of Tajikistan, including the Committee of Environmental Protection, provided full support to the evaluation, in particular Khayrullo Ibodzoda, Chair and GEF Political and Operational Focal Point.

Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank	GHG	greenhouse gas
CACILM	Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management	HCFC	hydrochlorofluorocarbons
CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity	M&E	monitoring and evaluation
CEIT	Countries with Economies in Transition	MSP	medium-size project
CEP	Committee for Environmental Protection	NGO	nongovernmental organization
CPE	Country Portfolio Evaluation	ODS	ozone-depleting substances
DCC	Donor Coordination Council	PIR	project implementation review
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	PMIS	project management information system
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	POPs	persistent organic pollutants
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SGP	Small Grants Programme
FSP	full-size project	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GDP	gross domestic product	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
		UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

All dollar amounts are U.S. dollars unless otherwise indicated.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Background

The Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) conducts Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPEs) to provide the GEF Council and national governments with an assessment of the results and performance of GEF-supported activities at country level. These evaluations also assess how these activities are aligned with national strategies and priorities as well as the global environmental mandate of the GEF. CPEs enable knowledge sharing about country-level results for the benefit of the GEF Council, the participating country, and the agencies and organizations that design, plan, and implement GEF-funded activities.

The Tajikistan CPE was conducted between October 2014 and January 2016. The GEF portfolio in Tajikistan is diverse and mature, and is composed of 23 national projects covering biodiversity and climate change, and a significant number of multifocal projects. The specific objectives of the evaluation were to assess the effectiveness, results, and sustainability of GEF support in Tajikistan, as well as assess its relevance and efficiency, implementation frameworks, decision making processes, policies, and procedures, with the ultimate aim to provide feedback and knowledge sharing in Tajikistan and the GEF as a whole.¹

¹ The GEF Tajikistan CPE country-specific terms of reference are presented in [annex C](#).

GEF support to Tajikistan started in 1999. The national portfolio is currently composed of seven full-size projects (FSPs), eight medium-size projects (MSPs), and eight enabling activities. The portfolio mainly covers the climate change and biodiversity focal areas, with five and six projects respectively. The portfolio also includes six multifocal projects, three chemicals and waste projects, and three land degradation projects. The total GEF grant in the national portfolio amounts to \$33.9 million, with \$119.7 million in cofinancing. Tajikistan is party to 16 regional and seven global projects, totaling \$64.9 million, with \$150.9 million cofinancing.² GEF support through the Tajikistan Small Grants Programme (SGP) has been mostly used towards biodiversity and land degradation. Each dollar of GEF grant to the Tajikistan SGP has leveraged \$1.23 on average in cofinancing, with half in cash and half in-kind.

1.2 Highlights of the Main Findings

RESULTS, EFFECTIVENESS, AND SUSTAINABILITY

Overall performance of the portfolio has been satisfactory, with five of the six completed projects rated as satisfactory in their respective terminal

² The GEF grants and cofinancing amounts pertaining to regional and global projects are for all participating countries cumulatively.

evaluation. One project was rated highly satisfactory and four were rated moderately satisfactory.

Results in biodiversity demonstrate evidence that management plans for protected areas have been replicated. The financial plan introduced by the Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Gissar Mountains of Tajikistan project (GEF ID 1854) for the Shirkent Natural-Historical Park was replicated in other protected areas in the country. Management plans have also been replicated in the protected area of Dashtidzhum and the Tigrovaya Balka Natural Biosphere Reserve. Importantly, GEF support to biodiversity introduced participatory management to Tajikistan's protected areas system, endorsed by the State Directorate of Protected Areas through Decision No. 57 on December 10, 2010. Other support includes the rationalization of the protected areas boundaries (that is the Romit Reserve and the Shirkent Natural-Historical Park). GEF support contributed to an increase in the land area under conservation from 4 percent to 22 percent and there is evidence of stress reduction and improved environmental status as a result of replication in specific and disconnected sites. The Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework of the Republic of Tajikistan project (GEF ID 3211) received noteworthy foundational support from the GEF. It subsequently helped establish the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center and contributed to the development of important national legislation on biosafety.

GEF support to climate change has mostly helped Tajikistan fulfil its obligations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and develop the legal framework in the small hydropower sector by supporting the formulation of the law on energy efficiency and energy savings, no. 1018 of September 19, 2013. Ongoing support to the transportation and small hydropower sectors, both involving the private sector, show good promise in terms of estimated reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The estimated percentage of locally manufactured

small hydropower installation costs increased from 5 percent to 10 percent, to 50 percent, and local manufacturers are now able to fully design and construct small hydropower units locally.

Land degradation was an important focal area for the GEF in Tajikistan and support was provided through both national and regional projects. As with support on biodiversity, results were mostly achieved through the development of important national laws, such as the law on mountain regions and the law on pastures, approved in 2013. The Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in South West Tajikistan-under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase 1 project (GEF ID 3237) introduced biodrainage and shelterbelts that were replicated outside the project area, in the Jirkul District. New protected areas were created with direct support from the project. Results from regional projects are less visible.

Support to chemicals and waste was effective in the ozone-depleting substances (ODS) sector. From 2001 to 2008, the Program for Phasing-out ODS (GEF ID 15) contributed to recovering and recycling 115,008 kilograms of refrigerants. About 85 percent of domestic chlorofluorocarbon-based (CFC) refrigerators were replaced between 2000 and 2010. In parallel, a retrofit financial incentive programme was designed and implemented for the country's refrigeration industry through the Initial Implementation of Accelerated HCFC (hydrochlorofluorocarbons) Phase-out in the Countries with Economy in Transition (CEIT) Region project (GEF ID 4102). The subsequent ODS phase-out was equal to 50.7 tons of ozone depletion potential, allowing Tajikistan to return to compliance with the Montreal Protocol in 2006. Results on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) did not go beyond foundational support.

The five completed and ongoing multifocal projects in the national portfolio largely included

biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation elements, and addressed most of the main environmental priorities set by national development and environmental policy documents. Results were mainly visible at the local and project sites level. Examples from the Community Agriculture and Watershed Management project (GEF ID 1872) include: installing gardens on terraces; conserving the soil; preventing wind erosion; increasing GHG absorption; corrals for livestock; facilitating the preservation of livestock productivity; improving pastures so as to increase overall productivity and naturally restore land; and a yak breeding initiative that improved the productivity of pasture lands by reducing pressure on pastures. Irrigation water saving technologies and the use of biological methods for plants and crops protection as alternatives to chemical control in the CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management and Community Agriculture and Watershed Management projects are estimated to have saved at least 250 cubic meters of water a year. An irrigation network that was rehabilitated in 30 villages allows a more rational and efficient use of irrigation water, prevents erosion and soil salinization, and reduces the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Water supply pipelines built for 550 households are still functioning today.

Institution and capacity building was effective. The Jamoat Resource Centers and two tree nurseries set up with the support of the Gissar Mountains project are still operational today.³ Ten farmers who benefited from training provided by the project concluded land lease agreements with the local forestry department. The Community Agriculture and Watershed Management project set up three information centers that continue to operate. Consultants from the Farmers Field Schools that received training through the CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project are still

³Jamoats are the third-level administrative divisions in Tajikistan. The Jamoat Resource Centers are community-based organizations in Tajikistan.

working for land degradation units in the project region. Not all efforts have been successful though. The five-year Tugai Community Forest Management Agreement supported by the Gissar Mountains project was signed in 2008 by community representatives and the local authority but expired in 2013 and, to date, no further efforts have been made for its renewal.

In Tajikistan, GEF support focused considerably on knowledge generation and sharing. The most effective form of support in this area was through raising awareness and skills building. In terms of knowledge generation, a number of FSPs and MSPs had varying degrees of effectiveness. The Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation project (GEF ID 2037) developed a set of maps generated through geographic information systems that were uploaded to a dedicated website. These include a number of maps of ecosystems, biotopes, natural habitats for plants and animals, biodiversity threats, boundaries of specific protected areas, and a zoning map. The website was removed soon after the project was completed.

The ongoing Technology Transfer and Market Development for Small Hydropower in Tajikistan project (GEF ID 4160) helped develop a guidebook for private and public investors interested in the construction of small hydropower plants, and education modules for students of technical universities and short-term vocational trainings. The guidebook and modules have been included in the education curricula of the Tajik Technical University and the Kurgantyube Energy Institute, the main institutions training hydropower engineers in Tajikistan. The Gissar Mountains project issued a regular newsletter to disseminate best practices and lessons learned. The Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) took ownership of this initiative and a national staff conference has been held annually since 2009 to facilitate networking. Trainings, peer-to-peer exchanges, and other events to build skills were a particular focus in several projects. As a result of the trainings delivered

as part of the ODS Phasing-out project, one of the earliest projects, many of the 334 certified refrigeration technicians continue to work as independent entrepreneurs or as employees of various service centers throughout the country.

Of 23 national projects, 13 considered gender issues during project formulation and implementation. More specifically, although gender issues were mentioned in the project formulation documents of all 13 projects, the Environmental Learning and Stakeholder Involvement as Tools for Global Environmental Benefits and Poverty Reduction project (GEF ID 3310) and the CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project only did so partially. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) documents show that the Gissar Mountains, Community Agriculture and Watershed Management, Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity in the Face of Climate Change (GEF ID 3129), Environmental Learning and Stakeholder Involvement, and Small Hydropower in Tajikistan projects actively mainstreamed gender in their activities. Gender disaggregated indicators were included in only six projects namely, the Community Watershed and Agricultural Management project, the Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity project, the CACILM Rural Development Project, the Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods project (GEF ID 4352), the Increasing Climate Resilience through Drinking Water Rehabilitation in North Tajikistan project (GEF ID 4422), and the Strengthening Capacity for an Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System in Tajikistan (GEF ID 5236). The Gissar Mountains project integrated a gender dimension into the conceptualization, planning, and implementation of all project activities. The project considered women's involvement to be crucial to ensuring the success of demonstration activities and their potential for replication. The CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project did not adopt the same approach, despite women doing most of the labor in the farming systems of Tajikistan. Women were

mainly involved in microloan activities and trainings in the Gissar Mountains, Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity, CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management, Environmental Learning and Stakeholder Involvement, and Small Hydropower projects. Promoting the participation of women in decision making processes has been inconsistent in the period under analysis. Some efforts were made in the earlier Gissar Mountain and Community Agriculture and Watershed Management projects, and in the more recent Enabling Activity to Review and Update the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on POPs (GEF ID 5223). The introduction of the GEF policy on gender mainstreaming (GEF 2011) contributed to a greater consideration of gender in the portfolio.

RELEVANCE

In line with its mandate, the GEF has supported Tajikistan's preparation of important documents, including the First National Communication to UNFCCC, the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on POPs, the National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the First National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). These foundational documents helped Tajikistan comply with its obligations as a signatory to international environmental conventions. Tajikistan is party to most international environmental conventions, with the notable exception of the Minamata Convention on Mercury that has not yet been signed. Mercury is one of the major mineral resources extracted in Tajikistan and chemicals leaking into the water as a result of mining activities are a cause for concern.

All GEF national projects align with most of the main national official sustainable development and environment policies. Furthermore, an estimated comparison of portfolio figures during the period 2010–12 shows that the GEF is an important contributor to Tajikistan's efforts in the environmental sector. A cofinance ratio of \$3.50

for each \$1 of GEF grant in the national portfolio compares reasonably well with the portfolios in Turkey (\$2.90) and Moldova (\$1), as analyzed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. Not only does GEF support align with national priorities, it is also included in national budgets, demonstrating ownership, especially since GEF-4. After Tajikistan's accession to the Paris Declaration in 2005, project management units were set up under ministries and government agencies. Four of the eight MSPs and FSPs conducted during GEF-4 and GEF-5 (2010–14) have project management units.

EFFICIENCY

Projects in the Tajikistan portfolio take an average of 2.2 years to be implemented. In comparison, FSPs in Sri Lanka take an average of four years to move from entry into pipeline to start of implementation, while in South Africa and Brazil the average is 3.7 and 3.6 years, respectively. Overall, in comparison with most portfolios analyzed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office in the last 10 years, Tajikistan scores rather well, although for FSPs implementation took more than four months longer than the official threshold of 18 months that was established during GEF-5. Stakeholders consider these time lags too long.

GEF ongoing and future projects are discussed in the Donor Coordination Council (DCC) and coordinated with other donors support at the national level. Coordination is affected at the local level by the insufficient engagement of the respective government agencies, some of which have undergone several internal restructurings. At times, the roles and responsibilities of the respective institutions were unclear. GEF projects, as mentioned by several interviewed stakeholders, have introduced a culture of collaboration among all partner institutions. For example, the Gissar Mountain project established participatory land use and forest management mechanisms involving different government departments and local communities.

Unlike other countries, the GEF political and operational focal point positions in Tajikistan are assigned to one institutional figure namely, the chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP). Several key informants voiced concerns about the effectiveness and efficiency of this arrangement, given his many other responsibilities. Many believe that insufficient consultation with project proponents to fine-tune proposals and manage the approval process are among the reasons for delays at the project design stage. However, in most cases, delays have been associated with low in-country project design capacities and the absence of specialized technical expertise.

M&E ratings in earlier projects were unsatisfactory, but have improved over time. Four of the six terminal evaluations, including the three most recent, report an overall M&E satisfactory rating. The terminal evaluation review of the ODS Phasing-out project rated M&E design as marginally unsatisfactory and was unable to assess M&E implementation. The terminal evaluation review of the Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation project rated M&E design as marginally satisfactory, while M&E implementation was rated as marginally unsatisfactory. More recent projects show M&E's contribution to project adaptive management. The design of the M&E system of the CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project was rated satisfactory, and monitoring data allowed for adaptations to be made to the intervention while it was still ongoing. The terminal evaluation of the Community Agriculture and Watershed Management project reports that the preliminary risk analysis was not conducted well and that project M&E design did not consider the low technical capacities of communities or their willingness to include gender considerations in the project activities. The situation was addressed in the project midterm review that found that a lot of women were actually beneficiaries, and recommended that gender indicators be included in the M&E system. Only four of 15 national FSPs and

MSPs and one enabling activity had their respective tracking tools correctly filled.

1.3 Main Conclusions and Recommendations

Evaluative evidence shows that GEF support to biodiversity in Tajikistan has contributed to the achievement of significant results, more than in other focal areas. Results are particularly positive in protected areas management, legislation development, raising awareness, and capacity building. Cases of broader adoption in biodiversity and land degradation occurred mostly in terms of replication and mainstreaming, at the local level. GEF support to climate change in Tajikistan has had limited—although promising—results to date. Support on chemicals and waste issues in the ODS sector has been effective, while results are mixed on the reduction of POPs. The GEF has been significantly effective at the local level in knowledge generation and dissemination, mainly during project implementation and less so after completion. In general, gender has not been consistently considered within the Tajikistan portfolio.

GEF support has been aligned with its international mandate and this has helped the country meet its international commitments. It has also been relevant to Tajikistan's national environmental and sustainable development policies and priorities. Ownership of GEF support has increased over time, especially since GEF-4. Although comparable to GEF averages, Tajikistan stakeholders find the project cycle too long, especially at the formulation stage. Coordination and synergies between GEF Agencies, national executing agencies, and other donor supported projects in the environment sector exist at the national level, but less so at the local level. According to stakeholders, the GEF focal point mechanism in Tajikistan has not provided sufficient strategic guidance and coordination. Furthermore, the GEF focal point has not been involved in M&E of the GEF portfolio

at the national level, and information on GEF mechanisms and procedures has not been regularly conveyed to national partners. Overall, M&E has contributed to project adaptive management, especially in recent projects, but use of tracking tools has been intermittent.

In summary, the GEF Tajikistan CPE has reached the following conclusions and recommendations. A more extensive presentation of these conclusions and recommendations is provided in [chapter 8](#).

CONCLUSIONS

GEF support to Tajikistan has been significantly more effective in biodiversity conservation, particularly in protected areas management and biosafety legislation, compared to other focal areas.

- A few cases of broader adoption of outcomes, leading to progress toward impact, are observed at the local level in the form of replication, especially in the biodiversity and land degradation focal areas.
- GEF support to knowledge generation and dissemination was effective mostly at the local level.
- GEF support to dealing with chemical-related issues in Tajikistan was effective in the ODS sector. Results on the reduction of POPs are mixed.
- Few examples of the GEF's contribution to reducing gender inequality were observed at the local level. Overall, gender has not been consistently considered in the Tajikistan portfolio.
- GEF support was broadly aligned with the international GEF mandate of achieving global environmental benefits and helped Tajikistan meet its international commitments.
- GEF support was relevant to Tajikistan's national environmental and sustainable development policies and priorities.

- Ownership of GEF support has increased over time, especially since GEF-4.
- In Tajikistan, the GEF project cycle was considered too long, especially at the project formulation stage.
- Coordination and synergies exist between GEF Agencies, national executing agencies, and other donor support at the national level, but less so at the local level.
- M&E contributed to project adaptive management, with some exceptions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Government of Tajikistan and GEF Agencies

- Gender concerns should be adequately and systematically addressed and mainstreamed in all GEF focal areas, as provisioned in the GEF gender mainstreaming policy.

To the Government of Tajikistan

- The GEF focal point mechanism should be strengthened and a strategic approach to GEF support should be developed to ensure dissemination of lessons after project completion and to promote coordination among the main stakeholders, including at the local level.
- Mercury, POPs, and other hazardous chemicals-related issues should be given priority in Tajikistan.

2. Evaluation Framework

The GEF Independent Evaluation Office conducts CPEs at the request of the GEF Council. GEF-eligible countries are chosen for CPEs based on the size, diversity, and maturity of their project portfolios. These evaluations usually cover all national projects since the start of GEF operations in the country to date, and include a selection of the most important regional and global projects in which the country participates. By capturing aggregate portfolio results and the performance of GEF support at the country level, CPEs provide useful information for both the GEF Council and the countries.

2.1 Objectives and Scope

The purpose of the Tajikistan CPE is to provide the GEF Council and the Government of Tajikistan with an evaluation of the results and performance of the GEF supported activities in the country, and of how the GEF supported activities link into national strategies and priorities as well as within the global environmental mandate of the GEF.

Its specific objectives are to:

- Evaluate the effectiveness, sustainability, and results of GEF support in Tajikistan, with attention to the sustainability of achievements at project level and progress toward impact for global environmental benefits.
- Evaluate the relevance and efficiency of GEF support in Tajikistan from several points of

view: national environmental frameworks and decision making processes, the GEF mandate of achieving global environmental benefits, and GEF policies and procedures.

- Provide feedback and knowledge sharing to: the GEF Council in its decision making process to allocate resources and to develop policies and strategies; the Government of Tajikistan on its collaboration and participation in the GEF; and the different agencies and organizations involved in the preparation and implementation of GEF projects and activities.

The Tajikistan CPE focuses on the 23 national projects at all stages of the project cycle (pipeline, ongoing, and completed) implemented within the country's boundaries. This includes enabling activities, FSPs, and MSPs, as well as the Tajikistan SGP. A full assessment of the regional projects' aggregate results, relevance, and efficiency was beyond the scope of this CPE, given that only the Tajikistan components were assessed.¹ Table 2.1 gives a summary of the GEF portfolio in Tajikistan, which is also presented in detail in [annex H](#).

GEF support to Tajikistan started in 1999 with the ODS Phasing-Out program, followed by two enabling activities, the Enabling the Republic of

¹ A regional/global project is considered relevant for evaluation if the project coordination unit and/or a demonstration site is in the country or if there is a strong and clear connection to a national project.

TABLE 2.1 National, Regional, Global, and SGPs by Focal Area

Focal area	National projects						Regional and global projects ^a					
	No.	%	GEF grant		Cofinancing		No.	%	GEF grant		Cofinancing	
			Mil. \$	%	Mil. \$	%			Mil. \$	%	Mil. \$	%
BD	6	26.08	3.20	9.78	2.53	2.14	3	18.80	7.57	11.67	8.53	5.65
CC	5	21.74	6.12	18.70	41.76	35.33	0	0	0	0	0	0
IW	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	12.25	15.50	23.90	26.50	17.56
LD	3	13.05	9.88	30.18	37.72	31.92	5	31.25	10.04	15.48	15.02	9.95
MF	6	26.08	11.95	36.52	35.70	30.21	1	6.25	10.98	16.93	38.61	25.58
POPs	3	13.05	1.58	4.82	0.47	0.40	5	31.25	20.76	32.02	62.27	41.26
Subtotal	23	100.00	32.72	100.00	118.19	100.00	16	100.00	64.85	100.00	150.93	100.00
SGP	48	—	1.18	—	1.46	—	0	—	—	—	—	—
Total	71	—	33.90	—	119.65	—	16	—	64.85	—	150.93	—

NOTE: BD = biodiversity, CC = climate change, IW = international waters, LD = land degradation, MF = multifocal.

a. The GEF funds and cofinancing amounts given for the global and regional projects represent the total amounts provided for all the participating countries taken together.

Tajikistan to Prepare its First National Communication in Response to its Commitments to the UNFCCC (GEF ID 830) in 2000, and the Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan with Clearing House Mechanism (GEF ID 996) in 2001.

The portfolio is composed of seven FSPs, eight MSPs, and eight enabling activities primarily covering climate change (five projects) and biodiversity (six projects). It also has six multifocal area projects, three chemical and waste projects, and three land degradation projects.

2.2 Methodology

The evaluation used a mixed approach that included a combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods and tools. The qualitative analysis used project design documents, project implementation reports, terminal evaluations and their reviews, reports from monitoring visits, and any other available project-related technical documentation. Other documentation reviewed included national sustainable development policies and laws, environmental priorities and strategies,

national strategies and action plans relevant to GEF focal areas, other donors' country assistance strategies and frameworks, and their evaluations and reviews. Available statistics and scientific sources, especially for national environmental indicators, were also used where appropriate. Field visits to selected project sites and stakeholder interviews (both individual and focus groups) provided important data gathering opportunities.

The quantitative analysis used indicators to assess the relevance and efficiency of GEF support (that is linkages between GEF support and national priorities, time and cost of preparing and implementing projects, and so on, and so forth), and measure GEF results (that is progress towards achieving global environmental benefits) and performance (that is aggregating implementation and completion ratings available from terminal evaluations and terminal evaluation reviews).

The evaluation team used the GEF Independent Evaluation Office's standard tools and protocols for CPEs and adapted them to the national context. These tools included a project review protocol to conduct desk and field reviews of GEF

projects, an outline for the Country Environmental Legal Framework analysis, a guideline for the global environmental benefits assessment, and interview guides to conduct interviews with different stakeholders. Country ownership and drivenness was assessed using an analysis framework based on the one used for a similar analysis in the *Fifth Overall Performance Study of the GEF (OPS5)* (GEF IEO 2014). Progress to impact was examined by a desk review of all completed projects and three case studies. The tool was the generic theory of change developed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office for OPS5 and adapted for country portfolio analysis.

Visits to project sites for field verification of results achieved were conducted on both ongoing and completed projects. The evaluation team chose specific sites to visit following the initial document review, balancing the need of representation with the cost effectiveness of conducting the field visits. The Gissar Mountains, Community Agriculture and Watershed Management, and CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management projects were selected for field verification in the framework of the progress towards impact case studies. In addition, the terminal evaluation of the Tajikistan component of the regional project Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains (PALM)—an Integrated and Transboundary Initiative in Central Asia (Phase 1) (GEF ID 2377) was also subject to a field verification.

Field visits to the following Tajikistan SGP projects were also conducted:

- Enhance Co-management of Protected Area Romit Zapovednik through Building Local Capacities and Demonstrate Alternative Sources of Livelihood for Protected Areas' Communities (TJK/SGP/OP5/BD/CORE/12/11)
- Conservation of Agro-biodiversity through Active Involvement of Local Communities in

Three Special Protected Nature Areas in Gissar area (TJK/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/2010/03)

- Promotion of Small-Scale Alternative and Energy-Efficient Technologies Among the Rural Population Nosiri Khusrav, Shaartuz, Kabadien, and Kumsangir Districts in Khatlon Region (TJK/SGP/OP5/Y3/CORE/CC/2013/06)
- Reduce POPs/ Chemicals Widespread in Kabodiyon District (TJK/SGP/OP5/Y2/PP/CORE/2013/05)
- Reduction of Mountain desertification and Conservation of Biodiversity (TJK/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/2010/06)
- Promoting the Establishment of Wool and Skin Reproduction Workshop as Sustainable Use of Local Biodiversity in Djirgatal District (TJK/SGP/OP5/Y2/BD/CORE/2013/09)
- Demonstration of Innovative Agrobiotechnologies and Waste Disposal Methods Adapted to Climate Change in Six Dekhkan Farms of Vakhdat Town (TJK/SGP/OP5/LD/CORE/12/13)
- Conservation of Thugai Forests to Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Promoting Community-Forestation and Reforestation (TJK/SGP/OP5/BD/CORE/12/02)
- Promoting Broad Civic Awareness and Public Advocacy on Best Environment Conservation Practices at the Grass-root levels through Creation and Broadcasting of a 3D Animated Movie (TJK/SGP/OP5/CORE/MF/12/10)
- Reduction of Mercury Impact to Health and Environment—Enhancing Sound Medical-waste Management (TJK/SGP/OP5/CH/CORE/12/03)

2.3 Limitations

Limitations were encountered and addressed wherever possible. In some cases, the institutional

memory acquired through interaction between national staff and experts was partially or totally lacking.² For example, the frequent changes of United Nations environmental conventions focal points meant many newly appointed national focal points were not always fully informed about earlier GEF projects. To overcome this limitation, the evaluation team worked extensively to find and establish contacts with former staff experts and former United Nations convention focal points who had been involved and participated in the development and implementation of earlier GEF projects. All available means (personal meetings,

²Institutional memory refers to a set of knowledge that comprises a collection of individual expertise and a constantly updated catalogue of the best strategies and techniques to be used in the future by relevant decision makers.

phone calls, email correspondence, and so on, and so forth) to contact relevant stakeholders and obtain the necessary information to assess performance were used.

Not all project documents were available at the start of the evaluation. There were a variety of gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies in the GEF Tajikistan portfolio downloaded from the GEF project information management system (PMIS). This was addressed by asking GEF Agencies to send updates and missing project documentation. Identifying national components of regional projects was also difficult. The restructuring and relocation of the state environmental agency complicated the preservation of documents at the national level. The evaluation team gathered additional data wherever possible to address these limitations. This helped

3. Context

3.1 Tajikistan

Tajikistan is a mountainous landlocked country located in the southern part of Central Asia. With an estimated population of 8 million in 2013, it is the 98th most populous country and the 96th largest country in the world with an area covering 142,600 square kilometers. It is bordered by Afghanistan to the south, Uzbekistan to the west, Kyrgyzstan to the north, and China to the east. Pakistan lies to the south separated by the narrow Wakhan corridor. Climate is mid-latitude continental, with hot summers and mild winters. Mountains cover more than 90 percent of the country. The Pamir and Alay Mountains dominate the landscape, with the western Fergana Valley in the north, and Kofarnihon and Vakhsh Valleys in the southwest (figure 3.1).

As a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union, Tajikistan became an independent nation in 1991. The civil war fought almost immediately after independence lasted from 1992 to 1997. Since the end of the war, political stability and foreign aid have allowed the country's economy to grow. Presently Tajikistan has a presidential republican system.

Due to limited domestic employment opportunities, over a million Tajik citizens work abroad. The country has a transition economy that depends on aluminum and cotton production. It has the 126th largest economy in the world in terms of purchasing power and 136th largest in terms of nominal gross domestic product (GDP).

FIGURE 3.1 Relief Map of Tajikistan



SOURCE: ZOI Environment Network 2014.

Tajikistan is the poorest country in Central Asia. Recovery has been slowed by uneven economic reforms, weak governance, high external debt, and seasonal electric power shortages. One opportunity for trade lies in the energy market, as Tajikistan is rich in water resources and produces hydropower for regional export.¹ Government capital expenditure largely comes from loans and grants from international donors.

¹ www.usaid.gov/tajikistan/economic-growth-and-trade

The main imported goods are energy products, timber, metals, pharmaceuticals, food, and household goods. Insufficient use of energy-saving technologies and insufficient energy supplies pose considerable barriers to enhancing the competitiveness of local production.

The poverty rate halved from 80–83 percent in 1999–2000 to 40–45 percent in 2009–11 with the most notable improvements in rural areas. The main causes of poverty in Tajikistan are a high level of unemployment, especially among young people; a low level of education; limited access to power supplies, and water and sewage systems; and the degradation of natural resources. Tajikistan's Human Development Index (2012) was 0.622, ranking it 125 out of 190 countries.

