



SGP National Program Strategy to Distribute Grant Resources within GEF 5

Country: REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
Resources to be invested: US\$2,400,000

The GEF Small Grants Program (GEF SGP) National Strategy is the main document that regulates the rules and procedures of SGP operation in Kazakhstan. The provisions as set forth in this document are based on the SGP global guidelines and the other strategic documents that regulate the Program's activities in all the member countries. At the same time, the National Strategy tailors the global program's general provisions to the current situation in Kazakhstan. In view of the changes taking place in the social-economic, environmental and public sectors of the country's development, this Strategy is intended for the period of the 5th GEF operational phase (2011-2014) and will be further revised to be brought in conformity with the situation as of the time of revision. The extent of the Strategy revision will depend upon the scale of changes within the country and those pertaining to SGP on a global level.

Summary of SGP Activities

The GEF/SGP is a global program that was established in 1992 at Rio de Janeiro Summit for Sustainable Development; nowadays it is active in more than 120 countries worldwide. Providing financial and technical support to the projects in the developing countries that conserve and restore the nature and in parallel improve the living standard and the quality of life of local people, SGP proves that in their activities local people may satisfy their needs without the damage to environment. The Program is funded by the Global Environment Facility and is administered by the United Nations Development Program on a country level.

The main SGP goal is to involve the representatives of not-for-profit and public organizations (NGO's) as well as the local communities (LC's) in addressing the global environmental problems in the field of biodiversity conservation, climate change, land degradation combat, protection of the trans-boundary water courses and reduction in the use of persistent organic pollutants. The SGP objectives are as follows: to demonstrate the successful examples of mitigating the environmental threats; to facilitate the dissemination of local skills, traditional knowledge and successful methods of environmental protection; to facilitate the partnership on the local level (between NGO's, local inhabitants, local authorities etc.) to address the environmental problems and the problems of sustainable development.

The main SGP strategic principles are as follows:

- Participation, democracy, flexibility and transparency; these are key notions in SGP activities.
- The main SGP requirements in respect of the projects proposed are: they need to be focused on achieving the global environmental benefit, match SGP criteria and thematic priorities.
- The projects presented to SGP for obtaining the grants need to have liaison with the national and local environmental priorities.
- One of the main SGP objectives is the enhancement and development of local opportunities, obtainment of the necessary knowledge and capacities by the local groups and communities in order to achieve the intended results through the own efforts.
- SGP is a co-financing program. Therefore the projects should primordially involve the other interested stakeholders committed to finance part of the project activities.

- SGP stimulates the implementation of the long-term projects between NGO's and LC's, NGO's and NGO's, NGO's and private companies that may involve the additional resources for the project implementation.
- At the end of the project financing the main SGP requirement is that the projects become sustainable (i.e. the projects need to follow up at the end of SGP financing).
- SGP collects a sort of archive of successful experiences; at the same time it does not exclude the negative lessons learned through the implementation of SGP projects.

The SGP financial support to the projects implemented is focused on providing the assistance to the economically disadvantaged local communities (LC) whose wellbeing directly depends upon the conditions and use of natural resources. At the same time, SGP works only with the registered entities that can assume legal and financial responsibility vis-à-vis SGP for the project implementation and the proper use of the grants obtained, have bank accounts and present the financial reports of spending the grant resources.

SGP is interested to work with the partners who:

- Have the programs that encourage the improvement of livelihoods of the local inhabitants;
- Have the capacity for the independent follow-up of the project at the end of cooperation with SGP;
- Develop the joint projects with local communities;
- Are reputable;
- Are capable to mobilize the additional financial resources;
- Are capable to perform monitoring and evaluation of their activities.

The partners for the joint project financing may be the governmental agencies, international organizations, businesses etc. While working with NGO's and local communities SGP emphasizes the project sustainability i.e. the opportunities of its further development at the end of SGP financing. The project sustainability in many instances depends upon the interest of the project stakeholders and local communities in the project follow-up and the joint control over its implementation.

1. SGP Country Program: Summary of Activities

1.1. In Kazakhstan SGP was launched in 1997. The main Program's focus groups are the environmental NGO's that are the non-profit non-governmental public organizations and the local initiative groups. From the outset, SGP has set the primary goal to support the local initiatives in various regions of the country focused on addressing the important environmental problems (within GEF focal areas) of global significance that in parallel make their positive contribution to improve the living conditions of people living within the project sites. From the period of 1997 to 2010 SGP has supported 268 projects for the total amount of GEF funding of nearly US\$5 million. The projects supported by SGP represent all the GEF focal areas: biodiversity conservation, mitigation of the climate change consequences, conservation of the trans-boundary water bodies, combating the land degradation and reduction of the use of persistent organic pollutants. Various types of projects have been implemented: demonstrational projects i.e. those focused on implementing the practical steps to address this or that problem (the majority of projects); the projects of rural communities (those focused on the involvement of local initiative groups in rural areas); capacity building projects; information campaigns; advocacy projects focused on the promotion of certain issues to the national level; planned grants designed for the assistance to NGO's and LC's in the project development. SGP is also a party to the Global Five-years' Community-Based Adaptation Program (CBA) within which a number of projects have been funded focused on the vulnerability reduction of local communities to the climate change as well as on the adaptation of the existing practices to the changes climate conditions.

The main SGP strategic approaches have been developed in 1997 and updated in 1999, 2003, 2005 and 2007 in connection with the changes that took place in the country both in terms of the environmental policy and the reforms in the field of social-economic development as well as in the GEF approaches and requirements that enabled to adapt the SGP program activities to the changing situation.

Taking into account the specific features of Kazakhstan, at the initial stages of SGP operation the following geographic priorities have been identified: Pre-Caspian Region, Pre-Aral Region and Tien Shang Mountain Area. At the same time public organizations from the other areas of Kazakhstan were allowed to make their proposals under the

strict condition that the project activities should meet the SGP thematic areas and criteria. At the initial step of the Program activities such geographic limitation was quite reasonable. By the year of 2003, however, the need to eliminate the geographic factor was obvious and there were two reasons for that. First, there were equal projects in terms of complexity and the relevance of environmental problems throughout the country that fell under SGP focal areas. Second, NGO's started showing a more active interest to addressing various environmental issues all over the country. The elimination of the geographic limits for the projects enabled to substantially expand not only the number of projects but also their range, to improve the quality of proposals submitted and more actively involve public organizations all over Kazakhstan in addressing the important environmental and social-economic issues. In 2007 the approach to SGP activities was revised again. At that stage a great significance was not only the support of certain isolated projects but the strategic planning and concentration of the Program's efforts on obtaining the overall tangible demonstrational effect and the impact within each focal area as well as on poverty alleviation enhancement of the local capacities. In the context of the new work strategy, the process of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation has been largely revised for both the project and program activities. SGP work was re-oriented to the obtainment of a more clearly defined impact within the focal areas. The projects were viewed in terms of their thematic and geographic concentration to gain a more visible result. Taking into account the objective restriction of SGP capabilities within the country, it was decided to limit the list of potential activities within the existing SGP focal areas and introduce certain local geographic limitations within certain focal areas (notably, in the area of biodiversity conservation). In addition, cooperation with the ongoing projects and programs implemented on both the national and regional levels was enhanced as well as with the networks of partnership organizations and experts in all the provinces of Kazakhstan. Such enhancement enabled to compensate for some limitations in SGP activities, attract the additional resources and successfully promote the approaches far and wide that are implemented within SGP projects as well as the experiences gained.

Tight cooperation of SGP with the projects and programs in the field of biodiversity conservation enabled to broadly demonstrate the methods and experiences of the sustainable use of biological diversity within SPA and buffer zones, improve the level of awareness of various parties in this focal area, build the enabling conditions for the broad involvement of local inhabitants (specifically those in rural areas) in the process of biodiversity conservation and development of the alternative livelihoods. In the projects dedicated to the climate change the joint initiatives contributed to more active promotion of the alternative energy sources such as solar water heaters, lighting and dryers, various wind energy facilities (specifically in rural areas), removal of barriers to enhancement of energy efficiency in the utility sector, development of local capacities, promotion of the new institutional and financial mechanisms to raise the investments in the activities focused on energy efficiency in the district heating, the use of energy efficient stoves, heat insulation of houses in rural areas etc. Close cooperation with the projects in the field of land degradation enabled to broadly disseminate the methods of sustainable land resources management not only on the local, national levels but also on the regional level; it also contributes to the enhancement of the capacities of rural communities and farmers of the sustainable pastoral resources management. The joint SGP activities with the national and regional projects enabled also to considerably broaden the range of potential proponents, involve the rural communities in the project implementation, provide the access of the population to the more efficient methods and approaches in addressing certain environmental and social-economic issues; to more efficiently perform the regular project monitoring that have finally enabled to strengthen the project activities and achieve the tangible successful results.

Based on the work results performed within the previous 14 years, it may be noted that SGP activities in Kazakhstan was based on the elaborate and consistently implemented efficient measures and approaches focused, on one hand, on the expansion of the Program's activities, provision of access for the rural population being the most vulnerable group to the grant resources, NGO capacity development, and, on the other hand, on quality improvement of the projects and arranging the work in a manner enabling to gain the tangible result and make an impact within the relevant focal area.

Taking into account all the previous experience accumulated by SGP in Kazakhstan as well as the role of the country program within the country's global aspect falling under IIc category i.e. the program with a sizable project portfolio (most of them are completed and have demonstrated their sustainability) within the main GEF focal areas, the main focus of activities within the next several year will be on the measures to replicate, expand and promote the most successful methods and approaches that have been previously tested by SGP; to establish and broadly disseminate the experiences and knowledge gained among various target groups both on the local and on the national and regional levels. The attention will also be paid to the support of efforts made by the partnership organizations and NGO networks in promoting SGP approaches (within GEF focal areas) to the national policy.

