



**GREEN
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Meeting of the Board

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Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Provisional agenda item 10

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5 October 2026

Consideration of funding proposals – Addendum XV

Funding proposal package for FP322

Summary

This addendum contains the following seven parts:

- a) A funding proposal titled "Climate-resilient Landscapes in Central Asia";
- b) No-objection letter issued by the national designated authority(ies) or focal point(s);
- c) Environmental and social report(s) disclosure;
- d) Secretariat's assessment;
- e) Independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment;
- f) Response from the accredited entity to the independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment; and
- g) Gender documentation.

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The documents are presented as submitted by the Accredited Entity.



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Funding Proposal

Project/Programme title:	Climate-resilient Landscapes in Central Asia
Country(ies):	Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
Accredited Entity:	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (GIZ)
Date of first submission:	28 April 2026
Date of current submission	18 September 2026
Version number	V4.0

Disclosure of funding proposal	<i>Note: The Information Disclosure Policy (IDP) provides that the GCF will apply a presumption in favour of disclosure for all information and documents relating to the GCF and its funding activities. Under the IDP, project and programme funding proposals will be disclosed on the GCF website, simultaneous with the submission to the Board, subject to the redaction of any information that may not be disclosed pursuant to the IDP. Information provided in confidence is one of the exceptions, but this exception should not be applied broadly to an entire document if the document contains specific, segregable portions that can be disclosed without prejudice or harm.</i> For private sector proposals, indicate below whether or not the funding proposal includes confidential information. ☒ No confidential information: The accredited entity confirms that the funding proposal, including its annexes, may be disclosed in full by the GCF, as no information is being provided in confidence. ☐ With confidential information: The accredited entity declares that the funding proposal, including its annexes, may not be disclosed in full by the GCF, as certain information is being provided in confidence. Accordingly, the accredited entity is providing to the Secretariat the following two copies of the funding proposal, including all annexes: • full copy for internal use of the GCF in which the confidential portions are marked accordingly, together with an explanatory note regarding the said portions and the corresponding reason for confidentiality under the accredited entity's disclosure policy, and • redacted copy for disclosure on the GCF website. The funding proposal can only be processed upon receipt of the two copies above, if containing confidential information. For public sector proposals, any confidential information should be shared as part of the funding proposal annex to be submitted in confidence.
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Note to Accredited Entities on the use of the funding proposal template

- Accredited Entities should provide summary information in the proposal with cross-reference to annexes such as feasibility studies, gender action plan, term sheet, etc.
- Accredited Entities should ensure that annexes provided are consistent with the details provided in the funding proposal. Updates to the funding proposal and/or annexes must be reflected in all relevant documents.
- Under the [GCF Information Disclosure Policy](#), project and programme funding proposals will be disclosed on the GCF website, simultaneous with the submission to the Board, subject to the redaction of any information that may not be disclosed pursuant to the IDP.

A. PROPOSAL DATA				
A.1. Project or programme	☐ Project ☒ Programme	A.2. Sector	☒ Public ☐ Private	
A.3. Funding modality	☒ Proposal Approval Process (PAP) ☐ Simplified Approval Process (SAP)	A.4. Special Modalities/ Request for Proposals (RFP)	Not applicable	
A.5. Contracting modality	☐ Project specific funded activity agreement incorporating the GCF Standard Conditions (Projects) ☒ Project specific funded activity agreement incorporating the entity's signed accreditation master agreement ☐ Standalone project specific funded activity agreement (for PSAA proposals only)			
A.6. Has Readiness support been used to develop this FP?	☒ Yes ☐ No 2206-17214; 2206-17216. The CN development was partially financed by readiness measures, i.e., Kyrgyzstan (KGZ-RS-004) and Tajikistan (TJK-RS-005)	A.7. Has PPF support been used to develop this FP?	☐ Yes ☒ No	
A.8. Summary of financing information	Currency (GCF holding)	Amount	USD (converted) ¹	Ratio (%)
Total requested GCF funding	EUR	119,580,500.00	136,261,979.76	44.8%
Total co-financing	EUR	144,794,870.00	167,991,008.09	55.2%
Total financing (GCF + co-financing)			304,252,987.85	

¹ Currency conversion to USD is based on Reuters rate in effect. USD equivalents reflected in the GCF Partner Portal may vary due to exchange rate fluctuations. In all instances, the GCF holding currency shall prevail.

A.9. Financial instrument(s) requested for the GCF funding	☒ Grants (non-reimbursable) EUR 119,580,500.00 ☐ Reimbursable grants ☐ Senior Loans ☐ Subordinated Loans		☐ Equity ☐ Results-based payments ☐ Guarantees	
A.10. Result area(s)			GCF contribution	Co-financiers' contribution
	Mitigation total		30.0%	40.0%
	☐ MRA 1. Energy generation and access		0.0%	0.0%
	☐ MRA 2. Transport		0.0%	0.0%
	☐ MRA 3. Buildings, cities, industries and appliances		0.0%	0.0%
	☒ MRA 4. Forestry and land use		30.0%	40.0%
	Adaptation total		70.0%	60.0%
	☒ ARA 1. Livelihoods of people and communities		35.0%	40.0%
	☐ ARA 2. Health, food and water security		0.0%	0.0%
	☐ ARA 3. Infrastructure and built environment		0.0%	0.0%
	☒ ARA 4. Ecosystems and ecosystem services		35.0%	20.0%
A.11. Expected mitigation outcome <i>CORE Impact 1: Total GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered (tCO₂eq)</i>	6,953,950 tCO ₂ eq over the total lifespan of the project	A.12. Expected adaptation outcome <i>CORE Impact 2: Total number of beneficiaries (direct/indirect) receiving adaptation benefits</i>	Number of direct beneficiaries	1,046,062
			Number of indirect beneficiaries	1,480,919
			Number of total beneficiaries	2,526,981
A.13. Implementation period	7 years	A.14. Duration of GCF investment	7 years	
A.15. Estimated duration of impact	20 years	A.16. Expected date of AE internal approval	23 April 2026	
A.17. ESS category²	Category B	A.18. Complementarity and coherence	☒ Yes ☐ No	

² According to the GCF Revised Environmental and Social Policy, it is the AE's role and responsibility to ensure that activities proposed for GCF financing are properly screened, assigned appropriate environmental and social risk categories and that the environmental and social risks and impacts are properly and sufficiently assessed.

A.19. Executing Entity information	Full legal name	Country of registration	Entity type
	Community Development and Investment Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARIS)	Kyrgyzstan	Public Sector – Government-controlled subnational, national or regional entity
	Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic (MoWRAP)	Kyrgyzstan	Public Sector – Government
	Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Public Sector – Government
	Centre for Implementation of Investment Projects under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CIIP)	Tajikistan	Public Sector – Government
	Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Public Sector – Government
	National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NCECC)	Uzbekistan	Public Sector – Government
	Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	Public Sector – Government
	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	Germany	Public Sector – Government-controlled subnational, national or regional entity
A.20. Co-financier information	Full legal name	Country of registration	Entity type
	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Public Sector – Government
	Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan (CEP)	Tajikistan	Public Sector – Government
	National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NCECC)	Uzbekistan	Public Sector – Government
	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Germany	Public Sector – Government
	European Investment Bank (EIB)	Luxembourg	Multilateral or other international organization – an entity formed by treaty, agreement or resolution between participating member states

A.21. Alignment with country NDCs & NAPs	Country	Date of NDC/NAP submission	NDC/NAP objective	Brief description of project's alignment with NDC/NAP objectives	Percentage of target met with proposed project
	Kyrgyzstan	30 September 2025	The Kyrgyz Republic's Third NDC (3.0) targets economy-wide GHG emission reductions of 18% below the projected 2030 baseline unconditionally and 30% with international support. For 2035, the targets are 16% below baseline unconditionally and 39% below with international support. NDC Link EN	The proposed programme aligns with the Kyrgyz Republic's NDC 3.0 by supporting mitigation in agriculture, forestry, and pasture management, which are identified as priority areas under the NDC. Agriculture accounts for 29.7% of total emissions and is the second-largest emitting sector in the country. The programme will help the country achieve 2.59% of the 2035 unconditional, and 1.06% of the conditional emissions-reduction targets; the envisioned country package would cover circa 0.8% of the financing needs.	3.97
	Tajikistan	2 June 2022	Tajikistan's updated NDC commits to limiting greenhouse gas emissions to 60–70% of 1990 levels unconditionally and 50–60% conditionally by 2030. NDC Link EN	The proposed programme aligns with Tajikistan's NDC by supporting action in agriculture and AFOLU, which are central to both mitigation and adaptation priorities. Agriculture is a major source of emissions and AFOLU is identified as a key sector for climate resilience and mitigation co-benefits. The programme would contribute an estimated 0.84–2.19% of the emissions reduction required under conditional 2030 emissions-cap range, relative to the NDC baseline scenario of 23.54 MtCO₂e. For the unconditional range, the programme would contribute 2.19% relative to the lower cap of 21.32 MtCO₂e; the higher cap of 24.87 MtCO₂e exceeds the stated baseline and would not imply a mitigation requirement relative to that scenario; the envisioned country package	2.19

				would cover circa 2.62% of the financing needs. ³	
	Uzbekistan	6 November 2025	Uzbekistan's Third NDC (3.0) increases its economy-wide mitigation ambition to reduce GHG emissions per unit of GDP by 50% by 2035, compared with 2010 levels, building on the earlier 35% by 2030 target. NDC Link EN	The proposed programme aligns with Uzbekistan's NDC 3.0 by supporting implementation in the AFOLU sector, which is included in the country's economy-wide mitigation framework. Agriculture is the second-largest source of emissions and faces significant climate adaptation needs. The programme will help the country achieve 0.36-0.38% of the estimated emissions reduction potential under the 2035 realistic scenario and 0.25-0.28% under the ambitious scenario); the envisioned country package would cover circa 0.65% of the financing needs for mitigation and adaptation.	0.48

³ Assuming USD 1 billion per year from 2027-2030 as outlined in the country's NDC

B. PROPOSAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (max. 500 words)

1. Climate change is intensifying risks to **agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) sectors in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan**, particularly in the Fergana Valley, Surkhandarya and Khatlon. Rising temperatures, drought, shifting seasonal runoff and heavier rainfall are heightening heat and water stress, erosion and land degradation, reducing the productivity and stability of crops, pastures and forests. These risks cross borders - mountain snow and ecosystems regulate downstream water supplies, while connected river basins, irrigation systems, pastures and forests transmit impacts across administrative boundaries. Coordinated regional action is therefore needed alongside national and local measures. AFOLU emissions have increased since the 1990s, while land-based removals have not kept pace. Relative to continued unsustainable land management, improved cropland and orchard practices will reduce emissions and increase soil carbon, while pasture and forest restoration and afforestation will increase biomass and ecosystem carbon stocks.
2. The programme will catalyse **a systemic shift towards climate-resilient, low-emission (CRLE) AFOLU development**. Component 1 will embed climate information in land-use planning, decision-support systems, public expenditure and investment prioritisation, while strengthening capacities to mobilise climate finance. Component 2 will translate plans into locally-led investments in sustainable agriculture, pasture and forest restoration and value-chains. Tailored extension, business support and financing will enable smallholders, forest and pasture users, and MSMEs, particularly women and youth, to adopt CRLE practices and technologies. Component 3 will establish foresight processes, regional AFOLU development pathways, knowledge exchange and an investment platform for coordinated transboundary action. Together, these interventions move beyond isolated investments, institutionalising climate-informed land-use planning and coordination, strengthening financial frameworks, improving capacities and enabling lasting changes in land-user behaviour.
3. The programme will be implemented by GIZ with national executing entities, i.e., MoWRAP and ARIS in the Kyrgyz Republic, CIIP in Tajikistan and NCECC in Uzbekistan as well as MoFs of the respective countries. The programme combines GCF financing with co-financing from BMZ and the countries' own contributions. EIB co-financing of EUR 120 million is envisaged, subject to sovereign borrowing decisions, EU budget approval, and final implementation arrangements. This could scale CRLE agriculture investment, strengthen local financial institutions, crowd in private resources and expand access to affordable finance for rural MSMEs. The programme aligns with the countries' NDCs and Land Degradation Neutrality targets and is expected to enhance the **resilience of 1,046,062 direct and 1,480,919 indirect beneficiaries, avoid or sequester 6.95 million tCO₂e, and bring 939,354 hectares of land under sustainable management, conservation, or restoration** across 180 municipalities.
4. GCF support is additional because the **required transformation cannot be financed through constrained public budgets or commercial capital alone**. It will fund essential public-good, restoration and investment-preparation activities, de-risk MSME finance and mobilise further public and private investment. Sustainability will be achieved by institutionalising CRLE approaches in land-use planning, production, finance and regional cooperation, while replicable delivery models, investment pipelines, green-bond development, the envisaged EIB credit programme and the regional investment platform will support expansion to new beneficiaries and areas.

C. PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

C.1. Climate context (max. 1,000 words for each sub-section, max. 500 words for SAP)

- ☒ Reduced emissions (mitigation)
☒ Increased resilience (adaptation)

Mitigation climate context

5. **AFOLU is becoming increasingly important to the emissions profile of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.** The NDCs and BTRs show that energy remains the largest source of GHG emissions across the three countries, but agriculture has become more significant over time. In the Kyrgyz Republic, energy was the dominant source in 2023 (55%) of total emissions, followed by agriculture (29.7%). Agricultural emissions remained broadly unchanged compared to 1990 in absolute terms but became more prominent in the national emissions profile as energy emissions declined; agriculture accounted for 20.6% of total emissions in 1990, compared with 29.7% in 2023. At the same time, the LULUCF sector remained a net sink, with sectoral removals increasing by 6.9% between 1990-2023, although removals have not kept pace with recent emissions growth. In Tajikistan, energy remained the largest source of emissions in 2022 (40.8%), but agriculture increased from 19.0% (1990) to 34.8% (2022). LULUCF also remained a net sink, but at a limited scale, with net removals of 0.72 MtCO₂e (2022), insufficient to offset emissions growth in agriculture and other sectors. In Uzbekistan, energy remained the largest source in 2022 (64%) of gross emissions, while agriculture accounted for 17%, up from 8% in 1990. The LULUCF sector remained a net sink, but net removals declined by 47.3% between 1990-2022.
6. **Similar AFOLU mitigation practices exist in the region, but adoption remains limited.** Across the proposed AFOLU mitigation activities, similar practices and technologies have already been undertaken, but their uptake remains limited and, in most cases, well below the threshold used to determine common practice.
7. **Conservation agriculture remains at an early stage of adoption in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.** Adoption of conservation agriculture in rainfed cereal production remains limited in both the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. In the Kyrgyz Republic, no-till wheat is concentrated primarily in Osh and Jalal-Abad. Out of 247,600 ha under wheat, only 4,200 ha are under no-till, equivalent to approximately 1.7% of total wheat area. Relative to the country's 438,000 ha of rainfed land, no-till covers less than 1%. In Tajikistan, field evidence indicates a negligible uptake (~1,200 ha under no-till).
8. **Seed potato production remains a niche activity rather than a mainstream practice.** Seed potato production in highland areas is similarly limited. In the Kyrgyz Republic, the current adoption rate of certified seed potatoes is 0.3%. Out of about 65,000 ha of total potato area, farmers applied for seed certification on only 213 ha. In Tajikistan, seed potato production is underdeveloped, and most seed is imported. In Uzbekistan, seed potato production remains a specialised niche. While the country has roughly 1.8 to 2.2 million dekhan farms, only around 70,000-80,000 regularly grow potatoes, and seed potato production is characterised as a much more specialised activity.
9. **Improved orchard technologies remain concentrated among a minority of producers.** For orchard-related interventions, the adoption of improved technologies is also low. In the Kyrgyz Republic, around 10% of fruit farms nationally use improved orchard practices and technologies, while in the target regions, adoption is estimated at below 5%. Orchards established on unproductive rainfed land are even less widespread: despite legislative changes allowing perennial crops on such land, only a very limited number of orchards have been established, estimated at less than 1% of the available suitable land. In Tajikistan, official data indicate 166,612 ha of fruit orchards, including citrus and berry plantations, in 2023, while only 1,224 ha were reported as intensive orchards, an equivalent of an adoption rate of 0.73%. In Uzbekistan, the sector is large and expanding, with 330,000-350,000 ha under fruit and nut orchards, yet modern orchard systems account for only a relatively small share of the total. Adoption of improved tree cultivation is concentrated in stronger commercial hubs and larger farms or SMEs, with adoption likely to be below 20% amongst the target farmers and an even smaller share adopting the full combination of practices proposed under the programme. Improved orchard establishment and management technologies are not yet common practice across the target regions.
10. **Restoration activities are underway, but not yet at transformative scale.** For afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration, national efforts exist but remain insufficient to qualify as common practice. In Uzbekistan, afforestation and reforestation efforts are still falling short of national needs and scaling is constrained by multiple

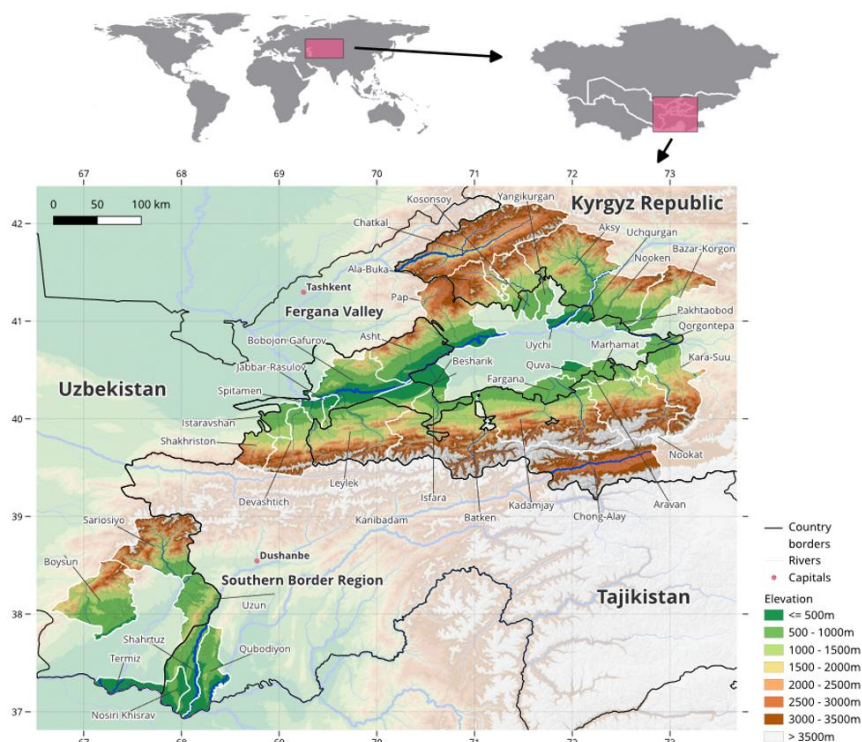
barriers. For forest restoration, current practice does not yet represent sector-wide transformation. In the Kyrgyz Republic, there is substantial national engagement in forest management, including the production of approximately 15 million seedlings annually in 140 ha of nurseries and restoration on more than 1,100 ha each year, supported by national campaigns and community-based approaches. However, the proposed intervention is still differentiated from prevailing practice because it goes beyond tree planting alone and establishes a durable restoration system that integrates community involvement, locally selected climate-adapted species, seedling hardening and appropriate planting design.

11. **Sustainable pasture management and pasture restoration remain limited in practice across the three countries.** In the Kyrgyz Republic, the pasture sector is characterised by high grazing pressure and only partial and inconsistently applied rotational management, with sustainable management remaining limited in practice. In Tajikistan, sustainable pasture management also remains limited, with only 27,718 ha of rehabilitated pasture reported out of 3.8 million ha of total pastureland, indicating that current interventions remain small relative to the scale of degradation. In Uzbekistan, pasture management continues to be dominated by extensive, continuous grazing on accessible areas, with limited rotation and inadequate enabling infrastructure, contributing to widespread degradation; 77.3% of the country's 21 million ha of pastureland is reported as degraded.
12. **Conventional production systems still define the regional baseline.** These include full tillage, removal of crop residues, low or inconsistent use of organic amendments, furrow and flood irrigation, short crop rotations, traditional orchard systems, intensive grazing under conditions of land degradation, and unsustainable forest management. This highlights that, although similar mitigation activities have been introduced in the region, they remain limited to niche, pilot, project-driven, or early-stage implementation rather than representing standard practices.

Adaptation climate context

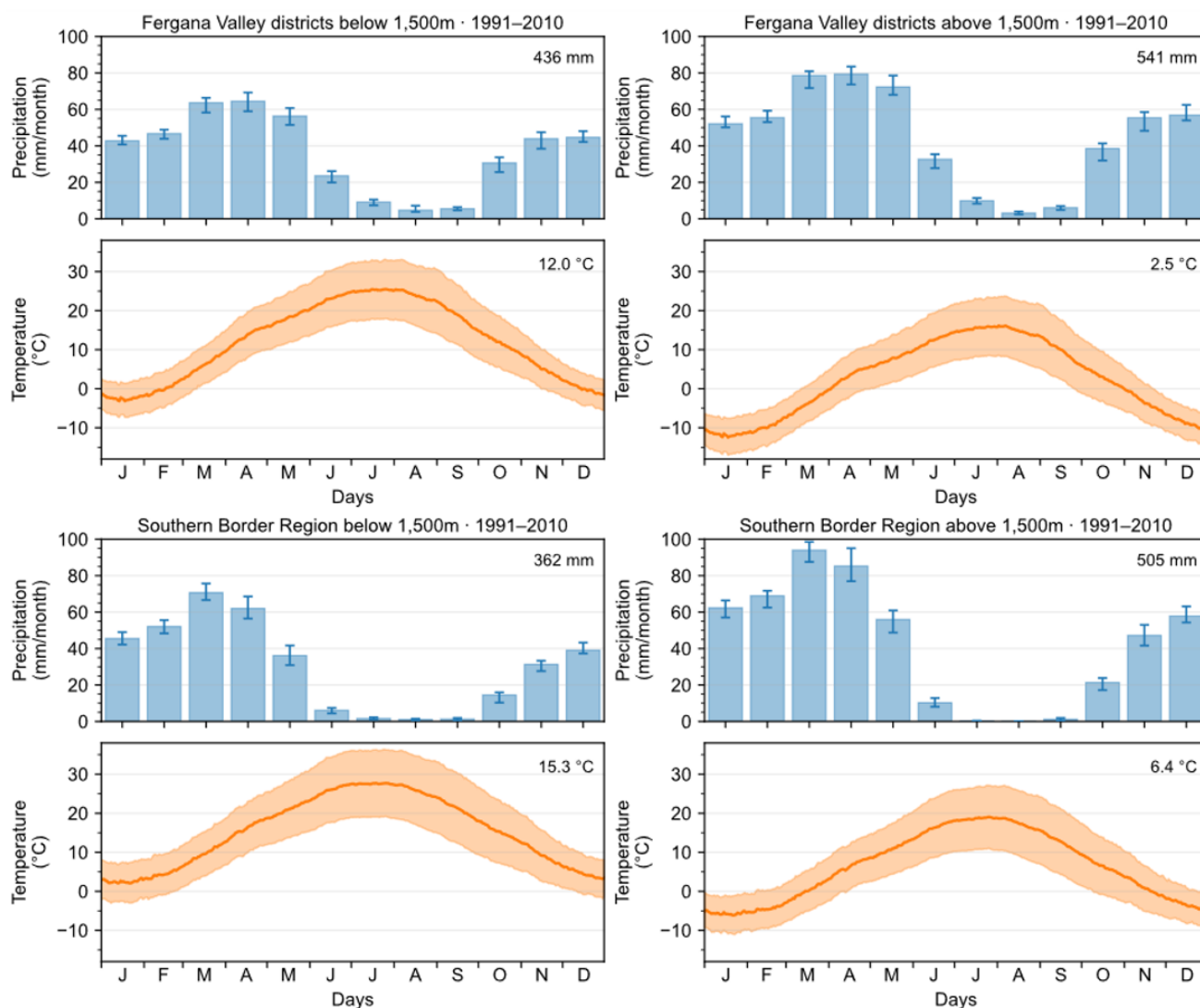
13. The programme covers two transboundary landscapes: the Fergana Valley (Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) and the Southern Border Region (between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). Figure 1 shows the programme areas and elevation gradients, underpinning the climate-risk logic. The selected districts link lowland irrigated zones with foothill, mountain, and upstream water-source areas, allowing higher-elevation climate pressures to propagate downstream through shared water and runoff dynamics.

Figure 1: Programme areas in the Fergana Valley and Southern Border Region between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; districts shown against elevation gradient.



14. The programme areas are predominantly arid to semi-arid and characterised by strong seasonal contrasts in temperature and precipitation. Lower-lying zones depend heavily on upstream water resources during hot, typically dry summer months, when irrigation and pasture water demand peak. Figure 2 illustrates this seasonal regime for the historical baseline period 1991–2010.

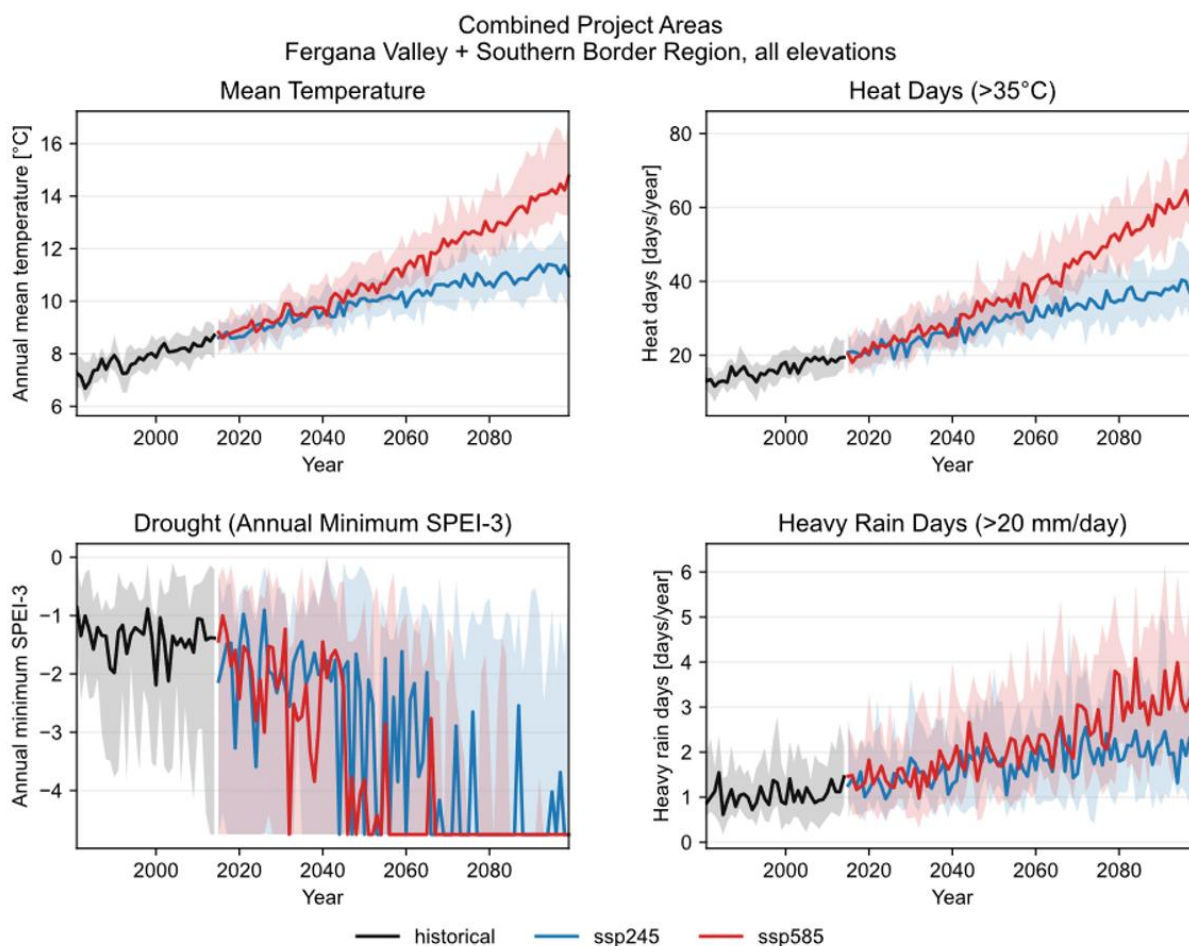
Figure 2: Meteograms for the programme areas in the Fergana Valley (top row) and the Southern Border Region (bottom row), by elevation level (below and above 1,500 m in the left and right column, respectively), for the baseline period 1991–2010 (ensemble median of the 20 selected climate models; whiskers indicate the IPCC “likely range”).



Hazards: Changing Climate Conditions

15. Historical climate trends and projected future conditions have been assessed for each programme area. The analysis uses an ensemble of 20 Global Climate Models from the NEX-GDDP-CMIP6 dataset, presented as the ensemble median with uncertainty shown as the IPCC “likely range.” The methodology, full analysis, and detailed results are provided in the Climate Rationale (Annex 2b). Selected climate indicators are shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Selected indicators of projected climate change in the programme areas, including temperature change, seasonal precipitation patterns, and drought conditions, based on multi-model climate projections (NEX-GDDP-CMIP6; ensemble median and “likely range”).



16. Climate conditions have already changed measurably and are projected to evolve as follows:
 - Mean temperature increases across both programme areas and all elevation levels, with the highest temperatures and strongest heat burdens in lower-elevation zones.
 - Precipitation patterns become more uneven over the year, with wetter wet periods and persistently dry, potentially drier summers, especially where irrigated lowland water demand peaks.
 - Drought conditions intensify, especially in summer and autumn, with the most pronounced signal during the warm season.
 - Climate extremes increase in differentiated ways: extreme heat rises strongly in lower elevations, heavy rainfall risks are more pronounced in foothill and upland areas, and hot dry wind remains concentrated in exposed lowland zones, especially western Fergana Valley and parts of the Southern Border Region.
 - Warming in upstream areas reduces snow-based seasonal buffering and shifts runoff timing, further aggravating downstream dry-season water stress.
17. These projected climate trends align increasingly with local land users' experience. Farmers, pastoralists, and local authorities report warmer conditions, more irregular precipitation, increasing water stress, and growing pressure from extreme weather events affecting agricultural production, pasture condition, and forest health.
18. Together, these changes translate into increasing climate risk for transboundary AFOLU systems and dependent rural populations. At programme level, this risk is expressed through:
 - declining agricultural productivity;
 - reduced pasture carrying capacity; and

- degradation of forest and ecosystem functions;

driven by:

- rising temperatures;
- changing precipitation patterns; and
- increasing frequency and intensity of droughts and extreme weather events;

and aggravated by:

- land degradation and weakened ecosystem integrity;
- constrained water availability; and
- limited adaptive capacity, access to information and finance, and institutional support.

19. For a detailed analysis, please refer to chapter 5 of the Climate Rationale (Annex 2b) on exposure, chapter 6 on climate hazards, chapter 7 on climate impacts, and chapter 8 on vulnerabilities.

Exposure

20. Exposure in the programme areas is structured by five interconnected land-use systems:

- irrigated annual cropland (horticulture and seed potatoes);
- irrigated perennial cropland (orchard-based fruit production);
- rainfed cropland (wheat);
- pasture; and
- forests (walnut and pistachio production).

Across the vertically connected mountain–valley landscapes, these systems are exposed both to location-specific climate hazards and to cascading effects transmitted through shared water resources, land degradation processes, and upstream–downstream linkages.

Expected Climate Change Impacts

21. To assess potential climate impacts, the analysis uses four climate impact chains, tracing how climate hazards translate into direct and cascading impacts on production, ecosystem functions, and climate-sensitive livelihoods. Although the programme distinguishes five core land-use systems, pasture and forest are treated jointly as an interconnected socio-ecological system. The full chains are presented in Annex 2b.
22. The identified hazards are expected to reduce productivity and product quality, increase irrigation stress and production instability, weaken pasture biomass and carrying capacity, and degrade forest health and ecosystem functions. Given the hydrological and ecological connectivity of the landscapes, these impacts can propagate across the mountain-foothill-valley landscape through shared water dependencies, land degradation, and shifting pressures between cropland, pasture, and forest systems. The main impact pathways are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Climate change hazards and expected impacts on the different land use systems in the programme areas.

Land-use System	Aspect of Land-use System	Summary of aspect
Irrigated Annual Cropland (Horticulture & Seed Potatoes Value Chains)	Typical crops	Vegetables, melons, berries
	Programme focus	Onions, Tomatoes (on-field & greenhouse), Garlic, Strawberries (greenhouse); Seed potatoes
	Main geographic expression in the programme areas	- Primarily lowland and lower-foothill irrigated areas, especially downstream parts of canal systems - Heat and irrigation stress are strongest in lower elevations Hot dry wind exposure especially relevant in the western Fergana Valley and parts of the Southern Border Region - Localized heavy-rain impacts are more relevant in foothill irrigated systems and exposed canal / drainage locations
	Main climate hazard pattern	- Mean temperature increase - Stronger seasonal water imbalance - Intensifying summer–autumn drought - Extreme heat - Localized hot dry wind - Localized heavy rainfall and flooding (foothill and middle elevations)
	Main cascading impacts	- Reduced upstream water availability and downstream irrigation shortfalls (Sorg et al., 2012) - Higher evapotranspiration and irrigation demand (Hatfield & Prueger, 2015) - Increasing salinity, soil hardening, and declining soil conditions (Corwin, 2021; Munns & Tester, 2008) - Washout, waterlogging, sedimentation, and canal damage in exposed locations (Assouline & Ben-Hur, 2006) - Crop scorching, early ripening, and rising pest and disease pressure (FAO & Uni Bonn, 2021; Ma et al., 2025); potatoes especially heat-sensitive (Bustan et al., 2004) and prone to disease (Van Der Waals et al., 2013)
Irrigated Perennial Cropland (Orchard-based Fruit Value Chain)	Typical crops	Orchards and vineyards, especially apricot, apple, plum, pear, cherry, almond, pomegranate, and grapes
	Programme focus	Fruit trees
	Main geographic expression in the programme areas	- Mainly lower-elevation and valley / lower-foothill irrigated systems - Especially exposed where orchards depend on canal and pump irrigation from upstream sources (lower elevation) - Some spring-instability effects (e.g. early blooming) also extend into cooler foothill zones - Heat burden especially high in Southern Border Region (lower elevation)
	Main climate hazard pattern	- Mean temperature increase - Stronger summer–autumn drought - Extreme heat - Earlier spring onset - Continued frost risk after warm spells - Heavy rainfall during flowering and fruit setting - Localized hot dry wind
	Main cascading impacts	- Reduced upstream water availability and downstream irrigation shortfalls (Sorg et al., 2012) - Higher evapotranspiration and irrigation demand (Hatfield & Prueger, 2015) - Increasing salinity, soil hardening, and declining soil conditions (Corwin, 2021; Munns & Tester, 2008) - Washout, waterlogging, sedimentation, and canal damage in exposed locations (Assouline & Ben-Hur, 2006) - Reduced fruit size and quality (e.g. for apples: Reid & Kalcsits, 2020) - Altered flowering and earlier (Cleland et al., 2007); pollination mismatch (Hegland et al., 2009; Scaven & Rafferty, 2013; Trunschke et al., 2024; Vanbergen, 2013)

Land-use System	Aspect of Land-use System	Summary of aspect
Cropland Rainfed (Wheat Chain)		- Blossom and young-fruit losses from late frost (Pfleiderer et al., 2019) - Decreased presence of natural enemies (FAO & WFP, 2023) - Fruit rot and disease under wet conditions (e.g. for grapes: (Molitor et al., 2014) - Crop scorching, shrivelling, branch damage, and rising pest pressure (FAO & Uni Bonn, 2021; FAO & WFP, 2023; Ma et al., 2025)
	Main resulting impacts	- Lower and less reliable orchard productivity - Smaller, damaged, or lower-quality fruits - Declining marketability and prices - Higher management costs - Greater long-term risk to orchard assets
	Typical crops	Mainly wheat, and in some locations barley and fodder crops
	Programme focus	Wheat
	Main geographic expression in the programme areas	- Mainly foothill and upland rainfed systems - Drought impacts are widespread across elevations and programme areas - Heavy-rain washout is more localized in sloping and foothill areas
	Main climate hazard pattern	- Mean temperature increase - Intensifying drought conditions, especially in summer and autumn - Extreme heat - More erratic rainfall - Heavy rainfall in foothill areas
Pasture Land	Main cascading impacts	- Declining soil moisture and crop water stress (Leal Filho et al., 2023; Qaseem et al., 2019) - Weaker germination and crop establishment - Disrupted sowing windows and cropping calendars (Minoli et al., 2022) - Soil hardening, erosion, and nutrient loss (Leal Filho et al., 2023) - Localized washout from intense rainfall and mudflows - Crop scorching, and rising pest and disease pressure (Ma et al., 2025) - Reduced animal health (e.g. sheep: (Van Der Waals et al., 2013)
	Main resulting impacts	- Lower and more variable cereal yields (Qaseem et al., 2019) - Greater risk of establishment failure and crop (Khah et al., 1989) - Declining soil fertility and moisture retention (Leal Filho et al., 2023) - Reduced reliability of rainfed production (e.g. wheat: Nazari et al., 2021)
	Typical species	- Pasture used for cattle, sheep, goats, and mixed grazing - Grassland
	Main geographic expression in the programme areas	- Across all elevation levels, especially at the interface to other land-use systems (rainfed cropland and forests) - Heavy-rain, runoff, and slope-instability impacts are strongest in foothill and upland belts rather than in valley lowlands
	Main climate hazard pattern	- Mean temperature increase - Stronger summer–autumn drought - Extreme heat - Declining and less reliable water availability - Heavy rainfall
	Main cascading impacts	- Drying vegetation and weaker regeneration (Jiang et al., 2022) - Rising pest and disease risks (FAO & Uni Bonn, 2021) - Lower pasture biomass and fodder quality (L. Liu et al., 2023) - Shorter grazing periods pushing pressure onto forests and cropland (Azarov et al., 2024) - Reduced slope stabilization and water regulation (Straffelini et al., 2024)
Forests (Non-Timber Forest Products)	Main resulting impacts	- Declining pasture carrying capacity - Higher erosion, mudflow, and landslide risks - Reduced livestock productivity - Declining protective ecosystem functions (water regulation and soil stabilisation)
	Typical species	Juniper, pistachio, and walnut trees
	Programme focus	Walnut and pistachio forests and their non-timber forest products
	Main geographic expression in the programme areas	Mainly upper elevations; mostly around Fergana Valley

Land-use System	Aspect of Land-use System	Summary of aspect
Walnuts & Pistachios)	Main climate hazard pattern	• Mean temperature increase • Stronger summer–autumn drought • Declining and less reliable water availability • Heavy rainfall
	Main cascading impacts	• Reduced slope stabilization and water regulation (Moos et al., 2023) • Increasing pest and disease pressure (e.g. pistachio very sensitive: (Kaiypovich Kenzhebaev et al., 2023) • Forest fire pressure (Zong et al., 2020) • Decreased forest health and decline in biomass (e.g. for juniper: Seim et al., 2016) • Decreased product quality (e.g. for walnuts: (Mahmoudian et al., 2021) • Seedling failure (Pozner et al., 2022)
	Main resulting impacts	• Weaker regeneration and reduced produce yield • Higher erosion, mudflow, and landslide risks (Assouline & Ben-Hur, 2006) • Declining protective ecosystem functions (water regulation and soil stabilisation)
Cross-cutting	Typical system context in the programme area	Connected mountain–foothill–valley landscape linking upper catchments, forests, pasture, rainfed cropland, and irrigated cropland
	Main geographic expression in the programme areas	• Upper catchments and steep slopes: reduced snow and glacier buffering and weaker runoff regulation • Foothill and middle elevation: stronger erosion, mudflow, and slope-instability risks under heavier rainfall • Lower valleys and lowlands: transmitted dry-season water stress and irrigation shortfalls • Localized hot dry wind exposure is concentrated mainly in the southern / southwestern Southern Border Region and the western Fergana Valley
	Main climate hazard pattern	• Mean temperature increase • Stronger seasonal imbalance in water availability • Intensifying summer–autumn drought • Heavy rain in foothill and upland areas • Localized hot dry wind
	Main cascading impacts	• Reduced upper-catchment water regulation (Sorg et al., 2012) • Less reliable downstream water supply (Sorg et al., 2012) • Reinforcing land degradation (Leal Filho et al., 2023) • Loss of vegetation cover and protective ecosystem functions (Straffellini et al., 2024) • Pressure shifts between pasture, forest, rainfed, and irrigated systems (Azarov et al., 2024)
	Main resulting impacts	• More unstable water availability • Higher erosion, mudflow, and landslide risks (in higher areas) • Stronger pressure on cropland, forests, and pasture • Reduced livelihood stability, food security, and resilience

Source: Own elaboration, 2026

Vulnerabilities

23. Climate vulnerability is driven by interactions between biophysical constraints and structural socio-economic and institutional limitations. Key factors include land degradation, constrained water availability, fragile ecosystems, limited access to finance and insurance, weak advisory support, patchy climate information, aging infrastructure, and fragmented governance of water, pasture, and forest resources. Together, these conditions increase sensitivity to climate hazards and constrain adaptive capacity.
24. The vulnerability profile differs across irrigated, rainfed, pasture, and forest systems, but several constraints recur landscape-wide, including limited investment capacity, weak technical support, insufficient climate information, and institutional weaknesses in land, water, and ecosystem management. The main vulnerability factors across land-use systems and cross-cutting dimensions are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2. Major vulnerabilities of each land-use system, as well as cross-cutting issues

Land-use System (Main Value Chain)	Key Targeted Vulnerability Factor(s)
Irrigated Annual Cropland (Seed Potato Value Chain)	• Crop variety selection (crop suitability) • Irrigation schemes outdated for current climate • Insufficient water-saving capacities • Insufficient fertilizer management • Insufficient pesticide management
Irrigated Annual Cropland (Horticulture Value Chain)	• Crop variety selection (crop suitability) • Use of water-intensive crops • Irrigation schemes outdated for current climate • Insufficient water-saving capacities • Insufficient plant protection
Irrigated Perennial Cropland (Orchard-based Fruit Value Chain)	• Use of water-intensive crops • Crop variety selection (crop suitability) • Irrigation schemes outdated for current climate • Insufficient water-saving capacities • Insufficient excess-water management • Limited erosion protection practices • Insufficient drainage practices • Insufficient protection practices (e.g. tree/shrub planting) • Insufficient plant protection
Rainfed Cropland (Wheat Value Chain)	• Insufficient soil protection • Insufficient soil fertility management • Crop selection • Insufficient fertilizer management • Insufficient pesticide management
Across Cropland	• Limited access to finance • Limited investment for climate-resilient land use • Crop variety selection • Limited erosion protection practices • Knowledge gaps (management/practices) • Insufficient excess-water management • Insufficient water-saving capacities • Irrigation schemes outdated for current climate • Insufficient protective storage capacities (harvest vulnerable to high moisture conditions) • Low value-added value chains
Pastures	• Overgrazing and pasture mismanagement • High livestock density • Limited pasture rotation • Insufficient pasture management • Under-resourced and overloaded pasture management • Insufficient pasture restoration and management • Unsustainable forest use • Type of vegetation species
Forests (Non-timber Forest Products Value Chain, Walnut & Pistachio)	• Land degradation and soil erosion • Insufficient protection of seedlings (low survival rates of tree plantations) • Limited enforcement of land-use regulations • Tree species composition (selection of tree species and forest composition) • Insufficient forest restoration and management

Land-use System (Main Value Chain)	Key Targeted Vulnerability Factor(s)
	• Unsustainable forest use • Insufficient protective storage capacities (harvest vulnerable to high moisture conditions) • Limited access to finance • Low value-added value chains
Cross-cutting Vulnerabilities	• Lack of climate information services • Limited use of climate information in decision-making • Insufficient land-use planning capacities and information base (e.g. limited geophysical soil analysis, use of GIS) • Lack of cross-sectoral coordination • Lack of transboundary landscape planning mechanisms • Low adoption of climate-resilient practices • Limited awareness of adaptation options • Limited technical support services • Limited access to finance (including limited and unattractive loans) • Limited investment for climate-resilient land use • Land degradation and soil erosion • Insufficient protection of soil, infrastructure, and vegetation • Limited enforcement of land-use regulations • Inflexible local water allocation disadvantaging downstream users

Source: Own elaboration, 2026

Other baseline interventions

25. Section 5.3 of Annex 2a provides an overview of the main projects and initiatives supported by different development partners, together with an assessment of potential synergies with the proposed programme. Most of these projects are confined to a single country, address only selected aspects of the AFOLU sectors' adaptation needs and are implemented predominantly in regions outside the programme's target areas. During the programme development, several implementing organisations and funding partners involved in these initiatives were consulted to inform and refine the programme design, minimise the risk of duplication, and identify opportunities for complementarity and cooperation during implementation. Relevant lessons learned from these interventions have also been incorporated into the programme design.
26. This programme is complementary and coherent with other GCF interventions in the region. In particular, it will build on lessons from CASP+ (FP233), where CIIP also acts as an EE, especially on national climate-informed planning, community-level climate-responsive plans, successful models in agriculture, forestry and livestock sectors, and approaches for monitoring and evaluating impacts, including mitigation impacts. It is also aligned with ADB's Glaciers to Farm project (FP283); while operating in different locations within the partner countries, coordination during the design phase has helped ensure strategic coherence and avoid overlap.

C.2. Economic context (max. 1,000 words)

Macroeconomic indicators that may impact programme feasibility

27. Macroeconomic conditions are supportive, but poverty, rural vulnerability, exposure to external shocks, and constrained public investment capacity remain important considerations. Across Central Asia, around 60% of the population lives in rural areas, while population growth increases pressure on natural resources. Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are lower-middle-income economies where agriculture remains important for livelihoods, particularly in programme areas. In Kyrgyzstan, GDP growth reached 6.2% in 2023 after 9% in 2022, while public debt declined from 49.2% of GDP in 2022 to 45.5% in 2023. Poverty remains significant at 33% under

the national definition. Agriculture accounted for 12% of GDP in 2021, underlining the importance of climate-resilient investment in rural livelihoods and production systems. In Kyrgyzstan, GDP grew by 6.2% in 2023, public debt declined to 45.5% of GDP, and poverty remained 33%. Agriculture accounted for 12% of GDP in 2021 and 25% of employment in 2022. Batken, Osh and Jalal-Abad account for around 53% of the population and 45% of employment, but only 22% of GDP, indicating comparatively low productivity and strong reliance of rural population on agropastoralism for subsistence.

28. In Tajikistan, GDP grew by 8.3% in 2023 and public debt fell to 43.8% of GDP, but vulnerability to external shocks and poverty remain significant. Agriculture accounts for around 25% of GDP and 60% of employment, and 74% of the population lives in rural areas. In Khatlon, 64% of workers are employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing and around 35% of the population lived in poverty in 2023, making resilience investment particularly important.
29. In Uzbekistan, GDP grew by 6% in 2023 and public debt remained moderate at 34.3% of GDP in early 2024. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries accounted for 24.3% of GDP, while irrigated agriculture uses 90% of water. Around half of the population lives in rural areas; in 2018, around 79% of the poor were rural. The Fergana Valley provinces of Andijan, Fergana and Namangan contain around one-third of the national population and have very high population densities, increasing pressure on land and water. Agriculture contributes roughly 36-41% of gross regional product in these provinces, while 63.9% of Surkhandarya's population lives in rural areas.

Policy and institutional environment

30. **Policy and institutional frameworks are broadly supportive, but implementation capacity remains uneven.** Climate strategies, sector mandates, and public institutions provide a basis for AFOLU action. However, Kyrgyz extension services are fragmented and integrated forest management planning is not institutionalised nationwide; Tajikistan has weaknesses in extension, forestry and land restoration implementation; and Uzbekistan, despite more advanced green finance reforms and restoration programmes, still faces gaps in data, technical support, disclosure, and practical application.
31. Regional platforms and strategies support cooperation on transboundary environmental and climate issues, but coordination across sectors, institutions and government levels remains limited. The regional rationale is particularly strong in the Fergana Valley, where interconnected border regions depend on climate-sensitive agriculture and natural resources and face shared pressures linked to land degradation, water stress, migration, food insecurity, and climate-related shocks.

Current industry demand and supply dynamics

32. **Climate-resilient investment is required regionally.** Across the countries, agriculture is highly exposed to land degradation, water stress and climate variability, while many rural producers lack investment capacity. In Kyrgyzstan, pasture degradation is intensified by overgrazing and weak governance; in Tajikistan, water stress and low household investment capacity constrain adaptation; and in Uzbekistan, dependence on irrigated agriculture and degradation of rangelands and forests limit resilience.

Status of access to climate finance

33. Overall, access to climate finance for AFOLU remains limited. Agricultural finance is available through banks, MFIs, NBFIs, leasing providers and development-partner credit lines, but products are often poorly suited to long-term climate-resilient investment. Key barriers include collateral and documentation requirements, limited pipeline preparation, high capital costs and insufficient technical support. Forestry and restoration depend heavily on state budgets and international partners, while carbon finance remains nascent.
34. In Kyrgyzstan, commercial banks, NBFIs, leasing providers and partner-supported green facilities finance agriculture, but eligibility, documentation and collateral constrain access. Forest and restoration finance from state resources, SFE revenues and international partners remains insufficient, and carbon finance is emerging.
35. In Tajikistan, banks and MFIs provide agricultural finance, but only 12.6% of USD 1.4 billion in loans was directed to agriculture and the average local-currency interest rate was 22.4%. Climate-relevant products remain limited. Forest and restoration finance relies mainly on government budgets, SFE revenues and international partners, while operationalising carbon finance remains difficult.

36. In Uzbekistan, agricultural finance includes domestic programmes, leasing and development-partner credit lines. A green finance taxonomy and Green Finance Platform strengthen the enabling environment, but collateral, tenor, data, technical support and pipeline constraints persist. Forestry and restoration funding remains inadequate, while carbon market mechanisms are advancing but not yet sufficient to support AFOLU transformation.
37. The programme can build on existing financing mechanisms. Kyrgyzstan has experience with asset-based revolving schemes through producer groups and cooperatives, where repayments replenish funds for further investments, as well as matching grants under donor- and state-supported programmes. Tajikistan has used matching grants to incentivise beneficiary co-financing for sustainable land management, and Uzbekistan has used them to encourage technology adoption. These experiences provide a basis for scaling financing approaches suited to climate-resilient investment.
38. The programme will build on existing financing mechanisms. Kyrgyzstan has experience with asset-based revolving schemes through producer groups and cooperatives, where repayments replenish funds for sustainability of financing cycles, as well as matching grants under donor- and state-supported programmes. Tajikistan has used matching grants to incentivise beneficiary co-financing for sustainable land management, and Uzbekistan has used them to encourage technology adoption. These experiences provide a basis for scaling financing approaches suited to climate-resilient investment.

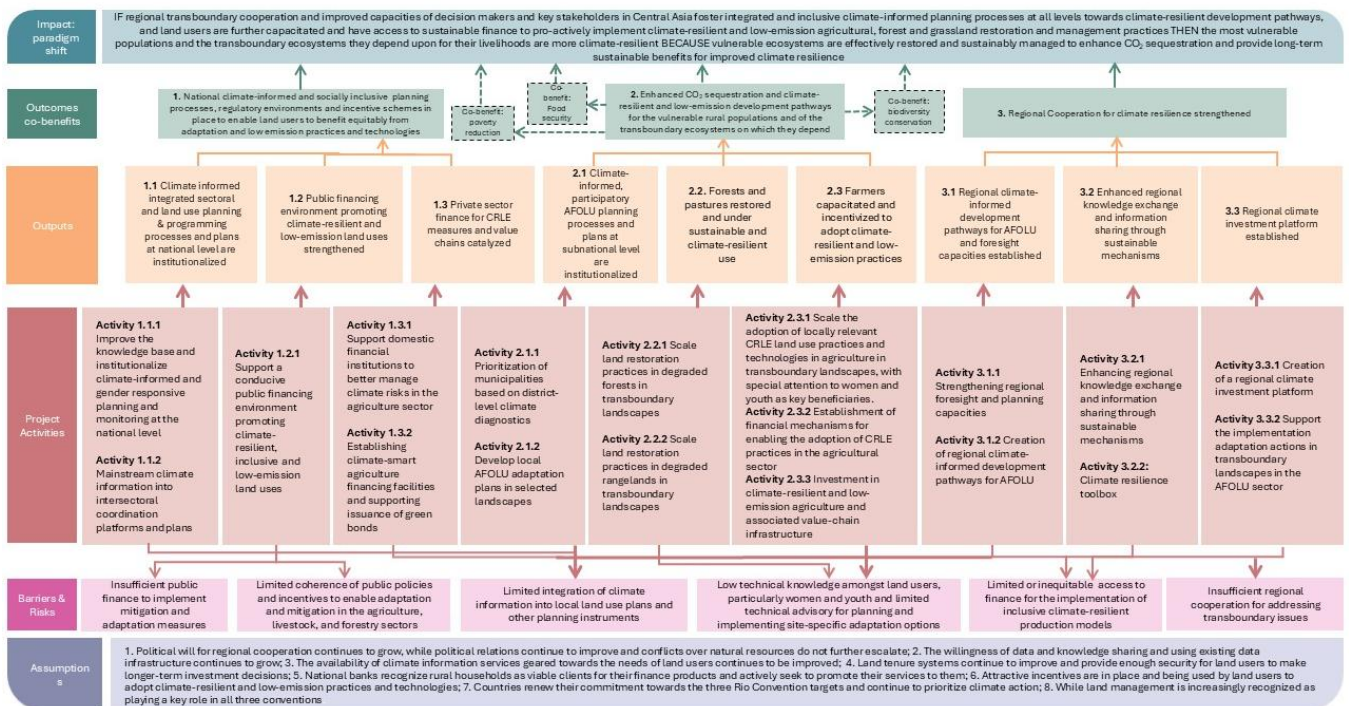
Market failures that justify the use of public financing

39. **Public concessional finance responds to persistent market failures, institutional constraints, and structural financing gaps.** AFOLU investments generate important positive externalities and public goods not fully reflected in private returns, including land restoration, improved water regulation, carbon sequestration, and resilience benefits. Regional economic losses from land and ecosystem degradation are substantial, estimated at around USD 0.4 billion in Kyrgyzstan, USD 0.12 billion in Tajikistan and several billion dollars in Uzbekistan over 2001–2020, with grassland degradation the largest cost. Information failures also reduce investment: weak advisory systems, limited knowledge of CRLE technologies and low capacity to structure and appraise investments constrain adoption. Coordination failures affect pastures, forests and fragmented value chains where outcomes depend on collective action.
40. **Structural financing frictions further limit private investment.** Many AFOLU investments have long payback periods poorly matched to the shorter maturities available in local financial systems. High collateral requirements exclude smallholders and rural enterprises, lending rates often exceed 20%, and foreign-currency lending creates additional risk where farm revenues are in local currency.
41. Institutional failures also remain important. Extension systems and pipeline-development support are weak, LFI often lack experience in appraising climate-relevant investments, and forestry institutions face underfunding, weak local implementation capacity and limited private-sector participation.
42. Please see Annex 2a for details.

