Project Information Document (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 26-Oct-2020 | Report No: PIDC29059

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Project Name
Tajikistan	P171524		Tajikistan Resilient Landscape Restoration Project (P171524)
Region	**Estimated Appraisal Date**	**Estimated Board Date**	**Practice Area (Lead)**
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Mar 23, 2021	Jul 21, 2021	Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy
Financing Instrument	**Borrower(s)**	**Implementing Agency**	
Investment Project Financing	Tajikistan Ministry of Finance	Tajikistan Committee of Environmental Protection	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective is to increase adoption of landscape restoration practices by rural communities in selected regions and promote collaboration by Central Asia countries on transboundary landscape restoration.

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	45.00
Total Financing	45.00
of which IBRD/IDA	45.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	45.00
IDA Grant	45.00

Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Concept Review Decision

Substantial	Track II-The review did authorize the preparation to continue

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Regional Context

1. **Drylands in Central Asia are one of the most rapidly degrading and climate vulnerable areas in the world.** A mix of natural arid conditions and increasing anthropogenic pressures, such as land conversion to intensified commercial agriculture, logging, and pasturing, have led to land degradation, erosion, and loss of vegetation cover. This, in turn, has affected the productivity of agriculture, the resilience of transport/infrastructure, and the potential for tourism development, while increasing the fragility of the region. The region is increasingly exposed to intense weather events and natural disasters, which further degrade the landscapes, the living conditions, and the economic opportunities of people. Climate change impacts are expected to worsen the condition of countries' natural resources and the overall resilience of their populations and ecosystems.

2. **Land degradation is particularly prevalent in border areas[1], causing acute regional externalities.** Much of the degradation is found along the countries' borders, and these areas demonstrate low land productivity, high poverty, and unemployment. They also experience degradation-related natural disasters, such as landslides and floods, that impact key infrastructure in the region and possible tourism development along the Silk Road. Given the importance of Central Asia's transboundary corridors for biodiversity (some critically endangered), road connectivity, watersheds, and trade, a joint vision and collaborative action are needed by the region's governments to increase the resilience of shared landscapes. Land degradation costs, on average, 4 percent of the countries' GDP, with the cost of inaction being 5 times higher than the cost of action[2] due to a strong dependency of the forestry and agriculture sectors on landscapes. Since 1990, degradation-related disasters has affected the lives of over 10 million people in Central Asia and caused damages worth around US$2.5 billion.[3] Arresting the degradation of regional pubic goods (water and land) will improve the livelihoods of the poor, and increase global interest in Central Asia's vast and largely pristine natural resource endowment for 'clean and green' agricultural exports and tourism.[4] One key example is the degraded Aral Seabed that produces massive sand and salt storms with tragic impacts on livelihoods and health of communities in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Another example is the increased frequency of landslides and mudflows in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic that have led to an economic cost of about US$750 million to Tajikistan alone in the last decades.[5]

3. **Investing in landscape restoration is critical to address the complex nexus of local livelihoods, land degradation, climate change, environmental security, and economic growth**. As noted in the 2019 Special Report on Climate Change and Land of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), restoring degraded landscape is key to

[1] This could be explained, *inter-alia*, by the slowdown of transboundary pastoralism after the breakdown of the Soviet Union, which has restricted the mobility of livestock between pastures to this day. This restriction of seasonal pastures (e.g., from mountains of Tajikistan to plains of Uzbekistan) results in overuse of pasture resources along the borders. With nomads forced to settle during the Soviet period, transhumance is not an issue in Central Asia countries. Source: Quillérou, E., Thomas, et al, https://www.eld-initiative.org/fileadmin/pdf/ELD_CA_regional_report.
[2] Ibid.
[3] EM-DAT International Disaster Database, Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL)–CRED, D. Guha-Sapir, Brussels, Belgium, *https://www.emdat.be/.*
[4] World Bank Group Regional Engagement Framework for Central Asia (REFCA, June 2020)
[5] According to the World Bank data.

mitigating and adapting to climate change.[6] The RESILAND CA+ Program is offered as a mechanism for tackling these issues, and, thus, increasing the resilience of landscapes and people in the region.

