

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

GLOBAL
PROGRAMMING
CONFERENCE

Project title

Carbon Sequestration through Climate Investment in Forests and Rangelands in Kyrgyz Republic (CS-FOR)

Result areas

Forestry and Land Use/ Most Vulnerable people and communities

Sector

Public

Total financing, USD

USD 49,990,000

GCF financing, USD

USD 29,988,520

Financial instrument

Grant

Description of specific climate change problem and how the project will address it

The Kyrgyz Republic's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) under the Paris Agreement commits the country to reducing, by 2050, its greenhouse gas emissions by 35 – 37 percent through international assistance. By investing in rangeland and forestry management, strengthening national and local institutions, introducing market-driven incentives and local planning processes, the project will lead to the sequestration of 19.8 million tCO₂eq in 20 years. These reductions represent 7.6 percent of the country's total emissions, and 22.6 percent of the agricultural share of emissions.

The project will achieve these sequestration results through: supporting government's on-going efforts to harmonize relevant policies and legal frameworks, and strengthen its planning, monitoring and evaluation systems (Component 1); introducing a process of local integrated rangeland and forestry resource planning built around forest, rangeland and livestock management practices that sequester carbon, are responsive to observed changes in the climate and enable the diversification of household income earning activities (Component 2); facilitating market opportunities that provide the financial incentives, funded by the Russian Kyrgyz Development Fund (RKDF), for resource users to adopt and maintain management practices that sequester and preserve stored carbon. The targeted project areas were selected due to their high level of exposure and sensitivity to climate change stressors, mitigation potential, human poverty and dependency on natural resources.

Alignment with key country priorities and stakeholders engaged

To cope with the described scenario without compromising its economic and social development objectives, the Country has developed a series of policy frameworks that find their ultimate goal in their Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) where mitigation and adaptation targets are reported and described and from where a cross cutting approach is derivable to ensure maximization of climate investments. Particularly, National climate change strategies and action plans have been developed for various sectors including emergency situations, biodiversity and forestry, and agriculture and water management. The "Priority Directions for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Kyrgyz Republic until 2017" was approved by the Government Decree No. 549 of 2 October 2013. These Priority Directions recognize and address the importance of developing adaptation strategies for the Kyrgyz Republic; its main goal is to establish the national resource mobilization policy to minimize the negative impacts for the sustainable development of the Kyrgyz Republic.

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Impact

- Reduced emissions from land use, reforestation, reduced deforestation, and through sustainable forest management and conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
- Increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities and regions
- Improved resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services

Expected outcomes

- Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems
- Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development
- Improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions
- Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks.

Paradigm shift potential

The major constraint to the increase of carbon sequestration and storage in forests and rangelands has been the expansion of pasture areas and use of traditional extensive grazing practices at the expense of protecting forest cover. These processes will likely continue in the absence of clear incentives for communities to preserve and expand forested areas and to limit and more intensively manage grazing lands. Moreover, the number of animals has been increasing. The project intends to break these trends by introducing and supporting an integrated, locally determined, ecosystem management approach for rangeland and forest resources linked to profitable markets. These measures will establish the preconditions for the maintenance and increase of forest cover and at the same time improve the ecological status of rangelands leading to greater carbon sequestration and storage, both in trees and pasture soils. By establishing linkages with market channels, the changes in management practices will benefit from and lead to more a diversified and profitable agriculture for beneficiaries in targeted areas.