C.3. Theory of change (max. 1,000 words, max. 500 words for SAP)

43. The programme seeks to enhance the resilience of 1,046,062 people, to reduce or sequester 6.95 million tCO₂e, and to ensure the sustainable management, conservation, or restoration of about 939,354 hectares of land in key transboundary landscapes.
44. Goal statement: **IF** regional transboundary cooperation and improved capacities of decision makers and key stakeholders in Central Asia foster integrated and inclusive climate-informed planning processes at all levels towards climate-resilient development pathways, and land users are further capacitated and have access to sustainable finance to pro-actively implement climate-resilient and low-emission agricultural, forest and grassland restoration and management practices **THEN** the most vulnerable populations and the transboundary ecosystems they depend upon for their livelihoods are more climate-resilient **BECAUSE** vulnerable ecosystems are effectively restored and sustainably managed to enhance CO₂ sequestration and provide long-term sustainable benefits for improved climate resilience
45. The ToC diagram is presented below.

Figure 4: Theory of Change



Causal pathway of proposed interventions

46. The three outcomes form an integrated pathway towards climate-resilient and low-emission AFOLU sectors. Outcome 1 strengthens the enabling environment through climate-informed planning, coordination, data systems and climate finance capacities; Outcome 2 drives adoption of CRLE practices and technologies in priority landscapes through subnational planning, extension and targeted investments; and Outcome 3 strengthens regional cooperation through foresight, knowledge exchange and financing for transboundary adaptation actions.
47. Outcome 1 (Outputs 1.1-1.3) institutionalises climate-informed AFOLU planning and strengthens conditions for CRLE investment. It addresses barriers, e.g., fragmented climate, land and soil data, limited institutional capacity for climate-informed planning, and insufficient financial-sector readiness. Output 1.1 strengthens Hydromet data management, develops AFOLU-relevant climate information products and integrates these into national digital land information systems, supported by data-sharing protocols and capacity development. Output 1.2 strengthens public finance readiness through capacities for climate and carbon finance and by informing the repurposing of harmful subsidies towards climate-aligned incentives. Output 1.3 catalyses private finance by strengthening financial sector capacity, climate-smart agriculture (CSA) financing facilities, and green bond readiness.
48. Outcome 2 (Outputs 2.1-2.3) scales the adoption of CRLE practices and technologies in priority transboundary landscapes through a sequenced package of planning, capacity building, and investments. Key barriers addressed include subnational capacity to translate climate risks into implementable AFOLU plans, weak producer support systems, and insufficient access to affordable finance and investible CRLE business models. Output 2.1 supports transparent prioritisation of municipalities using climate diagnostics and the preparation and approval of participatory climate-informed AFOLU adaptation plans. Output 2.2 restores forests and rangelands and strengthens their sustainable, climate-resilient management through plans, technical assistance and restoration investments. Output 2.3 enables farmers and value-chain actors to adopt CRLE measures by operationalising e-PICSA, strengthening climate-informed extension services, and providing technical assistance and investment support for priority practices and technologies. Tailored financing mechanisms, pipeline development and operationalisation of the EIB credit programme strengthen access to finance and value-chain investment.
49. Outcome 3 (Outputs 3.1-3.3) deepens regional cooperation to sustain and scale CRLE transformation across Central Asia. It addresses limited foresight capacity, fragmented regional knowledge exchange, and insufficient coordination of finance for transboundary adaptation. Output 3.1 strengthens foresight and scenario-planning capacities and supports shared regional climate-informed development pathways, institutionalised through

training institutions and curricula. Output 3.2 strengthens regional knowledge exchange through the Central Asia Climate Information Portal, an AFOLU climate-resilience toolbox and regional expert pools. Output 3.3 establishes a regional climate investment platform and funding mechanism for joint adaptation actions, supported by technical assistance and investment grants.

50. The ToC assumes continued regional cooperation, better data management, improved climate services, secure land tenure, greater rural finance access, and sustained national climate commitments. Section F1 presents external risks.
51. Countries will experience the pathway with varying intensity according to their readiness, without altering the programme's overall logic; corresponding activity-level differentiation is described in Annex 2a, Section 7.

Barriers

52. The following barriers are hampering the transition to inclusive CRLE AFOLU sectors in the target regions (see Annex 2a for further details):
 - **Barrier 1. Insufficient public finance for mitigation and adaptation:** Public funding for climate action remains limited, creating large gaps in financing mitigation and adaptation priorities.
 - **Barrier 2. Limited policy coherence and misaligned incentives, in agriculture and forestry:** Policies and incentives in agriculture, forestry, and pasture remain largely productivity-focused and not aligned to countries' climate objectives, which can discourage climate action, and may promote maladaptive practices. Policymakers have limited knowledge of the most suitable options to shift finance flows towards climate objectives.
 - **Barrier 3. Limited integration of climate information into local land use plans, national sector plans and other planning instruments:** Weak processes for integration of climate information into land use planning and management, including a lack of remote sensing / GIS-based data and tools for monitoring land use change and weak data management and sharing systems across sectors and ministries as well as across countries. Limited capacities of regional and national experts from government, civil society and private sector to integrate climate information into decision-making, especially when it comes to land use planning and management.
 - **Barrier 4. Limited technical capacity, and advisory support, for site-specific adaptation:** Land users often lack practical advisory services and affordable, locally relevant information on climate impacts and adaptation options. Nature-based and climate-resilient business models are not widely understood or incentivised.
 - **Barrier 5. Limited access to finance for climate-resilient production models:** Smallholders and rural enterprises face persistent financing constraints, including limited collateral, weak credit histories, and low financial literacy. Financial institutions often lack the products and technical capacity needed to assess climate risks and provide climate-informed finance at scale, while the high cost of capital discourages longer-term investments.
 - **Barrier 6. Insufficient regional cooperation on transboundary environmental risks:** Regional cooperation on land use related climate risks remains limited, including weak coordination across borders, limited multi-stakeholder dialogue, and insufficient regional capacity for long-term planning and natural resource management.

C.4. Proposed project / programme (max. 2,500 words, max. 1,000 words for SAP)

53. The Feasibility Study (Annex 2a) provides a detailed programme description. Annex 13 covers mitigation boundaries, leakage, baselines, additionality and expected outcomes. E.2 provides the budget breakdown by activity and country.

Component 1: Enabling environment for climate-resilient and low-carbon AFOLU sectors at national level

54. Component 1 establishes the enabling environment for CRLE development in AFOLU sectors at national level. It strengthens climate-informed, cross-sectoral and multilevel planning, aligns public finance and incentives with climate commitments, and catalyses private finance through dedicated financing facilities and support to local

financial institutions (LFIs). These measures underpin Component 2 investments and Component 3 regional cooperation.

Output 1.1 Climate-informed integrated sectoral and land use planning & programming processes and plans at national level are institutionalised *(fully co-financed by BMZ)*

Activity 1.1.1: Improve the knowledge base and institutionalise climate-informed and gender-responsive planning and monitoring at the national level (GIZ)

55. This activity will strengthen the generation, integration and use of climate, land and soil information in AFOLU planning and monitoring, including improved data management, climate information products and digital land information systems. AI-enabled scenario functions will support consideration of land-use scenarios and trade-offs in government planning. Implemented early, it will provide the technical and institutional basis for local planning and investment under Component 2 and regional knowledge exchange under Component 3.

Action	Executing Entity
Institutional strengthening and improving Hydromet's data management capacities	GIZ
System-based co-creation of innovative, targeted climate information products for the AFOLU sectors	GIZ
Strengthening of digital land information systems at the national level	GIZ
Supporting a conducive environment for the use of digital tools and climate information in government-driven planning and policy processes	GIZ
Fostering capacities on climate-informed planning within sectoral and subnational institutions	GIZ
Institutionalising capacity-building on climate-informed planning	GIZ

Activity 1.1.2: Mainstream climate information into intersectoral coordination platforms and plans (GIZ) *(fully co-financed by BMZ)*

56. This activity will strengthen multisectoral and multilevel coordination for climate-informed AFOLU decision-making. Building on Activity 1.1.1, coordination mechanisms will link sector ministries, technical agencies and subnational actors to improve the use of climate information in cross-sectoral planning, investment programming and policy dialogue (see Annex 2a, section 7.1.1). Implemented in the early and mid-phases, it will create the institutional conditions for Components 2 and 3.

Action	Executing Entity
Strengthening of multisectoral and multiscale coordination for evidence-based, climate-informed cross-sectoral decision-making in the AFOLU sectors	GIZ

Output 1.2 Public financing environment promoting climate-resilient and low-emission land uses strengthened

Activity 1.2.1: Support a conducive public financing environment promoting climate-resilient, inclusive and low-emission land uses (GIZ)

57. This activity will strengthen the policy and institutional basis for aligning public finance with CRLE land-use objectives. It will strengthen climate finance capacities, including on carbon finance opportunities, improve access to suitable instruments, and support the identification and repurposing of subsidies harmful to climate outcomes, including through financial mechanisms under Output 2.3. Building on previous readiness support and Output 1.1, it will improve incentives and financing conditions for Component 2 investments.

Action	Executing Entity
Consolidate existing country climate investment platforms and strengthen the capacities of public institutions in climate finance	GIZ
Enhancing access to innovative climate finance	GIZ
Identification of subsidies that are harmful to climate adaptation and mitigation in the AFOLU sectors	GIZ
Supporting repurposing of subsidies that are harmful to climate adaptation and mitigation in the AFOLU sectors	GIZ

Output 1.3 Private sector finance for CRLE measures and value chains catalysed

Activity 1.3.1: Support domestic financial institutions to better manage climate risks in the agriculture sector (GIZ)

58. This activity will strengthen the capacity of LFIs to identify, assess and manage climate-related financial risks in AFOLU value chains and finance CRLE investments. Training will cover environmental, social and climate risk screening, client assessment, portfolio monitoring and the financial characteristics of climate-resilient production systems, supporting integration into lending and investment appraisal. Implemented in the early and mid-phases, it will prepare institutions for CSA financing and green bond support under Activity 1.3.2 and strengthen their capacity to originate and scale CRLE finance.

Action	Executing Entity
Development of training module for financial institutions	GIZ
Rollout of training programme	GIZ

Activity 1.3.2: Establish climate-smart agriculture financing facilities and support issuance of green bonds (GIZ)

59. This activity will support selected LFIs to establish climate-smart agriculture financing capabilities and readiness for thematic or green bond issuance. Support will cover partner selection, design and operationalisation of CSA financing facilities, and transaction-oriented green or thematic bond frameworks, including investment screening, eligibility criteria, reporting and monitoring. Implemented in the mid-phase, it will build on Activity 1.3.1, complement Output 1.2 and create financing pathways for CRLE adoption.

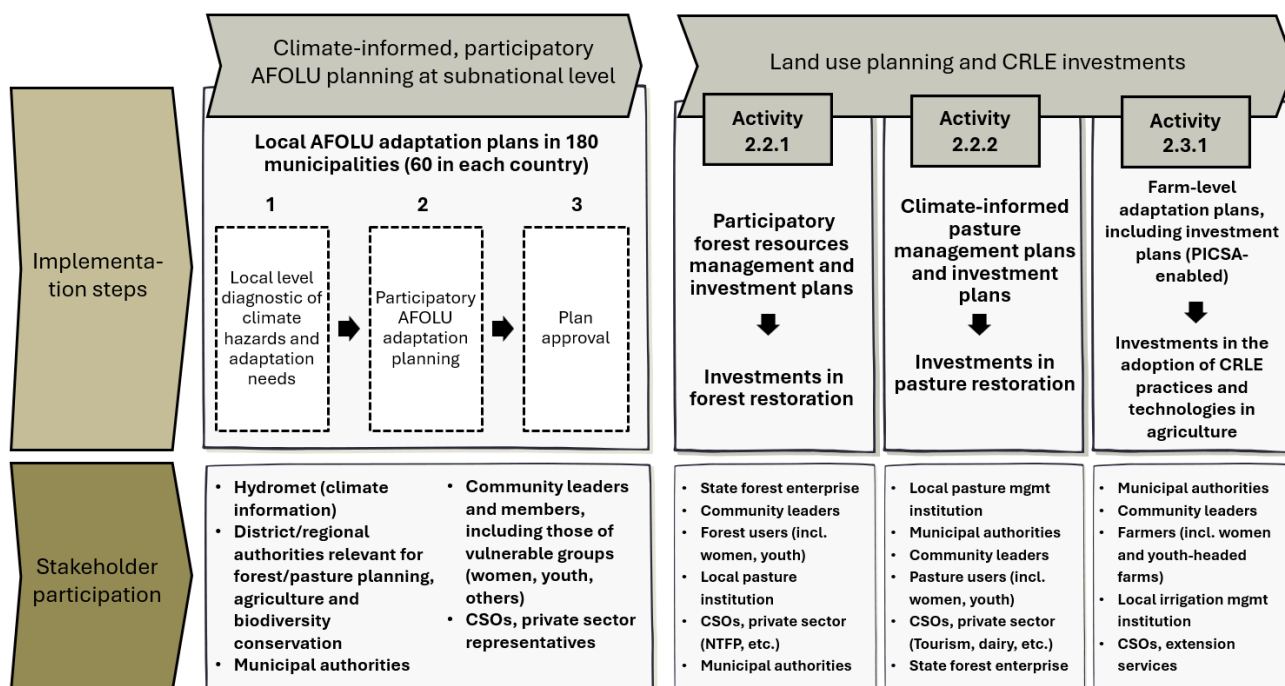
Action	Executing Entity
Financial institution selection	GIZ
Climate-smart agriculture facility design and establishment	GIZ
Green bond transaction support	GIZ

Component 2: Promotion and adoption of climate-resilient and low-emission practices and technologies at local level

60. Component 2 supports behavioural change and local adoption of CRLE practices and technologies through participatory climate-informed planning, capacity development, technical assistance, and investments in forests, pastures, agriculture and related value chains, using financing mechanisms tailored to each land-use system (Figure 5). Building on Component 1, it translates enabling conditions into action in selected landscapes and generates a future finance pipeline. Local stakeholders will identify and validate priorities and participate in implementation and monitoring. The Feasibility Study and SEP provide further detail.
61. Forest and pastures investments will be identified and prioritised through locally prepared and validated management plans and annual investment priorities. Local multi-stakeholder groups or community governance structures, including resource users, women, youth, vulnerable groups and CSOs, will inform decisions on sites, measures, access and resource-use arrangements, sequencing and monitoring. Agricultural investments will use tailored financing mechanisms based on beneficiary demand. Investment plans and financing applications will be assessed against predefined investment categories and technical, environmental and social (E&S) criteria, with differentiated matching contributions for smaller and vulnerable actors. Targeted outreach, technical assistance

and application support will prioritise women, youth and other vulnerable groups. National EEs will ensure consistency with local priorities, budgets and programme requirements.

Figure 5: Sequence of participatory climate-informed planning and investments in CRLE practices and technologies



Output 2.1 Climate-informed, participatory AFOLU planning processes and plans at subnational level are institutionalised

Activity 2.1.1: Prioritisation of municipalities based on district-level climate diagnostics (ARIS, CIIP, NCECC)

62. This activity will select the municipalities within the 39 pre-selected districts in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan through a harmonised, transparent, and participatory process using climate risk diagnostics and relevant local information. Implemented at programme onset, it will ensure that subsequent local planning, restoration, and agricultural investment support under Outputs 2.2 and 2.3 targets locations with high climate relevance and implementation readiness. Prioritisation and eligibility criteria are detailed in Annex 2a, Section 7.2.1.

Action	Executing Entities
Screening and scoring of target municipalities	ARIS, CIIP, NCECC
Validation of target municipalities	ARIS, CIIP, NCECC

Activity 2.1.2: Develop local AFOLU adaptation plans in selected landscapes (ARIS, CIIP, NCECC)

63. This activity will support the preparation and approval of climate-informed AFOLU adaptation plans in selected municipalities. Building on Activity 2.1.1, local climate diagnostics and participatory planning will identify priority risks, adaptation measures and investment needs, including coordination with neighbouring and cross-border authorities where relevant (Annex 2a, Section 7.2.1). Implemented at programme onset, plans will be developed in 180 municipalities, providing the framework for Outputs 2.2 and 2.3 and institutionalising locally-led, cross-sectoral adaptation planning through harmonised, country-compliant procedures.

Action	Executing Entities
Local-level diagnostic of climate hazards and adaptation needs	ARIS, CIIP, NCECC
Participatory AFOLU adaptation planning	ARIS, CIIP, NCECC
Approve climate-informed AFOLU adaptation plans at local level	ARIS, CIIP, NCECC

Output 2.2 Forests and pastures restored and under sustainable and climate-resilient use

Activity 2.2.1: Scale land restoration practices in degraded forests in transboundary landscapes (MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC)

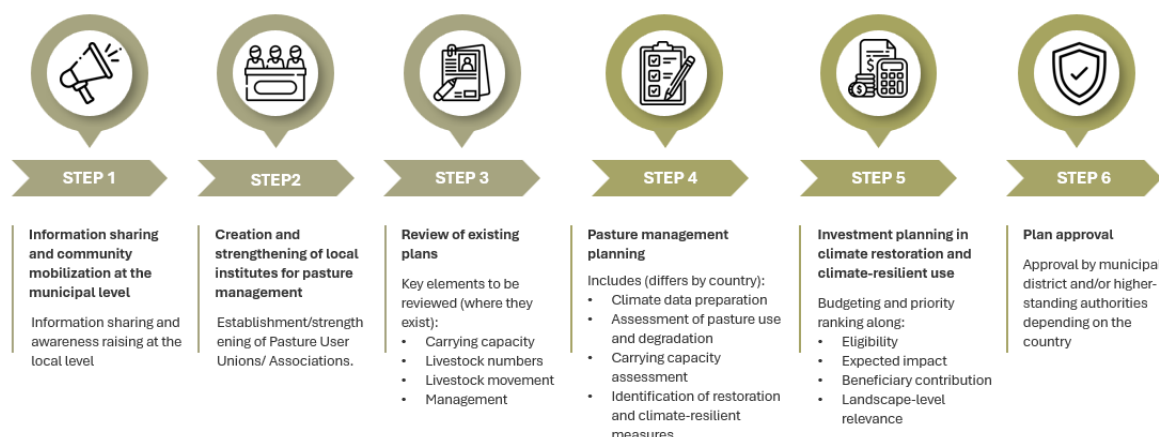
64. This activity will support climate-informed restoration and management of degraded forests through landscape approaches linking livelihoods, productive land use, inclusive governance and local implementation. Building on Output 2.1, it will combine participatory forest management planning, community implementation, technical assistance and investment grants for restoration and reforestation. Indicative support includes fencing, seedlings and tree seeds, nursery equipment, small watering infrastructure, monitoring equipment and related services. Implemented in the mid-phase, it is expected to bring 58,000 hectares under CRLE management and 542,000 hectares under restoration and improved ecosystems, linking forest restoration with adjacent pasture and agricultural measures.

Action	Executing Entities
Development of training materials for intermediary partners	MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC
Training of intermediary partners	MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC
Development of climate-informed participatory forest resources management plans including investments	MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC
Formalisation of community investments	MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC
Technical assistance in forest restoration	MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC
Investments in forest restoration	MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC

Activity 2.2.2: Scale land restoration practices in degraded rangelands in transboundary landscapes (ARIS, CIIP, NCECC)

65. This activity will support climate-informed restoration and sustainable management of degraded rangelands in transboundary landscapes. Building on Output 2.1, it will support pasture management planning, technical assistance and investment grants. Indicative support includes climate-resilient forage seeds, fencing, water points and related works, small machinery and access improvements, and monitoring and reporting equipment. Country-adapted approaches will remain participatory and transparent. Implemented in the early and mid-phases, the activity is expected to bring 800,000 hectares under CRLE management and 1.81 million hectares under restoration and improved ecosystems, supporting integrated management across forests, pastures and agricultural land.

Figure 6. Process for the development of climate-informed pasture management plans



Action	Executing Entities
Development of training material for technical advisory partners and intermediary partners	ARIS, CIIP, NCECC
Training of the technical advisory partners and intermediary partners	ARIS, CIIP, NCECC
Development of climate-informed pasture management plans including investments	ARIS, CIIP, NCECC
Technical assistance in pasture restoration	ARIS, CIIP, NCECC
Investments in pasture restoration	ARIS, CIIP, NCECC

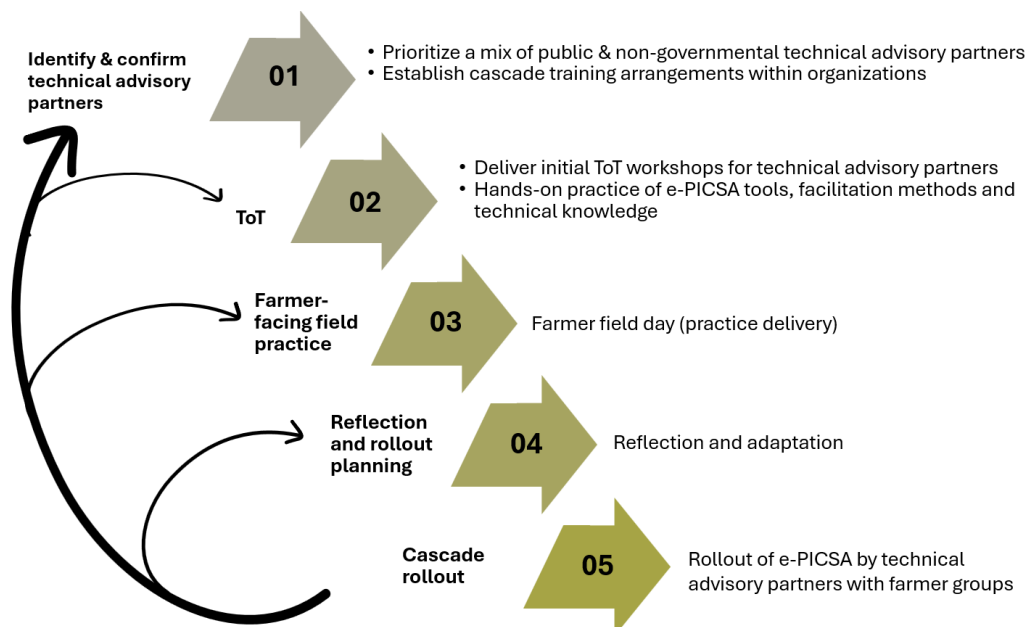
Output 2.3 Farmers capacitated and incentivised to adopt climate-resilient and low-emission practices

Activity 2.3.1: Scale the adoption of locally relevant CRLE land use practices and technologies in agriculture in transboundary landscapes, with special attention to women and youth as key beneficiaries (GIZ, MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC)

66. This activity will support adoption of CRLE agricultural practices and technologies in selected transboundary landscapes. Building on Output 2.1, it will combine PICSA and e-PICSA-based extension, technical assistance, and support to identify and cost priority investments. e-PICSA will deliver climate-informed advisory services at scale through trained national organisations. The activity is expected to support 71,813 producers across the three countries and cover over 69,000 hectares. Eligible measures include no-till seeding, crop rotation and soil cover, climate-resilient seeds and seedlings, improved orchard and greenhouse management, irrigation efficiency, protective nets and post-harvest practices. Implemented in the mid- and later-phases, it will translate climate information and local plans into viable farm and value-chain investments and create a pipeline under Activities 2.3.2 and 2.3.3.

Action	Executing Entities
Adjustment of PICSA to regional conditions	GIZ
Operationalisation of e-PICSA	GIZ
Development of training material for climate-informed extension services and training of extension services	GIZ
Implementation of PICSA in the selected municipalities	MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC
Technical assistance for adoption of climate-resilient and low-emission land use practices and technologies in agriculture	MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC
Investments in the adoption of CRLE practices and technologies in agriculture	MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC

Figure 7: e-PICSA cascading delivery model



Activity 2.3.2: Establishment of financial mechanism for enabling the adoption of CRLE practices in the agricultural sector (GIZ, MoWRAP, CIIP, NCECC)

67. This activity will establish an agricultural finance mechanism across the programme countries to support CRLE practices and technologies in priority agricultural value chains, planned under sub-activities 2.3.1.6 and 2.3.3.3. It will cover eligible rainfed and irrigated agriculture investments, with particularly strong demand anticipated from irrigated systems. Indicative investments include no-till seeding, climate-resilient seeds and seedlings, water-efficient irrigation, orchard improvements, protective nets, and post-harvest technologies. A Matching Grant Mechanism in each country will target the most vulnerable smallholders, including producer groups, cooperatives and community-based organisations, with contributions differentiated by beneficiary type and financial capacity. An EIB credit programme will provide MSMEs concessional loan financing under Activity 2.3.3. In Kyrgyzstan, No-Till Adoption Accelerators will complement these instruments through asset-based revolving support for smallholders adopting no-till wheat production in rainfed systems. Eligible regulated microcredit organisations will facilitate access to inputs, machinery and tailored extension services.
68. The agricultural finance mechanism, i.e., matching grants, EIB credit programme, and Kyrgyz No-Till Adoption Accelerators, will operate through standard procedures, which define target groups, eligibility and selection criteria, beneficiary contributions and financing ratios, eligible uses of funds, application and appraisal processes, approval arrangements, environmental and social requirements, disbursement conditions, and monitoring and verification. Matching grant applications will undergo eligibility verification, investment appraisal, confirmation of beneficiary contributions and E&S risk categorisation. Separate Accelerator procedures will cover microcredit organisation selection and capitalisation, aggregation of farmer demand, repayable inputs, equipment leasing, post-harvest repayment, extension, monitoring and reinvestment. The EIB credit programme will follow arrangements and requirements under Activity 2.3.3. Annex 2a provides details.

Action	Executing entities
Replicating and scaling No-Till Adoption Accelerators in the Kyrgyz Republic	GIZ
Establishing matching grant mechanism for CRLE technology adoption and value chain development	MoWRAP, CIIP, NCECC

Figure 8: Indicative steps for matching grants



Activity 2.3.3: Investment in climate-resilient and low-emission agriculture and associated value-chain infrastructure (GIZ, MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC, MoFs)

69. This activity will support investment-readiness and targeted investments in CRLE agricultural production and associated value chains. Building on Activities 2.3.1 and 2.3.2, it will combine business development support for producer groups, cooperatives, and MSMEs with post-harvest, processing, storage, and value addition investments. Indicative investments include small-scale processing and storage equipment, cold storage where justified, packaging and quality improvement equipment, and related technical services. It will also develop bankable proposals for financing through the EIB credit programme. Participating LFIs will screen, appraise and approve MSME applications under their lending procedures and EIB requirements for eligibility, safeguards, monitoring and reporting. Eligibility will require operation in eligible value chains and programme areas, technical and financial readiness, applicable E&S compliance, and agreement to monitoring and verification. Implemented in the mid- and later phases, it will improve the viability and scalability of CRLE investments by linking production changes to value-chain opportunities.

Action	Executing entities
Development of investible business models and support for producers, producer groups, co-operatives and MSMEs	GIZ
Operationalisation of EIB credit programme in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan	MoFs
Value chain investments	MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC

Component 3: Regional cooperation

70. Component 3 strengthens regional cooperation on CRLE development in AFOLU sectors across Central Asia through strategic foresight, shared development pathways, knowledge exchange, and a regional climate investment platform that translates common priorities into transboundary action and future climate finance. Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan will benefit from technical advisory through BMZ co-financing.

Output 3.1 Regional climate-informed development pathways for AFOLU and foresight capacities established (fully co-financed by BMZ)

Activity 3.1.1: Strengthening regional foresight and planning capacities (GIZ)

71. This activity will strengthen strategic foresight and scenario-planning capacities for climate-informed AFOLU decision-making across Central Asia. It will support partner selection, stocktaking and megatrend analysis, institutionalisation of a regional training package, and capacity building for decision-makers and young leaders. Implemented in the early and mid-phases, it will underpin regional pathways under Activity 3.1.2 and links with national planning and investment under Components 1 and 2.

Action	Executing Entity
Selection of national and regional partner institutions	GIZ
Stocktaking and megatrend analysis	GIZ
Development of a training package on strategic foresight capacity	GIZ
Institutionalisation of the training package	GIZ
Development of foresight capacities	GIZ
Foresight capacity development of young leaders	GIZ

Activity 3.1.2: Creation of regional climate-informed development pathways for AFOLU (GIZ) (fully co-financed by BMZ)

72. This activity will support the participatory development of regional climate-informed AFOLU pathways, based on strategic foresight and scenario planning. National and regional stakeholders will develop plausible scenarios and identify CRLE development pathways. Implemented in the early phase, it will build on Activity 3.1.1 and provide a

shared regional reference for national planning, knowledge exchange and future investment prioritisation under Output 3.3.

Action	Executing Entity
Scenario-based pathways development	GIZ

Output 3.2 Enhanced regional knowledge exchange and information sharing through sustainable mechanisms

Activity 3.2.1: Enhancing regional knowledge exchange and information sharing through sustainable mechanisms (GIZ)

73. This activity will strengthen regional and bilateral exchange, peer learning and dialogue among programme stakeholders through demand-driven knowledge and exchange events and support to regional partners' institutional and financial sustainability. Implemented throughout the programme, it will complement Output 3.1 and Activity 3.2.2, promote uptake of programme lessons, tools and approaches across Central Asia, and reinforce links to national implementation and future financing.

Action	Executing Entity
Knowledge and exchange events	GIZ
Enhance sustainability of knowledge exchange	GIZ

Activity 3.2.2: Development of a climate resilience toolbox (GIZ)

74. This activity will strengthen the Central Asia Climate Information Portal (CACIP), hosted by CAREC, by expanding AFOLU climate resilience content and access to relevant tools, data and guidance. It will support a climate resilience toolbox, improved portal interface and search functions, and regional expert capacity. Implemented in the mid-phase, it will complement Component 1 and Activity 3.2.1 as a sustainable regional entry point for climate information, planning tools and adaptation resources.

Action	Executing Entity
Strengthen content and user interface of the Central Asia Climate Information Portal	GIZ
Strengthen regional expert pools on CACIP resources	GIZ

Output 3.3 Regional climate investment platform established

Activity 3.3.1: Creation of a regional climate investment platform (GIZ)

75. This activity will establish a permanent regional climate investment platform to translate shared transboundary priorities into investible actions and strengthen the region's ability to attract and coordinate climate finance. It will define the platform's mandate, governance, institutional role and resource base through consultations with country representatives, regional institutions and CSOs, including vulnerable-group representatives; establish it within a suitable regionally mandated institution; develop institutional capacity; and prepare an investment roadmap. Implemented in the early and mid-phases, it will build on Output 3.1 and complement Output 3.2 as a permanent vehicle for prioritising and mobilising regional AFOLU climate finance. Sustainability will rest on robust governance, country ownership, resource mobilisation capacity and institutional anchoring.

Action	Executing Entity
Definition of the platform's structure and role	GIZ
Formal establishment of the regional climate investment platform	GIZ
Institutional and staff capacity building	GIZ
Creation of an investment roadmap	GIZ

Activity 3.3.2: Support the implementation of adaptation actions in transboundary landscapes in the AFOLU sectors (GIZ)

76. This activity will establish a dedicated funding mechanism with EUR 3 million in seed funding for a grant window. It will support climate adaptation action plans by interested national and devolved public institutions, private sector

and CSOs, provide implementation technical assistance, and finance selected actions through investment grants alongside beneficiary co-investments. Investments will be climate-justified, gender-sensitive, additional to Component 2 and demonstrate clear adaptation benefits. Indicative support includes transboundary restoration, improved protected area management, climate-related monitoring and capacity development. Implemented in the mid-and later phases, it will operationalise the Activity 3.3.1 platform and demonstrate how shared priorities translate into cross-border investments and learning.

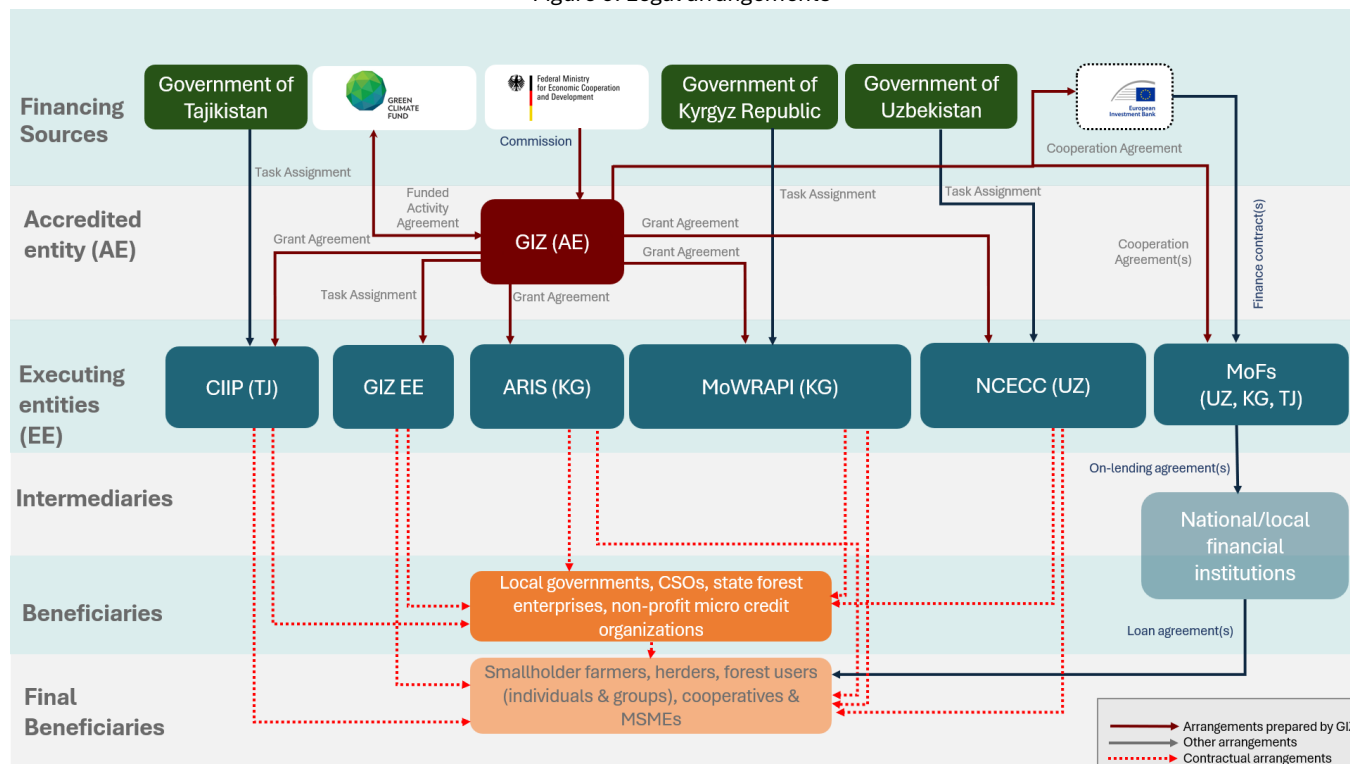
Action	Executing Entity
Establishment of a funding mechanism under the regional investment platform	GIZ
Development of climate adaptation action plans in transboundary landscapes	GIZ
Technical assistance for climate adaptation in transboundary landscapes	GIZ
Investments in adaptation actions in transboundary landscapes	GIZ
Monitoring and regional learning	GIZ

C.5. Implementation arrangements (max. 1,500 words, plus diagrams, max. 750 words, plus diagrams for SAP)

Role of GIZ as Accredited Entity (AE)

77. GIZ will assume oversight responsibility of the programme, as defined in the Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) between the GCF and GIZ. GIZ will administer programme proceeds on behalf of the GCF and will provide oversight, guidance, and quality assurance of the involved Executing Entities (EE) through its relevant head office units, as well as accompanying monitoring, and ensure regular reporting.
78. GIZ will enter the following legal arrangements (see Figure 9):

Figure 9: Legal arrangements



- The commission by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to implement the GCF programme.
- The Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) between GCF and GIZ as the basis for the transfer of GCF proceeds to GIZ.

- Four grant agreements (i.e., subsidiary agreements) with the respective Executing Entities based on GIZ's standard operating procedures for grant agreements; also, to contractually secure government co-financing contributions.
 - In order to implement the subsidiary agreements, MoWRAPI, ARIS, NCECC, CIIP will conclude cooperation agreements with the final beneficiaries to implement the grant mechanisms for pasture and forest investments. For the matching grants, MoWRAPI, NCECC and CIIP will conclude cooperation agreements with the final beneficiaries.
- Cooperation agreement with EIB to contractually secure the envisioned co-financing contribution.
- Three cooperation agreements with the respective Ministries of Finance in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, acting as Executing Entities to contractually ensure the implementation of the EIB co-finance. Downstream agreements between MoFs and LFIs will include provisions for loan agreements between LFIs and final beneficiaries.

79. Additionally, there will be an internal task assignment from GIZ AE to GIZ EE for the implementation of the programme. GIZ EE will conclude cooperation agreements with MCOs for the roll-out of the Accelerators.

Role of GIZ as Executing Entity (EE)

80. GIZ has been operating in Central Asia since the early 1990s based on Development Cooperation Framework Agreements and currently employs around 400 staff members, with approximately 350 being national staff. GIZ's technical assistance in the green sector encompasses ecosystem management, land management, sustainable agriculture, transboundary climate risk management, and support for the green economy and private sector development.
81. GIZ will lead and provide overall management of the Technical Assistance (TA) to the programme at regional, national and subnational levels. It will be responsible for:
- Managing the programme budget assigned to GIZ as EE.
 - Monitoring and evaluation implementation.
 - Liaising with the GIZ Country Offices in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan regarding budget and finances, monitoring and reporting, staff and contracts, and procurement.
 - Reporting to the German Embassy and BMZ regarding Germany's financial contributions and overall progress of the programme implementation.
 - Coordinating implementation with the other EEs, co-financing partners, counterparts, and other relevant donors, and projects operating in the same technical and/or geographical area, as applicable.
 - Coordinating with, and reporting to, the NDAs and relevant line ministries.
 - Liaising with and reporting to the Programme Steering Committees (PSCs).
 - Supporting the establishment and management of the Programme Management Units (PMUs).
 - Concluding further grants as required (e.g. with CAREC, GGGI, University of Reading).

National Executing Entities

82. Besides GIZ, the following EEs have been identified for the programme implementation:
- In the Kyrgyz Republic, the EE will be the Community Development and Investment Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARIS) and the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic (MoWRAPI).
 - ARIS was established by presidential Decree to attract investments to overcome poverty, develop and support private entrepreneurship, strengthen the activities of local self-government bodies and strengthen local communities and community organisations. ARIS works with rural populations, supporting projects aimed at improving infrastructure and social services to the population, supporting rural and urban businesses, and improving interaction between local communities and government agencies. It is a DAE to the GCF since March 2024. MoWRAPI through its agricultural project implementation unit (APIU) is responsible for the management of investments from multilateral banks in the agricultural, and broadly in the land-use, sector. This unit holds extensive experience in managing investments from the World Bank (WB) and IFAD, among others.
 - In Tajikistan, the Centre for Implementation of Investment Projects under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CIIP) will be the EE. The CIIP is responsible for the development and implementation of climate

investment and environmental programmes in Tajikistan. It implements projects financed by the WB, GEF and the Adaptation Fund, among others. The CIIP is accredited as a DAE since July 2024.

- In Uzbekistan, the National Committee on Environment and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NCECC) will be the EE. The NCECC is a government institution responsible for environmental protection, climate action, and sustainable natural resource management. It oversees the implementation of projects in the environmental sector, funded by donors and multilateral banks, including the GCF, the WB, and ADB.
- The Ministries of Finance in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will serve as EEs to provide concessional loan finance from the EIB co-financing to local financial institutions.

83. The above-mentioned national EEs have successfully passed the AE's enhanced due diligence. The outcomes of the capacity assessment can be found in Annex 2a (section 8).

Governance and Management

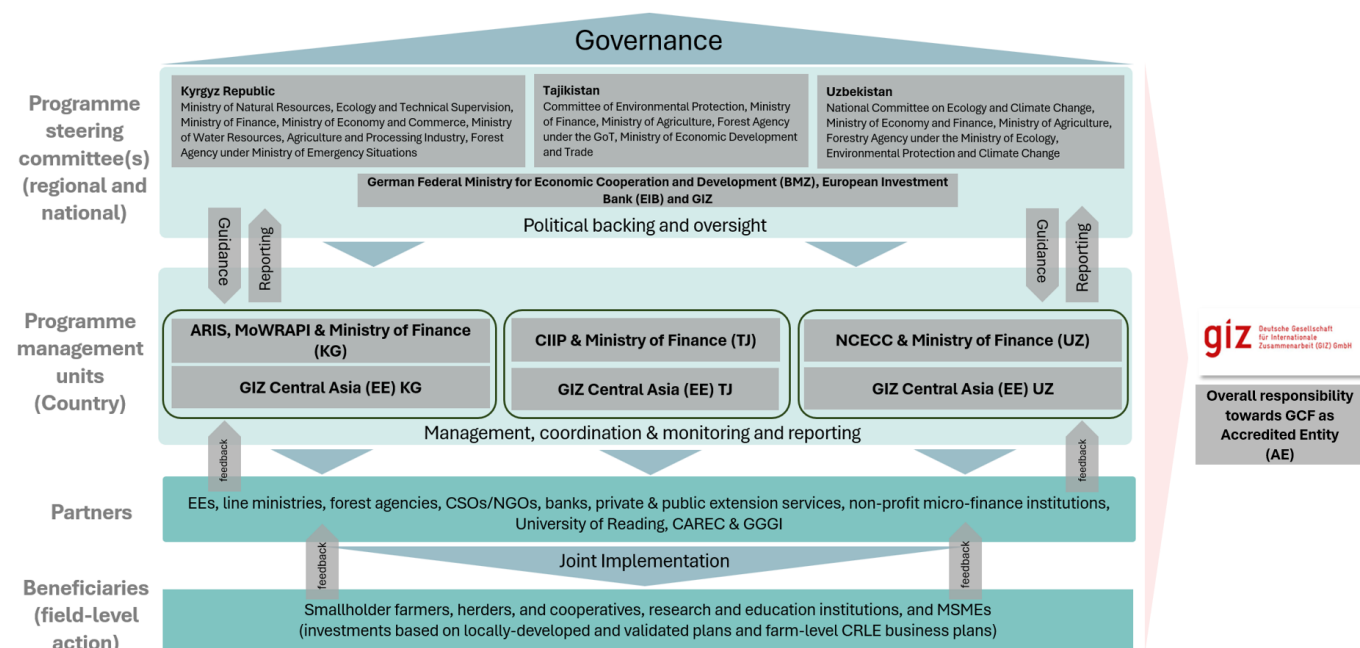
84. Figure 10 presents the programme's steering structure, which is managed through three complementary bodies: regional Programme Steering Committee, national Programme Steering Committees and national Programme Management Units.

85. The regional Steering Committee will serve as the programme's overarching governance body, comprising representatives of the same core institutions participating in the National Steering Committees of each participating country. The regional Steering Committee will provide strategic guidance and oversight for the overall programme, take joint decisions on regional priorities, and play a central role in guiding the implementation of all regional relevant measures, especially under Component 3 (Regional Cooperation).

86. Each participating country will establish a national Steering Committee to provide strategic guidance and oversight for the country-specific measures. The national Steering Committee will oversee national planning, implementation, and country-level resource allocation, ensuring alignment with national priorities and effective coordination among national and sub-national stakeholders.

87. Its members include the NCECC, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Committee of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan, the three key national ministries/institutions overseeing the programme, other relevant ministries including the Ministries of Finance, BMZ, EIB and GIZ in its capacity as the AE.

Figure 10: Programme governance and management



88. Decisions of the PSCs will be taken by consensus. Key responsibilities of the PSCs will be to:

- Provide overall guidance for programme implementation.

- Provide feedback and validation of annual work plans, in consideration of annual reports and programme evaluations.
 - Ensure programme progress and coherence with the (evolving) international and national policy context.
 - Stay informed of programme adherence with the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).
 - Support the coordination of programme activities across different line ministries and between the private and public sectors, and civil society.
89. Based on the guidance and decisions of the PSCs, the Programme Management Units (PMUs) will serve as the main body for management and implementation of the programme in each country. The PMUs will focus on programme coordination, operational planning, and adaptive and financial management. The PMUs include the national EE(s), and the respective GIZ Central Asia country team. Finally, programme implementation will be carried out by the technical teams of the respective EEs, along with their implementation partners. If needed, thematic working groups may be established to facilitate in-depth coordination of cross-cutting activities, such as those related to safeguards, gender or interventions at municipality level.
90. Additionally, the PMUs will have the following responsibilities:
- Implementing the decisions and recommendations of the PSCs.
 - Coordinating and ensuring timely execution of activities by each EE as outlined in the Annual Operating Plan, regularly updating the PSC and fostering a common understanding between the EE regarding the theory of change and its integration across all programme activities.
 - Supervising technical and budgetary programme progress, and aligning with approved plans, budgets and indicators.
 - Promptly mobilising technical expertise from EE and other stakeholders upon identification of programme implementation issues.
 - Facilitating harmonious collaboration with stakeholders for each of the programme components and identifying the tasks and additional requirements that must be addressed in relation to the programme.
 - Facilitating information flow from the programme beneficiaries to the PSCs.
 - Implementing and monitoring the ESMP, GAP and SEP.
 - Overseeing the progress of indicators managed by each EE in the monitoring system.
 - Assessing and consolidating insights and experiences from the programme.
91. Member institutions of the PMUs will include:
- GIZ, MoWRAP, ARIS, CIIP, NCECC, Ministries of Finance (Executing Entities).
92. As and when necessary or desirable, extended PMU meetings can also be organised, involving PMU members and additional invitees - from local stakeholders and civil society - to address specific technical, geographical, or sectoral issues.
93. The PMUs will consist of a dedicated team of professionals from each EE including finance managers, gender, ESS and M&E specialists, and technical advisors.
94. Supporting documents to this section include Annex 3, Annex 4, Annex 5, and Annex 6a.

C.6. Environmental and social risk assessment (max. 750 words)

95. **ESS category and rationale:** the programme is classified as Category B, with risks of “potential limited adverse environmental and/or social risks and impacts that individually or cumulatively, are few, site-specific, reversible, and manageable through established mitigation measures.” The ESIA confirms the classification, given that the programme supports planning, capacity building, technical assistance, and small to medium-scale CRLE investments. It excludes major infrastructure, irreversible land conversion, physical displacement, and significant, cumulative, or unprecedented impacts. Most ESS risks are medium or low, with ESS 7 rated negligible.
96. **ESS instruments:** the programme is guided by a set of safeguards documents, including ESIA (Annex 7a) and ESMP (Annex 7b), complemented by SEP (Annex 9b), GA/GAP (Annex 10), programme-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), and exclusion list. The ESIA assesses environmental, social, labour, biodiversity, cultural heritage, SEAH, stakeholder engagement, institutional, and sub-project risks in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The ESMP translates these findings into an operational system, covering staffing, responsibilities,

monitoring, reporting, capacity building, the GRM, SEAH-specific procedures, and sub-project mitigation measures. These elements are integrated into the programme ESS management and monitoring system.

97. **Risk management by programme stage:** during preparation, activities and financial mechanisms were screened against GCF ESS requirements, national regulations, and GIZ requirements. Stakeholders were consulted and safeguards staffing, budgets, the SEP, GAP, GRM, and ESMP were built into the programme design. During implementation, each activity and sub-project will be screened through an E&S screening tool, with locally appropriate mitigation measures where needed. EEs, implementation partners, contractors, and beneficiaries will follow applicable safeguards, codes of conduct, labour and operational health and safety (OHS) requirements, stakeholder engagement obligations, SEAH measures, and monitoring. The programme will track mitigation, grievances, stakeholder feedback, and emerging risks and take course correction where necessary.
98. **Financial mechanisms (sub-projects) and oversight:** The programme includes several financial mechanisms supporting CRLE forest, pasture restoration, and agriculture, and associated value-chain investments, and transboundary adaptation actions. GCF proceeds will be administered by GIZ and national EEs, primarily for goods and services, e.g., equipment, inputs, and technical support, to eligible beneficiaries rather than unrestricted cash transfers. ESIA, ESMP and FS (Annex 2a) provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities for GIZ, ARIS, MoWRAP, CIIP, and NCECC, and their ESS specialists, M&E staff, contractors, and partners across screening, preparation, approval, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and corrective action. Applications will be assessed against the exclusion list, eligibility criteria, and E&S screening tool. Sub-projects inconsistent with GCF Category B/C, e.g., involuntary resettlement and critical habitat conversion, will be excluded. Residual risks will be managed through planned mitigation, monitoring, consultation, and reporting.
99. **EE capacity, monitoring, reporting:** national EEs have relevant sectoral expertise and donor-project experience, but gaps remain in systematic screening, social risk management, grievance follow-up, and international ESS practice. The ESMP addresses these through regional and national ESS/M&E advisors, environmental and social/gender specialists, and ad-hoc expertise. Country PMUs will implement and monitor the ESMP, GAP, SEP, and GRM. GIZ, as AE, will retain oversight responsibility, annual ESS and APR reporting to the GCF.
100. **Stakeholder engagement, GRM, and disclosure:** preparation consultations with national and local partners, technical specialists, and beneficiaries informed the ESS-related plans and design. During implementation, the SEP will guide continuous and gender-responsive engagement, e.g., local-language information, women and youth consultations, transparent beneficiary selection, and arrangements for vulnerable groups. A programme-level GRM will accept multiple submission types, including anonymous complaints, and include registration, case processing, resolution, escalation, monitoring, and referral of severe or unresolved cases to GIZ HQ and the GCF IRM. Safeguards instruments will be disclosed online and locally made available before programme activities begin.
101. **SEAH risk assessment and survivor-centred response:** GCF SEAH risk assessment tool was applied to integrate mitigation, reporting, and response measures into programme arrangements. Risks may arise during staff, partner, extension-provider, community, and beneficiary interactions, e.g., training, beneficiary selection, and field-level support. Measures include GIZ's zero-tolerance approach, codes of conduct, awareness raising, training, GAP implementation, gender-responsive engagement, and a dedicated SEAH protocol within the GRM. SEAH grievances will be handled confidentially and separately from other complaints, with survivor-centred response planning, referrals, and escalation options through GIZ.
102. **Indigenous Peoples and culturally appropriate engagement:** ESIA and stakeholder engagement confirm that IPs are not present in the programme area. Nevertheless, the programme will apply culturally sensitive and inclusive engagement measures for pastoralists, highland communities, minority language groups, women, youth, and other vulnerable groups.
103. Table 3 presents the summary of E&S risk assessment and mitigation. Details are in Annexes 7a and 7b.

Table 3: E&S risk assessment & mitigation

ESS	E&S Risks	Broad mitigation measures
ESS 1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts	Medium Risk category. Environmental and social risks may occur mostly in relation to labour rights and SEAH, pollution generation, biodiversity loss, ineffective stakeholder engagement, and grievance resolution. However, these risks are localised and temporary, and they can be managed by adequate mitigation measures. Potential risks may occur due to insufficient institutional capacities and inter-agency coordination to monitor, report, and manage E&S risks.	- Operationalise, implement, and monitor the ESMP, SEP, GAP, GRM, as well as the application of the exclusion list, including through annual safeguards monitoring, stakeholder consultations, GRM tracking, ESMP updates, supervision missions, and APR reporting. - Allocate budget to recruit and maintain dedicated ESS/gender/M&E staff in GIZ and EEs. Train project staff and launch awareness campaigns on SEAH avoidance. - Require contractual safeguards and codes of conduct and risk-based compliance monitoring.
ESS2: Labor and working conditions	Medium Risk category. Risks relate to variable labour law enforcement and OHS practice in rural/agricultural work, including unsafe working conditions, informal or seasonal labour, unfair wages, working hours, non-discrimination, worker representation, PPE use, prevention of child labour, and forced labour, and SEAH during training, extension, contracted, or community activities.	- Apply national law, ILO principles, GIZ contractual requirements and codes of conduct to staff and partners. - Provide OHS training, including PPE and safe machinery/transport procedures. - Raise awareness of forced and child labour prohibitions; maintain worker/community grievance channels, including SEAH-specific channels. - Monitor contractors and partners through PMU and EE ESS staff. - Implement a Gender Action Plan (GAP) by training staff, conducting SEAH prevention campaigns and adopting a Code of Conduct that prohibits SEAH.
ESS3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention	Medium Risk category. Risks include inefficient resource use, pressure on water supplies, outdated water, energy, and waste infrastructure, agricultural pollution, waste infrastructure, agricultural pollution, waste from small-scale works or equipment, and misuse or indirect promotion of agrochemicals under irrigated agriculture and climate variability.	- Build capacity on CRLE land use and safe, sustainable farming practices, including reducing chemical inputs through adapted planting, soil cover, mulching, composting and soil-conservation measures. - The project will not support the direct procurement of agrochemicals. - Strengthen resource efficiency and pollution prevention by training partners and authorities, ensuring professional technical design and construction, promoting efficient irrigation and energy use and avoiding hazardous materials through proper waste segregation and safe disposal.
ESS4: Community health, safety and security	Medium Risk category. Restrictions on civil freedoms may limit people's ability to raise concerns. Community health and safety risks could arise from the improper handling of agricultural chemicals. However, given the small scale of activities and with mitigation measures in place, overall community health, safety and security risks are expected to remain low.	- Prohibit the direct procurement and provision of chemicals and prevent pollution and accidents through training farmers and extension staff in safe, climate-resilient and low-chemical practices. - Ensure health and safety through personal protective equipment (PPE), signage, safe water system design and reduced reliance on agrochemicals. - Maintain transparent communication through inclusive consultations, clear eligibility criteria and a widely publicised, locally GRM. - Establish and enforce a grazing schedule in coordination with local pasture authorities and consultations with communities.
ESS5: Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement	Low Risk category. No physical displacement is anticipated, and changes to project land use will be voluntary. Only minor, temporary land-use changes may occur. The risk of minor economic displacement will be mitigated.	- Prohibit involuntary land acquisition and any activities involving physical displacement. Mitigate minor economic impacts through fair procedures as per national laws. - Provide tailored financial literacy training and targeted outreach to women managing smaller plots to ensure equitable access. Provide accessible GRM.