4. **The objective of the RESILAND CA+ Program is to increase the resilience of regional landscapes in Central Asia.** The Program will comprise analytics and advisory (funded by Bank Budget and Bank-executed Trust Funds such as PROGREEN), a regional IDA-financed SOP and a GEF-financed project. Over time, financing from other development partners will be explored. The regional SOP will include at least three IDA countries (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic, and potentially Afghanistan) and support activities with regional spillovers, namely (i) improved connectivity and integrity of natural resources across borders, (ii) increased resilience of key regional infrastructure prone to the impacts of land degradation (e.g., roads, railways, and dams), and (iii) increased resilience of transboundary communities benefitting from more productive landscapes and livelihood opportunities. The SOP will also help establish a regional platform for high-level policy harmonization between countries on landscape restoration, designed as a component of the first SOP project and financed through a regional IDA grant to EC-IFAS. *This Concept Note describes SOP 2 in Tajikistan. See Annex 1 for a full description of the RESILAND CA+ Program.*

5. **A regional program on landscape restoration and management is considered the most effective approach to making a difference in the region, as opposed to individual country-specific projects**. Since transboundary areas are hotspots for land degradation and poverty, and restoring land can provide a dual benefit of increased productivity and improved livelihoods, and address risks to communities and infrastructure, regional cooperation is needed to harmonize approaches and harness the ecological and economic benefits across shared corridors. In this context, national approaches would not be as effective in affecting landscape restoration. A regional program is also aligned with the changed vision of Central Asia countries in addressing degradation of regional public goods by coming together as one region.

Country Context

6. **Tajikistan is a landlocked country close to large markets in Central, East, and South Asia and the Middle East.** More than 90 percent of the country's surface is mountainous. Of its 142,000 sq km, about a third can be used for agricultural purposes (crops, orchards, and pasture). More than 60% of the water resources of the Central Asia Region are generated from glaciers in Tajikistan.[7] A GNI per capita of US$1,100 makes Tajikistan a lower-middle income country.

7. **Tajikistan has experienced a rapid decline in poverty over the past two decades**. Extreme poverty fell from 54 percent in 1999 to 5 percent in 2015.[8] There has been rapid economic growth between 1998 and 2016, during which the country's per capita real income more than doubled. Similarly, GDP doubled between 1998 and 2018.[9] However, two major external shocks in 2009 and 2014 have slowed down economic development in Tajikistan, along with progress in poverty reduction. The Government estimates that about 31 percent of the population are poor, 80 percent of which live in rural areas. Unemployment rates in Tajikistan are high, evident in the proportion of working age adults that are unemployed or out of the labor force exceeding those who have a job, especially among the poor. Poverty reduction has been driven mostly by labor earnings and remittances. The high prevalence of youth unemployment in Tajikistan raises social concerns of disenfranchisement and economic concerns of capacity underutilization. About 30 percent of Tajikistan's population are between the ages of 15-29 years old and youth employment rates are 25

[6] https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/08/4.-SPM_Approved_Microsite_FINAL.pdf
[7] UNFCCC (2017)
[8] World Bank (2018). Systematic Country Diagnostic
[9] https://tradingeconomics.com/tajikistan/gdp-per-capita

percentage points lower than for the total population.[10] Overall, more than 54 percent of females and 27 percent of males of ages 15-24 are not studying and not working.[11]

8. **Women's economic participation and political empowerment scores lag men's, though these are partially offset by other positive indicators of equality.** In 2014, women occupied over 23 percent of central and local government positions, but only 17 percent of leadership positions at the central level.[12] At local government level, however, 40 percent of *jamoat (sub-district)* chairpersons are women. Women's dominant presence in the informal economy makes them susceptible to economic shocks. In the informal economy, women are often in part-time, seasonal, low-paying and unskilled jobs in the formal and informal agriculture and related sectors. Despite a growing recognition of their role in natural resources management, women have limited access to information and capacity building; and representation in relevant decision-making bodies.

9. **The COVID-19 pandemic has affected Tajikistan**. As of early October, about 9,900 cases and 70 deaths have been recorded according to the World Health Organization. The Listening to Tajikistan survey published in September revealed that the labour market is recovering after severe disruptions in April and May; food insecurity remains seriously elevated and far above 2019 levels. Structural issues, especially the heavy reliance on remittances, will likely exacerbate the severity of the economic impact of the pandemic in Tajikistan.[13]

Sectoral and Institutional Context

10. **Land degradation and unsustainable use of natural resources pose considerable constraints for rural development**. Rural poverty remains concentrated in communities dependent on natural resources – particularly poverty in terms of access to land, water resources and agriculture.[14]At least 10% of Tajikistan's population is living on degraded lands[15] while soil erosion affects about 70 percent of arable land.[16] In the agriculture sector, wasteful irrigation and/or inadequate drainage, amplify challenges of soil degradation and stagnating yields. In mountainous areas, steep slopes converted to cereal production contribute further to land degradation, which, in turn, affects forests and rainfed agriculture. Pasture stocks are also rapidly deteriorating, especially in the Khatlon and DRS regions, where pasture makes up 80 percent of the agricultural land.[17] Pasture degradation, partly due to overgrazing, remains a serious threat.

