



SPOTLIGHT

Building Capacity for Solar Energy¹

Until recently, almost 1,500 remote, rural communities in Uzbekistan were not connected to the national electricity grid and lacked good quality drinking water. Many of these remote communities were in the autonomous region of Karakalpakstan. Because of their remoteness and relatively small size, the supply of electric energy was not planned for such districts, as the installation of electric-power transmission lines could not be economically justified. For these reasons, the standard of living in such remote settlements remained low; social tension was growing and people were starting to abandon their native lands and migrate to cities.

These factors, coupled with the commitments of countries under the Kyoto Protocol, boosted activities in Uzbekistan exploring the use of renewable energy, particularly photovoltaic generators. It was found that the use of solar energy for electrification and provision of good quality drinking water in remote rural settlements in arid and semi-arid zones could help address the problems in these areas and raise the rural communities' living standards.

In 2002 UNDP launched a project to provide clean energy through the installation of 25 operational photoelectric stations (FES) in remote rural communities in the Karakalpakstan region. The first 15 were installed for household purposes and today provide electricity for lighting, radio and black-and-white televisions. The other 10 were used to pump water from wells for watering cattle. During the project implementation period, 25 local people were trained to operate and maintain FES, ensuring the future sustainability of the project.

The project was successful because it contributed to building the capacity of the local population, local government bodies, NGOs and the private sector in the use of solar energy to generate electricity.

ENERGY

QUICK FACTS

Total UNDP-GEF and Co-Finance:	\$3,745,548
Total UNDP and Co-Finance:	\$1,805,833
Total:	\$5,551,381

Cumulative Total ODS Phased-Out: 127 ODP tonnes



The key focus of UNDP's activities in the area of environmental governance is to support Uzbekistan in effectively implementing its international commitments and raise public awareness on environmental issues.² UNDP has consistently supported the national efforts to achieve the MDGs. UNDP's portfolio in that regard ranges from policy advice and capacity building for better environmental governance as a whole, to demonstration and testing of innovative approaches to biodiversity conservation, land management, and the development of renewable energy options.

Fikret Akcura, Resident Representative

PORTFOLIO

FSSD* The primary goal is for all stakeholders involved with the UN Conventions on environmental protection, to jointly assess their efforts to identify national capacity needs and ways to address them. UNDP with its partners, CIDA, NZAID, and APN provide support that enables Uzbekistan to participate in environmental initiatives at the international level. A number of projects that are implemented mainly establish links between international conventions and national development plans through the development of project proposals, arranging funding support and assisting with project start up.

WATER Drought management is an essential area of concern in Uzbekistan. The drought recovery programme will assist the government in developing an immediate, medium and long-term Drought Recovery Plan. This will provide policy advice to the central and regional authorities in planning and implementing the preventive measures and address long-term structural causes of the drought. UNDP also assists the government in developing a Drought Mitigation Framework with strategic national priorities, clear-cut and practical measures to respond to the immediate needs of the affected population.

ENERGY Uzbekistan addresses access to energy through a number of initiatives including the "Transfer of technology for local production of solar panels for water heating" project supported by DANIDA. This programme focuses on two strategic directions in developing the renewable energy sector in the country: building national and local capacity for the implementation of projects addressing the development of sustainable energy sources; and demonstrating innovative approaches which encourage positive changes in energy saving policies. The "Clean energy for remote rural communities in Karakalpakstan" project is featured in the project spotlight.

BIODIVERSITY Ecosystem management is being addressed through a programme supported by UNDP. The "Achieving Ecosystem Stability on the Exposed Aral Seabed" explored moving sands and prepared a feasibility document for the degraded land. While "Conservation of Kugitang Mountains Biodiversity in Uzbekistan" and "Conservation of "Tugai" Gallery Forest in the Amu Darya Delta of Karakalpakstan" are preparatory projects aiming at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the country. The Nuratau-Kyzylkum Biosphere Reserve for Biodiversity Conservation integrates conservation and sustainable development and promotes local assistance.

CHEMICALS As part of its support programme to ensure compliance with Montreal Protocol measures, UNDP is assisting Uzbekistan through implementation of a GEF-funded project that targets the refrigeration sector through technology transfer and technical assistance/training that aims to develop the national capacity necessary to ensure sustainable phase-out of ODS in the sector.

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PARTNERS

Some of our Partners working with UNDP and the Government in Uzbekistan

Aral Sea Charity Fund
 Government of Germany
 Government of Slovakia
 German Nature Protection
 EU APN NDF CIDA OSCE
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¹Environment Programme of the Government of Uzbekistan supported by the UNDP Project Document, "Clean energy for rural communities in Karakalpakstan": http://www.nature.uz/projects/energy_eng.doc; ²<http://www.undp.uz/content/view/64/2241/>; *Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development