ESS	E&S Risks	Broad mitigation measures
ESS6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources	Medium Risk category. Although the project does not fund major infrastructure or land conversion, biodiversity screening indicates the presence of threatened species, including the critically endangered Fergana Even-toed Gecko near Shorsu village in Uzbekistan, and protected areas in the wider project zones, creating a risk of indirect impacts if activities are not properly managed. These risks are considered manageable through strong screening, clear exclusion criteria and mitigation.	- Strengthen capacity and awareness on biodiversity-friendly CRLE agriculture practices and peer learning. - Roll out the project exclusion list and require all supported practices to use locally adapted, native, or non-invasive species. - Assess biodiversity risks during E&S screening for any field-level interventions.
ESS7: Indigenous peoples	N/A	N/A
ESS8: Cultural heritage	Low Risk category. Given the small scale of physical interventions, the absence of activities in known heritage sites, and the application of screening and chance finds procedures, potential impacts on cultural heritage in all three target countries are expected to be very limited.	- Screened proposed sites for cultural heritage risks, in consultation with local authorities and elders. - Exclude known cultural or religious sites from intervention areas. - Develop and apply A Chance Finds Procedure. - Train contractors, local partners and community workers on cultural heritage sensitivity and chance finds before works begin.

Source: Own elaboration, 2026

C.7. Gender assessment and action plan (max. 500 words)

104. **Gender instrument:** to ensure that this programme is designed, financed, implemented and monitored in a gender-responsive and socially inclusive manner, a comprehensive Gender Assessment and Gender and Inclusion Action Plan has been developed (Annex 10). These outputs comply with the GCF's Gender Policy, as well as GIZ's Gender Strategy (2025–2029).
105. **Gender Assessment approach:** the Gender Assessment considers the multiple, and often interrelated, factors that influence the status of gender inequality and social exclusion in each of the three target countries, within the context of specific land-use practices and climate change. This analysis combines desk-based research with extensive feedback from stakeholder consultations (comprising multipurpose national workshops, Focus Group Discussions with women-only, men-only, and youth representatives, and Key Informant Interviews with women activists and representatives from relevant Women and Family Affairs Departments) conducted in February 2026. Gender relations, delineation of roles and responsibilities as they pertain to land use and climate change responses, challenges, and potential gender-responsive programme measures are discussed and recommended – culminating in a programme-wide Gender and Inclusion Action Plan (GAP). Because gender dynamics vary slightly across the countries, with some likely to exceed certain targets and others requiring more context-appropriate milestones, the GAP sets firm programme-wide commitments to be achieved over the 7-year duration, while indicating nuanced differences per country.
106. **Key findings:** underlying these targets are several common gendered challenges observed across the three countries. Widespread male migration has significantly increased women's responsibilities for farm operations and household food security in many districts of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. This has resulted in women performing both traditionally male and female roles. Despite this, socio-cultural norms persist in many areas, where women still lack authority, formal labour recognition, land rights, and access to the technical skills and technology to perform their duties effectively and with fair remuneration and recognition. These challenges are being exacerbated by climate change impacts, ranging from drought and excessively high temperatures to water scarcity all of which affect local land use productivity and broader natural resource management.
107. The programme design addresses the identified gender gaps, amongst others, through:

Table 4: Overview of gender gaps and key measures

Gender gap or barrier to inclusion	Potential measures to address gaps and barriers
Women lack access to sufficient agricultural extension support and technical knowledge on climate resilient and sustainable practices . In instances where such support is offered, it is often unsuitable for women (due to mobility, time or societal constraints).	• Gender-sensitive consultation and training processes, including separate women-only spaces and trusted local intermediaries. • Technical capacity development support to female farmers to bridge the knowledge gap between women and men – offered at times and locations that are suitable for women (i.e. compatible with the timing of their domestic responsibilities, with minimal travel requirements). • Improved access to irrigation technologies, quality seeds, and agricultural inputs for women and youth.
Women are underrepresented in decision-making bodies relating to land use planning and natural resource management – typically due to deep-rooted patriarchal norms, lack of confidence and/or workload demands. Women also have limited access to land ownership, machinery, and larger plots , with men typically controlling decisions related to land use and benefiting from patriarchal inheritance norms.	• Awareness-raising among male community members to promote inclusive decision-making. • Capacity development support for women to empower and encourage them to participate in land and water management discussions • Community-wide engagement on the relevance of national laws on equal rights and opportunities for men and women within the context of the AFOLU sector, discussing, for example, topics such as equitable land tenure, inheritance and asset ownership legislature, and gender-sensitive land use planning processes
Women's role in land-use value chains is largely informal and field-based, with the majority of post-harvest, marketing and sales decisions taken by male family members.	• Strengthen women and youth-led cooperatives and producer groups (replicating/scaling up the numerous successful examples in each country) for better risk management and market access.
Women have lower access to suitable finance than men, due to a lack of collateral, limited awareness of available financial instruments, high interest rates, or ineligibility due to the informal nature of their work. Where state grants and international programmes provide support, often this is insufficient for purchasing modern technologies.	• Expand successful financial schemes already offered through certain government and banks and facilitate access to affordable and appropriate financial mechanisms such as small grants, revolving funds, or savings groups. • Provide financial literacy training to female farmers, and women- and youth- led enterprises. • Provide training to banking institutions on how best to engage with, and support, women and youth customers.
Lack of trust in external activities – and potential gendered challenges that transpire as a result of these – some preferring not to participate at all.	• Ensure non-discriminatory hiring and programme practices, establish quotas for women and youth representation in committees and programme structures. • In keeping with the programme's commitment to adopting a gender-responsive and survivor-centered GRM, a trusted female representative (for example, from the local Mahalla) will act as an intermediary to support female complainants in with submitting cases
Youth migration is generally high, limiting local labour availability . There is a need to incentivise and offer greater opportunities in local land use practice value chains to retain and upskill youth.	• Youth engagement must include targeted programme orientation, demonstrations, and inclusive opportunities to participate through upskilling and exposure. This includes utilising their unique skills (such as agricultural marketing through social media platforms, logistics management and accessing online agricultural and climate information).

Source: Own elaboration, 2026

108. **Implementation arrangements:** The GAP is embedded in programme implementation rather than treated as an add-on. It is overseen by and implemented by dedicated staff, including regional ESS specialist, regional M&E specialist, national ESS & gender specialists as well as M&E specialists. In addition, GIZ gender focal points will support the implementation of the GAP. The GIZ specialists will closely collaborate with ESS & gender experts of the EEs responsible for activity delivery. Monitoring will use sex- and youth-disaggregated indicators, participation targets, as well as gender-responsive planning requirements. A gender-sensitive, survivor-centred grievance redress mechanism, safeguarding approach and SEAH risk management system will support safe reporting, confidentiality, referrals and adaptive management throughout implementation.
109. **Key-gender related results:** table 5 summarizes the programme's key gender-related results (see further details in Annex 10):

Table 5: Gender targets

Area	Indicator	Target
Core beneficiary outcome	Female beneficiaries with improved access to livelihoods, food security and land-use based economic opportunities	Direct: KG: 143,055 TJ: 215,184 UZ: 169,676 Indirect: KG: 217,342 TJ: 169,018 UZ: 358,156
Ensure meaningful female participation in project workshops and trainings	% of participants in workshops, trainings and relevant regional events that are female	30%
Climate assessments, AFOLU action plans, land-use management plans and investments incorporate gender-responsive actions	% of gender-sensitive and -responsive climate assessments, AFOLU action plans, land-use management plans and investments	100%
Inclusive finance to support increased access to, or establishment of, affordable finance mechanisms for women and youth	Technical assistance provided to domestic FIs to identify, scale-up or replicate successful finance products for women and youth	100% of selected FIs
Targeted business development and investment-readiness support to identified women and youth-led smallholders, producer groups, cooperatives, and MSMEs	% of farms or farming enterprises receiving support under activity 2.3.3 that are women or youth-led or comprise majority women and youth	15%

Source: Own elaboration, 2026

C.8. Country ownership and engagement with stakeholders (max. 500 words)

110. The programme has been developed in close coordination with the NDAs as well as with line ministries and institutions responsible for climate policy, AFOLU sectors and climate finance, and with CAREC for regional activities. It is aligned with the regional adaptation strategy, national climate commitments, NDC priorities and relevant national adaptation planning frameworks.

Alignment with national strategies, NDCs, and national adaptation planning:

111. Across the three countries, the programme institutionalises climate-informed planning, strengthens incentives, and scales CRLE practices in line with national adaptation priorities. It supports reversing land degradation, strengthening forestry and ecosystem resilience, improving cropland productivity through diversification, climate-resilient varieties, agroforestry and conservation agriculture, restoring degraded pastures,

improving sustainable grazing, and increasing water-use efficiency. It also supports countries' commitments on land degradation neutrality, climate-resilient agriculture, rangeland management, and forestry.

112. In the Kyrgyz Republic, the programme supports NDC 3.0 adaptation objectives for agriculture, forests, biodiversity, soil restoration, water-saving technologies, adaptive farming, pasture rehabilitation, and sustainable forest management. In Tajikistan, it contributes to NDC measures on green technologies, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, soil protection, improved pasture and forest management, climate information access, afforestation, reforestation, assisted regeneration, and pasture productivity. In Uzbekistan, the programme aligns with NDC 3.0 objectives to expand forest cover, improve agricultural resource efficiency, apply modern water-saving technologies, increase yields through drought-resistant varieties, rehabilitate degraded pastures, and restore vegetation. It also strengthens LFI readiness to mobilise climate finance through green bonds.
113. The programme is also aligned with national strategies and sectoral plans. In the Kyrgyz Republic, the updated NDC provides a basis for planning, climate finance mobilisation and alignment with national development and sectoral priorities. In Tajikistan, adaptation is anchored in the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change to 2030 and related development and sector strategies, which provide entry points for climate-informed AFOLU planning and implementation. In Uzbekistan, the programme contributes to national priorities on green economy transition and climate-resilient land and water management. A full assessment of alignment with country priorities is provided in Feasibility Study (Annex 2a).
114. **Role of NDA:** NDAs played a central role in ensuring alignment with national priorities and coordinating with relevant line ministries and stakeholders during programme design, including identification of EEs and implementing partners.
115. **Engagement process:** to enhance country ownership and country-driven programming, GIZ carried out extensive multi-stakeholder consultations during funding proposal development, which began in July 2025. From October 2025 to April 2026, GIZ and national partners consulted 1,323 individuals from more than 273 institutions across government, international and regional organisations, civil society, and private and financial sectors. Building on consultations during the concept note stage from February 2024 to March 2025, engagement included bilateral and group exchanges, interviews, focus group discussions, and national and regional workshops in the three countries. The process concluded with a regional validation workshop in Tashkent on 1 April 2026 to confirm the programme design, intervention logic, financial mechanisms, and implementation arrangements.
116. The programme will continue to engage all relevant stakeholders as outlined in the SEP (Annex 9b).

C.9. Project/programme closure and sustainability of impacts (max. 500 words)

117. The programme is designed to sustain climate impacts and co-benefits through local, financial, institutional, and regional mechanisms. At national level, climate-informed AFOLU planning, multisectoral platforms and the alignment and repurposing of public incentives with national and regional climate commitments will integrate climate considerations into routine planning, investment prioritisation and policy implementation.
118. At local level, participatory planning, strengthened extension services and enhanced capacities of producers and land users will support continued adoption of CRLE practices. Financial sustainability will be promoted by institutionalising CRLE agricultural finance within participating LFIs. Activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 will establish the systems, safeguards, climate-risk screening, and reporting needed to manage CRLE portfolios. Dedicated products, procedures and responsibilities developed under the CSAFF, together thematic and green bond support, will enable LFIs to continue expanding lending through their own resources or capital-market funding.
119. Matching grants will be time-bound instruments addressing upfront costs and affordability constraints. Benefits will continue through the productive use of supported assets and practices, including higher productivity, resource efficiency, resilience and income stability. In Kyrgyzstan, No-Till Adoption Accelerators will continue through repayment and reinvestment cycles managed by the selected MCOs, with repayments financing subsequent procurement cycles and fees covering operational costs.
120. At regional level, sustainability will be reinforced through knowledge management, foresight, regional exchange, CACIP resources and the regional climate investment platform. Embedded in a suitable regional institution and supported by a cross-country steering committee and secretariat, the platform will develop a pipeline of multi-country initiatives and mobilise finance. Programme-financed seed capital will demonstrate the model, while management, future capitalisation and partnership development will gradually transfer to the host institution.

121. The programme is expected to reduce or sequester 6,953,950 tCO₂e over its lifespan and support the sustainable management, conservation and/or restoration of 939,354 hectares. Institutional and policy benefits are expected to continue beyond programme closure, while Component 2 investments will generate resilience benefits over their operational life through improved ecosystem condition, water retention, soil health, diversified livelihoods and stronger adaptive capacity.
122. Economic and financial sustainability is detailed in Annex 11b. Components 1 and 3 primarily generate public goods through improved investment targeting, public expenditure, regional coordination and reduced climate-related losses. Component 2 can generate beneficiary-level financial returns, although concessional support is required to overcome barriers faced by smallholders, cooperatives and rural MSMEs. The programme has an ENPV of EUR 372.7 million, ERR of 14.6% and is expected to mitigate 6.95 million tCO₂eq over its lifespan at EUR 5.16/tCO₂eq for GCF finance and EUR 13.49/tCO₂eq including co-finance. Around EUR 15.5 million will be leveraged through beneficiary matching contributions.
123. Ownership and maintenance of durable assets will rest with recipient institutions or beneficiaries with adequate capacity. Beneficiaries will maintain matching-grant equipment; the relevant MCO will maintain Accelerator equipment; SFEs will maintain forestry investments; and pasture management institutions will maintain pasture-related assets. Knowledge products, training materials, planning tools and information and monitoring systems will be integrated into existing institutional mandates.
124. A detailed handover plan will define ownership, operation, maintenance and funding responsibilities.

D. RESULTS AND IMPACT				
D.1. GCF Impact level: Paradigm shift potential (max 600 words)				
Assessment Dimension	Current state (baseline)		Potential target scenario (Description)	How the project/programme will contribute (Description)
	Description	Rating		
Scale	Climate risks are not systematically considered in AFOLU planning, prioritisation and investment programming across administrative levels. Climate, land use/cadastral, soil, pasture and vulnerability information is fragmented and not routinely embedded in standard planning procedures; digital planning tools (including satellite data and AI-enabled modules) are not consistently available or used. At local level, participatory adaptation planning and climate-informed advisory services are not scaled, and adoption of CRLE practices and restoration actions is hampered by limited capacities, and limited access to finance.	Low	Climate-informed AFOLU planning and implementation is institutionalised across the three countries: national and subnational institutions routinely apply integrated climate/land/soil information and digital tools to drive prioritisation, investment packages and monitoring; LAPA-based local adaptation planning and PICSA/e PICSA enabled extension services are implemented at scale; and financing mechanisms support widespread adoption of CRLE practices/technologies and forest/pasture restoration. This contributes to increasing the resilience of 1,046,062 people, the sustainable management/ restoration of 939,354 ha, and a mitigation impact of 1.68 million tCO₂e.)	Output 1.1 strengthens Hydromets and line agencies to institutionalise climate-informed planning by integrating climate information, vulnerability indicators, land use/cadastral and soil/pasture data into standardised procedures and national digital platforms, including climate layers, satellite monitoring and AI-enabled scenario modules, supported by legal/procedural foundations for data exchange and routine use. Output 2.1–2.3 scale action locally by institutionalising climate-informed subnational planning (LAPA-based diagnostics and participatory plans), linking plans to restoration and CRLE investment packages, and scaling PICSA/e PICSA-enabled extension services and adoption support for producers, producer organisations, and MSMEs. Financing mechanisms support implementation at scale: No-Till Adoption Accelerators (Kyrgyz Republic), matching grants (three countries), investment grants for restoration, climate-smart agriculture facilities and EIB-linked credit further increase financing available for CRLE adoption and value-chain investments. The Accelerators in the Kyrgyz Republic support repeated financing cycles based on repayment and reinvestment, while matching grants and concessional loan programmes support co-financed investments in CRLE practices and technologies by producers, producer groups, cooperatives and MSMEs alongside the EIB credit programme. Support to climate-smart agriculture facilities, thematic bond issuance will strengthen the capacity of financial institutions to identify, structure and finance CRLE investments over time.

Replicability	Planning and advisory tools are often project-based rather than embedded in government systems; decision-support tools are not standardised or widely accessible; and financial institutions have limited capacity and internal systems to originate and finance CRLE projects. Regional learning and coordination are limited, hampering cross-country replication in transboundary contexts.	Medium	Standardised planning procedures, training packages, digital tools and financing approaches are replicated beyond initial target municipalities and across additional landscapes within the three countries, and adapted by other Central Asian countries through regional cooperation platforms. Replication extends across geographies, institutions and financing approaches (public, private and regional mechanisms), supporting broader adoption of CRLE land use and resilient value chains.	Training materials and methodologies for climate-informed planning and advisory are institutionalised through training-of-trainers. Digital platforms, climate layers and toolkits developed under Output 1.1 are designed for extension to additional geographies and users. LAPA-based participatory adaptation planning (Output 2.1) and PICSA/e PICSA packages (Output 2.3) provide repeatable methodologies for new municipalities. On finance, domestic FIs can replicate CSA facility design elements supported under Output 1.3, while No-Till Adoption Accelerators, matching grants and investible pipeline development (Output 2.3) provide scalable approaches. Regional replication is accelerated (Output 3.2), and by shared regional AFOLU development pathways and foresight capacity building (Output 3.1) that countries can downscale into national contexts. With regard to the financing mechanisms under output 2.3, the Accelerator in the Kyrgyz Republic provides a tested mechanism that can continue through further repayment and reinvestment cycles and can be adapted in similar local contexts. Matching grants and EIB-credit programmes support demonstration and uptake of CRLE technologies, practices and business models that can be replicated by other producers and can help build a pipeline for future investment. Support to domestic financial institutions under Output 1.3 is intended to strengthen internal systems, procedures and reporting approaches that can be applied to future CRLE and CSA portfolios beyond the initially supported transactions.
Sustainability	Planning and advisory tools are often project-based rather than embedded in government and training systems; decision-support tools are not standardised or widely accessible; and financial institutions have limited	Low	Programme results persist beyond the programme period through durable institutions, routines and financing mechanisms: climate-informed planning and monitoring are embedded in government systems; training and advisory systems continue	Sustainability is built through institutionalisation of key processes and enabling access to finance in the medium term. Outputs 1.1 and 2.1 embed climate-informed planning as routine practice through standard procedures, strengthened coordination platforms, and procedures for data exchange and the responsible use of satellite data and AI tools in planning and policy processes. Outputs 2.2 and 2.3 sustain change at the local level through enhanced capacities, technical assistance, and locally owned management/investment plans for forests and pastures, complemented by extension systems that support translating

	capacity and internal systems to originate, assess and report CRLE/CSA pipelines. Regional learning and coordination are intermittent, limiting cross-country replication in transboundary contexts.		delivering LAPA/PICSA-based approaches; restoration and CRLE investments are maintained through local capacities and agreements; programme-supported financing approaches leave behind lasting institutional capability, operational models, and financed assets that continue to support CRLE investment and replication beyond the programme period. In particular, the operations of the No-Till Adoption Accelerators in the Kyrgyz Republic continue through repayment and reinvestment cycles, while matching grant-supported assets and technologies remain in productive use by beneficiaries after programme completion. Regional cooperation and investment coordination mechanisms remain operational to support transboundary landscapes and shared risks.	climate information into operational decisions for producers. The programme's financing mechanisms under Output 2.3, contribute to transformational change through differentiated sustainability pathways. The No-Till Adoption Accelerators in the Kyrgyz Republic are designed to continue operating beyond the programme through beneficiary repayments and reinvestment of principal by the MCO, with operating costs covered through minimal fees and management arrangements and linked local service-provider networks. The sustainability of matching grant-financed interventions lies in the continued use and maintenance of assets by the beneficiaries contributing to the persistence of mitigation and adaptation and on the demonstration effects they have that can support wider adoption and potentially future investment. Support to local financial institutions under Output 1.3 is intended to embed internal capacity for climate risk management, pipeline origination, eligibility screening, safeguards application, and portfolio-level reporting, thereby improving the ability of participating institutions to develop and finance future CRLE investments beyond the programme-supported transactions. In addition, bond-related support is designed to embed thematic issuance processes within internal bank systems, thereby reducing transaction costs for future issuances and supporting longer-term market development contributing to the programme's exit strategy. Regionally, sustainability is expected to derive primarily from strengthened cooperation mechanisms, shared knowledge resources, and institutionalised capacity. The long-established Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), with its regional mandate, provides a strong foundation for sustainability by fostering long-term regional cooperation through recurring platforms such as the annual Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC) and maintaining regional knowledge infrastructure, including the Central Asia Climate Information Portal (CACIP), which supports shared data access and continuous knowledge exchange.
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D.2. GCF Outcome and Co-benefit level					
D.2.1. Standardized Indicators (Quantitative Indicators)					
(IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered					
Provide the total GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered (tCO ₂ eq) as a result of GCF support.					
Unit					Tonnes of CO ₂ -equivalent
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target			Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	Lifetime	
- GHG monitoring database platform - Survey/questionnaire - Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	277,642	1,271,826	6,953,950	Beneficiaries, communities, and SFEs adopt the technologies and practices promoted by the programme leading to emissions reductions and removals. See annex 13a for details.

(IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered					
Provide the total GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered (tCO ₂ eq) as a result of GCF support, disaggregated by result area.					
Unit					Tonnes of CO ₂ -equivalent
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target			Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	Lifetime	
- GHG monitoring database platform - Survey/questionnaire - Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	277,642	1,271,826	6,953,950	Beneficiaries, communities, and SFEs adopt the technologies and practices promoted by the programme leading to emissions reductions and removals. See annex 13a for details.
Disaggregation by: Result Areas (Mitigation)	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Lifetime	Assumptions / Note
Forestry and land use	0	277,642	1,271,826	6,953,950	See above.

(IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered					
Provide the total GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered (tCO ₂ eq), disaggregated by Country.					
Unit					Tonnes of CO ₂ -equivalent
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target			Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	Lifetime	
- GHG monitoring database platform - Survey/questionnaire	0	277,641	1,271,826	6,953,950	Beneficiaries, communities, and SFEs adopt the technologies and practices promoted by the

• Programme M&E • Annual Performance Reports • Evaluation reports					programme leading to emissions reductions and removals. See annex 13a for details.
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Lifetime	Assumptions / Note
Kyrgyzstan	0	154,217	695,844	4,015,852	See above.
Tajikistan	0	72,802	339,744	1,955,157	See above.
Uzbekistan	0	50,622	236,238	982,941	See above.

Forestry and land use

(IRMF) Core 4: Hectares of natural resource areas brought under improved low emission and/or climate resilient management practices				
Provide the total degraded or converted ecosystems under restoration (ha).				
Unit				Hectares
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
• Baseline survey • Government data/ official records • GIS data • Programme M&E • Annual Performance Reports • Evaluation reports	0	281,806	939,354	Beneficiaries, communities, and state forest enterprises adopt the technologies and practices promoted by the programme leading to increased resilience. Numbers are obtained by multiplying the total area of forest and pasture in the selected districts by (1) the expected area of these land use systems in the to-be selected municipalities within these districts and (2) by an adoption rate of climate-resilient and low-emission management practice. Average farm size of EIB loan supported MSMEs.

(IRMF) Core 4: Hectares of natural resource areas brought under improved low emission and/or climate resilient management practices				
Provide the total degraded or converted ecosystems under restoration (ha), disaggregated by country.				
Unit				Hectares
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
• Baseline survey • Government data/ official records • GIS data • Programme M&E • Annual Performance Reports • Evaluation reports	0	281,806	939,354	Beneficiaries, communities, and state forest enterprises adopt the technologies and practices promoted by the programme leading to increased resilience. Numbers are obtained by multiplying the total area of forest and pasture in the selected districts by (1) the expected area of these land use systems in the to-be selected municipalities within these districts and (2) by an adoption rate of climate-resilient and low-emission management practice.

Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Kyrgyzstan	0	143,914	479,712	Mid-term: forest restoration: 10,934; afforestation: 150; reforestation: 150; pasture: 126,262; agriculture: 6,417 Final: forest restoration: 36,448; afforestation: 500; reforestation: 500; pasture: 420,874; agriculture: 21,391
Tajikistan	0	88,611	295,371	Mid-term: forest restoration: 390; afforestation: 165; reforestation: 165; pasture: 77,355; agriculture: 10,537 Final: forest restoration: 1,300; afforestation: 550; reforestation: 550; pasture: 257,849; agriculture: 35,122
Uzbekistan	0	49,281	164,271	Mid-term: forest restoration: 5,412; afforestation: 42; reforestation: 42; pasture: 37,059; agriculture: 6,727 Final: forest restoration: 18,039; afforestation: 140; reforestation: 140; pasture: 123,530; agriculture: 22,423

(IRMF) Core 4: Hectares of natural resource areas brought under improved low emission and/or climate resilient management practices				
Provide the total degraded or converted ecosystems under restoration (ha), disaggregated by land type.				
Unit				Hectares
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Baseline survey - Government data/ official records - GIS data - Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	281,806	939,354	Beneficiaries, communities, and state forest enterprises adopt the technologies and practices promoted by the programme leading to increased resilience. Numbers are obtained by multiplying the total area of forest and pasture in the selected districts by (1) the expected area of these land use systems in the to-be selected municipalities within these districts and (2) by an adoption rate of climate-resilient and low-emission management practice.
Disaggregation by: Land Type	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Forest Land (reforestation)	0	357	1,190	See above.
Forest Land (afforestation)	0	357	1,190	See above.
Cropland	0	23,680	78,936	See above.
Grassland	0	240,676	802,252	See above.
Other	0	16,736	55,786	See above.

(IRMF) Supplementary 4.1 Hectares of terrestrial-forest, terrestrial-non-forest, freshwater and coastal-marine areas brought under restoration and or improved ecosystems
Provide the total land areas under sustainable management practices (ha).

Unit				Hectares
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Baseline survey - Government data/ official records - GIS data - Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	2,963,656	2,963,656	Local AFOLU adaptation plans are approved by relevant local authorities. Pasture numbers are obtained by summing up (1) the total area of pasture in the selected districts multiplied by the expected area of pasture in the to-be selected municipalities within these districts, which will be covered under a climate-informed pasture management plan and (2) the area of pasture in SFE land and in protected areas which will be covered under a climate-informed management plan. Forest numbers are obtained by summing up the forested area in the selected SFEs and in protected areas which will be under a climate-informed management plan.

(IRMF) Supplementary 4.1 Hectares of terrestrial-forest, terrestrial-non-forest, freshwater and coastal-marine areas brought under restoration and or improved ecosystems				
Provide the total land areas under sustainable management practices (ha), disaggregated by type.				
Unit				Hectares
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Baseline survey - Government data/ official records - GIS data - Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	2,963,656	2,963,656	Local AFOLU adaptation plans are approved by relevant local authorities. Pasture numbers are obtained by summing up (1) the total area of pasture in the selected districts multiplied by the expected area of pasture in the to-be selected municipalities within these districts, which will be covered under a climate-informed pasture management plan and (2) the area of pasture in SFE land and in protected areas which will be covered under a climate-informed management plan. Forest numbers are obtained by summing up the forested area in the selected SFEs and in protected areas which will be under a climate-informed management plan.
Disaggregation by: Land Type	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Grassland	0	2,336,526	2,336,526	See above.
Other	0	627,130	627,130	See above.

(IRMF) Supplementary 4.1 Hectares of terrestrial-forest, terrestrial-non-forest, freshwater and coastal-marine areas brought under restoration and or improved ecosystems				
Provide the total land areas under sustainable management practices (ha), disaggregated by country.				

Unit				Hectares
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Baseline survey - Government data/ official records - GIS data - Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	2,963,656	2,963,656	Local AFOLU adaptation plans are approved by relevant local authorities. Pasture numbers are obtained by summing up (1) the total area of pasture in the selected districts multiplied by the expected area of pasture in the to-be selected municipalities within these districts, which will be covered under a climate-informed pasture management plan and (2) the area of pasture in SFE land and in protected areas which will be covered under a climate-informed management plan. Forest numbers are obtained by summing up the forested area in the selected SFEs and in protected areas which will be under a climate-informed management plan.
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Kyrgyzstan	0	1,709,800	1,709,800	See above.
Tajikistan	0	660,802	660,802	See above.
Uzbekistan	0	593,054	593,054	See above.

(IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached				
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by result area.				
Unit				No. of Beneficiaries
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Household survey/questionnaire - Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	261,515	1,046,062	Programme adherence to implementation plan. Numbers of direct beneficiaries are obtained by multiplying the expected area of different land use systems which will be brought under improved low-emission and/or climate-resilient management practice by (1.a - for agriculture) the average smallholder farm size in that specific land use system or (1.b – for pasture) the estimated average number of pasture users per municipality or (1.c – for forests) the number of forest users per SFE, and by (2) the average household size in rural areas (KG 4.5, TJ 5.9 and UZ 5.0) as well as average number of employees of MSMEs supported by EIB credit programme.
Disaggregation by: Result Areas (Adaptation)	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Livelihoods of people and communities	0	130,757	523,031	See above.
Ecosystem and ecosystem services	0	130,758	523,031	See above.

(IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached				
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by Gender.				
Unit				No. of Beneficiaries
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Household survey/questionnaire - Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	261,515	1,046,062	Numbers of direct beneficiaries are obtained by multiplying the expected area of different land use systems which will be brought under improved low-emission and/or climate-resilient management practice by (1.a - for agriculture) the average smallholder farm size in that specific land use system or (1.b – for pasture) the estimated average number of pasture users per municipality or (1.c – for forests) the number of forest users per SFE, and by (2) the average household size in rural areas (KG 4.5, TJ 5.9 and UZ 5.0)
Disaggregation by: Gender	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Female	0	131,978	527,915	Numbers for male/female beneficiaries are obtained by multiplying the total beneficiary number by the national sex ratio (# males per 100 females: KG 96, TJ 96.7, UZ 101.8)
Male	0	129,537	518,147	National gender ratios

(IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached				
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by Country.				
Unit				No. of Beneficiaries
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Household survey/questionnaire - Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	261,515	1,046,062	Numbers of direct beneficiaries are obtained by multiplying the expected area of different land use systems which will be brought under improved low-emission and/or climate-resilient management practice by (1.a - for agriculture) the average smallholder farm size in that specific land use system or (1.b – for pasture) the estimated average number of pasture users per municipality or (1.c – for forests) the number of forest users per SFE, and by (2) the average household size in rural areas (KG 4.5, TJ 5.9 and UZ 5.0)
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Kyrgyzstan	0	70,097	280,389	See above.
Tajikistan	0	105,816	423,266	See above.
Uzbekistan	0	85,602	342,407	See above.

(IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached				
Provide the total number of indirect beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by result area.				

Unit				No. of Beneficiaries
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	370,229	1,480,919	Indirect beneficiaries are all other land users in the target regions who benefit from strengthened enabling conditions, policy improvements, shared technical knowledge, and demonstration effects of supported projects. This includes improvements in local market systems, knowledge dissemination, and adoption of best practices beyond directly supported households. In all cases, indirect beneficiaries are calculated to avoid double counting with direct beneficiaries. The approach ensures a realistic reflection of the broader population affected by programme interventions, capturing benefits that flow through knowledge, ecosystem improvements, enabling conditions, and market or institutional effects. Overlaps between interventions are subtracted to avoid double counting.
Disaggregation by: Result Areas (Adaptation)	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Livelihoods of people and communities	0	185,115	740,460	See above.
Ecosystem and ecosystem services	0	185,114	740,459	See above.

(IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached				
Provide the total number of indirect beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by Gender.				
Unit				No. of Beneficiaries
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	370,229	1,480,919	Indirect beneficiaries are all other land users in the target regions who benefit from strengthened enabling conditions, policy improvements, shared technical knowledge, and demonstration effects of supported projects. This includes improvements in local market systems, knowledge dissemination, and adoption of best practices beyond directly supported households. In all cases, indirect beneficiaries are calculated to avoid double counting with direct beneficiaries. The approach ensures a realistic reflection of the broader population affected by programme interventions, capturing benefits that flow through knowledge, ecosystem improvements, enabling conditions, and market or institutional effects. Overlaps between interventions are subtracted to avoid double counting.

Disaggregation by: Gender	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Female	0	186,129	744,516	National gender ratios.
Male	0	184,100	736,403	National gender ratios.

(IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached				
Provide the total number of indirect beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by Country.				
Unit				No. of Beneficiaries
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	370,229	1,480,919	Indirect beneficiaries are all other land users in the target regions who benefit from strengthened enabling conditions, policy improvements, shared technical knowledge, and demonstration effects of supported projects. This includes improvements in local market systems, knowledge dissemination, and adoption of best practices beyond directly supported households. In all cases, indirect beneficiaries are calculated to avoid double counting with direct beneficiaries. The approach ensures a realistic reflection of the broader population affected by programme interventions, capturing benefits that flow through knowledge, ecosystem improvements, enabling conditions, and market or institutional effects. Overlaps between interventions are subtracted to avoid double counting.
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Kyrgyzstan	0	106,445	425,782	See above.
Tajikistan	0	83,045	332,183	See above.
Uzbekistan	0	180,739	722,954	See above.

Livelihoods of people and communities

(IRMF) Supplementary 2.1 Beneficiaries (female/male) adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood options				
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) adopting diversified or strengthened climate-resilient livelihood strategies (including agriculture, fisheries, natural resource-based, and informal livelihoods), disaggregated by gender.				
Unit				No. of Beneficiaries
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Household survey/questionnaire - Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports	0	48,049	192,197	Numbers are obtained by multiplying the expected area of different land use systems which will be brought under improved low-emission and/or climate-resilient management practice by (for agriculture) the average smallholder farm size in that specific land use system or (for pasture) the

Evaluation reports				estimated average number of pasture users per municipality or (for forests) the number of forest users per SFE. Numbers for male/female beneficiaries are obtained by multiplying the total beneficiary number by an estimated ratio for land user households where males are more active (75%) and those where women are more active (25%).
Disaggregation by: Gender	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Female	0	12,012	48,049	See above.
Male	0	36,037	144,148	See above.

(IRMF) Supplementary 2.1 Beneficiaries (female/male) adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood options				
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) adopting diversified or strengthened climate-resilient livelihood strategies (including agriculture, fisheries, natural resource-based, and informal livelihoods), disaggregated by country.				
Unit				Enter unit
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Household survey/questionnaire - Programme M&E - Annual Performance Reports - Evaluation reports	0	48,049	192,197	Numbers are obtained by multiplying the expected area of different land use systems which will be brought under improved low-emission and/or climate-resilient management practice by (for agriculture) the average smallholder farm size in that specific land use system or (for pasture) the estimated average number of pasture users per municipality or (for forests) the number of forest users per SFE. Numbers for male/female beneficiaries are obtained by multiplying the total beneficiary number by an estimated ratio for land user households where males are more active (75%) and those where women are more active (25%).
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Kyrgyzstan	0	14,864	59,455	See above.
Tajikistan	0	17,229	68,918	See above.
Uzbekistan	0	15,956	63,824	See above.

Optional Co-Benefit Indicators

Total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms to support climate-resilient and low-emission development				
Provide the total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms.				
Unit				No. of Items
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	

- Government data/ official records - Programme M&E	0	7	9	Mid-term target: Total 7, including 1 inter-sectoral, 3 sectoral and 3 land use planning procedures/guidelines. KG: 1 inter-sectoral, 1 sectoral, 1 land use planning. TJ: 0 inter-sectoral, 1 sectoral, 1 land use planning. UZ: 0 inter-sectoral, 1 sectoral, 1 land use planning. Final target: Total 9, including 3 inter-sectoral, 3 sectoral and 3 land use planning procedures/guidelines. KG: 1 inter-sectoral, 1 sectoral, 1 land use planning. TJ: 1 inter-sectoral, 1 sectoral, 1 land use planning. UZ: 1 inter-sectoral, 1 sectoral, 1 land use planning. It assumes sustained interest by relevant government institutions in the three countries in advancing climate-resilient and low-emission development.
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Total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms to support climate-resilient and low-emission development				
Provide the total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms, disaggregated by country.				
Unit				No. of Items
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Government data/ official records - Programme M&E	0	7	9	Mid-term target: Total 7, including 1 inter-sectoral, 3 sectoral and 3 land use planning procedures/guidelines. KG: 1 inter-sectoral, 1 sectoral, 1 land use planning. TJ: 0 inter-sectoral, 1 sectoral, 1 land use planning. UZ: 0 inter-sectoral, 1 sectoral, 1 land use planning. Final target: Total 9, including 3 inter-sectoral, 3 sectoral and 3 land use planning procedures/guidelines. KG: 1 inter-sectoral, 1 sectoral, 1 land use planning. TJ: 1 inter-sectoral, 1 sectoral, 1 land use planning. UZ: 1 inter-sectoral, 1 sectoral, 1 land use planning. It assumes sustained interest by relevant government institutions in the three countries in advancing climate-resilient and low-emission development.
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Kyrgyzstan	0	3	3	See above.
Tajikistan	0	2	3	See above.
Uzbekistan	0	2	3	See above.

Total ecosystems placed under conservation activities (ha)
Provide the total ecosystems placed under conservation activities (ha).

Unit				Hectares
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Government data / official records - GIS data - Programme M&E	0	30,000	168,966	It assumes there is sufficient interest from protected areas in receiving investment grants and compliance with the platform's financing requirements.

Total ecosystems placed under conservation activities (ha)				
Provide the total ecosystems placed under conservation activities (ha), disaggregated by country.				
Unit				Hectares
Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
		Mid-term	Final target	
- Government data / official records - GIS data - Programme M&E	0	30,000	168,966	It assumes there is sufficient interest from protected areas in receiving investment grants and compliance with the platform's financing requirements.
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Assumptions / Note
Kyrgyzstan	0	20,000	143,544	See above.
Tajikistan	0	10,000	25,422	See above.

D.2.2. Enabling Environment Indicators (Qualitative Indicators)					
Core Indicator	Baseline context	Rating for current state	Target scenario	How the project will contribute	Coverage
Core Indicator 5: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks for low emission climate-resilient development pathways in a country-driven manner	Climate risks not systematically considered in AFOLU planning, prioritisation and investment programming across administrative levels; cross-sectoral coordination at national level is weak and not systemic; climate and AFOLU-relevant data is fragmented and not embedded in planning procedures; digital planning tools are not consistently used. At local level, climate-informed AFOLU planning is not scaled.	Low	Climate-informed AFOLU planning and implementation institutionalised across the three countries at national and subnational levels; enhanced cross-sectoral coordination between AFOLU-relevant institutions; updated regulatory frameworks make the use of climate/land/soil information an integral part of prioritisation, investment packages and monitoring;	At the multi-sectoral level, Output 1.1 strengthens permanent platforms for climate-informed AFOLU coordination and for translating regional pathways into country-specific actions. At the national level, Output 1.1 strengthens institutional and regulatory frameworks through building the capacities of hydromet and institutionalizing land use and soil/pasture data into standardised planning and digital land systems,	Multi-countries

Core Indicator	Baseline context	Rating for current state	Target scenario	How the project will contribute	Coverage
				supported by legal foundations and data-sharing protocols. Output 1.2 strengthens climate-relevant institutions on climate and carbon finance, and on repurposing harmful subsidies towards CRLE practices and restoration. At the sub-national/local level, Output 1.1 supports uptake of these tools for climate-informed and coordinated decision-making and better targeting of AFOLU interventions.	
Core indicator 7: Degree to which GCF Investments contribute to market development/transformation at the sectoral, local, or national level	Markets for CRLE agriculture products remain underdeveloped: producers and MSMEs face limited access to finance and high cost of capital; financial institutions have limited capability to assess climate and E&S risks and to develop products for CRLE technologies and practices as well as for value-chain upgrading investments. As a result, demand and supply for CRLE technologies and practices and associated services are not yet sustained at scale	Low	Finance and market access increasingly support CRLE adoption: domestic financial institutions offer CRLE products supported by internal screening; green bond readiness improves capital mobilisation potential for CRLE measures; producers and MSMEs access and commercial finance for CRLE technologies and practices; and value-chain investments and business models improve bankability, market incentives and returns, making CRLE adoption more attractive and sustainable. The market effect is expected to continue through stronger institutional capabilities in financial institutions, improved pipeline quality, demonstrated CRLE investments, and financing approaches that can be replicated after the initial programme-supported interventions.	On the public sector side, Output 1.2 supports enabling public finance conditions that support CRLE adoption. On the private sector side, strengthening the capacity of financial institutions to identify, assess, and manage CRLE investments through improved risk management, internal procedures, screening, and reporting systems, while also supporting CSA facility design and green/thematic bond readiness and issuance. Output 2.3 complements this by establishing programme financing mechanisms for producers, cooperatives, and rural MSMEs through the asset-based No-Till Adoption Accelerators, matching grants, and linkages to EIB-supported lending. In the Kyrgyz Republic, No-Till Adoption Accelerators support repeated financing cycles through repayment	Multi-countries

Core Indicator	Baseline context	Rating for current state	Target scenario	How the project will contribute	Coverage
				and reinvestment. Across the three countries, matching grants support investment in CRLE technologies and practices, helping beneficiaries address upfront cost barriers. Alongside value-chain support contributing to predictable demand, these measures strengthen the pipeline of investable activities and support wider uptake of CRLE-related inputs, services, equipment, and business models.	
Core indicator 8: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to effective knowledge generation and learning processes, and use of good practices, methodologies and standards	Insufficient regional cooperation on land use-related transboundary climate risks; weak coordination across transboundary landscapes; limited dialogue of certain stakeholder groups; insufficient regional capacity for long-term planning; weak cross-country capacities for joint climate investments	Low	Shared regional development pathways for the AFOLU sector are jointly developed and downscaled into national cross-sectoral platforms (Component 1); regular and institutionalized regional and bilateral exchange and learning between national and subnational institutions responsible for land use planning, private sector actors, public and private financial institutions, and national entities active across the three Rio Conventions. A regional climate investment platform enhances attraction and streamlining of climate finance for the AFOLU sector in the three Central Asian countries	Output 3.1 strengthens regional strategic foresight and scenario planning by building the capacities of high-level AFOLU decision-makers and supporting the joint development of long-term regional development pathways. Output 3.2 promotes regional and bilateral exchange, learning and stakeholder engagement, while strengthening CACIP through expanded AFOLU climate resilience content and improved user-tailored access. Output 3.3 establishes and operationalizes a regional climate investment platform, providing technical support to channel climate finance and grant funding, and supporting a sustainable funding mechanism for joint AFOLU adaptation action in transboundary landscapes across.	Multi-countries

D.3. Project/programme Specific Output Indicators							
Outcome Indicator	Output Indicator	Unit	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Mid-term Target	Final Target	Assumptions/Notes
(IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached (IRMF) Core 4: Hectares of natural resource areas brought under improved low emission and/or climate resilient management practices (IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered	Output 1.1. Sets of climate information products applied by planning institutions in the AFOLU sectors	No. of Items	Programme M&E Document review and reports by line Ministries	0	3	3	Climate information products are considered useful by line ministries responsible for planning in the AFOLU sectors.
(IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached (IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered Total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms to support climate-resilient and low-emission development	Output 1.2. Sets of draft legal documents and guidelines to enhance access to innovative climate finance	No. of Items	Programme M&E Document review of draft laws, regulations, guidelines	0	0	3	Interest by relevant government institutions, including NDAs, in assessing options for accessing compliance and voluntary carbon markets. Final target: Total 3 (KG 1; TJ 1; UZ 1).
(IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached (IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered (IRMF) Supplementary 2.1 Beneficiaries (female/male) adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood options Total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms to support climate-	Output 1.3. Financing vehicles established, expanded and capitalised	No. of Items	Programme M&E Press release	1	1	3	Willingness of local financial institutions to establish dedicated windows for CSA. Final target: Total 3 (KG 1; TJ 1; UZ 1 national).

Outcome Indicator	Output Indicator	Unit	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Mid-term Target	Final Target	Assumptions/Notes
resilient and low-emission development							
(IRMF) Core 4: Hectares of natural resource areas brought under improved low emission and/or climate resilient management practices (IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered (IRMF) Supplementary 4.1 Hectares of terrestrial-forest, terrestrial-non-forest, freshwater and coastal-marine areas brought under restoration and or improved ecosystems Total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms to support climate-resilient and low-emission development	Output 2.1 Climate-informed AFOLU adaptation plans approved at subnational level	No. of Items	Programme M&E Document review of approved plans Field observation visits Focus groups	0	180	180	Interest from municipalities in working with the programme to develop climate-informed plans. Mid-term and final target: Total 180 (KG 60; TJ 60; UZ 60).
(IRMF) Core 4: Hectares of natural resource areas brought under improved low emission and/or climate resilient management practices (IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered (IRMF) Supplementary 4.1 Hectares of terrestrial-forest, terrestrial-non-forest, freshwater and coastal-marine areas brought under restoration and or improved ecosystems (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached Total number of established or	Output 2.2. Climate-informed forest and pasture management plans approved	No. of Items	Programme M&E Document review of approved plans Field observation visits Focus groups	0	165	165	Interest from SFEs in mainstreaming climate considerations into forest management plans. Mid-term and final target: Total 25 (KG 11; TJ 6; UZ 8). Pasture management plans: Interest from pasture management organizations in working with the programme to develop climate-informed plans. Mid-term and final target: Total 140 (KG 55; TJ 55; UZ 30).

Outcome Indicator	Output Indicator	Unit	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Mid-term Target	Final Target	Assumptions/Notes
strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms to support climate-resilient and low-emission development Total ecosystems placed under conservation activities (ha)							
(IRMF) Core 4: Hectares of natural resource areas brought under improved low emission and/or climate resilient management practices (IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached Total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms to support climate-resilient and low-emission development (IRMF) Supplementary 2.1 Beneficiaries (female/male) adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood options	Output 2.3. Operational financial mechanisms established or supported by the programme	No. of Items	Programme M&E Documentation of financial mechanisms operational guidelines	0	9	9	Mid-term and final target: Total 9 (KG 5; TJ 2; UZ 2): 6 agricultural finance mechanisms (2 per country - matching grant mechanism + EIB credit programme) and 3 No-Till Adoption Accelerators in KG.
(IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered Total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms to support climate-resilient and low-emission development	Output 3.1. Plausible future scenarios developed as a basis for the regional pathway(s)	No. of Items	Programme M&E Post-training surveys Key-informant interviews Scenario reports	0	4	4	Sufficient interest of the countries and regional actors to build climate change into regional long-term development considerations.

Outcome Indicator	Output Indicator	Unit	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Mid-term Target	Final Target	Assumptions/Notes
(IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached							
(IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached Total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms to support climate-resilient and low-emission development	Output 3.2. Climate resilience toolbox available online	No. of Items	Programme M&E Live web link Usage analytics	0	0	1	CACIP remains the number one climate information online resource.
(IRMF) Core 4: Hectares of natural resource areas brought under improved low emission and/or climate resilient management practices (IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached Total ecosystems placed under conservation activities (ha) (IRMF) Supplementary 4.1 Hectares of terrestrial-forest, terrestrial-non-forest, freshwater and coastal-marine areas brought under restoration and or improved ecosystems	Output 3.3. Fund for transborder climate action established	No. of Items	Programme M&E Documentation of establishment Official launch documentation	0	1	1	National governments in the three countries committed to supporting the platform.

