

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN THE REPUBLIC OF KARAKALPAKSTAN

LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION FRAMEWORK LEAFLET

Project Background

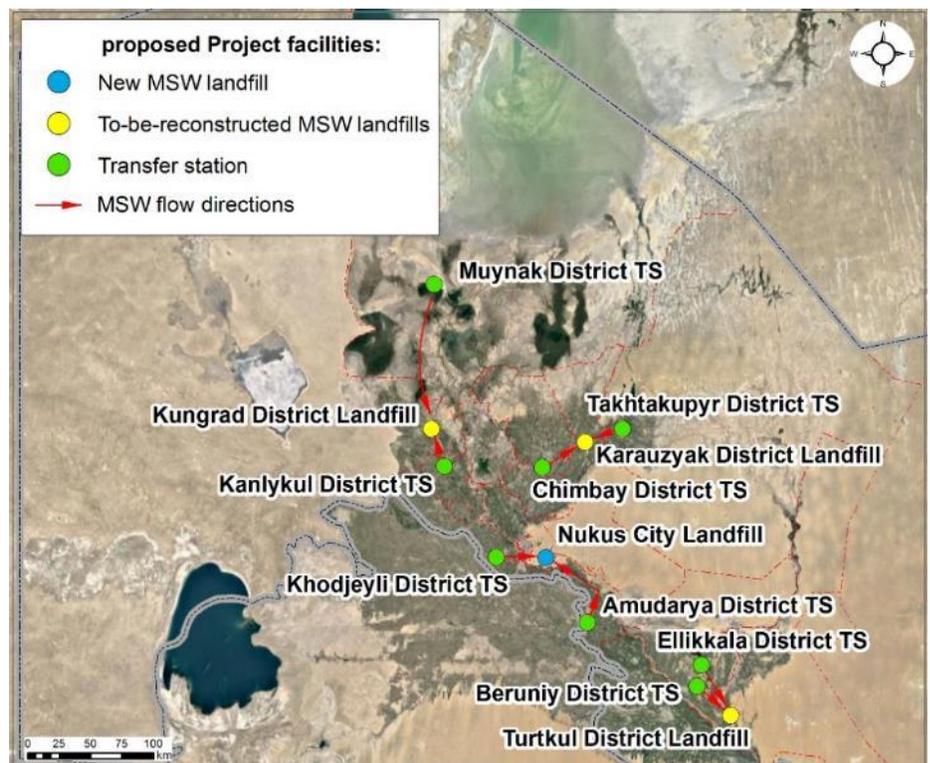
The Republic of Uzbekistan has approached the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for financing to modernise the solid waste management infrastructure in the Republic of Karakalpakstan (the Project). The Project's overall objective is to improve availability, efficiency and safety of solid waste management services and practices, thus benefiting the natural and human environments.

The Project will be implemented by the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Ecology and Environmental Protection (the Committee). State organisation Toza Hudud SUE, responsible for municipal solid waste (MSW) collection, transportation and disposal in almost the whole Karakalpakstan, will provide local technical support to the Committee and will be the owner of the Project facilities. The Project is aligned with the Strategy for Municipal Solid Waste Management in Uzbekistan for 2019-2028.

Proposed Project Facilities

The Project includes the construction of:

- **four new sanitary MSW landfill** (compliant with European Union standards) in Nukus City, Turtkul, Kungrad and Karauzyak Districts. The Nukus City Landfill will be a greenfield facility. The other three landfills will be created by reconstruction and extension of the existing district dumpsites. Each landfill will comprise: 1) a waste sorting plant to separate incoming mixed MSW into recyclables such as plastic, glass, etc., biodegradable waste, and residual waste to be deposited; 2) a composting site for biodegradable waste; 3) a residual waste deposition area, and 4) ancillary facilities. The Nukus City Landfill will also host a small medical waste incinerator;
- **eight new MSW transfer stations** in the Amydarya, Khodjeyli, Beruni, Ellikkala, Kanlykul, Muynak, Chimbay and Takhtakupyr districts.



The Project also envisages construction/reconstruction of entrance roads to the proposed landfills and reconstruction of the access road to the Kungrad District Landfill, including upgrade of bridges, as well as investments in vehicles and equipment.

What is a sanitary MSW landfill compliant with European Union Standards?

