TERMS OF REFERENCE - 100010589

Final Project Evaluation for ROA02

Green Rehabilitation Investment Project for Karakalpakstan Republic
to address impacts of the Aral Sea Crisis

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1. Purpose

The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) seeks a firm to conduct an end project evaluation of "Green Rehabilitation Investment Project for Karakalpakstan Republic to address impacts of the Aral Sea Crisis" (the "Project"). Box 1 provides key information about the Project. Within GGGI, the evaluation will be managed by the Impact and Evaluation Unit (IEU).

The purpose of this evaluation is threefold, aiming to contribute to enhancing development learning, strengthening accountability, and informing the design of future projects. This comprehensive evaluation will be based on the OECD-defined evaluation criteria of efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability.

Purpose 1: Enhancing Development Learning: This objective is focused on enriching GGGI's internal knowledge base in sustainable economic development and environmental management/restoration. It emphasizes the importance of nurturing an organizational culture geared towards innovation and continuous improvement. The evaluation aims to:

- Assess the efforts to adopt the Aral Sea Development Program, rehabilitate livelihoods by improving the capacity of small-holder agrarian communities and equip local entrepreneurs with climate-resilient agri-business models of Uzbekistan.
- Utilize the OECD DAC criteria to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of these efforts.

Purpose 2: Strengthening Accountability: This goal underscores the significance of demonstrating the effectiveness of GGGI projects funded by KOICA and other partners to beneficiaries. It aims to:

- Ensure transparent and effective communication with all stakeholders.
- Establish and/or improving robust Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) systems and frameworks.
- Demonstrate GGGI's role and its impact on the Project which could inform stakeholders for future decision making.

Purpose 3: Informing the Design of Future Projects: This objective leverages the valuable learnings and evidence gathered from current and past projects to shape future initiatives. It aims to:

- Replicate and/or scale climate-resilient agroforestry business models and capacity building programs in Uzbekistan.
- Enhance the scalability and sustainability of upcoming projects.
- Significantly boost the combined impact of GGGI's efforts in advancing global sustainable development goals.

Box 1. Project Metadata

Project Name: Green Rehabilitation Investment Project for Karakalpakstan Republic to Address Impacts of the Aral Sea Crisis
GGGI Project ID: ROA02
Evaluation timing: Final Project evaluation
Country(ies): Uzbekistan
GGGI Programmatic Solution: 1. Green Investment, 2. Climate Action[1], 3. Climate Resilient Agriculture
GGGI Gender and Poverty Markers: 1 + P[2]
Project budget: US$5.9 million
Project Duration: July 2021 through December 2024 (Initial project end date: June 2024; 6 months no-cost extension)
Resource Partner: Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), US$ 5.6million; GGGI US$ 0.3million

[1] GGGI's Programmatic Solutions (PS) represent the areas for focus.
[2] GGGI's Gender and Poverty Markers is a statistical tool to identify which projects target gender equality and poverty reduction as an explicit objective. A gender marker of 2 means that GGGI considers gender equality is the principal objective of the project; 1 means that GGGI considers gender equality is a significant objective of the project; and 0 means that GGGI considers gender equality does not target gender equality. A poverty marker of P means that GGGI considers poverty reduction as a significant objective of the project.

2. Background to the Evaluation

GGGI's Mission and Approach

GGGI was established as an intergovernmental organization with the objective of promoting sustainable development of developing and emerging countries including the least developed countries. GGGI is dedicated to supporting the creation and diffusion of the model of economic growth known as "green growth". The green growth model integrates economic growth, environmental sustainability, poverty reduction and social inclusion.

Scope of Work

GGGI seeks a firm (interchangeably referred to as 'Consultant' or 'Evaluator') to conduct the evaluation of the Project. Within GGGI, the evaluation will be managed by the Impact and Evaluation Unit (IEU).

This document outlines information to support prospective firms to bid for the work. Specifically, this document provides (1) information about the Project to be evaluated; (2) the evaluation's purpose and key evaluation questions; (3) guidance on the proposed approach and methodology for the Project evaluation; (4) expected phases and deliverables associated with the Project evaluation; and (5) the criteria and method for evaluating bids received from the prospective firms.

Interested bidders shall submit an evaluation framework that they suggest as part of the technical proposal. The framework should be based on the set of key evaluation questions (KEQs) and sub-questions which have been preliminarily outlined in this document. The KEQs and sub-questions are intended to steer discussions and are not exhaustive. Your expertise in refining these questions and expanding upon them is sought.

Project Context

The Aral Sea crisis represents one of the most severe ecological disasters of the modern age, characterized by a dramatic shrinkage of the sea's surface area by 75% and a loss of 90% of its water volume since the 1960s. This environmental catastrophe has not only altered the regional climate but has also devastated the local ecosystem and economy of Karakalpakstan, a republic in Uzbekistan which surrounds the Aral Sea. The rapid degradation of this once-vast lake has resulted in profound socio-economic and environmental upheavals, compelling an urgent need for intervention.

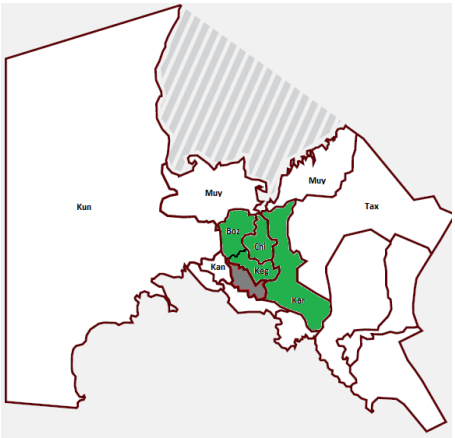
The Project faces four major challenges. First, environmental and food security issues stem from the desertification of the Aral Sea, leading to severe salinization and degradation of 45% of irrigated lands in Karakalpakstan. Dust storms carrying pollutants have degraded air quality, resulting in respiratory problems and other health issues, while poor water quality disrupts agriculture, increasing food insecurity. UNDP and GGGI surveys highlight that over two-thirds of respondents cite environmental degradation as a major agricultural risk, threatening food supplies and raising prices. Second, the economic impact includes stunted growth in key industries due to ecological stress, despite some industrial growth. Karakalpakstan shows the highest unemployment rates and a large informal sector, with underdeveloped agriculture, fisheries, and forestry sectors. Limited market infrastructures hinder economic development, resulting in a high poverty rate of 36.1%.