Tajikistan also has significant geological resources, with large reserves of silver, iron ore, metals, and salts. However, it has only limited reserves of oil and natural gas, and relies heavily on fuel imports. Other energy resources include sizable coal deposits.

Being a mountainous country, only 6.1 percent of Tajikistan is arable land (2012 est.). Main production areas include valleys and foothills, all located in relatively temperate climatic zones. As a consequence of mudflows and floods, water resources can cause considerable damage to rural and mountainous areas as well as a deficit of water resources. The reduction in glacier runoff enhances the risk of droughts, and the resulting degradation of aquatic ecosystems can cause damage to both the economy and the population.

According to the 1997 and 2009 state environment programs, Tajikistan's priority environmental concerns are

- conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,
- prevention of land erosion,
- reforestation,
- sustainable use of natural resources,

- energy-saving technologies,
- recovery of air and water quality,
- improvement of human health,
- mainstreaming of environmentally friendly industry,
- waste management (including industrial and mining waste).

The Government of Tajikistan started to focus seriously on environmental protection with the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Tajikistan (also known as the Committee for Nature Protection of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic) in August 1989. Its mandate included coordination of activities related to environmental protection among government agencies and control over natural resource use, land protection, subsoil, forests, water, and other resources. In 1994, the EPA's legal status was improved and it became the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan with the same mandate. However, with the restructuring of the Government of Tajikistan in 2004, the ministry became the State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SCEPF). The SCEPF's mandate was expanded slightly to include the former forestry management agency. In 2006, further restructuring of the Government of Tajikistan meant the SCEPF was merged with the Ministry of Agriculture, which became the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection. SCEPF's mandate within the new ministry remained the same.

In 2008, the SCEPF became the CEP under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. The CEP coordinates all activities related to environmental protection and oversees natural resources use, land protection, subsoil, forests, water, and other resources. Its decisions are considered mandatory for all legal entities and individuals. It has 400 staff, of which approximately 50 are located

at headquarters in the capital Dushanbe. The CEP manages the government website,² publishes an environmental journal and newsletter, prepares the annual report on the state of the environment, and produces a monthly video for television on selected environmental issues. It also oversees Hydromet, the Tajik meteorological service, and other institutions that work in the area of environmental information, analytical and instrumental control, ecotourism, nature and water conservation, and climate change studies. The CEP also has its own information center (the Aarhus Center), a training center, and laboratory facilities. The current role of the CEP related to environmental safeguards policy includes an increased involvement in policy making for sectors that may pose threats to the environment, a clear mandate for coordination with other ministries in cross-cutting areas such as environmental education, and training on climate change and mainstreaming adaptation into policies and programs.

3.2 The Global Environment Facility

The GEF provides funding to achieve global environmental benefits in biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals. It officially began with a two-year pilot phase from 1992 to 1994, followed by regular four-year replenishment periods: GEF-1 (1995–98), GEF-2 (1999–2002), GEF-3 (2003–06), GEF-4 (2006–10), and GEF-5 (2010–14). GEF-6 was initiated in July 2014 and continues through June 2018. Until and including GEF-3, there were no country allocations and eligible GEF member countries submitted their requests to the various windows through the different GEF Agencies on a demand basis. The first resource allocation framework was introduced during GEF-4. It was replaced during GEF-5 by the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) and is still in use during GEF-6.

² www.hifzitiabiat.tj

The GEF provides financing to various types of projects:

- FSPs with funding of more than \$2 million
- MSPs with funding of \$2 million or less
- Enabling activities with funding up to \$1 million. These activities support countries to meet their obligations under the various conventions for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism and provide support for developing environmental policies, strategies, and action plans
- Project preparation grants (PPGs), formerly known as project development facility (PDF) grants, that provide funding for the preparation and development of projects
- Small grants with funding of less than \$50,000, directed to NGOs and grassroot organizations

The GEF works as a financial mechanism for the following international environmental conventions:

- the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- the Stockholm Convention on POPs
- the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Although not linked formally to the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987), the GEF supports its implementation in CEITs.

GEF activities are carried out through 18 agencies: the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Conservation International, the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the European Bank for Reconstruction

and Development (EBRD), the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the West African Development Bank (BOAD), the World Bank Group (WBG), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). GEF Agencies have direct access to funding through a memorandum of understanding with the GEF.

3.3 Environmental Resources in Tajikistan by GEF Focal Area

The following sections provide a concise summary of environmental resources in Tajikistan by GEF focal area.

BIODIVERSITY

Tajikistan is located in one of the links of the Eurasian highland belt, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Changeable mountain climatic conditions and hard natural historical processes promoted the formation of a unique biodiversity in Tajikistan. The mountain landscapes of Tajikistan contain 0.7 percent of the animal world and 1.8 percent of plant diversity, including wild relatives of domestic animals and cultivated plants. The contrast combination of arid, subarid, and humid conditions, and fluctuating precipitation levels (from 70 millimeters to 2,000 millimeters a year), promoted the formation of a complex and particularly rich flora (more than 9,000 species) and vegetation, from broadleaf forests and boreal meadows to subtropical deserts. Although forests take only up 3 percent (412,000 hectares) of the

land area of the country, they still play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources as well as in atmospheric carbon absorption. In addition, forests provide a natural protection for human settlements against floods, avalanches, and soil erosion. They also regulate the water balance and microclimate.

Box 3.1 provides the list of the most important species for the Tajik population. Since the 1930s, there have been intensive efforts to reclaim foothill and floodplain valleys to increase the area of arable land in Tajikistan. In the process, up to 100,000 hectares of floodplain, pistachio, and partially

BOX 3.1 Value of Biological Resources for the Population of Tajikistan

The local population traditionally uses wild nature products as raw materials in construction, utensils, and dyers production, and so on, and so forth.

Over a million head of cattle, 2 million sheep and goats, and 70,000 horses are being raised due to the natural vegetation of pastures. Local people gather wild berries—sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*), barberries (*Berberis*), currants (*Ribes*), raspberries (*Rubus odoratus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus*), and so on, and so forth, as well as mushrooms and dozens of medicinal plant species. They gather nuts and stone fruits in naturally growing forests—walnut (*Juglans*), pistachio (*Pistacia*), almond (*Amygdalus*), wild apple (*Malus*), pear (*Pyrus*), plum (*Prunus*), cherry plum (*Prunus sogdiana*) and so on, and so forth. Local people and specialized organizations store up medicinal plants. A small part of the population is engaged in hunting and fishing. There are 11 species of game, 36 species of birds, and 20 species of fish. Fur-skins of red marmot (*Marmota caudata*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*), fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), badger (*Meles meles*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), and so on, and so forth are stored up. International hunting is organized for argali (*Ovis ammon*), Siberian ibex (*Capra sibirica*), urial (*Ovis vignei*), and Tajik markhur (*Capra falconeri*). Game fishing in lakes and water reservoirs is negligible (164 tonnes). Most fish and animals are caught by poachers.

TABLE 3.1 Main Components of Biodiversity in Tajikistan

Component	Amount
Ecosystems	12 types
Types of vegetation	20 types
Flora	9,771 species
Wild relatives of cultivated plants	1,000 species
Endemic plants	1,132 species
Plants (listed in the Red Data Book of Tajikistan)	226 species
Agricultural crops	500 varieties
Fauna	13,531 species
Endemic animals	800 species
Animals (listed in the Red Book)	162 species
Domestic animals	30 breeds

SOURCE: Republic of Tajikistan 2003a.

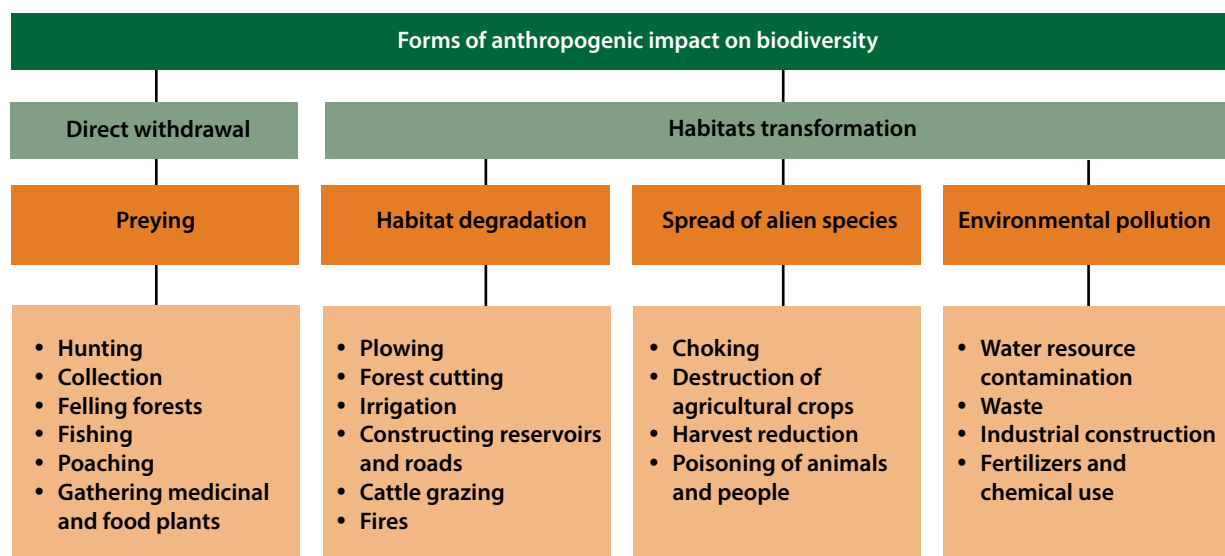
broad-leaved forests were destroyed. During the economic and energy crises in the 1990s, juniper forests, which are difficult to reforest, were significantly cut down. Deforestation and animal grazing in forest areas have had a negative impact on

the quality and diversity of forests and the natural regeneration of forests has practically ceased.

Pasture makes up 80 percent of agricultural land and is mainly found in the Khatlon region. Pasture stocking today is lower than during the Soviet period and the condition of pastures is poor. In the east of the Pamir mountain region, the condition of the teresken (Eurotea) pastures has become critical. Due to the lack of energy sources people have started to massively uproot teresken, a valuable animal fodder that has led to the desertification of highland pastures. In other districts, cattle often graze near human settlements meaning local pastures have become overgrazed and degraded. More than half of the natural pastures in the country are in the highlands at altitudes from 1,700–2,000 to 3,500 meters above sea level.

Fauna in Tajikistan is characterized by high genetic diversity. Mountain fauna is richer than that in the plains and contains a substantial number of European-Siberian and East-Asian elements. The fauna of the hot lowland deserts contains plenty of Indo-Himalaya, Ethiopian,

FIGURE 3.2 Main Factors of Anthropogenic Impact on Biodiversity



SOURCE: Republic of Tajikistan 2003b.

TABLE 3.2 List of Extinct Species

Flora	Fauna
Silene caudata	Panthera tigris virgata
Juno popovii	Marmota menzbieri
Juno tadshikorom	Pseudoscaphirinchus fedtschenkoi
Astragalus darvasicus	
Hedysarum korshinskyanum	
Oxytropis mumynabadensis	
Allium gracillimum	
Allium incrustatum	
Allium minutum	
Allium paulii	
Allium schugnanicum	
Bellevalia inconspicua	
Eremurus micranthus	
Tulipa anisophylla	
Delphinium nevskii	
Populus cataracti	

SOURCE: Republic of Tajikistan 1988.

and Mediterranean species. Genetic relation of flora and fauna with other fauna and floral areas (Mediterranean, Central-Asian, desert complexes of Turan and Arctic-Alpine elements) enrich the biodiversity genetic pool of the country.

Source: Republic of Tajikistan 2003b.

In the last 50 years, due to the impact of the anthropogenic factor, 226 plants and 162 animal species have become rare or endangered and are listed in the *Red Data Book of Tajikistan* (Republic of Tajikistan 1988). Ten species of vertebrate are listed in the red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Reptiles and mammals have become the most vulnerable. Indeed, 50 percent of mammals and 45 percent of reptiles are listed in the *Tajikistan Red Book*. Among the vertebrates of Tajikistan, the psammobiont forms of reptiles (*Crossobamon eversmanni*, *Teratoscincus scincus*, *Phrynocephalus myctaceus*, *Echis carinatus*, and so on, and

so forth) are most vulnerable to anthropogenic transformation.

Destruction of native habitats and the deterioration of the environment in 1954 caused the extinction of the Turan tiger (*Panthera tigris virgata*). In total, 3 species of animals and 16 species of plants are extinct.

The proportion of land under various forms of protection for nature conservation increased from 4 percent to approximately 22 percent since independence. The approach to in-situ conservation has also been modified, with greater involvement by local communities, possibly driven by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). As of 2014, the protected areas of Tajikistan cover a total area of 3.1 million hectares or 22 percent of the country. These include 4 nature reserves covering a total area of 173,418 hectares, 13 *zakazniks* (reserves) covering 313,260 hectares, 1 national park covering 2.6 million hectares, 1 historical natural park covering 3,000 hectares, and 1 natural park covering 3,805 hectares.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Tajikistan adopted the UNFCCC on July 16, 1997. In order to implement its commitments and strengthen climate protection measures, Tajikistan has produced three national communications on climate change to date. The country is one of the pioneers in the preparation of a National Action Plan for Climate Change Mitigation (Ministry for Nature Protection of the Republic Tajikistan 2003) within its territory. The plan includes adaptation measures, many of which are being implemented. Recommendations on updating the National Action Plan were being developed at the time of the evaluation.

According to the last inventory of GHG emissions (2004–10), and as confirmed by international sources, the level of absolute and per capita emissions in Tajikistan remains the lowest in Central Asia. Although Tajikistan does not have quantitative UNFCCC commitments on the

reduction of emissions, the current level of emissions as compared to 1990 have reduced by one third, mainly due to the collapse of the Soviet Union and structural changes resulting from the transition to a market economy and independence. During the last decade, the level of carbon dioxide has remained quite stable, however emissions are expected to increase in the future.

The reasons for the drop in emissions in Tajikistan differs from other Central Asian countries. Since the late 1990s, agriculture has been the main source of GHG emissions. Considering the low level of mechanization, underfeeding of livestock, and limited use of fertilizers, emissions from the agriculture sector of Tajikistan are lower than in the other countries of Asia and Europe. Opportunities for any considerable reduction of carbon footprint in agriculture are therefore limited, while the measures in other economic subsectors are more promising, especially in energy and industry.

At present, 92 percent of electricity in Tajikistan is generated by hydropower.³ Hydropower produces a minimum level of carbon dioxide and has a great potential for development and growth. Energy consumption could therefore increase and lead to a smaller demand for other sources of energy. Since 2010, coal mining has increased to address seasonal energy deficits and as a substitute for gas imports, which are often problematic. This coping strategy might result in an increase in carbon dioxide emissions in the near future. From an environmental point of view this option is not ideal, however the country's acute energy deficit and its population growth has reduced the pace of development and consequently its capacity to eliminate poverty.

The number of automobile users in Tajikistan is the lowest among Central Asian countries, as it is the level of transport emissions. The sector fully relies on imported fuel. As the price of natural

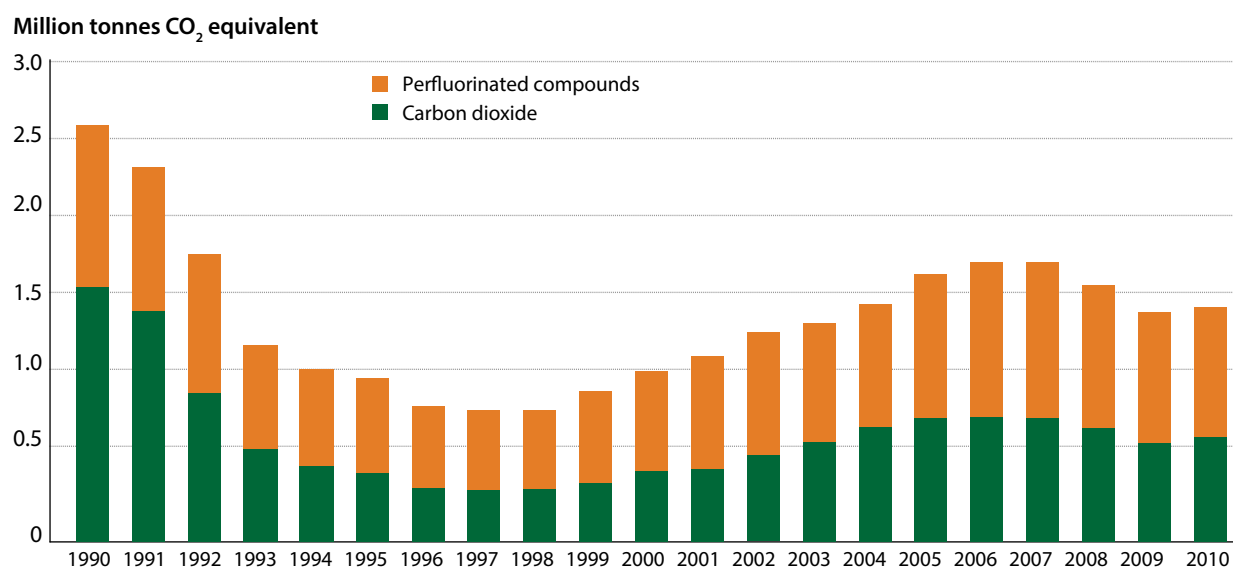
gas is lower than the price of petrol and diesel, the number of vehicles using liquefied natural gas or with hybrid fuel systems is higher than those consuming other types of fuel. Since gas emissions are lower than those of petrol, the overall level of emissions in the sector is not high. New road infrastructures, such as tunnels and improved roads in mountainous areas, have considerably reduced travel times, subsequently reducing emissions, increasing road safety, and improving transport communication between regions and remote districts of the country.

In addition to burning fuel, GHG emissions are also created by non-energy industrial processes where materials transform from one state to another. The input of GHG emissions from the industrial processes sector varies from 6 percent to 20 percent of total national emissions for different years. In 2010, emissions in this category were equivalent to 58 percent of the emissions in 1990. The lowest emission rates were observed in 1996–98. As for the period covered by the national inventory (2004–10) the highest levels of emissions occurred in 2007 (814 gigagram) due to industrial growth. As a result of the global economic crisis in 2008 and the reduction in natural gas imports, cement and ammonia production has fallen. Moreover, owing to a lack of natural gas supply in 2009–10, ammonia production was discontinued. As a result, compared to 2005, carbon dioxide emissions in 2010 fell by 20 percent.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, coal and gas supplies were stopped and the power supply to the rural population was reduced compelling them to use available wood biomass. The woodlands most frequently used were field shelterbelts and woodland belts along the highways and near to communities. Forests cover only 3 percent of the land area of Tajikistan and the recent intensive deforestation has resulted in reduction in the carbon absorption capacity of forests. Reforestation is 50 percent of what it was compared to 1990. One of the key indicators of forest health is its stand

³On average. For example, in 2013 almost 100 percent of energy was generated by hydropower.

FIGURE 3.3 GHG Emissions from Industrial Processes



SOURCE: Republic of Tajikistan State Administration for Hydrometeorology Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2014.

TABLE 3.3 Key Sources of GHGs in 2010

Sector	IPCC source	Gas	CO ₂ equivalent (Gg)	%	Cumulative total	
4.D	Agriculture	Agricultural areas (direct and indirect emissions)	N ₂ O	2,681.80	29.44	29.44
4.A	Agriculture	Digestion by domestic animals	CH ₄	2,436.77	26.75	56.18
2.C	Industrial processes	Aluminum production	PFCs	822.74	9.03	65.21
6.A	Waste	Solid domestic waste landfills	CH ₄	532.38	5.84	71.06
2.C	Industrial processes	Aluminum production	CO ₂	523.56	5.75	76.80
4.B	Agriculture	Animal waste and compost emissions	CH ₄	360.01	3.95	80.76
1.A.2	Energy	Industry and construction	CO ₂	328.06	3.60	84.36
1.A.4	Energy	Housing and communal management	CO ₂	305.61	3.35	87.71
4.B	Agriculture	Animal waste and compost emissions	N ₂ O	198.77	2.18	89.89
1.A.3	Energy	Vehicles	CO ₂	176.46	1.94	91.83
1.A.3	Energy	Aviation	CO ₂	125.16	1.37	93.20
4.C	Agriculture	Rice cultivation	CH ₄	119.80	1.31	94.52
6.B	Waste	Waste water	N ₂ O	112.40	1.23	95.75
2.A	Industrial processes	Production of cement	CO ₂	102.98	1.13	96.88

SOURCE: Republic of Tajikistan State Administration for Hydrometeorology Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2014.

NOTE: N₂O = nitrous oxide, CH₄ = methane, PFCs = perfluorinated compounds, CO₂ = carbon dioxide.

density. With an average stand density norm of 0.5–0.6 in 1990, the share of medium stocking was 50 percent, but by 2007–10 it had dropped to 30 percent. This is mainly the result of human activities such as forest cutting, as well as animal grazing, fires, and an increase of forest pests. According to expert observations, the standing tree crop declined from 1.3 cubic meters per person in 1990 to 0.8 cubic meters per person in 2010.

The contribution of GHG emissions from the agriculture sector ranged from 20 percent to 62 percent of total national emissions depending on the year. Since 2000, the agricultural sector has been one of the key sources of emissions, and levels in 2010 were equivalent to 110 percent of the 1990 levels.

Twenty years ago domestic waste constituted a very small share of total emissions. However, there has been a notable increase in domestic waste. In theory, all domestic waste is arranged in landfills and only a small part is processed informally. There are landfills in all major cities but not enough for the whole country. The waste sector has the smallest volume of emissions making up 3 percent to 9 percent of total volume in CO₂-equivalent. GHG emissions in 2010 were 70 percent of their 1990 equivalent. Since Tajikistan does not have an adequate infrastructure for collecting and processing sorted waste, except from individual initiatives on collecting waste paper, waste metal, and plastic, all waste is offset in landfills. The major contribution is made by emissions from solid domestic waste (95 percent to 97 percent). An increase in emissions is mainly linked to the growth of the urban population, the volume of waste and number of disposal sites.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS

Glaciers and mountain ecosystems are abundant in Tajikistan and not only serve as water reservoirs and stream flow regulators, but also as the source of water for the Aral Sea river basins. The Tajik rivers supply more than half of the flow to the Aral

Sea basin. The country has a few large river basins: the Sirdarya or Syr Darya in northern Tajikistan; the Zerafshan in central Tajikistan; the Kafernigan, Vakhsh, and Pyanj rivers in southwestern Tajikistan and Pamirs; and a basin of closed lakes in the eastern part of Pamir. The total catchment area of these river basins (with tributaries) is estimated at over 120,000 square kilometers, in other words almost all of Tajikistan. Tajikistan lies in the upstream areas along the Amu Darya River, which is formed after the confluence of the Vakhsh and Pyanj rivers and in the mid-stream areas along the Syr Darya River. In these cases, the use of water resources in Tajikistan may affect the quality and quantity of water in downstream states.

Traditionally in Central Asia water is used mainly for agricultural purposes, although it does not always reach the agricultural end-users because of degraded irrigation infrastructures. Only 28 percent of the 47,750 kilometers of inter-farm irrigation channels in the basin have anti-filtration linings, just 77 percent of farm intakes have flow gauges and, in the 268,500 kilometers of on-farm channels, only 21 percent have anti-filtration linings, which retain on average 15 percent more water than unlined channels. By 1960, between 20 cubic kilometers and 60 cubic kilometers of water were going to the land instead of the sea each year. Most of the Aral Sea water supply had been diverted, and in the 1960s, it began to shrink. From 1961 to 1970, the Aral's level fell at an average of 20 centimeters a year. In the 1970s, the average rate nearly tripled to 50 centimeters–60 centimeters per year, and by the 1980s, it continued to fall to a mean of 80 centimeters–90 centimeters each year. The rate of water usage for irrigation continued to increase; the amount of water taken from the rivers doubled between 1960 and 2000, and cotton production in the region also nearly doubled in the same period.

The Government of Tajikistan is planning to resume the construction of a big reservoir with a total volume of 12,400 cubic kilometers and an

exploitable volume of 8,700 cubic kilometers at Rogun. Besides irrigation, future hydro energy production at this reservoir will be used to satisfy higher energy demands from the local population, the mining industry, and the aluminum processing plant in Tursunzade. The Government of Tajikistan also works in cooperation with its neighbors to reduce threats to international waters. In November 2014, Tajikistan and Afghanistan signed a memorandum of understanding to formalize the exchange of water data between the two countries.

LAND DEGRADATION

Land degradation is a serious and growing global issue resulting in losses to GDP and local livelihoods, food insecurity, climate change, and biodiversity loss. Worldwide it is estimated to be responsible for a 3–5 percent loss in the affected countries' GDP. Land degradation is a major factor contributing to low agricultural productivity, the incidence of which is felt most keenly by the poor whose livelihoods are often dependent on agriculture.

Tajikistan's mountainous landscape is beautiful but it is also difficult to cultivate. Only 7 percent of the total land is suitable for economic use, of which only 18 percent is arable land. Nevertheless, agriculture remains the backbone of the economy, and the poor in particular depend on it for their livelihoods. Inefficient land management reduces agricultural output and threatens the income and food security of an already vulnerable population. Unfortunately, land degradation, mostly due to erosion, is becoming a pervasive problem in Tajikistan. The country's topography has a strong influence on the types of crops that can be grown, and also determines the types of machinery used, the methods of soil irrigation, and the productivity of the land. Intensive agricultural activity on slopes inevitably results in erosion. Soils are washed out, and the development of ravines decreases the area of arable soils.

While natural factors contribute to soil erosion, unsustainable human behavior accelerates the process to an intolerable degree: it is estimated that 97 percent of agricultural land in Tajikistan reaches a significant level of erosion. Land degradation caused by erosion from overgrazing is estimated to affect approximately 3 million hectares, or 85 percent of pastures. The *Poverty-Environment Initiative Study* by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (UNDP–UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative in Tajikistan 2012)⁴ estimated the economic cost of land degradation associated with foregone production on degraded and unused agricultural land to be in the order of \$442 million or 8 percent of Tajikistan's GDP for 2010. However, the actual cost is likely to be much higher as it does not take into account the off-site costs of land degradation, such as damage to infrastructure. The study also reports that if the value of this foregone production was evenly distributed among rural households, each household would benefit by \$583 per year (based on an estimate of 757,608 rural households). Based on findings in the final report of the Component A5: Phase 1 on Agriculture and Sustainable Land Management of the Tajikistan Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (Wolfgramm and others 2011), the UNDP–UNEP study further states that

Experts consider pastures and haymaking areas, but also natural forests, as crucially affected by degradation. Haymaking areas are often not exclusively used for haymaking, but also for open grazing, and thus heavy degradation is widespread. An estimated 90 percent of rainfed cropland is believed to show signs of degradation, of which 40 percent is heavy. Regarding irrigated cropland, 22 percent of the area is estimated to show heavy

⁴The overall objective of this study is to develop a framework to assess the impact of land degradation and the benefits of sustainable land management.

TABLE 3.4 Geographic Distribution of Soil Erosion

Administrative district/province	Degree of erosion (%)					Common area
	Non-eroded	Weakly eroded	Averagely eroded	Strongly eroded	Severely eroded	
Khatlon District ^a	3.2	18.8	51.8	18.0	8.2	96.8
Kulyab Districts	2.0	14.0	43.0	26.4	14.6	98.0
Sughd Province	2.8	4.5	58.6	22.0	12.1	97.2
Hissar Districts	4.3	9.4	40.2	31.5	14.6	95.7
Rasht District ^b	0.5	4.2	35.1	32.9	27.3	99.5
Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Province	—	4.2	32.8	37.8	25.4	100.0

SOURCE: Saigal 2003.

a. Formally known as the Kurgantuyube group of districts.

b. Formally known as the Garm group of districts.

degradation, 38 percent shows light to medium degradation, and 40 percent no degradation. Degradation in forest plantations is estimated to affect around 70 percent of the area (UNDP–UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative in Tajikistan 2012).