D.4. Project/programme activities and deliverables			
Output Indicator	Activities	Deliverables	Unit
Output 1.1. Sets of climate information products applied by planning institutions in the AFOLU sectors	Activity 1.1.1. Improve the knowledge base and institutionalise climate-informed planning and monitoring at the national level	• 45 Hydromet staff capacitated on data management and climate product development • 3 sets of innovative and operational climate change information products agreed between Hydromet and relevant institutions in the AFOLU sector (one per country)	• # of staff • # of product sets • # of modules • # of AI modules • # of document sets

Output Indicator	Activities	Deliverables	Unit
		• 3 climate modules integrated in the digital land information systems (one per country) • 2 operational AI modules to run scenario-based analysis of land use and climate data (KG, TJ) • 3 sets of draft legal documents and procedures for improved data sharing, land use planning using climate information and the use of innovative digital tools (one per country) • Mid- and higher-level staff in AFOLU-relevant national and devolved institutions capacitated on climate-informed planning • Training materials institutionalised in 3 institutions (one per country)	• # of staff • # of institutions that institutionalise training materials
Output 1.1. Sets of climate information products applied by planning institutions in the AFOLU sectors	Activity 1.1.2. Mainstream climate information into intersectoral coordination platforms and plans	• National Council for Water and Land Resources with extended mandate (KG) • 2 sets of statutory documents for a multisectoral and multiscale platform drafted (TJ, UZ)	• # of coordination platforms • # of statutory document sets
Output 1.2. Sets of draft legal documents and guidelines to enhance access to innovative climate finance	Activity 1.2.1. Support a conducive public financing environment promoting climate-resilient and low-emission land uses	• Public and private sector partners capacitated on accessing climate finance • 3 options assessments for accessing carbon finance for the AFOLU sectors (one per country) • 3 sets of draft legal documents and guidelines to enhance access to innovative climate finance (one per country) • 1 pipeline of AFOLU investment concepts (TJ) • 2 CPEIR completed (KG, TJ) • 1 PER in the AFOLU sector completed (UZ) • 3 national processes launched for repurposing harmful subsidies into public support for scaling up CRLE practices and technologies and ecosystem restoration (one per country)	• # of partners capacitated • # of assessments • # of document sets • # of pipelines • # of CPEIRs • # of PERs • # of processes initiated
Output 1.3. Financing vehicles established, expanded and capitalised	Activity 1.3.1. Support domestic financial institutions to better manage climate risks in the agriculture sector	• 3 training curricula developed considering country specificities and digitised as video modules (one per country) • Staff of selected banks capacitated on climate risk management	• # of curricula • # of staff
Output 1.3. Financing vehicles established, expanded and capitalised	Activity 1.3.2. Establish climate-smart agriculture financing facilities and support issuance of green bonds	• 3 institutions onboarded with documented readiness gaps and an agreed support plan for the CSAFF or bond issuance (one per country) • 2 finance facilities established and operationalised (KG, TJ) • 1 finance facility operationalised (UZ) • 4 green bonds issued (2 in KG, 1 in TJ and UZ each)	• # of institutions • # of facilities • # of facilities • # of bonds

Output Indicator	Activities	Deliverables	Unit
Output 2.1 Climate-informed AFOLU adaptation plans approved at subnational level	Activity 2.1.1. Prioritization of municipalities based on district-level climate diagnostics	• 180 Prioritised target municipalities identified (60 KG: 60 TJ; 60 UZ) • 180 Target municipalities validated (60 KG: 60 TJ; 60 UZ)	• # of prioritised municipalities • # of validated municipalities
Output 2.1 Climate-informed AFOLU adaptation plans approved at subnational level	Activity 2.1.2. Develop local AFOLU adaptation plans in selected landscapes	• 180 Situation models developed (60 KG: 60 TJ; 60 UZ) • Local AFOLU adaptation plans prepared (60 KG: 60 TJ; 60 UZ) • Local AFOLU adaptation plans approved (60 KG: 60 TJ; 60 UZ)	• # of models • # of prepared plans • # of approved plans
Output 2.2. Climate-informed forest and pasture management plans approved	Activity 2.2.1. Scale land restoration practices in degraded forests in transboundary landscapes	• 3 sets of training materials on climate-informed forest management planning developed (1 per country) • Intermediary partners trained • 25 Forest resources management and investment plans developed and approved at SFE level (11 KG; 6 TJ; 8 UZ) • 700 Lease agreements formalized (100 KG; 400 TJ; 200 UZ) • 125 needs-based trainings delivered • Investments in forest restoration and afforestation/reforestation implemented	• # of material sets • # of training sessions • # of plans • # of agreements • # of trainings • # of investment packages
Output 2.2. Climate-informed forest and pasture management plans approved	Activity 2.2.2. Scale land restoration practices in degraded rangelands in transboundary landscapes	• 3 sets of training materials for pasture management developed (1 per country) • 2 one-week (KG, UZ) and 1 one-week (TJ) training sessions for intermediary partners. • 140 Climate-informed pasture management plans approved (55 KG: 55 TJ; 30 UZ) • 140 needs-based local trainings delivered (55 KG: 55 TJ; 30 UZ) • Investments in pasture restoration and sustainable climate-resilient use implemented	• # of material sets • # of training sessions • # of plans • # of trainings • # of investment packages
Output 2.3. Operational financial mechanisms established or supported by the programme	Activity 2.3.1. Scale the adoption of locally relevant CRLE land use practices and technologies in agriculture in transboundary landscapes	• PICSA adjusted to regional conditions • E-PICSA operationalized in each country • 120 Extension services and intermediaries trained on E-PICSA • PICSA implemented in 180 selected municipalities (60 KG: 60 TJ; 60 UZ) • 36,000 producers capacitated (12,000 per country) • 300 field training sessions and field days held • Investments in the adoption of CRLE practices and technologies in agriculture	• # of scoping reports for PICSA adjustment • # of operational E-PICSA systems • # of training sessions • # of municipalities where PICSA is implemented • # of producers trained on PICSA • # of field trainings/field days • Volume through agricultural finance mechanisms disbursed

Output Indicator	Activities	Deliverables	Unit
Output 2.3. Operational financial mechanisms established or supported by the programme	Activity 2.3.2. Establish financial mechanisms for enabling the adoption of CRLE practices in the agricultural sector	• 3 No-Till Adoption Accelerators established and 24 operational CATs established in KG • 3 matching grant mechanisms established and operational (1 per country)	• # of No-Till Adoption Accelerators • # of CATs • # of matching grant mechanisms
Output 2.3. Operational financial mechanisms established or supported by the programme	Activity 2.3.3. Investment in climate-resilient and low-emission agriculture and associated value-chain infrastructure	• Simplified template for business models and investment plans aligned with the pre-selected value chains, including climate risk considerations • Pipeline of 600 investment files developed with producers, producer groups, and MSMEs, suitable for screening by financial institutions and programme mechanisms • 3 EIB loan programmes are operationalised for on-lending for CRLE investments (KG 1; TJ 1; UZ 1) • Investments in VC development through the financial mechanisms established by the programme. • EUR 15.5 million leveraged from matching contributions through the matching grant mechanism	• # of business model templates • # of investment files • # loan programmes • EUR volume of investments • EUR volume of matching contribution
Output 3.1. Plausible future scenarios developed as a basis for the regional pathway(s)	Activity 3.1.1. Strengthening regional foresight and planning capacities	• 1 regional and 3 national partner institutions selected • 1 Stocktaking and megatrend analysis completed • 1 Training package on strategic foresight developed • Training package institutionalised in 3 regional or national partner institutions • 60 stakeholders capacitated on foresight (from 5 countries) • 50 Young leaders capacitated on foresight at 2 editions of the Youth Leadership Programme	• # of regional and national institutions • # of reports • # of training packages • # of institutions where training institutionalised • # of stakeholders • # of young leaders
Output 3.1. Plausible future scenarios developed as a basis for the regional pathway(s)	Activity 3.1.2. Creation of regional climate-informed development pathways for AFOLU	• 1 set of 4 plausible future scenarios developed • 1 set of policy pathways towards a resilient AFOLU sector in Central Asia developed	• # of scenario sets • # of pathway sets
Output 3.2. Climate resilience toolbox available online	Activity 3.2.1. Enhancing regional knowledge exchange and information sharing through sustainable mechanisms	• 9 Regional knowledge and exchange events held • Strategy for secured financing of exchange events developed	• # of events • # of strategies
Output 3.2. Climate resilience toolbox available online	Activity 3.2.2. Development of climate resilience toolbox	• 1 climate resilience toolbox established under CACIP • 1 new CACIP interface developed • 150 regional experts capacitated on CACIP resources • 1 coaching programme established	• # of toolboxes • # of interfaces • # of experts • # of programmes

Output Indicator	Activities	Deliverables	Unit
Output 3.3. Fund for transborder climate action established	Activity 3.3.1. Creation of a regional climate investment platform	• 1 platform structure and role defined • 1 regional climate investment platform formally established • Secretariat staff capacitated • 1 coaching programme for secretariat staff implemented • 1 investment roadmap developed	• # of platform design packages • # of platforms • # of staff • # of programmes • # of roadmaps
Output 3.3. Fund for transborder climate action established	Activity 3.3.2. Support the implementation of adaptation actions in transboundary landscapes in the AFOLU sectors	• 1 funding mechanism established • 10 climate adaptation action plans developed in transboundary landscapes • Needs-based technical assistance visits and on-site trainings carried out • 10 Investment grants awarded (totaling max EUR 3 million) • 3 Learning events on results of transboundary climate adaptation plans held	• # of mechanisms • # of plans • # of support visits/trainings • # of grants • # of events
N/A	M&E	M&E	
N/A	Contingency	Contingency	
N/A	PMC	PMC	

D.5. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation arrangements (max. 500 words)

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation arrangements

125. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation arrangements (in addition to the ESMP and GAP) will comply with the relevant GCF policies, as stipulated in the AMA, FAA and programme-related Financing Agreements with EEs and IPs.
126. The programme will apply a customized results-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to track programme (sub-) activities, outcomes and impacts based on:
- GIZ Standard Operating Procedures (“GIZ’s evaluation policy – principles, guidelines and requirements”)
 - M&E plan (Annex 12)
 - IRMF and logical framework
 - Implementation timetable (Annex 3)
 - GCF’s Annual Performance Report requirements
 - Procedures and requirements of programme partners and stakeholders in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
127. The GIZ GCF Oversight Unit will approve the monitoring system and ensures quality control of reports to the GCF.

Recruitment of M&E staff

128. GIZ EE will dedicate specialists to establish the monitoring system and coordinate contributions from all programme partners and EEs.

Independent evaluation

129. GIZ AE’s Corporate Unit Evaluation will conduct a **mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation**.
130. GIZ evaluations are carried out by GIZs’ independent evaluation unit, steered by a corporate unit separate from operational business and reporting directly to the Management Board. Evaluations are supported by external evaluators.
131. GIZ applies the “Evaluation criteria for German bilateral development cooperation” (2006, revised 2020), based on the six OECD-DAC criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, coherence and sustainability.
132. Additionally, the following GCF criteria will be evaluated: gender equity, country ownership, innovativeness in results areas, replication and scalability, and unexpected results.
133. **GCF evaluation principles on impartiality, objectivity, relevance, use and participation** will be upheld in line with Chapter V(a–d) of the GCF Evaluation Policy, DAC standards, DeGEval standards and UNEG norms. Evaluation team members selected by GIZ must not be directly responsible for policy setting, design or management of the evaluated programme.
134. **Regarding GCFs’ Evaluation Principle: Credibility and Robustness:** GIZ uses appropriate quantitative and qualitative empirical methods, adapted to the evaluation object and questions. A theory-based approach is the minimum standard, with contribution analysis used to assess whether and to what extent programme contributions are associated with observed changes, and to identify what works, what does not and why

135. Projects will be rated against the six OECD-DAC and GCF criteria, each on a scale from 1 to 100, increasing transparency and comparability.
136. An Interim Independent Evaluation Report and a Final Independent Evaluation Report will be submitted to the GCF according to FAA timeline.
137. Results from the mid-term evaluation should be reflected within the programme design, to influence upscaling, and improve overall programme implementation (adaptive management).

Data collection and frequency

138. GIZ EE will coordinate data collection for implemented activities through the responsible EE in charge of leading the monitoring activities at local level. It will supervise and guide the monitoring and evaluation and will aggregate monitoring reports based on local partner inputs at least every six months and make a summary report available to GIZ's AE unit at head office, again at least every six months.

E. FINANCING INFORMATION

E.1. Sources of Funds

(a) Requested GCF funding	Currency	Total amount	USD (converted)
	EUR	119,580,500.00	136,261,979.76

Sources of funds						
Institution	Financial Instrument	Currency	Amount	USD (converted)	Tenor & grace <i>tenor / grace</i>	Pricing
GCF	Grants	EUR	119,580,500.00	136,261,979.76		

(b) Co-financing	Currency	Total amount	USD (converted)
	EUR	144,794,870.00	167,991,008.09

Institution	Financial Instrument	Currency	Amount	USD (converted)	Tenor & grace <i>tenor / grace</i>	Pricing	Seniority
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Grants	EUR	12,000,000.00	13,922,399.99			N/A
European Investment Bank (EIB)	Senior Loans	EUR	120,000,000.00	139,223,999.93			
Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic	In-kind	EUR	3,980,870.00	4,618,605.37			N/A

Institution	Financial Instrument	Currency	Amount	USD (converted)	Tenor & grace <i>tenor / grace</i>	Pricing	Seniority
Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan (CEP)	In-kind	EUR	4,675,000.00	5,423,935.00			N/A
National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NCECC)	In-kind	EUR	4,139,000.00	4,802,067.80			N/A

(c) Total financing (c) = (a) + (b)	Currency	Amount	USD (converted)
	EUR	264,375,370.00	304,252,987.85

(d) Other financing arrangements and contributions (max. 250 words)	EIB, as the European Union's financing institution, is expected to receive a guarantee from the European Commission. Countries' co-financing for the programme will be provided in the form of in-kind contributions, including some staff time, office premises, transport, access to data, and selected agricultural inputs, and government-funded national programme, i.e., particularly afforestation measures. Further details on tax exemptions are provided in Annex 4. Through the matching grant mechanism, the programme is expected to leverage approximately EUR 15.5 million from beneficiary contributions. In addition, support for green bond issuance and the establishment of CSA facilities will help mobilise and leverage further private finance both during and beyond the programme implementation period.
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E.2. Uses of funds

Output Indicator	Activities	Source	Instrument	Indicative cost (% of Output)	USD (converted)	Country
Output 1.1. Sets of climate information products applied by	Activity 1.1.1. Improve the knowledge base and institutionalise	Federal Ministry for Economic	Grants	EUR 909,255.00 (20.2%) EUR 852,423.00 (18.9%)	1,054,917.65 988,981.16	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan

planning institutions in the AFOLU sectors	climate-informed planning and monitoring at the national level (1.1.1)	Cooperation and Development (BMZ)		EUR 841,656.00 (18.7%) EUR 95,572.00 (2.1%)	976,489.29 110,882.63	Uzbekistan Non-country specific
Output 1.1. Sets of climate information products applied by planning institutions in the AFOLU sectors	Activity 1.1.1. Improve the knowledge base and institutionalise climate-informed planning and monitoring at the national level (1.1.1)	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic	In-kind	EUR 967,341.00 (21.3%)	1,113,602.96	Kyrgyzstan
Output 1.1. Sets of climate information products applied by planning institutions in the AFOLU sectors	Activity 1.1.2. Mainstream climate information into intersectoral coordination platforms and plans (1.1.2)	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Grants	EUR 150,669.00 (3.3%) EUR 136,396.00 (3%) EUR 142,842.00 (3.2%) EUR 95,572.00 (2.1%)	174,806.17 158,246.64 165,725.29 110,882.63	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan Non-country specific
Output 1.1. Sets of climate information products applied by planning institutions in the AFOLU sectors	Activity 1.1.2. Mainstream climate information into intersectoral coordination platforms and plans (1.1.2)	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic	In-kind	EUR 323,082.00 (7.1%)	371,932.00	Kyrgyzstan
Output 1.2. Sets of draft legal documents and guidelines to enhance access to innovative climate finance	Activity 1.2.1. Support a conducive public financing environment promoting climate-resilient and low-emission land uses	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Grants	EUR 511,573.00 (27.2%) EUR 504,463.00 (26.8%) EUR 444,598.00 (23.7%) EUR 95,572.00 (5.1%)	593,526.99 585,277.97 515,822.60 110,882.63	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan Non-country specific
Output 1.2. Sets of draft legal documents and guidelines to	Activity 1.2.1. Support a conducive public financing environment	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical	In-kind	EUR 323,082.00 (17.2%)	374,839.74	Kyrgyzstan

enhance access to innovative climate finance	promoting climate-resilient and low-emission land uses	Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic				
Output 1.3. Financing vehicles established, expanded and capitalised	Activity 1.3.1. Support domestic financial institutions to better manage climate risks in the agriculture sector (1.3.1)	GCF	Grants	EUR 538,492.00 (9.1%) EUR 490,744.00 (8.3%) EUR 460,317.00 (7.8%)	624,758.42 569,361.19 534,059.78	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan
Output 1.3. Financing vehicles established, expanded and capitalised	Activity 1.3.2. Establish climate-smart agriculture financing facilities and support issuance of green bonds (1.3.2)	GCF	Grants	EUR 1,570,023.00 (26.4%) EUR 1,522,213.00 (25.6%) EUR 1,354,228.00 (22.8%)	1,821,540.68 1,766,071.52 1,571,175.32	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan
Output 2.1 Climate-informed AFOLU adaptation plans approved at subnational level	Activity 2.1.1. Prioritization of municipalities based on district-level climate diagnostics (2.1.1)	GCF	Grants	EUR 597,777.00 (12.8%) EUR 571,245.00 (12.3%) EUR 579,428.00 (12.4%)	693,540.88 662,758.45 672,252.37	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan
Output 2.1 Climate-informed AFOLU adaptation plans approved at subnational level	Activity 2.1.1. Prioritization of municipalities based on district-level climate diagnostics (2.1.1)	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic	In-kind	EUR 107,694.00 (2.3%)	124,946.58	Kyrgyzstan
Output 2.1 Climate-informed AFOLU adaptation plans approved at subnational level	Activity 2.1.2. Develop local AFOLU adaptation plans in selected landscapes (2.1.2)	GCF	Grants	EUR 929,098.00 (20%) EUR 926,871.00 (19.9%) EUR 944,713.00 (20.3%)	1,077,939.50 1,075,355.73 1,096,056.02	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan

Output 2.2. Climate-informed forest and pasture management plans approved	Activity 2.2.1. Scale land restoration practices in degraded forests in transboundary landscapes (2.2.1)	GCF	Grants	EUR 7,818,561.00 (18.2%) EUR 4,665,816.00 (10.9%) EUR 5,846,228.00 (13.6%)	9,071,094.47 5,413,279.72 6,782,793.72	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan
Output 2.2. Climate-informed forest and pasture management plans approved	Activity 2.2.1. Scale land restoration practices in degraded forests in transboundary landscapes (2.2.1)	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic	In-kind	EUR 484,624.00 (1.1%)	562,260.76	Kyrgyzstan
Output 2.2. Climate-informed forest and pasture management plans approved	Activity 2.2.1. Scale land restoration practices in degraded forests in transboundary landscapes (2.2.1)	Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan (CEP)	In-kind	EUR 3,400,000.00 (7.9%)	3,944,680.00	Tajikistan
Output 2.2. Climate-informed forest and pasture management plans approved	Activity 2.2.1. Scale land restoration practices in degraded forests in transboundary landscapes (2.2.1)	National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NCECC)	in-kind	EUR 948,194.00 (2.2%)	1,100,094.68	Uzbekistan
Output 2.2. Climate-informed forest and pasture management plans approved	Activity 2.2.2. Scale land restoration practices in degraded rangelands in transboundary landscapes (2.2.2)	GCF	Grants	EUR 7,697,925.00 (17.9%) EUR 6,808,688.00 (15.9%) EUR 4,269,632.00 (9.9%)	8,931,132.58 7,899,439.81 4,953,627.04	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan
Output 2.2. Climate-informed forest and	Activity 2.2.2. Scale land restoration practices in degraded rangelands in	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical	In-kind	EUR 682,714.00 (1.6%)	792,084.78	Kyrgyzstan

pasture management plans approved	transboundary landscapes (2.2.2)	Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic				
Output 2.2. Climate-informed forest and pasture management plans approved	Activity 2.2.2. Scale land restoration practices in degraded rangelands in transboundary landscapes (2.2.2)	National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NCECC)	In-kind	EUR 302,721.00 (0.7%)	351,216.90	Uzbekistan
Output 2.3. Operational financial mechanisms established or supported by the programme	Activity 2.3.1. Scale the adoption of locally relevant CRLE land use practices and technologies in agriculture in transboundary landscapes (2.3.1)	GCF	Grants	EUR 9,906,665.00 (5.5%) EUR 14,015,071.00 (7.8%) EUR 17,565,301.00 (9.8%)	11,493,712.73 16,260,285.37 20,379,262.21	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan
Output 2.3. Operational financial mechanisms established or supported by the programme	Activity 2.3.1. Scale the adoption of locally relevant CRLE land use practices and technologies in agriculture in transboundary landscapes (2.3.1)	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic	In-kind	EUR 484,624.00 (0.3%)	562,260.76	Kyrgyzstan
Output 2.3. Operational financial mechanisms established or supported by the programme	Activity 2.3.1. Scale the adoption of locally relevant CRLE land use practices and technologies in agriculture in transboundary landscapes (2.3.1)	National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NCECC)	In-kind	EUR 1,959,984.00 (1.1%)	2,273,973.44	Uzbekistan

Output 2.3. Operational financial mechanisms established or supported by the programme	Activity 2.3.2. Establish financial mechanisms for enabling the adoption of CRLE practices in the agricultural sector (2.3.2)	GCF	Grants	EUR 3,438,983.00 (1.9%) EUR 599,687.00 (0.3%) EUR 637,645.00 (0.4%)	3,989,908.07 695,756.86 739,795.73	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan
Output 2.3. Operational financial mechanisms established or supported by the programme	Activity 2.3.3. Investment in climate-resilient and low-emission agriculture and associated value-chain infrastructure (2.3.3)	GCF	Grants	EUR 3,457,902.00 (1.9%) EUR 3,544,241.00 (2%) EUR 3,696,755.00 (2.1%)	4,011,857.90 4,112,028.41 4,288,975.15	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan
Output 2.3. Operational financial mechanisms established or supported by the programme	Activity 2.3.3. Investment in climate-resilient and low-emission agriculture and associated value-chain infrastructure (2.3.3)	European Investment Bank	Senior Loans	EUR 30,000,000.00 (16.7%) EUR 30,000,000.00 (16.7%) EUR 60,000,000.00 (33.5%)	34,805,999.98 34,805,999.98 69,611,999.96	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan
Output 3.1. Plausible future scenarios developed as a basis for the regional pathway(s)	Activity 3.1.1. Strengthening regional foresight and planning capacities (3.1.1)	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Grants	EUR 311,132.00 (13.5%) EUR 316,796.00 (13.8%) EUR 278,642.00 (12.1%) EUR 519,250.00 (22.6%)	360,975.35 367,546.72 323,280.45 602,433.85	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan Non-country specific
Output 3.1. Plausible future scenarios developed as a basis for the regional pathway(s)	Activity 3.1.2. Creation of regional climate-informed development pathways for AFOLU (3.1.2)	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Grants	EUR 220,790.00 (9.6%) EUR 223,913.00 (9.7%) EUR 188,300.00 (8.2%) EUR 238,406.00 (10.4%)	256,160.56 259,783.86 218,465.66 276,598.64	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan Non-country specific

Output 3.2. Climate resilience toolbox available online	Activity 3.2.1. Enhancing regional knowledge exchange and information sharing through sustainable mechanisms (3.2.1)	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Grants	EUR 220,097.00 (12.5%) EUR 222,989.00 (12.6%) EUR 188,993.00 (10.7%) EUR 258,276.00 (14.6%)	255,356.54 258,711.84 219,269.68 299,651.82	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan Non-country specific
Output 3.2. Climate resilience toolbox available online	Activity 3.2.2. Development of climate resilience toolbox (3.2.2)	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Grants	EUR 220,790.00 (12.5%) EUR 223,913.00 (12.7%) EUR 188,300.00 (10.7%) EUR 240,716.00 (13.6%)	256,160.56 259,783.86 218,465.66 279,278.70	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan Non-country specific
Output 3.3. Fund for transborder climate action established	Activity 3.3.1. Creation of a regional climate investment platform (3.3.1)	GCF	Grants	EUR 992,943.00 (16.7%) EUR 965,315.00 (16.3%) EUR 978,908.00 (16.5%)	1,152,012.47 1,119,958.46 1,135,729.06	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan
Output 3.3. Fund for transborder climate action established	Activity 3.3.2. Support the implementation of adaptation actions in transboundary landscapes in the AFOLU sectors (3.3.2)	GCF	Grants	EUR 1,013,876.00 (17.1%) EUR 984,169.00 (16.6%) EUR 999,842.00 (16.8%)	1,176,298.93 1,141,832.87 1,160,016.69	Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan
	M&E	GCF	Grants	EUR 3,136,904.00	3,639,436.02	Non-country specific
	M&E	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Grants	EUR 602,073.00	698,525.09	Non-country specific
	Contingency	GCF	Grants	EUR 1,620,000.00	1,879,524.00	Non-country specific
	PMC	GCF	Grants	EUR 4,434,294.00	5,144,667.90	Non-country specific
	PMC	Federal Ministry for Economic	Grants	EUR 2,556,033.00	2,965,509.49	Non-country specific

		Cooperation and Development (BMZ)				
	PMC	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic	In-kind	EUR 607,709.00	705,063.98	Kyrgyzstan
	PMC	Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan (CEP)	In-kind	EUR 1,275,000.00	1,479,255.00	Tajikistan
	PMC	National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NCECC)	In-kind	EUR 928,101.00	1,076,782.78	Uzbekistan

E.3. Financial structure and flow of funds (max. 1,000 words, max. 500 words for SAP)

Financial structure

139. The programme uses GCF grant resources and co-finance to provide technical assistance and targeted financing mechanisms that **address structural barriers to CRLE investment across the AFOLU sectors** in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The proposed structure reflects the climate problem, market gaps and the role of GCF, combining support for public goods, institutional strengthening and financing constraints that cannot be addressed through commercial finance alone. Climate risks threaten rural livelihoods, food security, forests and pasture systems, while investment is constrained by fragmented planning, limited use of climate information, weak implementation capacity, high financing costs and limited loan tenors. These barriers are particularly acute for smallholders, herders, cooperatives and rural MSMEs, especially where **CRLE investments involve high upfront costs, long payback periods** or collective landscape benefits that cannot be fully captured through private cash flows.
140. The financing architecture therefore addresses different barriers through complementary instruments, i.e., grant financing for public goods and institutional strengthening, targeted support for beneficiaries to adopt CRLE investments, and support to financial institutions to strengthen longer-term domestic financing capacity for CRLE investments.
141. **Non-reimbursable grant funding for enabling conditions, institutional capacity, technical assistance, and public or community-oriented investments, with No-Till Adoption Accelerators, matching grants, and an EIB-credit programme to support productive investments and crowd in additional finance** over time. Grants are appropriate for Components 1 and 3, which largely generate public rather than direct financial returns. These

components support climate-informed AFOLU planning, digital decision-support systems, regional cooperation, knowledge exchange and investment platforms. **Grant funding is also justified for community and ecosystem investments**, including forest and pasture restoration, **where benefits accrue over long periods and are shared across users and landscapes**.

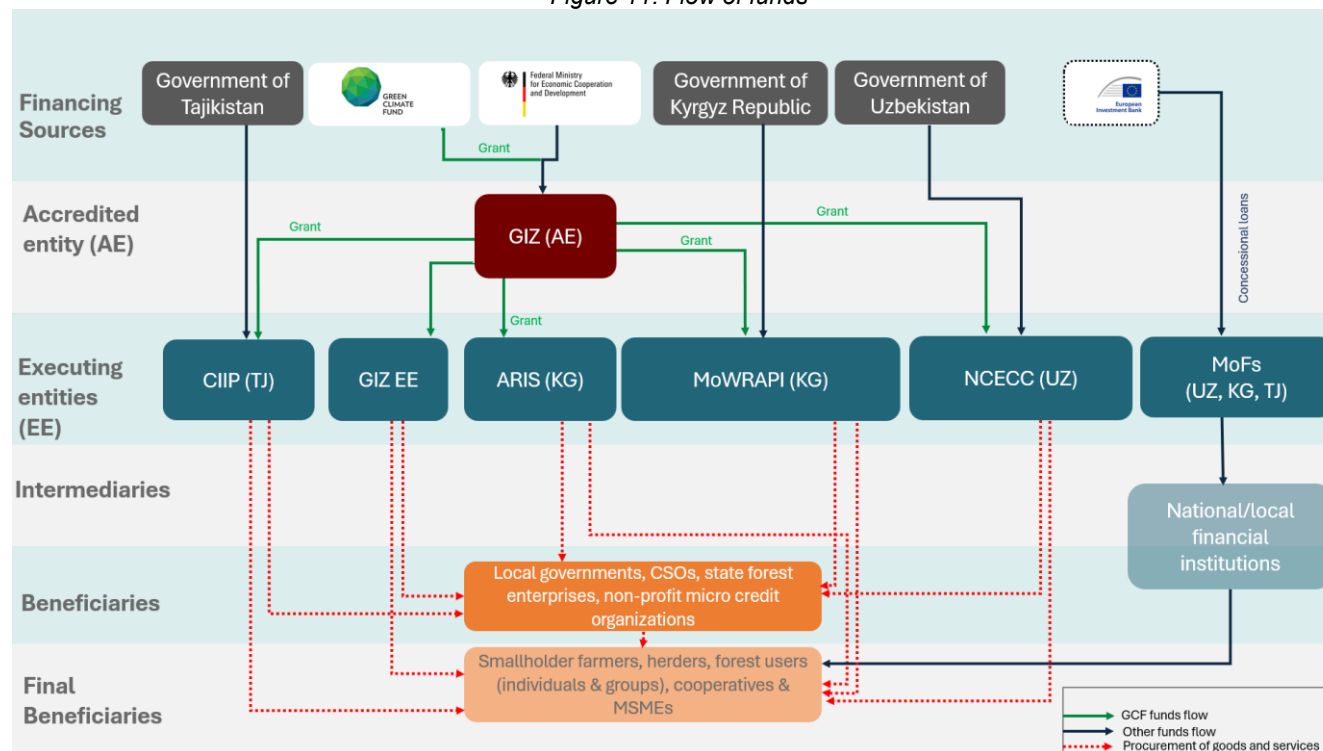
142. For Component 2, the programme **applies minimum concessionality** by combining grant-funded technical assistance and catalytic support with mechanisms designed **to improve affordability, reduce risk and enable replication**. These include matching grants in all three countries, No-Till Adoption Accelerators in the Kyrgyz Republic, support to partner financial institutions to establish CSA financing facilities and strengthen green bond issuance capacity, and EIB co-finance for eligible CRLE investments and value-chain development. Standard senior lending alone would be insufficient under current market conditions because interest rates are high, collateral requirements restrict access for smaller rural borrowers, and many agriculture, forestry and rangeland investments have repayment periods or risk profiles that do not fit conventional commercial products. Matching grants address upfront affordability constraints and facilitate adoption of CRLE technologies and practices by beneficiaries with different financial capacities. Their segmentation and contribution ratios are informed by international guidance, benchmarking and stakeholder consultations, which indicate that higher beneficiary contributions could exclude vulnerable smallholders. In the Kyrgyz Republic, the Accelerator is designed to support repeated financing cycles through repayment and reinvestment. Support to financial institutions will strengthen CRLE and CSA lending capacity through improved procedures, screening, governance and reporting. Together, these measures reduce entry barriers, strengthen borrower readiness and pipeline development, and help establish financing approaches that can be scaled with EIB co-finance.
143. Scaling and replication are central to the structure. Matching grants and the Accelerator support adoption of CRLE technologies and practices, including soil conservation and forest and pasture restoration measures prioritised in local plans in transboundary landscapes. The Accelerator is intended to continue beyond the programme period through repayment and reinvestment. CSA financing facilities and green bond support are intended to strengthen longer-term domestic financing capacity and mobilise additional private finance. Value-chain strengthening will further reduce risks and improve returns for producers and MSMEs, supporting both sustained CRLE adoption and crowding-in of additional finance. The structure therefore combines catalytic support for vulnerable end users with market-building and institutional measures that can continue and scale beyond programme implementation.
144. Other instruments, including **reimbursable grants, loans, equity, guarantees, and results-based payments, were considered less suitable as primary instruments for the programme's main barriers and beneficiary groups**. Loans alone would increase indebtedness without sufficiently addressing affordability, risk and capacity constraints for smallholders. Equity is generally unsuitable for smallholder, cooperative, public and community investments. Guarantees could support selected lending but would not address broader needs for technical assistance, planning, institutional capacity and public-good investments. Results-based payments are also less suitable because many interventions require upfront support and long lead times before results can be measured at scale. The proposed mix is therefore considered the most appropriate balance between climate impact, affordability and implementation feasibility.

Flow of Funds

145. GCF funds and BMZ cofinance will reach final beneficiaries through financial support and technical assistance (see Figure 11). GCF proceeds will be channelled to GIZ as Accredited Entity and subsequently to the Executing Entities. MoWRAP, ARIS, CIIP and NCECC will manage relevant financial mechanisms and channel support to eligible beneficiaries, including associations, cooperatives, herders and smallholder farmers, for CRLE agriculture, sustainable forest management and rehabilitation of rangelands and grasslands. GIZ, acting as an EE, will also channel GCF proceeds to selected

implementation partners and provide technical assistance to partner institutions. EIB co-finance will follow a separate lending pathway through the Ministries of Finance, acting as EEs, and will then be on-lent to participating local financial institutions (LFIs) that have passed EIB due diligence. LFIs will provide loans to eligible MSME beneficiaries for CRLE investments.

Figure 11: Flow of funds



146. Under GCF-funded mechanisms, funds will flow to final beneficiaries through different modalities depending on the type of support provided. Matching grants will be managed by the relevant EEs and will be channelled to eligible beneficiaries against approved investments through direct procurement. In the Kyrgyz Republic, support to the Accelerator will be provided in kind through inputs and mechanisation equipment capitalised under the selected non-profit MCO, which will manage onward provision to farmers and service providers under agreed repayment arrangements to cover operational expenditures. Technical assistance funds will be used to support implementation, advisory services, capacity building, screening, monitoring, and operational support to the financial mechanisms and to participating institutions.

E.4. Justification of GCF funding request (max. 1,000 words)

147. The proposed programme is aligned with, and supportive of, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan government policies (see Section D.5) as well as GCF's Updated Strategic Plan 2024-2027 (USP-2), notably 4 (food), 5 (ecosystem), 9 (locally-led action), 10 (MSMEs), and 11 (LFIs).⁴
148. **GCF resources are critical for bridging the climate finance gap** required to meet the climate commitments of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, particularly in the AFOLU sectors. The Kyrgyz Republic estimates that implementing its third NDC requires USD 23 billion, with a USD 9.3 billion gap. Tajikistan's NDC indicates financing needs of at least 7% of GDP for climate action from 2020 to 2030, equivalent to at least USD 1 billion annually by 2030, with around half related to land use, agriculture, irrigation and biodiversity. Uzbekistan's NDC 3.0 identifies investment gaps of USD 9.5 billion for mitigation and USD 7.2 billion for adaptation until 2030. These gaps constrain CRLE land use transitions at the required scale, including in transboundary landscapes.
149. While the three countries are increasingly prioritising climate action, **domestic public resources remain limited and AFOLU climate finance is scarce relative to needs, often short term and project based**. Climate and land priorities are not systematically translated into investable projects or reflected in land allocation, forest and pasture management, and agricultural support measures. Private investment is further constrained by high interest rates, limited risk-sharing mechanisms, long payback periods, and weak incentives to finance systemic resilience. Blended finance and carbon-market opportunities remain underused due to evolving regulatory frameworks, institutional capacity gaps, and data and MRV constraints. DFI and MDB finance is available but remains concentrated in more commercially viable sectors and does not adequately address AFOLU adaptation, landscape restoration, or vulnerable rural beneficiaries.
150. In this context, **GCF funding addresses key market failures**, specifically, underinvestment in public goods, imperfect information and weak data accessibility, coordination failures across institutions and levels, and risk return mismatches that discourage private capital from financing CRLE adoption by smallholders and MSMEs. GCF resources will build enabling conditions and delivery mechanisms for sustained CRLE investment rather than substitute commercially viable finance.
151. The three countries face **constrained fiscal space**, despite moderate debt-to-GDP ratios (KGZ 45.5%, TJK 43.8%, UZB 36.3%). This limits additional public borrowing for AFOLU climate action, particularly for investments generating public benefits, involving long payback periods, or depending on dispersed smallholder adoption. This supports the case for concessional finance and a GCF grant contribution for public goods and targeted mechanisms that can leverage private finance.
152. The proposed financing package matches the economic and financial profile of activities and applies a **sequenced approach** focused on setting the enabling environment, supporting CRLE adoption, and longer-term finance mobilisation. This sequencing is reflected in the combination of public-good investments, targeted grant-based mechanisms, pipeline development under activity 2.3.3, and subsequent mobilisation of larger-scale debt finance through the EIB programme and participating LFIs.
153. **Grant financing is concentrated on public goods and enabling conditions** that do not generate direct financial reflows and are therefore unsuitable for debt financing. This includes climate-informed planning and coordination (Output 1.1); improved climate and land information; climate-aligned public

⁴ GCF (2023). [Strategic Plan for the Green Climate Fund, 2024-2027](#).

finance through CPEIR and related analyses, including identifying and repurposing harmful subsidies into CRLE incentives (Output 1.2); and forest and pasture restoration managed by the state or collectively by user groups (Output 2.2).

154. For revenue-generating activities, the programme improves bankability by linking finance with value-chain development (Output 2.3), including reduced post-harvest losses, stronger producer organisation, improved services, and market linkages. It simultaneously strengthens domestic financial institutions' capacity to assess climate risks and understand CRLE business models. Matching grants support adoption by smaller producers and local organisations unable to access suitable finance, while the EIB credit programme provides agri-MSMEs and other eligible value-chain actors with access to concessional debt through participating LFIs.

155. These mechanisms are linked to local prioritisation and investment planning and combined with technical assistance, safeguards, eligibility criteria, and beneficiary segmentation. This helps reduce risks of misuse and elite capture, supports climate additionality, and ensures that concessional reflects need, with greater grant support directed to more vulnerable beneficiaries.

Complementary measures to crowd in finance and support post-programme sustainability

156. Under Activity 2.3.3, the programme will develop an investment pipeline through business development, investment-readiness support, market linkages, and practical financial literacy for smallholders, producer groups, cooperatives and MSMEs. The programme is expected to generate 600 investment files with costed investment plans, cash-flow projections, basic climate-risk analysis, route-to-market evidence, and documentation aligned with LFI screening requirements. It also supports climate-resilient agriculture financing facilities in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan and expands capital mobilisation for CRLE value chains through CSA financing facilities and green/thematic bonds (Output 1.3).

157. The programme applies the principle of minimum concessionality. First, grant resources are reserved primarily for non-revenue-generating activities essential to a low-carbon and climate-resilient transition, including public planning, coordination, data and climate products, policy action, and forest and pasture restoration. These activities generate important public benefits but no sufficient financial reflows to support debt financing.

158. Second, for investments with revenue-generating potential, concessionality is reduced through matching contributions, clear eligibility criteria, and beneficiary segmentation. Smaller and more vulnerable actors receive targeted support, while larger and more bankable beneficiaries are directed towards debt financing. This focuses concessional resources on actors facing the greatest barriers to CRLE investment, particularly smallholders, community-based organisations, and micro and small agri-enterprises, including women- and youth-led enterprises.

159. Third, the No-Till Adoption Accelerator model in the Kyrgyz Republic is designed to sustain benefits beyond the programme period. Managed by a regulated, non-profit microcredit organisation rather than a separate legal entity, it will retain and reinvest repayments for the agreed CRLE agricultural financing purpose. Successive financing cycles will reduce dependence on recurring public funding and maintain access to inputs and services, with charges intended mainly to cover operating costs. A cooperation agreement will establish fiduciary, reporting, audit, and post-programme asset-use provisions to safeguard the long-term use of the resources.

E.5. Financial management and procurement (max. 500 words)

Financial Management

160. The financial management of the programme will follow GIZ's internal rules and regulations. GIZ has bank accounts with Deutsche Bundesbank and Commerzbank. GIZ will not open a specific bank account for the GCF programme but will ensure that all funds provided are clearly identifiable and distinguishable from GIZ's other funds by setting up separate cost units exclusively for the funds disbursed by the GCF for each funded activity (ledger accounts). Funds received and expenditures incurred will be booked to the respective cost unit according to generally accepted accounting principles and procedures accepted by the German Government. As a general principle, GIZ disburses funds to recipients in accordance with the progress of the programme. The Executing Entities (GIZ, MoWRAP, ARIS, CIIP, NCECC) have to report on the proper use of funds and defined progress as a prerequisite for any further disbursement. Independent external auditors will perform annual financial audits of the programme in line with International Auditing Standards.
161. The respective Ministries of Finance will receive and manage the EIB sovereign loan proceeds in accordance with the applicable EIB financing agreements and national public financial management requirements. EIB funds will be accounted for and monitored separately from GCF proceeds, with reporting to EIB and relevant information provided to GIZ for consolidated programme monitoring. EIB will retain fiduciary oversight of its financing, while GIZ will monitor the mobilisation and use of the co-financing as part of overall programme implementation.

Procurement

162. Goods, works and services under the programme will be procured by the AE and the EEs in line with their respective implementation responsibilities. GIZ, in its role as Accredited Entity (AE) and Executing Entity (EE), will carry out procurement in accordance with the applicable German and European public procurement rules, as operationalised through GIZ internal procurement procedures. National EEs will carry out procurement under their respective subsidiary agreements with GIZ and in accordance with the GIZ Procurement Guidelines for recipients of financing. These guidelines constitute the contractually agreed minimum standards for procurement by recipients of GIZ financing. In addition, the EEs must comply with all applicable statutory regulations under national public procurement law. The EEs are responsible for the award and processing of contracts under their part of the programme and must ensure that all procurement steps are appropriately documented. The programme's procurement plan is available in Annex 6a and GIZ's procurement requirements in Annex 6b.

E.6. Indicative terms – non-grants only (max. 500 words)

(Not for public disclosure – for the Secretariat's use only)

F. RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES			
F.1. Risk and mitigation measures			
Risk 1	Political instability, conflict sensitivity and regional security		
Risk Origin	External Factors		
Risk Area	Political		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	Localised tensions related to land, water and other natural resources in border areas, or a broader deterioration in the regional security environment could restrict access, mobility, cross-border coordination and institutional engagement. Possible spillover effects from instability in neighbouring Afghanistan are relevant for southern Tajikistan and the Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan. The March 2025 border agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan is a positive development; however, it does not remove underlying resource competition or the possibility of localized tensions.		
Consequences	Disruption could delay regional activities, temporarily suspend field implementation in affected locations and reduce coverage of vulnerable rural communities.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	4 - High	8 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	• Likelihood reduction: Apply a conflict-sensitive and do-no-harm approach throughout land-use planning, AFOLU action planning, and stakeholder engagement. Decisions on land and natural resources will involve local authorities, resource users, civil society, women, youth and vulnerable groups, and accessible grievance mechanisms will be available to address disputes before they escalate. • Monitoring and trigger: GIZ’s regional risk management structures and the programme governance bodies will review political, security and cooperation dynamics at least quarterly and whenever a material incident occurs. Official travel or security restrictions, border closures, or a resource-related dispute that materially affects access or participation will trigger an immediate management review. • Impact reduction: Affected activities may be temporarily suspended, relocated or re-sequenced; meetings may be moved to a neutral location, held virtually or conducted through separate national consultations. Country-level activities may continue through national implementation structures, while security, emergency communication and business-continuity procedures are activated. Environmental and social risks will be reassessed before suspended activities resume.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Comments			
Risk 2	Institutional continuity and implementation capacity		
Risk Origin	Partner Related		
Risk Area	Partner capacity and suitability		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	High staff turnover, institutional reforms and (re)distribution of responsibilities across ministries may weaken retention of knowledge, ownership and timely decision-making. In addition, the workload of national Executing Entities, in particular CIIP and ARIS, could affect implementation if programme-specific staffing and oversight are not maintained.		
Consequences	This could delay delivery, weaken compliance and reduce the institutionalisation and sustainability of programme results.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	3 - Likely	3 - Medium	9 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	• Likelihood reduction: Each EE will maintain a dedicated, programme-specific implementation structure and budget. CIIP will draw on its permanent management, fiduciary, safeguards, gender, M&E and administrative functions and the regional and district network of the Committee for Environmental Protection. ARIS will establish a separate PIU, supported by its permanent Central Unit and central ESS Unit. Staffing will not depend on reallocation from other projects. • Institutional continuity: Formal coordination mechanisms, documented standard operating procedures, structured handovers, shared repositories and cross-training will be used to retain knowledge. Technical staff of ministries and local institutions will remain involved in implementation.		

	monitoring and adaptive management, and programme tools will be aligned with national mandates and procedures.		
	• Monitoring and trigger: Staffing, workload and milestone delivery will be reviewed quarterly. A key position remaining vacant for more than 60 days, turnover in several key functions, or two consecutive delayed milestones attributable to capacity constraints will trigger a time-bound corrective action. • Impact reduction and contingency: GIZ may provide backstopping, reassign tasks within the agreed institutional arrangements, or adjust workplans and sequencing until capacity is restored.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Comments			
Risk 3 (A)	Money laundering, terrorist financing, prohibited practices and sanctions non-compliance (1)		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Integrity		
Risk Sub-area	Money Laundering (ML) & Terrorist Financing (TF)		
Description	Due to the involvement of multiple Executing Entities, implementing partners, financial institutions, suppliers and beneficiaries, and due to the use of procurement, contracting, grant and beneficiary-selection processes, programme funds or decisions may be exposed to money laundering, terrorist financing or conflict-of-interest risks.		
Consequences	This could result in the engagement of unsuitable counterparties, misuse or diversion of funds, compromised decision-making, ineligible expenditures, implementation delays, reputational damage or the need for corrective action.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	4 - High	4 - Medium
Mitigation Measure(s)	• Likelihood reduction: GIZ will manage GCF proceeds through its financial management, procurement, contracting, compliance and internal-control systems. Partner, supplier and financial-institution engagement will be subject to due diligence, including AML/CFT-related checks, sanctions and business-partner screening. Procurement, grant and beneficiary-selection processes will follow documented procedures, eligibility criteria, approval steps and segregation of duties. Conflict-of-interest requirements will be reflected in relevant governance, procurement and contractual arrangements. • Monitoring and trigger: Financial flows, procurement, contracting and grant processes will be monitored through regular programme management, financial management, and risk reviews. Red flags such as unusual payment arrangements, unexplained links between decision-makers and beneficiaries, adverse media, incomplete documentation or complaints will trigger review and escalation. • Impact reduction and contingency: Where ML/TF or conflict-of-interest concerns are identified, the affected procurement, contract, grant, payment or activity may be paused pending review. Confirmed cases will lead to corrective measures, which may include exclusion, suspension or termination of contracts or grants, recovery of funds, referral to compliance functions and notification through agreed governance channels, as applicable. Where required, affected partners, suppliers or beneficiaries may be replaced and activities re-sequenced in line with applicable procedures.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	3 - Medium	3 - Low
Comments			
Risk 3 (B)	Money laundering, terrorist financing, prohibited practices and sanctions non-compliance (2)		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Integrity		
Risk Sub-area	Sanctions		
Description	Spillover effects of Russia’s war of aggression in Ukraine, in particular evolving sanctions environment and regional financial links to Russia, may expose programme funds, payments, and business relationships to sanctions-related non-compliance. Exposure may arise through counterparties, suppliers, intermediaries or financial institutions directly or indirectly linked to sanctioned entities or circumvention networks.		
Consequences	A breach could interrupt transactions, result in financial loss and create serious legal and reputational consequences.		

Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	4 - High	8 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	• Likelihood reduction: GIZ and EEs will apply GIZ procurement and consultant guidelines, Procurement Plan, applicable AML/CFT requirements, GCF's Policy on Prohibited Practices and AML/CFT Policy, and relevant sanctions regimes. Counterparties and financial institutions will be screened at onboarding against the UN sanctions list as well as EU sanction packages, before contracting and payment, and periodically during implementation. No programme funds will flow through sanctioned entities or banks presenting unacceptable sanctions or correspondent-banking risk. • Monitoring and trigger: A confirmed or potential sanctions match, suspicious transaction, and adverse compliance information will trigger suspension of the relevant transaction, due diligence and escalation through GIZ compliance management and programme governance channels. • Impact reduction and contingency: Payments and contractual relationships will only resume after clearance. Alternative compliant banking or procurement arrangements may be used where legally and operationally feasible, and material cases will be reported and managed in accordance with GIZ and GCF requirements and respective funded activity agreement.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	3 - Medium	3 - Low
Comments			
Risk 3 (C)	Money laundering, terrorist financing, prohibited practices and sanctions non-compliance (3)		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Integrity		
Risk Sub-area	Fraud / Bribery & Corruption / Collusion and any other prohibited practice		
Description	Prohibited practices, such as bribery, corruption, fraud, coercion, collusion or obstruction, may arise in connection with the programme's multi-country implementation arrangements and its procurement, contracting, grant allocation, investment-pipeline development and beneficiary-selection processes.		
Consequences	This could result in resources being used for unintended or ineligible purposes, delays in implementation, reputational harm and the need for corrective or remedial action.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	3 - Likely	4 - High	12 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	• Likelihood reduction: GIZ will apply its procurement rules, compliance management framework, internal-control system and anti-corruption standards. EEs, implementing partners, contractors, suppliers and financial institutions will be required to comply with GCF's Policies, GIZ compliance standards and applicable anti-corruption requirements. Procurement, contracting, grant and beneficiary-selection processes will follow transparent eligibility criteria, documented evaluations, segregation of duties and clear approval responsibilities. • Monitoring and trigger: Procurement, grant and contracting processes will be monitored through regular programme management, financial management, and risk reviews. Complaints, whistleblowing and grievance channels will be available to relevant stakeholders. Integrity-related red flags and external audit findings of irregularities will trigger review, escalation and investigations, as applicable. • Impact reduction and contingency: Suspected prohibited practices may lead to pausing the affected procurement, contract, grant or activity pending review. Confirmed cases will result in corrective measures, which may include exclusion, suspension, termination, recovery of funds and notification through governance channels. Where needed, affected suppliers, beneficiaries or partners may be replaced and activities re-sequenced in line with applicable procedures.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Comments			
Risk 3 (D)	Money laundering, terrorist financing, prohibited practices and sanctions non-compliance (4)		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Integrity		
Risk Sub-area	Conflict of interest		

Description	Due to the involvement of multiple Executing Entities, implementing partners, financial institutions, suppliers and beneficiaries, and due to the use of procurement, contracting, grant and beneficiary-selection processes, programme funds or decisions may be exposed to money laundering, terrorist financing or conflict-of-interest risks.		
Consequences	This could result in the engagement of unsuitable counterparties, misuse or diversion of funds, compromised decision-making, ineligible expenditures, implementation delays, reputational damage or the need for corrective action.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	4 - High	4 - Medium
Mitigation Measure(s)	• Likelihood reduction: GIZ will manage GCF proceeds through its financial management, procurement, contracting, compliance and internal-control systems. Partner, supplier and financial-institution engagement will be subject to due diligence, including sanctions and business-partner screening. Procurement, grant and beneficiary-selection processes will follow documented procedures, eligibility criteria, approval steps and segregation of duties. Conflict-of-interest requirements will be reflected in relevant governance, procurement and contractual arrangements. • Monitoring and trigger: Financial flows, procurement, contracting and grant processes will be monitored through regular programme management, financial management, and risk reviews. Red flags such as unusual payment arrangements, unexplained links between decision-makers and beneficiaries, adverse media, incomplete documentation or complaints will trigger review and escalation. • Impact reduction and contingency: Where ML/TF or conflict-of-interest concerns are identified, the affected procurement, contract, grant, payment or activity may be paused pending review. Confirmed cases will lead to corrective measures, which may include exclusion, suspension or termination of contracts or grants, recovery of funds, referral to compliance functions and notification through agreed governance channels, as applicable. Where required, affected partners, suppliers or beneficiaries may be replaced and activities re-sequenced in line with applicable procedures.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	3 - Medium	3 - Low
Comments			
Risk 4	Geopolitical instability and macroeconomic shocks		
Risk Origin	External Factors		
Risk Area	Macro-economics		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine and conflict or heightened tensions in the Middle East and Gulf may increase energy, fertilizer, transport, and equipment prices and contribute to macroeconomic volatility in Central Asia.		
Consequences	These shocks could increase project and beneficiary investment costs, weaken affordability and private sector participation, and delay or reduce CRLE agricultural investments.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	3 - Likely	4 - High	12 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	• Immediate preparedness: PMUs will maintain rolling cost forecasts and review inflation, key input prices, procurement outcomes and fiscal conditions quarterly. Procurement may be phased or repackaged, and local or regional sourcing will be used where it meets quality, value-for-money and safeguards requirements. • Trigger and contingency: A forecast or awarded cost exceeding the approved estimate by more than 10%, repeated failed procurement, or a material reduction in beneficiary affordability will trigger a formal cost and implementation review. Responses may include revised quantities, rephasing, prioritisation of essential investments and budget reallocation. The budget contingency is a supplementary buffer; hence, not the core response; any adjustment affecting scope, targets or financing arrangements will be discussed and agreed with GCF. • Impact reduction: CRLE practices that reduce dependence on imported synthetic inputs, together with stronger local and regional value chains, post-harvest facilities and processing, will progressively reduce beneficiary exposure to external shocks.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Comments			

Risk 5	Technical and operational complexity		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Financial		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	Implementation across three countries, several EEs, 180 municipalities, multiple technical workstreams and different financing mechanisms creates substantial coordination and absorption-capacity demands.		
Consequences	Weak interfaces between institutions or mechanisms could delay planning, procurement, disbursement and safeguards compliance and reduce coherence and achievement of project outcomes.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	3 - Likely	4 - High	12 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	• Likelihood reduction: Dedicated national PMUs, along with a central GIZ EE, clearly assigned decision rights and focal points, and integrated annual workplans, procurement plans and disbursement forecasts will be established. Shared templates, reporting calendars and safeguards procedures will standardise implementation across countries and mechanisms. • Phased delivery: Sequencing will avoid launching multiple high-burden processes simultaneously where institutional capacity is insufficient. • Monitoring and trigger: A quarterly implementation dashboard will track milestones, procurement, disbursement, staffing, safeguards and dependencies. A delay for two consecutive quarters, a critical vacancy lasting more than 60 days, or repeated non-compliance across an EE will trigger a corrective action plan within 30 days. • Impact reduction and contingency: Corrective measures may include targeted capacity support, temporary surge staffing, GIZ backstopping, revised delegation of functions, simplification of workflows, resequencing and reallocation of budget, where possible, subject to applicable agreements and GCF approval where required.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Comments			
Risk 6	Climate variability and extreme weather events		
Risk Origin	External Factors		
Risk Area	Natural hazard		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	Drought, heat, extreme rainfall, floods, landslides and changes in glacier and snowmelt dynamics may damage or destroy project-supported restoration, conservation, water and CRLE agricultural investments across the targeted landscapes.		
Consequences	This could reduce pasture and agricultural productivity, undermine livelihoods and weaken achievement and durability of the project’s outcomes.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	3 - Likely	4 - High	12 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	• Exposure and design reduction: Local climate diagnostics and site-specific screening will guide location, technical design and seasonal implementation. Measures will use climate-resilient technical standards, appropriate species and planting material, water-efficient and soil-conservation practices, resilient construction and maintenance arrangements. • Monitoring and trigger: Weather and early-warning information will be integrated into implementation planning. An official severe-weather warning, conditions exceeding design assumptions, or material damage to an intervention will trigger suspension or adjustment of exposed activities and rapid damage and safety assessment as soon as access is possible. • Impact reduction: Damaged activities may be rehabilitated, redesigned, relocated or sequenced, and resources may be prioritised to viable sites and critical maintenance. Post-event environmental and social screening will be undertaken before any activity resumes. The response will draw on workplan flexibility and specific maintenance or replacement provisions, rather than relying only on the general budget contingency.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Comments			

Risk 7	Co-financing mobilisation risk		
Risk Origin	Project related		
Risk Area	Financial		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	Due to potential changes in government borrowing decisions, legislative approvals, fiscal constraints, appraisal and processing timelines, EU pipeline priorities, or failure to meet financing conditions, the envisaged co-financing from EIB may be delayed, reduced in scale, or not materialise during the project implementation period.		
Consequences	As the EIB financing represents almost half of total project financing, full or partial non-materialisation would materially reduce finance mobilisation and the scale of investments under Output 2.3, particularly for irrigated agriculture and associated value chains.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	4 - High	8 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	• Likelihood management: GIZ and EIB will have joint high-level engagement and structured dialogues with political partners, i.e., the European Commission (EC), Ministries of Finance, and national partners. Progress against appraisal, sovereign approval, guarantee and on-lending milestones will be reviewed at least semi-annually. These actions support timely decisions but do not remove the structural sovereign and legislative approval risk. • Phased implementation: Outcomes 1 and 3 and Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 will proceed independently of EIB loan mobilisation. Preparatory activities for Output 2.3, including financial-institution capacity, investment criteria and business-plan support, will be implemented first and sequenced according to the availability of the associated credit line. • Trigger: Absence of EC guarantee decision and sovereign approval by the end of implementation year 2, a formal decision not to borrow, delayed decision, or a material reduction in the expected amount will trigger contingency planning for the affected country. • Impact reduction and contingency: Options include seeking financing from other development finance institutions or national facilities, accelerating planned green or thematic bond activities where feasible, reallocating available finance to mature investments and countries, continuing support through the remaining project mechanisms at a smaller scale, and reprioritising less capital-intensive investments in forests, rangelands, sustainable land management and rainfed agriculture. A material change would be addressed through formal restructuring or re-scoping with GCF, EIB and national partners. Non-participation by one country would not prevent implementation in the others.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Comments			

G. ANNEXES			Section	Confidentiality
Annexes will be published with the FP, unless marked as confidential				
☒	Annex 1	No-objection letter(s)	C	
☒	Annex 2	Feasibility study - and a market study, if applicable	C	☐
☒	Annex 3	Implementation timetable including key project/programme milestones	C	☐
☒	Annex 4	Legal due diligence	C	☐
☒	Annex 5	Evidence of internal approval	C	☐
☒	Annex 6	Procurement plan	C/E	☐
☒	Annex 7	E&S document corresponding to the E&S category (A, B or C; or I1, I2 or I3): (optional for SAP) ☒ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or ☒ Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or ☐ Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) or ☐ Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) ☐ Others (please specify – e.g. Resettlement Action Plan, Resettlement Policy Framework, Indigenous People's Plan, Land Acquisition Plan, etc.)	C	
☐	Annex 8	Environmental and social due diligence	C	☐
☒	Annex 9	Summary of consultations and stakeholder engagement plan	C	☐
☒	Annex 10	Gender assessment and project/programme-level action plan	C	
☒	Annex 11	Economic and financial analyses: i) Excel spreadsheet ii) Explanatory note	C/E	☐
☒	Annex 12	Monitoring and evaluation plan	D	☐
☒	Annex 13	Assessment of GHG emission reductions and their monitoring and reporting (for mitigation and cross cutting-projects) ¹⁵ (optional for SAP)	D	☐
☒	Annex 14	Detailed budget plan and AE fee request	E	☒
☒	Annex 15	Co-financing commitment letter, if applicable	E	☐
☒	Annex 16	Term sheet	E	☒
☐	Annex X	Other references as applicable		☐

1. Kyrgyzstan No-objection letter

КЫРГЫЗ РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫН
ЖАРАТЫЛЫШ РЕСУРСТАРЫ,
ЭКОЛОГИЯ ЖАНА ТЕХНИКАЛЫК
КӨЗӨМӨЛ МИНИСТРЛИГИ

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з/з 4402011000102181



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ПРИРОДНЫХ
РЕСУРСОВ, ЭКОЛОГИИ И
ТЕХНИЧЕСКОГО НАДЗОРА
КЫРГЫЗСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

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ЦК при МФ КР БИК 440201
р/с 4402011000102181

15.04 2026 № 15-01-6/3262

На № _____

Green Climate Fund ("GCF")

Re: *No-objection letter in respect of the funding proposal titled "Climate-Resilient Landscapes in Central Asia" submitted by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH*

Dear Madam, Sir,

We refer to the funding proposal titled «Climate-Resilient Landscapes in Central Asia» submitted by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to us on March 16, 2026 ("the Proposal").

