Doctor Christopher Briggs,  
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From: Murtaz Kholkhatov, Vice-Minister  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection  
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Subject: «Integrated Conservation of Priority Globally Significant Migratory Bird Wetland Habitat: A Demonstration in Three Sites» Project Brief endorsement

Dear Doctor Briggs,

Using this opportunity I would like to express my gratitude to GEF for the support to our Government in solving globally important environmental problems. Hopefully this very important for us collaboration will be developed in the future.

I would like to inform you that the preparation of the full scale project document "Integrated Conservation of Priority Globally Significant Migratory Bird Wetland Habitat. Demonstration in three sites" Block "B" has been finished by the group of national specialists under support from GEF and with involvement of International Consultants

During the period of from November 1998 to March 2000 the analysis of the important Wetlands in Kazakhstan, their environmental conditions, and the role in the biodiversity conservation mostly in migratory waterfowl, has been done. Three most priority globally important sites:

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Ural River Delta and surrounding aquatory of the Caspian Sea in the West Kazakhstan, Tengiz-Kurgaldzhino lakes in the Central Kazakhstan, and Alakol-Sasykkol lakes system in the East Kazakhstan were chosen on the basis of the analysis and with participation from a wide range of local and international specialists. For these sites were determined the root causes of the threats to the biodiversity, except that the socio-economic peculiarities of the territory surrounding these sites were researched, and the perspectives of the future development were developed. Developed complex of the demonstration alternative activities aims to create the conditions to improve the environmental situation on these wetlands and surrounding territories, the sustainable long-term management of biodiversity, on the basis of integrated interaction of all stakeholders, including local community.

The work on financial fund from the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the future project activities has been carried out alongside with elaborating the project document. Except the Government the group of donors including national, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations were formed to provide the project with financial resources.

At the present time, the project document is distributing between all stakeholders to agree the planning activities.

I think that the project document is finished and well agreed with the Strategy, and main priority of the Kazakhstan Republic development. That is why I am asking you to consider the possibility to submit the project to the GEF Council.

Sincerely yours,

Murat Kh. Musataev
Vice–Minister

February, 2000