CHEMICALS

A number of pesticides, including those containing organochloric and POPs, were delivered to Tajikistan in the last two decades of the twentieth century from other countries in the region. From 1965 to 1990, the volume of pesticides delivery to Tajikistan rose from 7,000 tons to 14,000 tons. During this time the volume of pesticides used changed significantly. For example, the volume of insecticides and acaricides decreased from 11,100 tons to 1,700 tons, while the use of fungicides increased from 1,000 tons to 6,100 tons. Obsolete and forbidden pesticides that are still present today are of great concern to human health and the environment. In the past, uncontrolled use of the existing large stocks of obsolete pesticides occurred frequently. Pesticides were given to private citizens for use on their farmlands or were secretly buried and thrown into dumps. In recent years there has been a sharp decrease in pesticide imports into the country, although forbidden and obsolete ones continue to be used in farmlands. The volume of

forbidden, obsolete, and unknown pesticides that should be repackaged and eliminated is approximately 160.1 tons.

Besides the agricultural sector, chemical pollution also originates from mining activities. The mining sector is also a major water user and, according to the 2nd Environmental Performance Review (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2012), chemicals leaking into the water as a result of mining activities is also cause for concern. Gold, mercury, antimony, lead, and zinc are among the major mineral resources in Tajikistan. Uranium mining stopped in the 1980s and left tailings that pose various risks. There are no figures about water use and tailings, but it can be assumed that there are serious problems caused by leaching of mine tailings.

3.4 Environmental Legal, Policy, and Institutional Framework

Tajikistan has a highly developed environmental legal, policy, and institutional framework. Its current environmental legislation includes statutory acts and laws on: protection of the environment; ecological audit and monitoring; protection of flora and fauna; environmental information and education; soil, water, and air quality; biological safety;

human health and safety; and waste and chemicals management. These laws, along with regulations approved by the Government of Tajikistan, create a favorable legal framework for environmental protection, and the use and protection of the country's natural resources. They also enforce the rights of any citizen to a safe and eco-friendly environment, to organic products, to environmental information, and the possibility of investing (moral, material, and financial) to improve the country's ecological situation.

The Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan, adopted in 1994 and amended in 1999 and 2003, recognizes public and individual rights to a safe and healthy environment. Under the constitution, land and mineral resources, water, air, animals and plants, and other natural resources, belong exclusively to the state.

In 1999, when GEF activities started in Tajikistan, the framework environmental law was the Law on Nature Protection (No. 905, approved in December 1993, enacted in 1994, and amended in 1996, 1997, 2002, 2004, and 2007). This law was replaced by the Law on Environmental Protection (No. 760, approved in August 2011). The law stipulates that Tajikistan's environmental policy should give priority to environmental actions based on scientifically proven principles that combine economic and other activities having a potential negative impact on the environment, with nature preservation and the sustainable use of resources. It also defines the applicable legal principles; the protected objects; and the competencies and roles of the government, the CEP, the local authorities, public organizations, and individuals. A key aspect of this law is that it stipulates measures to secure public and individual rights to a safe and healthy environment and requires a combined system of relevant activities that prevent or mitigate negative impacts on the environment. Furthermore, the law defines environmental emergencies and ecological disasters and prescribes the order of actions in such situations; defines the obligations of officials

and enterprises to prevent and eliminate the consequences; as well as the liabilities of persons or organizations that caused damage to the environment or otherwise violated the law.

Other substantial environmental legal acts include: the Water Code (2000, and related legislation); the Forest Code (1993, replaced in 2011 by a new Forest Code); the Land Code (1996, and subsequent related legislation 1999, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011, and 2012); the Law on Land Administration (2008); the Law on Land Assessment (2001, 2007); the Law on Land Reform (1992, amended in 1994, 1995, 1997, and 2006); the Law on Ecological Expertise (2003, 2007, 2008, and 2010), replaced in 2012 by a new Law on Ecological Expertise (2012); the Law on Energy Saving (2002); the Law on Hydro-meteorological Activity (2002); the Law on Production and Safe Handling of Pesticides (2003); the Law on Protection and Use of Flora (2004); the Law on Protection of the Population and Territories from Emergency Situations of Natural and Manmade Origin (2004); the Law on Biological Safety (2005); the Law on Wildlife (2008); the Law on Soil Conservation (2009); the Law on Subsoils (1994, 1995, 2008, and 2010); the Law on Potable Water and Drinking Water Supply (2010); the Law on Environmental Education (2010); the Law on Environmental Information (2011); the Law on Environmental Monitoring (2011); the Law on Environmental Audit (2011); the Law on Specially Protected Natural Areas (2011); the Law on Use of Renewable Energy Sources (2012); the Law on Food Safety (2012); the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection (2012); the Law on Pastures (2013); the Law on Biological Management and Production (2013); the Law on Radioactive Waste Management (2013); the Law on Ensuring Sanitary and Epidemiologic Safety of Population (2003, 2008, 2011, and 2013); the Law on Energy Conservation and Efficiency (2013); and the Law on Fishing and Protection of Fishery Resources (2013). These legal arrangements determine the necessary standards and behavioral patterns of authorized agencies and

citizens in order to live in a healthy and balanced environment. Regulations, directives, circulars, and notifications that were issued on the basis of the environmental laws include the procedures and methods to be complied with.

Article 12 of the Environment Protection Law (2011) proclaims the right of citizens to live in a favorable environment and to be protected from negative environmental impacts. Citizens also have the right to access environmental information, as well as the duty to adopt and implement decisions related to environmental impacts (Article 13). The latter is assured by public discussion of drafts of environmentally important decisions and public ecological reviews. Public representative bodies have an obligation to take into consideration citizens' comments and suggestions. Tajikistan acceded to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the 1998 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) on October 26, 1993 and July 17, 2001 respectively, and their provisions have priority over domestic law with regard to gender equality. The Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities was entered into force in 2005.

In this comprehensive legal framework, the government issues licenses (that is legal instruments designed to regulate certain potentially hazardous activities) through the relevant sector authorities. Minimal qualifications and strict adherence to the rules are required to ensure they are conducted efficiently, safely, and do not result in potentially significant and irreparable damage to the environment and human health. Licenses are required for handling hazardous waste and for activities in industrial safety.

The government also issues environmental permits to ensure the sustainable use of natural

resources. There are two types of permits: permits to use natural resources and permits for emissions or discharges. Permits to use natural resources allow their holders to take a certain number or amount of a particular natural resource within a defined territory and time period. They are issued both to individuals (for example to hunt a particular species of animal or harvest particular factories) and to organizations (for example permits to extract ground or surface water for a particular use). By law, permits are needed for any commercial use of any resource. Permits to discharge polluted matter are issued by the relevant departments of the local state environmental protection committees to industrial or agricultural enterprises and municipal utilities that release by-products into the environment. Permits allow holders to release a certain amount of polluted matter (gases, liquids, solid waste) into the environment. They are usually granted for one year and indicate the maximum concentration of pollutants allowed in the released matter, the maximum volume of the polluted matter, and the pollutants allowed.

In Tajikistan, environmental norms and standards have been set for air and water pollution, noise, vibration, magnetic fields, and other physical factors, as well as residual traces of chemicals and biologically harmful microbes in food. Excess of these thresholds results in administrative action, including financial sanctions. Several ministries determine environmental quality standards, each in its field of responsibility. For example, admissible levels of noise, vibration, magnetic fields, and other physical factors have been set by the Ministry of Health. In fact, a number of legal acts establish liability for violations of environmental laws that can be enforced by several state bodies and agencies. In particular, the 2010 Code of Administrative Violations establishes administrative liability for organizations and individuals according to a range of violations, from the careless treatment of land to violation of the rules for water use or water protection, or failure to comply with

a state ecological expertise. Administrative sanctions for environment-related violations can be imposed by the administrative commissions of the local authorities; courts; CEP inspectors; veterinary inspectors from the Ministry of Agriculture; and the State Committee for Land Use, Geodesy, and Cartography.

Tajikistan pays particular attention to international cooperation on environmental issues and

has been actively involved in international agreements and conventions.

Despite the comprehensiveness of the country's environmental legal framework and its alignment with most international standards, several environmental issues regarding air, water, and nature protection are still to be regulated and not all standards are consistent with best international practices.

TABLE 3.5 Environmental International Laws and Regulations Ratified and/or Accessed by Tajikistan

#	Convention/agreement	Year
1	Convention on the World Meteorological Organization	1991
2	Rio Declaration on Environment and Development	1992
3	Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Ecology and Environmental Protection	1992
4	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity	1997
	Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety	2004
	Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing	2013
5	Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	1996
	Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	1998
	London Amendments to the Montreal Protocol on ODS	1998
	Copenhagen Amendments to the Montreal Protocol on ODS	2009
	Montreal Amendments to the Montreal Protocol on ODS	2009
	Beijing Amendments to the Montreal Protocol on ODS	2009
6	UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention 1998)	1998
	Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers	2003
7	Agreement on Cooperation for Environmental Monitoring Among the Commonwealth of Independent States Countries	2001
8	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1997
9	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1997
	Kyoto Protocol	2009
10	Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD Convention)	1999
11	Convention on the Protection of Migrating Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)	2000
	Bukhara Deer Memorandum of Understanding (under the Bonn Convention)	2002
12	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat	2001
13	Framework Convention for the Protection of the Environment for Sustainable Development in Central Asia	2006
14	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	2007
	2009 amendments listing nine new POPs	2010
	2011 amendment listing endosulfan	2012
	2013 amendment listing HBCD (hexabromocyclododecane)	2014

4. The GEF Portfolio in Tajikistan

This chapter presents an overview of the GEF portfolio in Tajikistan. It summarizes the portfolio by project modality, replenishment phase, GEF Agency, and focal area. It also includes GEF's regional and global projects in which Tajikistan participated, and the Tajikistan SGP. The cutoff date for the overall portfolio was August 26, 2015, and December 31, 2014 for the Tajikistan SGP. All in all, the portfolio analyzed includes 23 national projects, 16 regional projects, and 48 Tajikistan SGP grants.

National projects received over \$32.7 million in financing and \$118.2 million in cofinancing. The 16 regional projects in which Tajikistan participated received over \$64.9 in GEF financing and \$150.9 in cofinancing. The Tajikistan SGP provided grants of \$2.6 million to which GEF support contributed 45 percent (\$1.2 million). The remaining 55 percent (\$1.5 million) was provided in cofinancing either in cash or in-kind by grantees and other donors.

The national portfolio in Tajikistan is implemented through six different GEF Agencies. UNDP has the largest share and implements 13 projects amounting to \$13.2 million; the World Bank Group and UNEP implement three projects each, amounting to \$10.7 million and \$1.6 million respectively. ADB, EBRD, and UNIDO have one project each of \$3.5 million, \$2.4 million, and \$200,000 respectively. One project is jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP.

4.1 National Projects

In terms of both GEF grants and total investment, climate change, land degradation, and multifocal projects are the largest focal areas in the national portfolio (table 4.1).

The Tajikistan national portfolio shows an almost even distribution of project types, with seven FSPs, eight MSPs, and eight enabling activities. Cofinancing contributes to 81 percent of the total financial investment in FSPs and 70 percent in MSPs (table 4.2).

The number of projects initiated across the various GEF replenishment phases varied over the years. It was highest during GEF-3 with nine projects, followed by five projects each during GEF-4 and GEF-5. Of the 13 completed projects, eight were closed during GEF-3 (table 4.3).

In terms of the evolution of involvement by GEF Agencies overtime at the national level, UNDP projects cover all replenishment phases, with the greatest number during GEF-3 and GEF-4. Since GEF-5, the Tajikistan national portfolio has diversified among GEF Agencies, opening up to the ADB, EBRD, and UNIDO (table 4.4). In terms of portfolio share, UNDP and the World Bank Group are the leading GEF Agencies in Tajikistan, accounting for 40 percent and 33 percent of GEF grants respectively. As for cofinancing, UNDP accounts for 36 percent of the total cofinancing generated for GEF's Tajikistan portfolio.

TABLE 4.1 National Projects by Focal Area

Focal area	No.	Investment (million \$)			Percentage of total investment	
		GEF grant	Cofinancing	Total	GEF grant	Cofinancing
Biodiversity	6	3.20	2.53	5.73	55.8	44.2
Chemicals	3	1.58	0.47	2.05	77.0	23.0
Climate change	5	6.12	41.76	47.88	12.8	87.2
Land degradation	3	9.88	37.72	47.60	20.7	79.3
Multifocal	6	11.95	35.70	47.65	25.1	74.9
Total	23	32.72	118.19	150.91	21.7	78.3

SOURCE: Initial list compiled from PMIS and project documents, updated in August 2015.

TABLE 4.2 National Projects by Modality

Modality	No.	Investment (million \$)			Percentage of total investment	
		GEF grant	Cofinancing	Total	GEF grant	Cofinancing
Enabling activity	8	1.93	0.50	2.43	79.4	20.6
FSP	7	24.21	101.42	125.62	23.9	80.7
MSP	8	6.58	16.27	21.97	42.8	70.2
Total	23	32.72	118.19	150.03	21.8	78.3

TABLE 4.3 National Projects by GEF Replenishment Phase and Project Status

GEF phase	Completed		Pipeline		Ongoing		Total	
	No.	GEF grant (million \$)	No.	GEF grant (million \$)	No.	GEF grant (million \$)	No.	GEF grant (million \$)
GEF-2	3	1.42	0	0	0	0	3	1.42
GEF-3	9	11.71	0	0	0	0	9	11.71
GEF-4	2	1.44	0	0	3	4.74	5	6.18
GEF-5	1	0.22	3	8.31	1	0.70	5	9.23
GEF-6	0	0	1	4.18	0	0	1	4.18
Total	15	14.79	4	12.49	4	5.44	23	32.72

NOTE: Pipeline refers to projects that have been cleared or approved but not yet implemented.

TABLE 4.4 National Projects by GEF Agency and Replenishment Phases

Agency	GEF-2	GEF-3	GEF-4	GEF-5	GEF-6	Total	Total GEF grant (mil. \$)	Total cofinancing (mil. \$)
ADB		1				1	3.50	19.81
EBRD				1		1	2.73	23.90
UNDP	2	5	4	1	1	13	13.21	42.88
UNDP/UNEP	1					1	0.90	0.27
UNEP		1	1	1		3	1.55	0.79
UNIDO				1		1	0.18	0.18
World Bank		2		1		3	10.65	30.36
Total	3	9	5	5	1	23	32.72	118.19

UNDP projects cover all focal areas, while World Bank Group projects are evenly distributed between biodiversity, land degradation, and multifocal areas. UNEP has been primarily involved in enabling activities that support biodiversity and POPs, while UNIDO supported one POPs enabling activity. EBRD has been involved in a climate change project. Over time, focal areas have been dealt with consistently by the same GEF Agencies as opposed to shifting from one agency to another (table 4.5).

TABLE 4.5 Number of National Projects by GEF Agency and Focal Area

Agency	BD	Chem	CC	LD	MF	Total
ADB				1		1
EBRD			1			1
UNDP	3		4	1	5	13
UNDP-UNEP		1				1
UNEP	2	1				3
UNIDO		1				1
World Bank	1			1	1	3
Total	6	3	5	3	6	23

NOTE: BD = biodiversity, CC = climate change, LD = land degradation, MF = multifocal.

GEF financing of multifocal projects accounts for the largest share of the national portfolio (37 percent), followed by land degradation (30 percent) and climate change (19 percent). In terms of

cofinancing, climate change generated \$7 for each \$1 of GEF grants (table 4.6).

During GEF-2, national projects in Tajikistan only received \$1.4 million in GEF grants (table 4.7). These projects included the ODS Phasing-out program, Tajikistan's First National Communication to UNFCCC, and the Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan. No land degradation or multifocal projects were developed during GEF-2. GEF support significantly increased during GEF-3 to \$11.7 million, focusing on multifocal (\$4.7 million) and land degradation projects (\$4.5 million). During GEF-4, climate change became the leading focal area, largely due to the small hydropower FSP. The largest project during GEF-5 was the Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods project. It is by far the largest national project in Tajikistan.

TABLE 4.7 National Projects by GEF Replenishment Phase and Focal Area (million \$)

Phase	BD	Chem	CC	LD	MF	Total
GEF-2	0.2	0.9	0.3			1.4
GEF-3	1.9	0.5	0.1	4.5	4.7	11.7
GEF-4	0.8		3.0		2.4	6.2
GEF-5	0.2	0.2	2.7	5.4	0.7	9.2
GEF-6					4.2	4.2
Total	3.2	1.6	6.1	9.9	12.0	32.7

NOTE: BD = biodiversity, CC = climate change, LD = land degradation, MF = multifocal.

TABLE 4.6 National Projects by Focal Area and Project Status

Focal area	Completed			Pipeline			Ongoing			Total		
	No.	GEF grant (mil. \$)	Cofinancing (mil. \$)	No.	GEF grant (mil. \$)	Cofinancing (mil. \$)	No.	GEF grant (mil. \$)	Cofinancing (mil. \$)	No.	GEF grant (mil. \$)	Cofinancing (mil. \$)
BD	5	2.4	2.0				1	0.8	0.5	6	3.2	2.5
Chem	2	1.4	0.3	1	0.2	0.2				3	1.6	0.5
CC	3	1.4	11.4	1	2.7	23.9	1	2.0	6.5	5	6.1	41.8
LD	2	4.5	20.9	1	5.4	16.9				3	9.9	37.7
MF	3	5.2	13.8	1	4.2	19.0	2	2.6	2.8	6	12.0	35.6
Total	15	14.9	48.4	4	12.5	59.9	6	5.4	9.8	23	32.7	118.2

NOTE: BD = biodiversity, CC = climate change, LD = land degradation, MF = multifocal.

4.2 Regional and Global Programs

Tajikistan is party to 16 regional projects and seven global programs, including the Tajikistan SGP. Of the regional projects in which Tajikistan has participated, chemicals and waste and land degradation are the leading focal areas with five projects each (tables 4.8 and 4.9). To note, for most of the regional

TABLE 4.8 Regional Projects by Focal Area

Focal area	No.	GEF grant (mil. \$)	Cofinancing (mil. \$)
Biodiversity	3	7.57	8.53
Chemicals and waste	5	20.76	62.27
International waters	2	15.50	26.50
Land degradation	5	10.04	15.02
Multifocal	1	10.98	38.61
Total	16	64.85	150.93

TABLE 4.9 Global Projects

Focal area	Project	GEF Agency	Start date	Status
All	Tajikistan SGP	UNDP	2009	Ongoing
BD	2nd National Report on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	UNEP	2011	Completed
BD	4th National Report on Biodiversity Conservation	UNDP	2009	Completed
BD	3rd National Report on Biodiversity Conservation	UNDP	2006	Completed
BD	2nd National Report on Biodiversity Conservation	UNDP	2005	Completed
BD	Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) of the Cartagena Protocol	UNEP	2004	Completed
BD	1st National Report on Biodiversity Conservation	UNDP	2003	Completed

SOURCE: National Center for Biodiversity and Biosafety.

NOTE: BD = biodiversity.

TABLE 4.10 Tajikistan SGP Portfolio by Focal Area and Grant Amounts

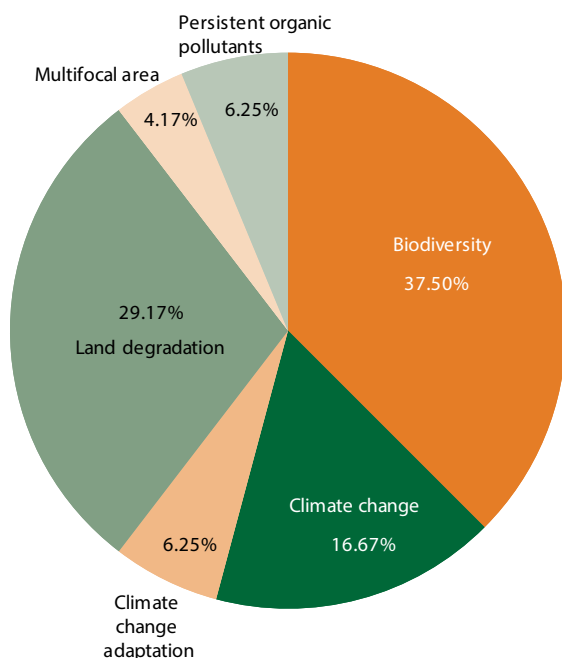
Focal area	No.	Grant amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$, cash)	Cofinancing (\$, in-kind)
Biodiversity	18	467,048	333,225	358,659
Climate change	8	231,416	201,782	131,026
Climate change adaptation	3	57,495	15,748	46,876
Land degradation	14	301,818	110,177	153,274
POPs	3	80,340	41,280	52,960
Multifocal	2	46,054	13,150	0
Total	48	1,184,171	715,362	742,795

and global projects in which Tajikistan participates it is not possible to isolate the funding or the specific results pertaining to the country itself.

4.3 Tajikistan Small Grants Programme

The Tajikistan SGP started in 2010 and has provided support to 48 community-based projects. Tajikistan SGP grants have supported both national and local NGOs, and community-based civil society organizations. These organizations operate in the Darvaz, Khatlon, Sughd, and Rasht regions, as well as Direct Rule Districts. GEF support through the Tajikistan SGP has mostly concerned biodiversity and land degradation issues. Each dollar of GEF grant to the Tajikistan SGP has leveraged an average \$1.23 in cofinancing, half in cash and half in-kind (table 4.10). As of mid-August

FIGURE 4.1 Tajikistan SGP grants by Focal Area, 2010–14



2015, 45 of 48 projects have been completed while the remaining three are under implementation.

4.4 The GEF Focal Point Mechanism

GEF focal points liaise with the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies and play a critical coordination role in GEF matters at country level.¹ In Tajikistan, the CEP Chairperson has served as both the political and operational focal point since January 17, 2014.

¹ www.thegef.org/gef/focal_points

BOX 4.1 Key Functions of the GEF Operational Focal Point

- Orient projects to meet GEF and global environmental benefits criteria, and national priorities
- Work with project proponents to fine-tune proposals and manage the approval process
- M&E of implementation
- Disseminate information and lessons and build partnerships and synergies among stakeholders and with national and regional projects
- Establish a transparent coordination mechanism

Following the introduction of the Resource Allocation Framework during GEF-4 and the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources during GEF-5, consultative design sessions facilitated by the GEF focal point were launched in Tajikistan to discuss project ideas, but these have not been fully used by project proponents.

The focal point has had limited involvement in project follow-up and monitoring and does not receive regular updates on implementation of projects from GEF Agencies. Many interviewed stakeholders suggested that the focal point could organize regular monitoring meetings for GEF projects to enhance information sharing among projects and improve synergies in implementation. To address these issues the CEP Chairperson appointed a senior officer as his plenipotentiary representative to coordinate all operational issues related to the GEF.

5. Results, Effectiveness, and Sustainability

This chapter addresses the following key evaluation questions on the effectiveness, results, and sustainability of GEF support to Tajikistan:

- To what extent has GEF support to Tajikistan been effective in producing results by focal area both at the project and aggregate level (program and country portfolio)?
- To what extent has GEF support led to progress toward impact through broader adoption mechanisms over an extended period of time after completion?
- To what extent has GEF support been effective in sustaining the knowledge generated and shared by GEF projects with partners both inside (national stakeholders and GEF Agencies) and outside Tajikistan?
- To what extent has GEF support to Tajikistan been effective in making a contribution to chemicals issues, specifically the reduction of POPs?
- To what extent has GEF support contributed to reducing gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment?

Available M&E reports suggest an overall aggregate effectiveness in the portfolio. Five of the six completed projects were rated satisfactory in their respective terminal evaluation, with one project rated as highly satisfactory and four as moderately satisfactory. Self-ratings of the seven

projects under implementation were rated satisfactory in their respective project implementation review (PIR), including four satisfactory and one moderately satisfactory. Field observations, individual interviews, and focus groups discussions for the three case studies selected for in-depth analysis confirm this positive assessment. The full set of evidence collected during the evaluation pointed to the following results, presented by GEF focal area.

5.1 Results by Focal Area

BIODIVERSITY

The GEF has provided significant support to Tajikistan in fulfilling its obligations under the CBD. Two of the six GEF biodiversity projects support protected areas, one supports the Centre for Biodiversity and Biosafety in its implementation of the National Biosafety Framework, and three enabling activities helped Tajikistan develop its communications to CBD as well as the national biodiversity strategy and action plan. These projects have laid the foundations for managing biodiversity conservation in the country. GEF support to biodiversity conservation has been effective, especially in protected areas management and in the development of biosafety legislation.

GEF projects contributed to the protection of globally significant biodiversity species by strengthening the protected area management system in Tajikistan (GEF IDs 1854 and 2037). GEF management plans that supported protected areas

have been replicated in other national protected areas.¹ Frameworks for participatory planning and management of protected areas were prepared, approved, and implemented in the Shirkent and Almosi protected areas. Significant progress has also been made in rationalizing the boundaries of such areas. Importantly, once approved by the government, protected areas management plans are under the obligation to be implemented.² In terms of impacts, field observations showed that the environmental status improved at the local level, although in a disconnected way. Such disconnection has a lot of negative features. In several cases, the state of the environment continues to deteriorate or remains unchanged in surrounding areas despite positive impacts at project sites. On the positive side, disconnection has resulted in refugia, as was observed during the field visits.³ Since 1988, a small number of threatened species were excluded from the list of the Tajikistan *Red Book*. Today, a few new species are considered threatened because the new *Red Book* uses the international standards set by the *Red Data Book*

¹The development of a financial plan for protected areas was implemented under the Gissar Mountains project, as a building block for the development of a full protected areas management plan. The financial plan developed and applied for Shirkent Natural-Historical Park was further replicated in other protected areas throughout the country. Management plans have also been replicated in the protected area of Dashtidzhum and Tigrovaya Balka Natural Biosphere Reserve, with support from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

²The proposal of adopting participatory management in the country protected areas system was endorsed by the State Directorate of Protected Areas through Decision No.57, December 10, 2010.

³In biology, a refugium (plural: refugia) is a location of an isolated or relict population of a once more widespread species. This isolation or allopatry can be due to climatic changes, geography, or human activities such as deforestation and overhunting. This isolation, in many cases, can be seen as only a temporary state; refugia may be longstanding, thereby having many endemic species, not found elsewhere, which survive as relict populations.

of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, instead of the former Soviet criteria. The *2nd Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan* (UNECE 2012) confirms that no significant changes in the number of threatened species have occurred.

In Tajikistan, the land under conservation increased over the years. Since independence in 1991, the territory under various forms of protection for nature conservation increased from 4 percent to approximately 22 percent. While the decision of the Government of Tajikistan to increase the area under protection did not depend directly on GEF interventions, it is fair to say that GEF projects contributed by providing information and introducing participatory planning and management practices. The area under protection in the Romit reserve (one of the Gissar Mountains project sites) increased from 16,100 hectares to 16,139 hectares due to changes in the river course along part of its boundaries. Similarly, staff from the Shirkent Natural-Historical Park confirmed during interviews that it is in the process of being restored to its original surface area of 31,000 hectares, having fallen to 3,000 hectares during the civil war.

GEF support to biodiversity has also been crucial in helping Tajikistan to fulfill its obligations under the CBD by developing policy and strategic documents, including the development and revision of an NBSAP and the country's national reports to the convention. The GEF also provided noteworthy foundational support for the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework project that helped establish the Center for Biodiversity and Biosafety, and contributed to the development of important national legislation on biosafety including the 2004 Framework Document on Biosafety and the 2005 Law on Biological Safety (No. 88).

The Tajikistan SGP's potential contribution to biodiversity conservation should also be acknowledged. A significant number of small grants for biodiversity (18 of 48 projects) demonstrated

positive solutions for environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainable development at the local level. Among the field-verified examples worth noting, the Conservation of Thugai Forests project successfully promoted community-based forestation and reforestation, and the Rehabilitation and Conservation of Agrobiodiversity in the Vakhsh and Hazrati-Shokh Mountain Areas project (TJK/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/2010/05) supported communities by increasing the number and productivity of wild and honey beehives.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is a high priority in Tajikistan's environmental agenda. According to the *2013 Human Development Report* (UNDP 2013), and confirmed by Tajikistan's *2nd National Communication to UNFCCC*, GHG emissions in Tajikistan are the lowest in Central Asia.⁴ Tajikistan is one of nine countries participating in the Pilot Project for Climate Resilience being implemented by the Climate Investment Funds of the multilateral development banks.

GEF support to climate change includes two enabling activities. One supported the development of the First National Communication to UNFCCC while the other provided additional financing for capacity building in priority areas enabling Tajikistan to conduct its first GHG inventory. Both of these initiatives helped Tajikistan make climate change a priority in the government agenda and raise awareness among concerned stakeholders. The GEF also supported a rather small number of activities to isolate carbon emissions from biodiversity or land degradation projects, in which terrestrial carbon sequestering is largely a secondary benefit.