Third, the region's demographic characteristics, including high dependency rates, widespread poverty among female-headed households, and significant out-migration, complicate disaster response efforts. Finally, climate change exacerbates these challenges, with regional hydrological shifts and melting mountain glaciers accelerating desertification. Addressing these ecological and human security issues is critical alongside national and regional development challenges such as energy intensity, water stress, and socio-economic disparities. The Project is designed to systematically tackle these complex challenges through integrated, sustainable solutions focused on enhancing food security, rehabilitating livelihoods, and building economic resilience.

Project Objective, Logframe, and Status

The Project aims to catalyze sustainable economic development and environmental restoration in the Aral Sea region, specifically targeting the Kegeyli, Bozataw, Chimbay, and Karauzyak districts of Karakalpakstan (Figure 1). This initiative addresses the severe environmental degradation affecting over 1.9 million people due to the Aral Sea's desiccation. By promoting climate-resilient agricultural businesses, strategic green investments, and robust policy enactments, the Project seeks to rebuild the local economy, enhance the investment climate, and reduce the vulnerability of rural communities to environmental risks. Key measures include setting green development targets, developing a conducive policy framework, and introducing financial mechanisms for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in agriculture. These efforts aim to increase farm productivity, ensure food security, and improve the health and livelihoods of Karakalpakstan's population, aligning with Uzbekistan's national priorities and GGGI's expertise in green growth. The Project's original end date was June 2024, but it has been extended by six months no-cost-extension, setting the new end date to December 2024 (Box 1).

Figure 1. Map of the country and region (district division in 2009)



Source: (IICAS, 2021)

Outcome 1 focuses on adopting the Aral Sea Development Program, supported by technical analyses and strategic guidance. Key activities include conducting Climate Resilient and Green Growth Assessments, prioritizing green investment projects, and developing a Green Bond Development Plan. The expected result is an enacted Aral Sea Development Program with enhanced intra-agency coordination and green employment assessments. Outcome 2 targets rehabilitating livelihoods by improving the capacity of small-holder agrarian communities to manage human security threats and develop climate-resilient agri-businesses. This involves training Dehkan farmers on climate resilience, creating risk profiles for disaster-related human security risks, and conducting capacity-building programs on food security and livelihoods. The aim is to increase farmers' resilience, with at least 25% adopting climate-smart agriculture and improved business practices.

Outcome 3 seeks to equip local entrepreneurs with climate-resilient agri-business models, fostering investments and business development platforms. Activities include value chain analyses, piloting resilient agri-business models, and establishing a business development platform. The goal is to mobilize US$ 20M in investments and enhance the annual production volume for farmers. Outcome 4 focuses on improving access to finance for successful climate-resilient agri-MSMEs through risk-mitigating financial solutions. This includes designing a credit guarantee facility and a grant scheme, alongside a capacity-building program on climate finance for local institutions. The aim is to mobilize US$ 10M from the government and climate funds, facilitating commercial lending for MSMEs. Annex 1 demonstrates the projects log frame.

The Project aimed to help address human security issues, particularly in food and livelihood security for the residents of Karakalpakstan. It assisted the region in strategizing green job creation and strengthened the capacities of the population to make businesses in the agriculture value chain resilient to the impacts of climate change and the Aral Sea disaster. The Project also recognized the role of women in food security and agriculture, ensuring that women

were duly consulted and included in all activities. The capacity-building activities targeted 50% of their efforts toward women and aimed for 50% participation by women. Additionally, the Project included youth participation, with the goal of having 25% of the total participants in the capacity-building program be citizens aged 14 to 30 years.

Based on the latest annual report (2023), the Project has made notable progress across various outcomes and outputs, despite some challenges. The Aral Sea Development Program has been adopted by the Government of Uzbekistan (GoU), marking a significant milestone. Key technical analyses, including the Climate Resilience Green Growth (CRGG) Assessment and the Green Recovery Investment Analysis (GRIA), have been completed and endorsed, supported by multiple workshops. A robust pipeline of green recovery projects in agribusiness has been established and prioritized by the government. However, the development of a Green Bond and the Aral Sea Intra-agency Coordinating Mechanisms (ICM) have faced delays awaiting government approval as of 2023.

In terms of capacity building, significant strides have been made in enhancing climate and disaster risk resilience among local farmers and fermers, with validated risk profiles and the development of six capacity building modules. Training programs have reached over 13,345 agricultural stakeholders, including a substantial number of women and youth. Local entrepreneurs have been equipped with climate-resilient agri-business models, with four value chain analyses developed and five green business models consulted and validated. Despite delays in piloting these models due to state emergencies and procurement issues, some progress has been made, including the planting of over 13,000 trees and the installation of drip irrigation systems. The establishment of a business development platform for farmers and MSMEs has been successful, with numerous users registered and consultations provided. However, progress on financial solutions, such as the credit guarantee facility and grant scheme, has been slower due to ongoing partnership discussions and limited readiness among financial institutions.

Overall, while the project is on track in several areas and completed key deliverables, some components remain delayed. This needs to be further examined with the Project team and other key stakeholders to understand the progress and effectiveness.

Project Stakeholders

The Project engages a robust ensemble of stakeholders, each playing a crucial role in realizing the vision for a resilient and prosperous Karakalpakstan as shown in Annex 2. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) sets the strategic direction of the Project, approving key milestones and deliverables, and ensuring the Project's objectives align with national priorities and sustainable development goals. Their collective expertise and governance guide the Project through its various phases, from inception to completion, providing balanced oversight that incorporates both local and international perspectives. The PSC is comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change (MOEEPCC), the Council of Ministries of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, KOICA, and GGGI.