Despite the actions taken on the country level in the field of sustainable development and addressing the environmental issues as well as the positive changes achieved by virtue of the main governmental programs such as the Program of Environmental Protection for 2005-2007 and 2008-2010 and implementation of the first step of the Environmental Safety Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2004-2015 as well as the other programs, many problems are still relevant and require a set of measures focused on the improvement of both the environmental and social-economic situation, especially in the rural areas. According to the experts' estimations the economic growth of the Republic of Kazakhstan is still under way, mainly due to the expanded use of the natural resources associated with the loss and degradation of the country's natural wealth. Despite the considerable achievements in addressing the environmental and social-economic issues, the problems of unbalanced development are still typical of Kazakhstan, and the problem of restoration and conservation of natural systems remains to be the main objective. (Please refer to Zhasyl Damu Program for 2010-2014, Section 3).

Biodiversity

Kazakhstan's location in the middle of Eurasia and its vast territory determine the large diversity of its natural landscapes and rich diversity of flora (about 13000) and fauna (over 800 vertebrate species and 50000 invertebrate species). Many of them are endemics; many of them are on the verge of full extinction. The areas where the biological diversity conservation activities are currently under way contain 163,8 million ha of which the hunting lands make 113,4 million ha, the forest fund makes 27,8 million ha and specially protected areas make 22,6 million ha (less than 10% of the country's territory). About 125 animal species and 400 plant species are enlisted in the Red Record Book of Kazakhstan.

Despite the fact that in Kazakhstan the activities to improve the conditions of certain species and ecosystems are taken place on the part of both the government and international organizations, the general situation as it pertains to the biodiversity remains quite challenging. The reason for that is the steadily growing and enhancing human economic activities on the one hand and quite a limited SPA area (in spite of its considerable expansion by virtue of a number of large-scale projects) on the other. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the activities of SPA's need to be strengthened, in particular in terms of infrastructure development, elaboration and strengthening of the mechanisms to involve the local inhabitants in the process of sustainable biodiversity utilization, awareness raising of the SPA personnel of the methods of work with the local people, implementation of the new alternative practices to use biodiversity etc.)

At the same time, the sustainable functioning and expansion of SPA system is the most efficient measure to conserve the endemic, rare and endangered species, conserve the globally significant ecosystem as a whole. Therefore, a set of measures need to be undertaken in this area that would contribute to strengthening the management system of SPA's as the places of globally significant biodiversity accompanied by the involvement of the local inhabitants in the SPA management process.

Another important aspect is the issue of further expansion of SPA's and the so-called «areas of local communities where the activities of sustainable use of the biodiversity components are implemented».

The long-term SGP activities in the field of biodiversity conservation have enabled to attain a number of positive outcomes. Since the outset of activities in 1997, SGP has financed 34 full-sized projects in the field of biodiversity conservation for the total amount reaching 1 million USD including 19 projects on the sustainable use of biodiversity within the specially protected areas and buffer zones, 6 projects on biodiversity conservation within the productive landscapes and 9 projects focused on the collection, analysis and dissemination of the experiences gained within the focal area in question. The above-mentioned projects enabled to cover quite an immense territory containing the globally significant biodiversity and helped to make a contribution to the conservation of over 500 rare species; about 500 thousand ha are currently under protection and sustainable management.

Desertification and Land Degradation

The problem of land degradation and desertification is rather pressing for Kazakhstan. Deserts and semi-deserts account for 64% of the country's territory. The forest-steppe and steppe zones make 27,3 million ha, the dry steppe and semi-desert zone make 99,6 million ha and the desert zone contain 112,1 million ha. The process of desertification which includes degradation of the soil and vegetation cover is observed practically all over the country and tends to acceleration. Desertification is seen across the entire Kazakhstan. The major reasons of desertification are: farming activities; irrational use of water resources (primarily for irrigation); mining industry; forest fires; overgrazing etc. The expanded desertification has resulted in a considerable shrinkage of the share of agricultural lands. As a result of reduced bio-productivity of lands the areas under main crops have reduced. About 83.0 million ha have been put out of

service to the reserve fund, 10.2 million ha have been transferred to the forest fund, 16 million ha have been referred to the category of grazing lands associated with the populated settlements, up to 10 million of plough-lands have been transferred to fallow due to the low productivity. The reason for shrinkage of the irrigated lands is the deficit of water resources, aggravation of the reclamation conditions of irrigated lands, irrigation network malfunction, and irrational use of the land and water resources available. The process of natural restoration without amelioration will require at least 20-30 years. A set of measures need to be implemented to focus of the sustainable use of land resources, implementation of efficient measures that would prevent the degradation processes and contribute to the support and improvement of the living standard of local inhabitants who directly depend upon conditions of the surrounding landscapes.

Despite the active industry development Kazakhstan remains an agricultural country where up to 50% of population depend on land farming and livestock. Historically Kazakhstan is a cattle-farming country with the centuries-long traditions of grazing cattle farming. Due to the natural peculiarities, the optimal option of pastoral use is the rotation of seasonal grazing lands. The principle of seasonal pasture rotation was always maintained to a certain extent; both in pre-soviet and soviet times.

After de-collectivization and privatization that took place in the mid 1990th and after the financial crisis the economic standing of rural communities made seasonal migration impossible for most of the cattle breeders, whether cooperatives or private owners. The small owners started grazing cattle independently within the range of 5 km from their villages. The everyday grazing lasting from year to year within the period of 10 years has resulted in a dramatic biomass reduction at the pastures adjacent to the villages, changed to worse their species composition of plants and aggravated the quality of forage. Therefore, within the last decades a paradoxical situation have become obvious, where the considerably reduced stock all over the country (vs 1991) is not sufficiently supplied with the pastoral forage; at the same time a huge pastoral potential remains unused of those lands located at the large distances from the potential consumer. The scale of such problem has grown nationally. So, according to the statistics, by 2002 87% of all agricultural stock in the country was concentrated in the households. In addition to the economic challenges the situation involves a great environmental threat: the permissible limits of soil erosion were many times exceeded. The unprecedented load on the village pastures has resulted in the growing degradation processes in the pastures adjacent to the villages. Taking in account such a negative trend it may be projected that the stock of cattle will be unsustainable in the nearest future. As a matter of fact, cattle farming is the only source of income of the absolute majority of rural households. So, the problem that was merely a managerial one has grown to the most serious environmental and social problem. A set of measures needs to be undertaken focused on the improvement of the situation, reduction of further degradation processes of the pastoral ecosystems accompanied by the improvement of the living conditions of local inhabitants.

Since 2003 SGP has been dealing with the problems of pastoral ecosystems. For the time period mentioned, a lot of work has been accomplished: 36 demonstrational projects have been financed for the total amount of \$969,866 including 15 projects dedicated to implementing the system of sustainable pastoral management and seasonal pasture rotation; 16 projects focused on the establishment and strengthening the fodder base for cattle; 4 projects focused on the use of alternative power sources at the distant pastures (e.g. wind-driven water pumps, solar batteries); and 1 umbrella project focused on the selection of the traditional pastoral management practices in various natural zones and their adaptation to the present-day conditions, preparation of the methodology and recommendations for the rational use of pastures in various natural and climatic zones, development of the projects using various approaches to the rational pastoral management, the search and selection of local communities to be involved in the project activities. Owing to the projects accomplished over 50 thousand ha of pastoral lands are under sustainable management and about 1000 households have gained the actual benefits from the projects.

While on the subject of land degradation and the loss of soil fertility it needs to be noted that one of the reasons of said problem lies in the irrational agricultural practices, inefficient use of land and water resources, application of the out-of-date soil processing techniques, the use of monoculture practice, and the use of chemicals for soil processing and seeding etc. Furthermore, all the above issues affect the private subsidiary farming along with the large-scale farming businesses. To date, most of the small-scale and medium-sized farmers, rural businessmen and small households run their household farming or businesses in the following manner: the farmers making small profits often start actively using cheap chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides that contaminate soils and penetrate the ground and surface waters in an effort to enhance the crop productivity in order for making short-term money. They do not practically use

the available biological pest control or soil enrichment methods. Such alternative methods as production and use of compost or organic fertilizers are of no use.

The farmers do not widely use the principles of land and crop rotation as well as the principles of resting fields. The monoculture practice is widely used leading to land degradation, loss of yields and posing direct threats to food safety. In the event of harvestless year the entire area practicing monoculture is affected. The farms try to replenish the depleted lands by using excessive water (where geographically feasible) and chemical fertilizers.

Another serious problem is the inefficient use of water resources. Kyzylorda Oblast is one of the examples. In soviet times the area was the country's rice producing area. The channels made about 7000km in length in Kyzylorda Oblast. About 5000 water works have been constructed. The total area of rice fields made 120 thousand ha. Even now Kyzylorda Oblast covers 85% of the country's rice demand. Considering the fact that the area produces mainly hygrophilous rice varieties, irrigation of fields requires enormous amounts of water. Furthermore, water losses account for over 30% due to the poor technical conditions of the irrigation and drainage system. Inefficient use of water results in the aggravation of land conditions and expansion of degradation processes.

All the above-said issues require the urgent and efficient measures to be taken on the local level that would enable to efficiently use and apply the soil and water protection technologies, organic farming practices, transition to the new alternative crop varieties (less dependent of irrigation, more draught-resistant, early-maturing etc.)

The activities in said area have been launched by SGP a few years ago when the projects associated with the use of new soil protection techniques (zero and minimal soil processing), transition from monoculture to diversified methods etc. Have been supported. At the same time, the above-mentioned areas need to be followed up and expanded in order to gain a more visible consolidated outcome, involve a wide range of participants and master the efficiency of various approaches.

Climate Change: Among all the Central Asian countries Kazakhstan has the highest share of greenhouse gas emissions per capita and per GDP unit. The use of outdated energy-intensive technologies in the industrial production, generation of heat and electric power at the obsolete coal-burning co-generation plants are the main reasons for the high level of greenhouse gas emissions. The share of energy-based activities associated with fuel burning accounts for about 80% of total greenhouse gas emissions. Coal is the most commonly used and the cheapest fuel in Kazakhstan. Coal accounts for 60% in the fuel balance structure. The heat and electric power plants that use coal make up to 85% of total electricity generated in Kazakhstan, while hydropower plants account for only 10% of the power. At the same time, Kazakhstan has the huge potential of renewable energy (wind, water and solar power) that is nowadays of little use.