⁴GHG emission in Central Asian countries in metric tons per capita: Kazakhstan 19.1 tons, Turkmenistan 9.7 tons, Uzbekistan 4.6 tons, Kyrgyzstan 1.2 tons, and Tajikistan 0.5 tons.

Besides foundational support, the GEF climate change portfolio in Tajikistan had limited results because FSPs and MSPs are still ongoing and/or in the process of being implemented. GEF climate change support has focused on mitigation projects. Among them, Support to Sustainable Transport Management in Dushanbe (GEF ID 3027)⁵ and the Small Hydropower project that aim to mainstream environmental considerations into Tajikistan's transport management infrastructure and the energy sector to help it meet its UNFCCC commitments. The transport project involves civil society and proposed a joint public-private approach to solve problems related to the sustainable management of urban transport. The project has developed a GHG emissions calculation tool that helped determine the level of GHG emissions from the passenger transport sector in Dushanbe city.

With support from the Small Hydropower project, steps were taken to enhance national capacity in the technical and planning know-how, as well as developing a market chain for small-hydropower units in Tajikistan. Three small-scale hydropower plants have been constructed: one in Dashti Yazghulam settlement (Vanj District), with 15 kilowatts of installed capacity; one in Burunov Jamoat with a 200 kilowatt capacity; and one in Sorvo village (Vahdat District) with a 30 kilowatt capacity. These interventions are expected to substantially contribute to reducing the use of conventional biomass and fossil fuels for power and other energy needs in the project areas. The project selected two local manufacturing companies in an effort to enhance their technical know-how and increase the share of local small-hydropower manufacturing of goods and services. The former UNFCCC focal point indicated that the estimated percentage of the total small hydropower installation costs provided by locally manufactured goods

⁵The project aims to significantly reduce GHG emissions from the private transport sector by introducing modern urban passenger transport approaches.

and services normally ranged between 5 percent to 10 percent, of which the share of actual manufacturing is limited to the production of bolts, pipes, and some castings. With support from the Small Hydropower project the share now exceeds 50 percent and local manufacturers are now able to fully plan, design, manufacture, and construct small hydropower production plants locally. The country's legislative and regulatory framework for small scale hydropower development has also been enhanced by the GEF's support. For example, the Law on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving No. 1018 (September 19, 2013) ensures that energy saving and energy efficiency issues are now always embedded in small hydropower supply projects.

LAND DEGRADATION

GEF has provided support to Tajikistan's efforts in tackling land degradation through three national projects and through the national components of five regional projects. Land degradation is the second largest share in the national portfolio, accounting for more than 30 percent of GEF grants. The national portfolio is composed of one completed MSP, the CACILM Sustainable Land Management in South West Tajikistan project; one FSP, the CACILM Rural Development Project is completed although the project completion report is still pending; and one FSP, the Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods project now under implementation. By introducing and promoting sustainable land management practices in the context of economic restructuring and development, GEF investments in land degradation have contributed to local development policy, which is a key objective for Tajikistan given the economic importance of the agricultural sector, and reducing poverty in rural areas.

In the national portfolio, field visits, interviews, and relevant desk and literature reviews of the CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project confirmed that, in the land degradation focal area, progress toward impact

is occurring only at the level of project sites. The results of completed regional projects are limited and insufficiently visible in Tajikistan, except for the Tajikistan component of the PALM project. In 10 subdistrict units that cover 300 hectares and involve 10 percent of the population, efforts were made to demonstrate the effectiveness of community-based sustainable land management activities, with the aim of mobilizing additional resources for up-scaling the initiative in the region. Unfortunately, expectations of a second phase of the PALM project were unmet.

During the terminal evaluation field verification of the PALM project in the Jirgatal region, the evaluation team observed the positive results achieved through 41 microprojects. These include the construction of cowsheds, the construction of roads and bridges to pasture lands, the establishment of orchards in the drylands, the introduction of the cultivation of *esparcet* (alfa-alfa), and rehabilitation of irrigation canals. These microprojects were effective because of their participatory approach to sustainable land management planning that was conducted based on proposals emanated from the villages themselves, as well as the transparent selection procedure of proposals to be selected for financing, also done with the communities involved. Although a complex and multi-layered process involving several partners including local government, communities, civil society and research institutions, such as the local Agrarian University and the Pamir Biological Institute, among others, these joint sustainable land management planning processes can be expanded to other regions.⁶ However, the process has been integrated at the level of the local government (jamoat) and is still working today.

⁶Tajikistan partners included the Aga Khan Foundation, the Institute of Soil Science, and the Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences. In the Kyrgyz Republic, partners included the National Center for Mountain Regions Development, the University of Osh, and the Institute of Geodesy and Cartography.

The PALM project was also instrumental in the development of two important national laws, the Law on Mountain Regions of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Law on Pastures. The mountain law encourages participatory governance and enforcement and, as a result a joint initiative has been developed between the Tajik Parliament Standing Committee on Environmental Protection and two active NGO groups of mountain stakeholders, namely the Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Reduction and CAMP Kuhiston. The partnership encourages consultation with local communities, allowing public concerns to be heard and capacities to be improved. The initiative has been ongoing since 2014 and is supported by the Central Asian Mountain Hub with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

CHEMICALS AND WASTE

GEF grants in the chemicals and waste focal area account for the smallest portfolio share in terms of funding (less than 5 percent). The three projects in the national portfolio include the completed ODS Phasing-out MSP; the completed Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on POPs: National Implementation Plan for the Republic of Tajikistan (GEF ID 1955); and the follow-up Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan that is being implemented.

GEF support in the ODS focal area was effective. From 2001 to 2008, the ODS Phasing-out project contributed to the recovery and recycling of 115,008 kilograms of refrigerants. About 85 percent of domestic CFC-based refrigerators were replaced between 2000 and 2010 (GEF IEO 2010). In parallel, through the regional Accelerated HCFC Phase-out project, the GEF has invested \$1 million in supporting development and implementation of a recycling, recovery, and reclamation operations programme and a national refrigerant management plan, both part of a retrofit financial incentive programme for the country's refrigeration industry.

The consequent ODS phase-out is equal to 51 tons of ozone depletion potential enabling compliance with the Montreal Protocol in 2006. The *Impact Evaluation of the Phase-Out of ODS in CEITs* (GEF IEO 2010) assessed the level of government commitment to ozone layer protection as high in Tajikistan. It confirmed that the legislation mandating ODS recycling, recovery, and reclamation operations and reporting on its results was implemented in Tajikistan.

The results of GEF activities in the POPs focal area are rather modest and their scope rather small. Support by the two enabling activities focused on the development and revision of the national inventory as well as on capacity building and increasing local awareness of the problems associated with the use of POPs. This support mainly consisted of trainings and workshops, and awareness raising campaigns. A demonstration of innovative agrobiodiversity technology came through support from a SGP grant to introduce waste disposal methods for climate change adaptation in six farms in the Vakhdat District.

MULTIFOCAL

Multifocal projects constitute a large share of the national portfolio, amounting to 37 percent of total GEF financing. Multifocal projects include one completed MSP, the Environmental Learning and Stakeholder Involvement project; one completed FSP, the Community Agriculture and Watershed Management project; and one completed enabling activity, the National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (GEF ID 1928). Two additional MSPs, Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity and Strengthening Capacity for an Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System, are currently under implementation. Multifocal projects implemented in Tajikistan largely include biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation elements, and addressed most of the main environmental priorities set by national

development and environmental policy documents, including toxic substances and waste management with a focus on pesticides, POPs, and fertilizers.

Evidence collected and triangulated from the case study on the Community Agriculture and Watershed Management project, field visits, interviews, desk, and literature review confirms that, in the multifocal portfolio, progress toward impact is occurring in the biodiversity and land degradation focal areas, but only at local and project site levels. Examples include the planting of gardens on terraces that helped conserve soil, prevent wind erosion, and increase GHG absorption; building of corrals for livestock at the summer pasture lands that facilitated the preservation of livestock productivity, the improvement of pastures, and their effective control, leading in turn to increasing overall productivity and natural restoration of land; and a yak breeding initiative that also improved pasture lands productivity by reducing the pressure on pastures. The Community Agriculture and Watershed Management project and the CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project also worked to reduce pressure on habitats by introducing water saving technologies in irrigation, and biological methods for plants and crops protection as alternatives to chemical control. The Community Agriculture and Watershed Management project was implemented through community-based common interest groups and households, and brought direct economic benefits to the population through the parallel introduction of sustainable livelihood activities. Furthermore, water saving technologies in irrigation are estimated to save at least 250 cubic meters a year. The irrigation network that was rehabilitated in 30 villages allows a more rational and efficient use of irrigation water, prevents erosion and soil salinization, and reduces the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Water supply pipelines built for 550 households are still functioning today.

5.2 Broader Adoption Mechanisms in Place for Progress toward Impact

The main goal of GEF projects is to achieve environmental impact by reducing environmental stress and/or improving the status of the environment and natural resources targeted by GEF support by ensuring project outcomes are more broadly adopted.⁷ Broader adoption typically occurs through five mechanisms: **sustaining**, that is interventions continue to be implemented by stakeholders without GEF support and demonstrate benefits for adoption by other stakeholders beyond the original project scope; **mainstreaming**, that is information, lessons, or specific results of GEF projects are incorporated into broader stakeholder mandates and initiatives such as laws, policies, regulations, and programs; **replication**, that is GEF-supported initiatives are reproduced or adopted at a comparable administrative or ecological scale, often in another geographical area or region; **scaling-up**, that is GEF-supported initiatives are implemented in larger geographical areas, often expanded to include new aspects or concerns that may be political, administrative, economic, or ecological in nature; and **market change**, that is GEF-supported initiatives help catalyze market transformation by influencing the supply of and/or demand for goods and services that contribute to global environmental benefits. Market change may encompass technological changes, policy and

⁷ Environmental stress reduction means reduction in threats to the globally significant resource; decrease, prevention or slowdown of the degradation; destruction or contamination of the components of an ecosystem (for example better protection/enforcement); improved management effectiveness; banning of destructive technology; waste treated; habitat restored, among others. Environmental status improvement involves the positive changes in the state of the ecosystem or its components, especially those of global significance, for example improved water quality/ nutrient concentration, higher habitat cover, higher species population, among others.

regulatory reforms, and financial instruments. As mentioned in [section 2.2](#), in order to identify to what extent GEF support is leading to progress to impact through a broader adoption of project outcomes by stakeholders, the evaluation team undertook three in-depth case studies of completed projects in different focal areas. These case studies were supported by a progress to impact desk analysis that included two additional completed projects.

The three case study projects selected were completed four or five years ago and each identified a number of instances of broader adoption of outcomes that might lead to progress toward impact. These were mostly in the form of replication. As a result, there is less stress on the environment and environmental conditions are improving in specific areas. An important factor that determined the sustainability of project outcomes has been the project's ability to demonstrate likely social and economic co-benefits, and expected environmental ones. Importantly, the absence of any economic benefits hindered any potential for sustainability and replication.

Cases where stress on the environment were reduced were observed at project sites visited. For example, the Gissar Mountains project resulted in an increase of reforested areas while the planting of trees for bio-drainage in the Nuri Vakhsh Jamoat of Jilikul District under the CACILM project prevented water logging, erosion, and soil salinization, and contributed to carbon sequestration. Energy-efficient stoves, houses insulation, solar heaters, driers, and water mills, were also introduced by all three projects, leading to a decrease in the use of fossil fuel and electricity. Raising the awareness and involvement of the local population in the management and conservation of the environment through participatory land use approaches and joint management of the forest resources contributed to reducing pressure and thereby improving the state of the environment.

Three main impact drivers are common to all five completed projects desk reviewed: stakeholder support, effective financial mechanisms, and adequate information flows. The Gissar Mountains project helped build protected area management capacity and assisted in the establishment of regulatory or institutional frameworks. In order to save the endemic species of plants, a technique to preserve and create micro-reserves was developed. The management plan model developed under this project is now being used as a reference in the development of management plans of other protected areas in Roshtkala, Ishkashim, and Darvaz. Another important factor contributing to environmental change in the case of this project was that local government, including the local branches of land tenure, forestry, and environmental protection departments were closely involved throughout the process, that is from the design stage up to completion.

The importance of ownership of project outcomes as a driver for progress toward impact clearly emerged in the Gissar Mountains and the Community Agriculture and Watershed Management projects. At the local level, ownership of project results derived from welfare increase through project support. Stakeholders have taken strong ownership of the process and have instead become results owners. These two projects involved community-based common interest groups and households and brought direct economic benefits to the population through the introduction of sustainable livelihood activities. Evidence also confirmed that there are significant socioeconomic changes which consistently raised the interest of the local population. Grants for the implementation of resource-friendly income-generating activities were awarded under Community Agriculture and Watershed Management projects and more than 5,000 community-level initiatives were developed and financed. Stakeholders have shown great interest in all but one activity, namely the conservation and

sustainable management of protected areas (GEF ID 1854). The project could not establish an effective financial mechanism to attract the interest of communities, such as local trust funds for nature protection, markets for sustainable products, small grants, or certified products.

Environmental and social changes occurred when the CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project was completed. New protected areas were created de facto through the sustainable use of forest resources and community forestry initiatives, as for example in the Nuri Vakhsh jamoat of Jilikul District. Sustainable technologies such as bio-drainage and shelterbelts were established to reduce land degradation, enhance agrobiodiversity conservation, and increase land productivity as a result. Many of these initiatives were replicated elsewhere in the Jilikul District as farmers were convinced that this technology increased productivity of the land. Importantly, the peer-to-peer training/learning network introduced by the project keeps operating after the project closure as it is now part of the Jamoat Resource Centre network. The CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project also helped in the development of a fledgling community forest management system and the inclusion of ecosystem resilience in the local rural development agenda.

Other initiatives and technologies introduced by the CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project were less successful due to the lack of economic profitability. In some cases, beneficiaries did not have the funding to maintain the energy-saving stoves and hydropower units they received. Furthermore, a five kilowatt generation unit installed in a village to provide electricity to 14 households is currently not working because it was damaged by mudflow. Interviewed households stated that they cannot allocate enough funds to replace or repair it. Similarly, during field visits it was observed that the bio-drainage system was no longer working because it was not economically profitable. In one of the targeted jamoats in

Qumsangir District, trees planted for bio-drainage in a waterlogged land were pulled out for farmers to grow rice. Growing rice is more profitable for farmers as, from one hectare they can harvest on average four tons of rice with a minimum price of three Somoni per kilogram.

5.3 Institutional and Capacity Development

Developing national capacities, both at the institutional and individual level, and introducing governance arrangements that can lead to large-scale action (both mass and legislative) are among the main focuses of GEF-funded projects. Capacities include awareness, knowledge, skills, infrastructure, and environmental monitoring systems, among others. Governance refers to decision making processes, structures, and systems, including access to and use of information, laws, administrative bodies, trust-building and conflict resolution processes, information-sharing systems, to name a few. This section reports on results in the institutional and capacity development area.

The evaluation team observed several examples of effective institution building as a result of GEF support in Tajikistan. For example, the Jamoat Resource Centers supported by the Gissar Mountains project continue to function today. Environmental education campaigns for local communities contributed to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation by promoting agro-biodiversity production technologies and approaches. Ten farmers concluded land lease agreements with the local forestry department. Two tree nurseries were established and continue working today. A Plan of Joint Actions was developed with and adopted by the government of Shahrinav District. Three information and educational centers were created and are operational in the region. Individual and institutional capacity strengthening also occurred at many levels through support from the Community Agriculture

and Watershed Management project, demonstrating how bottom-up approaches to natural resource management can be successful. In 2010, the Community Agriculture and Watershed Management project received the World Bank Group award for Improving the Lives of People in Europe and Central Asia Region,⁸ an official recognition for its achievements in improving rural livelihoods, increasing agriculture production, improving land resource management including pasture improvement, rehabilitating rural infrastructure, and involving the rural population.

In the case of the CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project individual and institutional capacity were strengthened essentially through the introduction of Farmer Field Schools. Through these schools, targeted family farmers, landless families, and rural unemployed women and their families have learned possible solutions to land salinization, stopping of gullies, and management of irrigation water. Local technicians trained by the project have increased their skills and abilities in the design, plan, and conduct of irrigation and forestry. During field visits to Shaartuz and Qumsangir Districts, Land Degradation Units set up by the project were seen to still exist and consultants from both Land Degradation Units and Farmers Field Schools provide individual consultation and advice to the local farmers. There is every indication that they will continue to provide their acquired knowledge to local communities and local government, either in their current capacity as extension workers or as private consultants. As for institutional capacities, the project supported the establishment of two Water User Associations and rehabilitated the irrigation infrastructure (gateways, water control gates) in another two existing Water User Associations in

⁸ www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2010/03/30/world-bank-announces-winners-of-the-third-annual-improving-the-lives-of-people-in-europe-and-central-asia-region-2010-competition

the Qumsangir and Jiikul Districts, resulting in a significant improvement of the irrigation of lands and increased land productivity. For example, the rehabilitation of one irrigation station in the Jura Nazarov jamoat improved the irrigation of around 300 hectares of land.

The CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project also supported the establishment of the five-year Tugai Community-Management Forest Agreement that was signed in 2008 between the representatives of the three involved local communities and the local authority. The agreement introduced a significant change in the way forests are managed and provided valuable lessons for the development of social forestry in Tajikistan. Unfortunately, the Tugai Forest remains at risk of extinction because the agreement expired in 2013 and no efforts have been made for its renewal.⁹

5.4 Knowledge Generation and Learning

In Tajikistan, the GEF focused a considerable part of its efforts on fostering generating and sharing knowledge through raising awareness of environmental problems, producing environmental information, and building skills. The most effective support was in awareness raising and skills building.

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

In line with its mandate, the GEF has supported Tajikistan in the preparation of important documents, including the First National Communication to UNFCCC, the National Implementation Plan for Stockholm Convention on POPs, the National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment, the NBSAP, and the First National Report to the CBD.

⁹ The leasehold agreement for the 126 hectares of the Tugai forest was formed as three separate agreements between village committees, each represented by a leaseholder.

These foundational documents helped the country comply with its obligations as a signatory member of the international environmental conventions.

Examples of normative support in terms of knowledge generation are also found in a number of FSPs and MSPs, with varying degrees of success. The Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation project developed a set of maps generated through geographic information systems. These include a number of maps of ecosystems, biotopes, natural habitats for plants and animals, biodiversity threats, boundaries of zakaznik, and a zoning map. The website has since been removed because of a lack of financing, but project personnel confirmed it had been developed and used to disseminate information. The project also supported the development of a biodiversity database containing a photos, manuals, tables, and internet links. It also supported the preparation of the Zakaznik Management Plan that helped local communities, project partners, and stakeholders recognize the main threats to biodiversity in the area, the difficulties and problems in management, and indicated how to improve its management.

The ongoing Small Hydropower project helped the development of a guidebook that provides in-depth information to private and public investors interested in the construction of small hydropower plants, and education modules for students of technical universities and short-term vocational trainings. The guidebook and modules are further included in the education curricula for the Tajik Technical University and the Kurgantube Energy Institute, the two main institutions that train hydropower engineers in Tajikistan.

INFORMATION SHARING AND ACCESS

The Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation project supported information sharing in a number of ways including: the publication and distribution of booklets and posters; the organization of local seminars and trainings for about 87 local

specialists within and beyond the project area; the arrangement of study tours to the Tigrovaya Balka and Romit natural reserves; the setup of a mountain botanical garden and plant nursery; the development of a project website (removed after project completion); and the establishment of the newly built and equipped nature museum. The Gissar Mountains project issued a regular newsletter to disseminate best practices and lessons learned.

The CEP has taken ownership of this initiative and a national staff conference has been held annually since 2009 to facilitate networking.

AWARENESS RAISING

Ongoing support to the National Biosafety Framework was instrumental in the establishment and operationalization of a public awareness platform, implemented actively through a number of public lectures, newspapers, and television roundtables involving deputies from parliament, national scientific institutions, and institutes for higher education. The platform initiatives also included a public lecture that was developed and conducted at the National University for teachers and students, and at the Committee for Nature Protection in Kurgantube. Materials on biosafety were also published in a special issue of the Navruzgoh newsletter.

The Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity project helped raise the awareness of 1,000 community representatives of the value of local living collections of agro-biodiversity through workshops and consultations held in cooperation with project partners, such as the national Institute of Farming and the Hydrometeorology Agency, among others. Farmers also participated in awareness campaigns on agro-technological practices for improvement of characteristics of agro-biodiversity varieties and local agro-biodiversity products were showcased in national agricultural exhibitions. The Environmental Learning project developed four public awareness plans on key environmental and sustainable development issues and disseminated the information produced to four Jamoat Resource Centers.

SKILLS BUILDING

Trainings, peer-to-peer exchanges, and other forums to build skills were a particular focus in several projects. Following training delivered as part of the ODS Phasing-out project, many of the 334 certified refrigeration technicians work as independent entrepreneurs or as employees of various service centers throughout the country.

The Environmental Learning project supported the Teacher Re-Training Institute in developing training modules and guidelines for secondary school teachers on environmental conventions and natural resource management. It also supported the Tajikistan Technical University in the design of a training module on environmental education that targeted their environmental trainers. The Small Hydropower project provided vocational training on small hydropower maintenance, operation, and management to seven employees and the operator of the pilot Nurofar hydropower plant in Burunov jamoat (Vahdat District). The evaluation team confirmed the effectiveness of the skill building activities after visiting the hydropower plant and refrigeration servicing training facility in Dushanbe.

Interviews, meetings, email, and telephone conversation with stakeholders, project staff, and involved civil society organizations and conventions focal points overall confirmed the quality and knowledge products supported by the GEF. Stakeholders also indicated that the type and variety of knowledge products is satisfactory but in some cases the quantity of such products, especially printed materials, was insufficient. Those interviewed also indicated a preference to have knowledge products in Tajik, rather than Russian or English.

5.5 Gender

Tajikistan attaches great importance to gender considerations and equality in all spheres of life, including its public management sector. The country has a well-developed policy framework

that includes national legislation and provisions relevant to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the 1998 Aarhus Convention (which were acceded by Tajikistan on October 26, 1993 and July 17, 2001 respectively). The provisions of these conventions take priority over domestic law with regard to gender equality. In addition, the Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities was entered into force by Decree No. 89 (March 1, 2005). It requires that at least one deputy minister in the ministry or deputy chair (director) in other government departments be a woman. The following section assesses the GEF's contribution to reducing gender inequalities within the Tajikistan portfolio of GEF projects.

From the review of the relevant design and M&E documentation related to the 23 national projects, it emerges that 13 out of 23 projects considered gender issues in project formulation and implementation (table 5.1). More specifically, gender issues were mentioned in the project formulation documents (project development facilities [PDFs] and project preparation grants [PPGs]) of all 13 projects, although only partially for the Environmental Learning and CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management projects. A review of the available M&E documentation (PIRs, midterm reviews, terminal evaluations and terminal evaluation reviews) of ongoing and completed projects shows that five projects were actively mainstreaming gender in their activities (GEF IDs 1854, 4160, 1872, 3129, and 3310).

The Gissar Mountains project was a good example of gender mainstreaming as it integrated a gender dimension into its conceptualization, planning, and project implementation activities. The project considered women's involvement to be crucial in ensuring the success of demonstration activities and the potential for them to be replicated. In the case of the CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project gender issues

TABLE 5.1 Gender Ratings by Focal Area

Focal area	Gender Yes	Gender No	Total
Biodiversity	2 (GEF IDs 1854 and 4694)	4 (GEF IDs 996, 2528, 2037, and 3122)	6
Climate change	2 (GEF IDs 4160 and 4422)	3 (GEF IDs 830, 1886, and 3027)	5
Land degradation	3 (GEF IDs 3237, 3234, and 4352)	0	3
Multifocal	5 (GEF IDs 1872, 3129, 3310, 5236, and 6949)	1 (GEF ID 1928)	6
POPs	1 (GEF ID 5223)	1 (GEF ID 1955)	2
ODS		1 (GEF ID 15)	1
Total	13	10	23

were not given enough consideration, despite women doing most of the labor in the farming systems as men migrated to Russia for employment. The project midterm review and terminal evaluation highlighted the absence of a gender strategy in the project document and project activities, except for promoting women's participation in Farmers Field Schools and small economic activities.

Project proposals and implementation and evaluation reports often lack gender specific information, due to the absence of gender sensitive approach and indicators in the project results framework. Only six projects (GEF IDs 4422, 4352, 1872, 3234, 3129, and 5236) include gender-disaggregated indicators and/or gender consideration in M&E exercises making it difficult to collect gender-disaggregated data and track progress made on the engagement and impact of the project activities on both women and men.

Women were mainly involved in the micro-loan activities and trainings (GEF IDs 1854, 3237, 4160, 3129, and 3310). Field visits to selected projects (GEF IDs 1872, 1854, and 3237) as well as grants under the Tajikistan SGP confirm this finding. Training topics were limited to fruit drying and conservations, vegetables, potatoes growing, and less towards cotton, corn, wheat, and rice. There has not been much progress in promoting the participation of women in decision making processes, but some efforts were made

in a few cases (GEF IDs 1872, 1854, and 5223) where women were involved in forestry nursery management, serving as focal points for the implementation of community-based tourism and energy-efficient stoves, in the development of local socioeconomic initiatives, and in trainings.

The GEF introduced its policy on gender mainstreaming in 2011 (GEF 2011). Before that, it relied partly on GEF Agencies' policies on gender, and partly on its *Policy on Public Involvement in GEF Projects* (GEF 1996) that covered social and gender issues, among others. However, 7 of the 11 pre-gender policy projects contained gender considerations (table 5.2), although not in a consistent and comprehensive way. The introduction of the GEF gender mainstreaming policy contributed to a qualitatively better consideration of gender in project design and implementation, as evidenced by desk analysis of project documents. Six projects (GEF IDs 4422, 4352, 6949, 5236, 4694, and 5223) are better designed in mainstreaming gender and development of frameworks with gender sensitive outcomes and outputs. Four projects included gender disaggregated indicators in project design (GEF IDs 5236, 4422, and 4352). The project formulation documents of the Drinking Water Rehabilitation, and Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pamir Alay and Tian Shan Ecosystems for Snow Leopard Protection and Sustainable Community Livelihoods (GEF ID 6949) projects that started in late 2011, show a shift in promoting women's

TABLE 5.2 Gender Ratings Before and After the Introduction of the GEF Gender Policy May 2011

Project type	Before			After		
	Gender Yes (%)	Gender No (%)	Total	Gender Yes (%)	Gender No (%)	Total
FSPs/MSPs	7 (30%) (GEF IDs 1854, 1872, 3129, 3237, 3234, 3310, and 4160)	4 (17%) (GEF IDs 15, 2037, 3027, and 3122)	11	4 (17%) (GEF IDs 4352, 4422, 5236, and 6949)		4
Enabling activities		6 (26%) (GEF IDs 830, 996, 1886, 1928, 1955, and 2528)	6	2 (9%) (GEF IDs 4694 and 5223)		2

involvement in decision making although it is still early to assess the results of these initiatives.

Gender mainstreaming has been relatively strong in five out of the six multifocal projects (GEF IDs 1872, 3310, 3129, 6949, and 5236). Two of the six biodiversity projects consider gender both in formulation and implementation documents

(GEF IDs 1854 and 4694), as do two of five climate change projects (GEF IDs 4160 and 4422). All three land degradation projects include gender issues (GEF IDs 3237, 3234, and 4352) and one POPs project (GEF ID 5223) has gender-related actions incorporated in the involvement of relevant stakeholders.

6. Relevance

This chapter addresses the following key evaluation questions on the relevance of GEF support to Tajikistan:

- Has GEF support to Tajikistan been relevant to the objectives linked to the different global environmental benefits in the climate change, biodiversity, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals focal areas?
- Has GEF support to Tajikistan been relevant to national environmental priorities and sustainable development needs and challenges, including poverty alleviation and creation of sustainable livelihoods in the form of environmental sustainable jobs?
- To what extent have the GEF and its Agencies been supporting environmental and sustainable development prioritization, country ownership, and decision making processes in Tajikistan?