The undersigned is the duly authorized representative of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, the national designated authority of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Pursuant to GCF Decisions B.08/10, B.37/22, and B.41/02, the content of which we acknowledge to have reviewed, in my capacity as representative of the national designated authority, we hereby communicate our no-objection to the Proposal.

By communicating our no-objection, it is implied that:

1. The government of the Kyrgyz Republic has no-objection to the Proposal;
and
2. The Proposal is in conformity with the national priorities, strategies and plans of the Kyrgyz Republic.

We also confirm that our national process for ascertaining no-objection to the Proposal has been duly followed.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we expect GIZ to take the necessary measures to ensure that the project as described in the Proposal is implemented in a manner consistent with applicable national laws.

We acknowledge that this letter will be made publicly available on the GCF website.

Kind regards,

**Minister of Natural Resources,
Ecology and Technical Supervision
of the Kyrgyz Republic**



Akyl Toktobaev

2. Tajikistan No-objection letter

КУМИТАИ
ҶИФЗИ МУҲИТИ ЗИСТИ
НАЗДИ ҲУКУМАТИ
ҶУМҲУРИИ ТОҶИКИСТОН

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КОМИТЕТ
ОХРАНЫ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ
ПРИ ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ ТАДЖИКИСТАН

734034, город Душанбе, улица Шевченко №77
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**COMMITTEE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**
Shevchenko №77 str., 734034, Dushanbe city, tel./fax: (992 37) 223 35 61, web-site <https://egov.tj/site/nature-tjk?lang=tg>.

№_1/24-03-102_аз «13»_04_соли 2026

Ба _____ аз «_____» _____ соли 2026

To: The Green Climate Fund (“GCF”)

Re: No-objection letter in respect of the Funding Proposal titled ‘Climate-resilient Landscapes in Central Asia’ submitted by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Dear Madam, Sir,

We refer to the funding proposal titled “Climate-resilient Landscapes in Central Asia” in the Republic of Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan submitted by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to us on March 17, 2026 (the “Proposal”).

The undersigned is the duly authorized representative of the Committee of Environmental Protection Under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the National Designated Authority of Tajikistan.

Pursuant to GCF Decisions B.08/10, B.37/22, and B.41/02, the content of which we acknowledge to have reviewed, in my capacity as representative of the national designated authority, we hereby communicate our no-objection to the Proposal.

By communicating our no-objection, it is implied that:

- a) The government of the Republic of Tajikistan has no-objection to the Proposal; and
- b) The Proposal is in conformity with the national priorities, strategies and plans of the Republic of Tajikistan

We also confirm that our national process for ascertaining no-objection to the Proposal has been duly followed.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we expect GIZ to take the necessary measures to ensure that the project as described in the Proposal is implemented in a manner consistent with applicable national laws.

We acknowledge that this letter will be made publicly available on the GCF website.

Kind regards,



Sheralizoda Bahodur,
Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government
of the Republic of Tajikistan,
National Designated Authority to GCF

3. Uzbekistan No-objection letter

O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI
EKOLOGIYA VA IQLIM O'ZGARISHI
MILLIY QO'MITASI



NATIONAL COMMITTEE
ON ECOLOGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

"16" 04 2026

No 01-04/8 - 303

Tashkent

The Green Climate Fund ("GCF")

Re: Expression of no-objection for the funding proposal titled "Climate Resilient Landscapes in Central Asia" submitted by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Dear Madam, Sir,

We refer to the funding proposal titled "Climate Resilient Landscapes in Central Asia" in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan submitted by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to us on 19 March 2026 (the "**Proposal**").

The undersigned is the duly authorized representative of National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the NDA of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Pursuant to GCF Decisions B.08/10, B.37/22, and B.41/02, the content of which we acknowledge to have reviewed, in my capacity as representative of the national designated authority, we hereby communicate our no-objection to the Proposal.

By communicating our no-objection, it is implied that:

- (a) The government of Uzbekistan has no-objection to the Proposal; and
- (b) The Proposal is in conformity with the national priorities, strategies and plans of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

We also confirm that our national process for ascertaining no-objection to the Proposal has been duly followed.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we expect Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to take the necessary measures to ensure that the project as described in the Proposal is implemented in a manner consistent with applicable national laws.

We acknowledge that this letter will be made publicly available on the GCF website.

Kind regards,

Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov

Advisor to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Environment
Chairman of the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change



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www.eco.gov.uz facebook.com/ecogovuz X.com/@ecogov.uz t.me/ecogovuz

Environmental and social safeguards (ESS) report disclosure form

Basic project or programme information	
Project or programme title	Climate-resilient Landscapes in Central Asia
Potential sub-project(s) anticipated after GCF Board approval	Yes
Sector (public or private)	Public
Accredited entity/Project-specific Assessment Approach (PSAA) applicant	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Environmental and social safeguards (ESS) category	Category B
Location – specific location(s) of project or target country or location(s) of programme	Two transboundary landscapes: - Fergana Valley in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan - Southern Border Region between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
Safeguard Documents: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), Environmental and Social Due-Diligence (ESDD) report, Land Acquisition and/or Resettlement Action Plan (LARAP), Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) etc. (as applicable)	
Date of disclosure on entity's website	Tuesday, September 22, 2026
Language(s) of disclosure	English, Russian, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Uzbek
Explanation on language	Russian: Russian is commonly understood across the programme countries and locations in Central Asia and facilitates communication with stakeholders and affected peoples. Kyrgyz: Kyrgyz is the primary local language understood by affected peoples in the project locations in Kyrgyzstan. Tajik: Tajik is the primary local language understood by affected peoples in the project locations in Tajikistan. Uzbek: Uzbek is the primary local language understood by affected peoples in the project locations in Uzbekistan.
Link(s) to disclosure	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) - GIZ: EN / RU / KY / TG / UZ - Kyrgyz Republic: MoWRAP KY / RU; MNRETS KY / RU / EN; ARIS KY / RU / EN - Tajikistan: CIIP TG / RU / EN - Uzbekistan: NCECC UZ / RU Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) - GIZ: EN / RU / KY / TG / UZ - Kyrgyz Republic: MoWRAP KY / RU; MNRETS KY / RU / EN; ARIS KY / RU / EN - Tajikistan: CIIP TG / RU / EN - Uzbekistan: NCECC UZ / RU
Other link(s)	GIZ website (EN) Kyrgyz Republic: ARIS website (KY / RU / EN)

	MoWRAPI website (KY / RU) MNRETS website (KY / RU / EN) Tajikistan: CIIP website (TG / RU / EN) Uzbekistan: NCECC website (UZ / RU)
Remarks on compliance with GCF policies	ESS reports consistent with the requirements for a Category B programme are contained in the documents above.
Disclosure in locations convenient to affected peoples (stakeholders)	
Date(s)	Tuesday, September 22, 2026
Place(s)	Printed versions will be disclosed at the following locations: KYRGYZ REPUBLIC Jalal-Abad region: • Ala-Buka District Department of Agricultural Development of the MoWRAPI: Ala-Buka village; Ibraimov. Street 37 • Aksy District Department of Agricultural Development of the MoWRAPI: Kerben city, Niyazaly. Street 234 • Chatkal District Department of Agricultural Development of the MoWRAPI: Kanysh-Kya village; T. Aydarov Street, 17 • Nookan District Department of Agricultural Development of the MoWRAPI: Masy village; Turdumbetov Street, 37 • Bazar-Korgon District Department of Agricultural Development of the MoWRAPI: Bazar-Korgon city, Osmonov Street, No. 170 • Jalal-Abad Regional Office of ARIS: Manas City; 62 T. Baizakov Street (formerly Moskovskaya Street); OJSC “Jalalabatkurulush” building, 2nd floor Batken region: • Kadamzhay District Department of Agricultural Development of the MoWRAPI: Kadamzhay city, 1 Orozbekov Street • Batken District Department of Agricultural Development of the MoWRAPI: Batken city, 38 Sadykov Street • Leylek District Department of Agricultural Development of the MoWRAPI: Razzakov city, 51 Koshmuratov Street • Batken Regional Office of ARIS: Batken City, 46 I. Jusupov Street; 1st floor of the Batken City Mayor’s Office building Osh region: • Nookat District Department of Agricultural Development of the MoWRAPI: Nookat city, Lenin Kochosu, 7 • Kara-Suu District Department of Agricultural Development of the MoWRAPI: Kara-Suu District, Jooosh Village Administration, Kum-Aryk

- Aravan District Department of Agricultural Development of the MoWRAP: Aravan village, Lenin Street, 1
- Chon-Alai District Department of Agricultural Development of the MoWRAP: Daroot-Korgon village, Sulaimanov Street, 115
- Osh Regional Office of ARIS: Osh City , 73 Masaliyev Street

TAJIKISTAN

Khatlon region:

- Qubodiyon district: Department of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and Agriculture: Republic of Tajikistan, 735191, Qubodiyon District, 200 I. Somoni Street
- Shahritus: Department of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and Agriculture: Republic of Tajikistan, Khatlon Region, 735180, Shahritus District, 51 I. Somoni Street
- N. Khusrav: Department of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and Agriculture: Republic of Tajikistan, Khatlon Region, 735140, Nosiri Khusrav District, 9 Ismoil Somoni Street.

Sughd region:

- Isfara district: Department of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and Agriculture: Republic of Tajikistan, Sughd Region 736500, Markazi Street 20, Isfara Town
- Konibodom district: Department of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and Agriculture: Republic of Tajikistan, Sughd Region, Konibodom City, 5A Kamoli Khujandi Street
- B. Gafurov district: Department of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and Agriculture: Republic of Tajikistan, Sughd Region, Bobojon Ghafurov District, Ghafurov, A. Nozirov str. 14
- Asht district: Department of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and Agriculture: Republic of Tajikistan, Sughd Region, 211 Rahmon Nabiev Avenue
- J. Rasulov district: Department of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and Agriculture: Republic of Tajikistan, Sughd Region, J. Rasulov district, 5 I. Nurmatov Street, Proletarsk
- Spitamen district: Department of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and Agriculture: Republic of Tajikistan, Sughd Region, Spitamen District, 119 Spitamen Street
- Devashtich district: Department of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and Agriculture: Republic of Tajikistan, Sughd Region, Devashtich District, Ghonchi Township, 20 Somoni Street
- Istaravshan district: Department of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and Agriculture: Republic of Tajikistan, Sughd Region, Istaravshan City, Ismoil Somoni Avenue

	- Shahriston district: Department of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and Agriculture: Republic of Tajikistan, Sughd Region, Shahriston District, Istaravshan Street UZBEKISTAN Andijan region: - Qo'rg'ontepa district NCECC Branch: Qurg'ontepa district, Andijan Street, 1 - Marhamat district NCECC Branch: Marhamat district, Boburshoh Street, 42 - Paxtaobod district NCECC Branch: Pakhtaabad district, Amir Temur Street 39, 171303 Fergana region: - Beshariq district NCECC Branch: Beshariq city, Oltin vodi street, 160, 150300 - Quva district NCECC Branch: Quva district, Kaykubbad Street, 244, 713910 - Farg'ona district NCECC branch: Fergana district, Vodil MFY, Margilan street, 1, 150400 Namangan region: - Kosonsoy district NCECC Branch: Kosonsoy district, Navoiy Street, 7, 160300 - Pop district NCECC Branch: Pop district, Istiqlol Street 5, 160500 - Uchqo'rg'on district NCECC Branch: Uchkurgan district, Uchkurgan city, Dustlik street 33, 160900 - Yangiqo'rg'on district NCECC Branch: Yangikurgan district, Mustaqillik maydoni Street, 1, 161200 Surkhandarya region: - Boysun district NCECC Branch: Boysun district, Hayot Abadiy street, 1, 190400 - Sariosiyo district NCECC Branch: Sariosiyo district, Abdulla Kahhar Street, Building 1, 191001 - Termiz district NCECC Branch: Termiz district, Uchqizil qo'rg'oni At-Termiziy Street, 1, 191200 - Uzun district NCECC Branch: Uzun district, Uzbekistan Street 7, 191100	
	Date of Board meeting in which the FP is intended to be considered	
	Date of entity's Board meeting	N/A
	Date of GCF's Board meeting	Monday, October 26, 2026

* Subsequent to the disclosure of the form on 25 September 2026, the following update has been made: the GIZ hyperlink to the English version of the ESIA and the CIIP hyperlink to the Russian version of ESIA have been updated to ensure that it directs users directly to the relevant PDF

document. The underlying webpage and document remain unchanged. If the assessment reports cannot be accessed directly through the link, the respective websites linked under “other links” will also direct to the reports.

Note: This form was prepared by the entity stated above.

Secretariat's assessment of FP322

Proposal name:	Climate-resilient Landscapes in Central Asia
Accredited entity:	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Country/(ies):	Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
Project/programme size:	Large

I. Overall assessment of the Secretariat

1. The funding proposal is presented to the Board for consideration with the following remarks:

Strengths	Points of caution
Integrated and potentially transformational approach. The programme connects national enabling systems, locally led planning and investment, landscape restoration and regional cooperation across interconnected agriculture, forestry and other land use systems.	Implementation complexity. Delivery across 3 countries, several executing entities, 180 municipalities and multiple financing mechanisms will require strong coordination, sufficient programme-specific staffing and consistent application of fiduciary, safeguards and monitoring requirements.
Locally led, systemic, and regional architecture. Participatory planning across 180 municipalities is linked to institutionalization within national systems and regional knowledge exchange and cooperation, providing a credible pathway for sustained adoption and replication across Central Asia.	Translation into sustained climate results. Continued extension support, credible baselines, transparent beneficiary selection and investment-level monitoring will be needed to ensure that planning, training, restoration and asset provision result in sustained adoption and measurable adaptation and mitigation outcomes.
Differentiated and catalytic financing. GCF grants support public goods, landscape restoration and vulnerable beneficiaries, while tailored grant-based financing mechanisms and the envisaged European Investment Bank credit programme address distinct financing constraints and offer the potential to mobilize wider investment in climate-resilient and low-emission practices.	Co-financing and sustainability of financing mechanisms. Realization of the programme's full scale and impact will require the timely mobilization and effective coordination of co-financing. Continued attention will also be required to ensure the effective operation, institutional ownership, and longer-term sustainability of the programme-supported financing mechanisms.

2. The Board may wish to consider approving this funding proposal in accordance with the term sheet agreed between the Secretariat and the accredited entity (AE) and, if considered appropriate, subject to the conditions set out in annex II of document GCF/B.46/02.

II. Summary of the Secretariat's assessment

2.1 Project background

3. Agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) systems are central to the economies, food security and rural livelihoods of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Across the target areas, rural populations depend heavily on climate-sensitive agriculture, livestock, pastures, forests and associated value chains. Irrigated and rain-fed cropland, orchards, pastures and forests also provide essential ecosystem services, including water regulation, soil protection, biodiversity conservation and carbon storage. Smallholders, pasture and forest users, rural communities, cooperatives and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are particularly important actors within these systems.

4. These systems are increasingly affected by rising temperatures, more frequent and intense heat, changing precipitation and run-off patterns, drought, heavy rainfall and associated water stress. Climate change is expected to reduce crop productivity, alter crop suitability, increase irrigation requirements, reduce pasture carrying capacity and fodder availability, and accelerate forest and ecosystem degradation. Soil erosion, declining land productivity and unsustainable land-use practices further reduce the capacity of landscapes to regulate water, protect biodiversity, sequester carbon and support resilient rural livelihoods. AFOLU emissions have increased, while removals have not kept pace with emissions growth, creating a combined adaptation and mitigation challenge.

5. Climate risks are particularly pronounced in the Fergana Valley and the Khatlon-Surkhandarya landscape, where densely populated agricultural lowlands are ecologically connected to surrounding foothills and mountain areas. Water flows, pasture condition, forest functions and land-management decisions are transmitted across elevation zones, river basins and national borders. Consequently, degradation or maladaptive land-use decisions in one location can affect water availability, erosion, productivity and ecosystem services elsewhere. These interdependencies require coordinated action across agricultural, forest and pasture systems and cannot be effectively addressed through isolated sectoral or country-level interventions.

6. Vulnerability is compounded by a series of institutional, technical and financial barriers. Climate, land, soil and water information is fragmented and not consistently integrated into national, sectoral or local planning. Public policies, incentives and financing are not yet fully aligned with climate-resilient and low-emission (CRLE) development. Land users have limited access to locally relevant climate information, extension services, technologies and climate-informed business models. Smallholders and rural enterprises face high interest rates, collateral requirements and limited access to suitable financial products, while local financial institutions have limited capacity to identify, appraise and monitor CRLE investments. Regional mechanisms for strategic foresight, knowledge exchange, joint planning and financing of transboundary action also remain underdeveloped.

7. The proposed seven-year programme aims to address these barriers and generate both adaptation and mitigation results by supporting a systemic transformation of interconnected AFOLU landscapes and value chains. It will combine climate-informed planning, institutional strengthening, ecosystem restoration, extension and advisory services, productive investment, improved access to finance and regional cooperation. Its interventions will cover irrigated and rain-fed agriculture, orchards, forests and pastures, together with selected value chains such as horticulture, seed potatoes, orchard-based fruit production, wheat and non-timber forest products. The programme is intended to strengthen ecosystem functions, water and soil management, agricultural productivity, market access and rural livelihoods while avoiding emissions and increasing carbon sequestration.

8. The programme follows an integrated national-local-regional structure. Component 1 will strengthen the enabling environment by improving climate and land-information systems, institutionalizing climate-informed planning, aligning public policies and incentives, and building the capacity of domestic financial institutions to support CRLE investments. Component 2 will translate these enabling conditions into locally led action through participatory planning in 180 municipalities, climate-informed forest and pasture management, landscape restoration, participatory integrated climate services for agriculture (PICSA) and e-PICSA-based extension, productive investments and targeted financing mechanisms. Component 3 will strengthen regional foresight, shared AFOLU development pathways, knowledge exchange and coordinated investment in transboundary landscapes. Although field investments will focus on the three participating countries, regional knowledge and cooperation activities are expected to benefit all five Central Asian countries.
9. The approach is designed to be phased and scalable. Grant-funded institutional strengthening, local planning, extension and investment preparation will establish the enabling conditions and pipeline for larger-scale adoption of CRLE practices. GCF-supported financing mechanisms will target vulnerable land users and investments that cannot be financed on fully commercial terms, while institutional support to local financial institutions and the envisaged European Investment Bank (EIB) credit programme are expected to expand financing for commercially viable producers, cooperatives and agricultural MSMEs. The programme will also support the preparation of approximately 600 investment files, providing a pathway for wider public and private investment in CRLE technologies, practices and value chains.
10. The programme will operate in two priority transboundary landscapes: the Fergana Valley across the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and the Khatlon-Surkhandarya landscape between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It is expected to reach 1,046,062 direct beneficiaries, including 527,915 women, and 1,480,919 indirect beneficiaries. It is also expected to bring 939,354 hectares under sustainable management, conservation or restoration and achieve a headline mitigation outcome of 6.95 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO₂ eq) over a 20-year impact period. These figures should be read subject to the reconciliation of the headline results across the funding proposal, results framework and supporting technical annexes.
11. Total programme financing is presented as EUR 264.38 million, comprising a EUR 119.58 million GCF grant and EUR 144.79 million in co-financing. The co-financing consists of EUR 12 million from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, EUR 12.79 million in national in-kind contributions and an envisaged EUR 120 million EIB sovereign-loan programme. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) will manage the GCF grant through national executing entities (EEs), while the EIB financing will be channelled separately through the participating Ministries of Finance and selected local financial institutions. The two financing channels will remain fiduciary and legally separate but will operate within a common programme-level results, eligibility, safeguards, monitoring and reporting framework.
12. The programme is classified as Category B, as its potential adverse environmental and social impacts are expected to be limited, site-specific and manageable through appropriate screening, mitigation and supervision. Implementation across 3 countries, several EEs, 180 municipalities and multiple financing mechanisms will nevertheless require strong coordination and consistent application of fiduciary, environmental and social, gender, monitoring and reporting requirements.

2.2 Component-by-component analysis

13. The programme follows an integrated national-local-regional structure. Component 1 establishes enabling conditions and strengthens financing capacity; Component 2 translates

these into locally led planning, restoration and productive investments; and Component 3 supports regional foresight, cooperation and investment across Central Asia.

14. The approach is also designed to be phased, with grant-funded enabling and preparatory activities building institutional capacity and developing an investment pipeline. The envisaged EIB credit programme and grant-based financing mechanisms would then scale up eligible investments under Component 2. Feedback from local implementation and regional knowledge exchange is expected to inform national policy and investment planning, thereby supporting the replication and longer-term institutionalization of CRLE approaches.

Component 1: Enabling environment for climate-resilient and low-emission AFOLU sectors at national level (Total budget: EUR 12.5 million; GCF grant: EUR 5.98 million, or 47.8 per cent of the component budget)

15. Component 1 will strengthen the enabling environment for CRLE agriculture, forestry and other land uses in the three participating countries. It will improve the collection and use of climate, land, soil and pasture information; integrate climate information, satellite monitoring and digital tools into national land-use planning systems; and strengthen multisectoral coordination. It will also support public-expenditure reviews, the review of potentially harmful subsidies and processes to inform their repurposing towards climate-aligned incentives, access to carbon and climate finance, and the preparation of investment pipelines.

16. A key strength is the connection of climate information with the institutions and procedures responsible for planning, budgeting and investment decisions. Rather than creating stand-alone programme tools, it aims to embed climate information and digital modules within government systems and institutionalize their routine use. If effectively implemented, this approach can improve the quality of public and private AFOLU investments and facilitate replication beyond the initial target areas.

17. The component will also strengthen local financial institutions to assess climate-related and environmental and social risks, establish climate-smart agriculture financing facilities, and support green or thematic bond readiness and issuance. This creates an important bridge between the national enabling environment and the investment pipeline under Component 2. Support should be demand-driven and linked to demonstrated institutional readiness, credible investment pipelines and realistic prospects for mobilizing finance.

18. Given the component's breadth across policy, planning, digital systems, public finance and financial-sector development, a key implementation challenge will be maintaining coherence and ensuring sustained use of the supported systems and tools. This is partly addressed by embedding them within national institutions and strengthening multisectoral coordination. Continued attention will nevertheless need to be given to institutional ownership, data governance, system maintenance and indicators that measure actual adoption and use.

Component 2: Locally led implementation of climate-resilient and low-emission land-use practices in transboundary landscapes (Total budget: EUR 228 million; GCF grant: EUR 99.6 million, or 43.7 per cent of the component budget)

19. Component 2 is the operational core of the programme and comprises 3 interconnected outputs. First, it will support 180 municipalities in conducting local climate risk diagnostics and preparing and approving participatory AFOLU adaptation plans aligned with existing subnational development plans and budgets. Second, it will translate these priorities into climate-informed forest and pasture management plans, community-based management arrangements, technical assistance, and investments in forest restoration, afforestation, reforestation, and sustainable pasture management. These interventions are expected to bring 860,418 ha of forest and pastureland under restoration or improved management.

20. Third, the component will support the adoption of CRLE agricultural practices and technologies, including conservation agriculture and no-till farming, improved orchard and

horticultural systems, climate-resilient seed production, and improved soil, water, and pasture management. PICSA will be adapted and operationalized through E-PICSA, while extension providers and technical partners will deliver farm-level advice, demonstrations, and continued implementation support to 36,000 farmers.

21. Adoption will be supported through differentiated financing mechanisms. Matching grants will be provided in all 3 countries, with higher beneficiary contributions required from larger and more commercially capable actors. In the Kyrgyz Republic, an asset- and leasing-based revolving mechanism will provide access to agricultural inputs, machinery, and related services through regulated microcredit organizations. Business development support will generate 600 investment plans, while the EUR 120 million EIB intermediated lending programme will provide longer-term financing through participating local financial institutions for eligible MSME and value chain investments.

22. A key strength of Component 2 is the sequencing of local diagnostics, formally approved plans, climate-informed extension, investment preparation, and access to finance. It links public-good investments in ecosystem restoration with productive and value chain investments, while using beneficiary segmentation, technical assistance, and verification requirements to target concessional resources according to need.

23. Implementation will nevertheless require close coordination among municipal authorities, national executing entities, technical partners, financial institutions, and beneficiaries across 3 countries. Effective delivery will depend on transparent and climate-informed investment selection, robust fiduciary and environmental and social controls, timely mobilization of EIB financing, and continued extension and maintenance support. Monitoring should verify sustained adoption and measurable adaptation and mitigation results, including restoration quality and survival, changes in pasture conditions and livestock pressure, and the performance of financed investments.

Component 3: Regional cooperation, knowledge and investment mobilization for transboundary climate action (Total budget: EUR 10.28 million; GCF grant: EUR 6.04 million, or 58.8 per cent of the component budget)

24. Component 3 will strengthen regional foresight and planning capacities, develop shared climate-informed AFOLU development pathways, promote regional and bilateral knowledge exchange, and expand access to climate-resilience tools through the Central Asia Climate Information Platform. The component will establish a regional climate-investment platform and support approximately 10 joint adaptation actions in transboundary landscapes across the 3 target countries. These regional activities will benefit all five Central Asian countries.

25. The strategic value of Component 3 lies in addressing climate risks and ecosystem interdependencies that extend beyond national borders. Mountain ecosystems, forests, pastures, river basins and agricultural value chains are interconnected across Central Asia, while national institutions often plan and invest separately. Regional foresight, shared development pathways and knowledge exchange can strengthen coordination, facilitate replication and translate regional priorities into a pipeline of future climate investments.

26. A key implementation challenge will be ensuring that the proposed platform and funding mechanism are institutionalized and sustained beyond programme closure. The establishment of the Central Asia Climate Information Platform within existing regional forums (e.g. the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program) provides a strong foundation. Continued attention will nevertheless be required to clarify governance, decision-making arrangements, institutional hosting, operating costs and long-term financing, while avoiding duplication with existing initiatives. Transparent selection, a clear transboundary climate rationale, conflict-sensitive design, environmental and social screening, and measurable results will be essential. Lessons from these investments should inform the regional pathways and future investment pipeline.

III. Assessment against investment criteria

3.1 Impact potential

Scale: Medium to high

27. The programme has medium-to-high impact potential. It is expected to reach 1,046,062 direct and 1,480,919 indirect beneficiaries, bring 939,354 hectares of land under sustainable management, conservation or restoration, and mitigate an estimated 6.95 million t CO₂ eq over a 20-year impact period.

28. The programme provides a comprehensive response to climate risks affecting interconnected agricultural, forest and pasture systems across two priority transboundary landscapes. Climate-informed planning in 180 municipalities, participatory forest and pasture management, PICSA- and e-PICSA-based extension services, and improved access to finance will enable land users to adopt locally relevant CRLE practices. These include conservation agriculture, improved cropland and orchard management, sustainable pasture management, forest restoration, afforestation and reforestation. Together, these measures are expected to strengthen ecosystem functions, improve water and soil management, increase agricultural productivity and enhance the resilience of rural livelihoods, while avoiding emissions and increasing carbon sequestration.

29. The programme's impact extends beyond individual investments through the institutionalization of climate-informed planning and extension approaches, demonstration effects and farmer-to-farmer learning. Component 3 is expected to generate additional regional benefits by strengthening cooperation across shared ecosystems and supporting approximately 10 joint adaptation actions in transboundary landscapes. Although investment activities will focus on the 3 target countries, regional knowledge, foresight and coordination activities are expected to benefit all five Central Asian countries.

30. The programme also offers significant potential to scale CRLE investment by linking technical assistance and investment preparation with local financial institutions, grant-supported financing mechanisms and the envisaged EUR 120 million EIB credit programme. The targeted pipeline of 600 investment plans could support wider uptake among producer groups, cooperatives and rural MSMEs and help crowd in additional private finance.

31. The achievement of the programme's full impact potential will depend on sustained adoption of supported practices, credible baselines and investment-level monitoring, as well as the mobilization and effective deployment of the envisaged EIB financing.

3.2 Paradigm shift potential

Scale: Medium to high

32. The programme has medium-to-high paradigm shift potential. At the national level, it will embed climate information, vulnerability indicators and land-use data in planning, public expenditure and investment decisions. At the local level, participatory adaptation planning, PICSA- and e-PICSA-based extension, and integrated forest and pasture management will provide repeatable approaches for scaling CRLE practices beyond the initial target landscapes. At the regional level, shared AFOLU pathways, the Central Asia Climate Information Platform and the regional climate-investment platform could facilitate replication, knowledge exchange and joint investment across Central Asia.

33. Innovation is primarily systemic and contextual. It combines digital planning tools, including satellite monitoring and artificial-intelligence-enabled modules, with locally led planning, landscape restoration, technical assistance and access to finance. Training of trainers and the institutionalization of tools and curricula are intended to shift delivery from temporary programme support towards sustained national and local systems.

34. The financing architecture could help transform access to CRLE investment by strengthening the institutional capacity of local financial institutions and supporting climate-smart agriculture financing facilities, green or thematic bond readiness, matching grants, the no-till adoption accelerator and the EIB credit programme. Transformation will depend on the mobilization of additional capital, the continued operation of these mechanisms, measurable market uptake and clear evidence that grant support is catalytic.

3.3 Sustainable development potential

Scale: High

35. Sustainable development potential is considered high. The programme contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). It is also aligned with the GCF updated Strategic Plan 2024–2027, particularly targets 4 (food), 5 (ecosystems), 9 (locally led action), 10 (MSMEs) and 11 (local financial institutions).

36. The programme is expected to generate significant environmental co-benefits across agricultural, pasture and forest ecosystems. Improved cropland management and landscape restoration can increase soil organic matter and water retention, improve irrigation efficiency, reduce erosion and desertification, restore vegetation cover and enhance biodiversity, watershed protection and ecosystem resilience. More resilient agricultural and pastoral systems should also stabilize food production and strengthen the food security and livelihoods of climate-vulnerable rural communities.

37. Economic co-benefits include improved farm and MSME productivity, more stable incomes, job creation and stronger market access for CRLE products and services. Value-chain development, business support and access to finance are expected to strengthen the bankability of producers and MSMEs, stimulate local input and service markets and help sustain CRLE adoption beyond grant support.

38. Gender and social inclusion are embedded through participatory local planning, targeted outreach and support for women, youth and vulnerable land users. The programme will seek to strengthen women's participation in natural-resource decision-making and improve the business, financial and technical capacities of women-owned or women-led MSMEs. Achievement of these benefits will require equitable beneficiary selection and monitoring through gender- and vulnerability-disaggregated indicators.

3.4 Needs of the recipient

Scale: High

39. The needs of the recipient countries are considered high. Rural populations in the Fergana Valley and the Khatlon–Surkhandarya landscape depend heavily on climate-sensitive agriculture, forests, and pastures. Rising temperatures, drought, changing runoff, extreme heat, and heavy rainfall are intensifying water stress, erosion, and land degradation, threatening food production, ecosystem services, and rural livelihoods. Smallholders, forest and pasture users, women, youth, and MSMEs are particularly affected due to their limited access to climate information, extension services, technologies, finance, and markets.

40. Institutional and financial capacity to respond at the required scale remains constrained. Climate and land-use information is fragmented and not systematically incorporated into planning and investment decisions, while limited coordination and technical capacity impede implementation. Access to suitable agricultural finance is also restricted by high interest rates, collateral requirements, short loan tenors, limited green financial products, and a weak pipeline of investment-ready CRLE investments.

41. The financing needs identified in the countries' nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are substantial. The Kyrgyz Republic estimates an NDC financing gap of USD 9.3 billion; Tajikistan indicates climate finance requirements of at least USD 1 billion annually by 2030, approximately half of which relates to land use; and Uzbekistan estimates financing gaps of USD 9.5 billion for mitigation and USD 7.2 billion for adaptation through 2030. Constrained public budgets and limited private investment are particularly significant for public-good activities, landscape restoration, and dispersed smallholder investments with long payback periods.

42. Taken together, the high exposure of rural populations, limited institutional and technical capacity, and substantial financing gaps demonstrate a strong need for GCF support. The programme responds by strengthening climate information and planning systems, financing ecosystem restoration and other public-good activities, improving extension services, and expanding access to appropriate finance for smallholders and MSMEs. Grant resources are targeted toward public goods and beneficiaries facing the greatest affordability constraints, while revenue-generating investments are supported through differentiated beneficiary contributions and EIB lending.

3.5 Country ownership

Scale: High

43. Country ownership is high. The programme is closely aligned with the participating countries' NDCs, adaptation priorities, green-economy strategies, sector plans and land-degradation-neutrality commitments. It supports national priorities relating to climate-resilient agriculture, improved water and soil management, pasture rehabilitation, sustainable forest management, afforestation and reforestation.

44. National institutions will play central roles in implementation. In the Kyrgyz Republic, the Community Development and Investment Agency and the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry will support implementation, in Tajikistan the role will be undertaken by the Center for Implementation of Investment Projects and in Uzbekistan by the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change, while the respective Ministries of Finance will be involved in the envisaged EIB credit programmes. Regional cooperation forums will support regional cooperation, knowledge exchange and transboundary activities. This combination of national and regional institutions provides a foundation for institutionalizing and scaling programme approaches beyond the implementation period.

45. The programme was developed through extensive consultations with national designated authorities, line ministries, subnational authorities, civil society, producers, private-sector actors and financial institutions. The proposal reports engagement with 1,323 individuals from more than 273 institutions, culminating in a regional validation workshop that informed and validated the overall intervention logic and programme design.

3.6 Efficiency and effectiveness

Scale: Medium

46. The programme demonstrates moderate efficiency and effectiveness. It combines a GCF grant of EUR 119.58 million with co-financing of approximately EUR 144.8 million, including an EIB senior loan of EUR 120 million. The economic and financial analysis demonstrates both the economic and the financial viability of the programme. The model has been developed in a highly detailed and rigorous manner, with separate modelling undertaken for each crop across the 3 target countries.

47. The programme is economically viable. Applying a social discount rate of 6 per cent, the programme yields an economic net present value of approximately EUR 385.6 million, an economic internal rate of return of 15.1 per cent and a benefit-cost ratio of 1.36. Returns exceed the social discount rate in all three countries, although the margin is narrow in Uzbekistan

(benefit-cost ratio of approximately 1.06). The analysis captures the principal benefit categories for an AFOLU programme, including agricultural and orchard productivity, improved pasture carrying capacity, forest and ecosystem service benefits, avoided land degradation, and carbon sequestration valued at a shadow price of EUR 33/t CO₂ eq, which is a reasonable social cost of carbon in line with common practice among other AEs and with the Paris Agreement.

48. The financial analysis, undertaken for Component 2 (agriculture), where beneficiary-level revenues arise, indicates that most modelled activities are financially viable on a commercial-debt basis – that is, without grant support – with levered returns exceeding beneficiaries' cost of capital; certain smallholder segments, by contrast, cannot service debt even on concessional terms and warrant a degree of concessional support. Against this, the 65 per cent and 50 per cent matching-grant rates are applied uniformly, and for many activities financial returns remain well above beneficiaries' cost of capital even at substantially lower grant shares. The grant rate is not derived from an activity-level minimum-concessional analysis; it rests predominantly on the genuine access, collateral and tenor constraints facing smallholders in these lower-middle-income, sub-investment-grade economies, where agricultural lending rates frequently exceed 20 per cent. The economic and financial analysis narrative explains that the quoted beneficiary-to-grant contribution ratio should not be interpreted as a flat support rate. Rather, it should be understood as an indicative benchmark across a differentiated beneficiary portfolio. It would therefore be important for the size of the matching grants to be carefully calibrated to provide the minimum support required for different beneficiary portfolios during programme implementation.

49. Regarding financial structure and instrument appropriateness, the EIB-backed intermediated loan offers reduced end-borrower pricing over a five- to seven-year tenor, but its concessionalism is not yet fully passed through to end borrowers, and its terms remain indicative. The programme introduces matching-grant and revolving-fund mechanisms to complement the EIB loan. A no-till adoption accelerator has been introduced as an asset-based revolving instrument for no-till wheat in the Kyrgyz Republic; its capital-preservation and sustainability assumptions should be verified against operating-cost and loan-loss experience before reliance is placed on its continued operation after programme closure.

50. Regarding cost-effectiveness, the mitigation cost is EUR 5.16/t CO₂ eq against GCF proceeds and EUR 13.49/t CO₂ eq against GCF and co-financing combined; on an unattributed basis (total financing over lifetime reductions of 6.95 million t CO₂ eq), the equivalent figures are of the order of EUR 17.2 and EUR 38.0/t CO₂ eq. Adaptation cost-effectiveness is favourable, at a GCF cost of approximately EUR 80 per direct beneficiary and EUR 33 per total beneficiary – towards the more efficient end of the GCF forestry and agriculture portfolio – reflecting the programme's reach across 939,354 hectares. The programme achieves a co-financing ratio of approximately 1:1.21, with a further EUR 15.5 million in beneficiary-matching contributions expected.

IV. Assessment of consistency with GCF safeguards and policies

4.1 Environmental and social safeguards

51. **ESS 1 - Environmental and social risk categorization.** The AE has shared an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as part of the funding proposal to manage potential environmental and social risks that may arise on the project. Project screening was achieved by applying the GIZ Safeguards and Gender Management System in line with the requirements of the GCF revised Environmental and Social Policy. This regional project directly addresses the critical climate risks impacting the AFOLU sectors in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan,

concentrating on the highly vulnerable and ecologically important Fergana Valley, and Surkhandarya and Khatlon regions. Ranging from plains dominated by agriculture to pastures and forests widely distributed on foothills and mountain slopes, the selected intervention areas are interconnected and inseparable elements of continuous and transboundary landscapes characterized by different land uses and natural ecosystems that necessitate an integrated regional approach. The project has been assigned as Category B (medium risk) in adherence with GCF principles and GIZ Safeguards and Gender Management System. The risks associated with the project are envisaged to be localized, temporary, and largely reversible, with limited adverse impacts that can be mitigated through appropriate measures. The secretariate agrees with this categorization and confirms that the risk category is within the AE's safeguards risk accreditation level and consistent with the requirement of the GCF revised Environmental and Social Policy.

52. **ESS 2 - Labour and working conditions.** The risks relating to labour rights and applicable standards are broadly similar for all three countries. Without effective mitigation, there is a moderate risk that implementation of project activities could unintentionally lead to labour rights violations, forced and child labour, and sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH). However, the implementation of subprojects with strong mitigation and oversight represents an important opportunity to drive societal change and reduce the prevalence of such occurrences in the medium to long term.

53. **ESS 3 - Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts.** The project's primary goal is to strengthen adaptation to climate change in the target region through the promotion of CRLE land-use practices. However, Intensification of agriculture and forestry if not managed sustainably could lead to overuse of natural resources, soil degradation and biodiversity loss. These risks could inadvertently result in maladaptation, where the project exacerbates vulnerabilities instead of reducing them. Further, the project will be implemented in regions with existing constraints on water and other resources. Competition for resources, especially in resource-scarce areas, may pose a risk to community stability and project outcomes. The ESMP shared by the AE has proposed mitigation measures to address these risks.

54. **ESS 4 - Community health, safety and security.** Proposed project-related climate adaptation activities such as irrigation schemes, reforestation and pasture works are likely to pose community health and safety risks. New irrigation reservoirs or field drainage, for instance, could create breeding grounds for vectors or contaminate water supplies. Inappropriate use of crop protectants or fertilizers, inadequate waste management, or poor performance of equipment may also impact community health and safety. There is also a risk related to road transportation and incidents or accidental events related to project-related traffic. These impacts may be exacerbated by a lack of, and access to, adequate health care. However, implementation of the project will result in measurable improvements through the introduction of modern technologies, capacity-building on pollution control and waste management, thereby possibly reducing the risk of negative health and safety impacts.

55. **Assessment on conflicts and violation of human rights.** The project will be implemented in areas where access to land, water and other natural resources are often limited, particularly in regions impacted by climate change. These constraints may increase competition for these resources, leading to social tensions between local communities or among different stakeholder groups. The AE has proposed measures to mitigate potential conflicts that may arise.

56. **ESS 5 - Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement.** For all three countries, the potential risks and impacts are limited. Most project measures involve advisory services, training or equipment that do not require land acquisition from individuals. In rare cases, voluntary community contributions of land may be sought for demonstration sites, nursery

gardens, or water infrastructure. This could temporarily restrict access to grazing or farming areas.

57. **ESS 6 - Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources.** Although the project does not intend to implement activities within legally designated protected areas, agricultural and rangeland systems in some regions may be located within the wider ecological landscapes surrounding these sites. Therefore, there is potential for indirect pressures, such as land-use intensification, grazing expansion, water abstraction, or introduction of non-native species, to affect ecological connectivity and habitat quality if not properly managed.

58. **ESS 7 - GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy and (Indigenous Peoples).** The AE has conducted a screening against the Indigenous Peoples Policy and confirmed that the project area does not contain any Indigenous Peoples, nor will they be affected by the project's activities.

59. The funding proposal demonstrates compliance with the requirements of the GCF revised Environmental and Social Policy relating to SEAH. The proposal identifies relevant contextual and project-level SEAH risk drivers, including rural poverty, gender inequality, limited women's access to resources and decision-making, restrictive gender norms, and risks associated with labour engagement, financial incentive mechanisms, and community participation processes.

60. The project has established a SEAH-responsive safeguarding framework within its ESIA and ESMP, including dedicated SEAH protocols, survivor-centred reporting and response procedures, integration of SEAH risk management measures, and a separate SEAH grievance mechanism distinct from the general project grievance redress mechanism. The SEAH mechanism provides multiple confidential and anonymous reporting channels, referral pathways, whistle-blower protections, dedicated contact points, and public information on reporting procedures. Institutional arrangements are defined, including oversight by the GIZ Compliance and Integrity Unit and designation of the project Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) Specialist as the focal point for SEAH-related grievances.

61. The project includes SEAH screening at the subproject level and a framework for mapping local gender-based violence/SEAH service providers and referral pathways in each participating country. The project will provide capacity-building to EEs and project personnel on implementation of ESS and grievance procedures.

62. The project grievance redress mechanism incorporates gender-responsive, confidential and accessible features designed to address barriers faced by rural women and vulnerable groups, including literacy, language, disability, connectivity, mobility and reprisal concerns. Multiple discreet access channels and trusted third-party reporting options will be available. The project also includes a dedicated SEAH indicator and target to support systematic monitoring and reporting. Detailed grievance arrangements will be validated through stakeholder consultations during project inception and reviewed periodically throughout implementation.

63. Overall, the project's SEAH risk management framework is consistent with RESP requirements relating to SEAH and good international practice for survivor-centred prevention, reporting and response. Mitigation measures are embedded across recruitment, contracting, implementation and stakeholder engagement, and the grievance architecture provides multiple, accessible and confidential pathways for reporting and resolution.

64. **ESS 8 - Cultural heritage.** All three countries are rich in tangible and intangible cultural heritage. This is partly due to their heritage sites related to the Silk Road trade and cultural exchange, but there are also ancient heritage sites (e.g. petroglyphs and rock art), early religious

monuments, landscape features and other heritage sites of national or global importance. All three countries have legislation in place for protecting heritage sites.

4.2 Gender policy

65. The funding proposal demonstrates compliance with the GCF Gender Policy through a project-specific gender assessment and a comprehensive, costed Gender Action Plan that addresses key structural barriers facing women in the AFOLU sectors across the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The proposal identifies persistent gender gaps in access to land, finance, employment, productive assets, extension services and decision-making, and incorporates targeted measures to promote women's equitable participation and benefit sharing.

66. Gender considerations are integrated throughout project design, implementation and monitoring. The proposal recognizes women's significant role in agricultural production, while acknowledging their limited representation in formal enterprises, producer organizations, resource governance structures and financial systems. The project commits to achieving at least 40 per cent women's participation across beneficiary-facing activities, including training, advisory services and access to project-supported investments.

67. The proposal includes gender-responsive indicators, baseline data and dedicated budget allocations for implementation of the Gender Action Plan. Institutional capacity is supported through the engagement of a regional Environmental and Social Safeguards Adviser and three national ESS and Monitoring and Evaluation advisers responsible for oversight of gender and inclusion commitments.

68. The project's gender objective is clearly articulated and seeks to ensure equitable and barrier-free access for women, youth and marginalized groups to CRLE livelihood opportunities, financing mechanisms, capacity-building activities and stakeholder engagement processes. Measures to achieve these outcomes include gender-responsive financing arrangements, targeted outreach and application support, and safeguards to ensure women's meaningful participation and access to project benefits.

69. The revolving financing mechanism incorporates specific provisions to enhance women's access to finance, including ring-fenced allocations for women farmers, women-owned and women-led MSMEs, and women's producer groups. Clear eligibility criteria, requirements for independent access to financing, and measures to prevent elite capture further strengthen the project's gender responsiveness.

70. Gender-responsive implementation and monitoring arrangements are integrated throughout project activities. The project will collect sex- and age-disaggregated data, monitor women's participation, adoption of practices and distribution of benefits, and adapt implementation where gender gaps are identified. Capacity-building activities will be delivered using inclusive approaches that address literacy, mobility, time and digital-access constraints commonly faced by women.

71. Overall, the proposal demonstrates strong alignment with the GCF Gender Policy. Gender equality and social inclusion are substantively integrated into project design, implementation, financing mechanisms, monitoring systems and institutional arrangements, providing a credible framework to enhance women's participation, access to benefits and resilience outcomes across the project area.

4.3 Risks

4.3.1. Accredited entity/executing entity capability to execute the current project/programme (medium risk)

72. GIZ is an experienced AE with a sizeable GCF portfolio. However, the proposed programme is operationally complex. It will be implemented across the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with national EEs, implementation partners and, if mobilized, an EIB-supported financing chain. The risk does not arise from the grant instrument itself, but from the scale and sequencing of the proposed implementation model.

4.3.2. Project/programme-specific execution risks (medium risk)

73. EIB dependency: Activities linked to the EIB credit programme should proceed only when the corresponding EIB financing arrangements are operationally ready in the relevant country. If EIB financing is delayed, reduced or does not materialize, the AE should submit a response plan covering rescheduling, redeployment, reallocation, restructuring, scope adjustment or partial cancellation of affected activities, as applicable.

74. Sustainability of financing mechanisms: The no-till adoption accelerator is more developed, but the climate-smart agriculture finance facilities, green bond support and regional investment platform need clearer post-project operating models and financing continuity. A mid-term review should test whether these mechanisms are on track and identify corrective actions.

75. Foreign exchange and cost exposure: GCF proceeds are in euros, while many costs will be incurred in local currencies. Material exchange-rate impacts should be reported through regular reporting, with a remediation plan if cost movements affect delivery.

4.3.3. GCF portfolio concentration risk

76. In the event of approval, the impact of this proposal on the GCF concentration risk remains within the monitoring thresholds of the risk appetite statement in terms of results areas, single proposal or AE concentration.

4.3.4. Compliance risk (medium risk)

77. Though many of the proposed activities – such as the enabling environment work under Component 1 and regional cooperation support under Component 3 – pose lower inherent integrity risks, including relating to money laundering/terrorist financing (ML/TF) or other prohibited practices, other programme activities including the revolving fund and matching grant mechanism (Component 2) present higher inherent compliance risks. Moreover, the programme's relatively complex implementation arrangements – involving eight entities across multiple jurisdictions – further raise the inherent compliance risks, though it is noted that two of the EEs, the Community Development and Investment Agency and Center for Implementation of Investment Projects, are also GCF AEs.

78. The AE has assessed the inherent risk of ML/TF as low and residual risk as very low based on mitigating measures including application of its existing financial management, procurement, compliance and other internal controls, which include anti-money-laundering/countering the financing of terrorism screening and due diligence. Additional safeguards include regular monitoring of financial flows, procurement and contracting.

79. The inherent risk of other prohibited practices was determined by the AE to be medium-high, with residual risk as medium, based on mitigants including application of existing GIZ controls by GIZ, including relating to anti-corruption, as well as the use of transparent eligibility criteria for procurement, contracting and grant beneficiary selection. In addition, capacity assessments of the EEs covered their financial management systems, including relating to anti-

money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism and other prohibited practices, and any identified gaps will be addressed through capacity-building.

80. On the basis of the mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce inherent compliance risks associated with the proposed programme activities, the overall residual compliance risk is determined to be medium.

4.3.5. Recommendation

81. It is recommended that the Board consider the above factors in its decision.

Summary risk assessment	
Overall project/programme	Medium risk
Accredited entity (AE)/executing entity (EE) capability	Medium risk
Project/programme-specific execution	Medium risk
Compliance	Medium risk
GCF portfolio concentration	Within the monitoring thresholds

4.4 Fiduciary

82. Financial management will follow GIZ established policies, procedures and internal controls. GCF proceeds will be recorded through separate cost units, enabling them to be identified and distinguished from other funds managed by GIZ. Further disbursements to EEs will be linked to satisfactory reporting on programme progress and the use of funds, and annual financial statements will be subject to independent external audit in accordance with international auditing standards.

83. Procurement undertaken by GIZ will follow applicable German and European public procurement rules and GIZ internal procedures. National EEs will apply the GIZ procurement requirements for recipients of financing, as contractually agreed minimum standards, together with applicable national procurement legislation. The procurement plan specifies the responsible entities, procurement methods and indicative implementation schedules.

84. The matching-grant mechanisms, the no-till adoption accelerator and the regional cooperation grant will require detailed operational procedures covering eligibility, beneficiary selection, appraisal, approval, disbursement, verification, segregation of duties, reporting and audit. GIZ will provide fiduciary oversight through subsidiary and cooperation agreements, regular financial and procurement monitoring, and corrective-action measures where deficiencies are identified.

85. The EIB loan proceeds will be managed separately by the participating Ministries of Finance under the applicable EIB financing agreements and national public financial management requirements. GIZ will neither receive nor administer these proceeds, while EIB will retain fiduciary oversight of its financing. Information-sharing and reporting arrangements will enable GIZ to monitor the mobilization and use of the co-financing and consolidate programme-level reporting.

86. Overall, the Secretariat considers the proposed fiduciary arrangements adequate. Given the scale and multi-country implementation structure, continued attention will be required to ensure consistent application of financial management, procurement and internal control requirements across all EEs and financing mechanisms.

4.5 Results monitoring and reporting

87. The proposed project is a cross-cutting project that aims to contribute towards adaptation and mitigation outcomes. The results pathways for each of the three outcomes, as well as their combined effects towards the desired paradigm shift, along with the risks, assumptions and barriers, are clearly demonstrated in the project theory of change. While presenting a simplified schema of the changes required to achieve climate results, the theory of change acknowledges that the countries covered by the project are at different stages of readiness and therefore will experience the pathways differently. This has important implications for how activities will be designed and implemented by country.

88. The progress to be made by the project will be measured through the indicators, baselines and targets set out in the logical framework, which includes a by-country breakdown for relevant indicators. Aligned with the Integrated Results Management Framework, the logical framework includes Core Indicators 1, 2 and 4 and Supplementary Indicator 4.1. The means of verification include a combination of primary and secondary sources and methods.

89. The AE increased the allocation for the interim and final evaluations following the Secretariat's request, and detailed notes and assumptions were provided as part of the detailed budget submission. With the AE's experience in the region, some economies of scale could be expected in the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities, which can justify a budget below the recommended 2–5 per cent of the total budget range of the GCF Evaluation Policy. The review notes that some amount for reviews and quality assurance of M&E-related activities, such as for the M&E system and annual performance report preparations, have also been itemized in the AE fee request.

4.6 Legal assessment

90. The legal arrangements for the project will be based on the amended and restated accreditation master agreement between GCF and the Accredited Entity which has been signed and is effective (the "**AMA**"). Consequently, they will consist of a project-specific funded activity agreement which incorporates the AMA.

91. The Accredited Entity has provided a legal opinion/certificate confirming that it has obtained all internal approvals and it has the capacity and authority to implement the project.

92. The proposed project will be implemented in the Republic of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan (each, as applicable, the "**Host Country**"). GCF has been granted privileges and immunities in the Republic of Tajikistan.