The proposed landfills will have technical decisions in place in line with the European Union's Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC, Waste Directive 2008/98/EC, and Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU aimed at avoiding impacts on the environment and human health as much as possible. For instance, the new landfills will have a bottom lining which protects the groundwater below it, a leachate (polluted water inside the landfill) collection and treatment system, waste sorting and composting facilities, a surface water runoff collection system, a fire-fighting system, groundwater and landfill gas monitoring

Project Planning, Timeline and Standards

The Project is at an early design stage. Its Feasibility Study contracted by the EBRD from an experienced international engineering consultant is under finalisation. As part of the Feasibility Study, a reputable international environmental and social consultant has completed the Environmental and Social Assessment of the Project in line with the EBRD requirements and national regulations. In parallel, national feasibility studies and environmental impact assessment materials are being prepared in line with the national legislation (the latter can be found on the website of the Committee at <http://www.uznature.uz/yz/invest/51#2>).

The tender process for design and build contracts is expected to commence in late 2022 –early 2023; construction works will indicatively start in the second half of 2023 subject to successful procurement and following completion of detailed design. The construction period will be 2-3 years.

The existing dumpsites operated by regional Toza Hudud will be closed and remediated shortly by Toza Hudud after the new landfills start operations. Thus, current issues associated with the existing dumpsites, such as air, soil and groundwater pollution, wind-blown debris, bad smells, and self-ignitions, will be eliminated.

The new MSW infrastructure will be designed and operated in accordance with national regulations, European Union standards and good international practice. Specific design and mitigation measures will be in place to avoid impact on soil and groundwater, to minimise effects on air quality, and to ensure health and safety of personnel and local communities. These measures will be included in the loan agreement as part of stand-alone obligations and/or the Environmental and Social Action Plan. Modern approaches proposed for the landfills, e.g., sorting and composting facilities, will allow to minimize deposited waste.

Project Land Needs

The Project requires around 79.8 ha of land, of which 85% were transferred by the State to Toza Hudud in 2017-2020. The remaining needed land is being currently transferred from land of settlements, grazing land or land of industry/transport. No arable land will be taken for the Project facilities.

Potential Impacts on Livelihood

According to the national regulations, residential houses are not allowed to be located within 500m from proposed landfills. After considering a range of alternatives, the sites for the new landfills were proposed so that to avoid any relocation of housing.

The Project is going to establish sanitary protection zones (SPZs) which may comprise the area of up to 500m around new landfills and 100m from transfer stations and civic amenity stations (see the maps of landfills annexed to this Leaflet). Currently, there are no residential houses on land required for the Project sites or within the maximal assumed SPZs. **Thus, the Project is not anticipated to result in physical displacement (relocation or loss of housing).**

During the operation of the Project facilities, some types of activities will be forbidden or restricted within SPZs; the exact restrictions are being confirmed but it is expected that as a minimum, constructing residential houses, growing crops used for food or animal feed and food production will be prohibited. The land use restrictions may also affect herders but grazing is limited in the respective areas and, according to local consultations, alternative sites are mostly available.

Livelihood Restoration Assessment and Planning

Since the Project can cause economic displacement impacts (i.e., loss of assets or access to assets that leads to loss of income sources or means of livelihood), a **Livelihood Restoration Framework** (the Framework) was prepared for the Project in November 2021 in line with the applicable EBRD's and national requirements. **This Leaflet is issued to provide a summary of the Framework for wider dissemination.**

The Framework will guide Project-related future land acquisition, compensation, and livelihood restoration activities. It will be disclosed in Uzbek, Russian and English on the websites of the Committee (<http://www.uznature.uz/yz/invest/51#2>) and EBRD (<https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/psd/50697.html>) and will be available in Toza Hudud's regional and district offices, at heads of Mahalla Citizen Assemblies (MCA) in the Project locations, and at Public Visitor Centres to be established at Toza Hudud district branches by early 2023.

As the detailed design progresses, the final size of the SPZs may be reduced, based on the conclusions of national environmental impact assessment studies and air impact modelling. Once the final SPZ size is determined, with EBRD's support and based on the Framework, Toza Hudud will prepare detailed **Livelihood Restoration Plan(s)** for specific Project facilities. The Plan(s) will identify who will be affected by the Project, estimate the economic impacts they may suffer, establish eligibility criteria for compensation, and determine how the affected people will be compensated or have their incomes restored. The Plans(s) will be disclosed as well before any land use restriction occurs in relation to a specific facility.

Framework Entitlements

Persons or enterprises that will experience economic displacement due to the Project are categorised as 'project affected persons' if they occupied or used the Project sites or SPZ areas at or before the cut-off. Cut-off dates will be individually established and publicly announced for different Project facilities, as the dates of land allocation decisions by relevant authorities or end dates of asset inventories.