6.1 Relevance to the Achievement of Global Environmental Benefits

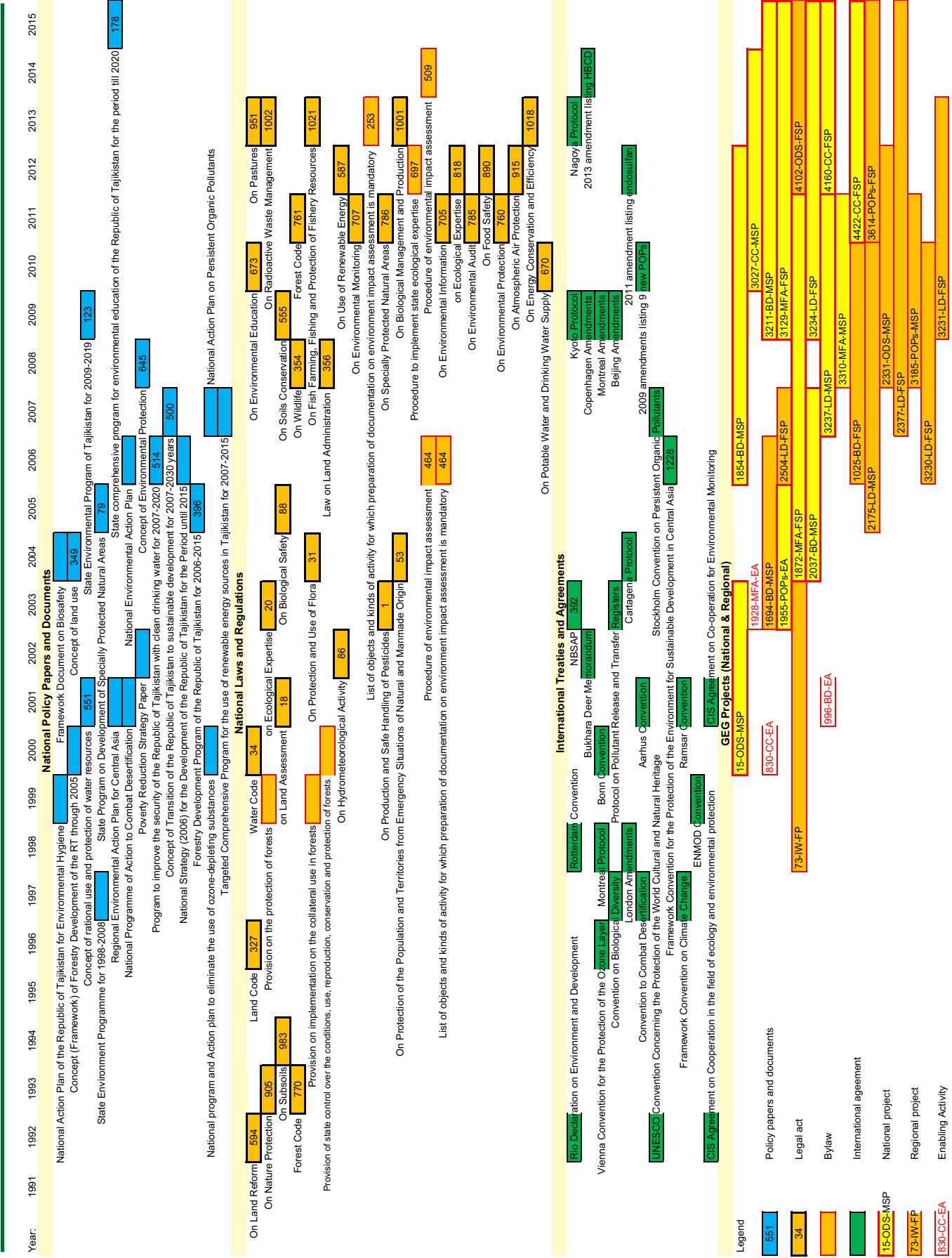
Tajikistan pays particular attention to international cooperation on environmental issues. Furthermore, Tajikistan has been actively involved in most international environmental agreements and conventions. The GEF has supported Tajikistan comply with its international commitments through eight enabling activities and one MSP from the national portfolio, and one MSP and two FSPs from the regional portfolio.

Tajikistan joined the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer on May 6, 1996 (figure 6.1). Tajikistan's commitments under the Vienna Convention and its subsequent protocols and amendments were supported at different times by the GEF through one national and two regional projects: the ODS Phasing-out project in 1999, that is three and a half years after the country's accession to the convention; the Continued Institutional Strengthening Support for CEITs to Meet the Obligations of the Montreal Protocol project (GEF ID 3185) approved in April 2007, that is nine years after accession to the Montreal Protocol and Copenhagen amendments; and the Accelerated HCFC Phase-out project approved in June 2010, that is one year after Tajikistan accession.

Similarly, following Tajikistan's accession to the CBD on October 29, 1997 and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on February 12, 2004, the GEF provided foundational support through its Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan which became effective in January 2001, that is three years after accession to the CBD. The Additional Financing for Capacity Assessment in Biodiversity Priority Areas project (GEF ID 2528) started in April 2004, that is six and a half years after Tajikistan accession. The Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework project was approved by GEF in January 2011, that is seven years after accession to the Cartagena Protocol.

After Tajikistan's accession to UNFCCC on July 16, 1997, commitments to this convention were

FIGURE 6.1 Timeline



supported by the GEF through the First National Communication to UNFCCC enabling activity that was approved in June 2000 (that is three years after accession) and the Financing for Capacity Building enabling activity that started in June 2005 (that is eight years after accession).

Tajikistan ratified the Stockholm Convention on POPs on February 8, 2007. The GEF provided support through the National Implementation Plan enabling activity that was approved in August 2003 and completed on December 31, 2005, that is a year before the ratification of the Stockholm Convention.

6.2 Relevance to National Sustainable Development and Environmental Priorities

GEF support has addressed most of the main sustainable development and environmental priorities set by national development and environmental policy documents, including on biodiversity conservation, land degradation, climate change, toxic substances and waste management, through both its national and regional projects. In a number of cases GEF specifically supported the setting of national priorities for sustainable development and environmental protection in Tajikistan, as reflected in the various national strategies formulated during the last 15 years. Most of the ones relevant of the environmental sector have been developed with GEF support. An illustrative example is the Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan project, currently being updated through the Support for the Revision of the NBSAPs and Development of Fifth National Report to the CBD project (GEF ID 4694). All GEF projects align with most of the main national official sustainable development and environment policies (table 6.1).

GEF financing represents an important share of the overall financing to environmental protection in Tajikistan, demonstrating its relevance to national priorities. According to the *2nd*

Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan (UNECE 2012) “domestic resources allocated to environmental protection are very small and their impact on environmental quality is marginal. Funding of major environmental projects relies predominantly on foreign resources”. The report indicates that funds dedicated to environmental projects from 2010 to 2012 amounted to 32.2 million Somoni, among which 30 percent was from the state budget, 48 percent was from foreign assistance and the remaining 22 percent was from special funds. Financial resources of environmental funds in 2009 were 3.3 million Somoni (\$800,000). A quick estimation based on the Tajikistan portfolio data compared with the *Environmental Performance Review* (UNECE 2012) figures indicates that from 2010 to 2012 the GEF approved approximately \$5 million (33 million Somoni) in funding, almost equaling the “total funds required for environment projects from 2010 to 2012 (32.2 million Somoni)” mentioned in the review. Tajikistan did not receive all GEF funding at once, and some of these 2010–12 projects are still ongoing. However, it can be inferred that the GEF is an important contributor.

6.3 Country Ownership

GEF support has been integrated into the country’s government planning processes from the outset. Tajikistan contributed to project cofinancing from various internal sources and not only in-kind. GEF projects align with almost all Tajikistan’s national development policies and priorities, and GEF support appears to have been well integrated in country systems. National environmental strategies were supported by GEF enabling activities built on an extremely developed national environmental legal framework which explains national ownership of GEF support. This legal framework includes provisions concerning the human rights to a safe and healthy environment embedded in the Constitution adopted in 1994, five years before GEF started supporting the country. In addition, GEF

TABLE 6.1 Relevance to National Sustainable Development and Environmental Priorities

National policy, strategy, or program	GEF ID
National Program to Phase-out the Use of ODS and Action Plan for its Implementation	15, 3185, and 4102
Targeted Comprehensive Program for the Use of Renewable Energy Sources in Tajikistan (2007–15)	4160
State Environmental Program of the Republic of Tajikistan (1998–2008)	All projects
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2002)	All projects
National Strategy for the Development of the Republic of Tajikistan (2006–2015)	All projects
NBSAP on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity	996, 1025, 1694, 1854, 1872, 1928, 2037, 2528, 3211, 3237, 3129, 3310, 4352, 4694, and 6949
Concept of Transition of the Republic of Tajikistan to Sustainable Development (2007–30)	All projects
Concept of Environmental Protection in the Republic of Tajikistan	All projects
State Environmental Program of the Republic of Tajikistan (2009–19)	All projects
Framework Document on Biosafety (2004)	3211
Concept of Rational Use and Protection of Water Resources and Land Use	1854, 1872, 1928, 2037, 2175, 2377, 2504, 3129, 3230, 3231, 3234, 3237, 3310, 4352, 5236, and 6949
State Program on Development of Specially Protected Natural Areas in the Republic of Tajikistan (2005–15)	1025, 1694, 1854, 1872, 1928, 2037, 2528, 3211, 3237, 3129, 3310, 4352, 4694, and 6949
Forestry Development Program of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2006–15	1025, 1694, 1854, 1872, 1928, 2037, 2528, 3211, 3237, 3129, 3310, 4352, 4694, and 6949
National Environmental Action Plan	All projects
National Program of Action to Combat Desertification (2001)	1854, 1872, 1928, 2037, 2175, 2377, 2504, 3129, 3230, 3231, 3234, 3237, 3310, 4352, 5236, and 6949
National Action Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2007)	1955, 3614, 5000, 5223, and 5236
State Comprehensive Program for Environmental Education	5236

support is not only aligned with national priorities but it is also included in national budgets. Article 10 of the Law About State (Public) Finances (No. 723), June 28, 2011 states that it is to be attributed to the revenues of the state budget as well as grants and other uncompensated funds from international organizations (Republic of Tajikistan 2011). Furthermore, after Tajikistan’s accession to the Paris Declaration in 2005, which recommended the reduction of the parallel project implementation structures, project management units started being set up under the ministries and government agencies. Four out of the eight GEF-4 and GEF-5 MSPs and FSPs have project management units

housed in ministries and governmental agencies and departments.

Nonstate national stakeholders are actively involved not only with the 48 NGOs and community organizations involved in the Tajikistan SGP, but also as partners of GEF Agencies in FSPs and MSPs. Among them, the environmental association Noosfera supported the Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation project; CARE International and UNDP implemented the Gissar Mountains project; and the Russian branch of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) supported the Development of the Econet for Long-term Conservation of Biodiversity in the Central Asia Ecoregions project (GEF ID 1694).

7. Efficiency

This chapter addresses the following key evaluation questions on the efficiency of GEF support to Tajikistan:

- How much time, effort, and financial resources (including cofinancing) did it take to formulate and implement projects in Tajikistan, according to the GEF support modality?
- Have there been synergies between: GEF Agencies in GEF programming and implementation; national institutions for GEF support; and GEF and other donors' support in Tajikistan? What have been and are the roles, types of engagement, coordination, and synergies among different stakeholders in project implementation in Tajikistan?
- What role did M&E play—both at design and implementation—in project adaptive management and overall efficiency in Tajikistan?

7.1 Time, Effort, and Financing for Project Design and Implementation

The GEF project cycle has evolved over the years. At the beginning of GEF-4, following the *Joint Evaluation of the GEF Activity Cycle and Modalities* (GEF IEO 2007), the GEF Activity Cycle underwent a revision. A limit of 22 months for project development was established for FSPs and was further reduced to 18 months in GEF-5. Figures 7.1 and 7.2 give an overview of the current

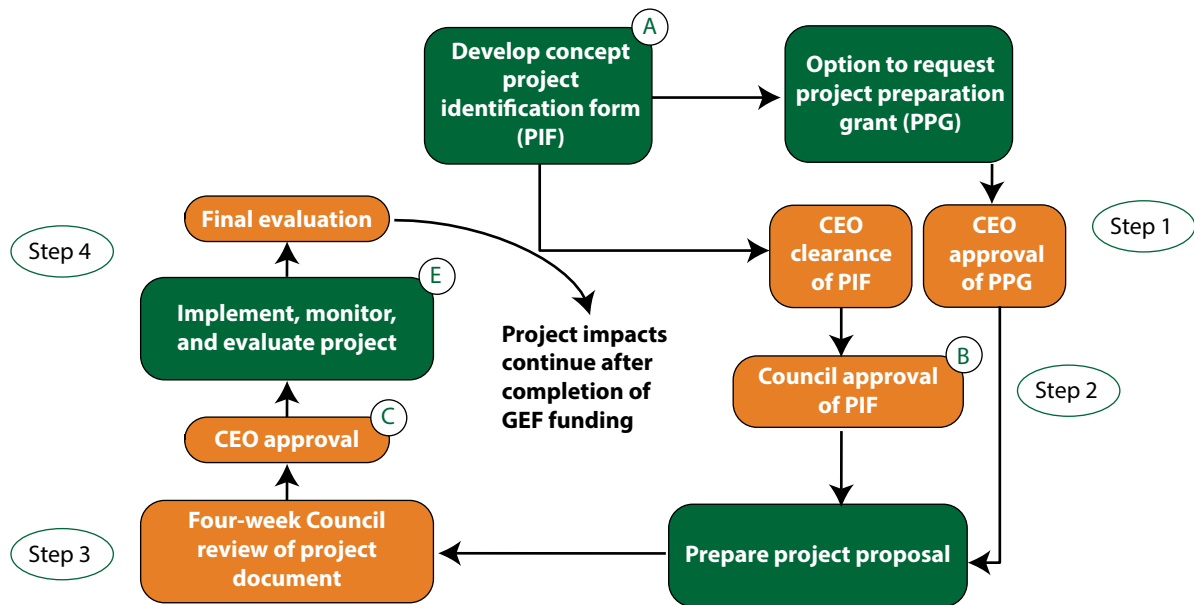
GEF project cycle, presented separately for FSPs and MSPs.

An analysis of the timeframe of inclusion into the GEF pipeline of projects, Council approval, chief executive officer endorsement, agency approval, and project implementation start-up indicates that it takes just over two years for FSPs in Tajikistan to move from inclusion in the GEF project pipeline to implementation start-up. Four FSPs have taken more than 18 months from entry into GEF pipeline to GEF chief executive officer endorsement (table 7.1).

Stakeholders consider these timeframes to be too long. With these delays staff turnover may occur, both within government departments and GEF Agencies, negatively affecting project implementation. The absence of specialized technical expertise and the consequent need to hire international experts to help with project formulation, also played a role in a few cases. Long delays at the formulation and approval stages often meant the project design needed to be updated at the start of implementation.

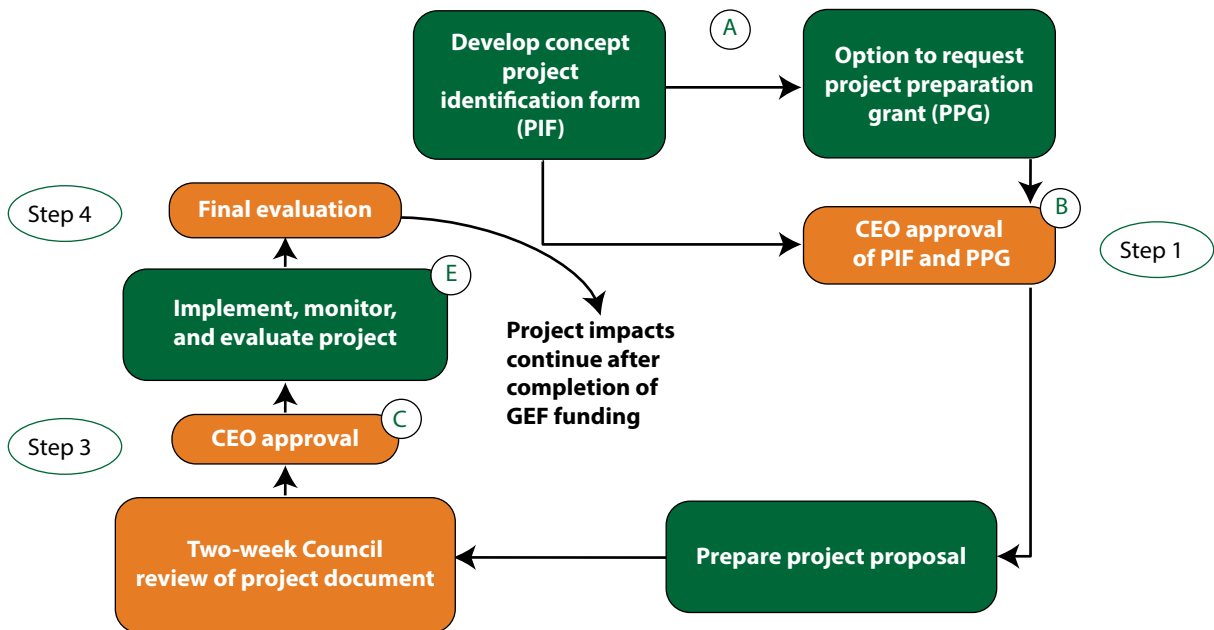
The Tajikistan portfolio scores better than the Sri Lankan portfolio where FSPs take an average of four years to move from entry into pipeline to start of implementation. It also scores better than South Africa and Brazil where the averages are 3.7 and 3.6 years respectively. Overall, in comparison with most portfolios analyzed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office in the last 10 years, Tajikistan scores rather well, although as seen for FSPs it took

FIGURE 7.1 The GEF FSP Project Cycle since 2007



NOTE: Stage D (not shown) refers to Agency approval and the procedure differs by Agency.

FIGURE 7.2 The GEF MSP Project Cycle since 2007



NOTE: Stage D (not shown) refers to Agency approval and the procedure differs by Agency.

TABLE 7.1 Duration of the GEF Activity Cycle for FSPs (months)

GEF ID	Project	A→B	B→C	C→D	D→E	A→E
1872	Community Agriculture and Watershed Management	16.77	1.60	1.17	5.33	24.87
3129	Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity in the Face of Climate Change	16.10	15.23	0.77	0.00	32.10
3234	CACILM: Rural Development Project under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase I	14.30	20.57	15.53	27.30	18.03
4160	Technology Transfer and Market Development for Small Hydropower in Tajikistan	7.20	18.67	3.10	2.17	26.80
4352	Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods	6.63	23.20	—	—	—
4422	Increasing Climate Resilience through Drinking Water Rehabilitation in North Tajikistan	3.70	12.00	—	—	—
6949	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pamir Alay and Tian Shan Ecosystems for Snow Leopard Protection and Sustainable Community Livelihoods	1.60	—	—	—	—
Average (months)		9.47	15.21	5.14	8.7	25.45
Average (years)		0.79	1.27	0.43	0.73	2.12

SOURCE: PMIS.

NOTE: — = not available. Not all projects have information on all stages of the approval process. Project cycle stages are as follows: A = entry into GEF pipeline; B = approval by Council/work program Inclusion; C = CEO endorsement/approval; D = GEF Agency/executing agency approval; E = project start-up.

more than four months longer than the official threshold of 18 months established in GEF-5.

The time taken in Tajikistan for project approval has been increasing for MSPs as well. It took approximately one and a half years for the MSP to move from inclusion in the project pipeline to implementation. A noteworthy outlier is the National Biosafety Framework MSP which took four and a half years to move from entry into the pipeline to approval by the chief executive officer (table 7.2).

For most enabling activities in Tajikistan it took just under a year on average to move from inclusion in the project pipeline to implementation start (table 7.3). The only exception to this common trend is the enabling activity on climate change, which took over two and a half years.

Only two GEF FSPs surpassed the completion date, mainly to adapt implementation to evolving contexts. Extensions have not been too long. Completion of the Community Agriculture and

Watershed Management project was extended by one year, while the CACILM Rural Development project was extended by eight months (table 7.4).

The GEF considers cofinancing to be an indicator of a project's sustainability, country ownership, and mainstreaming of GEF activities in the recipient country. Total GEF financing to Tajikistan amounts to approximately \$33.9 million. The Government of Tajikistan and other donors have contributed approximately \$119.6 million for national projects. The cofinance ratio of \$3.50 for each \$1 of GEF grant in the national portfolio compares reasonably well with the two other country portfolios analyzed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office in the Europe and Central Asia region (\$2.90 in Turkey; slightly over \$1 in Moldova).

Project formulation costs as percent of total project funding varied from 0.3 percent to 11.5 percent (table 7.5). Cofinancing for project formulation come from the Government of Tajikistan (both in cash and in-kind) and GEF Agencies.

TABLE 7.2 Duration of the GEF Activity Cycle for MSPs (months)

GEF ID	Project	C→D	D→E	A→C	C→E	A→E
15	Program for Phasing-out ODS	8.97	0	2.00	8.97	10.97
1854	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Gissar Mountains of Tajikistan	3.47	0	3.53	3.47	7.00
2037	Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation	0.33	0.60	17.10	0.93	18.03
3027	Support to Sustainable Transport Management in Dushanbe	11.53	0	6.60	11.53	18.13
3211	BS Support for the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework of the Republic of Tajikistan	8.53	0	54.20	8.53	62.73
3237	CACILM: Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan-under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase 1	1.13	0	1.40	1.13	2.53
3310	Environmental Learning and Stakeholder Involvement as Tools for Global Environmental Benefits and Poverty Reduction	—	—	4.50	1.73	6.23
5236	Strengthening Capacity for an Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System in Tajikistan	—	—	16.27	—	—
Average (months)		5.66	5.66	0.10	13.20	5.19
Average (years)		0.47	0.47	0	1.10	0.43

SOURCE: PMIS.

NOTE: — = not available. Not all projects have information on all stages of the approval process. Project cycle stages are as follows: A = entry into GEF pipeline; B = approval by Council/work program inclusion; C = CEO endorsement/approval; D = GEF Agency/executing agency approval; E = project start-up.

TABLE 7.3 Duration of the GEF Project Cycle for Enabling Activities (months)

GEF ID	Project	A→C	C→D	D→E	A→D	A→E
830	Enabling the Republic of Tajikistan to Prepare Its First National Communication in Response to Its Commitments to the UNFCCC	1.73	3.7	0	5.43	5.43
996	Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan with Clearing House Mechanism	1.73	4.43	0	6.17	6.17
1886	Climate Change Enabling Activity (Additional Financing for Capacity Building in Priority Areas)	32.00	—	—	—	32.37
1928	National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management	0.10	3.97	0	4.07	4.07
1955	Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on POPs: National Implementation Plan for Republic of Tajikistan	4.80	0.7	0	5.50	5.50
2528	Additional Financing for Capacity Assessment in Biodiversity Priority Areas	1.03	—	—	—	1.17
4694	Support for the Revision of the NBSAPs and Development of Fifth National Report to the CBD	5.73	3.67	0.40	9.40	9.80
5223	Enabling Activities to Review and Update the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on POPs	0.83	—	—	—	—
Average (months)		6.00	0.27	0.08	6.11	9.21
Average (years)		0.50	0.02	0	0.51	0.77

SOURCE: PMIS.

NOTE: — = not available. Not all projects have information on all stages of the approval process. Project cycle stages are as follows: A = entry into GEF pipeline; B = approval by Council/work program inclusion; C = CEO endorsement/approval; D = GEF Agency/executing agency approval; E = project start-up.

TABLE 7.4 Extensions for MSPs

GEF ID	Project	GEF Agency	Focal area	Years extended
15	Program for Phasing-out ODS	UNDP-UNEP	ODS	3.0
1854	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Gissar Mountains of Tajikistan	UNDP	Biodiversity	1.0
2037	Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation	World Bank	Biodiversity	1.0
3237	CACILM: Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan-under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase 1	UNDP	Land degradation	0.33
Average				1.33

SOURCE: PMIS.

TABLE 7.5 Project Formulation Costs for MSPs and FSPs

GEF ID	Type	GEF phase	GEF Agency	Focal area	Funding (\$)				% of total cost
					GEF grants ^a	Cofinance	PDF/PPG grants	PDF/PPG cofinance	
15	MSP	GEF-2	UNDP-UNEP	ODS	1,216,443	271,502	171,500	0	11.5
1854	MSP	GEF-3	UNDP	BD	1,090,000	1,521,987	25,000	18,000	1.6
1872	FSP	GEF-3	WB	MF	5,385,000	13,300,000	205,000	130,000	1.8
2037	MSP	GEF-3	WB	BD	921,000	198,250	25,000	5,500	2.7
3234	FSP	GEF-3	ADB	LD	3,500,000	19,810,000	0	850,000	3.6
3237	MSP	GEF-3	UNDP	LD	1,000,000	1,053,000	25,000	6,000	1.5
3027	MSP	GEF-4	UNDP	CC	1,100,000	11,395,195	30,000	5,000	0.3
3129	FSP	GEF-4	UNDP	MF	2,227,500	2,100,000	125,000	106,000	5.3
3211	MSP	GEF-4	UNEP	BD	924,000	540,000	0	0	0.0
3310	MSP	GEF-4	UNDP	MF	550,000	539,290	30,000	0	2.8
4160	FSP	GEF-4	UNDP	CC	2,225,000	6,450,000	25,000	50,000	0.9
4352	FSP	GEF-5	WB	LD	5,940,000	16,860,000	0	0	0.0
4422	FSP	GEF-5	EBRD	CC	3,019,774	23,896,400	0	0	0.0
5236	MSP	GEF-5	UNDP	MF	786,719	750,000	20,000	25,000	2.9
6949	FSP	GEF-6	UNDP	MF	4,698,600	19,000,000	120,000	0	0.5
Total (million \$)					34.6	117.7	0.8	1.2	2.4

SOURCE: PMIS and project documents.

NOTE: Not all projects have full and exact financial information. BD = biodiversity, CC = climate change, LD = land degradation, MF = multifocal; WB = World Bank.

a. These figures include the GEF grant, management fees, and PDF/PPG costs.

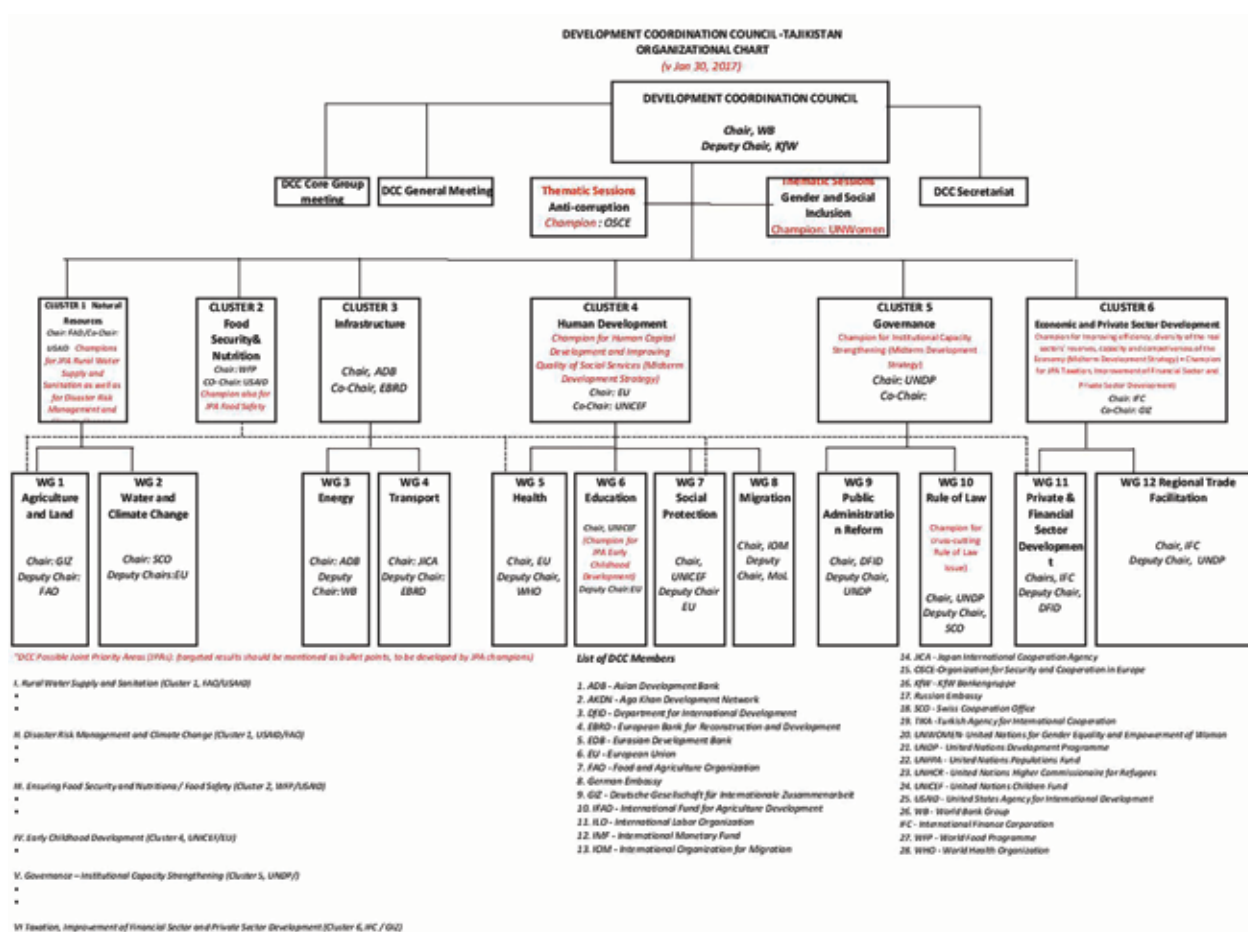
7.2 Coordination and Synergies

With an overall objective to strengthen aid effectiveness in Tajikistan, the DCC was established to facilitate information exchange and collaboration within the donor community, as well as foster dialogue on shared priorities with the Government of Tajikistan (figure 7.3). The DCC functions as a development partners' coordination mechanism with the Government of Tajikistan in support of the National Development Strategy 2008–15 and the Living Standards Improvement Strategy 2013–15.

