#### UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

## Development Review

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UNDP opened its representative office in Uzbekistan in January 1993, and has since been committed to facilitating the country's development in the good governance, economic governance, and environment and energy fields. The agency provides comprehensive support to Uzbekistan's population, government and civil society. Projects: ongoing - 24 completed - 219 Funding delivery - \$200'000'000



## REPORT ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

INCREASING AMOUNTS OF WATER USE WILL LEAVE THE COUNTRY HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO FUTURE SHOCKS DUE TO WATER SCARCITY AND CHANGES IN WATER SUPPLY PATTERNS OF RUNOFF FROM UPSTREAM COUNTRIES THAT ARE AS-SOCIATEED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Current trends in water use, availability of supply, changes in seasonal flows in all major rivers, issues of over abstraction and pollution in upstream countries, and probable impacts of climate change, all are leading to reduced resilience in the water sector. It also makes it clear that water has become a national strategic issue.

In good years, Uzbekistan uses all available water supply, leaving no room for economic growth targets. This poses a strategic dilemma in governance for the country as, without a national strategic approach to water resources management, there will be increasing conflict between sector policies in regards to water allocation; this will become worse with time and will have serious negative economic and social consequences for the government.

UNDP is developinng an

IWRM and water efficiency planning is taking place within a single river basin, the Zarafshan, on a pilot basis where successful results can be scaled up to the national level during a possible second phase program. In summary, it is the role of an IWRM Plan to lay out these strategic issues, especially as they affect wise investment decisions, sector behaviour and equitable allocation of water.

The Government has recognized the necessity of a full national water strategy and has formally requested the UNDP to lead such an effort.

A new Water Code will underpin the transition to a more modern water planning and management system; it includes provisi-eons

for a national strategic approach for water planning.





10'000 hectars of land were reclaimed through 30 projects

growth in productive sectors such as agriculture and industry. In water-scarce years, which are likely to be the 'new normal', the main productive sectors have not enough water to realize their full economic potential and have a negative impact on national GDP.

Nevertheless, public policy in the various productive sectors identify that more water is required for sector expansion to meet national

Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Use Efficiency Plan for Zarafshan River Basin in Uzbekistan as a practical demonstration of the use of IWRM principles to improve water management in Uzbekistan, to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework for the water sector by drafting a new, forward-looking water code, and to support the integration of water into relevant sectorial policy frameworks.

What's Supplies for 2,000ha of land, utilised by 38 farmers and 401 householders in the Sayram, Mekhnatkash, Zafarobod and Kanal-Yoqa villages.

Redesign of the power strategy to reduce energy consumption by 36 million kW/h by 2027, in order to reduce electricity demand and the related environmental impacts, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 700 tons.



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### STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABILITY OF THE NATIONAL PROTECTED AREAS

THE MORE EFFICIENT MAINTENANCE OF UZBEKISTAN'S PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SECURITY TO THE NATION'S UNIQUE FLORA AND FAUNA

Existing system of protected areas of Uzbekistan generally reflects diversity of nature and landscape complexes of Uzbekistan, but it does not provide full-fledged protection of biological diversity of the country in general for a number of objective reasons.

Distribution of Protected Areas (PAs) in Uzbekistan does not fully conform to distribution and significance of components of biodiverhabitats, and loss of number of plant and animal species. Currently some species are on the brink of extinction or became fully extinct. The number of many animals and plant species has not yet reached critical level, but continues to recede.

Since 2009 UNDP along with the national counterparts-Ministry of Water Resources and Agriculture have been working on development of

#### PLAN OF EXPANDING CURRENT SYSTEM OF PROTECTED AREAS



UNDP recommended creating 29 natural protected areas of different level of protection and designation depending on location, purpose and current state of the protected sites.

5 strict reserves, 2 national parks with subsequent functional zoning of territory, 2 natural parks of local significance, 11 zakazniks for conservation, revival and reproduction of some natural sites and complexes, 2 biosphere reserves, 2 territories for expansion of existing strict reserves, expansion protected zones of 2 existing strict reserves, 2 clusters of protected Zones of existing National parks, 1 cluster site of biosphere reserve.

#### Recommended expansion of the existing system of PAs will enable protection of:

• Up to 70 % of the diversity of vertebrate species;

 90 % of the fauna of rare and endangered vertebrate species;

 96 % of bird species, 88 % of mammal species included in

the Red Book of Uzbekistan



sity, as well as the mandate of preventing the risks of its reduction.

Human activity led to significant reduction of the national programme aiming at establishing and expanding current system of protected areas from current **2'317'030** to **8'114'140** ha.



Currently protected area 2'317'030 hectares Planned 400 percent increase up to 8'114'140 hectares

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## **OCAL GOVERNANCE SUPPORT:** PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIP

UNDP IN UZBEKISTAN: DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE 'E-HUJJAT' ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT EXCHANGE SYSTEM HAVE EN-HANCED BOTH GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REGIONAL POPULATIONS

The survey held by the UNDP in 2010 in Djizak and Namangan regions demonstrated quite low level of information delivery to population from respective local state authorities and administration.