Project affected persons can be:

- users, owners, or lessees of assets (land, ponds, etc.) who may lose crops and/or income due to prohibition to continue agricultural activities in the SPZs;
- workers who may lose jobs if farms/enterprises with the assets falling within the SPZs cannot continue to operate;
- cattle-breeders who may lose access to grazing land designated for the Project facilities [very limited];
- Toza Hudud's staff informally picking waste at the existing waste facilities.

The eligibility for specific compensation and livelihood restoration support will be refined based on the census and asset inventories and documented in the **Livelihood Restoration Plan(s)**.

People that may be denied eligibility (such as absentees) will be able to lodge a claim after the asset inventories through the Project grievance mechanism.

Compensation of assets or losses will comply with the applicable national and EBRD requirements. Priority will be given to replacement land and in-kind measures where possible. Affected assets and losses will be valued at replacement cost by independent and qualified experts. People and businesses whose livelihoods are/or income adversely affected will be assisted in re-establishing affected activities, livelihoods, standard of living, and income, with specific assistance to vulnerable groups.

A grievance mechanism will be established in line with the Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Any project affected person or stakeholder can file a grievance related to the Project using the below contact details. The Committee or Toza Hudud will issue a Resolution Letter within 15 days of receiving the complaint with proposed resolution actions (as per national law, if needed, this period can be extended to one month upon informing the complainant about this).

Stakeholder Participation

The Livelihood Restoration Framework builds upon meetings,

interviews and consultations completed in the region with over 40 persons in September 2021 and 30 persons in late 2019 – early 2020. The engagement covered land users/ owners of the plots potentially falling in the maximal assumed SPZs, local residents, farmers, heads of mahalla citizens assemblies, where the facilities are proposed to be located, representatives of district hokimiyats, regional administrations and environmental and health authorities, specialists from district state bodies responsible for environment, land management and state land cadastre, forestry, agriculture and water issues, regional NGOs, waste pickers, businesses, staff of local clinics, schools and kindergartens, statistics bodies, and staff of Toza Hudud.

Toza Hudud will organize dedicated consultation meetings with local community members and other key stakeholders as the Project design and planning develops.

Specific engagement with the users / owners of the land plots falling within the SPZs will be held within the development of Livelihood Restoration Plans.

Detailed information on the planned engagement activities can be found in the Project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan at <http://www.uznature.uz/yz/invest/51#2> and EBRD (<https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/psd/50697.html>).

Comments, enquiries or grievances relating to Project activities can be directed to:

Name: Saparov Abdirakhman Danabayevich

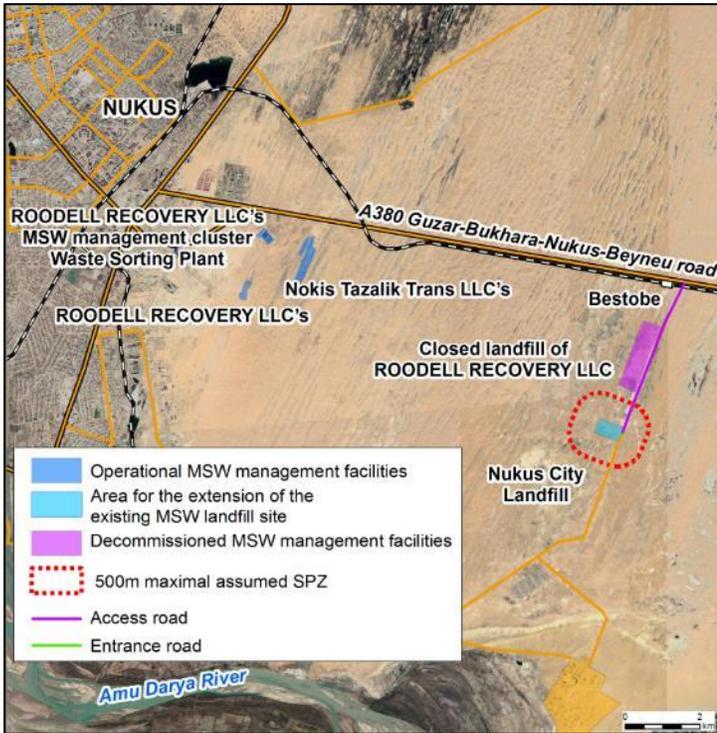
Position: Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection and Ecology of the Republic of Karakalpakstan