The donor community in Tajikistan established the DCC mainly as a forum for regular donor coordination. The chair of the DCC is

spokesperson for development partners at formal meetings between the government and partners and is the official point of contact on general coordination matters. The DCC's structure covers relevant sectors in 12 working groups that fall under five clusters, plus one cross-cutting thematic working group. Clusters coordinate working groups within their thematic area. Working groups serve as platforms for members to exchange information on current and future projects, discuss and articulate a common position on issues, and engage with the government on policy dialogue. Each working group defines its objectives, scope of activities, membership, and frequency of meetings. Clusters and working groups are chaired by various multilateral and bilateral donor representatives

FIGURE 7.3 DCC Structure



who report on activities to the council. The DCC also serves as a platform for overall coordination and synergies between GEF Agencies in Tajikistan for future and ongoing projects, particularly in clusters 1 (natural resources), 2 (food security and nutrition), and 3 (infrastructure).

Besides the DCC, more specific engagement, coordination, and synergies among different GEF project stakeholders mostly occurs at national level, while it is more uncertain at local level. Coordination in project implementation is largely carried out through project coordination committees, steering committees, and tripartite meetings. Projects also establish coordination mechanisms at subnational (district and jamoat) levels, largely to increase coordination with beneficiaries.

Local-level coordination is affected by the limited capacity and/or contribution of some relevant government agencies, especially those responsible for the environment and natural resources as they are frequently being restructured. The effectiveness of coordination among the projects was also reduced because meetings were held irregularly. During field visits, the evaluation team found several cases where coordination among the various local government agencies was insufficient. Coordination was also affected by institutional conflicts and an unclear designation of respective roles and responsibilities, as in the case of the responsibilities for protected areas and natural resource management, which go beyond the GEF projects being implemented. For example, there are unresolved tensions between the Forestry Agency and the CEP over jurisdiction of the protected natural areas. Currently, these areas are under the jurisdiction of the Forestry Agency which, through its mandate, can conduct economic activities and consume natural resources. CEP inspectors have, however, been obstructed from checking compliance with protected areas legislation by the Forestry Agency.

Interviewed stakeholders stated that GEF projects introduced a new collaborative working style to the various agencies involved that has

improved the aforementioned weaknesses. Participatory coordination mechanisms were promoted among the local institutions created to conserve natural resources, with a strong local government involvement and leadership. For example, the Gissar Mountains project established participatory land use and forest management mechanisms in which local government representatives have been called to work with communities to discuss, plan, and implement sustainable resource management activities inside and adjacent to the protected areas targeted by the project. As a result, a significant number of farmers and locals residing in close proximity to three demonstration sites concluded land lease agreements with local forestry departments.

As seen in [section 4.4](#), the coordination function (box 4.1) of the GEF focal point mechanism in Tajikistan has been hindered by the many other responsibilities held by the CEP Chairperson, who fulfills the role of both the GEF political and operational focal point.

7.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of GEF support in Tajikistan mostly occurs at the project level. Most stakeholders interviewed indicated that overall, project level M&E systems contributed to adaptive management and helped in improving implementation. More generally, aggregate analysis on the available M&E documentation provides a more mixed picture.

Terminal evaluations of five out of six completed national FSPs/MSPs presented M&E ratings. Four of the five terminal evaluations (GEF IDs 1854, 2037, 3310, and 3237) rated M&E as satisfactory. The terminal evaluation reviews indicated that the quality of the logical framework matrixes had an impact on the quality of project monitoring and outcomes.

The terminal evaluation review of the ODS Phasing-out project rated M&E design as

marginally unsatisfactory and was unable to assess M&E implementation. The terminal evaluation of the Gissar Mountains project rated M&E implementation as satisfactory and confirmed that the M&E plan was routinely applied in a consistent and comprehensive manner throughout the project duration. The terminal evaluation review of the Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation project rated M&E design as marginally satisfactory, but M&E implementation was rated as marginally unsatisfactory. This project did not systematically collect data on outcomes and outputs resulting from biodiversity conservation activities. The absence of project results data jeopardized the preparation of the implementation completion report.

The terminal evaluation of the CACILM Improving Sustainable Land Management project rated the design of the M&E system as satisfactory. In this project, the M&E system was designed rather well with an adequate logical framework, a sufficient monitoring budget, and good indicators. It clearly had an adaptive feedback loop, although with some exceptions, as in the case of the small scale hydroelectric component. Otherwise, monitoring data allowed for adaptations made to the intervention while it was still ongoing. The terminal evaluation of the Community Agriculture and Watershed Management project, the only one without an overall M&E rating, reports that

the preliminary risk analysis was not conducted methodically and that project M&E design did not consider the low technical capacities of communities nor their willingness to include gender considerations in the project activities. This situation was addressed as a result of the project midterm review that found that a lot of women were actually beneficiaries and recommended that gender indicators be included in the M&E system.

An irregular use of GEF tracking tools was observed. Based on PMIS data, 4 of the 15 national FSPs and MSPs and one enabling activity have their respective tracking tools correctly filled: the Gissar Mountains project has one tracking tool filled at completion; both the Sustainable Transport Management project and the Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity project have one tracking tool filled at midterm; and both the Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods project and the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on POPs have one tracking tool completed at the stage of the chief executive officer's endorsement.

Finally, the arrangements and institutions put in place to monitor stress reduction and improvement in the environment and/or socioeconomic conditions after completion have not performed as expected. None of the projects were seen to have conducted any specific studies and/or baseline surveys to understand changes in natural resources.

8. Main Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 Conclusions

RESULTS, EFFECTIVENESS, AND SUSTAINABILITY

CONCLUSION 1: GEF support to Tajikistan has been significantly more effective in biodiversity conservation, particularly in protected areas management and biosafety legislation, compared to other focal areas.

The GEF has provided significant support in fulfilling Tajikistan's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. With six national biodiversity projects, focusing mainly on the national protected areas management system and the development of a sound national framework for biosafety, GEF support largely served to lay the foundations for managing biodiversity conservation, determining national priorities, and updating key policy documents and laws that contributed to raising the profile of biodiversity in the government's agenda.

GEF projects in the biodiversity focal area contributed to biodiversity conservation and management in the country. They achieved significant results, not only in sound protected areas management and legislation development, but also in raising awareness and commitment among local authorities and the general population at subnational level, fostering continued interaction among stakeholders, and extensive dissemination of projects results. GEF support to biodiversity has also

contributed to triggering cooperation between line ministries and national agencies and institutions.

GEF support to biodiversity through regional projects is less visible, although it introduced new techniques such as agricultural biodiversity (In Situ/On Farm Conservation and Use of Agricultural Biodiversity [Horticultural Crops and Wild Fruit Species] in Central Asia, GEF ID 1025) that are likely to be of interest to the farming communities. Tajikistan SGP support, most of which related to biodiversity and land degradation, contributed to demonstrating how to build links between the environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainable development, meeting global and local objectives concurrently. Tajikistan SGP grants supported the environmentally sound production of marketable goods (rush and reed products, vegetables, treacle) and promoted environmentally sustainable income-generating activities (ecotourism, land use planning, home gardens). Many of these initiatives are recognized as best practices in Tajikistan.

Results in focal areas other than biodiversity have been limited, except in ODS (see conclusion 4). The climate change portfolio, composed of enabling activities and two ongoing climate change mitigation projects, is still relatively young and has not managed to produce much beyond foundational support. Although an important share of the national portfolio in terms of funding, GEF support to land degradation mostly contributed to national and local development policy. This is important,

and a key objective for Tajikistan, given the economic importance of the agricultural sector and reducing poverty in rural areas. However, progress toward impact is likely to occur only at the level of project sites (see conclusion 2).

CONCLUSION 2: A few cases of broader adoption of outcomes, leading to progress toward impact, are observed at local scale in the form of replication, specifically in the biodiversity and land degradation focal areas.

Instances of broader adoption of project outcomes that could lead to progress toward impact were observed as a result of completed biodiversity and land degradation projects where various project elements, practices, and methods were replicated. Stress reduction is occurring and environmental status is improving at local levels (that is in specific or disconnected areas). An important element contributing to the sustainability of project outcomes was the ability to demonstrate the likely social and economic benefits along with the expected environmental ones. Three main impact drivers are common to all the five completed projects in the national portfolio: stakeholder ownership and support, effective financial mechanisms, and adequate information flows. Cases of broader adoption of project outcomes were also observed in a few Tajikistan SGP biodiversity and land degradation projects, again, in the form of replication at local level.

CONCLUSION 3: GEF support to knowledge generation and dissemination was most effective at the local level.

The GEF focused a considerable portion of its efforts on generating and sharing of knowledge in Tajikistan, mainly through raising awareness of environmental issues, producing environment-related information, and building skills. Most projects in the national portfolio contain knowledge management components and products. Among them, GEF mandated reports such as the

communications to international environmental conventions are prominent.

The most effective support to generating knowledge was through awareness raising and skills building. Study tours and printed materials are the most frequently adopted information sharing and skill building approaches. A diverse range of approaches, including trainings, information sharing events, project websites, technical documents, media, printed materials, workshops and seminars, and knowledge exchange visits were used to raise awareness in Tajikistan. Unfortunately, websites created with GEF support were not maintained after project end.

The quality and effectiveness of knowledge products supported by the GEF was also confirmed through interviews, focus group meetings, email exchanges, and telephone conversation with stakeholders, including project staff, involved civil society organizations, and United Nations conventions focal points. However, a number of interviewees pointed at the need to increase the quantity of such products, especially printed materials. Interviewees also indicated a preference to have the knowledge products in Tajik rather than in Russian or English. For regions with a majority Uzbek speaking population, it would be useful to have knowledge products in Uzbeki as well.

CONCLUSION 4: GEF support to dealing with chemicals issues in Tajikistan was effective in the ODS sector. Results on the reduction of POPs are mixed.

GEF support to phasing-out ODSs, provided through one national and two regional MSPs, contributed greatly to achieving, and in some cases surpassing, the quantitative targets set for the ODS phase-out in Tajikistan. Furthermore, it strengthened the country capacity to enhance its ODS information management and reporting system, as well as its monitoring capacity. The two regional projects Preparing for HCFC Phase-out in CEITs: Needs, Benefits and Potential Synergies with other

Middle East and African Countries (GEF ID 2331) and Strengthening Support for CEITs to Meet the Obligations of the Montreal Protocol provided a strong and clear connection to the national ODS Phasing-out project. Overall, GEF support translated in 50.7 tons of ozone depletion potential equivalent, allowing Tajikistan to return to compliance with the Montreal Protocol in 2006. The ODS phaseout impact evaluation (GEF IEO 2010) confirmed that commercial performance of many of the businesses improved as a result demonstrating that the conversion to non-ODS technology had been good for businesses as well as the environment. Support to POPs did not go beyond helping the country prepare and re-actualize its national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention or facilitating collaboration among various institutions dealing with POPs at the national level.

CONCLUSION 5: Few examples of the GEF's contribution to reducing gender inequality are observed at the local level. Overall, gender has not been consistently considered in the Tajikistan portfolio.

Gender equality ranks high in Tajikistan's policy agenda. Women were mostly involved in GEF projects through their participation in environmental education, agricultural, and/or small economic activities training. A review of the Tajikistan's project documentation from a gender perspective shows a tendency to consider women's involvement predominantly with a focus on income generation and sound agriculture practices. Women's involvement in sustainable conservation of the environment and natural resources and participation in environmental decision making has been weak, despite their interest, knowledge of, and experience with the sustainable use of natural land, water, and forest resources with which they are in daily contact due to their role in the family.

Overall, gender has not been given consistent consideration in the national portfolio. Project proposals and implementation and evaluation reports

often lack gender specific information, including gender disaggregated indicators in their project results framework. Attention to gender issues began with the introduction of the GEF policy on gender mainstreaming (GEF 2011) and, as a result, post-2011 projects are better designed in terms of mainstreaming gender in their result frameworks.

RELEVANCE

CONCLUSION 6: GEF support was broadly aligned with the international GEF mandate of achieving global environmental benefits and helped Tajikistan meet its international commitments.

Tajikistan has been actively involved in all international conventions for which the GEF works, except for the Minamata Convention on Mercury (2013). In this favorable context, the GEF has supported Tajikistan's compliance with its international commitments through a substantial share of its foundational support, from both the national and regional portfolio, albeit not always respecting the timeline of the dates of accession to the different conventions

CONCLUSION 7: GEF support was relevant to Tajikistan's national environment and sustainable development policies and priorities.

GEF support through national and regional projects addressed most of the main environmental priorities set by national development and environment policy documents, including on biodiversity conservation, land degradation, climate change, toxic substances, and waste management (with a focus on ODSs). These activities supported the development of national and local policies and priorities for environmental conservation and sustainable development in Tajikistan.

Tajikistan allocates very few financial resources to environmental protection and relies predominantly on foreign resources. That GEF financing represents an important share of the

overall financing to environmental protection in Tajikistan demonstrates its relevance to national priorities.

CONCLUSION 8: Ownership of GEF support has increased over time, especially since GEF-4.

GEF support is well integrated into government country systems and is explained by the Tajikistan's well-developed environmental legal framework. Fundamental provisions concerning the human right to a safe and healthy environment were embedded in the Tajikistan Constitution well before GEF support started in 1999. Since GEF-4, following Tajikistan's signing of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, project management units have been established under the ministries and governmental agencies. Non-state national stakeholders are actively involved in GEF projects. The national portfolio shows a good cofinancing ratio to which the government contributes both in cash and in-kind.

EFFICIENCY

CONCLUSION 9: The GEF activity cycle in Tajikistan is perceived as too long, especially at the project formulation stage.

GEF activity cycle timeframes compare well with most of the other country portfolios analyzed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office in the last 10 years. However, stakeholders still consider them too long in Tajikistan. Many highlighted that the risk of losing staff, both in government departments and GEF Agencies may occur as a result, could have potential repercussions on project start-up and implementation. Insufficient consultation between the GEF focal point mechanism and project proponents to fine-tune proposals and manage the approval process was also mentioned as a cause of delay. Delays have also been associated with low

in-country project design capacities and lack of specialized technical expertise.

CONCLUSION 10: There has been coordination and synergies between GEF Agencies, national executing agencies and other donor support at the national level, less so at the local level.

The existence of a national level donor mechanism, in which also ongoing and future GEF projects are discussed, facilitates information exchange and collaboration within the donor community, and fosters dialogue on shared priorities with the government. Coordination among the various subnational government agencies and institutions involved in GEF projects is hampered by a lack of capacity and, in some cases, a lack of interest partly because some of them, including the agencies responsible for the environment and natural resources, have frequently undergone restructuring. Other factors include the lack of regular coordination meetings and, at times, institutional conflicts due to lack of clarity on the respective roles and responsibilities for protected areas and natural resource management. In this difficult context, GEF projects have been praised for having introduced a new collaborative working style among the different local agencies and institutions.

The GEF focal point mechanism has not provided sufficient strategic guidance and coordination, nor has it been particularly effective in disseminating the GEF's lessons, both in term of financing opportunities as well as rules and procedures, to national stakeholders. The CEP chairperson covers both GEF political and operational focal point responsibilities and therefore does not always have the time and means to provide such guidance and coordination. Despite a recent delegation of authority on operational matters within the CEP, this issue remains unresolved.

CONCLUSION 11: Monitoring and evaluation contributed to project adaptive management, with some exceptions.

Monitoring and evaluation of GEF support in the Tajikistan national portfolio is primarily performed at the project level. Earlier projects had poorly designed results frameworks and M&E systems that were poorly implemented, resulting in an unsatisfactory quality of both outputs and outcomes monitoring. This situation has improved over time, as shown by the satisfactory overall M&E ratings in the most recent terminal evaluations. All completed projects took advantage of the midterm evaluations and reviews as a means of taking stock from the experience gained, and adapted implementation to changes in contextual conditions as and where appropriate.

The GEF focal point has not been involved in M&E. GEF tracking tools, required during the three phases of the project (start-up, midterm, and completion) have rarely been used.

8.2 Recommendations

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TAJIKISTAN AND GEF AGENCIES

RECOMMENDATION 1: Gender concerns should be adequately and systematically addressed and mainstreamed in all GEF Focal Areas, as provisioned in the GEF gender mainstreaming policy.

Data of the reviewed projects in the Tajikistan portfolio from a gender perspective show a tendency to predominantly focus on women's involvement in income generation and sound agriculture practices. It is good to empower women by focusing on environmental conservation while improving their living standards through generation of additional income. However, the involvement of women in sustainable conservation of the environment and natural resources through direct involvement in environmental decision making is limited,

and does not correspond to their gender roles that bring them in daily contact with natural resources such as land, water, and forestry. This gap should be effectively addressed in current and future projects covering all focal areas, as provisioned by the GEF gender mainstreaming policy. The important role women play in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources reaffirms the need for full participation of women at all levels of decision making.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TAJIKISTAN

RECOMMENDATION 2: The GEF focal point mechanism should be strengthened and a strategic approach to GEF support should be developed to ensure dissemination of lessons after project completion and promote coordination among the main stakeholders, including at the local level.

In a country with a national political context that is sensitive to international environmental discussions, and a well-developed environmental legislative framework that enables it to potentially take full advantage of GEF funding, the focal point mechanism has not managed to fully disseminate information nor coordinate with a wide range of stakeholders on a strategic approach to GEF support, including at the project formulation stage. Furthermore, problems of weak coordination exist at local level, including institutional conflicts, as in the case of the unclear responsibilities for protected areas and natural resource management that risk jeopardizing the activities and expected results in terms of global and local environmental benefits. A strengthened focal point mechanism, either through the separation of the GEF political and operational focal point roles or through the provision of additional funds and/or dedicated human resources, could be instrumental to address the weaknesses identified.

Equally important, learning from past successes and mistakes has the potential to stimulate

replication and up-scaling beyond the local level. In the Tajikistan portfolio, efforts to raise awareness of environmental issues have been huge, less so in dissemination of results and lessons learned from GEF projects. When these activities have been embedded and conducted in projects, they have tended to stop once the project ends. During project execution, such dissemination and communications activities are primarily a responsibility of the GEF Agencies, national executing agencies, and the project teams who implement them. After completion, the focal point could be particularly instrumental in post-project dissemination and knowledge sharing, either by embedding the project websites in the CEP website, including GEF project lessons in the CEP newsletter, or organizing focused knowledge exchange events.

The focal point mechanism could also contribute to addressing the issue of weak local level coordination by promoting the collaborative working style and multi-agency coordination mechanisms and approaches introduced by GEF projects.

RECOMMENDATION 3: Mercury, POPs, and other hazardous chemical-related issues should be given priority in Tajikistan.

The GEF has been working in Tajikistan since 1999, and has been relatively well engaged in biodiversity, land degradation, multifocal, and climate change projects in the country. In contrast, its engagement in chemicals is relatively small, with the notable exception of ODS projects. Disposal of hazardous chemicals is a clearly established priority in national sectoral policy documents and efforts should be made to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by GEF support in the chemicals area.

After reviewing the project identification form submitted in 2015, the GEF Secretariat decided not to support the FSP Protect Human Health and the Environment from Unintentional Releases of POPs and Mercury from the Unsound Disposal of Healthcare Waste in Tajikistan, (GEF ID 6987) because Tajikistan has not yet signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury. It is recommended that Tajikistan, as for all the major international conventions, ratifies the Minamata Convention as accession would allow the country to take full advantage of the funding opportunities offered by the GEF in this focal area.

Annex A: Country Response

КУМИТАИ
ХИФЗИ МУҲИТИ ЗИСТИ
НАЗДИ ҲУКУМАТИ
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ПРИ ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕ
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COMMITTEE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

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№ 1/9-03-961 аз ҷ. 1 н. 06 соли 2015
Ба № _____ аз ҷ. _____ н. _____ соли 2015

Global Environmental Fund (GEF)

At the initiative of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan the GEF projects' evaluation results for the entire period of the GEF activities in Tajikistan were discussed at the enlarged meeting of the Committee and Scientific and Technical Council with the participation of the GEF executive agencies, national focal points and national coordinators of the environmental protection conventions. The Committee administration gratefully accepts the results of the evaluation and recommendations for the implemented GEF projects. This assessment is important to us, especially for the GEF political and operational Focal Point and it is a good advice to improve and approach to select and recommend the project proposals at all stages of their implementation, making changes and additions. Especially important is the high evaluation of completed projects on biodiversity and effectiveness of implemented projects for the management of protected areas and legislation in the field of biosafety and progress of gender balance while the project implementation. I think that the experience gained in the implementation of biodiversity projects is required in this area to expand into other subjects, as the biodiversity of the mountain population in Tajikistan is the basis for life. With regard to the positive assessment of the projects on land management when land shortage is a high priority for us, and we will fully improve this course and significantly implement that in local communities. In agricultural conditions of natural resources to protect the plants and produce sustainable yields for food security and poverty reduction the application of pesticides and fertilizers is important for the Republic of Tajikistan.

Along with this regulation and reducing the use of pesticides in the conditions of green economy development and organic farming, the Committee draws and attaches the utmost importance. When implementing the projects, activities the Committee's environmental assessment and monitoring bodies are always aimed at the prevention of not getting pesticides and chemical fertilizers into natural ecosystems and their biological communities. In these ways, we try to efficiently use the GEF funds for sustainable development. Regarding the comments about tightening the drafts and submitting them for financing, we are working on this fact and planning to prepare and organize consultative workshops for GEF national experts and negotiating with the GEF agents to introduce the national executors of the GEF projects with rules of the project proposals preparation at all stages. Unfortunately, in recent years, the rate of national contribution (funds) in the design process is not entirely justified to a certain extent for countries with transition economies, as for Tajikistan where it has significantly increased that is also a reason for delaying the project process. In addition, we hope to eliminate insufficient coordination and cooperation between the GEF agencies, national implementing agencies and other donor support at the national level.

In this regard, we hope to have attention drawn on this factor of the countries' access to the GEF funds in the seventh cycle of GEF funding. We will receive the rest comments with gratitude in further cooperation with the GEF Secretariat and Council.

Khayrullo Ibodzoda,


Chairman, the GEF Political
and Operational Focal Point

Annex B: Quality Assurance Statement

Prepared by independent peer review panel team:

Malika Babadzhanova, peer review panel advisor,
Farhod Khamidov, peer review panel advisor

The views expressed in this document are those of the members of the Peer Review Panel in their individual capacities.

Republic of Tajikistan

Dushanbe-2016

Introduction

This statement by the peer review panel is based on observations of the evaluation process of the GEF's portfolio in Tajikistan, and a review of developed products, provided materials and the final report prepared by staff of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office and consultants from a consortium consisting of Societa Italiana di Monitoraggio (SIM) SpA from Italy and B.A.R.S. Consulting Ltd from Tajikistan.

The CPE of GEF's portfolio in Tajikistan was carried out to provide the GEF Council and national governments with an assessment of the results and performance of GEF-supported activities at country level.

The Tajikistan CPE was undertaken between October 2014 and January 2016 under the overall responsibility and guidance of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. Its objectives were to assess the effectiveness, results, and sustainability of GEF support in Tajikistan, as well as its relevance and efficiency, implementation frameworks, decision making processes, policies, and procedures. The ultimate aim of the CPE was to provide feedback and knowledge sharing in Tajikistan and the GEF as a whole.

The Tajikistan CPE focused on 23 national projects (at various stages of the project cycle: pipeline, ongoing, and completed) implemented within the country boundaries. This included enabling activities, FSPs, and MSPs, as well as Tajikistan's SGP. A full assessment of the regional projects' aggregate results, relevance, and efficiency was beyond the scope of this CPE, given that only the Tajikistan components had been assessed.

Findings of the Peer Review Panel

General

The peer review panel received a large amount of materials and had the relevant conditions to fulfill their tasks. The findings of the panel are:

1. **Quality of the final CPE Report.** The final report is divided in two volumes. Volume 1 contains the full evaluation report and volume 2 contains technical documents, an executive summary, and annexes. The analysis presented in the report is easily comprehensible and addresses evaluation objectives and questions. The report is well written and contains a series of useful tables and illustrations that contribute to its general understanding.

The content of the evaluation report (Volume 1) is well structured in eight chapters. They identify the main achieved results of the projects, constraints, problems affecting portfolio performance, and lessons and recommendations for improving the quality of the portfolio.

Annexes of the report include the country response; a quality assurance statement; the country-specific terms of reference; an evaluation matrix; lists of interviewees, sites visited, workshop participants, GEF portfolio projects in Tajikistan; and a bibliography.

In accordance with its terms of reference the following criteria and key questions were used for evaluation:

- results, effectiveness, and sustainability (five key questions)
- relevance (three key questions)
- efficiency (four key questions)

Volume 2 of the CPE report includes the Country Environmental Legal Framework, the Global Environmental Benefits Assessment, case studies and a photo log showing the process of the evaluation, including interviews and site visits of selected pilot areas.

2. **Described purpose of the CPE.** The panel found that the purpose of the evaluation was clearly stated. In particular, the explanations as to:
 - why the evaluation of GEF portfolio in Tajikistan was done was highly satisfactory
 - what triggered the evaluation (including timing in the projects cycle) was satisfactory
 - how the evaluation is to be used, for example in what focal area and at what level GEF should provide more support or to which issues more attention should be paid and more efforts given, was satisfactory
3. **Evaluation objectives.** The panel found the evaluation objectives were clearly stated in the report and had a logical flow. Each criteria with key questions in the focal areas of GEF portfolio activities in Tajikistan evaluated are clearly described.
4. **Subject of the evaluation.** The panel confirms that the evaluation described all the evaluated GEF projects and their activities; expected and actual achievements; how these projects addressed the development problem; and what type of implementation modalities were used.
5. **Boundaries of the evaluation process.** These were adequately defined in terms of the period covered, project implementation phases, geographic areas, and extent of stakeholder involvement.
6. **Evaluation design.** The Tajikistan CPE was rather well designed. It contains a theory of how objectives and results were achieved; specifies the level of results achieved (including outputs, outcomes, impacts); and provides comprehensive baseline data (quantitative and qualitative) on conditions prior to GEF portfolio implementation in Tajikistan. There is also a comparison of project deliverables.
7. **Limitations of the evaluation's methodology.** These were clearly stated, as was the impact of the limitations on the evaluation. The panel confirms that the evaluation team took great care to overcome the different types of limitations including the limited

knowledge of newly appointed national focal points about earlier GEF projects, gaps in available project data at the start of the evaluation, and so on, and so forth).

8. **Evaluation recommendations.** The CPE report contains three recommendations that logically flow from the findings and conclusions. Recommendations are directed to the Government of Tajikistan and GEF Agencies for their action. The recommendations are action-oriented and highlight issues to which GEF projects should pay more attention and what areas should be prioritized for supporting. The recommendations and lessons are satisfactorily valid, and relevant actions can be developed on the basis of these given recommendations.
9. **Quality of evaluation findings and conclusions.** The findings of the Tajikistan CPE demonstrate an adequate use of evaluation criteria by evaluation team. Mainstreaming of GEF program principles on biodiversity and climate change, multifocal areas, chemicals and waste and so on, and so forth, in Tajikistan were adequately covered.

The peer review panel found that conclusions of the CPE report are sufficiently valid and reliable.