11. **Tajikistan's limited forest cover (about 3%) is diminishing rapidly due to overexploitation and uncontrolled grazing.** For 70 percent of the population, fuelwood is the primary energy source due to an inconsistent energy supply.[18] Additional constraints in the sector include open access to resources, inefficient heating and cooking devices, and lack of land tenure security and forest ownership awareness. Furthermore, there are unclear responsibilities and jurisdictions, lack of reliable forest data, weak administrative, managerial and law enforcement capacities, and lack of sustainable forest management schemes.[19] **Land degradation is also a threat in protected areas.** Currently, about 22% of Tajikistan is demarcated as protected areas and recreational zones, with limited use of natural resources or full prohibition across 2,500 hectares of land with valuable ecosystems. Due to inadequate financing and technical capacity,

[10] World Bank (2018). Systematic Country Diagnostic
[11] World Bank (2019). Country Partnership Framework FY19-FY23
[12] World Bank (2019). Country Partnership Framework FY19 – FY23
[13] https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/covid-19-crisis-response-in-central-asia-5305f172/
[14] UNDP (2012) Tajikistan Poverty in context of Climate Change
[15] National Development Strategy of The Republic of Tajikistan (up to 2030)
[16] World Bank (2018). Systematic Country Diagnostic
[17] The Government of The Republic of Tajikistan (2014). The Third National Communication under UNFCCC
[18] World Bank (2018). Systematic Country Diagnostic
[19] GTZ (2010). Forest Sector Analysis of the Republic of Tajikistan

protected areas lack management plans, proper boundary mapping, and measures to prevent or reduce degradation, and opportunities for co-management with stakeholders.

12. **Climate change is expected to increase the intensity and frequency of extreme climate events leaving Tajikistan's economy and people increasingly vulnerable.** Tajikistan had the lowest level of GHG emissions in Central Asia with the agriculture as the primary source.[20] However, Tajikistan is the most vulnerable to climate change due mainly to its low adaptive capacity.[21] Between 1992 and 2016, about $1.8 billion in GDP was lost due to climate-related calamities, and almost 7 million people were affected. Climate change is expected to lead to increased annual mean temperatures within the interval of 1.8-2.9°C and 4.5 for some regions by 2050 as per the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)[22], more intense heavy precipitation events and increase of precipitation by 3-26% expected by 2050, shortening of rainfall seasons, fewer frost days and changes in growing season length. These processes along with mismanagement of land resources, will likely lead to increased desertification, landslides, and erosion. Available estimates indicate that ~82% of all land in Tajikistan is already affected by soil erosion to some degree.[23] Climate change will affect Tajikistan's agriculture and in turn food security due to dependence on water resources. The poor who are mostly dependent on agricultural livelihoods will become increasingly vulnerable as impacts on agriculture and food production may increase relative food prices and reduce agricultural wages.[24] Impacts on Tajikistan's water resources also have regional implications since its rivers are an important source of fresh water for the Aral Sea.[25]

13. **Tajikistan is committed to reducing landscape degradation through reforestation and afforestation.** In 2018, Tajikistan along with five other Caucasus and Central Asian countries signed the Astana Resolution to restore about 2.7 million hectares of degraded forest landscapes. Tajikistan specifically committed to restore 48,000 ha of degraded forest landscapes from 2018-2030. The country had already restored 16,000 ha of degraded landscapes since the inception of the Bonn Challenge in 2011, bringing its targeted commitment to a total 66,000 ha of restored area by 2030.[26] The State Forestry Agency has developed the Forest Development Strategy (2016 – 2030), which has been adopted by all relevant ministries and state agencies, but there is no dedicated funding for implementation. The National Development Strategy 2030 addresses energy issues and aims to provide a reliable energy supply. Planting 1,000 ha, rehabilitating 2,000 ha and supporting natural forest regeneration on 8,000 ha of forests annually is envisaged.