The GGGI Uzbekistan Country Office has primary responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Project, supported by the GGGI Asia Regional Director and the headquarters. To localize and enhance the project's reach, a dedicated Project Management Office was established within the Ministry of Investment, Infrastructure and Trade (MIIT) of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. This office ensures a synchronized effort with district governments, the branch technical ministries of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and local community stakeholders, enhancing the responsiveness and impact of project interventions. In addition to local management, the Project leveraged international expertise through partnerships with two Korean NGOs, Human Asia and Green Asia Network, which both contributed representatives to the GGGI Uzbekistan Office for joint project implementation. These partnerships are structured around a grant-based agreement, facilitating the integration of Korean agricultural technologies and practices that highlight climate-smart and disaster-resilient methodologies.

Project Beneficiaries

The Project is set to broadly benefit the population of Karakalpakstan Republic, 1.9 million, through the enhanced awareness of adaptation measures, effective rehabilitation investment planning, and implementation of livelihood improvement. Outcome 2 will support agricultural stakeholders, including 26,375 agricultural workers—dehkan farmers, private farmers, and local entrepreneurs from Kegeyli, Bozataw, Chimbay, and Karauzyak districts,

representing about 25% of the working-age population in agriculture. Outcome 3 targets 767 registered dehkan and private farmers involved in vegetable and fruit production, along with 575 family-run MSMEs and individual entrepreneurs. This component enhances economic activities and integrates value-added agricultural processes, fostering economic resilience through sustainable practices and green technologies. Additionally, Outcome 4 includes 500 farming households and MSMEs across Karakalpakstan, piloting green business models to improve financial access and reduce agricultural vulnerability. This comprehensive approach aims to foster economic stability, food security, and sustainable growth in one of Uzbekistan's most critical regions.

Previous Reviews and Evaluations

GGGI submitted bi-annual and annual reports were submitted to government partners and KOICA, marking a structured approach to Project oversight and progress assessment. In addition, the PSC meetings provided a semi-annual assessment and oversight by key partners. The Project was designed in discussion with KOICA with only an end project evaluation; there was no ad hoc evaluation of the Project. Moreover, noting that this is the first GGGI project in Uzbekistan, there have been no other evaluations spanning GGGI's operations in the country.

3. Key Evaluation Questions (KEQs)

The four KEQs and three cross-cutting topics are proposed for the evaluation. The KEQs correspond with four of the six OECD-DAC evaluation criteria, namely relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. Coherence and impact are excluded from the evaluation to ensure a practical focus and manageable scope. This decision is based on the difficulty of observing impact at this stage, although sub-questions regarding "potential impact" are included to capture indirect effects. Coherence is typically encompassed under relevance, which can be adjusted based on the evaluator's discretion. The KEQs have been formulated following extensive discussions with KOICA and the Project team. These questions are intended to guide the evaluation process, but you may adjust them as necessary based on your technical expertise to ensure they align with the project's objectives.

Table 1 presents GGGI's estimated weighting for the key evaluation questions to illustrate the priority. This is intended to allow the evaluator to make judgments about how to focus the evaluation inception report, including the methodological effort and rigor required for each question, and what is most important to answer in the final evaluation report. It is the evaluator's discretion to adjust the weights as necessary.

Table 1. Evaluation Weight by Key Evaluation Question

KEQ	Weight
KEQ1. How well did the Project's objectives align its relevance to overarching goals and strategies with all key stakeholders?	15%
KEQ2. Have Project outputs and outcomes been achieved as intended, or are they on track to be achieved?	35%
KEQ3. Did the Project ensure the efficiency of the achievement of its objectives, and what mechanisms and/or factors supported this?	15%
KEQ4. How sustainable are the Project's outcomes, in terms of continued benefits for the targeted communities and stakeholders beyond the Project lifespan?	15%
Cross-cutting • Did the Project consider gender equality and social inclusion in the planning and its delivery of its outputs and how did this influence the outcomes? • How robust was the Project's MEL framework, in capturing evidence of results? • How adequately did the Project address key environmental, social, and fiduciary issues in its design and implementation?	20%

1) Relevance

How well did the Project's objectives align its relevance to overarching goals and strategies with all key stakeholders?

a) Are the project-funded interventions relevant, strategic, and responsive to in-country stakeholder needs and priorities? How did the project adapt to the changes to stakeholder priorities and strengthen the program design to address these?

b) To what extent were the Project objectives and targets achievable?

c) To what extent has the Project met relevant needs of women and youth, as identified in the original proposal?

d) How has the Project drawn upon the knowledge and lessons from previous development initiatives – not limited to those outlined in the Project proposal?

e) How did GGGI ensure the Project was government-led and maximize the national and local government's involvement in decision-making, approval, and implementation?

f) What are the challenges faced and gaps to align its relevance to overarching goals and strategies with all key stakeholders?

2) Effectiveness

Have Project outputs and outcomes been achieved as intended, or are they on track to be achieved?

a) How effectively has the Project delivered its outputs and what progress has been made towards the outcomes? Please compare this based on the Project's logical framework.

b) What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the Project objectives?

c) Were there any unintended consequences or negative outcomes resulting from the Project outputs?

d) Have there been any significant changes or adaptations made to the Project design in response to unexpected circumstances or lessons learned?

e) To what extent has the Project been appropriately responsive to the needs of the national constituents and changing partner priorities?

f) How effective has the project been in raising awareness and sharing knowledge and learning both internally and externally, directly or through its operational work – at the local, regional, and country-level? Are structures in place to facilitate knowledge creation and sharing across the Government and externally?

g) To what extent did GGGI effectively implement the Project, and what unique value did GGGI bring compared to other potential implementation models (such as bilateral arrangements or other organizations)?

