

GEF ID	10077
Project Title	Strengthening Resilience of Central Asian Countries...
STAP Overall Assessment	Concur

The PIF describes a project that is innovative in its focus on emergent risks that are still poorly understood but which are likely to generate very intense demands for adaptation, with critically important implications for regional stability. The design includes good recognition of governance risks and challenges.

The theory of change is that strengthened monitoring and management practices will enhance transboundary cooperation to address risks and vulnerabilities stemming from climate change impacts upon high altitude glaciers and associated water flows. This will also help reduce risks to regional stability resulting from anticipated dramatic changes in the future water regime.

The project description includes a healthy realism regarding implementation challenges. The recognition of unsubstantiated past assumptions concerning implementation capacity and public participation suggests a readiness to examine these issues critically.

Future scenarios are potentially disastrous, suggesting that transformational change is needed. In addition to the institutional risks identified, during project preparation it would also be useful to identify risks related, for example, to the rate of ecological change and the consequent pace and scale of adaptation required, and strategies for influencing change at the required pace and scale, given the relatively small size of the project investment.