However, 100% respondents showed their growing interest to get information of socio-economic significance,

> opages, blogging, hould be used t

effec-

including employment, especially the youth, registration of retirement, health care, education, improvement of utility services and other issues.

In 2011 UNDP established 6 pilot Information Centers at provincial, city and district levels in Namangan and Djizzak regional khomiyats

UNDP developed the legal framework of Information Centers and practical handbook for the staff, organized special training course to enhance the capacity of Information Centers.

UNDP contributed with modern IT and video equipment: digital video camera, photo camera, notebooks and computers, color laser

printers, scanners, parabolic antennas and TV-sets, mobile phones, audio technologies and other necessary equipment.

In the first half of 2013 alone pilot Information Centers organized 27 press-conferences, briefings and other important events with the participation of khokims of regions, cities and districts.

Almost 260 TV programs and 78 video stories were developed and broadcasted on regional and national TV and radio. 379 articles were published in newspapers, while over 580 reports were released in electron Media.

Drip irrigation Agricultural production

Information Centers are effectively supporting two-way communication between the public and local governments. Through "Hotline" communications, web-sites, they are bringing various issues raised by local citizens to the attention of local administration and assisting in taking bold actions to address these issues, thus are generating positive public image of local khokimiyats.

For the reported period, Information Centers in pilot regions have received over 400 requests of the citizens, majority of which then were properly addressed by local administrations.

Samarkand City khokimyat has adopted this approach and established their own Information Center.

In accordance with the Order of the President of Uzbekistan, for the first time in Uzbekistan the Parliament has been carrying out a legal experiment on testing the Draft Law "On openness of local state bodies and administration" in Samarkand and Bukhara regions.

The Information Center Model was presented to the Working Group of this legal experiment to implement in all khokimiyats of these two regions within.







ans of Information should consist of 2-3 staff UNDP's developed concept of Information Center modern Information Centre of Khokimiyat

One should give particular attention to the opportunities of Television – the most widespread means for getting information in regions



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### News from the Field

# SCALING UP THE PISTACH INDUSTRY IN UZBEKISTA

Bastamkul Saidkulov is one of many farmers working in Uzbekistan's arid regions who face problems related to poor-quality soil and lack of rain, and have had to seek new approaches of overcoming these problems. His previous livestock farm was underproductive, leading to reduced incomes and low living standards.

The solution to Mr. Saidkulov's problems came in the form of what is referred to in Iran and Turkey as 'Green Gold', but is better known as \_\_\_\_\_

the pistachio nut. It is ideal for dry regions with low levels of precipitation, where there is little prospect for alternative forms of agriculture. The crop is very resistant to drought and infertile soil, and represents a longterm investment that in five to seven years will produce crops 50 times more profitable than wheat.

Mr. Saidkulov has been a key forerunner of pistachio farming in Uzbekistan. With support from the **UNDP-supported GEF Small Grants**  Programme, Mr. Saidkulov contribut- <sup>1</sup> Since the pistachio's first introduced to a study conducted by experts from the national Forest Research Institute to determine how pistachios could replace other less-sustainable crops on his land along the Nuratau mountain ridge.

> "humble nut is ideal for dry regions with low levels of precipitation"

Pistachio trees represent a form of agriculture that serves as a longterm investment. While farmers participating in the study showed initial concern regarding the plant's long gestation period, it was the emphasised that after starting to fruit, pistachio trees can continue producing crops for hundreds of years.

Following the study, 200 local residents were trained in growing pistachios while 50 hectares of pistachio plantation were established. The study's findings were distributed among Uzbekistan's regions with a high potential for pistachio cultivation, while news of the crop's benefits have travelled even faster by mouth.

tion in Uzbekistan, approximately a hundred hectares of plantation has been established, with a further 1,000 hectare earmarked in the Djizak Region alone. A year after the crop's introduction, it was realised that planting material and forestry providers would have to expand in order to meet demand for the crop.

To meet the growth in demand for pistachio seeds and related products, 'points of growth' are being established. These facilities will contain collections of highly-productive pistachio varieties, and will provide planting and inoculate materials to farmers.

The Gal Aral collection has been the first of such 'points of growth', established in the Andijan region of Uzbekistan, with another planned for the Fergana valley. An eventual total of four to five points of growth will be sufficient to match the newfound popularity of the sustainable and profitable 'Green Gold' crop in Uzbekistan's arid regions.



Women and men in the labour market infographic shows that although women represent a good bulk of the labour force, their presence is concentrated in lower paid social sectors - education, healthcare and others, holding less than 1/3 of decision-making posts. The infographic also provides practical recommendations on how to positively empower women within the labour market.



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