Address: 230100, Nukus, Berdakh highway w / n

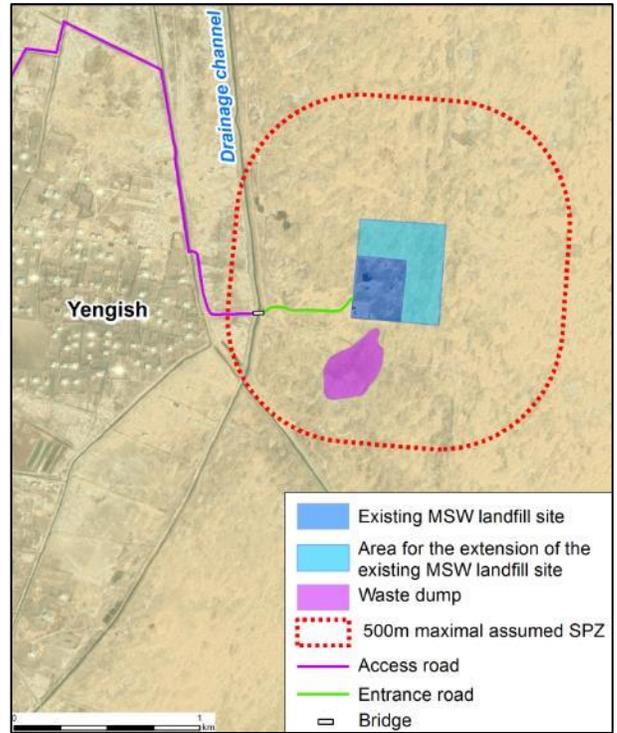
Email: rktabiati@exat.uz or nukus@uznature.uz

Phone: 0(361) 224-19-51 or 0(361) 224-08-77

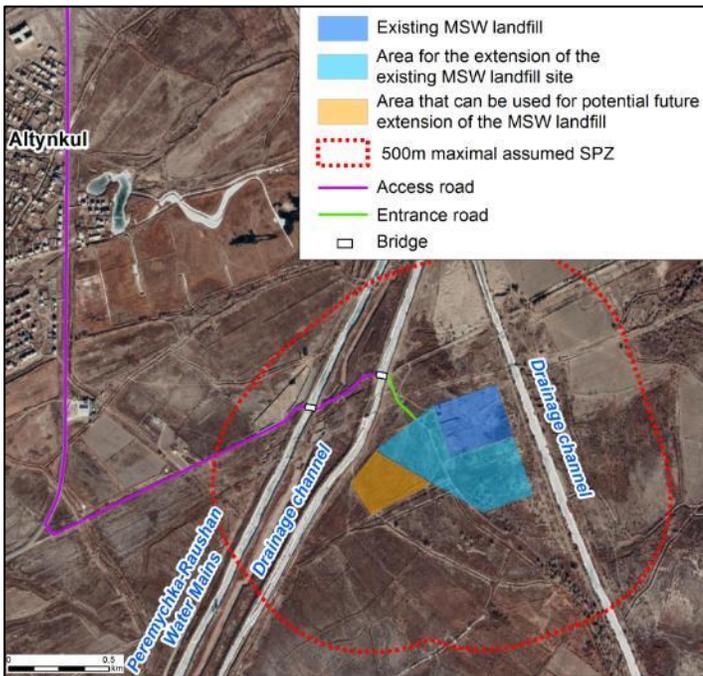
Annex with maps showing maximal assumed SPZs for proposed sanitary MSW landfills



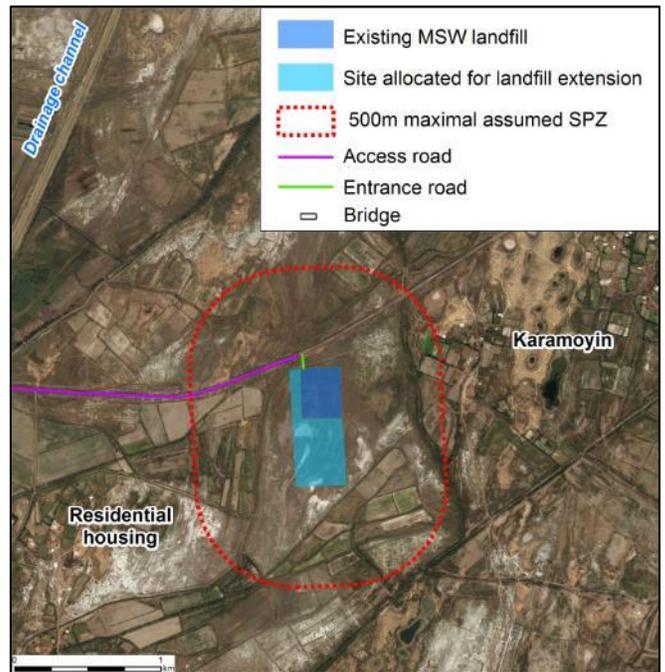
Proposed Nukus City Landfill



Proposed Turtkul District Landfill



Proposed Kungrad District Landfill



Proposed Karauzyak District Landfill