Evaluation Approach and Criteria

The main evaluation criteria used for the Tajikistan CPE were:

- relevance of activities and supported projects/programs
- efficiency of operations in support of projects/programs
- the achievement of development objectives and expected results (including impacts)
- cross-cutting issues: inclusive development which is gender sensitive and environmentally sustainable
- the sustainability of benefits and positive results achieved

A peer review of criteria followed in the Tajikistan CPE found that:

- **Relevance.** The assessment of the interventions' relevance was based on a comprehensive analysis of the national context, needs, and priorities in the program's thematic focal areas. It was clearly shown how GEF supported implementation of country obligations as a signatory member of international environmental conventions, and following national official sustainable development and environment policies, contributed to efforts in the environmental sector.
- **Effectiveness** The evaluation report analyzed the extent to which the intended outputs were satisfactory and includes an analysis of how GEF portfolio projects contributed to planned outcomes. Case studies and interviews used during the

evaluation clearly explain contributing factors. Many unintended outcomes (both positive and negative, direct and indirect) were analyzed.

- **Efficiency.** The CPE provided satisfactory analysis of how well GEF portfolio projects were organized with regard to managerial and programs/projects efficiency. Outputs were satisfactorily assessed in relation to inputs, costs, implementation timeframe, and timeliness. Comparisons with Sri Lanka, where FSPs take an average of four years to move from entry into pipeline to start of implementation, South Africa, and Brazil illustrated the good scores of the Tajikistan portfolio. The peer review found that issues related to comparative cost-effectiveness were sufficiently discussed.
- **Sustainability.** A detailed assessment of the possibility that outcomes and benefits of GEF projects in Tajikistan continue to exist with a lower level of external support was included. The report includes an analysis based on evaluative evidence of the extent to which outcomes and outputs will be sustainable and details factors contributing to this.

Methodological Issues

The methodology applied for the Tajikistan CPE is well described in chapter 2 of the report and covers a good combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods and tools. It is clearly shown how the tools and methods contributed to the evaluation and development of its conclusions.

Identification and Use of Existing Data Sources

Evidence and technical documents used (including PMIS documents, case studies, surveys, interviews, focus groups, direct observations, and so on, and so forth) for the Tajikistan CPE are well described in both volumes of the report.

Three case studies assessing progress toward impact using the methodology developed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office are well structured. They contain detailed definitions of concepts, ways by which GEF catalyzes progress toward impact, outcomes and outputs, achieved environmental and socioeconomic changes, capacity and governance changes, analysis of negative or absent impacts, contributing and hindering factors, logical conclusions, and relevant ratings of impacts.

Quality and Relevance of the Evaluation's Findings and Conclusions

A review of the evaluation findings and conclusions in the report found them to be relevant to the assessment criteria and evidence based. Almost all findings are supported by the used methodology. Evidence from different sources were triangulated and the report contains a separate annex outlining the triangulation matrix. A clear logical link between the evidence and findings can be seen in the report. Most conclusions are clearly linked to the evaluation findings.

Conclusion and Recommendations of Peer Panel Review

The peer panel review concludes that GEF Tajikistan CPE (1999—2015) was relevant and in full accordance with the methodology identified to assess the results and performance of GEF-supported activities at country level. Recommendations from the peer review panel on the terms of reference, the aide-mémoire, during meetings and so on, and so forth were properly taken into account and relevantly addressed by the evaluation team. The CPE report is of a good quality and includes reliable recommendations to further improve the performance of GEF projects in Tajikistan.

So that the evaluation can more effectively provide lessons for future operations, the panel suggests the Government of Tajikistan and GEF Agencies prepare an implementation plan in response to the recommendations, following the completion of the evaluation. The implementation plan should specify: whether a recommendation has been accepted, how the recommendation will be implemented, who is responsible for its implementation, the date by which the implementation of the recommendation is expected to be completed, and what actions have already been taken (if any).

Date of statement: June 2, 2016

Peer panel review experts:



Annex C:

Terms of Reference

This annex presents the October 2015 terms of reference for the Tajikistan Country Portfolio Evaluation as approved by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office Director. Minor edits have been made for consistency.

C.1 Background and Introduction

Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPEs) are one of the main evaluation streams of work of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. By capturing aggregate portfolio results and performance of the GEF at the country level they provide useful information for both the GEF Council and the countries.

GEF eligible countries are chosen for CPEs based on a multi-step selection process that ensures that all countries in the GEF could be selected (GEF IEO 2010b). The set of criteria includes the size, diversity and maturity of their portfolio of projects, coverage of previous GEF Independent Evaluation Office evaluations, and additional criteria, such as “evaluability,” synergy with other country evaluations, and with Council agenda subjects. Among several considerations, Tajikistan was selected as it has a comparatively large, diverse, and mature portfolio (24 projects, six of which are completed) that has an emphasis on biodiversity (six projects), multifocal (six projects), and climate change (five projects), and has significant cofinancing amounts. Furthermore, Tajikistan includes a good number of ongoing projects (nine

projects), and a number of recently approved projects and projects in the pipeline (nine projects).

Tajikistan, officially known as the Republic of Tajikistan, is a landlocked mountainous country in Central Asia. It is bordered by Afghanistan to the south, Uzbekistan to the west, Kyrgyzstan to the north, and China to the east. Tajikistan has land area of 143,100 square kilometers. The mountainous region is dominated by the Trans-Alay Range in the north and the Pamirs in the southeast, and more than 50 percent of the country is over 3,000 meters above sea level.¹

Tajikistan is one of the world’s poorest countries and one of the poorest countries of Central Asia and of the former soviet republics. Tajikistan’s economy depends on remittances and commodity exports that make it vulnerable to global economic conditions.² Tajikistan was plunged into civil war almost as soon as it became independent from the Soviet Union in 1991.³ Political turmoil and the civil war that lasted until 1997 did enormous damage to Tajikistan’s economy and affected 80 percent of Tajikistan’s industries.⁴ Tajikistan’s economic growth declined from 7.5 percent to 6.7 percent in the first half of 2014, and is expected to ease

¹ www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html

² www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5775.htm

³ www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-16201032

⁴ <http://countrystudies.us/tajikistan/34.htm>

further to 6.5 percent due to spillover effect from the slowdown in Russia.⁵

Tajikistan's store of natural resources is relatively modest. The country has high hydropower potential and most of the country's energy supply is through hydropower (98 percent). Coal accounts for approximately 1.8 percent, and wind and solar 0.2 percent. Tajikistan also has some petroleum, uranium, mercury, brown coal, lead, zinc, antimony, tungsten, silver, and gold.⁶

High demographic growth and constant socioeconomic development have put pressure on natural resources and caused environmental degradation. Tajikistan's main environmental problems are deterioration of water resources, inadequate sanitation facilities, increasing levels of soil salinity, industrial pollution, and excessive use of pesticides.

GEF intervention in Tajikistan started in 1999 with the Program for Phasing-out Ozone-Depleting Substances. For the purposes of the CPE, the Tajikistan portfolio has 24 national projects with over \$34 million of GEF finance and \$119 million of cofinance. Tajikistan participates in 15 regional projects totaling over \$69 million in GEF finance and \$171 million in cofinance. Of the national projects, nine are under implementation, six are completed, and nine have been cleared or approved awaiting implementation start. The largest GEF focal areas are biodiversity (six projects), climate change (five projects), and six multifocal projects. These are followed by POPs and land degradation with three projects each. The portfolio is composed of seven full-size projects (FSP), nine medium-size projects (MSP), and eight enabling activities. The number of projects initiated across the various GEF replenishment phases has varied over the years. The GEF-2 phase had three projects,

⁵ www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/overview#1

⁶ www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html

GEF-3 had nine, GEF-4 and GEF-5 had five, and GEF-6 currently has two projects.

The national portfolio in Tajikistan is implemented through six different GEF Agencies. UNDP has the largest share of the Tajikistan portfolio with 14 projects amounting to \$15.2 million, followed by the World Bank Group and UNEP with six projects each amounting to \$10.7 and \$1.6 million respectively. ADB, EBRD, and UNIDO have one project each costing \$3.5 million, \$2.4 million, and \$180,000 respectively. Additionally, one project is jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP has a budget of \$900,000. Cofinancing and total project finance amounts for the national portfolio are outlined in table C.1.

Tajikistan is party to the biodiversity, climate change, climate change-kyoto protocol, desertification, ozone layer protection, and wetlands conventions. In biodiversity, GEF support has focused on biodiversity conservation and implementation of the National Biosafety Framework. In climate change, projects have focused on both improving energy efficiency and developing renewable energy. Under POPs, GEF intervention focused on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) management and meeting conventions obligations.

Within the national portfolio, one FSP is completed, three are under implementation and three are in the pipeline. Four MSPs are completed, three are under implementation and two are pending. One enabling activity is completed, three are under implementation, and three are in the pipeline.

C.2 Purpose and Objectives of the Evaluation

The purpose of the Tajikistan CPE is to provide the GEF Council and the country with an assessment of results and performance of the GEF supported activities in the country, and of how the GEF supported activities link into the national strategies and priorities as well as within the global environmental mandate of the GEF. Based on this overall

TABLE C.1 GEF Support to National Projects by Focal Area and GEF Agency

Focal area	Agency	No. of projects	GEF grant (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Total (\$)
Biodiversity	UNDP	3	1,390,000	785,000	2,175,000
	UNEP	2	1,060,000	774,000	1,834,000
	World Bank	1	750,000	198,250	948,250
	Subtotal	6	3,200,000	1,757,250	4,957,250
Chemicals and waste	UNDP	1	1,991,000	8,000,000	9,991,000
	Subtotal	1	1,991,000	8,000,000	9,991,000
Climate change	EBRD	1	2,727,067	23,896,400	26,623,467
	UNDP	4	3,392,000	12,331,127	15,723,127
	Subtotal	5	6,119,067	36,227,527	42,346,594
Land degradation	ADB	1	3,500,000	19,810,000	23,310,000
	UNDP	1	975,000	1,053,000	2,028,000
	World Bank	1	5,400,000	16,860,000	22,260,000
	Subtotal	3	9,875,000	37,723,000	47,598,000
Multifocal	UNDP	5	7,450,570	22,295,000	29,745,570
	World Bank	1	4,500,000	13,300,000	17,800,000
	Subtotal	6	11,950,570	35,595,000	47,545,570
ODS	UNDP-UNEP	1	898,943	271,502	1,170,445
	Subtotal	1	898,943	271,502	1,170,445
POPs	UNEP	1	494,323	20,000	514,323
	UNIDO	1	181,850	178,000	359,850
	Subtotal	2	676,173	198,000	874,173
Total		24	34,710,753	119,772,279	154,483,032

SOURCE: GEF PMIS data cross-checked with GEF Agencies' data.

purpose, the Tajikistan CPE has the following specific objectives:

- Evaluate the *effectiveness, results, and sustainability* of GEF support in Tajikistan, with attention to the sustainability of achievements at the project level and progress toward impact for global environmental benefits.⁷

⁷ *Effectiveness*: the extent to which the GEF activity's objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance; *results*: in GEF terms, results include direct project outputs, short- to medium-term outcomes, and progress toward longer term impact including global environmental benefits, replication effects, and other local effects; *sustainability*: the likely ability of an intervention to continue to deliver benefits for an extended

- Evaluate the *relevance and efficiency* of GEF support in Tajikistan from the points of view of national environmental frameworks and decision making processes, the GEF mandate of achieving of global environmental benefits, and GEF policies and procedures.⁸

period of time after completion; projects need to be environmentally as well as financially and socially sustainable.

⁸ *Relevance*: the extent to which the activity is suited to local and national environmental priorities and policies and to global environmental benefits to which the GEF is dedicated; *efficiency*: the extent to which results have been delivered with the least costly resources possible.

- Provide *feedback and knowledge sharing* to: the GEF Council in its decision making process to allocate resources and develop policies and strategies; Tajikistan on its collaboration and participation in the GEF; and (the different agencies and organizations involved in the preparation and implementation of GEF projects and activities.

The Tajikistan CPE will also provide additional evaluative evidence to other evaluations being conducted by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. The evaluation will address the performance of the GEF portfolio in Tajikistan in terms of relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness, as well as the contributing factors to this performance. It will also analyze the performance of individual projects as part of the overall GEF portfolio, but without rating such projects. CPEs are conducted to bring to the attention of Council different experiences and lessons on how the GEF is implemented at the national level from a wide variety of countries. CPEs do not aim to evaluate or rate the performance of GEF Agencies, national entities (agencies and departments, national governments, or involved civil society organizations), or individual projects. Other users of the evaluation include the Government of Tajikistan, as well as the national executing agencies and institutions involved with GEF projects.

C.3 Key Evaluation Questions

GEF CPEs are guided by a set of key questions that should be answered based on the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the evaluative information and perceptions collected during the evaluation exercise. The Tajikistan CPE will be guided by the following key questions:

EFFECTIVENESS, RESULTS, AND SUSTAINABILITY

- To what extent has GEF support to Tajikistan been effective in producing results by focal area

at the project and aggregate levels (program and country portfolio)?

- To what extent has GEF support led to progress toward impact through broader adoption mechanisms over an extended period of time after completion?
- To what extent has GEF support been effective in sustaining the knowledge generated and shared by GEF projects with partners in Tajikistan (national stakeholders and GEF Agencies) and partners outside of the country?
- To what extent has GEF support to Tajikistan made an effective contribution to chemicals issues, specifically reduction of POPs?
- To what extent has GEF support contributed to reducing gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment?

RELEVANCE

- Has GEF support to Tajikistan been relevant to the objectives linked to the different global environmental benefits in the climate change, biodiversity, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals focal areas?
- Has GEF support to Tajikistan been relevant to national environmental priorities and sustainable development needs and challenges, including poverty alleviation and creation of sustainable livelihoods in the form of environmental sustainable jobs?
- To what extent have the GEF and its Agencies been supporting environmental and sustainable development prioritization, country ownership, and decision making processes in Tajikistan?

EFFICIENCY

- How much time, effort, and financial resources (including cofinancing) did it take to formulate

and implement projects in Tajikistan, according to GEF support modality?

- What have been and are the roles, types of engagement, coordination and synergies, among different stakeholders in project implementation in Tajikistan?
- Have there been synergies between GEF Agencies in GEF programming and implementation; national institutions for GEF support; and GEF and other donors' support in Tajikistan?
- What role did monitoring and evaluation play—both during the design and implementation stages—in project adaptive management and overall efficiency in Tajikistan?

Each of these questions is complemented by indicators, potential sources of information, and methods in an evaluation matrix.

C.4 Scope and Limitations

The Tajikistan CPE will cover all types of GEF-supported activities in the country, at all stages of the project cycle (pipeline, ongoing, and completed), and implemented by all active GEF Agencies in all active focal areas. It will also include applicable GEF corporate activities and a selection of regional programs, as Tajikistan is involved in several regional activities with large representation and special relevance to the country. Nevertheless, the main focus of the evaluation will be the projects implemented within the country boundaries (that

is the national projects) be they full-size, medium-size, or enabling activities.

The context in which these projects were developed, approved, and are being implemented constitutes an important focus of the evaluation. This includes: a historic assessment of the national sustainable development and environmental policies, strategies, and priorities; the legal environment in which these policies are implemented and enforced; GEF Agencies' country strategies; and GEF policies, programs, and strategies.

The status of the project will determine the expected CPE focus (see table C.2).

The GEF does not establish country programs that specify expected achievements through programmatic objectives, indicators, and targets. However, since 2010, the GEF has started supporting countries in undertaking National Portfolio Formulation Exercises on a voluntary basis. These exercises serve as a priority setting tool for countries and as a guide for GEF Agencies as they assist recipient countries. These country programming efforts are rather recent, which limits their usefulness in evaluations such as CPEs that examine the period since the start of GEF operations, that is sometimes 20 years back. This is why generally CPEs entail some degree of retrofitting of frameworks to be able to judge the relevance of the aggregated results of a diverse portfolio of projects. Accordingly, the CPE evaluation framework described here will be adapted along with the other relevant national and GEF Agencies' strategies, country programs and/or planning frameworks

TABLE C.2 Focus of Evaluation by Project Status

Status	Relevance	Efficiency	Effectiveness ^a	Results ^a
Completed	Full	Full	Full	Full
Ongoing	Full	Partially	Likelihood	Likelihood
Pipeline	Expected	Processes	n.a.	n.a.

NOTE: n.a. = not applicable.
a. On an exploratory basis.

as a basis for assessing the aggregate results, efficiency, and relevance of the GEF portfolio in Tajikistan.

GEF support is provided through partnerships with many institutions operating at many levels, from local to national and international. It is therefore challenging to consider GEF support separately. The Tajikistan CPE will not attempt to provide a direct attribution of development results to the GEF but address the contribution of GEF support to overall achievements, that is establish a credible link between GEF-supported activities and their implications. The evaluation will address how GEF support has contributed to overall achievements in partnership with others, through analysis of roles and coordination, synergies and complementarities, and knowledge sharing.

The assessment of results will be focused, where possible, at the level of outcomes and impacts, and obviously include outputs as well. This assessment will focus at the aggregate level by focal area, with a historical perspective. Special attention will be paid to the identification of factors affecting the level of outcome achievements and progress toward impact achieved over time, as well as to the risks that may prevent further progress to long-term impacts. Outcomes at the focal area level will be primarily assessed in relation to catalytic and replication effects, institutional strengthening and capacity building, and awareness.

Assessing the specific impacts—or progress toward impact—of GEF support is challenging. GEF support is typically designed to interact with initiatives of other agents such as governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, and other donors. Even where the GEF has funded specific components within a project that may be distinguished from those funded by other partners, these have been funded on a premise that they will be able to draw on the synergies with components funded by the other partners, and vice versa. Contextual factors add to those complexities. In fact, the GEF faces diverse situations when assessing

impact. Challenges for assessing impact are different when supporting a discrete activity such as the introduction of a technology in a specific context, from a situation in which GEF supports broader processes that take place at the national, regional, or global level, and where a number of contextual factors and actors have a role. Interventions also differ in terms of the time horizons within which impacts can be observed and measured.

In recent years, the Office has developed a theory of change that can be applied to the various modalities and scales of GEF support, and devised a corresponding progress toward impact analysis framework—based on the concept of broader adoption—to help deal with the complexities described when assessing progress toward impact of GEF support (GEF IEO 2013b). Progress toward impact of a sample of completed projects in Tajikistan will be assessed through case studies that use the described progress toward impact analysis framework. Expected impacts at the focal area level will be assessed in the context of GEF objectives and indicators of global environmental benefits.

The inclusion of regional and global projects increases the complexity of this type of evaluation since these projects are developed and approved within different contexts (that is regional or global policies and strategies) to national projects. However, some regional projects in which Tajikistan participates will be included based on criteria such as the relevance of the regional project for the country, the implementation unit being located in the country, the existence of project demonstration sites in the country, among others.

C.5 Methodology

The Tajikistan CPE will be conducted by staff of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office and consultants from a consortium made up of Societa Italiana di Monitoraggio (SIM) SpA in Italy in association with B.A.R.S. Consulting Ltd in Tajikistan. The team includes technical expertise on the

national environmental and sustainable development strategies, evaluation methodologies, and the GEF.

SIM and B.A.R.S. staff qualify under the Office's ethical guidelines, and the consortium has signed a declaration of interest to indicate the absence of any recent (last three to five years) relationship with GEF support in the country. The GEF operational focal point in the country will act as a resource person to facilitate the evaluation process by identifying interviewees and source documents, organizing interviews, meetings and field visits, and the initial and final consultation workshops.

The evaluation team will foster comprehensive stakeholder engagement and communication throughout the evaluation process, with the following objectives: to ensure the evaluation process is transparent and participatory while at the same time independent; to gather additional information and data that can be triangulated with more traditional data sources; and to promote use of the evaluation once completed, by facilitating learning and dissemination of evaluation findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

These objectives will be achieved through a number of means including in-country stakeholder consultation workshops at the start and completion of the evaluation, and an online stakeholder consultation platform moderated by the evaluation team. The platform will be used to discuss key evaluation questions, share information on the evaluation process and fieldwork, and conduct due diligence on the draft evaluation products.

The methodology includes a series of components using a combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods and tools. The expected sources of information include:

- **Project level.** Project documents, project implementation reports, midterm evaluations, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews,

reports from monitoring visits, and any other technical documents produced by projects.

- **Country level.** National sustainable development agendas, environmental priorities and strategies, GEF focal area strategies and action plans, global and national environmental indicators.
- **GEF Agency level.** Country assistance strategies and frameworks and their evaluations and reviews.
- **Other evaluations.** Evaluative evidence at country level from other evaluations previously conducted either by the Office, by the evaluation offices of GEF Agencies, or by other national or international evaluation departments.
- **Stakeholder interviews (individual and focus groups).** With GEF stakeholders, including the GEF operational focal point; relevant government departments; bilateral and multilateral donors; civil society organizations and academia (including both local and international NGOs with a presence in the country); GEF Agencies; national United Nations convention focal points; GEF beneficiaries and supported institutions; municipal governments and associations; and local communities and authorities.
- **Field visits.** To selected project sites, using methods and tools developed by the Office, such as the progress toward impact case studies guideline.
- **Country ownership assessment.** Based on an analysis framework designed by the Office to assess degree of country ownership and drivenness of the GEF portfolio.
- **Online stakeholder consultation platform.** In the form of an email group, an online platform was launched during the stakeholder workshop held in Dushanbe during the scoping mission, to facilitate stakeholder consultation

and engagement, gather information and data, and stimulate learning and knowledge sharing during the entire evaluation process. A webinar on evaluation scoping was held soon after for gather further feedback on the key evaluation questions.

- **National stakeholder consultation workshops.** At the start and completion of the evaluation, to gather feedback and comments, any eventual data gaps and/or errors of interpretation.

The quantitative analysis will use indicators to assess the relevance and efficiency of GEF support (that is linkages between GEF support and national priorities, time and cost of preparing, and implementing projects, and so on, and so forth) and measure GEF results (that is progress towards achieving global environmental impacts) as well as performance (aggregating implementation and completion ratings available from terminal evaluations and terminal evaluation reviews). Available statistics and scientific sources, especially for national environmental indicators, will also be used where appropriate.

The evaluation team will use the standard tools and protocols for CPEs and adapt these to the national context. These tools include a project review protocol to conduct the desk and field reviews of GEF projects, an outline for the country environmental legal framework analysis and the global environmental benefits assessment, and interview guides to conduct interviews with different stakeholders. As indicated earlier, country ownership and drivenness will be analyzed using an analysis framework being developed based on the one used for a similar analysis in OPS5 (GEF IEO 2013a). Progress toward impact will be analyzed by designing and conducting a series of case studies on a selection of completed projects through a focal area and/or geographic cluster approach. The tool will be the theory of change for broader adoption mechanisms for progress to

impact developed by the Office for OPS5 adapted to suit country portfolio analysis.

The Tajikistan CPE will include visits to project sites for field observation of results achieved. The criteria for selecting the sites will be finalized at the start of the evaluation phase, with emphasis placed on both ongoing and completed projects. The evaluation team will decide on specific sites to visit based on the initial review of documentation and balancing needs of representation as well as cost effectiveness of conducting the field visits.

Quality assurance will be performed on the final report by a peer review panel composed of independent national experts. The expertise provided covers the relevant scientific and technical aspects of the peer review function related to the GEF focal areas.

C.6 Process and Outputs

These country-specific terms of reference have been prepared based on visits to Tajikistan conducted by the Office in October 2014 and March 2015. The first mission was conducted with the purpose of exploring existing opportunities for and interest in engaging with the available national institutional and individual expertise, both for providing quality assurance and for conducting country-based evaluation data gathering and analysis. Evaluation scoping was conducted during this first mission to Dushanbe as well as through an online stakeholder consultation that helped identify key issues to be included in the evaluation. The second mission was an opportunity to officially launch the evaluation and formally introduce the SIM and B.A.R.S. team to GEF national stakeholders. These terms of reference conclude the evaluation preparatory phase and set the scene for the evaluation phase, during which the evaluation team will collect data and information, and review literature and other information sources to extract existing reliable evaluative evidence. This evaluation phase will include the following steps:

Preparation of specific inputs to the evaluation, including:

- A GEF portfolio database that describes all GEF support activities within the country, basic information (by GEF Agency and focal area), their implementation status, project cycle information, GEF financing and cofinancing, major objectives and expected (or actual) results, key partners per project, and so on, and so forth.
- A country environmental legal framework (GEF IEO 2012a) that provides an historical perspective of the context in which GEF projects have been developed and implemented in Tajikistan. This document will be based on information on national environmental legislation; environmental policies of the government administration (plans, strategies, and similar); and the international agreements signed by Tajikistan presented and analyzed through time so as to be able to connect with particular modalities of GEF support.
- A global environmental benefits assessment that assesses the country's contribution to the GEF mandate and its focal areas based on appropriate indicators, such as those used in the System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources ((biodiversity, climate change and land degradation) and others used in projects documents.
- Progress toward impact case studies, selected in consultation with the Office's staff, to assess progress of a selection of completed projects towards achieving environmental impact. Case studies will report on selected projects and/or clusters of project in a specific GEF focal area in a national geographic region.
- Project review protocols (project evaluation templates that contain in a concise yet comprehensive form, all the necessary evaluative information needed for conducting an aggregate analysis of the effectiveness and results, the

relevance, and the efficiency of the portfolio in a concise yet comprehensive form) (GEF IEO 2012b).

Triangulation of collected information and evidence from various sources, tools, and methods (GEF IEO 2010c). The procedure elaborated by the Office in its CPEs applies a systematic triangulation approach that cross-checks the entirety of the empirical evaluative evidence and data collected against the set of key evaluation questions. This procedure will be conducted during a data consolidation mission to Tajikistan by the Office task manager working with the SIM/B.A.R.S. team. The aim will be to consolidate the evidence gathered thus far, and identify missing information and analysis gaps to arrive at key preliminary findings.

Preparation of an aide-mémoire that summarizes the preliminary findings and will be distributed to stakeholders one week prior to the final consultation workshop. During this mission, additional analysis, meetings, document reviews, and/or fieldwork might be undertaken as needed.

A stakeholder consultation workshop, conducted with the government and other national stakeholders, including project staff, donors, and GEF Agencies, to present and gather stakeholders' feedback on the key preliminary findings contained in the aide-mémoire circulated prior to the workshop. The workshop will be an opportunity to identify and correct eventual errors of facts or analysis supported by adequate additional evidence that are brought to the attention of the evaluation team. The workshop will also be used to identify potential areas for recommendations and/or conclusions, and verify their concreteness and feasibility.

A draft Tajikistan CPE report that incorporates feedback obtained at the final stakeholder consultation workshop, and is subsequently circulated to stakeholders. Before circulation the draft report is peer reviewed.

The final Tajikistan CPE report will incorporate the comments received to the draft. The GEF Independent Evaluation Office will bear full responsibility for the content of the report. The focal points consult with the government and assist in preparing a response.

The final CPE report will be published on the GEF Independent Evaluation Office website and will be distributed to the GEF Council Members, the GEF Secretariat, the GEF operational focal point in Tajikistan, the focal points of the environmental conventions in Tajikistan, and

the different agencies and organizations involved in the preparation and implementation of GEF projects and activities in Tajikistan. Learning products from this evaluation will also be identified and developed for specific and targeted audiences.

C.7 Evaluation Key Milestones

The evaluation will be conducted between March 2015 and December 2015. The key milestones of the evaluation are presented in table C.3.