3) Efficiency

To what extent did the Project ensure efficiency of the achievement of its objectives, and what mechanisms supported to ensure this?

a) How has GGGI planned and managed human and financial resources to ensure the Project is efficient in its delivery and achieved on time and within budget?

b) Could similar results have been achieved with fewer resources or a lower cost?

c) To what extent was the delivery of results affected by internal factors (such as staff turnover, procurement challenges) or external factors (such as government priorities, political will COVID)?

d) How effective was GGGI's own Project's management structure for the management and oversight of the Project?

e) How did the Project governance arrangements support coordination and decision making among the Government of Uzbekistan, GGGI, and KOICA?

f) What were the challenges to ensure efficiency of the achievement of the Project objectives?

4) Sustainability

How sustainable is the Project in terms of continued benefits for the targeted communities and stakeholders beyond the Project lifespan?

a) Are the outcomes likely to lead to subsequent impacts, mainly in terms of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of interventions, after project closure either intended (as per the program log frame) or unintended, and either positive or negative in the future?

b) What measures are/were implemented to ensure the sustainability of Project outcomes beyond the Project lifecycle? To what extent will financial and economic resources be available to sustain the benefits achieved by the project?

c) How effective is the Project exit strategy in ensuring the sustainability of the results achieved by the intervention? To what extent do stakeholders support the project's long term impact?

d) Are there any potential social, political, financial, and environmental risks or barriers to the long-term sustainability that the evaluation should consider?

e) To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the Project team on a continual basis and shared with appropriate parties who could learn from this project?

5) Cross cutting sections

How did the Project consider gender equality and social inclusion and human rights in the planning and its delivery of its outputs and outcomes?

a) How were gender-specific needs and priorities identified and incorporated into the project's design? In what ways did the Project address the distant needs and priorities of women and men throughout the implementation? What impact did the Project have on gender equality?

b) How did the Project facilitate the meaningful participation of women and youth in decision making processes, including project planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation? What challenges were encountered in ensuring their participation and how were these challenges addressed?

c) In what ways did the Project foster collaboration with relevant stakeholders and organizations working on gender-related issues to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to gender mainstreaming?

d) How did the Project contribute to fostering social inclusion in the agricultural sector? What measures were taken to ensure equitable access to Project resources and benefits across different social and demographic groups?

How comprehensive and effective is the Project's M&E (M&E design, implementation, and utilization) in capturing progress towards its objectives?

a) How effectively does the M&E design integrate the theory of change and results framework with the operation's objectives and indicators, ensuring they are comprehensive, specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound?

b) How rigorously are M&E data collected and analyzed to reflect accurate, reliable outcomes, and how effectively are methodological flaws addressed and corrected throughout the Project lifecycle?

c) To what extent is M&E data utilized for making informed management decisions, adjusting Project strategies, and influencing the design of future interventions based on performance and outcome evidence? Were there any missing gaps in the MEL data, if so please describe them.

How did the Project address key environmental, social, and fiduciary issues that arose during Project design and implementation?

a) How did the Project consider safeguards – including labor and working consideration, political exposed person – in its engagement with the agri-MSMEs, for instance?

b) What were the methodologies, implementation plan, and results for this?

4. Approach and Methodology

Approach

The Consultant shall ensure the evaluation approach will be participatory, learning focused, iterative, and flexible. To support this approach, the evaluation will need to ensure:

- The inclusion of mixed methods that leverage quantitative and qualitative evidence that support triangulation of evidence to strengthen confidence in evaluation findings in response to the key evaluation questions.
- An open and collaborative approach in developing the evaluation methodology, involving regular discussions and open communications, to harness collective expertise and experience of both the consultant and IEU.
- Creating adequate opportunities for GGGI and key stakeholders (e.g., Government of Uzbekistan and KOICA) to comment and discuss the content of draft evaluation outputs, including opportunities to present initial evidence and findings.

Methodology

The Consultant will develop the methodology to provide credible and robust findings against the key evaluation questions and sub-questions. Credible and robust findings are central to ensuing quality of evaluation outputs and to maximize the utility of evaluations for their intended purposes. Evaluators tasked with performing either an interim or final evaluation are advised to develop an evaluation matrix and incorporate it into their inception report. **Table 2** presents an example of a matrix structure.

Table 2. Evaluation matrix

OECD DAC Evaluation Criteria	Key Evaluation Question	Sub-questions	Evidence sought	Existing data, and data gaps	Data collection method	Data analysis	Risks and limitations
	1	1.1					
		1.2					
		1.3					
		1.4					
	2.						
	3.						
	…						

To answer the KEQs, the Consultant should draw on a range of information sources, using a mixed methods approach (qualitative and quantitative) to allow triangulation of information. We expect the lead evaluator to be leading the data collection. Data collection may include, or expand upon, the following methods based on evaluator's professional judgement – please provide clear justifications:

- **Desk review of Project documents.** GGGI will supply a complete list of documents to the consultant during the initial briefing following contract signing. The list of documents is not to be regarded as exhaustive and the consultant may elaborate further on the list.

- **Review of MEL evidence**: The evaluation will draw on existing MEL data and evidence generated by the Project team. GGGI will provide a database of Project MEL data to the consultant during the initial briefing following contract signing.

- **Generation of additional MEL data**. The evaluation should consider how to generate additional quantitative and qualitative data to measure the project's performance.

- **Survey of Project stakeholders and beneficiaries**: It may be deemed appropriate to survey stakeholders and beneficiaries on specific topics related to the evaluation. Please include justifications on the numbers selected.

- **Key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGD):** Internal KIIs and FGDs will take place with GGGI staff in the Project team, the Uzbekistan Country Program, respective Community of Practices, and IEU. External KIIs and FGDs with Project beneficiaries, public partners, stakeholders, KOICA and other development partners. These may be undertaken in person, if possible, or through videoconferencing. GGGI will supply a Project stakeholder mapping to the consultant during the initial briefing following contract signing.