As a result of electricity market liberalization, the power supply to the local communities especially those living in the areas remote from the centralized integrated energy system is worsening. High transportation cost of electric power and fuel to the remote areas and low paying capacity of the rural inhabitants make the risk of non-supply of electric power for the remote settlements. The growing prices for fuel force the local inhabitants to use timber as a fuel for heating and cooking. It makes a great damage to the surrounding vegetation and aggravates the living conditions of the rural people.

Zhasyl Damu Program emphasizes the necessity of implementing the energy-saving technologies. The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan On Support of Using the Renewable Energy Sources was adopted on 4 July 2009 that is focused on the development of alternative energy sources. Kazakhstan has also adopted the Law on Amendments to Some Bylaws of the Republic of Kazakhstan Pertaining to the Support of Using the Renewable Energy Sources focused on further improvement of the national laws in order to expand the market of renewable energy sources. Such measures will enable to considerably reduce GHG emission sin future. At the same time the measures are focused on the large-scale generation of electric power from the alternative power sources for the general electric grid and do not address the problem of energy supply to the remote rural settlements. The issues of promoting the alternative types of energy to the local level, especially in rural areas, are tackled quite slowly. The reasons for that may be the absence of local affordable technologies; their maintenance; the lack of measures to stimulate the use of renewable energy sources; poor understanding of the local inhabitants of the advantages of using energy-saving technologies; the lack of experience and expertise etc. However, due to the general trend of escalation of prices for energy within the energy sector, the local communities and the local small businesses become more motivated to use the renewable power. The assistance is needed to support the use of renewable energy resources in the rural areas by implementing the demonstrational projects involving stimulation mechanisms of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources. In addition, there is a considerable reserve of capabilities to implement the technologies and approaches raising

energy efficiency and energy saving, especially in the rural areas where such problem may be addressed using cost-efficient and affordable technologies.

For the entire period of SGP activities in Kazakhstan 21 demonstrational projects have been financed for the total amount of almost 700 thousand USD of which 6 projects were focused on the energy efficiency and 15 projects – on the promotion of renewable energy sources. The projects accomplished have contributed to the reduction of about 2000 tons of CO₂ emissions, application of 12 innovation technologies. The projects have generated benefits to 748 households. In the next several years the emphasis will be on strengthening the activities within the focal area in question, and on the analysis and wide dissemination of the experiences to be gained.

Climate resilience Component: Climate change involves the intensification of such processes as land degradation, desertification, landslides, degradation of forests, degradation of water resources etc. In addition, the climate changes have a negative impact on the conditions of biodiversity. Even now, the depletion of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems are observed at 70% of the country's territory. As for agriculture, it becomes the most vulnerable to any climate changes that, in turn, put in jeopardy the living activities of people, especially those living in the rural areas. There is a low adaptation capacity of ecosystems that determines the necessity of timely climate resilient activities to be implemented. In this connection, the methods and technologies need to be implemented that would enable to clearly demonstrate the adaptation opportunities in view of the changing climate conditions.

Within the recent several years SGP Kazakhstan (among the other 9 member countries) has implemented a number of demonstrational projects focused on the reduction of vulnerability of local communities to the ongoing climate changes by implementing the new efficient climate resilience methods of farming under GEF/UNDP Community-Based Climate Change Adaptation Program (CBA). Within said initiative, the projects driven by the local communities in various areas of Kazakhstan have been supported; the interesting many-sided approaches and technologies in the field of efficient use of land and water resources have been practices that enable the local communities to build their capacities and develop in a sustainable manner in the context of the ongoing climate changes. In addition, under said initiative a great deal of activities has been implemented to build and develop the capacities of the project executing parties, disseminate the knowledge and experiences gained on both the local and the national and regional levels. Taking into account the relevance of the climate change and climate resilience problem for the entire CA region as well as the similarity in many aspects of geographical, climatic and economic conditions of the CA countries the CBA initiative has enabled to build the initial practical base, master the most acceptable adaptation mechanisms that may be implemented by the local communities. The activities implemented on the national level jointly with UNDP enabled to raise the climate resilience issues on the national policy level. Specifically, the development of the National Adaptation Concept (in view of the practical experiences gained through the CBA projects) as adopted in 2011 by the Council for Sustainable Development ensures a certain prospect of the future expansion of the area by efforts of the government.

At the same time, taking into account of the scale and intensity of the ongoing climate changes as well as the high vulnerability of the rural communities in said aspect; the relevant follow-up activities would be necessary.

Chemicals

For the long period of the Soviet Union, considerable amounts of persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals have been accumulated in Kazakhstan that are the source of high risk to the safety of environment and human health. Irrigated land farming makes a considerable contribution to the soil contamination where within the soviet period of intensive use of chemicals within the agro-industrial sector, the vast irrigated lands in the southern areas of the country have been contaminated as a result of irrational use of mineral fertilizers. Soil contamination with pesticide wastes that are referred to POP's is intensive and is found practically all over the country. Taking into account the existing situation, the support and promotion of projects focused on the implementation and use of more rational and environmentally friendly methods in the field of POP management and use.

The area of agricultural crops being currently under chemical processing makes about 160 thousand ha (data provided by Organic Center Kazakhstan). This figure may grow in the nearest future since striving for the quick returns may give rise to the use of low-quality chemical fertilizers by the farms (especially those of small-scale) that do not always meet the permissible standards and observe the processing period. Said factor will have an adverse impact on not only the soil and water sources contamination but on the product quality as well. The situation is aggravated by the fact that most of the agricultural producers as well as the consumers do not realize the risks or consequences.

Taking into account the existing situation the support and promotion is necessary for the projects focused on the implementation and use of more rational and environmentally safe methods in the field of management and use of POP's and chemicals as well as on raising the public awareness of the problem and the most acceptable solutions.

International Waters

Kazakhstan contains the large water bodies such as the Caspian Sea, the Aral Sea (that are the large trans-boundary water bodies) and Lake Balkhash. There are about 39 thousand rivers (many of them are also trans-boundary of which the Ile River, the Irtysh River and the Ural River are the largest) and temporary watercourses in Kazakhstan, more than 48 thousand lakes, about 4 thousand ponds and over 200 water reservoirs.

Most of the Kazakhstan's water resources head in the neighboring countries: China, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia. The above fact puts the country in a quite challenging situation as far as the conditions of the inland water resources are practically fully dependent upon the volumes and quality of the inflowing waters and pose a serious threat to the stability of the largest water basins of the country. Taking into account the problem of reduction of water resources incoming from the neighboring countries that has aggravated within the recent years (the river flow has reduced by 15.1km³ per year thus resulting in water resources deficit reaching 2-3km³ per year) (please refer to Zhaysyl-Damu Program, Section 3), the issues of efficient and rational use of the trans-boundary water resources become as relevant as ever.

The other aspect of the problem lies in the pollution of water bodies by both industrial and agricultural wastes. Every year, more than 200 million km³ of polluted water are discharged into the rivers and lakes thus resulting in the high rate of pollution of water sources adding to their scarcity. The practices of irrational use of water works existing at the river courses also lead to the depletion of water resources.

In this connection, the steps need to be undertaken that should be first of all focused on implementing the methods and approaches that would contribute to the efficient management and use of water resources of the trans-boundary water bodies as well as the activities intended to reduce the level of pollution.

Key Partnership

1.2. Partnership with the other programs and projects implemented in Kazakhstan is one of the main principles of successful program implementation and achievement of the planned results. The situation with donor assistance existing in the country within the recent several years is quite complicated. On the one hand, the governmental to tackle the environmental and social-economic problems is focused on the use of internal efforts available without external assistance. On the other hand, due to the rapid economic growth of Kazakhstan, the total volume of donor assistance is reducing on the part of international organizations. It needs to be noted the fact that a small number of donors who continue working in Kazakhstan provide the assistance to NGO's and local communities with the main focus of the social problems and development of civil society institutes. As far as the environmental activities are concerned, most of the grants are allocated for the awareness activities and one-off campaigns. In addition, there is a sort of competition among the donors that considerably reduces the opportunity of mutual coordination and eventually results in disunity of the donors' efforts and reduction in overall positive impact. On the whole, such situation shows the extremely low potential of raising considerable amounts of donor assistance from the international organizations for SGP projects.

At the same time, despite the ongoing situation SGP will continue maintaining partnership with the donor organizations operating in Kazakhstan, specifically, with GTZ, CA Regional Environmental Center, and other programs and projects, and expand where possible such partnership through planning and implementing the joint initiatives.

As at the previous stage, taking into account the fact that Global Environment Facility is still the main donor for the environmental programs in Kazakhstan, the most prospective cooperation for SGP is with the medium-sized and full-sized GEF projects. For the time being SGP Kazakhstan cooperates with all the ongoing projects funded by GEF and is planning to continue the successful cooperation with the new projects in future.

SGP thematic priorities for 2011-2014 largely match those of the GEF full-sized projects thus making the development of possible cooperation mechanisms much easier. This fact is a proof of the conformity of SGP current and planned activities with Kazakhstan's national priorities within GEF focal areas. Such cooperation helps to raise the efficiency of both SGP and the larger GEF projects by means of synchronization of activities. The potential duplication is prevented since SGP niche is focused on the work with the local communities and public organizations whose role is pretty small in the full-sized projects. In addition, the liaison of SGP priorities with the themes of planned full-sized GEF

projects shows the concordance of SGP activities with the national priorities as set forth by the GEF National Commission.

