

PN ACS-541

119656

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Covering period: June 1, 2001 – November 1, 2002

Submitted to the U.S. Agency for International Development; Bureau for
Global Programs, Field Support and Research; Center for Economic
Growth

Assessing and Monitoring Land Degradation Due to Salinization in Turkmenistan and Examining New Phytoremediation Methods

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Grantee Institution: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

**Collaborators: Dr. Moukhamed Dourikov
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**Institution: National Institute of the Deserts, Flora and Fauna,
Ministry of Environment, Turkmenistan**

Project Number: CA20-048

Grant Number: TA-MOU-00-CA20-048

**Grant Project Officer: William H. Crane,
American Embassy, Tel-Aviv**

Project Duration: June 1, 2001 – May 31, 2004

1. SCIENTIFIC SUMMARY

This project aimed in assessing the spatial distribution and temporal changes of land affecting by secondary salinization in areas of intensive irrigation of Turkmenistan and to examine the technology of their rehabilitation. In order to implement the spatial domain of the above objective, a series of map, of several salt affected soils, have been digitized. Analog data are thus converted to a digital and will be used as layers in the build-up Geographic Information System (GIS). In parallel, satellite images have been purchased, covering the same salt-affected areas but in different period – mid 70th, 80th, and late 90th, in order to assess the temporal dynamics of the study sites. In Turkmenistan, field work has been conducted in Dashoguzsk Veloiat area, which mostly located in Prisarikamishsk delta, characterized by various salinization problems. The work includes observation and monitoring of the soil and ground water.

2. SCIENTIFIC ISSUES

Currently, there are no scientific issues that can be reported.

3. SPECIAL CONCERNS

Due to security reasons we faced some problems in inviting Dr. Bogdan Ivakhov, of the National Institute of Department of Cartography, State Committee of Cartography and Geodesy, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to visit the Remote Sensing Laboratory of Ben Gurion University. These problems lasted several months during the reported period, but eventually solved and Dr. Ivakhov received the permission to visit Israel. However, these problems caused sever delay in the project work plan.

4. COLLABORATION, TRAVEL, TRAINING AND PUBLICATIONS

No traveling and/or training were conducted during the reported period (see Item #3 above).

**5. REQUEST FOR AMERICAN EMBASSY TEL-AVIV OR A.I.D.
ACTIONS**

No requests for American Embassy actions at this stage of the project.