- **Stakeholder reflection workshops:** The consultant should engage stakeholders in a reflection workshop on the findings and emerging recommendations prior to submitting the final evaluation report. It is anticipated that it may be appropriate to conduct multiple workshops depending on the stakeholder group.

The Consultant should, where possible, visualize data related to evaluation findings. Visualization may include, but not be limited to, information about the Project beneficiaries, quantification of the expected economic and environmental benefits identified through the Project outputs.

The Consultant shall consider the appropriateness of case studies from beneficiaries. Case studies provide stories of the changes in awareness, understanding, behaviors, and practices by individuals supported under the Project. This may be supported by photos and quotations collected in conformity with ethical standards and norms.

Ethical Considerations

The Consultant is responsible for safeguarding and ensuring ethics at all stages of the evaluation cycle. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring informed consent, protecting privacy, confidentiality, and anonymity of participants, ensuring cultural sensitivity, respecting the autonomy of participants, ensuring fair recruitment of participants (including women and socially excluded groups) and ensuring that the evaluation results do no harm to participants or their communities.

Quality Assurance

The Consultant is responsible systematically applying quality assurance through the evaluation and relevant documents. The Consultant will be required to ensure the quality of data (reliability, consistency, and accuracy) throughout the data collection, synthesis/analysis/drafting, and reporting phases. GGGI expects that all deliverables from the Consultant are subject to its own thorough quality assurance prior to submission.

IEU will also quality assure the Consultants deliverables. This quality assurance process does not interfere with the views or independence of Consultant but ensures that the report provides credible evidence and analysis in a clear and convincing way and draws its conclusions on that basis.

5. Evaluation Phases and Deliverables

Phases

The evaluation is split into four principal phases as follows:

1. **An inception and desk review phase** to establish clear evaluation parameters, specifically, but not limited to, and not necessarily in chronological order:

- Conduct desk review. The list of documents will be provided by GGGI project team, including (not limited to):
  - GGGI corporate strategies, national policies
  - Project document including result framework, log frame and MEL data
  - Annual workplans and budgets
  - Regular progress reports
  - Highlights of Project Steering Committee meetings
  - Project published studies, articles, and newsletters

- Refine the sub-evaluation questions, understand stakeholder expectations, and determine information availability. We anticipate thorough consultations with key stakeholders to comprehensively understand the evaluation's requirements, focus areas, and asking the right questions.

- Finalize an evaluation matrix addressing each key evaluation questions, and sub-questions, the indicators and data sources, the methods for data collection and analysis to address these inquiries. This matrix acts as a planning instrument for the evaluation process, indicating the use of secondary data and the need for gathering primary data, and an explanation of the limitations and risks with the associated methods. It aids in the analysis process, ensuring the examination and triangulation of all collected data, thereby facilitating the identification of any gaps in evidence. Ensure that surveys and questionnaires for stakeholders are provided in the annex and are linked to the evaluation matrix. Please link the ToC to the evaluation matrix.

- The evaluation report will provide a detailed description of the Project and assess the evaluability of its components using the project's MEL data. A review of existing MEL data will identify any gaps, and new data collection efforts will be detailed. It will refine key evaluation questions and sub-questions based on stakeholder

consultations and present a comprehensive evaluation matrix. Both the original and revised Theories of Change (ToC), along with justifications for any changes, will be included. We expect the Consultant to arrange a workshop with the project team and key stakeholders as appropriate to construct a ToC for the Project.

- Data collection tools and interview protocols with specific attention to ethical considerations when involving human participants (e.g., interviews, focus group discussions, surveys, etc.). This should address (1) What are the potential harms and benefits for participants and evaluators that could arise from the evaluation? (2) What information about the evaluation will be provided to the participants and how will free and informed consent be obtained and ensured throughout the evaluation process? (3) How to protect confidentiality and anonymity, what will happen to the data, and how it will be discarded? (4) Whether participants have access to validating and receiving the results of the evaluation? The report will outline methods for collecting quantitative and qualitative data for each key question, explain how these methods support evidence triangulation, and present the data collection tools such as surveys and interview protocols. Surveys and questionnaires for stakeholders will be included in the annex and linked to the evaluation matrix.

- Refine the work plan in a matrix presenting the evaluation phases (data collection, data analysis, and reporting) with their key activities and deliverables, and factoring in time for discussion and quality assurance by GGGI.

- The report will describe any limitations or constraints and efforts to mitigate them, provide a clear work plan with time for reviews and comments, explain quality assurance processes, present the table of contents for the final report, and identify logistical support needed from GGGI for interviews and field visits.

- Please note that data collection, scheduling of interviews, and field visits will commence only after the inception report has been approved.

This phase will be informed by an initial kick off meeting with GGGI, consultative workshop with key stakeholders, and a desk review of Project documentation.

GGGI will provide a template for the inception report, the main deliverable of the inception and desk phase.

2. **A data collection phase** to collect firsthand data from the field using tools such as interviews, focus groups, and surveys. Engage with different stakeholders to get a comprehensive view on the key evaluation questions and compare on-ground realities with desk review findings. Please see the "**methodology" section** for detailed information. Comprehensive analysis of the data collected should be shared with GGGI either via word or PPT.

3. **A synthesis and drafting phase** to consolidate and interpret the data collected and draft the evaluation report. GGGI will provide a template for the evaluation report, the main deliverable of the synthesis phase. In addition, to providing the response to the key evaluation questions, the evaluation report should present the consultant's articulation of the project's theory of change, reflecting upon the key evaluation questions related to effectiveness and sustainability.