TABLE C.3 Evaluation Key Milestones

Item	Status
Initial communication	August 2014 (completed)
Preparatory work and preliminary data gathering	August–October 2014 (completed)
Pre-evaluation and coping mission	October 2014 (completed)
Launch of the online platform	February 2015 (completed)
Contracting of Consultants (SIM/BARS)	March 2015 (completed)
Tajikistan-specific CPE terms of reference finalized and circulated	June 2015 (completed)
Evaluation phase: literature review, data gathering	April–July 2015
Country Environmental Legal Framework	April–June 2015
Global Environmental Benefits Assessment	April–June 2015
Interviews, GEF portfolio database, project review protocols	March–July 2015
Progress toward impact case studies	June–July 2015
Consolidation: triangulation, additional analysis, gap-filling	August 2015
Preparation of an aide-mémoire (report on preliminary findings)	September 2015
Stakeholder consultation workshop: aide-mémoire presented	October 2015
Draft CPE report completed and circulated for comments	November 2015
Final CPE report circulated for management response	January 2016
Final CPE report presented at the GEF Council meeting	June 2016

Annex D: Evaluation Matrix

Key question	Indicators/basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
Effectiveness, results, and sustainability			
a) Is GEF support to Tajikistan effective in producing results by focal area at the project and aggregate level (program and country portfolio)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project level outcomes and impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project staff and beneficiaries National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus groups and individual interviews Online consultation platform Remote sensing data (if applicable), especially in case of missing/ uncertain baseline data for projects
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies (desk and field-based) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress toward impact methodology Stakeholder engagement analysis, barriers/opportunities, legal framework analysis, and so on, and so forth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggregate level outcomes and impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project staff and beneficiaries National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field visits Focus groups and individual interviews
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies (desk and field-based) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress toward impact methodology Stakeholder engagement analysis, barriers/opportunities, legal framework analysis, and so on, and so forth
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country, regional, global, thematic evaluations Project implementation reviews (PIRs) Terminal evaluations Terminal evaluation reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review GEF portfolio aggregate analysis
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing ratings for project outcomes (that is, self-ratings and independent ratings) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIRs Terminal evaluations Terminal evaluation reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Project review protocols
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in global benefit indexes and other global environmental indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluative evidence from projects and donors Global Environmental Benefits Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature review Meta-analysis of evaluation reports 	

Key question	Indicators/basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
a) Is GEF support to Tajikistan effective in producing results by focal area at the project and aggregate level (program and country portfolio)? (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence/examples of broader adoption (sustaining, replication, scaling-up, mainstreaming, and market change mechanisms in place) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terminal evaluations Data from overall projects and other donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress toward impact methodology Stakeholder engagement analysis, barriers/opportunities, legal framework analysis, and so on, and so forth
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project staff and beneficiaries National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus groups and individual interviews Online consultation platform
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from overall projects and other donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress toward impact methodology
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project staff and beneficiaries National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus groups and individual interviews
b) Has GEF support led to progress toward impact through broader adoption mechanisms over an extended period of time after completion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree of stakeholder ownership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country ownership assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Interviews
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of financial and economic resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reviews (PIRs, midterm evaluations, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) NGO staff Project staff and beneficiaries National and local government representatives Case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Focus groups and individual interviews Project review protocols GEF portfolio analysis Progress toward impact methodology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples of individual and Institutional capacity developed 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project ratings of risks to environmental sustainability 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of environmental legal and institutional framework in the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Environmental Legal Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature review Timelines Historical causality analysis
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence/examples of broader adoption (sustaining, replication, scaling-up, mainstreaming, and market change mechanisms in place) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terminal evaluations Data from donor projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress toward impact methodology
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project staffs and beneficiaries National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus groups and individual interviews Online consultation platform
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project sustainability ratings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reviews (PIRs, midterm evaluations, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific results (outcomes and impact) of GEF support to biodiversity activities in Tajikistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reviews (PIRs, midterm evaluations, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) Biodiversity databases, evaluations, populations Local government representatives Local beneficiaries Case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Interview field visits Progress toward impact methodology

Key question	Indicators/basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
c) Is GEF support effective in producing results related to the knowledge generated and dissemination of lessons learned in GEF projects with partners in and outside Tajikistan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project M&E ratings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIRs, MTEs, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and quality of knowledge products produced for dissemination. • Language of knowledge management product(s) • Number of lessons incorporated into new GEF and other initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-related reviews (PIRs, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) • Case studies • Project staffs and beneficiaries • National and local government representatives • National and international information/data repositories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • Progress toward impact methodology • GEF portfolio and pipeline analysis
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of mechanisms and channels for lesson sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO staff • Project staff and beneficiaries • National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus groups and individual interviews • Online consultation platform
d) Is GEF support effective to sustain knowledge generated and shared by GEF projects with partners in Tajikistan (national stakeholders and GEF agencies) and partners outside of the country? Subset of questions: 1. What are knowledge management products/ approaches and technologies supported by GEF projects and programs? 2. How did GEF-supported knowledge management activities improve knowledge management capacity of Tajikistan partners? 3. Is there evidence that GEF project support for knowledge generation and sharing led to progress toward impact through broader adoption mechanisms over an extended period of time after project completion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project M&E ratings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIRs, midterm evaluations, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and quality of knowledge products produced for dissemination • Number of lessons incorporated into new GEF and other initiatives • Evidence of institutional capacity for knowledge generation and sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-related reviews (PIRs, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) • Case studies • Project staffs and beneficiaries • National and local government representatives • National and international information/data repositories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • Progress toward impact methodology • GEF portfolio and pipeline analysis
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence/examples for knowledge management products and practices contributing to broader adoption (sustaining, replication, scaling-up, mainstreaming, and market change mechanisms) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminal evaluations • Data from external to GEF projects • Case studies • Project staffs and beneficiaries • National and local government representatives • National and international information/data repositories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • Progress toward impact methodology • Focus groups and individual interviews • Online consultation platform
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of mechanisms and channels for knowledge generation and sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO staff • Project staff and beneficiaries • National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus groups and individual interviews • Online consultation platform
e) Is GEF support effectively making a contribution to chemicals issues, specifically reduction of POPs, in Tajikistan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project outcomes and impacts that have contributed to chemical reduction issues, specifically reduction of ODS and POPs • Evidence/examples of knowledge products and practices contributing pertaining to generating awareness about chemical issues (POPs, ozone layer, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-related reviews (PIRs, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, etc.) • Case studies • Project staffs and beneficiaries • National and local government representatives • National and international information/data repositories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual interview and focus groups. • Desk review • Progress toward impact methodology • GEF portfolio and pipeline analysis

Key question	Indicators/basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
Relevance			
a) Is GEF support relevant to national environmental priorities and sustainable development needs and challenges?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree of alignment of GEF support and results to sustainable development agenda and environmental priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National sustainable development and environmental policies and strategies Project-related documentation (project documents, midterm evaluations, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, etc.) GEF PMIS Agency project databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Online consultation platform GEF portfolio analysis (by focal area, agency, modality, and project status)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of GEF funding compared to other national and/or international funding for the environmental sector in Tajikistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International databases (for example World Bank Group, Organization for the Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD]) National databases (Department of Statistics etc.) GEF project documents, terminal evaluations, and terminal evaluation reviews GEF portfolio 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall degree of country ownership Evidence of involvement of stakeholders in project, formulation and implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government representatives Agency staff Donor and civil society representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus groups and individual interviews
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Environmental Legal Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature review Timelines and historical causality analysis
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country ownership assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Interviews
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of GEF supporting development needs (that is income generating, capacity building) and reducing challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National sustainable development and environmental policies, strategies and action plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review GEF portfolio analysis by focal area, agency, modality, and project status (national)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree of alignment of the GEF modalities, projects, and instruments with country's needs and challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project-related documentation (project documents, midterm evaluations, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) GEF PMIS Agency project databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review GEF portfolio analysis by focal area, agency, modality, and project status (national)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government representatives Agency staff Donor and civil society representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder consultation Focus groups and individual interviews
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Environmental Legal Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature review Timelines and historical causality analysis

Key question	Indicators/basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
b) Is GEF support relevant in contributing to poverty alleviation and creation of sustainable livelihoods, including environmental sustainable jobs, in Tajikistan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project outcomes and impacts that resulted in the creation of sustainable livelihood prospects • Projects outcomes and impacts demonstrating evidence of strengthened individual and collective capacity for sustainable livelihood generation • Project outcomes and impacts with evidence of increased development of human, social capital and/or built physical, financial, and natural capital • Project outcomes and impacts supporting increased resilience and reduction in environmental vulnerability/volatility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-related reviews (PIRs, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) • Case studies • Project staff and beneficiaries • National and local government representatives • National and international information/data repositories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • Interviews and focus groups • GEF portfolio and pipeline analysis
c) Is GEF support to Tajikistan relevant to the objectives linked to the different global environmental benefits in the climate change, biodiversity, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals focal areas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree of alignment of GEF support and results with global environmental indicators in GEF focal areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Conventions action plans • Resource Allocation Framework and System for Transparent Allocation of Resources global benefit index (for biodiversity and climate change) • Global environmental indicators (land degradation, international waters, ODS, and so on, and so forth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • Project field visits • Project review protocols
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Environmental Legal Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review • Timelines and historical causality
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree of alignment of GEF support and results with focal area objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF phases' focal area strategies • GEF website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree of alignment of GEF support and results with national targets and commitments under conventions and multilateral environmental agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention documents and websites • National reports and communications to conventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-related documentation (project document, PIRs, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) • GEF PMIS • Agency project databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF portfolio analysis (by focal area, agency, modality, and project status)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government officials • Agency staff • Donor and civil society representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder consultation • Focus groups and individual interviews
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Environmental Benefits Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review

Key question	Indicators/basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
d) Is GEF support relevant to the GEF focal area programs and strategies and GEF focal area action plans in Tajikistan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree of alignment of GEF support with the National Environmental Action Plan national reports to the Rio Conventions' NBSAP POPs National Implementation Plan; national capacity self-assessment, and so on, and so forth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF enabling activity reports and products (for example national capacity needs self-assessment, National Environmental Action Plan, National Action Plan for Adaptation, national reports to United Nations conventions, and so on, and so forth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Online consultation platform
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government officials Agency staff Donor and civil society representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder consultation (focus groups, individual interviews)
e) Is the GEF and its agencies supporting environmental and sustainable development prioritization, country ownership, and the decision making process in Tajikistan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples of new decision making mechanisms and resulting decisions Changes in degree of country ownership over time Examples of movement of national/local efforts towards sustainable development activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF instrument Council decisions Focal area strategies GEF-4 and GEF-5 programming strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review GEF portfolio analysis (by focal area, agency, modality and project status)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project-related documentation (project documents, PIRs, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) GEF PMIS Agency project databases 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF Secretariat staff Agency technical staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Environmental Benefits Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature review
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Environmental Legal Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature review Timelines and historical causality analysis
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country ownership assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Interviews
f) Is GEF support relevant in reducing gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project outcomes and impacts pertaining to gender empowerment/equality reported in knowledge management products and/or project reports Number of projects that consider gender empowerment/equality as specific result (outcome and impact) Information on national progress in reducing gender inequalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project-related documents (PIRs, mid-term evaluations, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) Case studies NGO staff Project staff and beneficiaries National and local government representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Focus groups and individual interviews GEF portfolio and pipeline analysis

Key question	Indicators/basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
Efficiency			
a) How much time, effort, and financial resources (including cofinancing) does it take to formulate and implement projects in Tajikistan, according to GEF support modality?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process indicators: (project cycle steps), preparation and implementation cost by type of modalities, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project-related documentation (project documents, PIRs, midterm evaluations, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) GEF PMIS Agency project databases Resource Allocation Framework pipeline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review GEF portfolio analysis Timelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of dropped, canceled, and rejected projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF Secretariat staff, agency staff, government officials GEF PMIS GEF portfolio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews and field visits Project review protocols
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF financing versus cofinancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government, donors, NGOs, beneficiaries PMIS and project documents 	
b) What are the roles, and types of engagement and coordination among different stakeholders in project implementation in Tajikistan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of participation from various stakeholder groups in GEF-related forums and/or coordination meetings, as recorded in the meeting minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project-related reviews (PIRs, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) Meeting minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Meta-analysis of evaluation reports
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of the roles and responsibilities of GEF national actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project staff Government representatives GEF Secretariat staff GEF agency technical staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus groups and interviews Field visits Institutional analysis Online consultation platform
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types and quality of coordination between GEF projects and with other donors 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence of a national coordination mechanism for GEF support 		
c) Are there synergies between: GEF Agencies in GEF programming and implementation; national institutions for GEF support; and GEF and other donor support in Tajikistan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of interaction and cooperation between actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project-related reviews (PIRs, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews, and so on, and so forth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review and meta-analysis of evaluation reports Interviews and field visits Online consultation platform
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of effective communication and technical support between GEF project agencies and organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF agency staff National executing agencies Project staff National and local government officials NGO staff and donor representatives 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples of complementarity of GEF support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluations of other donor projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta-analysis of evaluation reports

Key question	Indicators/basic data	Sources of information	Methodology
<p>d) What role does M&E play in project adaptive management and overall efficiency in Tajikistan?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of use of M&E information to improve project management and performance • Cases of consideration and use of lessons learned • GEF tracking tools correctly filled and used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-related documentation (especially PIRs, midterm evaluations, terminal evaluations, terminal evaluation reviews) • GEF agency staff and GEF focal points • GEF tracking tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • GEF portfolio analysis • Interviews • Online consultation platform
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of lessons learned transferred to parallel initiatives or incorporated into future initiatives (projects, programs, policies, and portfolios) • Number of instances of previous lessons learned incorporated into new project documents • Percentage of project documents with previous lessons learned incorporated • M&E ratings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents • Project terminal evaluation reports • Midterm evaluation reports • Policy makers/government officials • GEF Secretariat and Agencies' staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • Interviews • Online consultation platform

Annex E: Interviewees and Focus Group Members

Khairullo Ibodzoda, CEP Chairman, GEF Political and Operational Focal Point

Shams Nazarov, CEP First Deputy Chair, Focal Point for the Vienna Convention and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Oykhon Sharipova, CEP Deputy Chair and Focal Point for Stockholm and Aarhus conventions

Abdulqodir Maskaev, CEP, Head of Department for Wildlife Conservation and Focal Point for Bonn and CITEC (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) conventions

Homidjon Rasulzoda, CEP, Head of Hydromet and Focal Point for UNFCCC

Neimatullo Safarov, CEP, Head of the National Center for Biodiversity and Biosafety and Focal Point for UNCBD

Abdusalim Juraev, Director, National Center on Implementation of Tajikistan Commitments under the Stockholm Convention (POPs)

Madibron Saidzoda, Director, State Agency of Specially Protected Natural Areas

Akbar Davlatov, Chief Forester, Romit Biosphere Reserve Romit

Madina Begmatova, Junior Officer, UNDP, GEF-SGP

Khurshed Kholov, Program Manager, GEF-SGP Coordinator, Energy and Environment Program, UNDP

Firdavs Faizulloev, Program Manager, Emergency Risk Management Program, UNDP

Mirzokhaidar Isoev, Manager, ODS Phase-out project, UNDP

Bobojon Yatimov, Program Manager, World Bank Group

Buadokpheng Chansavat, Portfolio Specialist, ADB Tajikistan Resident Mission

Gulsun Farosatshoeva, Senior Project Assistant, ADB Tajikistan Resident Mission

Akmal Erkaev, Senior Analyst, EBRD

Jamshed Kholov, Project manager, EBRD

Muazama Burkhanova, Chairperson, Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives

Ilkhom Muminov, Project Manager, Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives

Farhat Khujov, Chairperson, CBO Jamoat Resource Center, Urmetan Jamoat, Aini District

Nematullo Nazarov, Chairperson, CBO Jamoat Resource Center, Ivan Tojik, Mountainous Matcha District

Umarali Abdulov, Chairperson, CBO Jamoat Resource Center, Khonakoi Kuhi Jamoat, Gissar District

Gulshan Karimova, Chairperson, CBO Jamoat Resource Center, Sabo Jamoat, Shahrinav District

Ghani Khaitov, Chairperson, CBO Jamoat Resource Center, Rabot Jamoat, Tursunzade District

Ilsomuddin Murodov, Chairperson, CBO Jamoat Resource Center, Romit Jamoat, Vakhdat District

Dmitry Prudskikh, Chairman, Youth Group for the Protection of the Environment (NGO)

Ikrom Mamadov, Project Manager, Youth Group for the Protection of the Environment (NGO)

Umed Ulugov, Project Manager, Globus (NGO)

Shavkat Saidmurodov, Project Manager, Scientist Women (NGO)

Mirzomudin Sidirov, Director, Sari Nai Farm, Shirin Chashma Jamoat, Tajikabad District

Narzimurod Kholov, Farmer Advisory Services in Tajikistan (FAST)

Shodibek Kurbanov, National Coordinator, Care International (2006–08); Biodiversity Expert, UNDP (2009–10)

Mahmad Safarov, Climate Change Specialist, Pilot Project for Climate Resilience

Manzura Sultanova, Chair, Saodat NGO

Yuri Skochilov, Chairman, Youth EcoCentre (NGO)

Ikrom Akhmedov, Land Degradation Unit Consultant/Loan Officer, Kumsangir District

Munira Inoyatova, Chair, NGO Sustainable Human Development

Gulshan Kululova, previously Head, Telman Jamoat, current Head, Istiqlol Jamoat, Kumsangir District

Rahimjon Nazarov, Farmer Field School Consultant/Loan Officer, Kumsangir District

Abdumanon Abdusalomov, previous Chairman, Jamoat Resource Center/Loan Officer, Kabodiyon District

Sharofiddin Nuriddinov, previous Chairman, Jamoat Resource Center, Jura Nazarov Jamoat, Shahrituz District

Juma Kurbonshoev, Land Degradation Unit Consultant/Loan Officer, Shahrituz District

Yusuf Mamataliev, Head, Rushdi Obshoron, (micro-finance organization) Shahrtuz District

Jurakul Oltiev, Forestry Officer, Shahrtuz District

Said Eshonov, Head, Dekhkan Farm, Khudoykulov Jamoat, Shahrtuz District

Norkul Yuldoshev, previous Chairman, Jamoat Resource Center, Nuri Vakhsh Jamoat, Jilikul District

Barno Erdanova, previous Deputy Chairman, Jamoat Resource Center, Nuri Vakhsh Jamoat, Jilikul District

Gulnora, female resident, Qum Village, Jilikul District

Karshi Aliev, member, Tugai Forest Protection Committee and Leaseholder, Jilikul District

Kurbonmahmad Bekmurodov, head of household and farmer, Qum Village, Jilikul District

Shodimurod Kenjaev, Loan Officer, Jilikul District

Annex F: Sites Visited

No.	GEF project ID	Site name
1	1854	Khonakoi Kuhi Jamoat, Gissar District
2	1854	Sabo Jamoat, Shahrinav District
3	1854	Rabot Jamoat, Tursunzade District
4	1854	Romit Jamoat, Vakhdat District
5	1872	Urmetan Jamoat, Aini District
6	1872	Shirin Chashma Jamoat, Tajikabad District
7	1872	Ivan Tojik Jamoat, Mastchohi Kuhi District
8	3237	Telman Jamoat (present Istiqlol), Kumsangir District
9	3237	Nuri Vakhsh Jamoat, Jilikul District
10	3237	Khudoykulov Jamoat, Shahrituz District
11	3237	Jura Nazarov Jamoat, Shahrituz District
12	3237	Vahdat Jamoat, Kabodiyon District
13	2377	Jirgatal Jamoat, Jirgatal District
14	2377	Pildon Jamoat, Jirgatal District
15	2377	Yangishahr Jamoat, Jirgatal District
16	4352	Local authority of Kulyab District
17	4352	Dahana Jamoat, Kulyab District

Annex G: Final Workshop Participants

Oykhon Sharipova, Deputy Chair and focal point for Stockholm and Aarhus conventions

Abdulqodir Maskae, Head of Department for Wildlife Conservation and Focal Point for Bonn and CITEC (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) conventions

Tatiana Novikova, National Center for Biodiversity and Biosafety

Bashid Suriev, Head of Laboratory, Agency for Hydrometeorology

Firuz Nasyrova, Main Specialist

Zarif Khalilov, Leading Specialist

Jamoliddin Jamolov, Editor of the newsletter

Nilufar Nazirova, International Affairs Department

Shahlo Azizbekova, International Affairs Department

Ubaidullo Akramov, Leading Specialist of State Agency of Specially Protected Natural Areas

Akbar Davlatov, Chief Forester, Romit Biosphere Reserve

Gulshan Kululova, Previous Chair of Telman Jamoat

Gulsun Farosatshoeva, Senior Project Assistant, ADB Tajikistan Resident Mission

Nodira Pirmanova, Program Assistant, World Bank Group

Fayoz Tursunov, Project Manager, World Bank Group

D. Kuvvatov, World Bank Group

Khurshed Kholov, Program Manager, Energy and Environment Program, GEF-SGP Coordinator, UNDP

Nargizakhon Usmanova, Program Analyst, UNDP

Madina Begmatova, Junior Officer, UNDP, GEF-SGP

Muazama Burkhanova, Chairperson, Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives

Farhat Khujov, Chairperson, Urmetan, Jamoat Resource Center

Umarali Abdulov, Chairperson, Khonakoi Kuhi, Jamoat Resource Center

Gulshan Karimova, Chairperson, Sabo Jamoat Resource Center

Ghani Khaitov, Chairperson, Rabot Jamoat Resource Center

Ilsomuddin Murodov, Chairperson, Romit Jamoat Resource Center

Svetlana Blagoveshenskaya, Manager, CAMP Kuhiston

Abdulhamid Kayumov, Director, CAREC Tajik branch

Narzimurod Kholov, Farmer Advisory Services in Tajikistan (FAST)

Shodibek Kurbanov, National Coordinator, Care International (2006–08), Biodiversity Expert, UNDP (2009–10)

Malika Babadjanova, Evaluation Panel Expert
Qurbonjon Kabutov, Academy of Sciences

Bahrom Mamadaliev, Expert, Pilot Project for
Climate Resilience

Carlo Carugi, Senior Evaluation Officer, GEF
Independent Evaluation Office

Alessandro Tacchini, International Monitoring and
Evaluation Specialist

Bakhtiyor Begmuradov, National Team Leader

Alikhon Latifi, Senior Consultant, Biodiversity
Specialist

Tatiana Alikhanova, Senior Consultant, Chemicals
Specialist

Murod Ergashev, Senior Consultant, Land
Degradation Specialist

Malika Abdulvasieva, Junior Consultant, Social
and Gender Specialist

Tanzila Ergasheva, Junior Consultant, Economic
and Financial Analyst

Ruben Avidzba, Junior Consultant, Legal and
Administrative Assistant

Annex H: GEF Portfolio in Tajikistan

H.1 National Projects

GEF ID	Agency	Focal area	Type	GEF phase	Project	Status	GEF grant (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
15	UNDP-UNEP	ODS	MSP	GEF-2	Program for Phasing-out Ozone-Depleting Substances	C	898,943	271,502
830	UNDP	CC	EA	GEF-2	Enabling the Republic of Tajikistan to Prepare its First National Communication in Response to its Commitments to the UNFCCC	C	327,000	10,000
996	UNDP	BD	EA	GEF-2	Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan with Clearing House Mechanism	C	193,000	10,000
1854	UNDP	BD	MSP	GEF-3	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Gissar Mountains of Tajikistan	C	975,000	1,521,987
1872	WB	MF	FSP	GEF-3	Community Agriculture and Watershed Management	C	4,500,000	13,300,000
1886	UNDP	CC	EA	GEF-3	Climate Change Enabling Activity (Additional Financing for Capacity Building in Priority Areas)	C	95,000	10,000
1928	UNDP	MF	EA	GEF-3	National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management	C	199,000	10,000
1955	UNEP	POPs	EA	GEF-3	Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants: National Implementation Plan for Republic of Tajikistan	C	494,323	20,000
2037	WB	BD	MSP	GEF-3	Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation	C	750,000	198,250
2528	UNDP	BD	EA	GEF-3	Additional Financing for Capacity Assessment in Biodiversity Priority Areas	C	222,000	30,000
3027	UNDP	CC	MSP	GEF-4	Support to Sustainable Transport Management in Dushanbe	O	970,000	11,395,195
3129	UNDP	MF	FSP	GEF-4	Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity in the Face of Climate Change	O	1,900,000	2,100,000
3211	UNEP	BD	EA	GEF-4	BS Support for the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework of the Republic of Tajikistan	O	840,000	540,000
3234	ADB	LD	FSP	GEF-3	CACILM: Rural Development Project under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase I	O	3,500,000	19,810,000
3237	UNDP	LD	MSP	GEF-3	CACILM: Demonstrating Local Responses to Combating Land Degradation and Improving Sustainable Land Management in SW Tajikistan-under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase 1	C	975,000	1,053,000
3310	UNDP	MF	MSP	GEF-4	Environmental Learning and Stakeholder Involvement as Tools for Global Environmental Benefits and Poverty Reduction	C	470,000	539,290

GEF ID	Agency	Focal area	Type	GEF phase	Project	Status	GEF grant (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
4160	UNDP	CC	FSP	GEF-4	Technology Transfer and Market Development for Small Hydropower in Tajikistan	O	2,000,000	6,450,000
4352	WB	LD	FSP	GEF-5	Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods	O	5,400,000	16,860,000
4422	EBRD	CC	FSP	GEF-5	Increasing Climate Resilience through Drinking Water Rehabilitation in North Tajikistan	A	2,727,067	23,896,400
4694	UNEP	BD	EA	GEF-5	Support for the Revision of the NBSAPs and Development of Fifth National Report to the CBD	C	220,000	234,000
5223	UNIDO	POPs	EA	GEF-5	Enabling Activities to Review and Update the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	O	181,850	178,000
5236	UNDP	MF	MSP	GEF-5	Strengthening Capacity for an Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System in Tajikistan	O	700,200	750,000
6949	UNDP	MF	FSP	GEF-6	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pamir Alay and Tian Shan Ecosystems for Snow Leopard Protection and Sustainable Community Livelihoods	A	4,181,370	19,000,000

NOTE: WB = World Bank; BD = biodiversity, CC = climate change, IW = international waters, LD = land degradation, MF = multifocal; EA = enabling activity; A = approved/endorsed, C = completed/closed, O = ongoing.

H.2 Regional Projects

GEF ID	Agency	Focal Area	Type	GEF phase	Name	Status	GEF Grant (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
73	WB	IW	FSP	GEF-1	Water and Environmental Management in the Aral Sea Basin	C	12,000,000	9,000,000
1025	UNEP	BD	FSP	GEF-3	In Situ/On Farm Conservation and Use of Agricultural Biodiversity (Horticultural Crops and Wild Fruit Species) in Central Asia	C	5,718,070	6,145,595
1694	UNEP	BD	MSP	GEF-3	Development of the Econet for Long-term Conservation of Biodiversity in the Central Asia Ecoregions	C	750,000	1,385,000
2175	UNEP	LD	MSP	GEF-3	UNEP's Regional Resource Center for Asia and Pacific & Interstate Sustainable Development Commission (ISDC) for Central Asia	C	975,000	1,715,500
2331	UNDP- UNEP, UNIDO, WB	ODS	MSP	GEF-4	Preparing for HCFC Phase-out in CEITs: needs, benefits, and potential synergies with other MEAs	C	745,000	535,000
2377	UNEP	LD	FSP	GEF-3	Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains—an Integrated and Transboundary Initiative in Central Asia Phase	C	3,000,000	6,697,380
2504	ADB	LD	FSP	GEF-3	CACILM: Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management Multi-country Partnership Framework Phase 1	C	174,641	0
3185	UNEP	ODS	MSP	GEF-4	Continued Institutional Strengthening Support for CEITs to Meet the Obligations of the Montreal Protocol	C	835,000	408,040
3230	ADB	LD	FSP	GEF-3	CACILM: Central Asia Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project-under CACILM Partnership Framework, Phase 1	C	3,025,000	3,300,000
3231	UNDP	LD	FSP	GEF-3	CACILM Multicountry Capacity Building Project	C	2,865,000	3,311,500
3614	UNEP	POPs	FSP	GEF-4	DSSA Demonstrating and Scaling Up Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for the Control of Vector-borne Diseases in Southern Caucasus and Central Asia	O	2,045,000	3,432,000

GEF ID	Agency	Focal Area	Type	GEF phase	Name	Status	GEF Grant (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
4102	UNDP	ODS	FSP	GEF-4	Initial Implementation of Accelerated HCFC Phase-out in the CEIT Region	O	9,000,000	25,495,000
5000	FAO	POPs	FSP	GEF-5	Lifecycle Management of Pesticides and Disposal of POPs Pesticides in Central Asian Countries and Turkey	A	8,136,986	32,400,000
5301	UNDP	IW	FSP	GEF-5	Enabling Country of the Transboundary Syr Darya Basin to Make Sustainable Use of their Ground Water Potential and Subsurface Space with Consideration to Climate Variability and Change	A	3,500,000	17,500,000
9094	FAO	MF	FSP	GEF-6	Integrated Natural Resources Management in Drought-prone and Salt-affected Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM2)	A	10,981,815	38,606,000
9120	UNEP	BD	MSP	GEF-6	Support to Preparation of the Third National Biosafety Reports to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety—Asia Pacific Region	A	1,099,050	995,000

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