93. GCF has not been provided with privileges and immunities in the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan. This means that, amongst other things, GCF is not protected against litigation or expropriation in these Host Countries, which risks need to be further assessed. Moreover, the ability of GCF to undertake redress activities and/or investigations in these Host Countries may be hindered due to the absence of privileges and immunities for relevant GCF personnel.

94. Therefore, it is recommended that the Board considers whether disbursements of GCF proceeds should only be made after GCF has obtained satisfactory protection against litigation and expropriation in the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan or has been provided with appropriate privileges and immunities for GCF and its personnel.

95. GCF holds industrial property protection for its combined logo (sphere with the words "Green Climate Fund") in the Republic of Tajikistan.

96. GCF does not hold industrial property protection for its combined logo in the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan. This means that, while industrial property protection is pending, (i) GCF's combined logo could be used by other entities or individuals (including those seeking to impersonate GCF) and (ii) there could be legal claims by entities or individuals

asserting their protected trademark, opposing GCF using its combined logo in the countries. In both cases, this may lead to reputational risk.

97. To address the matters raised in this section and facilitate prompt implementation of the project, it is recommended that any approval by the Board is made subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Signature of the funded activity agreement in a form and substance satisfactory to the GCF Secretariat within 180 days from the date of Board approval; and
- (b) Completion of the legal due diligence to the satisfaction of the GCF Secretariat prior to the signature of the funded activity agreement.

Independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment of FP322

Proposal name:	Climate-resilient Landscapes in Central Asia
Accredited entity:	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Country/(ies):	Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
Project/programme size:	Large

I. Assessment of the independent Technical Advisory Panel

1.1 Overview

1. This is the first submission of the funding proposal titled “Climate-resilient Landscapes in Central Asia” submitted to the independent Technical Advisory Panel (iTAP) under the standard proposal approval process. The accredited entity (AE) is the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ). The funding proposal includes eight executing entities (EEs) (see table 1 below).

Table 1. Executing entities for the funding proposal titled “Climate-resilient Landscapes in Central Asia”

Country of registration	Full legal name	Type of entity
Kyrgyz Republic	Community Development and Investment Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARIS)	Public sector – Government-controlled subnational, national or regional entity
	Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic (MoWRAP)	Public sector – Government
	Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic	Public sector – Government
Tajikistan	Centre for Implementation of Investment Projects under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CIIP)	Public sector – Government
	Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan	Public sector – Government
Uzbekistan	National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NCECC)	Public sector – Government
	Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Public sector – Government
Germany	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	Public sector – Government-controlled subnational, national or regional entity

Source: Funding proposal, pages 5–6.

2. This cross-cutting funding proposal is aimed at enhancing the climate resilience of vulnerable populations and transboundary ecosystems in Central Asia through strengthened regional cooperation, climate-informed planning, sustainable finance and climate-resilient land management.
3. The expected mitigation outcome over the 20-year lifespan of the project is 6.95 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO₂ eq), and the expected adaptation outcome includes 1.046 million direct and almost 1.5 million indirect beneficiaries.
4. The project will achieve its mitigation and adaptation outcomes through activities structured around three components. Component 1, at the national level, aims to improve enabling conditions. Component 2 will promote the adoption of climate-resilient and low-emission (CRLE) practices at the local level through participatory planning and the establishment of an agricultural finance mechanism, and component 3 focuses on strengthening regional cooperation among the three participating countries, as well as with Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. The time frame proposed is a 7-year implementation period and a 20-year lifespan.
5. The environmental and social risk category is assessed as category B, given that the programme supports planning, capacity-building, technical assistance, and small to medium-scale CRLE investments. In addition, the funding proposal identifies project-related risks associated with political instability, conflict sensitivity and regional security; institutional continuity and implementation capacity; money-laundering, terrorist financing, prohibited practices and sanctions non-compliance; and co-financing mobilization.
6. The overall project budget is EUR 264,375,370, with a funding request to GCF of EUR 119,580,500 as a grant. Total co-financing amounts to EUR 144,794,870, comprising a EUR 12 million grant from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), a EUR 120 million senior loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB), and in-kind contributions from the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (EUR 3,980,870), the Government of Tajikistan (EUR 4,675,000) and the Government of Uzbekistan (EUR 4,139,000).
7. This funding proposal was developed using the new template.¹ The concept note on which the proposal is based was partially financed through GCF readiness support for Kyrgyzstan (KGZ-RS-004) and Tajikistan (TJK-RS-005).
8. In its assessment, the iTAP considered all documents as submitted on 12 August 2026 and the responses to iTAP's questions as received on 28 August 2026 and the online call held on 1 September 2026.

1.2 Impact potential

Scale: Medium to high

9. The expected mitigation outcome over the 20-year lifespan of the project is 6.95 million t CO₂ eq. To achieve this outcome, the proposal focuses on one mitigation results area (MRA): forestry and land use (Mitigation Results Area 4). The expected adaptation outcome includes 1.046 million direct and almost 1.5 million indirect beneficiaries. To achieve this outcome, the project focuses on two adaptation results areas: livelihoods of people and communities (Adaptation Results Area (ARA) 1) and ecosystems and ecosystem services (ARA 4).
10. The project is structured around three complementary components:
11. Component 1 establishes the enabling environment for CRLE development in the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sectors at the national level. It strengthens climate-informed, cross-sectoral and multilevel planning, improves the alignment of public

¹ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/funding-proposal-template-pap>.

finance and incentives with climate commitments, and seeks to catalyse private finance through dedicated financing facilities and capacity support to local financial institutions (LFIs). These measures are intended to provide the enabling conditions for scaling CRLE investments under component 2 and strengthening regional cooperation under component 3.

12. Component 2 supports behavioural change and the local adoption of CRLE practices and technologies through a sequenced approach combining participatory, locally developed and climate-informed planning, capacity development, technical assistance, and investments in forests, pastures, agriculture and related value chains, delivered through financing mechanisms tailored to the respective land-use systems. Building on the enabling conditions established under component 1, it translates these into action in selected landscapes and seeks to generate a pipeline for future financing. Local stakeholders will participate not only in identifying and validating priorities but also in implementation and monitoring. The component differentiates between interventions in forests and pastures and those promoting climate-smart agricultural practices. Based on the municipal-level AFOLU plans facilitated under output 2.1, the project will support the climate-informed restoration and sustainable management of degraded rangelands in transboundary landscapes (output 2.2) and the adoption at scale of locally relevant CRLE practices and technologies in agriculture (output 2.3). To achieve these results, the project defines two complementary interventions: strengthening the agricultural extension system and establishing an agricultural financing mechanism combining an EIB-backed intermediated EUR 120 million loan programme with a matching grant mechanism (MGM) backed by GCF and BMZ². In the Kyrgyz Republic, the project will additionally seek complementarity with the existing No-Till Adoption Accelerators. The MGM will only operate during the seven-year project implementation period.

13. Component 3 strengthens regional cooperation on CRLE development in the AFOLU sectors across Central Asia. It supports strategic foresight, the development of shared regional pathways, sustained knowledge exchange and the establishment of a regional climate investment platform intended to translate common priorities into concrete transboundary action and future climate finance. Under this component, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan will benefit from technical advisory support financed through BMZ co-financing.

14. **Mitigation impact potential:** In this proposal, the mitigation impact results from enhanced carbon sequestration through pasture and forest restoration, restoration of degraded open land, and improved cropland management, all to be implemented under component 2. The funding proposal includes a quantification methodology describing the key assumptions, emission factors and algorithms for the with-project and without-project scenarios, as well as the corresponding operationalization of the methodology for each participating country (see annexes 13a–13d). While iTAP considers the methodological approach appropriate, it has identified concerns regarding its operationalization, as well as one challenge to project implementation at the farm level that may reduce the mitigation impact of the proposed activities.

15. There is an inconsistency regarding the timing of interventions during project implementation that affects the operationalization of the methodological approach for estimating the mitigation impact potential. While the project timetable (annex 3) clearly indicates that investments in forest and pasture restoration, as well as activities related to cropland management, will only commence during the third year of the implementation phase, the mitigation impact potential is quantified from year 2 onwards (annexes 13a–13d). This inconsistency results in an estimated overstatement of the mitigation impact potential of approximately 25–30 per cent during the implementation period and approximately 5 per cent over the project lifespan.

² BMZ stands for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

16. In addition, in its responses to the iTAP questions, the AE indicates low to very low expected levels of adoption,³ including 0.1 for forest restoration across all participating countries and 0.4–0.5 for pasture restoration. Considering that these are the two activities with the highest mitigation impact potential across the participating countries, the low adoption rates may have a significant impact on the realization of the mitigation impact potential. The iTAP recognizes that this does not affect the mitigation (or adaptation) potential as such; however, it jeopardizes the achievement of the proposed targets and may affect other investment criteria, including paradigm shift potential and efficiency and effectiveness.

17. **Adaptation impact potential:** The feasibility study (annex 2) presents the regional context, including the socioeconomic conditions and the agriculture, forestry and biodiversity conservation sectors in each participating country and at the regional level. This information provides the basis for understanding how the main climate hazards have affected and are expected to affect people and ecosystems over time, taking into account country-specific adaptive capacities.

18. In summary, the feasibility study shows that climate change is increasing risks across the interconnected irrigated and rain-fed croplands, pastures and forests in the transboundary areas targeted by the proposal – through rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, more frequent and intense droughts and extreme weather events, and increasingly unreliable water availability. In irrigated areas, these changes are expected to reduce crop and orchard yields and quality while increasing irrigation needs, production costs and soil degradation. In rain-fed systems, drought, heat and erratic rainfall will increase yield variability and crop-failure risks. In pasture and forest systems, declining water availability, heat and degradation will reduce biomass productivity, carrying capacity, regeneration, and protective ecosystem functions, while heavy rainfall increases erosion, mudflow and landslide risks. These impacts will reinforce each other across the mountain–foothill–valley landscape, threatening agricultural productivity, ecosystem services, food security, and the stability and resilience of rural livelihoods.

19. Furthermore, the funding proposal identifies six barriers that increase the vulnerability of people and ecosystems: (i) insufficient public finance to implement mitigation and adaptation measures; (ii) limited coherence of public policies and incentives to enable adaptation and mitigation in the agriculture, livestock and forestry sectors; (iii) limited integration of climate information into local land-use plans, national sector plans and other planning instruments; (iv) limited technical knowledge among land users and insufficient technical advisory services for planning and implementing site-specific adaptation options; (v) limited access to finance for implementing climate-resilient production models; and (vi) insufficient regional cooperation to address transboundary environmental challenges.

20. This analysis of the climate risks, combined with the existing barriers, provide the basis for a catalogue of adaptation measures targeting the production stages of selected value chains, including seed potatoes, horticultural products, fruits and wheat, as well as the introduction of CRLE and climate-smart agriculture as systemic approaches, forest-land restoration, and the climate-resilient management of non-timber forest products. The catalogue also includes cross-cutting and enabling measures related to the provision of climate information, climate adaptation planning, and multisectoral and cross-national coordination (annex 2, table 30).

21. The adaptation impact potential of the project has been demonstrated in accordance with the principles defined by the Board in decision B.33/12. However, as with the mitigation

³ Source: Responses from the AE to the iTAP, where the AE defines adoption rate as “the proportion of the relevant land-use area within the target areas where verified adoption of programme-supported CRLE practices is expected”. The AE informed iTAP that the expected level of adoption of CRLE practices has been determined for each of the practices and each country individual and provided the corresponding rates per activity and country.

impact potential, its realization depends on the ability of the AE and EEs to achieve increased adoption rates at the farm level.

22. In consideration of the above, iTAP assesses the adaptation and mitigation impact potential of this funding proposal as medium to high and highlights that the realization of this potential will depend on the achievement of higher adoption rates during project implementation than those reported in the AE' responses to iTAP.

1.3 Paradigm shift potential

Scale: Medium

23. **Contribution to enabling conditions and scalability:** Component 1 is designed to address institutional barriers that hinder well-informed and coordinated planning of mitigation and adaptation actions in the AFOLU sector in the participating countries. By integrating climate information into national planning and programming processes (output 1.1), strengthening the consideration of climate change adaptation and mitigation in subsidy schemes (output 1.2), and providing climate-related risk assessment training to LFI and supporting their readiness to develop climate-smart agriculture (CSA) financing products (output 1.3), the project will contribute to improving the enabling conditions for climate action at scale in the three participating countries. This will be complemented by field-level mitigation and adaptation interventions at the municipal and farm levels (component 2), which will demonstrate the operationalization of climate action, as well as by strengthened information exchange and coordination mechanisms at the regional level (component 3).

24. **Innovation and replicability:** Three features of the proposal are both innovative and have the potential to trigger replication beyond the project implementation period. First, the catalogue of AFOLU measures and the approach used for their selection, which considers adaptation and mitigation impact potential as well as context-specific conditions. The innovative character lies not necessarily in the individual measures themselves, but in the selection process used to identify the most promising climate actions for the respective areas. Second, the blended financing mechanism combines an EIB-backed intermediated loan programme with a GCF/BMZ MGM. This mechanism has the potential to provide access to finance for otherwise excluded stakeholders while mainstreaming climate finance products within LFIs. If successful, these financing products could be sustained beyond the project implementation period, facilitating climate action at scale over the longer term. Third, the strong participation of well-established national EEs will help ensure that the climate-related capacities and competencies developed through the project remain available within the participating countries beyond the implementation period.

25. **Knowledge and learning:** The activities aimed at strengthening regional cooperation as included in component 3 show how the project is designed to promote knowledge cogeneration and exchange, as well as cross-country learning. Furthermore, the establishment of a regional climate investment platform has the potential to facilitate future transboundary interventions while promoting complementarity and avoiding duplication of efforts.

26. **Challenges to paradigm shift potential:** Although iTAP recognizes the aspects that could trigger transformational change, there are two major constraints. First, at present, the proposed co-financing from BMZ and EIB is supported only by letters of intent. The BMZ funding commitment remains subject to legal, budgetary and policy considerations of the Government of Germany, while EIB participation remains subject to approval by its Governing Bodies and a positive assessment by the European Commission regarding the provision of a European Union guarantee for the EIB financing, taking into account the European Commission's priorities for the region and beneficiary countries. In its responses to the iTAP questions the AE stated that "in order to materialise the envisaged co-financing, EIB requires a European Commission guarantee under the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

2028–2034”. This implies a potential delay even if the co-financing is ultimately approved. Furthermore, the AE itself recognizes a risk that the co-financing will not materialize.⁴ Although understandable at the current stage of the proposal, these arrangements create uncertainty regarding the size and timely availability of the EIB co-financing, which represents 45 per cent of the total project funds. Furthermore, the specific financing agreements between the ministries representing the participating countries and EIB are outside the AE’s direct sphere of influence. Therefore, while the AE can participate in the negotiations through the agreements to be established with EIB and the participating countries, it cannot ensure that the conditions of these loans will be fully aligned with the specific requirements of the project or of GCF. Similarly, the AE cannot ensure that the conditions agreed between EIB and the respective LFI providing the financial products will be fully aligned with the project’s transformational and climate change-related objectives.

27. A second key challenge to transformational change is that the MGM will cease to operate after the project implementation period. Although the AFOLU measures financed during implementation are expected to remain in place, there is no assurance that additional stakeholders will subsequently have access to financing for preparing and implementing similar measures. If such financing is unavailable or accessible only to a more limited group of stakeholders, the transformational pathway initiated by the project could be significantly slowed or interrupted.

28. Considering the promising aspects as well as the challenges, iTAP assesses the paradigm shift potential of this proposal as medium.

1.4 Sustainable development potential

Scale: High

29. Besides contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 (Climate action), the project will contribute to targets related to SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities) and SDG 15 (Life on land).

30. **Environmental co-benefits:** Through the restoration of pasture and forest ecosystems, the project will contribute to enhancing biodiversity and other ecosystem services across 30,000 hectares, for which corresponding results will be monitored and reported.

31. **Economic co-benefits:** The funding proposal will provide innovative financing products and matching grants to stakeholders who might otherwise have limited or no access to climate finance. In addition, the promotion of climate-resilient value chains is expected to diversify income sources and strengthen economic opportunities for stakeholders at the local level.

32. **Social co-benefits:** The project will facilitate access to climate information, planning and decision-making processes for stakeholders otherwise constrained by limited capacities or insufficient coordination. This is expected to strengthen participation and empowerment while increasing the acceptability and adoption of the proposed AFOLU measures.

33. **Gender co-benefits:** According to annex 10 to the funding proposal, the Gender and Inclusion Action Plan aims to strengthen the capacity of women and youth to respond to climate change in the AFOLU sectors through improved access to finance, training, technologies and economic opportunities, alongside targeted empowerment and enabling conditions for meaningful participation. By the end of the seven-year implementation period, the programme expects to directly benefit approximately 528,000 women across the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Beyond the number of beneficiaries, the programme seeks to strengthen women’s actual influence over the selection, financing, implementation and

⁴ Source: funding proposal, reinforced in the AE’s responses to iTAP.

management of CRLE practices and technologies, with at least 60 per cent of participating women expected to achieve shared decision-making or higher and at least 30 per cent expected to achieve leadership and sustained influence. Progress will be assessed annually using quantitative and qualitative methods and disaggregated by country.

34. Considering the above, iTAP assesses the sustainable development potential of this proposal as high. Long-term challenges to sustainable transformation have already been considered in the assessment of the paradigm shift potential and are therefore not reflected in this score.

1.5 Needs of the recipient

Scale: High

35. The funding proposal covers three countries; the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, particularly in the Fergana Valley, Surkhandarya and Khatlon.

36. **The Kyrgyz Republic** is a lower-middle-income country with a population of about 7.4 million. Its economy has grown rapidly in recent years, but remains relatively small and exposed to external shocks, with agriculture and remittances continuing to play important structural roles⁵. Public indebtedness is significant but currently moderate, with central government debt equivalent to about 38.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2024; external borrowing is particularly relevant because a substantial part of public debt is externally financed.⁶ AFOLU is especially important for rural livelihoods: agriculture remains a major source of employment and income, while extensive pasture resources underpin livestock production. This dependence also creates considerable climate sensitivity. Increasing drought, heat, storms and landslides threaten agriculture and rural livelihoods; without additional climate action, the World Bank estimates that climate impacts could reduce real GDP by 2–3 per cent by 2040 and push an additional 170,000 people into poverty, with rural areas disproportionately affected.⁷ In the 2024 Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Index, Kyrgyzstan scores 51.4 and ranks 69th of 191 countries, with relatively low vulnerability (0.344), but also low readiness (0.372), indicating that institutional and investment readiness remains an important constraint on adaptation.⁸

37. **Tajikistan** is a lower-middle-income country with approximately 10.8 million inhabitants and GDP per capita of about USD 1,637 in 2025. Despite strong recent economic growth and substantial poverty reduction, development remains constrained by limited domestic employment, a narrow production base and exceptionally high dependence on remittances, which represented around 47 per cent of GDP in 2024.⁹ The World Bank also identifies Tajikistan as being at high risk of debt distress, making the sustainability of additional borrowing an important development consideration.¹⁰ AFOLU has particular socioeconomic importance because agriculture supports a large share of rural livelihoods and employment and remains one of the country's important growth sectors. At the same time, agriculture, livestock, soils and water resources are highly climate-sensitive. Droughts, floods, landslides and increasing temperatures could cause damage to agriculture, livestock and infrastructure sufficient to reduce real GDP by 5–6 per cent by 2050, while land degradation already costs an estimated USD 325 million annually.¹¹ Tajikistan performs considerably less well than its neighbours in the 2024 ND-GAIN Index, ranking 96th with a score of 47.4.¹² Its particularly low

⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/ext/en/country/kyrgyzrepublic>.

⁶ <https://data.worldbank.org/country/kyrgyz-republic>.

⁷ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/kyrgyzrepublic/publication/ccdr>.

⁸ <https://gain-new.crc.nd.edu/country/kyrgyzstan>.

⁹ <https://www.worldbank.org/ext/en/country/tajikistan>.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/9ab58c80-2c77-4136-86f3-df752f5a4cbe>.

¹² <https://gain-new.crc.nd.edu/country/tajikistan>.

readiness indicates important economic, governance and institutional constraints on translating climate investments into increased resilience.

38. **Khatlon**, located in southern Tajikistan along the Afghan border, is the country's most populous and poorest region and one of its principal agricultural areas.¹³ Agriculture is dominated by irrigated and rain-fed crop production – including cereals, cotton, horticulture – and livestock, with large numbers of smallholders dependent on land and water for their livelihoods. The region is highly climate-vulnerable: its location around the Panj, Vakhsh and tributary river systems exposes communities to recurrent floods and mudflows, while drought, heat, land degradation and increasing irrigation requirements threaten agricultural productivity. Poverty, income insecurity and limited employment opportunities amplify these risks, while Tajikistan's long border with Afghanistan creates additional fragility and security concerns.¹⁴ Khatlon is also embedded in Central Asia's wider transboundary water–energy–land nexus: Tajikistan is an upstream water and hydropower country, whereas downstream countries depend heavily on summer releases for irrigated agriculture, creating potential tensions over the timing and allocation of increasingly variable water resources.¹⁵

39. **Uzbekistan** is a lower-middle-income country and, with more than 38 million inhabitants, is the most populous country in Central Asia. Since 2017, major economic reforms have promoted market liberalization and private sector-led development; GDP growth averaged about 6 per cent annually between 2017 and 2025, while the national poverty rate declined from 8.9 per cent in 2024 to 5.8 per cent in 2025.¹⁶ Agriculture and the wider AFOLU sector remain economically and socially important, particularly for rural employment, food production and livelihoods, while irrigated agriculture is critically dependent on increasingly scarce water resources. Uzbekistan's development model remains highly resource-intensive, increasing pressure on land, water and ecosystems. Public and external debt has increased as the country has financed its economic transformation and infrastructure needs, although debt remains broadly manageable within the country's macroeconomic framework. Climate change presents substantial risks through water scarcity, drought, extreme heat, rainfall variability, dust storms and the continuing ecological consequences of the Aral Sea crisis, with potentially significant effects on agriculture, ecosystems and rural livelihoods.¹⁷ Uzbekistan performs best of the three countries in the 2024 ND-GAIN Index, with a score of 52.5 and a global rank of 64; its vulnerability score is 0.393 and readiness score 0.442, suggesting comparatively stronger capacity to mobilize adaptation investments, although substantial adaptation challenges remain.¹⁸

40. **Surkhandarya** is Uzbekistan's southernmost region, bordering Afghanistan and Tajikistan, and combines fertile river valleys and significant agricultural production with comparatively high environmental and socioeconomic vulnerability. Agriculture – including irrigated crop production, horticulture and livestock – is an important source of rural livelihoods, while land restoration and afforestation are increasingly important responses to degradation. The region faces severe climate-related pressures from drought, increasing water scarcity, desertification, land degradation, extreme heat, and frequent sand and dust storms, all of which threaten agricultural productivity and food security.¹⁹ Limited economic opportunities and infrastructure increase vulnerability and encourage outward migration, particularly among young people. Its border location also creates a transboundary dimension: resource scarcity,

¹³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/09/12/protecting-lives-and-livelihoods-from-natural-disasters-in-tajikistan>.

¹⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2024/04/05/building-resilience-across-tajikistan-for-a-more-inclusive-economy>.

¹⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/brief/2026/08/20/cawep>.

¹⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/ext/en/country/uzbekistan>.

¹⁷ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/uzbekistan/publication/ccdr>.

¹⁸ <https://gain-new.crc.nd.edu/country/uzbekistan>.

¹⁹ <https://www.undp.org/publications/crisis-resilience-climate-solutions-positive-peacebuilding>.

migration and displacement interact with existing socioeconomic pressures, while dependence on shared water systems means that changes in upstream water availability can affect agricultural livelihoods and potentially increase competition over resources.²⁰

41. The Fergana Valley, shared by the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, is one of Central Asia's most densely populated and agriculturally important areas, where irrigated agriculture, horticulture, livestock production and pasture use are central to rural livelihoods. Its fragmented borders and dependence on shared land and water resources have historically generated tensions among communities and states; disputes over access to irrigation water and productive land have periodically escalated into violent conflict, particularly along the Kyrgyz-Tajik border.²¹ Climate change is expected to intensify these pressures through glacier retreat, altered river flows, drought, extreme heat and increasing competition for water. Agriculture already accounts for around 90 per cent of freshwater withdrawals in Central Asia, making transboundary water management particularly important.²² Poverty and limited livelihood opportunities remain important in rural and border communities, making poorer households especially vulnerable to declining agricultural productivity and climate shocks.

42. Considering the above, iTAP assesses the needs of the recipients as high.

1.6 Country ownership

Scale: High

43. Annex 1 to the funding proposal includes the no-objection letters, all signed by the respective authorities in the participating countries in April 2026.

44. **Alignment with the climate strategy:** Along with the new template, the funding proposal includes a detailed table explaining the alignment of the proposal with the countries' nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs). The table describes the alignment and shows the percentage of concrete targets to be met by the proposed programme. In this case the table describes the alignment with the NDCs of the three countries. The programme is strongly aligned with national climate and development priorities across the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, supporting their NDC and adaptation objectives through climate-informed planning and the scaling of CRLE practices, including restoration of degraded land and pastures, sustainable forestry and grazing, climate-resilient and diversified agriculture, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, and improved water-use efficiency. It also contributes to national commitments on land degradation neutrality, ecosystem resilience and sustainable natural resource management, while supporting country-specific priorities such as climate information and afforestation in Tajikistan and green finance mobilization through LFIs in Uzbekistan. These objectives are further aligned with relevant national adaptation, green economy, development and sectoral strategies. The national designated authorities played a central role in ensuring this alignment and coordinating relevant ministries and stakeholders, including the identification of EEs and implementing partners.

45. **Capacity of the entities:** Besides GIZ, the programme identified the national EEs: the Community Development and Investment Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARIS), the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry (MoWRAP), and the Ministry of Finance in Kyrgyzstan; the Centre for Implementation of Investment Projects (CIIP) and the Ministry of Finance in Tajikistan; and the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change (NCECC) and the Ministry of Economy and Finance in Uzbekistan. These institutions have experience

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ <https://www.cacianalyst.org/publications/analytical-articles/item/13868-kyrgyzstan-and-tajikistan-resolve-final-border-dispute-a-historic-but-fragile-peace.html>.

²² <https://reliefweb.int/report/kyrgyzstan/assessment-climate-change-impacts-natural-resources-management-isfana-watershed-fergana-valley-kyrgyzstan-batken-region-leylek-district-april-2024-enru>.

implementing projects financed by international climate and development partners, with ARIS and CIIP also being GCF direct access entities. Capacity assessments indicate generally adequate implementation, fiduciary and technical capacities, while identifying specific areas requiring targeted institutional strengthening, particularly regarding internal procedures, monitoring, and environmental and social safeguards. The programme therefore provides dedicated safeguards, gender and procurement specialists and targeted technical assistance. The ministries of finance in all three countries will serve as EEs for channelling the EIB concessional loan co-financing to domestic public and private financial institutions.

46. **Stakeholder involvement:** As documented in annexes 9a and 9b, GIZ conducted extensive multi-stakeholder consultations throughout programme development, building on engagement initiated during the concept note stage. Between October 2025 and April 2026, 1,323 individuals from more than 273 institutions across government, international and regional organizations, civil society, and the private and financial sectors were consulted through bilateral and group exchanges, interviews, focus groups, and national and regional workshops. The process concluded with a regional validation workshop in Tashkent in April 2026, which confirmed the programme design, intervention logic, financial mechanisms, and implementation arrangements. That said, iTAP could not ascertain how the extensive traditional knowledge of local stakeholders was integrated into the design of the specific adaptation and mitigation measures proposed at the field level. The iTAP is nevertheless confident that the AE will ensure the appropriate integration of traditional knowledge into the participatory planning activities to be undertaken under outputs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.

47. Considering the above, iTAP assesses the country ownership of this funding proposal as high.

1.7 Efficiency and effectiveness

Scale: Medium

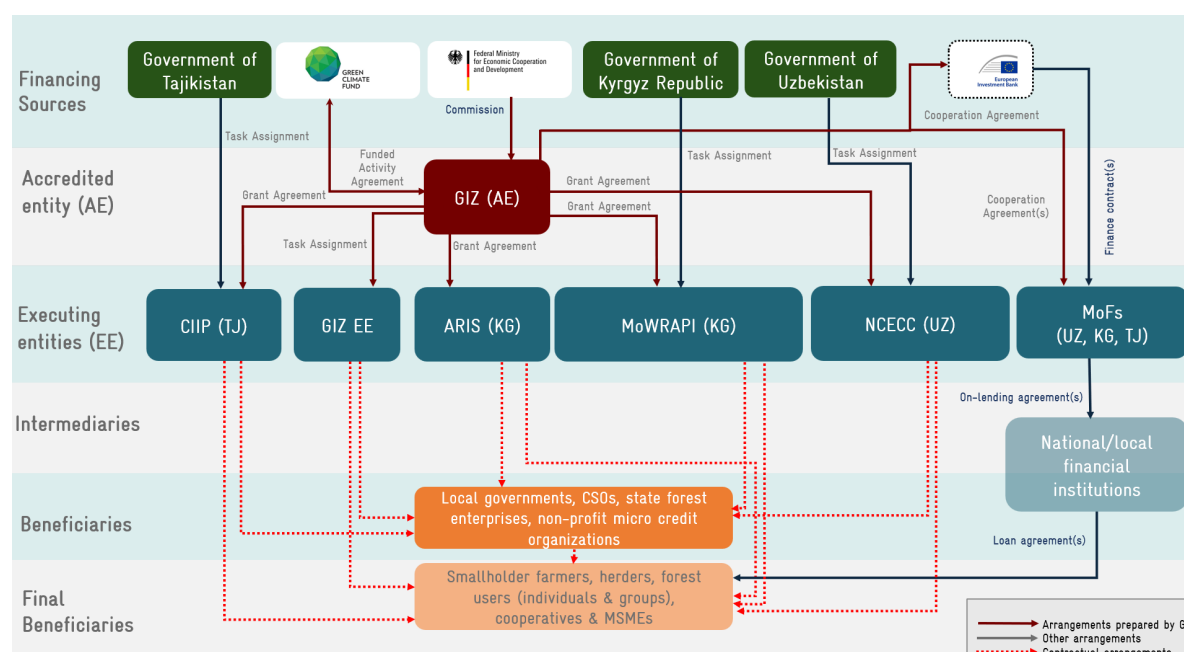
48. The overall project budget is EUR 264,375,370, with a funding request to GCF of EUR 119,580,500 as a grant. Total co-financing amounts to EUR 144,794,870, comprising a EUR 12 million grant from BMZ, a EUR 120 million senior loan from EIB, and in-kind contributions from the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (EUR 3,980,870), the Government of Tajikistan (EUR 4,675,000) and the Government of Uzbekistan (EUR 4,139,000).

49. **Economic and financial viability:** The programme combines public-good and revenue-generating investments: Components 1 and 3 and the planning, forest and pasture restoration activities under component 2 are expected to generate limited or no direct financial returns, while agricultural and value-chain investments under Output 2.3 should generate returns through increased productivity, resource-use efficiency, reduced climate risks and improved market access. The financial analysis indicates that GCF support is important to overcome affordability and financing constraints, with matching grants targeting smallholders and farmer organizations with limited debt capacity and EIB concessional lending targeting more commercially oriented actors. The broader economic analysis incorporates carbon benefits but does not value several ecosystem, biodiversity and resilience benefits and is therefore considered conservative. According to annex 11 to the funding proposal, the overall programme yields an economic net present value (ENPV) of EUR 385.6 million, an economic internal rate of return (EIRR) of 15.1 per cent, and a benefit-cost ratio of 1.36, while the GCF-supported contribution yields an ENPV of EUR 134.1 million, an EIRR of 13.6 per cent and a benefit-cost ratio of 1.21, indicating positive overall economic, social and environmental value.

50. **Institutional and contractual architecture:** GIZ, as the AE, will enter into seven subsidiary agreements with national EEs for activities under component 2: four grant agreements for GCF proceeds – with ARIS and MoWRAP in the Kyrgyz Republic, CIIP in Tajikistan and NCECC in Uzbekistan – and three cooperation agreements with the respective

ministries of finance for the implementation of EIB-funded activities (see figure 1 below). Approximately EUR 77.9 million will be implemented through the four national EEs: EUR 25.0 million in the Kyrgyz Republic (EUR 7.1 million through ARIS and EUR 17.9 million through MoWRAP); EUR 25.4 million through CIIP in Tajikistan; and EUR 27.5 million through NCECC in Uzbekistan. These EEs will manage financing mechanisms for CRLE agriculture, sustainable forest management, and pasture and rangeland restoration. About EUR 62.05 million (80 per cent) will finance direct field-level investments, including EUR 26.2 million for forest and pasture management and restoration and EUR 35.85 million for CRLE agriculture and associated value chains; the remaining EUR 15.85 million will support technical assistance, delivery, outreach and vulnerable groups. Direct investment allocations amount to approximately EUR 19.25 million in the Kyrgyz Republic, EUR 22.55 million in Tajikistan and EUR 20.25 million in Uzbekistan.

Figure 1: Legal agreements



Source: Funding proposal, Section C.

51. For activity 2.3.3, additional legal arrangements will govern the EUR 120 million EIB co-financing, including a GIZ–EIB co-financing/cooperation agreement, three sovereign loan agreements between EIB and the respective ministries of finance, and subsequent loan agreements between the ministries of finance and eligible LFIs. EIB financing will comprise EUR 30 million each for the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan and EUR 60 million for Uzbekistan. The ministries of finance will act as sovereign borrowers and channel the funds through eligible LFIs, which will lend to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) for qualifying CRLE investments. Beyond component 2, GIZ will select implementing partners, subject to due diligence, to receive GCF/BMZ grants for components 1 and 3, including approximately EUR 3.7 million for climate-smart agriculture financing facilities and the preparation of green bond transactions and EUR 3.0 million for the regional climate investment platform and locally led adaptation in transboundary landscapes. All legal arrangements will incorporate the programme’s governance structure to provide a common basis for coordination, planning, monitoring, reporting and resolution of implementation challenges.

52. **Challenges to efficiency and effectiveness:** The proposed blended financing mechanism is innovative for all parties involved, and its institutional and contractual architecture is complex, requiring multiple agreements among the AE, BMZ, EIB, the participating governments, the EEs and the LFIs. Some of these agreements are currently being

negotiated (BMZ), while in other cases negotiations have not yet formally started (EIB) or the specific institutions have not yet been definitively identified (LFIs). Although this is understandable, it poses three important challenges. First, the AE cannot ensure the cascading coherence of the terms and conditions across the different agreements. Second, even under an optimistic scenario, the agreements are expected to be finalized only by year 3 of project implementation, leaving a relatively short period for implementing activities at the municipal and farm levels that are expected to deliver the quantifiable climate impact outcomes. Any delay could affect the extent to which the project achieves the proposed outputs and secures the expected long-term outcomes. Third, the AE cannot ensure oversight of the terms, conditions and implementation of the agreements between EIB and the participating countries, or of the subsequent arrangements with the LFIs, nor can the AE oversee the terms and conditions of the loans ultimately offered to farmers under component 2. Furthermore, the AE cannot ensure that the eligibility criteria established for activities 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 will be mandatory for the preparation, assessment and monitoring of loans provided by the LFIs to the local stakeholders.

53. Some of these concerns are recognized by the relevant GCF stakeholders, and the draft term sheet submitted to iTAP on 12 August 2026 includes corresponding conditions precedent to the second and third disbursements. The iTAP strongly supports the inclusion of these conditions. Nonetheless, a key concern remains regarding the need to ensure that the eligibility criteria for sub-loans by LFIs include compliance with the principles for demonstrating climate change adaptation and mitigation impact potential defined by the Board, as well as with the key requirements of mandatory GCF policies. In its response to the iTAP questions, the AE stated that “the assessment of the climate adaptation impact potential of each plan/bankable proposal is a mandatory technical eligibility step before final funding decisions are made – the assessment is not only an input into the planning processes”. However, this requirement is not yet reflected in the funding proposal or in the above-mentioned eligibility criteria.

54. In consideration of the above, iTAP assesses the efficiency and effectiveness of the funding proposal as medium.

II. Overall remarks from the independent Technical Advisory Panel

55. The cross-cutting funding proposal aims to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable populations and transboundary ecosystems in Central Asia through climate-informed planning, sustainable finance, climate-resilient land management and regional cooperation. Over its 20-year lifespan, it is expected to mitigate 6.95 million t CO₂ eq and benefit 1.046 million people directly and almost 1.5 million indirectly. The seven-year project covers Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with regional cooperation involving Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Its total budget is EUR 264.38 million, comprising a EUR 119.58 million GCF grant and EUR 144.79 million in co-financing, including a EUR 12 million BMZ grant, a EUR 120 million EIB senior loan, and in-kind contributions from the Governments of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

56. The proposal is innovative, well prepared and clearly structured, has the potential to generate significant climate impacts and, with demonstrated country ownership, responds to the needs of the recipients. However, the transboundary approach, combined with the blended financing mechanism, results in a complex institutional, administrative and contractual architecture. On the positive side, this structure reflects a high level of resource mobilization and provides an innovative financing approach. At the same time, it increases the institutional distance between the AE and the operationalization of project activities, with multiple actors at different levels assuming responsibility for key operational decisions. This creates a relatively costly administrative structure and reduces the certainty that the mitigation and adaptation impacts can be assessed and monitored consistently with the principles established by the GCF in its decision B.33/12.

57. The iTAP recognizes the important role of the GCF in facilitating the development and testing of innovative financing mechanisms that use GCF resources to mobilize and scale up climate investment. At the same time, iTAP identifies important risks that may affect project performance, particularly its impact potential, paradigm shift potential, and efficiency and effectiveness. The iTAP acknowledges that the AE is aware of these challenges and has, to the extent possible, developed corresponding risk mitigation strategies and concrete activities. For the remaining risks, iTAP highlights the central role of the GCF Secretariat in ensuring adequate monitoring of implementation progress and facilitating the systematic capture and dissemination of lessons from programme implementation.

58. The GCF Secretariat has incorporated relevant conditions to the second and third disbursement into the draft term sheet to address some of the implementation and financial sustainability risks mentioned in the previous sections. The iTAP's assessment supports the inclusion of these conditions.

59. The iTAP recommends that the **Board approve this funding proposal with the following condition:**

- (a) Condition precedent to the third disbursement of GCF proceeds under the funded activity agreement:
 - (i) Evidence satisfactory to the GCF Secretariat that the Eligibility Criteria applicable to sub-loans require, as mandatory technical eligibility criteria, compliance, as applicable, with the principles for demonstrating adaptation and/or mitigation impact potential in accordance with GCF decision B.33/12.

60. The iTAP recommends the AE update the estimates of the mitigation impact potential in accordance with the comments provided in section 1.2 of this assessment.

61. Finally, iTAP wishes to highlight the transparency and professionalism demonstrated by the AE in presenting and discussing potential implementation risks with iTAP. This reflects a high level of competence and commitment on the part of the AE.

Response from the accredited entity to the independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment (FP322)

Proposal name:	Climate-resilient Landscapes in Central Asia
Accredited entity:	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Country/(ies):	Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
Project/programme size:	Large

Impact potential

The AE thanks iTAP for its positive assessment and agrees that the programme's actual impact will depend on adoption rates during implementation. Concerning the mitigation potential, AE wishes to clarify that, while large-scale field implementation is expected to commence in the last quarter of Year-2 with the training and continue into Year-3, the development and operationalisation of forest and pasture management plans during Year-2 are expected to facilitate earlier mitigation benefits by encouraging the voluntary adoption of CRLE practices among land users. Adoption rates and associated mitigation impacts will be monitored, and impact estimates will be adjusted as necessary.

Paradigm shift potential

The AE thanks iTAP for its assessment and for highlighting the programme's innovative elements and potential for replication beyond the implementation period. While acknowledging the uncertainties surrounding loan co-financing, the AE wishes to emphasise that measures are in place to mitigate these risks. The AE is closely coordinating with political partners to ensure the full mobilisation of the envisaged co-financing. Moreover, Components 1 and 3, as well as forest and pasture interventions under Component 2, can proceed independently of EIB financing. Co-financing mobilisation will be closely monitored, with contingency measures agreed with GCF where necessary.

The MGM is designed as a time-bound catalyst for adoption rather than a permanent financing facility. Longer-term sustainability will be supported through strengthened local financial institutions, the development of bankable investment pipelines, climate-smart agriculture financing facilities and the revolving financing mechanism in the Kyrgyz Republic. While continued access to finance cannot be guaranteed, these measures aim to sustain adoption, facilitate replication and enable further investment beyond programme completion.

Sustainable development potential

Thank you for the positive assessment. No further comments from our side.

Needs of the recipient

The AE concurs with the assessment and appreciates iTAP's deep recognition of the increasing vulnerability of the programme's target population across the transboundary landscapes.

Country ownership

The AE thanks iTAP's positive assessment and appreciates its confidence in the proposed implementation approach. The AE would like to further confirm that the programme will promote the integration of traditional knowledge and practices alongside modern CRLE technologies. Through locally-led land-use planning and investment prioritisation, the project will facilitate inclusive and participatory decision-making, engaging a broad range of local stakeholders, including elders, women, youth and other vulnerable groups, to ensure that the selected practices and technologies reflect local knowledge, needs and priorities.

Efficiency and effectiveness

Thank you for this assessment. The AE acknowledges the concerns raised by iTAP and would like to provide the following clarification. While the AE will not be a party to the agreement between the EIB and the respective countries, the credit programme is an integral part of the proposed programme. Its use will be restricted to eligible CRLE investments, ensuring full alignment with the programme's eligibility criteria.

GIZ, in its capacity as AE, will maintain integrated oversight of the programme as a whole. This will encompass governance, consolidated risk management, environmental and social safeguards, results monitoring, co-financing reporting, access to relevant records, the escalation of non-compliance issues and the coordination of corrective actions.

Overall remarks from the independent Technical Advisory Panel:

The AE greatly appreciates iTAP's overall positive assessment and constructive feedback, as well as the engaging virtual meeting, which provided a valuable opportunity to offer further clarifications.



Annex 10

Gender Assessment and Gender and Inclusion Action Plan

to the GCF Funding Proposal

Climate-resilient landscapes in Central Asia

August 2026

Version 2.2

Submitted by:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
ARIS	Community Development and Investment Agency
AMA	Auslandsmitarbeiter*innen/International Personnel
BPfA	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
CCAP	Climate Change Action Plan
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEP	Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan
CIIP	Centre for Implementation of Investment Projects
CIFOR-ICRAF	Center for International Forestry Research – World Agroforestry
CRLE	Climate Resilient Low Emission
CFC	Climate Finance Center
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
CWFA	Committee on Women and the Family Affairs
EE	Executive Entity
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMS	Environmental and Social Management System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations)
FI	Financial Institution
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAP	Gender & Inclusion Action Plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
GGGI	Global Gender Gap Index
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GRM	Grievance Mechanism
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ILO	International Labor Organization
IPHR	International Partnership for Human Rights
KG	Kyrgyz Republic
KGS	Kyrgyz som (currency)
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex plus
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MNRETS	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
MoWRAP	Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NABWT	Association of Women of Tajikistan
NDA	National Designated Authority
NCECC	National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDS	National Development Strategy
NMA	Nationale Mitarbeiter*innen/ National Personnel
NSC	National Statistical Committee
OPSZ	Public Prevention Centres (local governance structure referenced as OPSZ)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals

SEAH	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
SCLMG	State Committee for Land Management and Geodesy
TA	Technical Assistance
ToC	Theory of Change
TJ	Tajikistan
TTF	Technical Task Forces
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN OHCHR	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UZS	Uzbekistani som (currency)
UZ	Uzbekistan
WBL	Women, Business and the Law
WCU	Women's Councils
WUA	Water User Association

1. Introduction

1.1 Programme Overview

The 'Climate Resilient Landscapes in Central Asia' programme directly addresses the critical climate risks impacting the agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) sectors in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, concentrating on the highly vulnerable and ecologically important Fergana Valley, and Surkhandarya, and Khatlon regions. Ranging from plains dominated by agriculture to pastures and forests widely distributed on foothills and mountain slopes, the selected intervention areas are interconnected, and inseparable elements of continuous and transboundary landscapes characterised by different land uses and natural ecosystems that necessitate an integrated regional approach.

Climate change is exerting significant adverse effects on the selected regions through rising temperatures, increasing drought frequency, and more intense rainfall events, which are altering seasonal water availability, intensifying heat and drought stress, and accelerating land degradation processes, including soil erosion, landslides, and mudflows. These dynamics are projected to produce cascading impacts across agricultural production systems and ecosystems, resulting in reduced crop productivity and stability, diminished pasture carrying capacity, and the deterioration of forest functions. Moreover, although the energy sector remains the principal source of GHG emissions, emissions from the AFOLU sectors have been rising in the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan since the 1990s, driven by increasing agricultural emissions and a decline in forest carbon sequestration.

The programme's integrated landscape approach fully recognises the interconnectedness of the selected transboundary landscapes and addresses climate risks by institutionalising climate-informed AFOLU planning, coordination, and monitoring. It strengthens climate and land-use decision-support systems; enhances capacities to access and manage climate finance, and promotes the adoption of climate-resilient, low-emission (CRLE) practices and technologies through improved sub-national planning, extension services, and targeted investments in agriculture, forests, and pastures. At the regional level, the programme will reinforce cooperation through foresight processes, regional AFOLU pathways, knowledge exchange, and a climate investment platform to coordinate and mobilise finance for transboundary adaptation actions.

The programme will enhance the climate resilience of 1,046,062 people directly and 1,480,919 people indirectly, mitigate 6.95 million tCO₂e of GHG emissions, and bring 939,354 hectares of land under sustainable management, conservation, or restoration in 180 municipalities across the three countries.

To achieve its overall objective, the programme will be implemented through three interlinked components that collectively catalyse and sustain a paradigm shift toward a CRLE development pathway in the AFOLU sectors at the national, local, and regional levels.

1. The first component (national) establishes the foundation for systemic transformation by creating an enabling environment for change. It strengthens climate informed land-use planning and decision-support systems, improves the public finance landscape and promotes innovative financing mechanisms that mobilise both public and private resources to support the transition beyond the programme period.
2. Building on this foundation, the second component (local) supports large-scale investments and field-level implementation, directly contributing to the programme's climate adaptation and mitigation objectives.
3. The third component (regional) addresses the transboundary nature of ecosystems and climate challenges by promoting coordination and collaboration across countries, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and innovation, and establishing financing vehicles for the collaborative management of ecosystems.

1.2 Purpose and structure of the Annex

This Annex seeks to ensure that the "Climate Resilient Landscapes in Central Asia" programme (hereafter referred to as "the programme") is designed, financed, implemented and monitored in a gender-responsive and socially inclusive manner. The GAP goal is to achieve equitable, barrier-free access for women, youth, and marginalized groups to all programme interventions, CRLE practices, and consultations within the targeted landscapes, ensuring that programme processes smooth existing structural constraints. It has been developed in accordance with both the GCF's Gender Policy, and its Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan Templates.

The Annex adopts the GCF's three-pronged approach to mainstreaming gender – analysis, assessment and action. It is informed by a review of existing literature and secondary databases, stakeholder consultations and

expert input. It presents a robust gender analysis that considers the various factors (including those exacerbated by climate change) that influence gender inequality in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan's Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sectors; it assesses the underlying gendered barriers and gaps of particular relevance to the programme context; and it identifies opportunities for women, men and youth to contribute to inclusive resilience building through programme support.

These opportunities are translated into gendered actions that promote gender equality and youth empowerment, and reduce disparities in the sector, which are captured in a gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework (i.e. the Gender & Inclusion Action Plan).

This Annex sits within the context of the broader funding proposal and should be read as such.

- 2 presents an overview of the status of gender equality in each of the programme's three countries. The analysis focuses specifically on two aspects of gender equality, which are of primary relevance to this programme – namely, i) gender and the AFOLU sector; and ii) gender and climate change. It also outlines the legal, policy and stakeholder landscapes specifically as they relate to the intersection of gender, climate and AFOLU sectors in each country – providing an important framework within which the programme's gender and social inclusion interventions sit.
- 3 describes the approach, findings, and recommendations derived from stakeholder engagements. Together with Chapter 2's analysis, this chapter then summarises gendered preferences, notable gender gaps and challenges, and potential opportunities that could be offered by the programme to ensure meaningful, sustained and equitable programme delivery.
- 4 consolidates the recommendations from Chapter 3 into a Gender & Inclusion Action Plan, which contributes to – and aligns with – the programme's broader Theory of Change.
- Chapter 5 concludes the Annex by outlining the overarching principles and approaches that will guide consistent, gender-responsive and inclusive programme delivery, all of which are aligned with GIZ's existing institutional commitments and protocols.

2. Country and sector-level analyses

This chapter provides a comprehensive analysis of gender equality and women's roles within the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sectors across the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. By examining the unique social, economic, and environmental contexts of each country, we explore the progress made toward gender equality, the persistent barriers to effective policy implementation, and the intersection of gender with climate change risk, adaptation and mitigation. Each country profile includes an overview of national commitments, an assessment of women's participation in AFOLU, and a mapping of the legal, policy, and stakeholder landscape. Through this multi-dimensional approach, the chapter aims to complement the stakeholder-driven, localised approach in Chapter 3, toward identifying opportunities for advancing gender-responsive strategies and highlighting areas where targeted interventions can foster more inclusive and resilient AFOLU approaches in the region.

2.1 Kyrgyz Republic

2.1.1 National overview: status of gender equality

The Kyrgyz Republic's efforts to advance gender equality take place within a rapidly growing and predominantly rural population. As of 2024, the country is home to approximately 7.4 million people, including around 3.6 million women (National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2026). Nearly 60% of the population, about 4.4 million people, live in rural areas, underscoring the importance of addressing gender disparities not only nationally but also in communities where access to services, economic opportunities, and institutional support remains uneven. Gender-disaggregated data from the National Statistical Committee reinforce this picture of an evenly balanced population across the southern regions. In Batken Region, for example, the 2022 census recorded 561,443 residents, comprising 283,322 males and 278,121 females (National Committee for Statistics of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2021). Socio-cultural dynamics also shape gender outcomes at the national level. Recent assessments by UN human rights experts and international monitoring bodies underline potential limitation to religious freedom, especially for minority groups, including through the introduction of fines for wearing certain religious attire such as *niqab* in public places and institutions (UN OHCHR, 2025). This may contribute to certain expectations and potential limitation to women's mobility, roles in public life, and decision-making in some communities, which intersects with economic disparities: women remain concentrated in feminised sectors such as healthcare (79%), education (78%), and social services, despite having higher levels of professional education (32% of employed women vs. 20% of employed men for 2024) (National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, n.d.). These patterns reflect persistent labour-market segmentation that continues to limit women's access to diversified and better-paid employment, particularly in rural settings.

Within this demographic context, the Kyrgyz Republic has positioned itself as a committed signatory to major international frameworks promoting women's rights and gender equality. Amongst others, the country ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, the Convention on Nationality of Married Women, and the Convention concerning Maternity Protection all in 1996, as well as CEDAW Optional Protocol in 2002, along with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) in 1995 (UN Women Kyrgyzstan, 2025). Additionally, the Kyrgyz Republic is a participant in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Nationally, the Kyrgyz Republic has developed a robust legal and policy framework to advance gender equality. The Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women serves as the foundation for anti-discrimination, while the National Gender Equality Strategy until 2030 sets priorities for women's economic empowerment, cultural transformation, prevention of gender-based violence, and gender parity in decision-making. Complementing these frameworks are targeted programs such as the State Programme for Supporting Women's Entrepreneurship (2022–2026), which provides legal definitions and support for women-led businesses, and the State Programme on Supporting Women's Leadership (2024–2030), which aims to increase women's participation in executive and political roles (UN Women Kyrgyzstan, 2025). Legislative reforms have further criminalised domestic violence and forced marriage, notably through the Law on Prevention and Protection Against Family Violence (2017, amended 2024), which introduced "economic violence" as a distinct category. The Kyrgyz Republic has also demonstrated leadership by ratifying ILO Convention No. 190 on Violence and Harassment in the workplace and developing a National Action Plan to Prevent Child and Forced Marriages (2023–2024). Despite these advances, implementation gaps persist, including the absence of gender-responsive budgeting systems and the recent repeal of reproductive rights legislation, which has weakened guarantees for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services. Ongoing efforts, such as gender-responsive budgeting pilots and mobile outreach initiatives, reflect the government's commitment to translating legal commitments into lived realities for all women and girls in the Kyrgyz Republic (UN Women Kyrgyzstan, 2025).

Despite these obligations, the Kyrgyz Republic remains ranked below regional averages on both the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law (WBL) Index and the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI). With a WBL score of 76.9/100, the country achieved perfect results across the mobility, workplace, pay, marriage, entrepreneurship, and assets indicators (World Bank Group, 2024). However, significant legal gaps persist. Until early 2025, legislation limited women's access to industrial employment by prohibiting them from working in occupations classified as hazardous, reflecting a regulatory approach that treated women and men differently (Anti-Discrimination Centre, 2025). Moreover, there is still no statutory mandate for equal remuneration or guaranteed paid parental leave, provisions that are critical to support women's sustained labour-market attachment after childbirth (World Bank Group, 2024). The primary areas requiring reform, therefore, continue to be pay, parenthood, and pensions. This score has remained unchanged in recent years due to persistent shortcomings in legal and supportive policy frameworks and the limited capacity to translate formal rights into genuine economic opportunity for women. Although the comprehensive list of prohibited jobs was abolished in 2025, restrictions continue to apply to pregnant and breastfeeding women, and the absence of mandated equal pay and adequate parental-leave schemes still constrains women's workforce participation and career progression. In addition, weak enforcement of gender-equality legislation and insufficient complementary measures have further slowed progress in closing gender gaps under the law.

A similar pattern is evident in the GGGI assessment. The Kyrgyz Republic ranks 95th out of 148 countries, having fallen five places between 2024 and 2025, largely because the subindex score for economic participation and opportunity dropped by 19 places. Nevertheless, the country continues to perform strongly in other dimensions, ranking joint 1st for both educational attainment and health and survival (World Economic Forum, 2025). These contrasting results suggest that while human-capital outcomes are comparatively equal, structural barriers in employment and social protection continue to hinder women's full economic empowerment.