The draft evaluation report's conclusions should include,

a. Contains an executive summary that captures all the necessary information for the primary users;

b. Clearly describes the Project evaluated;

c. Provides a summary of the evaluation methods;

d. Describes the key limitations of the methods and guidance to enable appropriate interpretation of the findings;

e. Addresses all key evaluation questions with robust evidence – and discusses the strength of the evidence and implications of key findings;

f. Describes the circumstances in which learnings may be transferable;

g. Provides a limited number of feasible recommendations, with individual positions allocated responsibility

4. **A final reporting phase** to integrate recommendations and feedback before final submission. The final report should address comments from all stakeholders regarding factual errors and/or omissions that could invalidate the findings and change the conclusions, issues of political sensitivity that need to be refined in the way they are addressed or in the language used, and the recommendations.

Deliverables and Payment Schedule

The final evaluation report is expected to be completed by November 30, 2024. GGGI intends that the consulting firm will start the assignment in August 2024, including a kickoff meeting with GGGI. Table 3 outlines the deliverables, the associated payments, and due dates. GGGI commits to share consolidated comments on evaluation outputs in 5 working days.

All reports and outputs must be in English. Only approved reports/outputs should be translated to both English and local language in accordance with GGGI's formatting requirements and submitted in hard copy and electronic formats along with research materials, and interview notes. The interview notes must be securely protected to ensure the privacy of all participants. The firm shall also be required to prepare a presentation (in a pptx format) to present to the senior management of the Government/GGGI/stakeholders etc. Payments are based on approval of the outputs by IEU.

Table 3. Project evaluation deliverables

#	Deliverable	Payment value	Indicative due date
1	**Draft inception Report and presentation (2 weeks)**: Please see "**Scope of Work**" section for detailed information. Please note that data collection/field visit commences once the inception report is approved.	None	2 weeks after contract signature
2	**Final inception report and presentation** the satisfactorily addresses GGGI's comments regarding evaluation. The inception report must be approved before data collection begins. **GGGI review (1 week)** Report writing (1 week)	30% of the total contract price	4 weeks after contract signature
3	**Field Visit and Data Collection Report (4 weeks)–** delivered at the end of the field and data collection phase. Initial findings/debriefing based on interviews and focus group discussions.	30% of the total contract price	8 weeks after contract signature
4	**Draft evaluation report (2 weeks),** following the proposed structure presented in the inception report. **GGGI and stakeholder review (1 week)** **QA,** present to steering committee and make revisions **(2 weeks)**	None	13 weeks after contract signature
5	**Final report and presentation (2 weeks)** the satisfactorily addresses GGGI's comments.	40% of the total contact price	15 weeks after contract signing
	TOTAL	**100% of the total contract price**	

6. Evaluation Team Requirements

The selected firm is required to propose at least two (2) consultants to be part of the core evaluation team, namely:

- Senior Evaluation Specialist (evaluation team leader): With 10-20 years of relevant experience in carrying out evaluation assignments.

- Mid-Level Evaluation Specialist: With 5-10 years of relevant experience.

Both consultants will be expected to participate in the missions to Uzbekistan.

Additional supporting team members can be included based on the discretion of the firm.

The core team proposed should collectively cover the following technical competence requirements:

Technical Competence and Experience

- **Evaluation Experience in International Development**: Proven track record of conducting evaluations in the international development sector, with the ability to apply rigorous evaluation methodologies (both qualitative and quantitative) tailored to complex Project environments.

- **Expertise in Climate Resilient and Inclusive Green Growth Projects related to Agriculture and Forestry**: Demonstrated experience in the preparation, financing, and execution of Climate Resilient and Inclusive Green Growth Projects, particularly within developing country contexts. This includes a solid understanding of climate resilient environment sustainability practices, technologies, and policy frameworks.

- **Knowledge of the Uzbekistan' Context**: Familiarity with the national Uzbekistan (and preferred) sub-national Karakalpak Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability sector challenges, climate resilient policies, and economic conditions is highly advantageous.

Communication Skills and Language Proficiency

- **Clarity in Reporting**: Ability to communicate findings effectively, both verbally and in writing, to senior audiences. This includes the capacity to present technical content in a manner that is accessible to non-experts.

- **Stakeholder Engagement**: Competence in engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including Project beneficiaries, public partners, and international development organizations, ensuring inclusivity and sensitivity to diverse perspectives.

- **Language Skills**: Fluency in English and Uzbek is required for report writing. At least one team member should be fluent in Uzbek and Russian (Karakalpak would be advantageous) language to facilitate national and local stakeholder engagement and for data collection and analysis.

Ethical and Quality Assurance

- **Ethical Consid**erations: The consultant is responsible for ensuring ethical standards are upheld throughout the evaluation process, including informed consent, privacy, confidentiality, and cultural sensitivity.

- **Quality Assurance**: Commitment to quality assurance throughout the evaluation process, ensuring credible, reliable, and high-quality outputs.

Deliverables and Timeline

- Ability to adhere to the Project timeline and deliverables schedule, including the inception report, field visit and data collection report, draft evaluation report, and final evaluation report.