To ensure efficient partnership SGP will also build cooperation with the other GEF executive agencies such as WB, ADB, EBRD etc. Cooperation will also be maintained with the other UNDP programs and projects, notably, the Development Program of Semipalatinsk Area, Kyzylorda Area, UNDP Interstate CA Program to Reduce the Climate Risks , CACILM etc.

In addition, the National Trust Fund of Kazakhstan's Biodiversity Conservation established in 2007 within GEF/UNDP Project «Conservation of Priority and Globally Significant Wetlands as the Sites of Migratory Bird Species» is viewed as a long-term SGP Partner. In future the institute may become one of the potential co-financing mechanisms for SGP.

In the previous years a close cooperation was built with the local partners, specifically, with the Farmer of Kazakhstan Public Foundation in the field of elaboration and implementation of the projects within the land degradation and climate change focal areas. Said activities will continue in future. Cooperation and partnership are also planned with the other organizations working in the SGP thematic areas.

An active governmental support of the public initiatives started a few years ago, enabled SGP to build an actual partnership with the local and national governmental agencies within a number of projects and created preconditions for further collaboration.

2. Niche of the Country GEF Small Grants Program

As of now Kazakhstan has ratified and signed a number of international environmental treaties and conventions, most of which are directly related to the SGP thematic areas. Please refer to the table below:

Table 1: The List of Conventions and National (Regional) Plans and Programs

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biodiversity	19 August 1994
National Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation	1999
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	4 May 1995
National Communication of FCCC Implementation 1 2 3	1998 2009 May 2010 - May 2013
UN Convention to Combat Desertification	7 July 1997
National Action Plan within CCD	2005
Stockholm Convention	2007
Kyoto Protocol	2009
National Action Plan within Stockholm Convention	As revised in 2012-2013
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2007
GEF 5Project Portfolio Development on the National Level	2010

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Following the country's commitments under the conventions, the relevant national programs and strategies have been developed that enabled to link the convention requirements with the national priorities. The fact of Kazakhstan's

accession to the majority of international environmental treaties as well as the availability of the above strategies and plans enables to bring the SGP activities in conformity with the Kazakhstan's strategic interests and needs.

2.2 The Use of SGP Resources within GEF 5 to Support the Implementation of the National Priorities under GEF 5 Strategic Areas. The Role of Public and LC Projects in Contributing to the Assistance to Kazakhstan in Achieving its National Priorities and Meeting its Commitments under Key Environmental Conventions

SGP activities for 2011-2014 under GEF 5 will be based on the contribution to the execution of its commitments under the operating conventions to meet the goals set by the country and implement the national strategies and action plans thereunder. The SGP contribution to the execution of the above said plans and strategies will be the provision of financial support **to the registered volunteer not-for-profit organizations (NGO's)** (public associations, foundations, unions, associations, non-governmental institutions) and the local initiative groups to implement the initiatives focused on addressing the environmental problems within the main GEF priority areas: biodiversity conservation, mitigation of the climate change consequences and adaptation, land degradation, POP as well as those encouraging the improvement of social-economic level of the population.

SGP activities will be implemented in support of the national priorities as set out in the Long-Term Development Strategy Kazakhstan 2030 and the industry-specific program Zhasyl Damu for 2010-2014 developed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection for the purposes of the Kazakhstan Strategic Development Plan up to 2030 and approved by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 10 September 2010. The goal of that Program will be achieved in line with the Concept of Environmental Safety for 2004-2015, the Concept of the Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Sustainable Development for 2007-2024, Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Environmental Protection for 2009-2011 and the measures as defined in the Environmental Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan by meeting the main tasks as follows: reduction of the anthropogenous impact on the environmental components and human health; conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems; development and improvement of the environmental quality management system.

The program is comprehensive. It integrates the effective Concept of Development and Location of Specially Protected Areas of the Republic of Kazakhstan up to 2030; the industry-specific Program «Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2008-2010»; the Program of Conservation and Rational Use of Fauna and Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till 2010. The Program is focused on creating the enabling conditions for the conservation, restoration and rational use of the natural ecosystems by developing «Green Economy» providing for the elimination of dependence between the use of natural resources and the environmental consequences on the economic growth. Those are the implementation of environmentally clean and energy saving technologies, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency activities, measures to combat desertification and land degradation, conservation of the populations of rare and extinct species, expansion of the network of specially protected natural areas, the measures to implement the steps on restoration of the territories affected by POP's.

The previous SGP strategy provided the support to Kazakhstan's efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals and the relevant national action plans such as the Concept of Kazakhstan's Transition to Sustainable Development.

Niche of SGP Kazakhstan

When determining the niche of SGP we presume that SGP for Kazakhstan is a unique grant program operating on the national level and focused on the conservation, restoration and the rational use of natural resources consistent with addressing the global livelihood problems of local communities.

As was said earlier, the previous SGP activities enabled to gain a great deal of experience and successful examples of implementing and testing the efficient approaches and methods to address the environmental and social-economic problems in various GEF focal areas. Those have created a necessary base for further replication of the successful activities of the Program and projects, promotion of the most successful and efficient methods and approaches implemented under the local environmental and social initiatives of NGO's and local communities within GEF focal areas primarily focused on the improvement of living standard of rural inhabitants and well as the wide dissemination of the experiences and knowledge gained.

The following thematic priorities are defined as the primary ones in SGP activities for 2011-2014: biodiversity conservation, mitigation of the climate change consequences and adaptation (as a cross-cutting non-primary area),

reduction of land degradation and desertification processes. Besides, the SGP will support initiatives in reduction in the use of POP's and chemicals and international waters as non-core thematic areas.

The following criteria were used when selecting the priority areas: consistence with the GEF operational programs, GEF strategic areas on the global level as well as the role identified by SGP Country Program in the context of the objectives as globally set for the 5th operating phase; relevance of the problems on the national level and compliance with the national action plans and strategies; potential of economic sustainability and implementation of the profit-making types of activities; actual tailoring to the needs of local inhabitants.

In the focal area of **biological diversity conservation** the emphasis will be on the support of initiatives to implement the methods and approaches of strengthening SPA system, efficient management and sustainable use of biodiversity resources within the specially protected natural areas (SPA) and buffer zones as well as the important bird areas in view of the improvement of the living conditions of local inhabitants as well as establishment of the sustainable system of land and natural resources use within the productive landscapes around the specially protected areas that will enable to reduce the load and threat to SPA biodiversity from the local inhabitants. Support will also be provided to the activities focused on the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems outside of the specially protected areas and important bird areas, though being significant from the standpoint of biodiversity conservation.

In the focal area of **combating the land degradation processes** the main activities will be focused on the support of initiatives to implement the efficient and tested agricultural practices that encourage the sustainable management of land resources and reduction of land degradation processes, restoration of natural ecosystems, implementation of efficient land and water saving technologies, promotion of the organized agricultural system as well as implementation of the activities on the rational use of pastoral ecosystems, implementation of the sustainable pastoral resources management models providing for erosion-prevention pasture rotation, balancing the cattle stock with pastoral feeding capacity, development of alternative profit-making types of activities, development and enhancement of the forage base through the establishment of high-productive forage lands on the degraded and fallow territories by seeding perennial forage crops etc.

In the focal area of **climate change** the priority activities will be to promote the use of renewable energy sources and the measures to improve energy efficiency and energy saving in the rural areas. The financing for the relevant projects with urban focus will not exceed 40% of the total amount of funding intended for this focal area for the entire period of FEG 5 phase, provided that they have innovation approach to addressing the problems identified and are in full conformity with SGP criteria.

In addition, up to 20% of the program's grant budget may be used for the projects that fall outside certain thematic priorities such as **the projects in the field of reduction in the use of POP's and chemicals and international waters.**

Within the activities dedicated to POP's and chemicals the main focus will be done on the assistance to implementing and demonstration of the environmentally sustainable agricultural practices with the focus on the innovation approaches to be applied focused on the reduction of the use and phasing out of POP's and chemicals through the organic methods to be implemented; development of the local alternative opportunities to implement clean production, remove POP's and chemicals and use their organic substitutes; as well as on the projects aimed at dissemination of information about POP's and chemicals as such, raising the capacities of the small-scale and medium-size agricultural producers in the field of organic soil treatment methods.

Under the International Waters focal area the financial support may be provided to the projects driven by NGO's and local communities focused on the implementation of efficient methods contributing to the reduction of pollution of the trans-boundary water bodies (implementing the new methods to reduce the use of pesticides amongst farmers etc.); development and implementation of the comprehensive approach to land and water resources management to conserve the trans-boundary water bodies; implementation of water-saving steps and approaches contributing to the sustainable use of biological resources of the trans-boundary water bodies (reduction of unsustainable use of fishery reserves, protection of fish habitat etc.).

Despite the fact that the area of adaptation to the climate change is not the main priority of SGP for GEF 5, taking into account the relevance and the necessity to implement the adaptation measures in connection with the ongoing climate changes that have a strong manifestation in Kazakhstan, said focal area will be cross-cutting. In the proposals to be submitted within all the main SGP priority thematic areas for phase 5, the proponents need to perform the relevant analysis of how the approach proposed by the project would contribute to mitigation of the climate risks and adaptation. The approaches focused on the implementation of water-saving technologies, transition to the new

alternative farming practices (replacement of moisture-loving crops by the more draught-resistant ones; application of soil protection methods of soil treatment etc.) will be of paramount significance.

The support will be given to the projects implementing the mechanism of «payments for ecosystem services (PES)» in all the main SGP thematic areas provided that the proposed approach is innovative, the measures are efficient and are in full compliance with the main SGP criteria. At the initial stage of activities pertaining to PES the works will be synchronized with other related programs and projects.

Within the recent 15 years a great number of projects have been implemented within SGP in various focal areas: biodiversity conservation, climate change, land degradation. The Program has accumulated certain experiences. Summing up the results of the long-term activities, the analysis of the experiences gained and its further dissemination amongst the public at large on both the local and the national level is the important stage of the Program's activities. This will be specifically for the above-said activity that 10% of the grant budget will be allocated to support the projects focused on the monitoring and assessment of the experiences related to a certain project portfolio within the priority focal areas; organization of the awareness activities to promote the experiences gained by the SGP projects on the local and national levels; capacities-building of the grantees and local communities. The competition for the thematics and content of said category will be declared separately from the primary SGP grant competition.