Barriers to effective implementation of policies, legislature and commitments

Despite the Kyrgyz Republic's robust legal and policy framework for gender equality, including the National Gender Equality Strategy until 2030, there remain notable challenges in translating these commitments into consistent, practical outcomes. Recent policy changes, such as the repeal of mandatory gender analysis and reproductive rights legislation, have made systematic gender mainstreaming more difficult and removed some guarantees for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services. The absence of a national system for tracking gender equality budget allocations means many programs rely on donor funding, which can affect their long-term sustainability. UN monitoring bodies have observed ongoing gaps, such as delays in anti-discrimination legislation, the use of broad terms like "traditional family values," and barriers to justice for women (UN Women Kyrgyzstan, 2025). Enforcement of GBV laws and coordination within national gender institutions could also be

strengthened. These factors highlight the ongoing gap between legal commitments and the everyday experiences of women and girls.

Women's limited agency within the household further constrains the translation of policy commitments into practice. Recent national time-use data show that women spend 260 minutes per day on unpaid domestic and care work, compared with 55 minutes for men, reinforcing norms that confine women to the home and limit participation in leadership roles or training opportunities (National Committee for Statistics of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2021). Deeply rooted patriarchal expectations, including the "kelin" daughter-in-law custom, place additional labour, surveillance, and emotional pressure on newly married women, often resulting in psychological or physical abuse (Zhussipbek, 2021). These entrenched norms significantly weaken the implementation of gender-responsive rural development and climate policies.

Across several key areas, the difference between policy and practice is evident. Gender quotas have helped increase women's representation in elected local councils, yet women are still underrepresented in appointed leadership roles and continue to face economic constraints (UN Women Kyrgyzstan, 2025). Women's employment rates have declined over recent years, with many concentrated in lower-paid sectors or informal work, contributing to a persistent wage gap. Women also carry a disproportionate share of unpaid care, have lower rates of asset ownership, and remain underrepresented in entrepreneurship and land-use decision-making forums. Digital inclusion continues to lag, particularly for rural women, who face lower internet access and reduced participation in ICT and technical education. Gender-based violence remains a serious concern: crisis-centre coverage is limited, prevention strategies are uneven, and justice processes can be slow, while technology-facilitated violence is increasingly noted (UN Women Kyrgyzstan, 2025). Women with disabilities and LGBTQI+ individuals face additional barriers to protection. Access to sexual and reproductive health services is also shaped by systemic healthcare constraints and maternal mortality rates that remain elevated relative to the regional average.

Women in AFOLU

Agriculture

Agriculture remains the backbone of rural livelihoods in the Kyrgyz Republic, with two-thirds of the population living in rural areas and 46% of employed women working in the agricultural sector. Until the beginning of 2025, however, women were legally prohibited from serving as agricultural machinists and tractor drivers – roles that are among the better-paid and more skilled positions in the sector. This restriction, rooted in outdated labour regulations, limited women's access to mechanised farming and reinforced occupational segregation. The lifting of this prohibition in early 2025 marks a significant step toward gender equality in agricultural employment, opening new opportunities for women to participate fully across all aspects of the sector (Anti-Discrimination Centre, 2025).

Despite their substantial contributions to crop cultivation, livestock production, and food processing – often combined with unpaid domestic labour and care work – women in the rural Kyrgyz Republic face persistent disadvantages. According to the latest national statistics, women hold only 18.5% of land titles, and out of more than 428,000 functioning farm businesses, only 20.2% are headed by women (UN Women Kyrgyzstan, 2025). Customary norms and inheritance practices mean that land and productive assets are typically passed to male relatives despite Kyrgyz law guaranteeing equal rights to property and inheritance. This leaves women dependent on family holdings and limits their ability to access credit or invest in agricultural enterprises. In addition to asset-based constraints, systemic barriers within the banking system – such as collateral-heavy lending requirements, cumbersome loan procedures, and the absence of financial products tailored to small-scale women farmers – further restrict women's ability to invest in productivity improvements or climate-resilient technologies. While women's wages in agriculture have recently approached parity with men's, the majority of female agricultural workers remain self-employed or unpaid, working primarily on family farms and for relatives. Women's businesses are often concentrated in very small enterprises with limited opportunities for growth, and representation in large enterprises remains low, ranging from 0% in agriculture to 32.2% in services (UN Women Kyrgyzstan, 2025). Access to agricultural inputs, extension services, and market opportunities is further constrained by limited mobility, time poverty, and a lack of technical training. These disparities contribute to persistent yield gaps and economic vulnerability, particularly among female-headed households (FAO, 2016).

Forestry

Forestry in the Kyrgyz Republic is a vital source of livelihoods, biodiversity, and climate resilience, with women playing increasingly important, but often underrecognised, roles in forest management and conservation. Women contribute significantly to the sustainable use and stewardship of walnut forests, fruit orchards, and community-managed woodlands, drawing on traditional knowledge and local networks (Elias, et al., 2018; Global Forest Coalition, 2020). However, women face persistent barriers to secure tenure and participation in forest governance: most forest land leases are held by older men, and women are underrepresented in decision-making

bodies and forest user groups (CIFOR-ICRAF, 2023; Bioversity, 2014). Despite these challenges, women-led cooperatives and community groups are driving innovation in forest product value chains, from harvesting and processing walnuts and berries to marketing and enterprise development (UNDP, 2021). International projects and research highlight that empowering women in forestry not only improves household incomes and food security, but also strengthens biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation (FAO and GCF, 2025).

Other Land Uses

Women in the Kyrgyz Republic play crucial but often undervalued roles in the management and use of pastures, rangelands, and other communal lands. Pasturelands are central to rural livelihoods, supporting livestock production and food security for much of the population (UN Women Kyrgyzstan, 2025). However, women face significant barriers to participation and leadership in land-use governance: participation in both formal and informal decision-making mechanisms remains limited, reducing women's influence over how pasture and forest resources are allocated and managed. These mechanisms are critical for decisions on grazing rights, resource allocation, and adaptation to climate change, yet customary tenure systems and land ownership requirements often exclude women from meaningful participation. Unlike in crop agriculture, where women may have some visibility as workers or farm managers, their contributions to sustainable rangeland management, biodiversity conservation, and communal resource governance are frequently informal and unrecognised (FAO and GCF, 2025). Their limited engagement with land-management structures, municipal enterprises, and technical advisers further restricts women's access to timely and actionable climate information for planting, fodder planning, and grazing decisions, reducing their ability to adapt to shifting environmental conditions.

Nevertheless, women's traditional ecological knowledge and community organising are increasingly acknowledged as vital for the resilience of these landscapes. International projects and local initiatives are beginning to support women's participation in pasture user groups and communal land governance, but closing the gender gap in access, leadership, and benefits remains a critical priority for the sector's sustainability and equity (FAO and GCF, 2025; Global Forest Coalition, 2020).

Climate change and gender equality

The Kyrgyz Republic's latest Nationally Determined Contribution (The Kyrgyz Republic, 2025) explicitly recognises that climate impacts are not gender neutral, and the ongoing development of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is guided by a commitment to mainstream gender equality and social inclusion throughout climate action. Women, especially in rural and mountainous regions, are disproportionately affected by extreme weather events due to persistent inequalities in access to land, finance, water, energy, and education. These disparities have significant implications for household resilience and the broader economy, given women's central roles in agriculture, natural resource management, and care work (The Kyrgyz Republic, 2025; UN Women Kyrgyzstan, 2025).

In practice, women's reliance on the natural resource base for both productive and reproductive activities makes them highly vulnerable to climate uncertainty. Prolonged droughts have historically led to high rates of household food insecurity and malnutrition, while extreme flooding destroys crops and infrastructure, increases the incidence of waterborne disease, and hinders access to essential services such as health care, education, and markets. These impacts fall disproportionately on women, who are typically responsible for securing water, fuel, and food for their families, and who shoulder the bulk of unpaid domestic and care work (UN Women Kyrgyzstan, 2025). Within this broad group, pregnant women, female heads of household, elderly women, and schoolgirls are especially vulnerable. Notably, recent evidence indicates that climate-related shocks, including extreme heat and flooding, are associated with disruptions to maternal and reproductive health services in rural areas, compounding existing barriers to care for women and increasing health-related vulnerability during climate emergencies (UNFPA, 2025). Men, by contrast, are less tied to domestic responsibilities and often migrate in search of income after climate disasters, leaving women with increased workloads and new responsibilities, including tasks previously managed by men. This dynamic can exacerbate existing gender inequalities and heighten women's vulnerability to climate risks.

The Kyrgyz Republic's latest NDC 3.0 and the ongoing development of its NAP both emphasise the importance of gender equality and social inclusion in climate action. While the NAP is still under development, the NDC 3.0 sets out clear commitments to mainstream gender in adaptation planning, including broad stakeholder engagement and integration of gender-responsive measures across sectors. The NDC 3.0 calls for gender analysis of all draft climate regulations, integration of gender indicators into monitoring systems, and the development of special mechanisms to support women's business projects in adaptation and mitigation (The Kyrgyz Republic, 2025). These measures are grounded in broad stakeholder engagement, including women's organisations, and align with the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan.

2.1.2 Legal, policy and stakeholder landscape

The Kyrgyz Republic's commitments to gender equality are articulated in constitutional guarantees, dedicated equality legislation, long-term gender strategies and sectoral agendas on climate and green economy. Recent climate instruments (notably NDC 3.0, 2025) and the draft NAP process embed gender as a cross-cutting principle and increasingly link climate action with rural livelihoods and agriculture.

National instruments and commitments

Table 1: Legal and policy landscape: Kyrgyz Republic

Instrument	Relevant content
Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic (2010)	Enshrines equality and non-discrimination, providing the legal foundation for gender-responsive policymaking across sectors, including natural resource management, agriculture and climate action.
Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women (2008; building on an earlier 2003 act)	Defines gender equality, prohibits discrimination, mandates gender statistics, legal gender expertise and representation in public bodies – key enabling tools for gender-responsive governance in agriculture, environment, and climate policy.
National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality to 2030 (approved with rolling National Action Plans – 2022–2024 completed; 2025–2027 draft under consultation)	Sets five priority areas, including women's economic opportunities and political participation; advances gender statistics and monitoring, with ongoing efforts to standardise SDG-aligned gender indicators and strengthen national gender data systems relevant to rural and climate-vulnerable populations.
Updated Nationally Determined Contribution	Positions gender and inclusion as cross-cutting principles; outlines adaptation measures through 2035 with sector components for agriculture, water and rural resilience; developed via inclusive national dialogue.
National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process	Establishes medium/long-term adaptation planning; sector adaptation plans include agriculture & irrigation, health, biodiversity, disaster & emergency management. The NAP is under development, with emphasis on inclusive approaches and climate-responsive indicators
Green Economy Development Program	Mainstreams green agriculture, low-carbon transport and climate-aligned industry a unified Coordination Council on Green Economy and Climate Change, chaired by the Prime Minister, strengthens cross-government steering and policy coherence.
Climate governance & finance arrangements	The Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision (MNRETS) is the NDA to the GCF and leads climate policy; the Climate Finance Center (CFC), operating under the Cabinet of Ministers, acts as secretariat to the Coordination Council, mobilising climate finance and supporting GEDSI integration in climate projects.
Sector strategies and data systems (agriculture & gender)	The Ministry of Agriculture advances sector reforms; FAO's earlier country gender assessment (2016), together with ongoing NSC and UN Women statistical publications, strengthens sex-disaggregated evidence on land, labour, and rural services – critical inputs for gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and AFOLU interventions.
Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 270 (2021): Program for the Support and Development of Women's Entrepreneurship, 2022–2026	Supports women's entrepreneurship and access to finance through targeted measures, with a focus on small and medium enterprises and rural livelihoods; relevant for women's economic empowerment, income diversification, and resilience in climate-vulnerable rural and agricultural contexts.

Source: Own elaboration

Key stakeholders

The table below provides a high-level overview of national-level policy, coordination, and enabling institutions relevant to gender, climate, and land-use governance. Sectoral ministries and sub-national authorities play an important role in implementation and are discussed elsewhere in the Funding Proposal.

Table 2: Stakeholder map: Kyrgyz Republic

Stakeholder	Mandate
Ministry for Labour, Social Welfare and Migration	Amongst other areas of expertise, it takes the lead on addressing women's and gender issues, including coordinating with bodies like UN Women and implementing national strategies like the National Strategy for Gender Equality until 2030.
Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision (MNRETS)	Leads climate change, environment and natural resource policy; houses dedicated climate policy and international cooperation units; serves as National Designated Authority (NDA) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

	Coordinates cross-sector integration of climate, environment and ecology, including oversight of NDC and NAP processes with cross-cutting gender and inclusion considerations.
Climate Finance Center (CFC)	Acts as Secretariat to the Coordination Council on Green Economy and Climate Change; develops national climate project pipelines, and advances climate finance mobilisation. Plays a coordinating role in integrating GEDSI considerations into climate investments and project design, though implementation remains project-dependent.
Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industries	Leads sector policy on crops, livestock, irrigation, land and pasture governance; implements climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and rural development programmes. Directly influences rural women's access to land, extension services, markets, water and climate-resilient livelihoods, including AFOLU-related interventions.
National Council on Family, Gender Development, Social Protection and Children's Rights under the Cabinet of Ministers	Coordination and monitoring of the implementation of measures on social protection and the protection of children's rights, strengthening and promoting family values based on strengthening the institution of marriage and family, fatherhood, motherhood and childhood, combating gender discrimination and violence, protecting children in difficult life situations, promoting gender development and women's leadership, social and women's entrepreneurship, contributing to the expansion of women's economic opportunities, and strengthening the role of women in ensuring peace and security.
Women's Rights Council under the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic	Promoting the improvement of the legislative framework to ensure respect for the rights of women and children, within the legislative function of the Zhogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic; - Promoting the implementation of gender approaches and the principle of the best interests of the child in national policies and state programs to ensure the rights and protection of children and women; - Assisting government agencies in fulfilling the international obligations of the Kyrgyz Republic to protect the rights of women, children, and gender equality, including fulfilling obligations under the Convention on Women's Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

Source: Own elaboration

2.2 Tajikistan

2.2.1 National overview: status of gender equality

Tajikistan's efforts to advance gender equality unfold within a rapidly growing and predominantly rural population. According to the 2020 Population and Housing Census, the country is home to 9.66 million people, including approximately 4.76 million women (Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan). Rural areas account for nearly three-quarters- of the total population, with 7.12 million residents – 3.50 million of whom are women – living outside urban centres, where access to services, economic opportunities and institutional support remains highly uneven (Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan). These demographic dynamics shape the context in which gender policy must operate, highlighting the particular importance of responding to the needs and constraints experienced by rural women across Tajikistan's diverse regions. Gender-disaggregated census data from the Statistical Agency confirm similarly balanced population patterns in select regions. In Sughd Region, the northern part of the Fergana Valley, the 2020 census recorded 2,769,261 residents, comprising 1,399,208 men and 1,370,053 women. In Khatlon Region, which is predominantly rural, the census recorded 3,436,420 residents, with district-level tables providing full male and female counts across all subdivisions, reflecting an overall gender ratio that closely approximates a 50:50 split (Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan).

Within this demographic landscape, Tajikistan is a committed signatory to key international agreements promoting gender equality, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ratified in 1993, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) in 1995 (UN Women, 2025). The country has also aligned its national priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular focus on SDG 5, which seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Nationally, Tajikistan has established a comprehensive legal and policy framework to advance gender equality. The Law "On State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities for their Implementation" (2005) provides the foundation for anti-discrimination, while the National Development Strategy

2030 and the State Program for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (2014–2023) set out priorities for women's empowerment, prevention of gender-based violence, and gender parity in decision-making (The World Bank Group, 2021b). The Committee for Women's and Family Affairs serves as the central institution for coordinating gender policy, supported by targeted initiatives such as the Presidential Quota System, which aims to increase female enrolment in higher education, and ongoing reforms to improve women's access to finance and entrepreneurship (The World Bank Group, 2021b; UNDP, n.d.). Recent legislative reforms have strengthened protections against domestic violence, notably through the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence (2013), and have expanded women's rights in the workplace, including equal access to night work and maternity leave benefits (The World Bank Group, 2021b). However, implementation gaps remain, particularly in the enforcement of anti-discrimination provisions and the provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services. Restrictions on women's employment in hazardous occupations persist, and gender-responsive budgeting is still in its pilot phase (ICJ, 2025).

Despite these advances, Tajikistan continues to rank below regional averages on both the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law (WBL) Index and the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI). With a WBL score of 78.8/100, Tajikistan has achieved full marks in mobility, marriage, entrepreneurship, and assets, but significant gaps remain in workplace protections, pay, parenthood, and pensions (World Bank Group, 2024). Legislation continues to limit women's access to certain professions, and there is no statutory mandate for paid parental leave, which constrains women's sustained labour-market participation. Enforcement of gender-equality legislation and complementary measures remains inconsistent, slowing progress toward closing gender gaps under the law (The World Bank Group, 2021b). A similar pattern is evident in the GGGI assessment. Tajikistan ranks 129th out of 148 countries, with persistent disparities in economic participation and political empowerment, despite near parity in educational attainment and health outcomes (World Bank Group, 2024). Structural barriers in employment, asset ownership, and social protection continue to hinder women's full economic empowerment. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these challenges, disproportionately affecting women's employment, access to education, and exposure to violence (UNDP, n.d.).

Barriers to effective implementation of policies, legislature and commitments

Tajikistan has ratified key international conventions on gender equality and established a comprehensive legal and policy framework, including the Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women, the National Development Strategy 2030, and the State Program for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. Despite these advances, translating such commitments into consistent, practical outcomes remains a significant challenge. Targeted initiatives, such as the Presidential Quota System for higher education, demonstrate government intent, yet gaps persist between policy and practice. Recent assessments highlight several systemic barriers: implementation of gender equality legislation is often hindered by limited institutional capacity, insufficient funding, and fragmented coordination among government agencies and civil society actors. (The World Bank Group, 2021b; UN Women, 2025). Many programs rely on donor support, and the absence of a unified system for tracking gender-responsive budget allocations affects the sustainability and reach of gender initiatives (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2020). Comprehensive gender statistics and monitoring mechanisms are still under development, making it difficult to evaluate progress and hold institutions accountable. Addressing these structural constraints requires targeted interventions that combine access to resources, institutional inclusion, and capacity development across key land-use systems.

Legal reforms have strengthened protections against domestic violence and expanded women's rights in the workplace, but enforcement remains inconsistent. For example, domestic violence is not criminalised as a standalone offence, and survivors face procedural obstacles such as limited access to shelters, legal aid, and effective protection orders (ICJ, 2025). Social stigma, discriminatory attitudes, and lack of legal literacy further discourage reporting and access to justice, particularly in rural areas. Restrictions on women's employment in hazardous occupations persist, and there is no statutory mandate for equal remuneration or paid parental leave for fathers, which constrains women's sustained labour-market participation (The World Bank Group, 2021b). Across key areas, the gap between policy and practice is evident. Women's representation in parliament and local government has increased, but remains below national targets, and women are underrepresented in appointed leadership roles. Economic constraints, persistent wage gaps, and limited asset ownership continue to affect women's empowerment. Gender-based violence remains a concern, with limited survivor-centred services and fragmented prevention strategies. Judicial processes can be slow, and technology-facilitated violence is increasing. Women with disabilities and other marginalised groups face additional barriers to support and protection. Access to sexual and reproductive health services is affected by systemic healthcare barriers, high maternal mortality rates, and challenges for women with disabilities.

In rural areas, local governance dynamics further shape the implementation of gender policies. Community-level decision-making often occurs through informal structures such as jamoat administrations, village leaders, mahalla committees, and respected elders. While these structures play an important role in local coordination and social cohesion, they may also reinforce traditional gender norms that limit women's participation in public

meetings, training programmes, and community decision-making platforms. As a result, national gender policies may not always translate into inclusive participation at the local level.

Women in AFOLU

Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of rural livelihoods in Tajikistan, with over 70% of the population residing in rural areas and more than 60% of the total workforce employed in the sector (FAO, 2025a). Women constitute a significant majority of the agricultural labour force, 59% as of 2021, yet their contributions remain undervalued and largely unpaid. The sector's importance is heightened by the high rate of male labour migration, which has led to the "feminisation" of agricultural labour: women are increasingly responsible for both household management and the continuity of agricultural production, often under challenging economic and social conditions (FAO, 2025a). Additionally, a large share of women's agricultural work is informal, leaving many without formal contracts and unprotected by labour legislation, with limited access to social protection, maternity benefits, or pensions, and increasing their vulnerability to poverty and dependence in later life. Despite their central role in crop cultivation, livestock rearing, and food processing, women in rural Tajikistan face persistent disadvantages.

Within the agricultural sector, gender roles differ significantly by production system. In staple crop production, particularly wheat, men dominate mechanised activities, land allocation decisions, and market engagement, while women are primarily engaged in labour-intensive tasks such as weeding, harvesting, and post-harvest processing, often without remuneration. In contrast, women play a more central role in horticulture and vegetable production, particularly in kitchen gardens and small-scale irrigated plots, which are critical for household food security and nutrition. However, women's limited control over irrigation infrastructure and access to quality inputs constrains productivity and adaptive capacity in the face of increasing climate variability, including water scarcity and rising temperatures.

These production-level disparities are reinforced by unequal access to land and productive assets. Only 22.4% of dehkan (private) farms were registered to women in 2022, and women's land plots are typically smaller, less fertile, and further from irrigation sources than those managed by men. Customary norms and inheritance practices mean that land and productive assets are usually passed to male relatives, despite legal guarantees of equal rights. This leaves women dependent on family holdings and limits their ability to access credit or invest in agricultural enterprises. As a result, women's economic returns from agriculture remain constrained. While women's wages in agriculture have approached 80% of men's in recent years, the majority of female agricultural workers remain self-employed or unpaid, working primarily on family farms and for relatives (FAO, 2025a; Asian Development Bank, 2020). Women's agricultural enterprises are therefore often concentrated in very small-scale activities with limited opportunities for growth. Representation in large enterprises remains low, and gendered mobility constraints, limited collateral, low financial literacy, time poverty, and a lack of technical training further constrain access to agricultural inputs, extension services, and market opportunities (Asian Development Bank, 2020). These disparities contribute to persistent yield gaps and economic vulnerability, particularly among female-headed households. For example, in 2022, female-headed dehkan farms had lower yields than male-headed farms for nearly all major crops, and only 13.3% of land dedicated to crops was cultivated by female-headed farms (The World Bank Group, 2021b; FAO, 2025a).

These economic constraints are compounded by unpaid care and domestic responsibilities. On average, rural women spend nearly 10 times more time on unpaid care and domestic work than men, leaving little opportunity for formal employment or business development (Asian Development Bank, 2020). Social norms and stereotypes continue to restrict women's agency, mobility, and participation in decision-making, both within households and in public life. Failure to address these differentiated gender roles across land-use systems risks reinforcing existing inequalities and may result in maladaptation, where climate interventions unintentionally increase women's workload without improving their access to resources, decision-making, or economic benefits. Similar patterns are evident across specific agricultural sub-sectors. In orchard systems and perennial crops, women are actively involved in planting, pruning, harvesting, and processing, yet long-term investment decisions and land tenure arrangements are typically controlled by men. This limits women's ability to benefit from higher-value chains and reduces incentives to adopt climate-resilient practices. Similarly, in livestock and dairy production, women are primarily responsible for feeding, milking, and processing dairy products, while men tend to control sales, income, and access to veterinary services and improved breeds. This "feminisation of responsibility" combined with a "masculinisation of control" reduces women's economic returns despite their substantial labour contributions and increases their vulnerability to climate-induced shocks such as pasture degradation and feed shortages (FAO, 2025a; The World Bank Group, 2021b).

Recent years have seen some progress. The government has recognised these challenges in national strategies and policies, including the National Development Strategy 2030 and the State Programme for the Development

of Women's Entrepreneurship through 2027. These initiatives aim to improve women's access to land, credit, training, and leadership opportunities, and to promote gender equality in agricultural employment. However, implementation gaps remain, and women's representation in governance and decision-making structures is still limited (FAO, 2025a).

Forestry

Forests in Tajikistan cover only about 3% of the country's territory, making them one of the most limited natural resources in Central Asia, yet they play a crucial role in soil protection, water regulation, and biodiversity conservation, particularly in mountainous regions increasingly affected by erosion and climate-related hazards (FAO, 2025a). Rural households rely heavily on forest resources, especially fuelwood, fodder, and non-timber forest products, due to limited access to alternative energy sources, and women bear much of this burden as they are primarily responsible for collecting fuelwood, medicinal plants, and other daily necessities, adding to their already substantial load of unpaid domestic labour (UN Women, 2025). Pressures from population growth, poverty, and climate change have intensified the scarcity of forest resources, with deforestation and overharvesting continuing as major challenges, exacerbated by weak enforcement of management regulations and limited availability of affordable energy alternatives (FAO, 2025a). These pressures disproportionately affect women, who spend considerable time gathering resources, leaving reduced opportunities for education, paid work, and participation in community-level decision-making structures, and constraining livelihood diversification and resilience-building options (Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2020).

While national frameworks such as the Forestry Agency and the National Forestry Programme aim to restore degraded lands and promote afforestation, women remain largely excluded from governance and decision-making roles in forest user groups due to persistent gender norms and limited access to land, credit, and training (The World Bank Group, 2021b). Recent initiatives by FAO, ADB and other partners have supported gender-responsive forestry approaches, including livelihood diversification activities such as small-scale agroforestry and beekeeping, but scaling these efforts requires addressing structural inequalities and ensuring that women, who are among the most affected by forest degradation, are fully integrated into planning, decision-making, and benefit-sharing processes (FAO, 2025a; Asian Development Bank, 2020). Overall, Tajikistan's forestry sector, although small, is essential for ecological resilience and rural livelihoods, and strengthening gender-inclusive forest management and expanding access to sustainable energy alternatives remain critical priorities for reducing pressure on forests and improving women's wellbeing.

From a systems perspective, forestry-related livelihoods in Tajikistan are closely linked to household energy use, small-scale agroforestry, and non-timber forest product value chains. Although women play a central role in sustaining these systems through resource collection, processing, and local use, their participation remains largely informal and concentrated in subsistence activities, with limited access to higher-value segments such as commercialisation, storage, market linkages, and benefit-sharing mechanisms (FAO, 2025a; The World Bank Group, 2021b). This disconnect means that women's labour underpins household resilience without translating into proportional economic benefits or decision-making authority. Evidence indicates that women's participation in forest governance improves resource sustainability and community resilience, highlighting the importance of strengthening women's representation in forest user groups and afforestation initiatives. At the same time, limited access to alternative energy sources and efficient technologies continues to increase pressure on forest resources and heighten women's exposure to climate-related risks (FAO, 2025a; The World Bank Group, 2021b). Integrating gender-responsive solutions, such as clean energy alternatives, fuel-efficient technologies, and women-led forest-based enterprises, therefore, represents a critical opportunity to reduce deforestation while improving livelihoods and strengthening climate resilience outcomes.

Other Land Uses

Beyond agriculture and forestry, Tajikistan's remaining land uses, including rangelands, pastures, orchards, and degraded lands, play a critical role in rural livelihoods but are under increasing pressure from climate change, population growth, overgrazing, and limited access to sustainable land management practices. Rangelands cover more than 80% of the country's agricultural land area and serve as a primary source of feed for livestock, yet decades of overstocking, weak governance structures, and inadequate pasture rotation systems have resulted in widespread degradation, reducing productivity and increasing the vulnerability of pastoral communities (FAO, 2025a; The World Bank Group, 2021b).

Within these land-use systems, women play a central but often overlooked role. Women are heavily involved in livestock rearing, small-scale dairy processing, and fodder collection, yet their participation in pasture management associations and land-use decision-making remains limited due to gender norms, mobility constraints, and restricted access to information and institutional spaces (The World Bank Group, 2021b; UN Women, 2025). As pasture degradation reduces fodder availability, women's labour burdens increase, intensifying time poverty and constraining their ability to pursue income-generating activities or adaptive practices.

Land degradation and tenure insecurity further compound these challenges. Degraded lands, which have expanded due to soil erosion, salinisation, and unsustainable cultivation practices, further exacerbate rural poverty and food insecurity, particularly among female-headed households who have less access to fertile plots, irrigation, and extension services. Land tenure insecurity, compounded by complex regulations and male-dominated inheritance practices, adds to women's marginalisation, limiting their ability to invest in orchards, horticulture, or small-scale land rehabilitation initiatives despite policy commitments to equal land rights (Asian Development Bank, 2020).

Across these land-use systems, gender roles are differentiated along value chains. Women are typically concentrated in labour-intensive activities such as small-scale horticulture, orchard maintenance, seed preparation, and post-harvest processing, while men retain control over land allocation, irrigation infrastructure, mechanisation, and access to commercial markets. This division of roles constrains women's productivity and limits their ability to adopt climate-resilient technologies or diversify into higher-value agricultural activities (FAO, 2025a).

Recent donor-supported programmes have introduced gender-responsive approaches to rangeland governance, climate-smart land restoration, and livelihood diversification (such as horticulture, seed production, and small-scale processing), but these remain small in scale compared with the magnitude of land degradation and structural gender barriers that restrict women's participation and benefit-sharing. Overall, sustainable and inclusive management of rangelands and other land uses is essential for resilience, yet meaningful progress will require strengthening tenure security, expanding targeted support for rural women, and integrating gender perspectives into land-use planning and climate adaptation strategies. In particular, women's central role in dairy production and small livestock systems represents an important but underutilised entry point for climate-resilient livelihood development. Despite being primarily responsible for feeding, milking, and processing, women often lack access to veterinary services, improved breeds, climate-resilient fodder systems, and formal market channels. Addressing these constraints can significantly enhance both household resilience and women's economic empowerment (The World Bank Group, 2021b).

Overall, sustainable and inclusive management of rangelands and other land uses is essential for resilience. Meaningful progress will require strengthening tenure security, expanding targeted support for rural women, and integrating gender perspectives into land-use planning, pasture governance, and climate adaptation strategies. Without addressing women's exclusion from decision-making bodies that regulate grazing, resource allocation, and adaptation measures, climate interventions risk overlooking critical local knowledge and limiting their effectiveness.

Climate change and gender equality

Tajikistan's latest Nationally Determined Contribution (Republic of Tajikistan, 2021) acknowledges that climate impacts are not gender neutral and affirms the government's commitment to integrating gender responsive- approaches throughout adaptation and mitigation planning (UN Women, n.d.). The ongoing development and phased implementation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) similarly recognise gender equality and social inclusion as cross-cutting priorities, emphasising the need to address the disproportionate vulnerabilities faced by women, particularly those in rural, mountainous, and low-income households. Tajikistan's mountainous geography exposes rural communities to a range of climate-related hazards including glacier retreat, increased frequency of floods and mudflows, changing precipitation patterns, and accelerating pasture degradation. These environmental pressures disproportionately affect women, who are responsible for household water management, food preparation, and livestock care. Reduced water availability, declining pasture productivity, and increased climate variability often translate into increased labour burdens for women and girls (The World Bank Group, 2021b). Persistent inequalities in access to land, finance, water, energy, education, and climate relevant institutions significantly shape women's exposure to climate risks and their ability to cope with or recover from extreme events. These disparities have direct implications for household resilience and national development, given women's central roles in agriculture, natural resource management, and unpaid domestic and care work. These vulnerabilities are further differentiated across land-use systems. For example, women engaged in vegetable production and small-scale horticulture are particularly affected by water scarcity and temperature variability due to limited control over irrigation resources. Women involved in livestock and pasture systems face increased labour burdens as pasture degradation reduces fodder availability, while those dependent on forest resources experience heightened time poverty as resource scarcity increases collection distances. These system-specific vulnerabilities highlight the need for targeted, gender-responsive adaptation measures across different land-use systems (FAO, 2025a).

Women's reliance on natural resources for both productive and reproductive labour heightens their vulnerability to climate uncertainty. Recurring droughts, already a major driver of food insecurity in rural Tajikistan, disproportionately affect households where women are responsible for crop cultivation, food processing, and

ensuring household nutrition (Asian Development Bank, 2020). Severe flooding and accelerating glacial melt damage agricultural land, destroy infrastructure, increase the incidence of waterborne disease, and restrict access to essential services such as health care, education, and markets. These impacts fall most heavily on women, who are typically responsible for sourcing water, fuelwood, and food, and whose workloads increase significantly during climate shocks. Within this broad group, pregnant women, widows, female-headed households, elderly women, and adolescent girls face heightened vulnerability due to limited mobility, reduced access to resources, and constrained decision-making power (Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2020). Men, by contrast, often migrate – temporarily or seasonally – following climate -related livelihood losses, leaving women with expanded responsibilities and new tasks previously performed by men, which can exacerbate existing gender inequalities (Asian Development Bank, 2020; UN Women, n.d.).

Tajikistan's NDC and the draft NAP underline the importance of ensuring that climate policies are informed by gender analysis and grounded in inclusive consultation processes. The NDC explicitly calls for mainstreaming gender into sectoral adaptation measures, integrating gender disaggregated indicators into monitoring systems, and strengthening mechanisms that support women's leadership, participation, and entrepreneurship in climate -relevant- sectors (Republic of Tajikistan, 2021). These commitments align with the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan and reflect growing recognition that women's knowledge of local ecosystems, household resource management, and community resilience strategies offers valuable contributions to adaptation. However, while these frameworks establish clear policy intent at the national level, implementation capacity remains uneven across sectors and local contexts, requiring sustained investment in gender-disaggregated data, institutional capacity- building, and the removal of structural barriers that limit women's access to land, finance, training, and decision-making spaces. Effective implementation will depend on collaboration with women's organisations, local authorities, and community based groups to ensure that climate action is both equitable- and transformative (The World Bank Group, 2021b). Without explicitly addressing these differentiated gender roles and constraints across land-use systems, climate interventions risk reinforcing existing inequalities and may lead to maladaptation, whereby women's workloads increase without corresponding improvements in access to resources, decision-making, or economic benefits.

Legal, policy and stakeholder landscape

Tajikistan's commitments to gender equality are articulated through constitutional protections, dedicated equality legislation, national gender strategies, and sectoral policy frameworks covering climate change, environmental protection, agriculture, and disaster risk management. Recent climate instruments, including the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 2023) and the ongoing National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, position gender equality and social inclusion as cross-cutting priorities and increasingly link climate action with rural livelihoods, agriculture, water management, and community resilience.

National instruments and commitments

Table 3: Legal and policy landscape: Tajikistan

Instrument	Relevant content
Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan (1994, amended in 1999, 2003, and 2016)	Enshrines equality and prohibits discrimination, forming the legal basis for gender-responsive policymaking across sectors, including natural resource management, environment, and climate action.
Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities (2005)	Defines gender equality and prohibits direct and indirect discrimination; mandates gender expertise of legislation, gender statistics, and representation in public bodies – critical enablers for integrating gender considerations into agriculture, environment, and climate governance.
National Strategy for Advancing the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan 2021–2030	Sets long-term gender equality priorities, including women's economic empowerment, political participation, and enhanced gender statistics; supports monitoring of SDG-aligned indicators, improving evidence for gender responsive rural and climate programming.
Nationally Determined Contributions	Positions gender equality and social inclusion as crosscutting principles; includes gender responsive adaptation measures in agriculture, water, disaster risk reduction, and community resilience; developed through multistakeholder consultations.
National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process (ongoing)	Establishes medium and long-term adaptation planning; sectoral components cover agriculture, water resources, health, biodiversity, disaster risk management and energy. The NAP process emphasises inclusive planning and integration of gender responsive indicators across climate-sensitive sectors.
Concept of Transition to Green Economy	Sets pathways for green agriculture, sustainable land use, renewable energy, and resource efficiency. The associated Roadmap introduces

	institutional coordination mechanisms relevant to gender-responsive climate and AFOLU planning.
Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2019–2030	Recognises gender as a crosscutting theme; highlights the need for inclusive and community-based approaches in preparing for floods, mudflows, droughts, and glacial hazards.
National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change to 2030 (Resolution No. 482)	Provides the overarching national framework for climate adaptation, identifying priority sectors, institutional responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms; creates strategic entry points for gender mainstreaming in resilience planning.
2024–2026 Action Plan of the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change	Operationalises the 2030 Strategy through targeted sectoral measures, defined institutional roles, and implementation timelines; supports integration of gender responsive indicators, capacity building, and improved monitoring for sector level adaptation delivery.
Government-approved three-year adaptation plan (2025–2027)	Provides short-term implementation guidance and financing priorities for adaptation activities, including community-level resilience measures and opportunities to strengthen women’s participation and local adaptive capacity.
National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan to 2030 (NDS-2030, 2016)	National long-term development framework; includes human capital development and reduction of social inequalities as core pillars, providing entry points for embedding gender equality in inclusive growth and resilience planning.
Medium-term Development Program 2021–2025 (MTDP 2021–2025)	Operationalises NDS-2030 priorities; explicitly targets improved welfare alongside reduction of social and gender inequality, and frames economic adaptation and environmental sustainability through “green economy” principles.

Source: Own elaboration

Key stakeholders

The table below provides a high-level overview of national level policy, coordination, and enabling institutions relevant to gender, climate, and land use governance. Sectoral ministries and sub-national authorities play an important role in implementation and are discussed elsewhere in the Funding Proposal.

Table 4: Stakeholder map: Tajikistan

Stakeholder	Mandate
Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) under the Government of Tajikistan	Leads national climate, environment, and natural resource policy; houses climate change units overseeing NDC implementation; plays a coordinating role with line ministries on adaptation planning and cross-cutting issues including gender and inclusion.
State Committee for Land Management and Geodesy (SCLMG)	Manages land governance, cadastre systems, and land registration processes; influences women’s land rights, tenure security, and access to key AFOLU interventions.
Committee on Women and the Family Affairs (CWFA)	National gender machinery; develops gender policies, coordinates gender mainstreaming across ministries, provides guidance for gender responsive climate action, and supports national gender data systems.
Association of Women of Tajikistan (NABWT)	Community level gender and youth platforms; mobilise women and young people in rural areas, facilitate their participation in climate and land-use initiatives, support inclusive consultations, and strengthen locally led decision making and livelihood resilience.

Source: Own elaboration

2.3 Uzbekistan

2.3.1 National overview: status of gender equality

Uzbekistan’s pursuit of gender equality takes place within a rapidly expanding and almost evenly balanced urban–rural population. As of October 2024, the country’s permanent population had reached 37.36 million people, including 18.55 million women (Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan). Rural areas remain home to 18.31 million people, just under half of the national population, with women making up approximately 49.4 % of rural residents. These population patterns highlight both the scale and complexity of gender related constraints in the country, from disparities in access to services and economic opportunities in rural regions to the evolving social and labour market dynamics of its growing urban centres. Gender-disaggregated population data from the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of

Uzbekistan also show balanced male and female population distributions across the regions included in the programme area. As of January 2026, Andijan Region had 1,737,400 women, Namangan Region 1,568,500 women, and Surkhandarya Region 1,486,600 women, reflecting the near-equal gender shares identified across the country's demography (Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan).

Against this backdrop, Uzbekistan is a signatory to core international gender-equality instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (ratified 1995) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. National commitments have expanded in recent years, supported by the country's engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5. These international obligations have informed a series of domestic reforms intended to strengthen gender equality and reinforce the protection of women's rights (The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2024).

Nationally, Uzbekistan has developed an increasingly comprehensive legal and policy framework. The Law on Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men (2019) provides the foundation for anti-discrimination efforts, while the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality to 2030 outlines national priorities for enhancing women's economic participation, improving representation in decision-making, and strengthening protection against gender-based violence (Republic of Uzbekistan, 2021). Institutional mechanisms such as the Committee for Family and Women and the government-organised Gender Madad centre support coordination and service delivery. In 2023, Uzbekistan adopted long-awaited legislation criminalising domestic violence – an important step in closing protection gaps – although reconciliation procedures remain permissible in some cases, reflecting the ongoing influence of social norms and family-based dispute resolution (IPHR, 2023). Building on these reforms, in February 2026, Uzbekistan introduced green and gender-responsive budgeting into the state budget framework, requiring fiscal strategies and annual budget proposals to integrate environmental sustainability and gender-equality considerations, including measurable indicators. This reform strengthens alignment between public financial management, climate objectives, and gender-equality commitments, though effective implementation will depend on institutional capacity and oversight (Daryo, 2026). These national efforts are reinforced by Uzbekistan's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2026–2030, which identifies gender equality and climate action as cross-cutting priorities and emphasises inclusive, data-driven governance to address structural inequalities and environmental risks. Despite these advances, gender-neutral legal definitions, limited police and judicial capacity, and social stigma continue to impede full implementation (United Nations Uzbekistan, 2025).

Uzbekistan scores 82.5/100 on the Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2024 Index, performing strongly on mobility, pay, marriage, entrepreneurship and assets but showing persistent gaps in workplace, parenthood, and pensions. While sexual harassment is prohibited in Uzbekistan, including in the workplace, reliance on administrative remedies, uneven enforcement, and social stigma continue to limit women's ability to seek effective redress and protection, leaving many vulnerable to discrimination and slowing progress toward gender equality (World Bank Group, 2024). On the Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) 2025, Uzbekistan ranks 110th of 148 countries, with strong performance in education attainment and health and survival, but continued underrepresentation of women in political empowerment and economic participation (World Economic Forum, 2025). Although the Electoral Code introduced a 30% quota for women candidates, observers note that constrained political competition and a restrictive civic space limit the extent to which these gains translate into substantive influence. Encouragingly, the country's stance on promoting women's education is particularly progressive – women pursuing tertiary education have access to 7-year interest-free loans, and loans for low-income families require no collateral (Republic of Uzbekistan, 2022).

Barriers to effective implementation of policies, legislature and commitments

Despite notable legislative and policy advances, Uzbekistan continues to face structural, institutional, and normative barriers that limit the effective implementation of gender-equality commitments. A key challenge is the persistence of gender-neutral legal definitions, which do not fully capture the specific forms of discrimination women experience. This is particularly evident in the domestic-violence framework: despite criminalisation in 2023, reconciliation clauses permit cases to be closed if survivors agree to settle with perpetrators, which, given strong family and community pressure, significantly weakens enforcement and protection mechanisms (Amnesty International, 2022; IPHR, 2023). Limited institutional capacity, especially among police, mahalla committees and local courts, further undermines survivors' access to justice and reduces the deterrent effect of the law (CEDAW, 2022).

Deeply rooted patriarchal norms and stigma also constrain implementation. Social expectations surrounding women's domestic roles, deference to male authority, and the prioritisation of family reputation continue to restrict women's mobility, decision-making autonomy and willingness to seek services. Survey data indicate that attitudes condoning violence and unequal household roles remain widespread, particularly outside major urban centres (The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2024). These norms also

contribute to the underreporting of violence and limit uptake of reproductive-health services, despite the existence of formal guarantees.

Beyond the legal and normative sphere, these constraints translate directly into economic and livelihood barriers, particularly in land- and water-dependent sectors. Women hold a very small share of memberships in Water User Associations (WUAs), severely limiting their influence over irrigation scheduling and water allocation decisions for the plots they manage. This exclusion reduces women's capacity to respond to water scarcity and undermines productivity in household-based farming systems (FAO, 2025b). The informal nature of women's labour, often as unpaid family workers or daily-wage *mardikors*, further restricts access to formal financial services (Asian Development Bank, 2018). Many women are unable to meet employment or income documentation requirements for bank loans, contributing to persistent financial exclusion. Access to credit remains limited, and land titles are typically registered in the name of male household heads, even where laws are formally gender-neutral (FAO, 2025b). Taken together, these interlocking barriers constrain women's ability to invest in productivity, mechanisation, and climate-resilient practices.

Women in AFOLU

Agriculture

Women play a central role in Uzbekistan's agricultural sector, particularly through *dehkan* farming, horticulture, livestock care, and household-level processing. They are the primary managers of *tomorka* (household plots), typically ranging from 0.06 to 0.15 hectares, where they grow vegetables and fruit for household consumption and local sale. Through *dehkan* farming systems, women also play a central role in small-scale livestock production and dairy processing (The World Bank, 2024). Although these systems occupy a relatively limited share of irrigated land, they contribute a substantial proportion of domestic food production and are critical for food security and rural livelihoods. Despite their importance for food security and rural livelihoods, *dehkan* farms have historically remained outside the main focus of formal government agricultural policy, extension services, and support schemes, limiting access to inputs, mechanisation, and investment (FAO, 2025b).

Within the broader agricultural economy, women's work is concentrated in labour-intensive and informal segments, while men dominate commercial farming and mechanised operations. Although land rights are formally gender-neutral, land use contracts and registration processes typically favour male household heads, constraining women's access to credit, subsidies, and state programmes (FAO, 2025b). Women also interact less frequently with district agricultural authorities, producer groups, and extension services, which reduces their access to agronomic advice, subsidy schemes, and information on new technologies (UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, 2025). Extension systems remain largely male-dominated, and training activities are often organised in ways that assume male participation, further limiting women's opportunities to learn about water-efficient irrigation, improved seed varieties, or diversification options.

These structural constraints are reinforced by women's limited participation in agricultural value chains and resource-governance institutions. Women's engagement is largely confined to low-return or informal activities, such as small-scale processing and household-based production, while barriers to markets, certification, storage, and transport restrict entry into higher-value chains. Financial products tailored to smallholders are not widely accessible to women, further constraining investment in productivity or enterprise expansion. Women's ability to influence agricultural decision-making is also constrained by exclusion from key water-governance institutions. Women manage only 12% of irrigated land, and female membership in Water User Associations (WUAs) remains extremely low – approximately 8 % in 2023 – severely limiting women's influence over irrigation scheduling and water allocation decisions that directly affect their productivity (Green Climate Fund, 2025).

Broader socioeconomic dynamics further shape women's agricultural roles and vulnerabilities. In areas characterised by high levels of male seasonal migration, women increasingly manage day-to-day farming decisions, often without commensurate control over assets or income (CEDAW, 2022). Limited financial inclusion and a lack of risk-management tools reduce their ability to absorb production shocks or invest in adaptation strategies. Climate-related pressures, particularly unreliable irrigation and declining soil fertility, disproportionately affect the crops and tasks where women's labour is concentrated. With lower access to irrigation equipment and climate-resilient inputs, women have fewer opportunities to adjust production practices or shift to more resilient crops (UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, 2025). Together, these structural, institutional, and environmental constraints limit women's productivity, profitability, and resilience within Uzbekistan's agricultural sector.

Forestry

In rangeland and forestry systems, women's roles are centred on subsistence activities, including collecting fuelwood, gathering fodder, and processing non-timber forest products. These activities are essential for household energy supply and income diversification, particularly in rural and environmentally stressed areas.

However, women remain almost entirely absent from the formal institutions responsible for resource allocation, afforestation planning, and landscape restoration. (FAO, 2025b).

Men tend to dominate paid forestry work and state-run afforestation initiatives, while women's contributions are more informal and typically unpaid. Limited opportunities to participate in forestry training and community consultations restrict women's access to technical knowledge and benefit-sharing schemes linked to restoration or forest-based livelihoods (UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, 2025). As vegetation loss and desertification accelerate, especially in the Aral Sea region, women face growing challenges in meeting household fuel and resource needs yet remain underrepresented in programmes designed to rehabilitate degraded landscapes (CEDAW, 2022).

Other Land Uses

Women play important roles in land use systems beyond formal agriculture and forestry, including managing household plots, small orchards, and rangeland-based activities such as fodder collection and the processing of natural products. These activities are vital for household food security and income diversification but are often overlooked in formal land use planning and support schemes. Representation in rangeland councils, and local water management bodies remains limited, reducing women's input into decisions on grazing allocations, irrigation scheduling, and land rehabilitation priorities (FAO, 2025b).

Women who depend on small-scale or home-based production face barriers accessing markets, credit, and extension due to limited mobility, time constraints, and the informal nature of their work (UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, 2025). Environmental degradation, including water shortages and declining communal resources, increases the labour needed for gathering household essentials. Yet women's restricted access to land, income, and participation in local governance reduces their options for adapting their livelihoods to ecological pressures (CEDAW, 2022).

Climate change and gender equality

Uzbekistan's evolving climate and gender policy landscape increasingly recognises that climate impacts are not gender neutral, reflected in recent legislative reforms and national strategies aimed at strengthening gender equality and social inclusion. The Law on Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men (2019) and the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality to 2030 signal the government's commitment to mainstreaming gender across sectoral planning, including climate-relevant institutions (Republic of Uzbekistan, 2021). Ongoing efforts to strengthen adaptation frameworks similarly acknowledge the disproportionate vulnerabilities faced by women, particularly those in rural, low-income, and agriculturally dependent households (The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2024). Persistent inequalities in access to land, finance, irrigation, water, energy, information, and decision-making mechanisms significantly shape women's exposure to climate risks and their capacity to cope with or recover from extreme events. These disparities have direct implications for household resilience and national development, given women's central roles in agriculture, household-level food production, natural resource management, and unpaid domestic and care work (FAO, 2025b).

Women's reliance on natural resources for both productive and reproductive labour heightens their vulnerability to climate uncertainty. Increasingly frequent droughts and chronic water scarcity, persistent environmental challenges across Uzbekistan, disproportionately affect households where women are responsible for water collection, fuelwood sourcing, food preparation, and maintaining kitchen gardens. These pressures intensify women's workloads, limit opportunities for income generation, and exacerbate food and livelihood insecurity, particularly in rural areas affected by land degradation and water stress. Climate-exacerbated shocks such as flooding, extreme temperatures, and declining soil fertility further disrupt agricultural production, damage essential infrastructure, and restrict access to services such as health care, markets, and education (CEDAW, 2022; FAO, 2025b).

Environmental degradation, particularly drought and declining soil fertility, intensifies women's "triple burden" of household responsibilities, childcare, and agricultural labour. Empirical evidence using the Pro-WEAI index shows that many rural women exceed a daily workload threshold of 10.5 hours, with work balance identified as a major contributor to women's disempowerment (Malapit, 2019). These pressures reduce time available for income generation, skills development, or participation in community decision-making. Women also face a pronounced mechanisation gap, as they are often denied unrestricted access to agricultural equipment needed to adapt farming practices to ecological stress. Limited access to irrigation technology, machinery, and climate-resilient inputs further constrains adaptive capacity (Alvi, 2025).

Within this context, certain groups face heightened vulnerability, including widows, elderly women, female-headed households, pregnant women, and adolescent girls, due to reduced mobility, limited access to

resources, and constrained decision-making power (IPHR, 2023). Women's exclusion from climate governance- structures, particularly water and agricultural decision-making bodies, further limits their access to early warning information and adaptation resources, despite evidence that their participation leads to improved resource management outcomes. Men, by contrast, frequently migrate temporarily or seasonally in response to climate-related livelihood pressures, leaving women with expanded responsibilities and new tasks previously performed by men – a shift that can exacerbate existing gender inequalities (The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2024).

Uzbekistan's strengthening gender policy framework underscores the importance of ensuring that climate policies are informed by gender analysis and grounded in inclusive consultation processes. Uzbekistan's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0, 2025) prioritises the integration of women into climate-change adaptation programmes and recognises that constraints in access to water and energy services disproportionately burden rural women, contributing to heightened labour demands and reduced adaptive capacity. Recent reforms, including the establishment of institutional mechanisms such as the Committee for Family and Women and the adoption of legislation criminalising domestic violence, reflect increased recognition of the structural inequalities that shape vulnerability to climate impacts (Republic of Uzbekistan, 2021). National climate-related commitments highlight the need to integrate gender across sectoral adaptation measures, embed gender-disaggregated indicators into monitoring systems, and strengthen mechanisms that support women's leadership, participation, and economic empowerment in climate-relevant sectors. These efforts align with international commitments to gender-responsive climate action and reflect growing recognition that women's knowledge of household resource management, local ecosystems, and community resilience offers valuable contributions to effective adaptation. However, translating these commitments into practice will require sustained investment in gender-disaggregated data, institutional capacity building, and the removal of structural barriers that continue to limit women's access to land, finance, training, and decision-making spaces. Effective implementation will depend on collaboration with women's organisations, local authorities, and community-based groups to ensure that climate action is equitable, inclusive, and transformative (The World Bank Group, 2021a).

2.3.2 Legal, policy and stakeholder landscape

Uzbekistan's commitments to gender equality are articulated through constitutional guarantees, dedicated equality legislation, long-term national gender strategies and a rapidly evolving climate policy framework. The Law on Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men (2019) and the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality to 2030 form the core of the country's gender-equality architecture, supported by institutional mechanisms such as the Committee for Family and Women. Emerging climate instruments and ongoing adaptation planning processes increasingly recognise gender as a cross-cutting principle and link climate action with rural livelihoods, agriculture, water management and community resilience, reflecting growing national acknowledgement that women – particularly those in rural and low-income households – face disproportionate climate-related vulnerabilities.

National instruments and commitments

The table below provides a high-level overview of national-level policy, coordination, and enabling institutions relevant to gender, climate, and land-use governance. Sectoral ministries and sub-national authorities play an important role in implementation and are discussed elsewhere in the Funding Proposal.

Table 5: Legal and policy landscape: Uzbekistan

Instrument	Relevant content
Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Enshrines equality and non-discrimination; establishes the legal basis for gender-responsive policymaking across sectors, including natural resource management, agriculture, environment, and climate action.
Law on Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men (2019)	Defines gender equality, prohibits discrimination, and strengthens mechanisms for gender expertise and implementation across public institutions – key enablers for equitable agricultural, environmental, and climate policy.
Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality to 2030	Sets long-term gender equality priorities, including economic participation and leadership; advances gender statistics, monitoring frameworks, and SDG-aligned indicators relevant to rural and climate-vulnerable populations.
Emerging National Adaptation Planning process	Embeds gender and social inclusion as cross-cutting principles; early sectoral adaptation components increasingly focus on agriculture, water, biodiversity, and rural resilience, with growing emphasis on inclusive planning processes.
Strategy for the Development of Agriculture 2020-2030	Defines the national framework for agricultural reform and modernisation; recent updates strengthen climate-smart services for smallholder dehqan farmers, including expanded agro-meteorological systems, with direct

relevance for women's adaptive capacity in water- and climate-sensitive production systems.