14. **Tajikistan recognizes the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change through investments in different sectors including agriculture and forestry.** Following the Paris Agreement, Tajikistan submitted its INDC in March 2017. Tajikistan has a flexible target of not exceeding 80-90% of the 1990 level by 2030, without international assistance, and a target of 65- 75% of the 1990 level by 2030, with substantial international funding. In 2019 the government approved the **National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS)** which extends to 2030. The government vision is that the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) will guide implementation of the NCCAS. The NCCAS presents a long-term outline of priority adaption measures in the form of a basic project pipeline and will be implemented through successive NAPs which will provide concrete actions according to successive five-year timeframes.

[20] The Government of The Republic of Tajikistan (2014). The Third National Communication under UNFCCC
[21] Shah (2013).
[22] As per Nationally Determined Contribution towards Climate Change submitted by the Government of Tajikistan – NDC https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/nap/tainap01e.pdf
[23] UNDP and UNEP (2012). Poverty-Environment Initiative in Tajikistan
[24] Shah (2013).
[25] GTZ (2010). Forest Sector Analysis of the Republic of Tajikistan
[22] UNECE (2018). Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration in Caucasus and Central Asia. Summary Report

15. **Although Tajikistan, has made commitments to working across sectors in order to better manage landscapes, the country faces a number of challenges**: i) weak institutional structures for developing integrated catchment and landscape management strategies; ii) limited technical capacity of public services to promote integrated landscape management and adaptation among communities; iii) a lack of coherent and relevant information for integrated planning coupled with limited knowledge sharing within the country; iv) lack of investments to address degradation; v) limited knowledge among communities of improved landscape management practices; and vi) lack of incentives to adopt such practices. Furthermore, frequent re-organizations of government institutions contribute to a shifting landscape of actors and changing mandates.

16. **Landscape quality and people's livelihoods are interlinked and attempts to improve one while ignoring the other do not produce optimum results.** Landscape restoration increases productivity of the land base which results in higher income for farmers enabling them to adopt more sustainable practices, further contributing to landscape health and vigor. Landscapes can be resilient through integrated and spatially focused approaches and improved rural livelihoods. Making landscapes resilient requires long-term commitment and sustained efforts from the government and other stakeholders. Hence, strengthening policy frameworks and institutional capacity are crucial for sustainable landscape restoration outcomes. Such positive outcomes are multiplied when a regional challenge is addressed regionally through concerted efforts and maximization of resources. GoT's commitment to INDC, LDN, Bonn Challenge, ECCA30 and Astana Resolution provide strong basis for projects aiming at landscape restoration.

Relationship to CPF

17. **The WBG Regional Engagement Framework for Central Asia (REFCA) gives the highest priority to programs that improve connectivity or sustainability of regional public goods.** Both aims are supported by the project. The REFCA further emphasizes the impact of land degradation on road connectivity, critical hydropower dams, and environmental investments. Accordingly, the REFCA recognizes RESILAND CA+ as one of two key WBG programs which address the Climate, Environment, and Disaster Risk Management priority under Pillar 2 (Regional Public Goods).

18. **The proposed project is well-aligned with the third objective, *Improving Resilience of Residents in Local Communities*, of the first pillar in the CPF for The Republic of Tajikistan for FY19-FY23.** *Improving Resilience of Residents in Local Communities* aligns with the objective of this project to improve resilience in rural communities through increased land productivity and livelihood assets. According to the CPF, the WBG aims to support national and regional activities that will address environmental vulnerabilities such as land degradation and unsustainable use of natural resources that considerably hinder rural development. These include activities that are essential for livelihoods and social welfare and support the development of key growth sectors such as forestry, agroforestry, climate smart agriculture agribusiness as proposed in this project. The range of activities will also increase the resilience of landscape assets against climate risks and other natural hazards.

19. **The project aligns with WBG Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (Report No. 136368)** Objective 1 of boosting adaptation financing. The Action plan identifies forests and integrated landscape management as one six adaptation themes which the WBG will support in particular, stating that the WBG is looking to support interventions through an integrated landscape management approach for avoiding deforestation and promoting landscape restoration or sustainable forest management for 120 million hectares of forests in 50 countries.

20. **The project will support the WBG's COVID-19 Crisis Response Approach[23] and WBG Gender Strategy.** While not considered a COVID-19 response operation, the project will support the green recovery aspects of the Bank's response strategy as articulated in the June 2020 COVID-19 Crisis Response Approach Paper under Pillar 3 (Ensuring Sustainable Business Growth and Job Creation) and Pillar 4 (Strengthening Policies, Institutions, and Investments for Rebuilding Better) during the Resilient Recovery Stage. In terms of gender, the project will contribute to WBG Gender Strategy, particularly to Objective 2. Removing Constraints for More and Better Jobs, Objective 3. Removing Barriers to Women's Ownership of and Control over Assets, and Objective 4. Enhancing Women's Voice and Agency and Engaging Men and Boys. Specific activities will be identified and included in a Gender Action Plan.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

21. The proposed Tajikistan Resilient Landscapes Restoration Project - SOP II is a part of the RESILAND CA+ SOP whose objective is to increase the resilience of regional landscapes in Central Asia.

22. The Project Development Objective is to increase adoption of landscape restoration practices by rural communities in selected regions and promote collaboration by Central Asia countries on transboundary landscape restoration.

Key Results (From PCN)

23. The following indicative list of indicators will measure the achievement of the PDO and the project's key results.

PDO-level indicators

- Land Degradation Neutrality target set (Yes/No)
- Land area under sustainable landscape management practices (CRI, ha)
- Transboundary sustainable landscape management policies harmonized (e.g., regional MoU/roadmap for integrated landscape restoration endorsed by countries and regional knowledge platform operationalized)
- Beneficiaries adopting landscape restoration practices (number, disaggregated by sex)

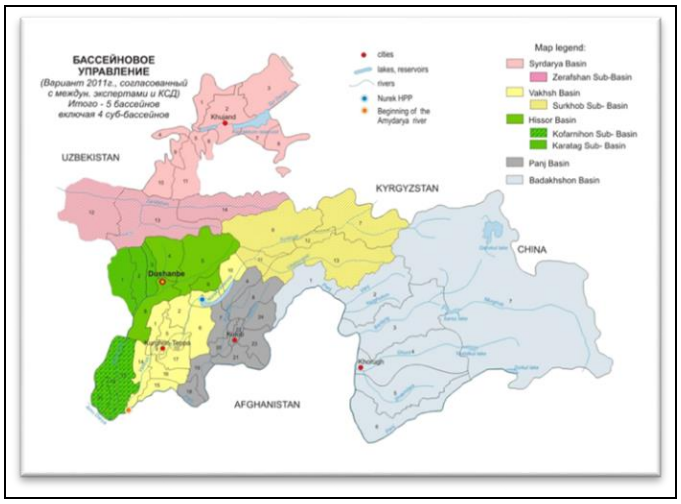
D. Concept Description

24. **The US$45 million IDA project will be implemented over a five-year period under the leadership of the Committee of Environmental Protection (CEP).** Of this $30 million is national IDA, and $15 million is regional IDA. **Landscape management approaches seek to provide frameworks for allocating and managing land** to achieve environmental, economic and social objectives in areas of multiple and often competing land uses**. The project will build on lessons from ELMARL, CAMP4ASB and other Bank and donor-funded projects on agriculture, irrigation, disaster risk mitigation, rural economy and tourism development in the country**. Village and community-based/resource user groups and organizations will take responsibility for the choice, design and management of smaller-scale landscape and livelihood investments. At the same time, the project will work across sectors, e.g., with the Forestry Agency, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, as well as local administration and organizations (district, sub-district) to incorporate a landscape approach for investment planning.

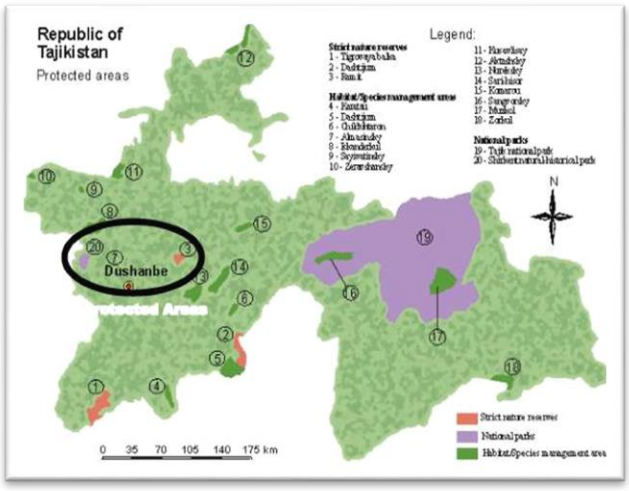
[23] As articulated in the Approach Paper, dated June 8, 2020.

25. **Project areas/districts will be selected based on a combination of criteria.** An initial pre-screening of districts has been conducted using the following criteria - poverty incidence, potential for integrated landscape restoration (incorporating pasture, agriculture, water, forestry, biodiversity), regional and transboundary corridors, and complementarity with government and donor-funded initiatives. When overlaid on the current arrangements of river basins, potential project sites fall in the following river basins: a) Syr Darya (in Sughd oblast, bordering Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic); b) larger Panj (in Khatlon and Gorno Badakhsahn Autonomous oblasts, bordering the Kyrgyz Republic and Afghanistan); and c) Vakhsh (in the Region of Republican Subordination and Khatlon oblasts, bordering Afghanistan) as shown the Map of river basins below. These sites include protected and forest areas that share boundaries with the above countries, along with sub-basins and watersheds that form upper catchments and include tributaries of regionally important rivers. Resources of national and regional significance in these sites include riparian forests (tugai), threatened fauna (snow leopard) and infrastructure (dams). During project preparation further analysis will be conducted and consultations held with government and other stakeholders to finalize project sites.

River Basins



Protected Areas



26. **Project Beneficiaries.** Primary project beneficiaries are expected to be rural communities, private farmers and farmer groups, villages and village communities and resource user groups (e.g., for pasture) interested in adopting landscape restoration practices. These communities will benefit from technical and financial support to implement technologies and approaches that improve their livelihoods, increase their resilience, while also contributing to the restoration of ecosystem functions. Government agencies are expected to benefit from technical support for integrated landscape planning in ways that attempt to reconcile different land uses at national and regional scales. Government agencies will also benefit from financing for restoration activities in forest and protected areas.

27. The CEP will prepare the project using the Recipient-Executed Trust Fund (US$335,000 ECAPDEV) to be managed by a team of technical staff and consultants. The project preparation grant (PPG) will finance technical assessments and environmental and social assessments, the development of a results framework, consultation and communication, and the preparation of a Project Operational Manual. The PPG will support additional work on project site selection including data collection and further analysis of degradation. The PPG will also help use innovative technologies to prepare and consult about project activities while travel might be restricted by COVID-19. Lastly, the grant will enable the training and capacity building of local stakeholders.

Component 1. Strengthen Institutions and Policies, and Regional Collaboration (US$6.0 million)

28. **Sub-component 1.1. Strengthen Institutions and Policies *(US$3.0 million).*** This project component will finance i) preparation of a national landscape restoration strategy and action plan, building on the results of the ROAM[27] funded by NDC partnership, and the national forest program, ii) policy development and implementation for forestry and protected areas; ii) capacities for spatial planning and use of spatial data, iii) capacity building of CEP, Special Protected Areas Enterprise, Forestry Agency, other government agencies, communities, private sector, and civil society in landscape restoration and protected areas management, ecosystem based adaptation and climate risk mainstreaming; and iv) analytical studies on topics such as assessing drivers of land degradation, climate risk assessment, carbon balance accounting, well-being assessments of beneficiaries, market development and access, and baseline and impact evaluations; PES assessment and piloting. The project will work with research and academic institutions, technical experts and civil society organizations to deliver a program of professional development for CEP, Forestry Agency and other relevant institutions in landscape restoration technologies and approaches. Capacities are limited at present and critical for restoration efforts.

29. **Sub-component 1.2 Strengthen Regional Collaboration *(US$3.0 million)***. This component will support i) stakeholder participation in workshops, trainings and dialogues on issues related to key regional and transboundary natural resources and climate change; ii) harmonization of regional policies to improve management of critical resources such as water and grazing management, biodiversity, forestry and the resilience of critical regional infrastructure such as roads; iii) regional digital platforms by storing, hosting and publishing data and publications on sustainable land use, climate change and other topics; iv) knowledge management, design data use and access protocols to regional climate information systems and integration for improved land use planning, and harmonization of national data platforms such as Sustainable Land Management Tajikistan (SLMTJ established under ELMARL) - as well as initiatives like GIZ's planned Geoportal – TCCA-RA.; and v) monitoring of RESILAND CA+ program impacts, and tracking the adoption of innovative technologies. Workshops and trainings could also involve the Ministry of Finance to help them align geo-spatial data and budget flows for public investments on climate and environmental risk assessments at transboundary level. The regional component will be implemented by EC-IFAS and financed through a regional IDA grant. It will aim to fulfill the regional and global commitments of the Central Asia countries, raise their INDC mitigation ambitions, and foster transboundary sustainable landscape management collaboration between governments. This will be achieved by setting up a Regional Landscape Restoration Platform within EC-IFAS that will connect governments at the ministerial level, as well as non-government entities, prominent regional organizations, and academic institutions (for example, the Tajikistan-based University of Central Asia and Aral Sea organizations), development partners (ECCA30 partners, GIZ, UNDP, EU, Swiss government), and the private sector across Central Asia, and Afghanistan.

Component 2. Enhance Resilient Landscape Management and Livelihoods (US$36.0 million)

30. **Sub-component 2.1. Improve Planning for Resilient Landscape Management *(US$5.0 million)*.** Under this sub-component, the project will finance the preparation of: i) protected areas management plans, ii) integrated landscape management plans on sub-basin level, comprising of one or more rayons (districts), and iii) participatory action plans at the smaller watershed levels, comprising one or more jamoats (sub-districts). **Management plans** will be prepared for two protected areas (to be identified during preparation), which will involve boundary mapping; spatial planning for activities such as landscape restoration, afforestation, reforestation, pasture management; and other activities within

[27] ROAM provides analytical outputs on (i) land degradation and deforestation geospatial/ biophysical aspects and; (ii) economic modeling within a framework that assess the social, political and institutional readiness to implement large-scale restoration.

the protected area. For the **sub-basin level landscape management plans**, the planning process will engage relevant government ministries and agencies at national, regional (oblast) and local government levels, in close coordination with the River Basin Organizations (RBOs) and River Basin Councils (RBCs). The sub-basin level plans will inform the development of **watershed level action plans** at lower levels (comprising one or more jamoats) which in turn would be reviewed and integrated at district level. The latter planning process will engage community representatives, organizations such as pasture user unions, water user associations, women-led community organizations, mahallas and others. All planning will encourage women's leadership and will be based on good practice principles for a landscape approach when reconciling different and often competing land uses.

31. **Subcomponent 2.2 Enhance Resilient Landscape Management and Livelihoods (*US$31.0 million)*.** Under this sub-component, the project will support: i) the Forestry Agency for nurseries, afforestation, assisted natural regeneration, forest protection, joint forest management (JFM), and other activities planned in the National Strategy on Forestry Development; ii) the CEP and its State Enterprise for Specially Protected Areas to implement restoration activities identified in protected area management plans, including biodiversity monitoring, afforestation, infrastructure to optimize recreational services (e.g. signage, trails, etc.); and iii) communities to undertake restoration activities identified in the sub-basin level integrated landscape management plan and watershed level action plans. The implementation of the watershed level action plans will focus on the adoption of priority sustainable land management and climate smart agricultural practices. With a focus on implementation in transboundary corridors, community-driven activities seek to address the need to link restoration with improving the resilience of rural populations and the improved integrity of transboundary resources.

32. To encourage increased adoption of landscape restoration practices, this subcomponent will provide small grants to beneficiaries for eligible investments under sub-basin level integrated landscape management plans and watershed level action plans. Grant recipients would include **pasture user unions** (for activities related to pasture management e.g. pasture improvement, water points, pasture access, fodder production, livestock husbandry, training, extension, shelter belts, agroforestry), and **households** (for agroforestry and climate smart agriculture e.g. sustainable intensification, organic production, integrated pest management, seed and crop choices, agroforestry, woodlots, agro-biodiversity practices). The project will encourage women's participation and leadership in these small grant schemes.

33. Budget allocations would be fixed amounts for forestry and protected areas. The grant amounts for PUUs will also be fixed, while grant amounts for households will be determined by the size of population in selected sites. Each community-level grant would require at least 15% beneficiary contributions in cash or in-kind. Technical support and capacity building will be provided for grantees in the design and implementation of investments in this component. Small grants to communities will follow community driven approaches implemented in other Bank funded projects in agriculture, tourism and socio-economic development. During project preparation, a Grant Operational Manual will be prepared based on similar manuals prepared by these projects and the previous ELMARL project.

34. Component 2 will play a pivotal role in boosting the post COVID-19 recovery of rural livelihoods in project sites. Vocational training for locally appropriate market-based activities will provide additional employment opportunities. This component will facilitate the active and effective participation of women in community meetings, planning, decision-making, capacity building and management community-driven plans and investments.

Component 3. Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) (US$ 0 million)

35. Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) enables the project to rapidly respond to rehabilitation/restoration activities due to natural disasters or emergency situations in the target area. The component

will have initially zero funding allocated, but in case of emergency, budget from other components would be reallocated to CERC. In case, there are no emergencies or natural disasters within the project period, CERC will remain inactive.

Component 4. Project Management (including M&E) and Coordination (US$3 million)

36. This component will finance the CEP (and its Implementation Group) responsible for project management and, the incremental costs associated with project management – e.g., hiring of project support staff, procurement of consultants, training, equipment; financial management and reporting; and, monitoring and evaluation as well as activities necessary to ensure compliance with the environmental and social framework and studies and surveys as needed during implementation. The establishment and maintenance of the grievance redress mechanism will be financed under this component. An inter-ministerial Working Group established to support project design will continue to support implementation.

37. The project design is based on a large portfolio of landscape projects of the ENB Global Practice and Agriculture Global Practice (i.e. Ethiopia Climate Action through Landscape Management Program for Results , Burundi Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project , Colombia Mainstreaming Sustainable Cattle Ranching Project), Regional Programs [(i.e. Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin; Regional CASA projects; Sahel and West Africa Program in Support of the Great Green Wall)], and experiences in Uzbekistan, and international experience outside the Bank in partnerships with the Global Landscape Forum, ECCA30 and PROGREEN.

Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

38. **The Environmental Risk Rating is tentatively assessed as Substantial because the locations and types of sub-activities are not fully known.** The risk rating will be re-assessed during project preparation when the scope of potential sub activities is better defined. The environmental impact of the project is expected to be largely positive as it will support restoration of degraded landscapes and promote climate change resilience. The project is also expected to increase the adoption of effective agricultural, land and water management practices. However, some potential environmental risks associated with activities related to landscape restoration activities, improvement of resilience of infrastructure (roads, dams), visitor's centers in protected areas, and agroforestry, climate smart agriculture practices are expected. Some potential environmental risks may include temporary local disturbances to biodiversity and living natural resources; habitat disturbances; soil loss related to planting activities; dust; and temporary, construction related, air or water pollution. Such risks are expected to be reversible, short-term, and easily mitigable. Moreover, landscape restoration, sub-basin level integrated landscape management plans, watershed level action plans will be developed with consideration to avoid or mitigate identified and potential environmental risks.

39. **Social risk is rated as Substantial due to contextual as well as project related issues and the impacts thereof.** The former which may impact project implementation and outcomes include: (i) accessibility – to poor and near-poor people, specially, in rural and mountainous areas; (ii) equity challenges due to geographic, socio-economic, and inter regional

disparities; (iii) fragility and conflict situation in some border areas; (iv) gender inequity – which could affect outreach to women in general and female headed households , in particular; (iv) adequate and appropriate facilities provision and service quality; and (v) regulation and governance, especially with regard to integrating forestry with other livelihood department activities. As regards project related issues, it is difficult to assess at this juncture the nature and scale of impacts likely to occur and the risks thereof as the project locations and the interventions are not finalized. However, as the key interventions will be in the spheres of protected area and land scape management, the interface with the local communities will be critical. It is likely that project will have to address potential conflicts in order to bring together differing perspectives. This would mean that the project will have to develop appropriate strategies and implementation plans to ensure that the local communities are provided with an opportunity to participate in decision making and derive full benefits. The project does not envisage involuntary acquisition of lands, nor any permanent restrictions impeding formal or customary access and usage.

CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Drite Dade, Paola Agostini, Rajesh Koirala
Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Tajikistan Ministry of Finance

Implementing Agencies

Tajikistan Committee of Environmental Protection
B. A Sheralizoda
Chairman
cepprj@gmail.com

Mr. Faiziddin Qahhorzoda,
Minister of Finance
invetdiv@mail.ru

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: http://www.worldbank.org/projects

APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Drite Dade, Paola Agostini, Rajesh Koirala

Approved By

Practice Manager/Manager:		
Country Director:	Lilia Burunciuc	11-Nov-2020