In view of the main SGP focus on the promotion, replication and enhancement of the most successful SGP approaches in GEF 5 phase, the replication of the previously implemented project approaches will be carried out subject to the conditions as follows:

- The biodiversity projects may be replicated only through the repeated use of previously tested successful methods and approaches to the conservation of a certain biodiversity component. The support will not be provided to the projects in which the approaches used in the past are focused on the conservation of the same flora/fauna species except for the dissemination of experiences in the other geographic regions.
- The climate change projects may be replicated provided that they have an innovative application of the approaches previously used in the different social-economic conditions.
- The land degradation projects may be replicated provided that they use the previously tested successful methods and approaches in the different regions with the different environmental and social-economic conditions.

As far as the **geographic priorities** are concerned, said approach will be implemented in the frameworks as follows:

- The biodiversity projects will be geographically linked to the SPA's, buffer zones and the important bird areas.
- Taking into account the overall relevance of the land degradation problem, SGP activities in this focal area will cover the entire Kazakhstan.
- In the field of climate change, the rural areas of Kazakhstan have been identified as the priority to implement the projects focused on removal of barriers to using non-conventional /alternative energy sources. In the field of energy efficiency and energy saving, SGP activities will mainly cover the rural areas. The project proposals for the urban areas will be limited to the proportion as described below.
- Taking into account the innovation of PES methodology as well as the fact that SGP has never previously implemented any activities in such area, this category of projects shall not be exposed to any geographical limits.

A special attention will be paid to the initiatives and proposals developed in collaboration with the UNDP Program for Semipalatinsk Area and Kyzylorda Oblast Development (provided that the local NGO's and LC's have their proposals developed that meet SGP criteria and priorities); the initiatives developed under the UNDP project on climate risks (Almaty Oblast) as well as the projects in Kyzylorda oblast developed in collaboration with the Farmer of Kazakhstan Public Foundation.

In view of the critical difference in the living standard of the rural and urban population, the priority in all the thematic areas will be given to the projects initiated or focused on the involvement of local inhabitants.

Taking into account the previous approach of SGP activities within GEF 4, which main principle was the achievement of cumulative effect within a certain focal area, where the final outcome was not the result of each individual project but the effect of a set of initiatives integrated in a certain focal area, and in view of the strategic approach of the activities for GEF 5 where the main thing is the further promotion of SGP successful practices and approaches as well as implementation of the knowledge efficient management strategy and information sharing of the Program's achievements, the activities will be built in the following two lines: on the project level the activities will be focused on implementation of a set of measures to promote the successful practices and experience through the exchange visits of grant recipients and sharing the experience and the best practices within the focal areas, involvement of recipients in the evaluation and monitoring activities of the other projects, participation in, organization of the workshop and training. On the program level the work will be focused on the collection, analysis and consolidation of the outcome gained within a certain thematic group of projects, organization and participation in the round tables, organization of exhibitions, fairs etc. Such approach will enable to take into account all the experiences gained and promote it in an efficient manner to both the country and regional levels.

The final beneficiary of SGP projects in Kazakhstan shall be the local population represented by the rural communities living mainly on the natural resources. Considering the specific nature of SGP, the financing will be provided only to the **registered volunteer non-profit organizations** (public associations, foundations, unions, associations, non-governmental institutions). At the same time, a project within the above-stated focal areas may be initiated by an initiative group and accepted for SGP review, but in case of approval of the project idea the initiative group will need to register in accordance with the effective laws in any form of **volunteer non-profit organization**.

It should be noted specifically that SGP does not finance political and religious organizations as well as those promulgating and supporting terrorism.

Funding will be provided in the categories as follows:

- **Demonstrational projects:** maximum size of grant US\$50,000, project duration - 2-3 years. The amount of administrative costs may not exceed 25% of the total amount requested.

This project category involves complex initiatives focused on the practical implementation of certain technologies/approaches/methodologies within SGP focal areas with active involvement of local inhabitants and improvement of their livelihoods. The proponents shall be NGO's experienced in implementing similar activities and having skilled expertise.

- **Local community projects:** This category includes the initiatives proposed by the local community organizations or initiative groups within SGP focal areas.
- **Capacity building projects:** The size of grant and project duration will be determined based on the project's specific features.

This category shall include the initiatives focused on the training and consultation programs to develop and consolidate the civil society and local community organizations to work within SGP focal areas. In addition, the category will also include the projects dedicated to monitoring & evaluation, collection of the lessons learned and the best practices as well as promotion and dissemination of information regarding SGP successful experience. ***Said projects will be developed and accepted for review only within specialized competitions /program areas of SGP activities***

Under this category the projects focused on the organization of fairs and exhibitions as well as the other events will be considered in order to widely present SGP activities on the national level. This category of grants will also be declared through a separate competition and additionally agreed upon with the SGP headquarters.

- **Planned grants:** The size of grant – up to US\$1000, project duration – up to 6 months. The grants will be allocated for detailed elaboration of the projects (mainly demonstrational ones), specifically for the involvement of external experts, consultations and project approvals. *The grants will be allocated subject to the prior approval by NSC of the project proposal.*

SGP will continue the practice whereby the proposals are submitted by the NGO's that have previously received grants from SGP, provided that:

- The total amount of grants within one operational phase does not exceed US\$50,000;

- Any subsequent proposal will be accepted for review only if the previous project has been successfully accomplished (based on the evaluation results) without any reporting or work planning violations;
- After the above-said amount (US\$50,000) has been disbursed in one or several grants, the NGO may be eligible for a new SGP grant competition after at least two years from the end of the last project provided that the projects accomplished have been sustainable.

Table 2. Consistency of SGP activities with the SGP national and global priorities within GEF 5

OP5 project objectives	National Priorities	SGP GEF Niche
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1:</u> Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions</p>	<p>Conservation, restoration and rational use of productive natural landscapes</p> <p>Expansion of SPA area</p> <p><i>In-situ</i> protection, control and regulation of the conditions of rare and endangered species</p> <p>Development of activities to conserve and restore the migratory species</p> <p>Implementation of ecosystem approach</p> <p>Implementation of efficient economic mechanism of environmental protection</p>	<p>Implementation of initiatives focused on the enhancement and strengthening the system of SPA and IBA management as the main mechanism to conserve the globally significant biodiversity and improve the living conditions of local people</p> <p>Implementation of efficient economic mechanisms contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources within the specially protected areas, buffer zones, important bird areas and the other ecosystems significant from the standpoint of the conservation of globally significant biodiversity</p> <p>Support of the initiatives contributing to capacity development of the local communities and NGO's in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources</p> <p>Support of the initiatives focused on the collection, analysis and dissemination of the successful experiences in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2:</u> Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions</p>	<p>Conservation, restoration and rational use of biodiversity in the most productive natural landscapes</p>	<p>The activities to harmonize economic activities of the local communities with the goals of protection and restoration of ecosystems within SPA, IBA and the other ecosystems significant from the standpoint of the conservation of globally significant biodiversity</p> <p>Support of the local communities' initiatives encouraging local capacity development in the rational use of the most productive natural landscapes within SPA's buffer zones and IBA and the other ecosystems significant from</p>

		<p>the standpoint of the conservation of globally significant biodiversity.</p> <p>Support of initiatives implementing PES method to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity components</p> <p>Support of the initiatives focused on the dissemination of the successful experiences in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3:</u> Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p>	<p>Implementation of the incentive measures in relation with energy efficiency, energy saving and alternative energy sources</p> <p>Development of alternative energy</p> <p>Enhancement of public involvement</p> <p>Development of the Program of Climate Change Adaptation of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p>	<p>Support of the initiatives enabling to promote and enhance the use of renewable energy sources in remote rural areas</p> <p>Support of the initiatives enabling to capacity building of the NGO's and local communities in the area of using RES as well as to disseminate the successful practices, experience and knowledge in the field of renewable energy sources</p> <p>Support of initiatives that demonstrate the energy efficiency and energy saving approaches</p> <p>Support of the initiatives enabling to capacity development of the NGO's and local communities in the area of energy efficiency as well as disseminate the successful practices, experience and knowledge in the field of implementation of the energy efficient measures</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4:</u> Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level</p>	N/a	N/a
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5:</u> Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry</p>	<p>Expansion of forest areas</p> <p>Zero soil processing methods (planting forage crops)</p> <p>Expansion of the areas under</p>	<p>Support of the initiatives focused on the restoration and conservation of degraded landscapes and forest ecosystems and implementing the arrangements of their efficient management</p> <p>Support of the initiatives focused on the</p>

	<p>forage crops</p>	<p>alternative energy sources to reduce deforestation</p> <p>Support of the initiatives that encourage dissemination of successful practices, experience and knowledge in the field of sustainable land use</p> <p>Support of the initiatives that implement PES method as an efficient mechanism of sustainable land and forest resources management</p> <p>Support of the initiatives focused on the capacity building of the NGO's and local communities in the area of sustainable land use as well as the promotion of and dissemination of the knowledge and experiences gained</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities</p>	<p>Implementation of the system to develop agricultural lands and perform farming activities adapted to the natural landscapes</p> <p>Elimination of the consequences of extensive pastoral use</p> <p>Restoration of degraded lands and soil fertility</p> <p>Implementation of water saving technologies</p> <p>Enabling conditions for the balanced use, conservation and restoration of land resources</p> <p>Ensuring the involvement of all groups of the population in the decision making process to address the problem of desertification combat</p> <p>Implementation of economic mechanisms of sustainable land use</p>	<p>Support of the initiatives focused on the sustainable management of forest lands and forest plantations</p> <p>Support of the initiatives focused on the efficient agricultural practices to be implemented that encourage the sustainable land resources management and reduction of degradation processes as well as reforestation of the natural forest ecosystems</p> <p>Support of the initiatives focused on the implementation of sustainable pastoral methods</p> <p>Support of the initiatives focused on the implementation of the methods of organic farming</p> <p>Support of the initiatives focused on the efficient land and water saving technologies as the methods to reduce degradation and adapt to the climate change</p> <p>Support of the initiatives focused on the capacity development of the NGO's and local communities in the area of sustainable land and water use as well as the promotion of and dissemination of the knowledge and experiences gained</p>