Source: Own elaboration

Key stakeholders

Table 6: Stakeholder map: Uzbekistan

Stakeholder	Mandate
Committee of Family and Women	Leads national gender policy coordination; implements gender strategies, supports protection systems, and engages in cross-sector processes relevant to climate, agriculture, and rural development.
National Statistical Committee	Advances gender data and SDG-aligned indicators; works with UN Women and FAO to strengthen sex-disaggregated rural and agricultural datasets needed for gender-responsive climate action.
Ministry of Agriculture	Responsible for crops, livestock, irrigation, land and pasture governance; central to women's access to land, extension services, water, markets, and climate-resilient agricultural livelihoods.
Climate Council (established under the President, 2024)	Highest advisory and coordination body on climate change mitigation and adaptation; oversees implementation of Uzbekistan's commitments under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, coordinates ministries and agencies, and monitors national progress on climate policy, including gender-inclusive adaptation.
National Agency for Social Protection	Leads development and implementation of a unified national social protection policy; coordinates social assistance, social services, and protection mechanisms for vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and low-income households, with relevance for climate-related vulnerability and shock-responsive support.
Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction	Responsible for national employment policy, labour relations, poverty reduction, and labour-market programmes; plays a key role in women's economic inclusion, livelihoods diversification, skills development, and access to income-generating opportunities relevant to climate resilience.
Youth Affairs Agency	Implements state youth policy and programmes; supports youth participation, skills development, employment, and civic engagement, including for young women and rural youth, with relevance for intergenerational climate resilience and social inclusion.

Source: Own elaboration

3. Programme-level gender analysis

The country-level analyses in Chapter 2 provides the foundation for a more detailed assessment of the gendered dimensions that underpin gender and social inclusion issues at a localised level. This chapter considers the gender relations and social dynamics within select regions in each of the three countries, offering targeted insight into the most pressing gender gaps and challenges faced by women, as well as clear opportunities to deliver benefits to them. The chapter focuses on describing the findings from applying a stakeholder-centred approach (complementing the above country-wide data and desk-based literature review), serving as a basis for developing the Programme's Gender & Inclusion Action Plan (Chapter 0).

3.1 Approach

In February 2026, a series of two-day stakeholder engagements were facilitated in two selected districts per country representing the different geographical and land use characteristics of the envisioned programme target region. The first day was structured as a **programme-wide multipurpose workshop**, bringing together a range of representative participants – women, men and youth from local government institutions; women's committees; youth committees; local banking institutions; pasture user unions; forestry sector representatives; water user associations; local NGOs; and agriculture, environment and education departments¹. The agenda covered all core components of the programme, which provided the necessary framing for the afternoon ESS and Gender sessions. These sessions were facilitated by experienced, local female sociologists. The Gender Session comprised three parts: 1) an introductory presentation that explained the purpose of the GCF Gender Annex and a summary of key findings from the desk-review; 2) a **plenary discussion** that drew on insights from participants on the **roles and responsibilities** of women, men and youth in current land-use practices; and 3) a **breakout session**, that split participants into smaller groups to discuss **four primary gender domains**: practices and participation; knowledge, beliefs, and social norms; legal and customary rights and status; and power, decision-

¹ This presents a broad representation - participant groups differed per country, as appropriate

making and access to assets and financial resources. Appendix 1 contains the activity sheets that were used to guide these group discussions.

The second day was dedicated to a series of Key Informant Interviews (**KIIs**) and Focus Group Discussions (**FGDs**) with select individuals, focused **specifically on ESS and Gender considerations**. Women-only FGDs were held in each district, where discussions centred on gender-specific needs, barriers and potential support required to ensure women and youth are meaningfully engaged, empowered and represented across the planned programme activities. The following question prompts were used to guide these discussions:

- How can we improve women and youth's access to information and technical advisory services on land use practices?
- What support is needed to create sustainable women and youth -led cooperatives and MSMEs?
- What support could help overcome the mobility, time, and domestic burdens that affect women's ability to participate in income-generating land use practices?
- What support is needed, and what barriers exist, to women and youth's access to financing (loans, setting up savings accounts, etc.) and insurance mechanisms?
- How can we improve women and youth's involvement and elevate their voices in community, district and policy-level decision-making platforms?

KIIs with local Women's Affairs representatives were also facilitated – covering both ESS and Gender topics. The following sub-sections summarise the findings from these engagements, focussing specifically on differentiating the roles and responsibilities of women, men and youth in current land-use practices; the impacts of climate and environmental changes/conditions on women in these communities; challenges and considerations that affect women and youth's ability to participate in land-use activities; and potential support measures that could overcome or mitigate these. Appendix 2 presents these findings in table format.

3.2 Findings

3.2.1 Kyrgyz Republic

Findings from our stakeholder engagement illustrate how women and youth sustain much of the agricultural labour in Bazar-Kurgan and Kara-Suu yet continue to operate with restrictive gender norms and increasing climate pressures. Participants described women as central to household-level agriculture, often balancing childcare, domestic responsibilities and small-scale production such as kitchen plots and livestock care, whilst also supporting seasonal tasks and, in some cases, temporarily managing farms when men migrate for work. Youth, particularly adolescents, play an important role during labour-intensive seasons such as the cotton harvest, though many face constrained economic prospects. In Kara-Suu, for example, high outmigration among youth was said to contribute to household vulnerability and instability.

Participants explained that mechanisation has reduced the need for women's manual labour in certain crops but has not lessened their overall workload, which is increasingly shaped by climate-related stressors. Women, particularly in Kara-Suu, mentioned experiencing severe water scarcity and extreme heat that limits their ability to work outdoors and reduces the yields of potatoes and maize. Community members also noted gradual ecological degradation on summer pastures, including declining availability of wild herbs traditionally collected by children, signalling broader environmental changes affecting household livelihoods. Across both districts, participants consistently highlighted entrenched socio-cultural norms as major barriers to women's meaningful participation in decision-making, training, and external engagement. These constraints are particularly pronounced in Kara-Suu, where women explained that they do not speak in front of men, rarely attend meetings, and cannot independently organise transport or participate in field-based activities. Male-dominated authority structures, particularly influential elders, reinforce these limitations, and rising religious conservatism was described as further narrowing women's public and economic roles.

Additionally, participants described practical constraints that shape their participation. Many require permission from husbands or mothers-in-law to attend trainings, while childcare responsibilities and limited control over land or property restrict access to finance and decision-making. Some participants flagged social risks, such as jealousy or family conflict arising from interactions with programme staff, which influence whether women feel safe engaging in external activities. These challenges contribute to low levels of trust in outside initiatives, with some women preferring not to attend meetings at all.

Despite these constraints, women in Bazar-Kurgan reported emerging opportunities to strengthen their skills and confidence. Participants highlighted access to gender schools, community-based training sessions where women receive practical instruction that builds their agricultural knowledge and technical competence, and specialised training preparing women to serve as local bio-inspectors as important avenues for expanding agricultural knowledge and building leadership capacity. These initiatives were described as helping women gain technical

competence and gradually enhancing their recognition within households and the wider community. Participants also noted that some women are beginning to benefit from state-provided financial support. In Kara-Suu, women reported using a 150,000 KGS social benefit to establish micro-enterprises such as sewing workshops, bread-baking businesses, or small-scale livestock ventures. Alongside this, stakeholder engagement identified existing government-supported credit lines through Aiyl Bank, including special financing for drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation systems, which were viewed as critical for addressing climate-related water scarcity. Single women with property were said to have access to online or small collateral-free loans, while youth can sometimes secure financing using parental collateral. Local institutional structures also play a central role in shaping women's access to support, protection, and information. Women's Councils (WCU/Zhensovet) and Public Prevention Centres (OPSZ) were consistently identified as trusted mechanisms through which women seek help, raise concerns, and access referrals for sensitive issues, including domestic conflict. These structures coordinate with social workers, village authorities, and police where necessary, positioning them as key partners for programme mobilisation, grievance handling, and gender-responsive engagement.

Given these findings, participants emphasised the need for culturally sensitive, gender-responsive programme support. Women stressed the importance of women-only spaces and facilitation by trusted intermediaries to ensure safe and meaningful participation. They also noted that logistical barriers, such as transport, travel allowances, and accommodation for multi-day trainings, must be addressed to improve access. Ensuring equal access to training, finance, and leadership opportunities, including support for women-led cooperatives and emerging training pathways, will be important for strengthening agency. Close collaboration with Women's Councils and OPSZ structures was repeatedly highlighted as essential for effective mobilisation, inclusive participation, and confidential reporting.

3.2.2 Tajikistan

Women play a significant yet largely informal role in land use and agricultural practices in both Devashtich and Qubodiyon. Female-managed farms in both districts range from 5-7% of all farms, and joint cooperative models are still predominantly led by male members. In Devashtich, women are heavily engaged in orchard maintenance, kitchen gardening, small-scale horticulture, soil preparation, post-harvest processing, livestock rearing, and local market sales. While in Qabodiyon, women also contribute significantly to irrigated crop production (planting, weeding, harvesting), particularly in vegetable cultivation, and seasonal agricultural labour. This work is almost always unpaid on family farms, meaning their financial contributions to household economy are considered "invisible" – although in Devashtich, one agricultural institution reported that 45 of 61 formal employees are women. Women-led enterprises exist but are mainly small-scale, focusing on product processing, lemon cultivation, fruit drying, preserves, sewing, and handicrafts.

Conversely, male-owned and -managed farms are characterised by larger plot sizes, commercial crop types, utilisation of machinery and logistics-support to allow access to distance / wholesale markets. However, because of seasonal male migration, women are increasingly assuming expanded responsibilities for both farm operations and household food security. This means women are now performing both traditionally male and female roles. These additional labour demands during peak agricultural seasons lead to increased physical workload for women and youth (which can result in negative health impacts) and reduced time for youth's educational opportunities. Youth migration is also relatively high in both areas, but those who do reside in these districts participate in field labour as well as agricultural marketing through social media platforms, assisting in identifying new market opportunities and helping families access agricultural information online.

Notable climatic and environmental changes are exacerbating women's workload in both districts, particularly when water must be transported manually (given women are primarily responsible for household water management) or when crop failures require additional coping strategies. In Devashtich, communities vocalised how increasingly irregular precipitation and reduced availability of irrigation water are negatively affecting orchard productivity, potatoes crops and soil moisture retention. And, in Qabodiyon, inefficient irrigation infrastructure, rising soil salinity in some areas, and increasing summer temperatures all contribute to reduced crop yields.

Agricultural decisions are still primarily controlled by men, including cultivation methods, purchase of machinery, and large-scale sales. Income is earned by both men and women, but control over large amounts is generally in the hands of men, while women handle daily household expenditures. In both districts, a joint consultation model exists between spouses, but final decisions on large investments are made by whoever holds formal land documentation. Despite recent land reforms and presidential grants that now formally recognise women's land rights (whereby women's names are now mandatorily included on farm land-use certificates), customary practices still strongly favour sons, who typically inherit land. This has direct implications on women's access to financial services and credit, which remains limited due to lack of collateral, high interest rates, and the concept of "permission from the husband or father" as an unwritten rule. State grants and international programmes provide some financial support to women in the AFOLU sector, but this is considered insufficient for purchasing modern technologies or offering long-term sustainable financing solutions. It is therefore crucial that development

projects, such as this, explore inclusive, accessible and sustainable financial mechanisms (small grants, loans, No-Till Adoption Accelerators) for women and youth that could be offered by formal financial institutions operating in both districts (e.g. MFIs such as Imon International, Arvand, Amonatbank, Eskhata Bank).

Beyond the household domain, women's participation in formal decision-making bodies – such as Water User Associations and local land committees – remains limited. Social norms, limited confidence, workload barriers, and a lack of targeted invitations to meetings reduce women's representation in planning processes related to irrigation scheduling, pasture management, and land allocation. These same issues hinder women's ability to access and benefit from agricultural extension services and technical training on concepts relating to climate-resilient and sustainable land use practices. Lessons can be drawn from previous projects in Devashtich, where female stakeholders highlighted the benefits of setting quotas (e.g. 30% female attendance of trainings) and ensuring women's direct access to agricultural equipment. Programme support should also consider how best to engage with, empower and support existing informal women-led bodies, like self-help/savings groups and small cooperatives.

Overarching and consistent sentiments from a range of female stakeholders engaged during this process reflected the importance of establishing quotas for women's participation in capacity building activities, fostering direct access to decision-making platforms, ensuring flexible timing and suitable locations for trainings and meetings, transparent documentation processes, the establishment of a confidential and gender-sensitive complaint system, and the appointment of trusted female liaisons to serve as intermediaries across all programme processes.

3.2.3 Uzbekistan

Across the Besharik and Yangikurgan districts, the gender dynamics of agriculture and land use are increasingly shaped by male outmigration and climate stressors, coupled with positive influences from recent progressive efforts by national government and financial institutions.

In both districts, women shoulder most practical field labour, livestock management, and household subsistence activities (typically managing about half a "sotikh" (50 square meters) of land where they plant potatoes, tomatoes, and cucumbers etc.) – and in Besharik, approximately 30% of farms are managed by women. Women also act as a connecting link within their communities. They participate in small local meetings and are involved in informing others about village events and activities. Men tend to administrative, strategic, and machinery-related tasks. However, as with the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, outmigration of men in both districts has amplified women's responsibilities and expanded their roles to include management of larger-scale agricultural activities.

Several environmental and climatic challenges in these districts are also impacting local livelihoods – with direct workload implications on women. These include drought, water scarcity (from transboundary water sources, required for irrigation in certain locations) and decreased snowfall. Secondary crops are also drying up, groundwater levels decrease during extended drought periods, and high velocity, abnormal winds damage orchards and home courtyards managed by women.

Women's involvement in post-harvest labour, such as sorting, packing and marketing support, also adds significant value to family enterprises and cooperatives but this work remains largely informal and is often daily-waged based. While household finances are typically pooled and openly discussed between spouses, loan eligibility is often tied to i) formal employment status (which predominantly sits with male family members) and ii) the ability to access to land-based collateral. Thus, while formal gendered barriers to land access are minimal in law, practical barriers persist in tenure decisions and cadastral processing. Land is often accessed through auctions or family ownership, with significant influence still held by senior men in many decision-making contexts.

State policy is focused on the active participation of women in political and economic life, and women themselves have become much more proactive. Through government and bank-led initiatives – such as Decree No. 5852, preferential or interest-free loans³ for women, and dedicated Women's Affairs staffing within local banks – greater opportunities are being facilitated for women's entrepreneurship and education. This has led to women entering technical fields within the AFOLU sector, and the establishment of women-led enterprises in agricultural value chains. In 2025, more than 714 women expressed a desire to engage in entrepreneurship in Yangikurgan, and of those, more than 500 started their business activities by obtaining bank loans (including loans that have supported women's procurement of greenhouses, cattle breeding, and other agricultural initiatives). For example,

² a system that provides grants for children from families in need to pursue their education

³ for example, educational loans are provided interest-free for women, while they carry an 18% interest rate for men. Under the "Hamroh" program, women can receive loans of up to 100 million UZS without a guarantor.

a woman currently manages Agro Pilla⁴, and successful female farming entrepreneurs are advancing women's economic agency, acting as mentors, and creating employment for female peers.

Youth are also being mobilized to sustain family enterprises through online marketing, digital sales, and logistics. However, to overcome the challenge of significant youth migration, there is a need to formalize youth participation in the AFOLU sector by leveraging their interest and skills. This requires scalable training pathways in business development, digital literacy, and financial management, plus clear access routes to credit and markets.

3.2.4 Concluding reflections and common themes

In summary, the stakeholder consultations highlighted how widespread male outmigration has significantly increased women's responsibilities for farm operations and household food security in many districts of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. This has resulted in women performing both traditionally male and female roles. Despite this, socio-cultural norms persist in many areas, where women still lack authority, formal labour recognition, land rights, and access to the technical skills and technology to perform their duties effectively and with fair remuneration and recognition. These challenges are being exacerbated by climate change impacts, ranging from drought and excessively high temperatures to water scarcity and decreased snowfall, and abnormally high winds and sand-storms— all of which affect local land use productivity and broader natural resource management.

The proposed programme was therefore received positively by women and youth groups, given its potential to provide more sustainable, inclusive and resilient livelihood opportunities – subject to the provision of sufficient, appropriate and targeted support that caters to their specific needs, circumstances and interests.

3.3 Recommendations

The findings presented above offer valuable insights into the overarching social context and gender dynamics within which the programme will ultimately operate. The potential measures (mapped against gender challenges/gaps identified) that follow, therefore, consider both the analysis presented in Chapter 2, the stakeholder feedback described above in 3.2 and expert input from local sociologists based in each country. These will be reflected, as appropriate, in the Gender & Inclusion Action Plan (Chapter 0) by translating them into tangible actions that directly link to programme activities.

⁴ the largest agricultural cluster in Namangan

Table 7: Gender gaps and recommended measures

Gender gap or barrier to inclusion	Potential measures to address gaps and barriers	Action Plan #
Women lack access to sufficient agricultural extension support and technical knowledge on climate resilient and sustainable practices . In instances where such support is offered, it is often unsuitable for women (due to mobility, time or societal constraints).	- Gender-sensitive consultation and training processes, including separate women-only spaces and trusted local intermediaries. - Technical capacity development support to female farmers to bridge the knowledge gap between women and men – offered at times and locations that are suitable for women (i.e. compatible with the timing of their domestic responsibilities, with minimal travel requirements). - Improved access to irrigation technologies, quality seeds, and agricultural inputs for women and youth.	ID #1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24
Women are underrepresented in decision-making bodies relating to land use planning and natural resource management – typically due to deep-rooted patriarchal norms, lack of confidence and/or workload demands. Women also have limited access to land ownership, machinery, and larger plots , with men typically controlling decisions related to land use and benefiting from patriarchal inheritance norms.	- Awareness-raising among male community members to promote inclusive decision-making. - Capacity development support for women to empower and encourage them to participate in land and water management discussions - Community-wide engagement on the relevance of national laws on equal rights and opportunities for men and women within the context of the AFOLU sector, discussing, for example, topics such as equitable land tenure, inheritance and asset ownership legislature, and gender-sensitive land use planning processes.	ID #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14, 18, 21, 22
Women's role in land-use value chains is largely informal and field-based, with the majority of post-harvest, marketing and sales decisions taken by male family members.	Strengthen women and youth-led cooperatives and producer groups (replicating/scaling up the numerous successful examples in each country) for better risk management and market access.	ID #6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
Women have lower access to suitable finance than men, due to a lack of collateral, limited awareness of available financial instruments, high interest rates, or ineligibility due to the informal nature of their work. Where state grants and international programmes provide support, often this is insufficient for purchasing modern technologies.	- Expand successful financial schemes already offered through certain government and banks and facilitate access to affordable and appropriate financial mechanisms such as small grants, No-Till Adoption Accelerators, or savings groups. - Provide financial literacy training to female farmers, and women- and youth- led enterprises. - Provide training to banking institutions on how best to engage with, and support, women and youth customers. - Encourage banks and financial institutions to identify any gender differences in access to financial products and services and support them in taking steps to address factors that create barriers for specific groups of women (rural women, women farmers, wives of labor migrants, etc.)	ID #16, 17, 23, 25
Lack of trust in external activities – and potential gendered challenges that transpire as a result of these – some preferring not to participate at all.	- Ensure non-discriminatory hiring and programme practices, establish quotas for women and youth representation in committees and programme structures. - In keeping with the programme's commitment to adopting a gender-responsive and survivor-centered GRM, a trusted female representative (for example, from the local Mahalla) will act as an intermediary to support female complainants in with submitting cases.	ID #19, 20, 26
Youth migration is generally high, limiting local labour availability. There is a need to incentivise and offer greater opportunities in local land use practice value chains to retain and upskill youth.	Youth engagement must include targeted programme orientation, demonstrations, and inclusive opportunities to participate through upskilling and exposure. This includes utilising their unique skills (such as agricultural marketing through social media platforms, logistics management and accessing online agricultural and climate information).	ID #18, 20

Source: Own elaboration

4. Gender & Inclusion Action Plan (GAP)

4.1 Key considerations

To ensure that the findings and recommendations highlighted in the assessment above are integrated and implemented into the broader programme in a meaningful and pragmatic manner, a Gender & Inclusion Action Plan (GAP) has been developed. The GAP's actions, indicators, implementation timelines and resourcing requirements are aligned with the programme's broader workplan and budget. The GAP will be adopted based on the following key considerations:

- **Expertise.** Oversight, technical input, and M&E of the GAP will fall to the responsibility of several key programme staff members – each of whom have clear gender mandates at regional and national level. These experts include: the programme's regional ESS and M&E advisors, as well as three national ESS advisors (one per country). GIZ's existing national gender focal points will also be drawn on, as and when required. Specifically, the regional ESS advisor will oversee the GAP's planning, delivery and reporting on all indicators (working closely with the M&E advisor to ensure consistency in data collection and reporting approaches); the regional ESS advisor will also serve as lead technical specialist responsible for many of the GAP activities – assigning delivery of tasks to the national ESS advisors when required, and drawing on GIZ's gender focal points when appropriate. This staffing structure ensures that the GAP has the necessary resources and presence across the region and within each country, so that each programme location can be consistently and readily serviced, with risks effectively managed and escalated appropriately.
- **Alignment with the programme's Theory of Change.** Given the contribution of this GAP to the programme's broader Theory of Change (ToC), its Impact Statement, Components, and Actions directly link with those in the ToC. This ensures that all proposed actions clearly align with the programme's activities or sub-activities and are thus embedded within the workplan – as opposed to being considered "additional" or of peripheral importance.
- **Guiding Principles for inclusive trainings, workshops and capacity building efforts.** Toward ensuring that the needs of women are suitably catered for when delivering programme trainings, workshops and extension service support, GIZ and the programme's EEs will be guided by several key principles that underscore the needs highlighted by women during the stakeholder engagement process. These include:
 - Selecting a location that is convenient and safe.
 - Selecting a meeting time, day and duration that does not interfere with existing domestic or productive responsibilities.
 - When possible, exploring the option of providing childcare assistance or facilities at the location.
 - Catering for language preferences and literacy capabilities when designing invitations and content / materials.
 - Ensuring invitations explicitly mention the importance of women's attendance at trainings and other key interventions, in addition to their male counterparts or as representatives for their households.

4.2 GAP budget overview

The resource and budget allocations detailed in the GAP below (section 0) comprise the following elements:

Table 8: Gender and Inclusion Action Plan costing information

Budget line	Amount	Detail / justification
Programme staff with gender expertise, including the regional ESS advisor, regional M&E advisor, 3x national ESS/M&E advisors, and GIZ country-level gender focal points.	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists): 50% reg ESS 20% reg M&E 30% nat ESS/M&E	These values take into account the percentage of time that these various experts will dedicate to overseeing and / or undertaking actions outlined in the GAP.

	Additional dedicated ESS and gender focal points within EEs	
Gender and inclusion activities within the programme's broader training, capacity building and workshop activities.	10% of the overall training, capacity building and workshop budget will be designated for GAP actions	This line item represents the budget allocated to gender-related activities associated with training, capacity building and workshop activities across all components. It is additional to the Gender Staff costs listed above. It sits within the master budget.
Executing entity resourcing and budgetary responsibilities		The GAP also includes several actions that fall under the responsibility of the EEs. Grant agreements will provide for dedicated Gender & ESS staff and will allocate 10% of the budget for capacity-building activities, training sessions & workshops to the implementation of the GAP across programme activities.

Source: Own elaboration

4.3 Gender and Inclusion Action Plan

Table 9: Gender and Inclusion Action Plan (Impact-level)

GAP Impact Statement: Enhanced capacity of women and youth to respond to the impacts of climate change in agriculture, forestry and land use sectors (AFOLU) through inclusive access to financing, training and technologies, targeted empowerment and awareness-raising, and enabling conditions that promote the involvement of women and youth in AFOLU practices.				
Core outcome indicator	Target (direct)	Target (indirect)	Timeframe	Assumptions and notes
Female beneficiaries with improved access to livelihoods, food security and land-use based economic opportunities.	KG: 143,055 TJ: 215,184 UZ: 169,676	KG: 217,342 TJ: 169,018 UZ: 358,156	End of programme (Y7)	This indicator represents the expected number of females that will benefit from the programme, by enabling household access to climate-resilient and low-emission land use practices, corresponding with ARA1 Core 2 Indicator. The calculations are based on the number of hectares per land-use type, the average farm size and the expected adoption rate to estimate the number of land users. These figures are then disaggregated by sex using the established country-specific sex ratio. This differs from the Component level indicators below, which focus on indicators and targets for key sub-groups in the land use systems, such as female smallholders, female leaders, and women- and youth- led cooperatives.
Change in the quality of women's meaningful participation and influence over decisions concerning the selection, financing, implementation, and management of CRLE practices and technologies within the programme-supported entities and among final beneficiaries.	At least 60% of participating women achieve a score of 2 or higher, and at least 30% achieve a score of 3	N/A	End of programme (Y7)	Women retain access to inclusive decision-making spaces, information, finance and technical knowledge, and are able to participate without significant social, care-related, mobility or safety constraints. The indicator measures women's actual influence rather than attendance alone, using a four-point scale, i.e., 0 = no participation; 1 = consultation; 2 = shared decision-making; and 3 = leadership and sustained influence. Assessment will cover access to information, ability to express views and raise concerns safely, influence over CRLE-related decisions, and control over related resources, e.g., equipment. Results will be measured at baseline and annually through the APRs, triangulated through confidential interviews, focus groups and decision records where feasible, and disaggregated by country.

Source: Own elaboration

Activity-level Gender and Inclusion Action Plan

Structured in line with the programme's three primary components, with a focus specifically on gender-responsive and socially inclusive measures.

Table 10: Gender and Inclusion Action Plan (Activity-level)

ID	Programme activity / sub-activity ⁵	Action / measure	Indicator	Base-line	Target	Time-frame	Budget allocation / resourcing requirement ⁶	Responsible entity(ies)
Component 1: Gender-responsive principles and approaches embedded within national and subnational climate planning, investment and financing platforms.								
1	Cross-cutting (relevant, as	Ensure meaningful female participation in programme workshops and trainings.	% of participants that are female	0	30%	Y: 1-7	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards,	EE: GIZ, ARIS,

⁵ Where more than one activity / sub-activity is listed, an explanation of the link between the sub-activities is indicated

⁶ Please refer to Table 8 for further details on GAP costing across programme activities.

	appropriate, to all components)						Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Additional costs are included in each Grant Agreement's budget	MoWRAP, CIIP, NCECC
2		Oversight of all workshop and training content provided by dedicated programme ESS Expert.	% of trainings and workshops with ESS oversight	0	100%	Y: 1-7	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR	EE: GIZ
3		Integrate accessible SEAH prevention and reporting information into community outreach, beneficiary orientation, training and workshop processes.	Percentage of relevant activities providing SEAH and GRM information in locally appropriate formats.	0	100%	Y: 1-7	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Additional costs are included in each Grant Agreement's budget	EE: GIZ, ARIS, MoWRAP, CIIP, NCECC
4		Periodically consult women and other potentially exposed groups on whether programme participation, travel, training, field contact and reporting arrangements are safe and accessible, without asking participants to disclose personal experiences of SEAH.	Number of confidential safety and accessibility reviews undertaken.	0	At least 1 per country annually	Y: 1-7	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Additional costs are included in each Grant Agreement's budget	EE: GIZ, ARIS, MoWRAP, CIIP, NCECC

5	Cross-cutting (relevant, as appropriate, to all components)	Gender base violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) complaints are processed in the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) in a gender and culturally sensitive way, thereby ensuring anonymity of protection of complainants and survivors.	Percentage of GBV and SEAH incidents reported and addressed.	0	100% of SEAH and GBV incidents reported through the GRM are addressed appropriately.	Y: 1-7	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Additional costs are included in each Grant Agreement's budget	EE: GIZ, ARIS, MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC
6	1.1.1.5	Include AFOLU Ministry -based gender/socio-economic focal points to participate in climate-informed planning capacity development activities.	% of trainings on climate-informed planning that include representation from gender/socio-economic focal points	0	50%	Y: 1-3	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR	EE: GIZ
7	1.1.1.6	Include a module on mainstreaming gender-responsiveness into climate-informed planning, as a core topical issue covered by training centres.	Training module developed.	0	1 module developed (and adapted as appropriate per country)	Y: 1-3	Local consultancy 8,367.03 EUR (Included in activity budget for 1.1.1)	EE: GIZ
8	1.1.2	Ensure representation of either i) gender focal point from relevant AFOLU Ministry; or ii) relevant sectoral ministry with a mandate on gender or women's affairs in intersectoral coordination platforms for the AFOLU sector.	Appropriate gender- mandated representative appointed for all national coordination platforms and technical task forces (TTF).	0	1 representative per relevant body at national levels	Y: 1-3	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR	EE: GIZ
9	1.3.1.1	Develop mandatory module on inclusive climate finance and gender-responsive financing mechanisms for training materials tailored to public and private sector FIs. This will include negotiation and asset-control modules to equip women with the skills to independently manage business profits.	% of FI trainings carried out that include gender specific content.	0	100%	Y: 2	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy	EE: GIZ

							22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation)	
10	1.3.1.1	Identify and analyse best practice approaches on inclusive climate finance models relevant for the AFOLU sector that are currently being adopted by banks and programmes in each country.	Financial schemes and instruments mapped per country	to be determined 0	1 financial mapping per country	Y: 2	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation)	EE: GIZ
11	1.3.1.2	Identify and capacitate dedicated Women's Affairs Bank Managers / Loan Officers within selected domestic financial institutions (FIs) (noting that if such a position does not already exist within the FI, an existing staff member could be trained) as appropriate for any of the three relevant sub-activities.	# of capacitated staff members with designated Women's Affairs responsibilities .	0	1 per FI	Y:2-7	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation)	EE: GIZ
12	1.3.2.2	Support increased access to, or establishment of, affordable finance mechanisms for women and youth	Technical assistance provided to domestic FIs to identify, scale-up or replicate successful finance products for women and youth	0	100% of selected FIs	Y: 3-6	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Int. consultancy 10,800 EUR (Included in activity budget for 1.3.2) Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation)	EE: GIZ

Component 2: Women and youth's increased involvement in, and adoption of, adaptive land use planning, practices and technologies.

13	2.1.1.2	Involve women in validation process of target municipalities.	% of female representation in district supervisory council	0	40 %	Y: 1	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation) Additional costs are included in each Grant Agreement's budget	EE: ARIS, CIIP, NCECC
14	2.1.2.1 2.1.2.2 2.2.1.3 2.2.2.3	Develop gender-sensitive climate assessments, AFOLU action plans, land-use management plans and investments with identified gender-responsive actions incorporated.	% of gender-sensitive and -responsive climate assessments, AFOLU action plans, land-use management plans and investments	0	100%	Y: 2	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Int. consultancy: 28,800 EUR (Included in activity budget for 2.12 & 2.2.1) Additional costs are included in each Grant Agreement's budget	EE: ARIS, MoWRAP, CIIP, NCECC
		Include oblast/district-level gender focal points in decision-making platforms for AFOLU adaptation planning processes.	Gender focal point representation in decision-making forums.	0	1 GFP per oblast/district-level decision-making platform.	Y: 2	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR	EE: ARIS, MoWRAP, CIIP, NCECC

							Additional costs are included in each Grant Agreement's budget	
15	2.2.1.1 2.2.2.1	Mainstream gender-specific content into training materials.	Gender-specific training content developed.	0	Content mainstreamed within timeframe.	Y: 2	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Int. consultancy: 19,800 EUR (Included in activity budget for 2.2.1) Budget Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation) Additional costs are included in each Grant Agreement's budget	EE: ARIS, MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC
16	2.2.1.5 2.2.2.4 2.3.1.3 2.3.1.5	Include gender and youth - relevant content in TA training and extension support activities.	% of TA training and extension support that incorporates women and youth relevant content into training agendas / approaches.	0	100%	Y: 2-7	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation) Additional costs are included in each Grant Agreement's budget	EE: ARIS, MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC

17	2.2 2.3	Promote inclusive land-use decision-making, equitable land tenure policies, and other relevant topics into planning, training and TA - in forest, pasture and agriculture systems – aimed at sensitizing male participants on these issues.	% of planning, training and TA support that include content on equitable land-use, tenure and other relevant topics on gender equality within the context of land use.	0	100%	Y: 2-7	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation) Additional costs are included in each Grant Agreement's budget	EE: ARIS, MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC
18	2.3.1.6 2.3.3.1	Provide targeted business development and investment-readiness support to identified women and youth-led smallholders, producer groups, cooperatives, and MSMEs in the pre-selected value chains – where they exist and have been identified through programme activity 2.3.1.5.	% of farms or farming enterprises receiving support under activity 2.3.3.1 that are women or youth-led or comprise majority women and youth.	0	20%	Y: 2-7	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation) Local consultancy: 9,600 EUR (Included in activity budget for 2.3.1) Additional costs are included in each Grant Agreement's budget	EE: MoWRAPI, CIIP, NCECC
19	2.3.2.1	Ensure the design, replication and scaling of No-Till Adoption Accelerators in KG includes gender-responsive measures – drawing on GIZ's learnings from existing funds of this nature.	Gender-responsive design measures considered when replicating and scaling No-Till Adoption Accelerators in KG.	0	Gender-responsive measure included in all new / scaled No-Till Adoption Accelerators.	Y: 2	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR	EE: GIZ

							Local Consultancy 7.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation)	
							Local consultancy: 96,000 EUR (included in activity budget for 2.3.2)	
20	2.3.2.1	Contract an agricultural advisory service with stakeholder engagement expertise to support women in Conservation Agriculture Teams and women farmers.	Stakeholder engagement expertise included for appointing a local agricultural advisory service.	0	Indicator achieved within timeframe.	Y: 2	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR	EE: GIZ
Component 3: Effective regional knowledge sharing on gender-responsive and inclusive land-use planning, financing and management practices.								
21	3.1.1.5	Ensure female ⁷ representatives from target organisations are invited to, and encouraged to attend, foresight capacity trainings.	Male: female attendance ratio for all trainings on this topic	0	70:30	Y: 3-4	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation)	EE: GIZ
22	3.1.2.1	Ensure female and youth are invited to, and encouraged to attend, scenario planning sessions.	Male: female/youth attendance ratio for all trainings on this topic	0	70:30	Y: 2-3	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy	EE: GIZ

⁷ Youth are already targeted through a separate programme activity: 3.1.1.6

							22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation)	
23	3.2.1.1	Ensure female representatives from target organisations are invited to, and encouraged to attend, knowledge and exchange events.	Male: female attendance ratio for knowledge and exchange events	0	70:30	Y: 2-6	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation)	EE: GIZ
24	3.2.1.1	Incorporate content on the role of women and youth in climate informed planning and implementation in the AFOLU sector within knowledge and exchange events.	# of regional knowledge / exchange events that include topical focus on the intersection of gender, climate and AFOLU.	0	Gender and youth topics are part of all exchange events	Y: 2-6	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation)	EE: GIZ
25	3.3.1	Ensure oversight and input from the programme's ESS and / or GEM Experts during the platform's design and institutional capacity building.	ESS and / or GEM Expert support platform's design and establishment.	0	Indicator achieved within timeframe.	Y: 2	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation)	EE: GIZ

26	3.3.2.2	Ensure female and youth representatives from relevant entities are invited to, encouraged to attend / access, information campaigns on the development and implementation of climate adaptation plans.	Male: female ratio of participants for this TA support	0	70:30 as minimum	Y: 3-4	GIZ staff (regional and national Safeguards, Gender, and M&E specialists) 355,676.68 EUR Local Consultancy 22.500 EUR (Cross-cutting for GAP implementation)	EE: GIZ
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Source: Own elaboration

5. Programme application

This chapter sets out how environmental, social, and gender considerations are applied at the programme-level, in line with the ESIA findings and mitigation framework. It outlines the overarching principles that guide risk management and inclusive implementation across all programme components and countries. These principles provide a consistent programme-wide framework, while allowing implementation to remain responsive to context-specific risks and modalities identified through the ESIA.

The chapter complements, but does not duplicate, the programme-level Gender Assessment, Gender and Inclusion Action Plan and the mitigation measures set out in the ESIA and associated instruments. Specific measures and actions are further articulated at the component and activity level, including through the GAP and ESIA-based mitigation measures.

5.1 Gender integration approach

The programme applies a gender-responsive approach across all components, grounded in the findings of the ESIA and aligned with GIZ's institutional commitments on gender equality and inclusion. The approach recognises that gender relations shape access to resources, livelihoods, decision-making, and resilience within AFOLU systems, and that climate change risks may exacerbate existing inequalities if not actively addressed.

At the programme level, gender integration is guided by the following interlinked principles:

- **Reaching women and men equitably** by ensuring that programme processes, consultations, and interventions are accessible and inclusive, and do not reinforce existing barriers to participation or benefit sharing. Particular attention is given to women, youth, and other groups who may face structural constraints in accessing land, finance, services, and decision-making spaces within the programme's target landscapes.
- **Delivering gender-responsive benefits** by designing and implementing interventions that respond to differentiated needs, roles, and priorities identified through the ESIA and Gender Assessment. This includes actively mitigating risks of unequal benefit distribution, adverse labour outcomes, and social exclusion, while supporting equitable access to adaptation and mitigation benefits.
- **Strengthening voice, agency, and institutional inclusion** by supporting participatory and inclusive processes relevant to climate-resilient land use, natural resource management, and livelihoods, in line with context-specific conditions and assessed risks. Where feasible, the programme seeks to contribute to more transformative outcomes by addressing underlying constraints and power imbalances that affect women's participation and influence.

Taken together, these principles support inclusive programme outcomes and contribute to sustainable, climate-resilient development pathways, while remaining proportionate to the risks and operating contexts identified in the ESIA.

5.2 Grievance mechanism, Safeguarding Tools and stakeholder engagement

5.2.1 Grievance Mechanism

Stakeholder engagement under the programme is designed to proactively identify and address concerns before they escalate into formal grievances. Nevertheless, where grievances arise, they will be addressed in a consistent, transparent, and verifiable manner as part of programme implementation.

In line with the ESIA, a programme-specific Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be established to receive and facilitate resolution of stakeholders' concerns, complaints, and grievances related to programme activities. The GRM will be accessible, culturally appropriate, and responsive to the needs of different stakeholder groups, including women and other potentially vulnerable or marginalised groups, and will operate without cost or risk of retribution. The gender sensitive and survivor centred GRM will remove barriers that disproportionately affect women, include clear confidentiality protocols, consider language, literacy, mobility constraints, include several safe referral pathways, include trained gender grievance handlers, be time bound, and with an appropriate feedback mechanism into existing risk assessment processes, and management plans.

The GRM will be integrated into GIZ's broader safeguards, compliance, and integrity systems and will cover grievances related to, inter alia, labour and working conditions, access to benefits, stakeholder engagement processes, and safeguarding concerns, including SEAH. Oversight mechanisms will ensure that grievances are documented, addressed in a timely manner, and used to inform adaptive management where relevant.

5.2.2 Safeguarding Approach

Safeguarding is a core element of programme implementation and is applied through GIZ's Safeguards and Gender Management System and the mitigation measures identified in the ESIA. This integrated system addresses environmental, social, human-rights, and gender-related risks within a single framework and is applied at all stages of programme delivery.

The programme recognises that activities involving community engagement, labour-intensive measures, and work with vulnerable populations may give rise to safeguarding risks if not appropriately managed. Safeguarding measures, therefore, focus on prevention, risk identification, and effective response, and are embedded within programme governance, implementation arrangements, and contractual obligations.

Roles, responsibilities, and reporting lines for safeguarding are clearly defined, ensuring that concerns can be raised and addressed promptly throughout programme implementation.

5.2.3 SEAH Risk Management

The programme recognises that sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) represent a critical risk in the contexts in which it operates, particularly where activities involve labour-intensive measures, community engagement, and interaction with potentially vulnerable populations. These risks are identified and assessed in the ESIA and are addressed through the programme's safeguarding and risk-management approach.

In response, the programme adopts a do-no-harm and survivor-centred approach to the prevention, identification, and management of SEAH risks, implemented through GIZ's Safeguards and Gender Management System. This approach places emphasis on prevention, accountability, and safe access to reporting and response mechanisms throughout programme implementation. SEAH risk management measures apply to all programme-related interactions, including those involving implementing partners, contractors, and programme personnel.

SEAH risk management is operationalised through the following elements:

- **Preventive measures**, including the application of codes of conduct, awareness-raising among implementing partners and personnel, and the integration of SEAH considerations into programme planning, labour arrangements, and stakeholder engagement processes.
- **Risk-informed implementation**, ensuring that activities are designed and delivered in a manner that minimises exposure to SEAH risks identified in the ESIA, including risks linked to power imbalances, working conditions, and interactions between programme actors and beneficiaries.
- **Safe reporting and response mechanisms**, supported through the programme-specific Grievance Redress Mechanism, which enables confidential and gender-responsive reporting of SEAH-related concerns and facilitates appropriate survivor-centred response pathways.

SEAH risks, along with the effectiveness of mitigation measures, are monitored as part of the programme's broader safeguards oversight and adaptive management processes to ensure that emerging risks are identified and addressed in a timely and proportionate manner.

5.2.4 Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders are individuals or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by programme activities, as well as those who may influence programme outcomes. Effective stakeholder engagement is central to managing environmental and social risks and to supporting inclusive and sustainable programme implementation.

In line with the ESIA, stakeholder engagement will be guided by a Stakeholder Engagement Plan that is proportionate to programme risks and tailored to the characteristics of affected communities and stakeholder groups. Engagement processes will be inclusive and gender-responsive, enabling the meaningful participation of women and men across different contexts and scales, including national, sub-national, and community levels.

Stakeholder views and feedback will be documented and considered throughout programme implementation and will inform safeguards monitoring, grievance handling, and adaptive management, contributing to transparency, accountability, and programme effectiveness.

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7. List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Workshop activity sheets – gender domains

Domain	Question prompts
Practices and participation	Do differences in domestic, productive and reproductive responsibilities influence the roles played by women and men in land-use practices? Are certain land-use practices / crop types predominantly male or female dominated? Why? Has male migration to urban centers impacted roles in the sector? How? Are there differences in the agricultural knowledge-base within families, and does this affect what work women and men take on in agricultural contexts? If/what value (financial, respect, hierarchy) is placed on these different roles? Does this result in significant gender pay gaps in the agricultural sector? Does women's often unpaid or underpaid labour diminish society's acknowledgement of their contributions in both field and farmhouse tasks? Do women-led agricultural enterprises exist? Provide examples of how they operate. If, and in what capacity, do women and youth participate in leadership and policy processes in the land use sector?

Domain	Question prompts
Knowledge, beliefs, and social norms <i>and</i> Legal and customary rights and status	Do cultural norms and traditional beliefs dictate access to social, economic, educational and capacity development opportunities? Do these systems affect land-use practices, land ownership and inheritance? Do any exclusionary laws or policies still exist that impede women's ability to access land, inheritance of assets, to open a bank account, etc.? Have there been noticeable shifts in recent years, through more progressive laws and programmes that have empowered women's participation in agricultural, educational and financial sectors? Provide examples.

Domain	Question prompts
Power, decision-making and access to assets and financial resources	In the district, what is the estimated split of productive land ownership (male vs female managed farms, and those managed / owned in a cooperative manner)? If and how does farm size differ between female- and male- managed farms? Are there other notable differences between female and male managed farms (productivity, crops grown, technology utilised, pricing / market value of outputs, etc.) Are there gendered differences in decision-making power and ownership of productive assets in the agricultural sector? Who takes decisions on practices, processing and sale of outputs, purchasing of equipment, pricing and sale of goods vs utilisation for domestic purposes etc. How do households manage income (who earns, who controls finances, what is money predominantly utilised for, are formal or informal savings / loan / banking institutions utilised)? What formal and informal financial institutions and financing mechanisms exist in the district that can, or could, be accessed by women and youth entrepreneurs and farmers to receive financial advice, set up savings schemes, secure loans and access insurance.

Appendix 2: Stakeholder engagement summary findings table

Country, districts & participants	Primary roles and responsibilities of women and youth in land-use activities	Climate and environmental impacts on women	Challenges and considerations that affect women and youth's participation in land-use activities	Potential programme support
Tajikistan Devashtich and Qabodiyon Districts 100 women and 129 men across two multipurpose workshops, and multiple FGDs and KIIs	Women play a significant yet largely informal role in land use and agricultural practices in the districts. Female managed farms in both districts ranges from 5-7% of all farms, and cooperatives that include women are still led by males. Their responsibilities broadly include land preparation, crop cultivation, pest control, harvesting, livestock care, natural resource management (including water collection and use), and marketing. However, these roles are context specific based on the local land-use practices and migration patterns of men and youth. In <u>Devashtich</u>, women are strongly engaged in orchard maintenance, kitchen gardening, small-scale horticulture, soil preparation, post-harvest processing, livestock rearing, and local market sales. In <u>Qabodiyon</u>, women contribute significantly to irrigated crop production (planting, weeding, harvesting), particularly in vegetable cultivation, and seasonal agricultural labour. Women's work in the district is almost always unpaid on family farms, meaning their contributions to household economy is invisible. In many households, especially where men migrate seasonally for employment, women assume expanded responsibilities for farm operations and	<u>Devashtich</u>: irregular precipitation and reduced availability of irrigation water negatively affect orchard productivity, potatoes crops and soil moisture retention. <u>Qabodiyon</u>: inefficient irrigation infrastructure, rising soil salinity in some areas, and increasing summer temperatures are key issues that reduce crop yields. These impacts increase women's workload, particularly when water must be transported manually (women are primarily responsible for household water management) or when crop failures require additional coping strategies.	Limited access to agricultural extension services and technical information. Insufficient knowledge of climate-resilient and sustainable land use practices. Restricted participation in decision-making processes, for example they are underrepresented in land use planning and Water User Associations. This is due to social norms, lack of confidence and workload barriers. Limited access to financial services and credit due to lack of collateral, high interest rates, "permission from the husband or father" as an unwritten rule. State grants and international programmes provide some support but are insufficient for purchasing modern technologies. Land ownership constraints, as land certificates are typically registered in men's names. Customary practices strongly favour sons, who typically inherit land (despite formal laws which protect women's inheritance and land rights). Heavy domestic responsibilities limiting time and mobility (climate change is exacerbating these burdens) Additional labour demands on women and youth during peak agricultural seasons, leading to: Increased physical workload for women Reduced time for children's education Health impacts for women and youth	There is a clear need for the programme to deliver gender-sensitive, youth-inclusive, and climate-resilient interventions, such as: Practical, village-level training on sustainable land management and climate-smart agriculture – offered at times and locations that are suitable for women (i.e. compatible with the timing of their domestic responsibilities, with minimal travel requirements and/or transport support). This means scheduling programme activities in ways that do not increase labour burdens on vulnerable groups. Access to affordable financial mechanisms such as small grants, No-Till Adoption Accelerators, or savings groups. Improved access to irrigation technologies, quality seeds, and agricultural inputs for women and youth. Awareness-raising among male community members to promote inclusive decision-making, coupled with capacity development support for women to empower and encourage them to participate in land and water management discussions. Strengthened implementation of land and gender policies at local levels through community

	household food security, meaning women are performing both traditionally male and female roles. They also manage household finances. Male youths also assume heavy workload responsibilities such as market transactions and water distribution. While women actively contribute to land-use practices, their participation in formal decision-making bodies – such as Water User Associations and local land committees – remains limited. Social norms, limited confidence, and lack of targeted invitations to meetings reduce women's representation in planning processes related to irrigation scheduling, pasture management, and land allocation. Youth are increasingly supporting agricultural marketing through social media platforms, assisting in identifying new market opportunities, and helping families access agricultural information online. However, youth migration remains high, limiting local labour availability. Youth participation in the consultations was lower and less vocal, suggesting the need for additional engagement strategies.		"Triple burden" for women: household, childcare and fieldwork responsibilities.	and local government engagement. Appointment of at least one female facilitator or contact person per district to manage sensitive matters relating to programme activities. This must be coupled with clear codes of conduct for the programme and a confidential complaints mechanism. Youth engagement on the programme must include programme orientation, demonstrations, and inclusive opportunities to participate. (exposure and upskilling?) Strengthen cooperatives and producer groups (supporting establishment of women and youth led enterprises) for better risk management and market access.
Uzbekistan Yangi Kurgan and Besharik Districts 14 women and 71 men across two multipurpose workshops. 29 women from two women-only FGDs, and one	In both districts, male migration has intensified domestic and productive responsibilities of women, where they are increasingly managing larger-scale agricultural tasks independently. In Besharik, women handle "practical" field	Drought, water scarcity (incl. from transboundary water sources, required for irrigation) and decreasing snowfall are the primary environmental challenges impacting local livelihoods. Secondary crops dry up and groundwater	Whilst significant progress has been made in advancing women and girls' empowerment, through for e.g. education incentives (Decree 585) several barriers still persist: Women remain less involved in land tenure decisions; men handle	Create job opportunities for youth and labour formalization for women and youths work. Support scale up / replication of existing women-led enterprises (explore how women can be empowered within

woman-in-leadership KII.	labour (planting, fertilizer application etc.) and subsistence garden plots (women have less land available than men for commercial farming); Men manage "theoretical" (land management / planning) tasks, and operate machinery used for initial planting, hoeing/tilling and harvesting. In <u>Yangikurgan</u>, women are responsible for the bulk of field labour, livestock management, and household subsistence activities. Women are central to the horticultural value chain beyond field work; they are involved in sorting and packing. Youth are being encouraged to participate in land use activities through various government incentives and benefits regarding the allocation of land. In Yangikurgan, young people are actively involved in supporting family enterprises, specifically by driving business development through online marketing, digital sales, and managing supply chain logistics.	levels drop, disproportionately affecting the home courtyards managed by women. High velocity, abnormal winds that damage orchards.	land affairs, they negotiate with other men, and it is seen as the responsibility of the head of the family. Production and sales decisions are typically taken by male family members. Loan agreements are tied to proof of formal employment which typically sits with male family members. Women in informal roles are unable to take out such loans. However, women are increasingly having access to preferential and interest-free loans for agricultural participation. Women's domestic responsibilities limit time available to participate in agricultural activities. Women's labour generally remains informal and daily-wage based.	family-owned enterprises, as these are a common set-up?) Awareness raising, meetings and trainings facilitated in women-only formats, close to residential areas Sensitive grievances to be handled by trusted female representative from the local Mahalla Technical capacity development support to female farmers to bridge the knowledge gap between women and men (including in areas of production, sales etc.) Expand successful financial schemes launched by Xalq Bank and Agrobank (preferential loan terms for women; dedicated Women's Affairs Bank Managers etc.).
Kyrgyz Republic Bazar-kurgan and Kara-Suu Districts 18 women across two women-only FGDs (5 in Kara-Suu and 13 in Bazar-Kurgan), plus gender analysis sessions without recorded participant numbers.	Women in both districts contribute substantially to agriculture, but within deeply traditional gender norms. Their roles include: Household labour, childcare, and small-scale agricultural production, including household yards and livestock care. Product processing and supporting seasonal agricultural tasks when needed. In some contexts, women assume temporary farm management responsibilities when	Mechanisation has reduced the need for female manual labour in crops like cotton and maize, altering women's traditional roles but not necessarily reducing their overall workload. Reduced availability of natural resources on summer pastures (e.g., fewer wild herbs) affects children's seasonal activities and suggests gradual ecological degradation experienced by households. Families' reliance on women's and children's labour intensifies	Women in both districts face significant structural and socio-cultural constraints: Deep-rooted patriarchal norms prevent women from attending meetings, speaking publicly, managing transport, or participating in decision-making. Male-dominated authority structures, including influential elders, can restrict women's mobility, participation in trainings, and access to resources.	Consultation findings point to the need for strong, culturally sensitive approaches, including: Gender-sensitive consultation processes, including separate women-only spaces and trusted local intermediaries. Equal access to training and financial resources, with tailored support for women (loans, grants, targeted outreach). Logistical support such as travel allowances, safe

	men migrate for labour. In Kara-Suu, women's participation is highly constrained by social norms. Women do not speak in front of men, do not attend field activities, and cannot organise transport, limiting their direct involvement in land-use activities. In Bazar-Kurgan, women are actively involved and describe themselves as central to agricultural labour, yet patriarchal norms still influence their ability to participate fully. Youth participate mainly in seasonal agricultural labour, especially during cotton harvests when families depend on children's support. Those without collateral often rely on parents' property to access credit, while outmigration in Kara-Suu leaves some youth more vulnerable and contributes to family instability.	during climate-sensitive peak seasons such as cotton harvests. In Kara-Suu, women face severe water scarcity and periods of extreme heat, which reduce yields (potatoes, corn) and limit women's ability to work outdoors.	Rising religious conservatism in Kara-Suu is narrowing women's public and economic role. Childcare burdens reduce women's availability for training or paid work. Limited access to land ownership, machinery, and larger plots, with men typically controlling decisions related to land use. Low access to finance, due to lack of collateral and limited awareness of available financial instruments. Restriction from training due to norms requiring husband or mother-in-law permission. Jealousy and social risks related to interacting with project staff, potentially resulting in family conflict. Lack of trust in external activities, some preferring not to attend meetings at all. Youth migration reduces local labour availability and increases women's agricultural workload.	transport, and dormitories for multi-day trainings. Building women's confidence and leadership, including support for women-led cooperatives and gender schools. Mechanisms for confidential reporting tailored to existing trust networks (neighbours, sisters, peers). Ensuring non-discriminatory hiring and programme practices, with women represented in committees and programme structures. Partnering with Women's Councils and OPSZ to facilitate mobilisation, complaint handling, and support for vulnerable women.
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