

CARBON SEQUESTRATION THROUGH CLIMATE INVESTMENT IN FORESTS AND RANGELANDS (CS-FOR) IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, GCP/KYR/020/GCF

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

FAO/GCF "Carbon Sequestration through climate investment in forests and rangelands in the Kyrgyz Republic (CS-FOR)" project was approved at the 24th meeting of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board on 14 November 2019 in Songdo, South Korea. The project agreement between FAO, in its capacity as Accredited Entity of the Green Climate Fund, and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic was countersigned on 4 March 2022 in Bishkek and ratified by the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) Resolution № 233-VII dated 27 April 2022 and was declared effective by the GCF Secretariat on 25 October 2022.

The Kyrgyz Republic's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement commits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15.97 percent by 2030.

The goal of the CS-FOR project is to contribute to the development of a low carbon-emission and climate resilient economy, while capitalizing important co-benefits from adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The project will lead to the sequestration of 19.8 million tCO_{2eq} in 20 years. These reductions represent 7.6 percent of the country's total emissions, and 22.6 percent of the agricultural share of emissions.

The objective of the project is to increase carbon sequestration through supporting climate investments in forests and rangelands and through reducing drivers of degradation and emissions via institutional support, participatory ecosystem-based sustainable management of natural resources and green growth investments.

The project objective is to be achieved through the following three components:

Component 1: *Evidence-based Strengthening of Natural Resources Management (NRM) Governance* to provide the Kyrgyz Republic with an enabling environment that supports investment for carbon sequestration through forest and rangeland management while providing economic and social incentives to the users of natural resources;

Component 2: *Green Investments for Forest and Rangeland Rehabilitation* to increase the resilience of populations in the target areas and to decrease their exposure to climate change related risks and hazards;

Component 3: *Climate-sensitive Value Chains Development* to strengthen the sustainability of the investment in carbon sequestration carried out in Component 2 by creating economic opportunities.

Main project actors

Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision (MNRETS) is the National Designated Authority (NDA) that serves as the interface between the country and GCF. NDA provides broad strategic oversight of the GCF's activities in the country and communicates the country's priorities for financing low-emission and climate-resilient development.

FAO is the Accredited Entity, representing the GCF implementing partner guided by the GCF investment framework and the priorities of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and also acts as the Executing Entity with respect to project implementation.

FAO, Forestry Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic (MoA), Russian-Kyrgyz Development Fund (RKDF) and Community Development and Investment Agency (ARIS) are Executing Entities ensuring coordination of planning and the execution of project activities where the entity holds highest comparative advantages and at the same time Executing Entities are co-financier(s) contributing to the project in the form of in-kind or loan in addition to the GCF proceeds.

The core intervention area of the CS-FOR project is in the four contiguous districts of Ak-Talaa, Toguz-Toro, Suzak and Uzgen located in three regions – Jalal-Abad, Osh and, Naryn.

Direct beneficiaries are individuals, communities or institutions who experience benefits which can be directly attributed to the project. *Indirect beneficiaries* refer to other individuals, communities or institutions who are not the direct target of project's interventions and activities but may be indirectly affected and benefited by the activities with direct beneficiaries.

Stakeholders: government institutions, local self-government bodies, civil society, academia, international organizations, private sector.

Format:

The workshop will be held in a hybrid format with the participation of in-person attendees as well as virtual attendees. Link for virtual attendees: <https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAud--trj0jGNF8HRKx98sumPc4EGooBep4>

Objective

The aim of this workshop is an in-depth consultation with relevant stakeholders on the goals and objectives of the project and agree on what is going to be achieved. Provide information on project implementation arrangements, main activities, and expected outcomes, ensure the interest and participation of the project partners and stakeholders, and reinforce the government's support and ownership.

Expected Outcomes:

To receive feedback from the workshop participants/stakeholders, and their views on the project objectives and contents including opportunities and challenges that might emerge since the project submission under each project component.

Target audience

The target audience of the workshop project is beneficiaries and stakeholders including academia and international development partners.

Main focal points, Moderators

MNRETS – NDA. FAO, Forestry Service, ARIS, RKDF – focal points.

Working Language

The working language of the workshop will be Russian. Simultaneous translation into English and Kyrgyz and vice-versa will be provided.

Venue

Novotel, 16 Manas Ave., Bishkek

Inception Workshop Agenda

Bishkek, 11 April 2023

Venue: Novotel, 16 Manas Ave., Bishkek	
Audience: Stakeholders, Project Steering Committee members, and representatives	
12:30 – 13:00	Welcome coffee and registration for physically present participants and logging into zoom for virtual participants
13:00 – 14:00	<p>Welcome and opening remarks:</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Mr. Viorel Gutu, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Central Asia and Representative a.i. in Kyrgyz Republic</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Almaz Isanov, Head of the Department of Political and Economic Research, on behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic - Mr. Marc Dumas-Johansen, Forest and Land Use Specialist, on behalf of the Green Climate Fund (video recording) - Ms. Antje Grawe, UN Resident Coordinator <p>High-level Representatives of the Partner Ministries and Implementing Agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Melis Turgunbaev, Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic - Mr. Askarbek Djanybekov, Minister of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic - Mr. Artem Novikov, Chairman of the Executive Board, Russian-Kyrgyz Development Fund - Mr. Mars Naspakov, Executive Director, ARIS - Mr. Daniel Gustafson, Special Representative of the FAO Director-General
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Moderator: <i>Mr. Almaz Musaev, Director of the Forestry Service under the MoA</i></p> <p>Project objectives, components, and target beneficiaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ekrem Yazici, Project Lead Technical Officer <p>Project implementation arrangements (M&E, ESMF, GAP, GRM*)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Gulmira Urmanbetova, National Project Coordinator
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Project Activities for 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ekrem Yazici, Project Lead Technical Officer <p>Role and involvement of the FAO (presentation, QA session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Gulmira Urmanbetova, National Project Coordinator <p>Role and involvement of the Forestry Service (presentation, QA session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Baktybek Yrsaliev, Deputy Director of the Forestry Service, MoA <p>Role and involvement of ARIS (presentation, QA session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Mirbek Dosuev, Institutional Development Specialist ARIS <p>Role and involvement of RKDF (presentation, QA session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RKDF <p>Discussion/Finalization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Almaz Musaev, <i>Director of the Forestry Service, MoA</i>
17:00 – 17:10	<p>Closing speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Viorel Gutu, <i>FAO Subregional Coordinator for Central Asia and Representative a.i. in Kyrgyz Republic</i>
17:10 – 18:10	Dinner

* Monitoring and Evaluation, Environmental and Social Management Framework, Gender Action Plan, Grievance Redress Mechanism