Annex 1 Project's Log frame

Result	Description	Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
GOAL 1	Karakalpakstan's development trajectory from the Aral Sea ecological crisis is restored for sustained green growth			
Outcome 1	Aral Sea Development Program adopted and enacted by Karakalpakstan	Aral Sea Development Program adopted by Government of Uzbekistan	Cabinet resolution	Effective engagement and information sharing by government, private sector and civil society stakeholders
Output 1.1	Two technical analyses (CRGG & GRIA) conducted and validated for the development of the Aral Sea Strategic Guidance/Policy Document framing the Aral Sea Development Program	Two technical documents are shared and validated by relevant representatives of the Government of Uzbekistan	CRGG & GRIA document, submission letter	Effective engagement and information sharing by government, private sector and civil society stakeholders
Activity 1.1.1	Undertake a Climate Resilient and Green Growth Assessment for the Republic of Karakalpakstan focusing on agriculture and agroforestry sectors	CRGG Assessment Report Three workshops on baseline setting, stocktaking of CRGG practice and validation of CRGG recommendations	Government's written endorsement of CRGG Assessment CRGG Baseline, stocktaking and validation workshop reports	Data availability and stakeholder buy-in
Activity 1.1.2	Prioritize a set of green recovery investment projects in agribusiness	A pipeline of green recovery projects in agribusiness One consultation and one validation workshop on validation of priority investment projects	Government's written confirmation on priority projects Two workshop reports	Buy-in from national and Karakalpakstan governments on green investment in CRGG sectors vis-à-vis brown investment in mining sectors
Output 1.2	Inception Action Plan to support Aral Sea Intra-agency Coordinating Mechanisms (Aral Sea ICM) for the Aral Sea Development Program developed	Aral Sea ICM Recommendations developed	Consultation workshop report	Buy-in from relevant stakeholders on Aral Sea Intra agency coordinating mechanisms
Activity 1.2.1.	Develop a Green Bond Development Plan for the priority green recovery projects	Green Bond Development Plan Two round of consultations with DFIs, national government and Karakalpakstan	Government's written confirmation on the Green Bond Development Plan Consultation report with a list of financiers	Continued favorable investment climate of Karakalpakstan

Result	Description	Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
		government on the strategy		
Activity 1.2.2	Undertake a green employment assessment of prioritized green investment projects	Green employment assessment One workshop on validation of occupation and skill assessment	Government's written endorsement of green employment assessment Validation workshop report	Data availability and stakeholder buy-in Willingness of local communities to take on green jobs with occupation and skill training
Activity 1.2.3.	Implement high-level policy maker Aral Sea ICM consultations	Inception Action Plan for Aral Sea ICM A formal consultation with Council of Ministers and Karakalpakstan parliamentary delegates	Consultation workshop report	High-level policy maker prioritization for Aral Sea Development Program adoption
GOAL 2	The livelihoods of small-holder agrarian communities are rehabilitated through an enhanced systematic capacity to respond to human security threats and to develop climate resilient agri-businesses			
Outcome 2	Dehkan and private farmers (fermers) have increased resilience to climate and Aral Sea disaster risks	At least 25% of capacity building program participants from 4 districts use CSA/DRR knowledge At least 25% of capacity building program participants from 4 districts have improved business practices in their small and medium sized businesses	Follow-up survey with participants	No interference by other ministries/local authorities, or imposition of new regulations that undermines the ability by communities to implement the training recommendations
Output 2	Climate and disaster risk resilience capacity is strengthened among *Dehkan* farmers and *fermers* in 4 districts in Karakalpakstan	At least 25% of total population in agricultural sector in 4 districts participate in a training on how to manage health, livelihood, and productive assets risks; At least 50% of participants are women and 25% are citizens aged 14 to 30 years. (Q3 2022)	Participant survey reports	Potential Aral Sea Disaster project fatigue, lack of trust in previous extension services among communities members or local leaders do not undermine community engagement

Result	Description	Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
Activity 2.1	Develop a risk profile for disaster-related human security risks in Karakalpakstan, with focus on food and livelihood security	Validated risk profile is accepted by Government	Stakeholders confirm/validate the risk profile Government of Karakalpakstan and local governments accept the risk profile	Data availability High stakeholder engagement during consultation
Activity 2.2	Develop capacity building program with government stakeholders on climate resilience and disaster risk management focusing on food security and livelihoods	At least 6 capacity building modules designed covering topics for climate resilience and disaster risk management	Capacity building modules accepted by Government and stakeholders	High government engagement
Activity 2.3	Conduct capacity building and awareness raising activities on climate change and disaster risk resilience, focusing on food security and livelihoods	Capacity building modules and knowledge sharing events conducted in 57 village council of citizens (VCCs) in 4 districts	Participants confirm increased awareness and acquiring skills in resilience to climate and disaster risks	High community engagement during capacity building activities and knowledge sharing events
Outcome 3	Local entrepreneurs of Karakalpakstan are equipped with climate resilient agri-business models	Farmers and MSMEs have incorporated lessons from climate resilient agri-business models and participate in the business development platform (Q2 2024) 20M USD investment commitment mobilized from demonstrated business models (by Q2 2024)	Financial statements of beneficiary enterprises Household income surveys of farmers	Strong political support from the district and regional government Beneficiary enterprises and farmers adopt effective climate resilient agri-business strategies and actions
Output 3.1	Climate resilient agri-business models are established for farmers & MSMEs	Climate resilient agri-business models developed, validated, and piloted with farmers & MSMEs (4 climate resilient agri-business models with 1 commodity and 1 value added product per model)	Increase in annual production volume for farmers and development of value added products for enterprises reflected in financial statements and income surveys	Timely completion of piloting High participation from farmers and enterprises

Result	Description	Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
Activity 3.1.1	Conduct functional and economic value chain analysis, and financial, technical, and social analysis of supply chain stages (production & processing) of focal commodities	Value chain analyses and climate resilient agri-business models for focal commodities baseline studies (economic, social, technical and environmental)	Soft copy of value chain analyses and baseline studies	District government provide support in collecting data Stakeholders provide quality data for financial, technical and social analysis
Activity 3.1.2	Engage key stakeholders and target groups to validate the integration and adoption of climate resilient agri-business models	Climate resilient agri-business models consulted and validated	Four climate resilient agri-business models consulted and validated by key stakeholders	High participation of key stakeholders for consultation and validation purposes
Activity 3.1.3	Pilot validated climate resilient agri-business models with beneficiary farmers	Climate resilient agri-business models are piloted in the target districts (production level)	Four climate resilient agri-business models piloted with farmers incorporating CSA technologies at production level	High participation and willingness of farmers for the integration of CSA technologies
Activity 3.1.4	Pilot validated climate resilient agri-business models with beneficiary MSMEs	Climate resilient agri-business models are piloted in the target districts (processing level)	Four climate resilient agri-business models piloted with entrepreneurs developing value added products at processing level	High participation and willingness of entrepreneurs for the development of value added products
Output 3.2	Business development platform established for farmers, MSMEs, and institutional enablers	Business development platform created	One operational business development platform website	Buy-in from farmers, MSMEs, and enabler institutions
Activity 3.2.1	Create the business development platform structure and curriculum for farmers and MSMEs	Business development platform structure and curriculum program (3 months program, twice per year)	One structure and curriculum program (8 modules) established	Support and validation from institutional enablers for curriculum development and participation
Activity 3.2.2	Organize events and sessions for participating farmers and MSMEs, together with enabling institutions	Events and sessions organized (during the 3 months program, twice per year)	One event/session organized and documented per module (8 modules)	Registration and active participation of farmers, MSMEs and enabler institutions
Activity 3.2.3	Develop the strategy for future funding to keep the business development platform operational	Business Development Platform Funding Strategy	Government endorsement letter	Government continue the support of farmers and MSMEs through the business development platform
Outcome 4	Successful climate resilient agri-MSMEs	MoU with the government and	MoU document	Identification of successful climate