<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7:</u> Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)</p>		<p>N/a for SGP</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives</p>	<p>Development of the unified system of monitoring and control over the environmental conditions of water bodies within the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Development of the new environmental standards for various types of water sources</p> <p>Implementing the mechanisms of sustainable water supply</p> <p>Implementing the advanced technologies of irrigation and rational use of water resources</p> <p>Development and implementation of IWRM plans through the basin councils and basin authorities</p> <p>Implementing the National Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Saving Plan</p> <p>Implementing the new water supply and water disposal technologies</p>	<p>Support of the initiatives focused on implementing the methods and approaches contributing to the reduction of pollution of the trans-boundary water bodies on the local level (including agricultural wastes containing chemical fertilizers and pesticides)</p> <p>Support of the initiatives focused on implementing the arrangements of efficient water resources use and management on the local community level (including the provision of support to the local water users' associations)</p> <p>Support of the initiatives focused on the development and implementation of the comprehensive approach to land and water resources management in order to conserve the trans-boundary water bodies</p> <p>Support of the water saving initiatives to conserve water resources of the trans-boundary water courses</p> <p>Support of the approaches contributing to the sustainable use of biological resources of the trans-boundary water bodies</p> <p>Support of the initiatives focused on strengthening the capacities of the local communities in the field of sustainable trans-boundary water bodies management as well as dissemination of the experiences and knowledge gained</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9:</u> Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level</p>	<p>Measures to reduce unintended emission of POP's</p> <p>Public awareness of the hazard of POP impact on the human health and environment</p>	<p>Support of the initiatives focused on the reduction of the use and phasing out of POP's and chemicals through the organic methods to be implemented; development of the local alternative opportunities to implement clean production, remove POP's and chemicals and use their organic substitutes</p>

		Support of the initiatives focused on the dissemination of information about POP's and chemicals as such, raising the capacities of the small-scale and medium-size agricultural producers in the field of alternative farming practices to be applied.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10</u> : Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends	Provision of active public access to information Public involvement in the decision making process for the environmentally significant decisions, development of environmental policy and action plans	Support of the initiatives focused on strengthening NGO and LC capacities to meet the commitments under the conventions Enhancement of capacities of the local communities and NGO's to address the environmental issues through practical training (through the projects) and knowledge sharing
<u>Cross-Cutting Results</u> : Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender	Encouragement of gender equality and enhancement of the women's rights and opportunities Ensuring considerable improvement of the living conditions of the rural inhabitants living in the most unfavorable social and ecological environment	Support of the initiatives focused on the improvement of living conditions for the people living in rural areas (within GEF priority focal areas) Support of the local initiatives focused on the development of profit-making branches and creation of jobs (within GEF priority focal areas) Support of the initiatives built on the gender equality principles and those encouraging involvement of women in the decision-making process regarding environment (within GEF priority focal areas) and social-economic problems

3. The Results of SGP Activities in the Field of Capacity Development, Poverty Alleviation and Gender Equality

In the course of activities SGP always paid attention to the public involvement, specifically, local population, particularly, women, rural communities and the other vulnerable groups in the process of development, implementation, and monitoring of the projects as well as implementation of measures focused on the capacity building and strengthening of the main SGP focus groups within GEF focal areas. Those activities will be emphasized considerably since without strengthening NGO and LC capacities of active involvement in making the decisions significant for their lives, the goals and objectives set will practically not be able to meet. Taking into account that civil society formation in Kazakhstan is still emerging, NGO's and especially local communities need support for institutional strengthening in order for them to be able to assert their rights and freedoms in a qualified manner within GEF focal areas.

Taking into account the fact that a large number of proponents represent the rural communities that often lack the experience in the project development and implementation, SGP, both at the initial stage (development of project idea) and the stage of project implementation will provide the regular consultations and support the potential proponents and active executing parties through personal meetings and consultations, involvement of experts, organization of special thematic workshops and training enabling the proponents to clearly understand their role in addressing the important environmental and social-economic issues, strengthen their capacities for further successful work and efficient implementation of the project activities.

Independent project implementation is the best way to build the capacity and enhance the opportunities. In addition, each project will develop the mechanisms enabling NGO's and rural communities to obtain additional knowledge and skills in a certain area for more successful completion of the objectives set by the projects and achievement of the global environmental benefits. This will be ensured through the involvement of the project execution parties in the additional training programs and organization of exchange visits between the projects of the same focal area etc.

As a result of SGP activities, the capacities of local NGO's and local communities will be strengthened. NGO's and local communities will take an active part in discussing the issues significant for their life and making decisions on various levels. In addition, the basis will be built for a broader cooperation and interaction between NGO's and local communities on the one hand and local authorities (and other parties involved) on the other hand. In addition, support will be provided in the consolidation of public associations for a more organized involvement in addressing the existing environmental problems within SGP priority areas.

Despite the fact that in 2004 Kazakhstan has accomplished Task 1 of the Millennium Development Goals, the problem of poverty is still relevant for the country, especially in rural areas where agriculture is the main source of income and where the labor efficiency remains extremely low and the incomes are low either. Food products grown at the household gardens are still the main livelihood and the source of income of the rural inhabitants. In addition, the infrastructure of rural areas that has almost fully degraded has a negative impact on the living conditions of the rural inhabitants and the opportunities of economic development. Therefore, SGP activities will remain be focused on the support of the practical measures to improve the life of rural people as the most vulnerable group directly dependent on the conditions of environment through the development of profit-making branches, creation of jobs within the projects and training.

The SGP acknowledges the significant role of gender aspects in the successful program implementation in Kazakhstan. Taking into account the traditionally passive role of women in the SGP projects implementation, the enhancement of the women's capacities will be immanent (a cross-cutting theme) in all the projects funded by SGP. That will become possible through the involvement of women in the project development and implementation, creation of additional jobs for women, strengthening the women's role in addressing the environmental problems and decision-making, as well as the provision of training programs with a special focus on women. At the same time, it needs to be noted that even with the enhancement of the women's role in addressing certain problems in each SGP project, any discriminations by gender will not be acceptable and SGP will seek to ensure the equal involvement of men and women in the program.

Millennium Development Goals and SGP Activities

MDG	Spheres of Influence
MDG 1: Poverty Alleviation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of incomes of the local population; • Reduction of the level of unemployment; • Creation of jobs; • Expansion of the range of profit-making activities; • Training to improve the quality and enhance the assortment of products manufactured; • Marketing support and improvement of access to the sale markets.
MDG 2: To Ensure Universal Primary Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the education of both children and adults in the context of understanding the natural processes and teaching the new skills and approaches of the rational use of natural resources; • Formation of public environmental conscience.

MDG 3: To Enhance Equality Between Men and Women and Improve Women's Rights and Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal participation of men and women in the SGP activities and equal access to the benefits from the activities implemented.
MDG 7: To Ensure Environmental Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration and rational use of forest, steppe, pastoral and wetland resources, prevention of land degradation and reduction of GHG emissions through the efficient use of energy saving and alternative energy sources.
MDG 8: To Establish Global Partnership For the Purposes of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the general policy, SGP will contribute to the development of partnership relations on the national level among all related parties

Table 3. Results Framework

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	# of projects
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions			
<p>Outcome 1.1. Improved community-level actions and practices and reduced negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around protected areas, and indigenous and community conservation areas <i>*Good practices replicated and scaled up outside SGP-supported areas, as appropriate</i></p> <p>Outcome 1.2. Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas <i>*Sustainable financial mechanism for benefit generation identified and piloted, as appropriate</i></p> <p>Outcome 1.3. Increased recognition and integration of indigenous and community conservation areas in national protected area systems <i>*Information about recognition of indigenous and community conservation within national level protected area systems shared through an established network, as appropriate</i></p> <p>Outcome 1.4. Increased understanding and awareness at the community level of the importance and value of biodiversity <i>*Environmental education programs formally integrated in school curricula, as appropriate</i></p>	<p>At least 10 specially protected areas, important bird areas and the other ecosystems important from the standpoint of the conservation of globally significant biodiversity will be strengthened through SGP support</p> <p>At least 5 SGP practice and approaches scaled up and replicated at the local/national level</p> <p>At least 40 local will improve livelihoods related to benefits from resources used on the protected areas and IBAs</p> <p>At least 1 sustainable financial mechanism is developed and piloted</p> <p>At least 100 communities will raise awareness of the biodiversity value at the local level</p> <p>At least 1 practice on integration of environmental education programs to school program is supported</p>	<p>Project reports and monitoring results; experts' evaluation reports, comparison of the results against the baseline for each individual project</p>	<p>9 projects</p>
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions			
<p>Outcome 2.1. Improved community level sustainable use of biodiversity in production</p>	<p>At least 100,000 hectares of production landscapes/seascapes under improved sustainable use</p>	<p>Project reports and monitoring results; experts' evaluation</p>	<p>2 projects</p>

<p>landscapes through community – based initiatives, frameworks and market mechanisms, including recognized environmental standards, that corporate biodiversity considerations</p> <p><i>Market mechanisms and standards replicated and scaled up, as appropriate</i></p> <p>Outcome 2.2. Increased understanding and awareness of sustainable use of biodiversity *Environmental education programs formally integrated in school curricula, as appropriate</p>	<p>practices</p> <p>At least 1 SGP practice on market mechanisms replicated</p> <p>At least 5 SGP practice and approaches scaled up and replicated at the local/national level</p> <p>At least 100 communities have raised awareness of the biodiversity value at the local level</p> <p>At least 1 practice on integration of environmental education programs to school programme is supported</p>	<p>reports, comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project</p>	
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</u></p>			
<p>Outcome 3.1. Innovative low GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level <i>Up-scaling and replication off good practices, as appropriate</i></p> <p>Outcome 3.2. GHG emissions avoided</p>	<p>5000 Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing renewable energy measures (solar panels, wind stations, heat pumps, hydro power stations)</p> <p>Energy efficiency measures (system of heat control and distribution, methods of thermal insulation of buildings, introduction of energy efficient furnaces, etc.)</p> <p>At least 10 communities participate and get income out of GHG technologies implemented</p> <p>At least 1 good practice is up-scaled or replicated at the local or national level</p>	<p>Project reports and monitoring results; experts’ evaluation reports, comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project</p>	<p>6 projects</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level</u></p>			
	<p>n/a</p>		
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through</u></p>			

sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry			
<p>Outcome 5.1. Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land use types <i>Up-scaling and replication off good practices, as appropriate</i></p> <p>Outcome 5.2. Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands, including peatland <i>Up-scaling and replication off good practices, as appropriate</i></p> <p>Outcome 5.3. GHG emissions avoided</p>	<p>At least 10,000 hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices</p> <p>At least 2 practice of sustainable land use adopted at the community level</p> <p>1000 tonnes of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices</p> <p>At least 1 good practice up-scaled or replicated</p>	<p>Project reports and monitoring results; experts' evaluation reports, comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project</p>	<p>3 project</p>
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities			
<p>Outcome 6.1. Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impact on agro and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality <i>Analysis of economic value of ecosystem services in target areas, as appropriate</i></p> <p>Outcome 6.2 Community-based models of sustainable forestry management developed, and tested, linked to carbon sequestration for possible up-scaling and replication, where appropriate, to reduce GHG emissions, from deforestation and forest degradation, and enhance carbon sinks from land use, land use change and forestry activities <i>Up-scaling and replication off good practices, as appropriate</i></p>	<p>At least 50,000 hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices</p> <p>At least 5,000 Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated</p>	<p>Project reports and monitoring results; experts' evaluation reports, comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project</p>	<p>3 projects</p>
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7:</u> Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes			
<p>Outcome 7.1. Improved community level actions and</p>	<p>At least 10 communities demonstrating sustainable land</p>	<p>Project reports and monitoring results;</p>	<p>6 project</p>

<p>practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural, urban, agriculture, forest)</p> <p><i>Partnerships with private sector, as appropriate</i></p>	<p>and forest management practices</p> <p>1 example of efficient partnership with business sector</p>	<p>experts' evaluation reports, comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project</p>	
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives</p> <p>Outcome 8.1: Effective and climate resilient community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated <i>Scaling-up and replication of good practices and lessons learned, as appropriate</i></p> <p>Outcome 8.2: Synergistic partnerships developed between SGP stakeholders and transboundary water management institutions and structures supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions</p> <p><i>Scaling-up and replication of good practices and lessons learned, as appropriate</i></p>	<p>At least 1 local community has put in practice the mechanism of sustainable management within the trans-boundary water body thus contributing to the implementation of SAP</p> <p>At least 1 efficient approach has been implemented on the local level</p> <p>At least 10 local communities have been made aware of the problem faced.</p>	<p>Project reports and monitoring results; experts' evaluation reports, comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project</p>	<p>2 projects</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9:</u> Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level</p>			
<p>Outcome 9.1. Improved community-level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, manage contaminated sites in an, and mitigate environmental contamination</p> <p><i>Scaling up and replication of good practices and lessons learnt, as appropriate</i></p>	<p>At least 2 communities implemented initiatives manage chemicals and POPs-free and environmentally sound approaches</p>	<p>Project reports and monitoring results; experts' evaluation reports, comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project</p>	<p>2 projects</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10:</u> Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge</p>			

management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends			
<p>Outcome 10.1. Active participation of NSCs in GEF focal areas at the national level</p> <p>Outcome 10.2. Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs in SGP countries regarding good practices and lessons learned, and applications of such practice.</p> <p>Outcome 10.3. Increased public awareness and education at the community level regarding global environmental issues</p> <p>Outcome 10.4. Capacity of CBOs and CSOs strengthened to support implantation of global conventions</p> <p>Outcome 10.5. Increased applications of community-based environmental monitoring</p> <p>Outcome 10.6. Evaluation of SGP projects and programmes against expected results strengthened, including increased capacity of CSOs and CBOs to apply relevant evaluation methodologies</p>	<p>At least 2 NSC members will take part in the national level events on the SGP thematic areas</p> <p>At least 10 projects information will be shared via National and Regional networks</p> <p>At least 100 LCs will raise awareness on the GEB</p> <p>At least 10 CBOs and NGOs will strengthen capacities in realization of activities to support the global conventions implementation</p> <p>At least 5 initiatives on CB-monitoring system will be implemented and demonstrated</p> <p>At least 100 people will be trained on: project development, monitoring, evaluation etc.</p> <p>At least one GEF focal area projects will be evaluated as per the efficient monitoring & evaluation methodology and demonstrated the influence of the project portfolio</p> <p>At least 70% of the project grantees will increase the capacity in participatory M&E</p>	<p>Expert evaluation reports</p>	<p>4 project</p>
<u>Cross-Cutting Results: Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender</u>			
<p>SGP's Results Framework for OP5, as approved by the SGP Steering Committee, does not include specific objectives on livelihoods and gender. Nevertheless, SGP does produce positive results in these areas, which contribute to</p>	<p>All the project concepts include the gender and poverty reduction component. Upon project termination at least 70% of the grantees will raise awareness in gender and poverty issues, as well as increase capacities on both aspects</p>	<p>Project document, monitoring reports, project evaluation reports</p>	<p>3 projects</p>

<p>the overall achievement of GEB through sustainable development. Generally, SGP seeks to improve livelihoods through increasing local benefits generated from environmental resources, and mainstream gender considerations in community-based environmental initiatives.</p>			
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3. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

Monitoring of project activities assumes the regular site visits by SGP staff involving the experts in the relevant areas and issues, the analysis of project activities accomplished based on the data obtained from the regular progress reports submitted by the project executing parties i.e. monitoring protocols, creative reports etc. A special attention in organizing the process will be paid to the involvement of local expert resources that, on the one hand, will enable to considerably expand the range of professional specialists involved in SGP activities, and on the other hand will substantially reduce the program's cost of monitoring activities.

The project monitoring is performed in compliance with the annual monitoring plan to be developed that includes the schedule of site visits, determines the experts to be involved in the monitoring process and the time of visits. Taking into account the location of the project sites and the territory of the country, the monitoring visits will be organized in a way that one trip could cover all the projects located in the same geographic area (south, north and east). Such practice has been used by SGP for the recent eight years. It enables to reduce considerably the administrative costs. Most of the monitoring trips will be scheduled for April-September since in the other time of the year the trips are rather complicated due to the natural conditions. To increase the frequency of project site visits and reduce the monitoring costs SGP will actively cooperate with the ongoing full-sized GEF projects, UNDP projects and programs as well as the partnership organizations in implementing the joint initiatives. Said practices have been already tested and is rather efficient. It is based on the involvement of the partner's personnel working directly on a certain territory in the process of regular monitoring of the course of implementation of SGP initiatives: assistance to the local communities and NGO's in preparing the project reports, delivery of professional consultations and/or involvement of experts to address a certain issue; field trip to the project site; agreement upon various emerging issues with SGP, provision of special training for the grantees etc. The same principles will be valid for the collaboration with the Program of Semipalatinsk Area and Kyzylorda Oblast Development and the other partners for the nearest years. Such practice has been used for a long time and has proven to be very efficient.

Minimum once a year each project will be visited by SGP external experts to evaluate the efficiency of the project activities implemented. In the course of such monitoring visits the meetings will be held with all related parties to discuss the project achievements. In addition, each project will present a quarterly or semi-annual (depending on the project) detailed progress reports to SGP. To monitor and evaluate the project results GEB indicators will be used developed by SGP headquarters as well as the other indicators developed under each individual project.

For the purpose of more regular and thorough analysis of the project activities implemented the system of monthly phone conference will be used to discuss the progress of project activities. Such mechanism is quite efficient since it provides a real picture of the current situation for each project, enables to identify in a timely manner and address the problems as they emerge that ultimately enables to meet efficiently the project goals and objectives.

At the end of each project the work progress is evaluated involving independent experts according to the standard procedure which is based on the analysis of efficiency of project activities and lessons learned that would further be used within the other programs and initiatives.

To meet the goals and objectives as set by each individual project the proponent shall at the stage of project development perform the baseline analysis on the spot based on the key aspects (environmental component, economic conditions, level of social development etc.). Thereafter based on the obtained results of the analysis the project goal and objectives are to be set, the system of successive activities is to be projected focused on the change of the situation, determining the ways of how those will be met and when etc. To perform the subsequent analysis of how successfully the project activities are implemented in the course of the works planned by the project and to evaluate the success of the project implementation at the stage of project completion and ensure the sustainability, the system of qualitative

and quantitative indicators is developed at the initial stage of the project in the context of the overall project goal, each objective and activity etc. These are the development and subsequent continuous analysis of changes of the situation based on the elaborate key evaluation parameters that enable to clearly vision the project development trends and its further impact on the changes of the baseline situation.

In the context of each indicator the measuring unit is to be determined as well as the source of data collection, methods of data collection and their analysis, the persons responsible etc. The success of entire set of further project activities depends upon the correctness of initial determination of and formulation of the indicators. In this regard, a great attention will be paid to the issue of strengthening the skills of the project executing party to develop the indicators independently with involvement of the project partners.

The Project Steering Committees will play a key role in providing successful achievement of goals and objectives. PSC membership assumes participation of all partners, involved in the project activities such as NGO's local population (local initiative groups), Akimat, governmental environmental agencies, business sector etc. PSC shall play the role of observers of the project course, i.e. monitoring. At the same time they are the bodies that have the right to make adjustment to the project activities where necessary. The Committee membership shall be determined by the project executing party at the general open meeting in the presence of all the partners involved. The membership of various parties in the Committee serves a guarantee that all the partners' interests will be met within the framework of the general project goal and helps to avoid and quickly resolve the critical situations that will finally encourage more successful implementation of the project goals. At the end of the project the Committee will evaluate the project results and its impact. A great deal of attention in this area will be paid to capacity development and mastering the skills of the grant recipients to perform the project monitoring independently with involvement of a wide range of partners in this process such as akimats, local inhabitants, partnership NGO's, business sector etc.

The project monitoring shall be performed based on the analysis of the progress made for each type of activity under each objective in line with the project work plan. Based on the monitoring data the project executing party shall prepare the monitoring report where the current situation of the project shall be briefly described along with the challenges emerged and the positive changes achieved.

The use of the regular control mechanism in respect of the progress of project activities enables the project executing party to use a flexible approach in addressing various issues and timely adjustment to change the situation. The involvement of various partners in such process enables to take into account interests of a great number of parties in the process of project implementation and successful achievement of the project goal.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project
Baseline Data Collection ¹	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports (<i>depending on agreed disbursement schedule</i>)	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Work plans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC	On average once per year, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC	At end of project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities

Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate
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Overall Program Assessment: The second important M&E aspect is the efficiency assessment of the whole Program that is inexorably associated with the project evaluation and highly depends upon the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation and the nature of influence made by the entire project portfolio accomplished in certain focal areas of the Program's operation.

For the purpose of the above, in addition to the standard evaluation of each individual project upon completion the special post-project research of the project results will be performed in all the program areas. In this connection the existing impact assessment methodologies will be used such as the methodology of post-project research. When finding these or those additional project results, whether positive and negative, the situation will be analyzed in which such result has been obtained and the lessons learned will be aggregated.

Using such data it would be possible to prevent the negative unexpected effect of the project implementation by way of making the preventive management decisions as well as to replicate and launch the positive outcomes. All the lessons learned in the course of implementation of this strategy will be collected and disseminated among the related parties via electronic information networks and will be placed on the Kazakhstan SGP web-site.

The project monitoring and assessment will actively involve SGP NSC members. After each monitoring site visit NSC members will be reported in detail of the project implementation progress at the nearest NSC meeting (to be held on a quarterly basis).

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Program Level

SGP Country Program Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Country Programme Strategy Review	NSC, NC, CPMT	Start of OP5
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	NSC, NC	Once during OP5
NSC Meetings	NSC, NC, UNDP CO	Minimum twice per year
Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS	Once per year
Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report ¹	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

6 Project-Level and Program-Level Knowledge Management Plan

The system of knowledge management assumes the work in a number of areas. One of the most important aspects is the collection and dissemination of information on the experiences gained within both each individual project and the entire project portfolio within a certain thematic area. The regular analysis of the lessons learned will enable not only to continuously replenish the knowledge and lessons learned but to ensure the transfer of experiences from project to project as well that will ultimately encourage the improvement of the project qualitative level and enhance the impact on the change of the situation. Every new project will be developed in view of the lessons and achievements gained through the previously implemented initiatives.

The great attention will also be paid to the dissemination of experiences gained at the seminars and meetings, by electronic delivery via electronic and information networks, publication of information materials etc.

5.3 Please describe the strategy for how the results of SGP individual projects will be aggregated at the country programme portfolio level. Please describe the target indicators for focal area and multi-focal area outcomes.

The great role in the knowledge management aspect is played by training programs organized within each individual project including workshops, training etc.

To enhance the process of experience sharing the practice of exchange visits will be implemented between the grant recipients of the projects implemented both within the same focal area and those unrelated thematically but providing the opportunity to share the experiences in addressing certain issues such as e.g. strengthening of partnership with the governmental agencies, involvement of businesses in the project, the mechanisms of successful work with the local communities, participation of media in the project. That will enable the project executing parties to use the necessary experience gained from the other initiatives to address the complicated issues within their own projects.

The collection and consolidation of the experiences and knowledge gained are assumed on the Program level in the form of booklets, reports, reviews, video materials, films. One of the main mechanisms to collect the information are the project site visits that provide the opportunity to obtain and learn the practical knowledge and experiences gained in the course of the project activities.

Taking into account the need of SGP for 2011-2014 to disseminate widely the most successful experiences and practices, the active work will be carried out to disseminate the practices not only on the national level but on the regional level as well via electronic networks, workshops, conferences, site-events. In addition, each project will have the task to promote the experiences and knowledge accumulated in the course of the project implementation both on the local and national level through the partnership network. Indeed, the research of results gained by the projects is also one of the main things, since it enables not only to analyze but also to aggregate all the experiences and knowledge gained from the project for further dissemination.

Knowledge collection and management will play an important role by implementing a complex training system on the Program level for the potential proponents and the current grant recipients. In the first case, that will enable to obtain the knowledge of how well are NGO's and local initiatives familiar with SGP activities, identify the needs of target groups, the proponents' capacities for successful project implementation within SGP and adjust accordingly the strategy of SGP work with the potential partners. In the second case, that will enable to assess the recipients' needs in obtaining certain knowledge and see the actual picture of the existing skills and abilities of recipients, enhance the strengths and mitigate the weaknesses. In addition, complex training and information sharing between the grant recipients during training and workshops will ensure the transfer of experience from project to project and from phase to phase.

Said aspect of SGP activities will also be enhanced by the joint activities with the other UNDP training programs and projects (through joint planning, organization and holding of field workshops and training events for the target groups), dissemination of the experiences gained and the best practices (through coordination and tight cooperation with the UNDP Media and Information Department, preparation and publication of the joint materials), the joint monitoring and assessment of the initiatives to be implemented.

7 Plan of Resources Mobilization

Under SGP activities for 2011-2014 2.4 million USD of the additional co-financing will be mobilized on a project level. This will include both cash and in-kind input.

In addition, the activities will be performed to seek and mobilize the resources on the Program level.

The approach when assessing the program financing involved will be based on the following principle: the quantity of monetary resources provided by the other donors (partnership organizations, projects, governmental resources etc.) invested in parallel (or directly through SGP) in the development and expansion of the area being the thematic and strategic priority for SGP. With this end in view, SGP will build its activities through coordination of the joint actions with the partners in a certain focal area. This will enable, on one hand, to meet the goals and objectives set by the program using efficiently the SGP limited financial resources, and, on the other hand, to expand the sphere of SGP influence and strengthen the partnership relationships.

To analyze the prospects of further cooperation an assessment of various ongoing donor programs (both national and international) implemented in the country has been performed on a country level for SGP. The assessment took into account such criteria as the opportunity to support the projects within GEF focal areas, the programs' willingness to cooperate, long-term and mid-term strategic plans, financial sustainability, the work with vulnerable groups and local communities, the previous practices to organize the grant process. The analysis data have shown first of all that the number of potential donors willing to maintain a long-term cooperation with SGP is rather limited.

However, realizing the GEF strategic approach for GEF 5 focused on the efficient use of allocated GEF resources and the need to attract the additional funding, the work will be carried out to enhance contacts with various partners.

As was mentioned before, the contacts will be maintained with various UNDP programs and projects of both environmental and social focus. Specifically, the implementation plan will be developed for the UNDP initiative within the Poverty Alleviation Program in Semipalatinsk area and Kyzylorda Oblast. The prospects will be discussed for the joint work plan with CAREC in the field of PES, efficient use of water resources and the adaptation to the climate change, as well as with the Association of Biodiversity Conservation in Kazakhstan (ABCK) in the field of activities on the sustainable management of biodiversity components in the buffer zones associated with the specially protected and important bird areas.

Within cooperation with the UNDP Program for Semipalatinsk Area and Kyzylorda Oblast Development SGP will finance the projects of local communities and NGO's provided that the proponents have in place good quality proposals made in writing that are in full compliance with the SGP priorities and criteria. The main preliminary thematic areas of cooperation within the Semipalatinsk Program will initially be the land degradation and enhancement of energy efficiency. At the same time, the activities might be expanded also in the other SGP focal areas in the event of interest shown by the local communities in implementing good project ideas and approaches within such areas. For the purpose of efficient cooperation between SGP and the UNDP Program for Semipalatinsk Area and Kyzylorda Oblast Development, the work plans will be synchronized both at the initial stages and thereafter.

The main aspects of joint activities between SGP and the Program for Kyzylorda Oblast Development will be identified at the beginning of such initiative using the same approaches and principles as for the cooperation with the Program for Semipalatinsk Area Development.

Cooperation with the regional Initiative of Central Asian Countries for Sustainable Land Resources Management (ICACSLRM), the Program on Climate Risks etc. will be strengthened.

On the project level the Program will continue the practice of providing support to the joint NGO/NGO and NGO/private company projects that will encourage the attraction of additional financial resources to the projects and ensure their sustainability. In view of the current difficulties with the donor financing that could provide co-financing to the projects implemented within GEF focal areas, a considerable part of co-financing will be covered by the grant recipients and their partners. Said fact will have a positive effect on the development of the sense of ownership of the project outcomes and raise the responsibility.

The joint implementation of initiatives with the UNDP projects and programs will enable to strengthen the work on the governmental level by maintaining contacts and cooperation with key ministries, specifically MEP, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, Forestry and Hunting Committee etc. In addition, such cooperation will enhance the opportunities for further dissemination of SGP approaches on the national level.

Kazakhstan National Biodiversity Conservation Fund is viewed to become one of the strategic SGP partners for the next several years. Its main mission is to establish the financial mechanism of sustainable long-term financing of the projects on the globally significant biodiversity conservation in Kazakhstan.

In view of the fact that the Fund's mission is consistent with the SGP Kazakhstan strategic priorities, SGP Kazakhstan may act as a grant mechanism of the Funds' functioning.