Result	Description	Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
	and farmers across Karakalpakstan have improved access to finance from commercial banks and government green financing	local financial institutions on setting up the grant/credit guarantee facility 10M investment mobilized from the government and climate fund		resilient agri-business models through output 3.1
Output 4.1	Risk mitigating financial solutions are developed to facilitate increased commercial lending for MSMEs utilizing climate resilient agri-business models identified in Output 3.1	Risk mitigating financial solutions designed	Submitted GCF Funding Proposal for "Climate smart agriculture facility for Karakalpakstan", Submitted Letter of intent for funding the grant scheme from the government	Support and cooperation from the local or national government
Activity 4.1.1	A credit guarantee facility is designed to facilitate commercial lending for successful agri-MSME models identified in Output 3.1	A fully designed credit guarantee facility	The credit guarantee facility section of the submitted GCF proposal	Identification of successful agri-MSME models through Output 3.1
Activity 4.1.2	A grant scheme is designed to scale up successful CSA models and improve financial access of farming households in the region	A fully designed grant scheme	The grant scheme section of the submitted GCF proposal Letter of intent for funding the grant scheme from the government	Identification of successful CSA models through Output 3.1. Willingness to support the grant scheme from the government
Output 4.2	A capacity building program on climate finance for the NDA and financial institutions is established	Number of NDA and financial institutions which have completed the program	Letter of appreciation from the participating NDA/ financial institutions	High interest in climate finance and capacity building from the local banks and the NDA
Activity 4.2.1	Develop and implement capacity building program for the NDA and financial institutions in the region	Number of NDA and financial institution stakeholders effectively trained	Survey results of participants upon completion of the program	Active engagement of the participants

Annex 2. Implementation Partnership development status as of May 2024

Counterpart	Partnership Type	Status
KOICA - Korea International Cooperation Agency	Grant Agreement / Secondment Agreement/ PSC TOR	Signed (2 July. 2021)/ (27 October 2021) / TOR Signed (24 December 2021)
SCEEP State Committee for Environmental Protection (Today, the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change MOEPCC)	MOU / PSC TOR	Signed (25 March 2021) / TOR Signed (24 December 2021)
Human Asia	Partnership Agreement (Outcome 2) / Secondment Agreement	Signed (6 September 2021) / (2 November 2021)
Green Asia Network	Partnership Agreement (Outcome 3) / Secondment Agreement	Signed (30 November 2021) / (1 January 2022)
Council of Ministers of the RK	PSC TOR	TOR Signed (14 January 2022)
IFAS – ICSD*International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea – Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development	MOU (Outcome 1)	Signed (22 February 2022)
MIFT Ministry of Investment, Industry, and Trade of Uzbekistan Uzbekistan/Karakalpakstan (Today, Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade)	PSC member / Office host agreement	Signed / (7 December 2021)
UN MPHSTF**United Nations Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund	MOU (Outcome 1&2)	Signed (30 March 2022)
GIZ –Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit Ecol. Dev. Aral Sea	MOU (Outcome 3)	Signed (15 March 2022)
Consort Group LLC.	MOU (Outcome 3 – BDP)	Signed (31 May 2022)
Deutsche Sparkassenstiftung	MOU (Outcome 2&3)	Signed (27 June 2022)
Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations of Karakalpakstan (MELR)	MOU (Outcome 2&3)	Signed (26 Jan 2023)
Forestry Committee of Karakalpakstan	MOU (Outcome 2&3)	Signed (26 Jan 2023)
Chamber of Commerce of Karakalpakstan	MOU (Outcome 3)	Signed (27 June 2023)
Ministry of Public Education of Karakalpakstan (MPE)	MOU (Outcome 2)	Signed (26 Jan 2023)
Ministry of Agriculture	MOU (Outcome 1&3&4)	Signed (Jan. 2024)
Ministry of Water Resources of Karakalpakstan	MOU (Outcome 3)	Signed (Apr. 2024)
SQB Bank	MOU (Outcome 3&4)	Signed (Apr. 2024)
UNDP	BDP Content Partner (Outcome 3)	Joined (Feb. 2023)
International Strategic Center for Agri-Food Development (ISCAD)	BDP Content Partner (Outcome 3)	Joined (Jan. 2023)
Chamber of Commerce and Industry RK	BDP Content Partner (Outcome 3)	Joined (Jan. 2023)
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)	BDP Content Partner (Outcome 3)	Joined (Apr. 2023)
UN Global Compact Uzbekistan	BDP Content Partner (Outcome 3)	Joined (Oct. 2022)

Counterpart	Partnership Type	Status
Center for Policy Research (CPRO)	BDP Content Partner (Outcome 3)	Joined (Sep. 2022)
Westminster University in Tashkent	BDP Content Partner (Outcome 3)	Joined (Sep. 2022)
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	BDP Content Partner (Outcome 3)	Joined (2024)

* IFAS-ICSD = International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea – Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development.
** UN MPHSTF = UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan.