

## UNDP ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT (APPR)

1. Context				
Project Short Title	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project			
Project Full Title	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project: (Phase II: Scale-Up), Restoration of Lake Urmia-3rd JPN Contribute (Phase III), Restoration of Lake Urmia-4th JPN Contribute (Phase IV)			
Project Objective	To enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of Iran’s systems of wetlands protect areas (WPAs) as a tool for conserving globally significant biodiversity			
Project Number	71323/99313/104720			
Award Number	38436			
Duration (years/months)	May 2013 – Dec 2019			
Start Date	May-13			
End Date	Dec-19			
Location(s)	East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan; Fars; Khouzesan; Kurdistan; Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari; Sistan & Balouchestan; Boushehr; Hormozgan; Markazi; Golestan; Isfahan.			
UNDAF / CPD Outcome to which this project contributes	UNDAF Outcome 1: Environment CPD Outcome 1: Responsible government agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resource management, low carbon economy, and climate change policies and programmes more effectively			
UNDAF / CPD Output to which this project contributes	UNDAF Output 1.1: Integrated natural resource management: Responsible GOI agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resource management policies and programmes more effectively. CPD Output 1.1: Strategies and measures that promote sustainable and integrated management of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services are developed and considered for adoption / implementation by the Islamic Republic of Iran			
Government Implementing Partner	I.R Iran - Department of Environment			
Project Financial Status				
Source of Fund	Overall Budget	Annual Budget (2017)	Annual Expenditure (2017)	Delivery Rate
UNDP TRAC	682,204	33,400	33,400	100%
UNDP Triple 8:	105,302	16,600	16,600	100%
Gov’t Parallel Funding (cash/in-kind):	500,000	1,960,000	1,582,000	80%
Gov’t Cost-sharing:	0	0	0	0
Vertical Funds (e.g. GEF, MP, GF):	0	0	0	0



Third Party Donor: (JAP)	4,000,000	1,268,635	608,690	48%
Total:	5,287,506	3,278,635	2,240,690	68%

**Note: 514,524 USD Committed from budget of project 104720, JAP fund.**

## 2. Brief Project Description:

Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) is a joint initiative between the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran (led by the Department of Environment), Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which started in 2005 and was scheduled to end in April 2013. But to draw on the recommendations of Terminal Evaluation on sustainability of results for ensuring that CIWP's outcomes are systematically up-scaled both vertically and horizontally, a scale-up phase was approved by Department of Environment and UNDP to continue and fulfil the achievements of CIWP. Along with this scale up phase a project entitled "Contribution to Restoration of Lake Urmia via Local Community Participation in Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation" was added to CIWP in 2014 as a new component with financial support of the government of Japan.

The successful completion of the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands project (CIWP) by 2015 led to the formulation of Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (Phase II) and the Restoration of Lake Urmia (Phases III & IV), which aimed to sustain CIWP achievements and upscale its outcomes by addressing terminal evaluation recommendations concerning sustainability of results and application of complementary tools and mechanisms. It supports development and implementation of Wetland Management Plans through inter-sectoral coordination structures for 16 Iranian wetlands (13 new wetlands + 3 CIWP demonstration sites) and puts in place a strong wetlands ecosystem management legislative platform and inter-sectoral administrative structures at national level, supporting implementation of the "Ecosystem Approach" in the wetlands and shares the CIWP and other wetlands initiatives, knowledge and lessons learnt with the regions of South and Central Asia, as well as modeling local community participation in Lake Urmia restoration through establishment of sustainable agriculture practices and biodiversity conservation. In the component which is related to LU restoration there has been a strong focus on capacity building and education as the main tools of development projects with participatory approach. This occurred through different small projects and activities on different areas which strengthen people's participation and involvement including alternative and sustainable livelihood, micro-credit funds and awareness raising campaigns.

Since 2005 the project managed and secured more than USD 5.6 million of investment from international resources and USD 10 million from the Government for the conservation of Iranian wetlands. The project has successfully introduced integrated and participatory ecosystem-based approaches for conservation of

### 3. UNDP-CPD Results Achieved

*This section links the achievements of your project with intended results under UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD 2017-2021).*

#### 3.1. UNDP CPD Outcome

<b>CPD Outcome:</b> Responsible government agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resource management, low carbon economy, and climate change policies and programmes more effectively	
Outcome indicators	Progress towards achievement of the intended CPD Outcome/Evidence
1. Annual emissions of CO <sub>2</sub> in million metric tons Baseline (2010): 855 million tons Target (2030): 787 million tons (reduction of 8%)	Saving irrigation water in approximately 3500 ha of lands under SA project leads to decrease in amount of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil-fuel pumps. There is no records of actual amount of reduction in CO <sub>2</sub> emission though this is crystal clear that the amount of CO <sub>2</sub> emission could be reduced as a result of decreased use of fossil fuel.
2. Percentage of land area that is managed sustainably under an in-situ conservation regime, a sustainable use regime and / or an access and benefits sharing regime Baseline (2015): 10.4% Target (2020): At least 17 per cent	CIWP activities covers 746,967 ha of Iran wetland basins. This include the wetland areas where Integrated Management Plans were developed and their implementation started, such as Choghakhor, Hamoun, Mighan, Helle and other pilot sites of the project. The participatory approach undertaken for management of these wetland sites promotes wise use activities and focuses on intersectoral cooperation.
3. Tons of ozone depletion potential (ODP) used Baseline (2015): 309 ODP tons Target (2020): 260 ODP tons	
4. Disposal of the current persistent organic pollutants (POPs) inventory and importation control of POPs in general and of PCBs in particular. Baseline (2015): 11,000 tons of PCB oil and equipment (approx.) Target (2020): 2000 tons of low PCB contaminated oil and equipment as well as 100 tons of highly contaminated PCB oil and equipment and 80 tons of agricultural POPs	There is no data on amount of POPs's disposal but SA practices in LUB led to 40% decrease in chemical fertilizers and pesticides over 3500 ha

#### 3.2. UNDP CPD Output(s)

<b>CPD Output(s):</b> Strategies and measures that promote sustainable and integrated management of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services are developed and considered for adoption / implementation by the Islamic Republic of Iran	
Output indicators	Progress towards achievement of the intended CPD Output/Evidence
1. Hectares of land/rangeland/forest being reclaimed or used sustainably for agriculture under pilot projects and scale-up schemes Baseline (2015): 109,764 hectares Target: 200,000 hectares	3,500 ha of lands in Lake Urmia Basin are under Sustainable Agriculture project. A number of 10000 farmers are benefited from the project.

2. Number of sectoral guidelines with budget allocation for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into development planning Baseline (2015): 28 Target : 40	There are a number of 17 wetland Integrated Management Plans developed by CIWP in cooperation with DoE These plans are under implementation in almost 10 of these wetlands. The priority actions in these management plans are base of national budget planning for these wetlands which is done jointly by the project and related office in DoE (Wetland Ecosystem Office). Mobilized national budget to carry out this activity was 1582000 USD during 2017.
3. Number of coordination mechanisms to address trans-boundary issues Baseline (2015): 0 Target: 2	There are 2 committees (one joint committee with Afghanistan and one National Committee) related to Hamoun Wetlands. Developing management plan for Hamoun wetlands along with awareness raising and capacity building activities by CIWP facilitated formation of this committee. The issues such as water right and water management at basin level are discussed in this committee.

#### 4. Project Results achieved (Objective, Outcome and Outputs)

##### 4.1 Project Outcome(s) and Outputs

<b>Project Outcome 1:</b> Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites based on CIWP achievements and lessons learnt to effectively address the most significant ‘internally arising’ threats			
Outcome 1 indicators (or related objective indicators)	Project Baseline (year: XX)	2017 Target	2017 Actual
1. Number of wetlands for which Integrated Management Plan is developed	12	5	4
2. Number of tools and mechanisms introduced to support establishment of wetland integrated management plans	4	5	5
3. Increased level of social responsibility and stakeholders participation and cooperation in wetlands management and conservation	30%	10%	10%
<b>Evidence of achievement at outcome level</b>			
<p>1. What has changed in Iran related to the subject of this outcome in 2017? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).</p> <p>The main approach of DoE towards conservation and management of wetlands is Ecosystem Approach now. Undertaking this approach is emphasized in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Socio-economic Plans of the country. Integrated Management Plans have been developed for more than 16 wetlands (Lake Urmia, Lake Parishan, Shadegan, Hamoun, Mighan, Helle, Harraye Minab, Choghakhor, Alagol, Zarivar, Solduz, Gavkhouni, Gharagheshlagh, Ghourigol, Noroozloo, and Bakhtegan) (Annex 01) in Iran and implementation of plans through inter-sectoral mechanism started in some wetlands. The level of stakeholders’ participation and also social responsibility in restoration and conservation of wetlands increased. High level documents and national policies which emphasize on importance of water resources and wetlands related issues are evidences of this change in decision makers’ and people’s attitude towards this issue. There are items related to water resources in General Policies of the country</p>			

stated by Supreme leader of Iran. Besides that articles 187, 191 and 192 of 5<sup>th</sup> socio-economic development plan, and Law of wetlands conservation and the president's plan on environmental issues all focus on water and wetlands related issues and establishment of ecosystem approach.

2. Please explain how this project has contributed to this change? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).

*Do not list activities, but be very specific about what project's contribution was, citing evidence for claims made. Elaborate on what were the main factors which contributed to this progress? OR If you cannot see sufficient progress or if the outcome is not on track to be achieved (i.e., most relevant 2015 milestones were not reached), what were the main factors which hindered progress?*

DoE received strong support from CIWP in process of developing and implementing management plans. CIWP facilitated the related workshops and provided DoE with necessary technical inputs in the process. The project has also contributed to empowerment of provincial secretariats to make the plans operational through conducting experience exchange and capacity building training workshops. Awareness raising and educational activities of CIWP have a significant role in increasing public participation in wetlands conservation as well.

These activities include publications, TV and radio programs, news stories, reports, etc.

3. Please specify results achieved under this outcome related to women's engagement and empowerment.

Women as a key group of local communities have always been engaged in related activities such as capacity building projects and alternative livelihood practices. There were a number of rural women (more than 100) in project pilot sites who seriously participated in quick win projects related to livelihoods, ecotourism, empowerment, etc. They have been subject to training and capacity building for establishing sustainable livelihood practices and running micro-credit funds.

**Output 1.1: Ecosystem based wetland management plans initiated by CIWP are approved and operational and up-scaling is continued by DoE**

Output indicators (as per the project log frame included in the project document)	Project Baseline	2017 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2017	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Number of Integrated Management Plans which are operational (Committees, Secretariats and Budget)	6	6	3	There were some conflicts among stakeholders which needed to be resolved before approval of Helle, Haraye Minab and Alagol Complex wetlands before their approval in Development and Planning Councils of the provinces.
2. Number of Integrated Management Plans developed for new pilots	12	3	2	National budget for completion of the Guwater management planning process didn't allocate to the province.

3. Number of priority actions of selected developed Management Plans which are implemented	7	2	2	
4. Number of provincial staff (wetland secretariats) trained on implementation of MPs	35	35	35	
5. Number of wetland-related budget plans that CIWP contributed to	4	3	5	

#### Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence

- Integrated management plans of Hamoun, Zarivar and Choghakhor wetlands were approved in Provincial Planning and Development Councils of Sistan and Baloochestan, Kordistan and Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari provinces accordingly. Related organizations in Sistan and Baloochestan developed their operational plans based on priority actions of Hamoun wetland integrated management plan and the implementing structures are operational at provincial and local levels. In a provincial ceremony in Sistan and Baloochestan an MOU was signed by stakeholders on implementation of Hamoun Integrated Management Plan.
- Integrated Management Plan of Gavkhouni wetland in Isfahan province and Bakhtegan wetland in Fars province developed in a participatory process with stakeholders. The same process initiated for Gowater bay in south-east of Iran, but it couldn't progress as scheduled due to lack of national budget.
- As the first step for implementation of Helle wetland integrated management plan, one of its priority actions was selected for implementation. A local NGO was the implementing partner which was working in coordination with Booshehr provincial office of DoE. This activity aimed to identify sustainable alternative livelihoods and pilot one of them in a participatory process with local communities in 2 pilot villages.

#### Output 1.2: National policies and local implementation mechanisms and tools are introduced for better wetland management

Output indicators <i>(as per the project log frame included in the project document)</i>	Project Baseline	2017 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2017	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Percentage of progress towards approval of National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NWCSAP) by the Cabinet and its implementation	50%	80%propos	80%	
2. Number of Business Plans developed for pilot wetland sites	0	5	5	
3. Number of online monitoring stations installed in pilot wetlands	0	1	1	
4. Percentage of progress towards development of vulnerability assessment guideline	0	100%	100%	
5. Number of Ramsar sites for which wetland	0	24	24	



vulnerability assessment tool is applied				
6. Total financial estimate (Billion Rials) of approved entrepreneurship proposals developed by local people and NGOs which are submitted to Omid Fund	0	5 Billion Rials	2.3 Billion Rials	There were a number of proposals which weren't approved by technical offices.
7. Number of proposals developed and submitted to technical offices of DoE for final approval	0	50	98	The number of received proposals after the call was high more than expected

#### **Describe project progress towards achievement of the intended output-level results/Evidence**

National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NWCSAP) (Annex 02) finalized and submitted to the Cabinet for approval. Initial preparation for its implementation is being carried out at national level. Follow-ups for formation of a national wetlands conservation committee resulted in some changes in Habitats Office and formation of an independent office called Wetlands Ecosystems Office.

Business Plans developed for 5 pilot wetland sites including Bakhtegan, Zarivar, Helle, Shadegan, and Choghakhor. There are some barriers at national level which are being followed up by the national task force. For instance lack of legal and financial mechanisms and infrastructure needed for self-sufficiency of the wetlands protected areas.

Choghakhor online monitoring station established and is operational now. Some of the key wetland parameters such as water temperature, EC, etc are regularly recorded in on online database from this station. Initial arrangements were done for establishment of an online monitoring system at national level.

Vulnerability assessment guideline and methodology finalized and published after several consultation meeting at national and international levels. The related data for applying this methodology for Iran Ramsar sites was collected from provincial offices. About 40 provincial experts were fully engaged in the process through a participatory workshop. The collected data for 6 Ramsar Sites out of 24 was analysed in project office as well.

DoE signed one MOU with OMID Fund which is entrepreneurship fund. By signing this MOU, Omid fund committed to financially support entrepreneurship proposals of local communities (particularly around wetlands) which directly or indirectly help conservation of nature. CIWP received 98 proposals for OMID fund (covering 50 Billion Rials) from which 50 were submitted to DoE technical offices for approval. 48 proposals related to SA project activities along with 16 approved proposals were submitted to OMID fund with a total amount of 23 Billion Rials.

#### **Output 1.3: Public participation and support for wetland conservation enhanced at local, national and international level**

<b>Output indicators (as per the project log frame included in the project document)</b>	<b>Project Baseline</b>	<b>2017 Target</b>	<b>Actual Result Achieved 2017</b>	<b>Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)</b>
1. Percentage of progress towards development of Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) planning guideline	0	100%	60%	As it was decided to prepare a CEPA plan for 2 pilot wetlands before finalizing the guideline, the process took longer than scheduled
2. Number of news stories released		30	30	



3. Number of awareness raising material produced/ published		21	16	Some of the items are in the middle of preparation process and there is the possibility to be finalized very soon. They include a number of publications which are in the final stage of edition and design and will be published by the end of Jan 2018.
4. Number of submitted/ funded proposals to possible financial supporters		Submitted: 4 Funded: 2	Submitted: 15 Funded: 2	As the financial situation of the project is very unsustainable it was tried to develop and submit as many proposals as we can to possible donors in order to secure project financial situation
5. Number of international events CIWP participated in	35	2	4	
6. Number of CIWP members in social networks	0	500	954	
7. Number of informative posts in CIWP social network	0	365	600	

**Describe project progress towards achievement of the intended output-level results/Evidence**

CIWP developed a public awareness plan and a publication plan at the beginning of the year and implemented it during the year. There were a number of publications including 2 booklets, 3 brochures, 2 books, 2 games, a calendar, one info-graph brochure. Several pieces of news and informative posts were published through media and social networks.

Despite extremely limited budget of the project the project staff could successfully attend 3 international events with full financial support from the host country.

- 5 abstracts (Annex 03) on different areas of CIWP work were submitted to Asian Wetlands Symposium and all accepted to be presented as poster/oral presentations. After negotiation with the host country (Japan) they agreed to cover the expenses of one representative from the project to attend the symposium.
- One of the project staff attended a 3-week training course by China Academy of Science (CAS) with full coverage of expenses.
- NPM had a one week visit to China hosted by CAS to negotiate possible mechanisms of cooperation with them and have a study tour to their water monitoring stations.

**Project Outcome 2: Contribution to Lake Urmia Restoration via local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation (Phases III)**

Outcome 2 indicators (or related objective indicators)	Project Baseline (year: XX)	2017 Target	2017 Actual
1. Number of pilot sites in which SA initiated in previous phases and continued for further establishment	63	75	75
2. Number of new pilots in which SA is up-scaled	0	15	15
3. Number of complementary tools used to help establishment of SA	0	5	5

4. Number of volunteer local communities participated in Lake Urmia restoration	8000	1150	1150
<b>Evidence of achievement at outcome level</b>			
<p>1. What has changed in Iran related to the subject of this outcome in 2017? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An organizational framework facilitating inter-sectoral collaboration among the Government of Japan, UNDP, DoE, CIWP, provincial MoJA and DoE, local Implementing Partners, NGOs and the farmers is fully established at national, provincial and local levels. This framework is a part of project document.</li> <li>• Participatory project management, planning and implementation is introduced, practiced and now is applied by different project stakeholders including Ministry of Jihad Agriculture (MoJA), DoE, Regional Water Authorities (RWA), Private Sector, Local Communities and the NGOs in all aspects of project implementation.</li> <li>• Social responsibility for restoration of LU increased. The best evidence of this issue is higher level of social demand regarding restoration and conservation of the lake which is obvious in visits and discussions.</li> <li>• Sustainable agriculture is now taken into consideration in national attempts/programmes by MoJA and Lake Urmia Restoration Program in the process of Lake Urmia restoration. Lake Urmia Restoration Programme allocated a part of its budget to up-scaling of Sustainable Agriculture. The project has become a practical model of public participation in wetland conservation which has the potential to be up-scaled within the entire LU basin and even other wetlands in Iran. There are other wetland basins in the country with challenges similar to Lake Urmia where the authorities and stakeholders are interested in knowing about LU experience and lessons learnt. Isfahan (Gavkhouni basin) and Fars (Bakhtegan basin) are two examples.</li> </ul> <p>2. Please explain how this project has contributed to this change? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).</p> <p><i>Do not list activities, but be very specific about what project's contribution was, citing evidence for claims made. Elaborate on what were the main factors which contributed to this progress? OR If you cannot see sufficient progress or if the outcome is not on track to be achieved (i.e., most relevant 2015 milestones were not reached), what were the main factors which hindered progress?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Decentralized project planning and decision making through establishment of National and provincial steering committees where representatives from CIWP, DOE, MoJA, Regional Water Authority, NGOs, universities and private sector take part in project planning and decision making.</li> <li>➤ Project has introduced, supported and applied participatory approaches to the point where, all Implementing Partners now value and apply participatory approaches in all aspects of project implementation.</li> <li>➤ Project has trained and build the capacity of MoJA experts (225 experts) within technical and extension offices and local executive companies and NGOs as well as local farmers and they are now acting as resources persons on facilitation and Participatory Technology Development to improve working with and participation of local communities in LU restoration. (Annexes 04-06) Farmers in 75 villages (3700 farmers) are introduced to sustainable agriculture techniques focusing on water saving as well as agricultural chemical input (chemical pesticides and herbicides) saving at farm level.</li> <li>➤ The project identified, introduced and piloted 5 complementary tools (PES, SMS panel, micro-credit funds, local water cooperatives and monitoring systems) to help establishment of SA. As sustainable agriculture is one component of this process and other complementary tools have significant roles in accomplishment of this process.</li> </ul>			

3. Please specify results achieved under this outcome related to women's engagement and empowerment.
- 3 microcredit funds (managed by rural women) are active with a total amount of 240 Million IRRs of loans given to 58 members who are all rural women.
  - A hydroponic workshop was established for producing fodder and about 10 local rural women were trained for running this workshop.

**Output 2.1:** Continuing to strengthen in the pioneer 75 villages initiated during 2014- 2015 through further promoting SA practices

Output indicators <i>(as per the project log frame included in the project document)</i>	Project Baseline	2017 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2017	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Number of farmers introduced to Sustainable Agriculture (SA) techniques in 63 villages of phases I and II	50	1260	3700	Usually in gatherings and meetings there were more farmers than expected. As they saw the good result of practicing SA techniques in their neighbor farms, they started to apply the techniques as well. s
2. Percentage of farmers implementing at least one SA technique in their farms or orchards		65%	100%	
3. Percentage of farmers implement SA techniques in each 12 satellite village (phase II)		15%	100%	
4. Number of trained staff of MOJA, executive companies and NGOs	0	100	225	

**Describe project progress towards achievement of the intended output-level results/Evidence**

About 3700 farmers from 75 villages were introduced to SA techniques. The percentage of farmers used at least one SA techniques in their farms or orchards was more than what was targeted by CIWP.  
4 capacity building workshops were conducted for about 225 staff of MOJA, executive companies and NGOs

**Output 2.2:** Up-scaling sustainable agriculture in 15 new villages in Lake Urmia basin resulting in 35% water saving

Output indicators <i>(as per the project log frame included in the project document)</i>	Project Baseline	2017 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2017	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Number of farmers in 15 villages who are introduced to Lake Urmia restoration via establishment of SA	0	225	375	
2. Number of farms in which SA techniques are implemented by volunteer farmers		225	300	
3. Percentage of project sites in which monitoring	0	8%	20%	At first it was planned to be carried out for one farm by

systems/ equipment are established				each of the companies, but then it was agreed to conduct it in 2 farms
4. Percentage of progress towards development and publishing SA booklet	30%	100%	100%	
5. Number of quarterly reports produced	0	4	4	
<b>Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence</b>				
<p>375 farmers in 15 new pilots were introduced to SA techniques among which 300 farmers applied the techniques in their farms.</p> <p>Monitoring system established in 3 pilot sites of SA.</p> <p>4 quarterly reports were produced and published for the project. Final report of phase III was also developed and submitted to UNDP.</p>				
<b>Output 2.3: Mobilization and application of new tools and mechanisms as complementary elements of sustainable agriculture</b>				
<b>Output indicators (as per the project log frame included in the project document)</b>	<b>Project Baseline</b>	<b>2017 Target</b>	<b>Actual Result Achieved 2017</b>	<b>Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)</b>
1. Percentage of progress towards development of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) plan for a pilot wetland in LU basin	0	100%	80%	As the process is being complemented in close cooperation with local people, this is time-consuming. This is also a new concept which needs some infra-structure
2. Number of community-led micro-credit fund established to empower women in SA pilot sites (phase II)	0	2	3	Good capacities available at provincial level made it possible to increase the number of pilots
3. Number of pilot sites in which monitoring system/equipment established	1	2	2	
4. Number of people receiving key messages as a means of public awareness mechanism via established ICT system	0	9000	9000	
5. Number of local water management cooperatives formed in 2 SA pilot sites of phase (II)	0	Number of pilots: 2	Number of pilots: 3	Local capacities and dependence of water resources in two neighbour

		Number of engaged people: 50	Number of engaged people: 75	villages made it possible to increase the number of pilots
<b>Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence</b>				
<p>A few complementary tools were identified and piloted in SA pilots to help establishment of this approach. PES plan for Kanibarazan wetland developed in a participatory process with local communities. Identified priorities include water quality and quantity, fishing and hunting management, awareness raising on wetland values, and ecotourism were listed. There will be some complementary work for developing PES schemes on the themes listed above.</p> <p>Micro-credit funds to support sustainable livelihood practices were established in 3 villages. These funds are managed by rural women.</p> <p>One SMS panel with a data base of 9000 phone numbers of local farmers, sends key messages for raising the level of public awareness on the importance of LU and role of people in its restoration.</p> <p>Local cooperatives for water resources management formed in 3 pilot villages. Local people were trained on measurement of inflow water. Revitalizing these traditional systems for water management engages local people in process and increases the level of social responsibility.</p>				

<b>Project Outcome 3: Contribution to Lake Urmia Restoration via local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation (Phases IV)</b>			
<b>Outcome 2 indicators (or related objective indicators)</b>	<b>Project Baseline (year: XX)</b>	<b>2017 Target</b>	<b>2017 actual</b>
1. Number of pilot sites in which SA initiated in previous phases and continued for further establishment	75	90	90
2. Number of new pilots in which SA is up-scaled	0	20	20
3. Number of complementary tools used to help establishment of SA	5	7	7
<b>Evidence of achievement at outcome level</b>			
<p>4. What has changed in Iran related to the subject of this outcome in 2017? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).</p> <p><i>Note: Outcome level change includes changes in institutional capacity and performance; changes in capacities, attitudes, and behaviour among individuals or group; and changes in enabling conditions such as norms, power relations, policies and laws, social and economic conditions.) Outcome-level results normally would require the intervention of stakeholders other than UNDP and the Implementing partner through broader partnerships.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The intersectoral cooperation through organizational framework which is formed among the Government of Japan, UNDP, DoE, CIWP, provincial MoJA and DoE, local Implementing Partners, NGOs and the farmers is somehow institutionalized.</li> <li>Participatory project management, planning and implementation is introduced, practiced and now is applied by different project stakeholders including Ministry of Jihad Agriculture (MoJA), DoE, Regional Water Authorities (RWA), Private Sector, Local Communities and the NGOs in all aspects of project implementation.</li> <li>Social responsibility for restoration of LU increased. The best evidence of this issue is higher level of social demand regarding restoration and conservation of the lake which is obvious in visits and discussions.</li> <li>Sustainable agriculture is now taken into consideration in national attempts/programmes by MoJA and Lake Urmia Restoration Program in the process of Lake Urmia restoration. Lake</li> </ul>			

Urmia Restoration Programme allocated a part of its budget to up-scaling of Sustainable Agriculture. The project has become a practical model of public participation in wetland conservation which has the potential to be up-scaled within the entire LU basin and even other wetlands in Iran. There are other wetland basins in the country with challenges similar to Lake Urmia where the authorities and stakeholders are interested in knowing about LU experience and lessons learnt. Isfahan (Gavkhouni basin) and Fars (Bakhtegan basin) are two examples.

5. Please explain how this project has contributed to this change? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).

*Do not list activities, but be very specific about what project's contribution was, citing evidence for claims made. Elaborate on what were the main factors which contributed to this progress? OR If you cannot see sufficient progress or if the outcome is not on track to be achieved (i.e., most relevant 2015 milestones were not reached), what were the main factors which hindered progress?*

- Decentralized project planning and decision making through establishment of National and provincial steering committees where representatives from CIWP, DOE, MoJA, Regional Water Authority, NGOs, universities and private sector take part in project planning and decision making. (Annex 07)
- Project has introduced, supported and applied participatory approaches to the point where, all Implementing Partners now value and apply participatory approaches in all aspects of project implementation.
- Project has trained and build the capacity of MoJA experts (300 experts) within technical and extension offices and local executive companies and NGOs as well as local farmers and they are now acting as resources persons on facilitation and Participatory Technology Development to improve working with and participation of local communities in LU restoration. (Annex 05)
- Farmers in 90 villages (4500 farmers) are introduced to sustainable agriculture techniques focusing on water saving as well as agricultural chemical input (chemical pesticides and herbicides) saving at farm level.
- The project continued to identify, introduce and pilot 5 complementary tools (PES, SMS panel, micro-credit funds, local water cooperatives and monitoring systems) to help establishment of SA. As sustainable agriculture is one component of this process and other complementary tools have significant roles in accomplishment of this process.

6. Please specify results achieved under this outcome related to women's engagement and empowerment.

3 microcredit funds (managed by rural women) are active and more than 250 rural women are benefited from financial support for sustainable livelihood provided by the funds.

<b>Output 3.1: Institutionalizing SA in 49 villages (Phase II &amp; III) initiated during 2015-2016 through further promoting SA practices</b>				
<b>Output indicators</b> <i>(as per the project log frame included in the project document)</i>	<b>Project Baseline</b>	<b>2017 Target</b>	<b>Actual Result Achieved 2017</b>	<b>Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)</b>
1. Percentage of progress towards development and implementation of a participatory action plan	0	100%	Developed : 100%	



for institutionalization of SA techniques in 49 pilots (phase II & III)			Implemented: 40%	
2. Percentage of progress towards publication of a booklet on institutionalizing local community participation in establishment of SA techniques	0	100%	40%	As the report is being prepared in a participatory process with executive companies, the process took longer than expected. There are still a few related workshops to be conducted. It will be finalized by the end of phase IV.
3. Number of training workshops conducted for MOJA/DOE staff, executive companies and NGOs	9	12	6	The rest of workshops will be conducted by the end of the Phase IV.

#### Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence

*Note: Output results should be understood as development changes resulting directly from project's products and services. Thus, achievements of outputs by implication are within the control of the project (i.e. the implementing partner and UNDP).*

- Preparing and implementing a participatory action plan for institutionalizing SA techniques in 49 villages of phases II and III successfully achieved.
- A booklet is being developed to document stakeholders experience and lessons learnt in institutionalizing local community participation in establishment of SA. As this is being carried out in a participatory process it would be time-consuming task and will hopefully be finalized and published by the end of Phase IV. This booklet would facilitate replication of this experience in other wetland sites.
- A number of capacity building workshops are planned to be conducted for MOJA/DoE staff, executive companies and NGOs among which 6 were conducted

#### Output 3.2: Up-scaling sustainable agriculture in 20 new villages in Lake Urmia basin resulting in 35% water saving

Output indicators ( <i>as per the project log frame included in the project document</i> )	Project Baseline	2017 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2017	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Percentage of project sites in which monitoring system including monitoring equipment are established in at least 10% of project sites	13	At least 10%	13%	
2. Number of farmers introduced to SA techniques in 20 villages	0	300	180	Phase IV of SA project ends in March 2018

#### Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence

*Note: Output results should be understood as development changes resulting directly from project's products and services. Thus, achievements of outputs by implication are within the control of the project (i.e. the implementing partner and UNDP).*

- Monitoring and Evaluation of efficiency of SA practices is carried out by 2 teams from Urmia University and Natural resources research centre of East Azerbaijan. They equipped the pilot farms of 10% of project sites with monitoring equipment to monitor how SA techniques influence on irrigation water usage and chemical inputs (Annex 06).



- There are 20 new pilot villages for up-scaling SA during phase IV. 180 farmers in these villages have been introduced to SA.

**Output 3.3: Social Mobilization and application of new tools and mechanisms as complementary elements of sustainable agriculture**

Output indicators <i>(as per the project log frame included in the project document)</i>	Project Baseline	2017 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2017	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Number of individuals received LU public awareness campaign material and joined the movement		50000	40000	Phase IV of SA project ends in March 2018
2. Number of SMS on public participation in restoration of LU sent to local communities in project pilots		150000	450000	Phase IV of SA project ends in March 2018
3. Number of water-friendly alternative livelihoods options up-scaled in 5 pilots/ Number of people involved in alternative livelihoods projects	2	5	5	
4. Number of local farmer initiatives on better management of water resources which are up-scaled	75	75	40	Phase IV of SA project ends in March 2018
5. Number of community-led micro-credit funds for women empowerment which are up-scaled	3	2	2	
6. Number of PES schemes developed and implemented to enhance the management of LU satellite wetlands	0	2	1	Phase IV of SA project ends in March 2018
7. Number of wetlands in which key species are identified and conservation measures are provided	0	3	3	

**Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence**

*Note: Output results should be understood as development changes resulting directly from project's products and services. Thus, achievements of outputs by implication are within the control of the project (i.e. the implementing partner and UNDP).*

- Awareness raising material such as 5 posters, 2 animations and 9 short clips produced and published among a wide range of audience.
- One SMS panel with a database of 9000 mobile numbers sends thematic messages regarding importance of LU restoration, role of people in this process and benefits of SA to farmers in the basin.

- There are 5 active micro-credit funds in pilot villages now with about 60 members from rural women which are supporting small scale entrepreneurship local projects.
- Alternative livelihood options which have been initiated in pilot villages include sewing and handicraft workshop for women, decrease the dependence of local people to water-dependant livelihood in the area.

## 1.2 Positive unanticipated results

- Despite limited amount of budget allocated to the activity related to OMID fund, number of proposals and number of financially supported proposals indicates that good results were achieved. It was tried to use the capacity of all related sectors including Public Participation office of DoE for publishing the call for proposals and other technical offices for reviewing proposals.
- Vulnerability assessment for Ramsar Sites didn't seem to be fully done because of difficulties in accessibility to data. But two participatory workshops with provincial experts facilitated the process and made it possible to not only collect all data for 24 sites but also analyze them for 6 wetlands. The other point that helped achieving good results was consultation with some professionals at international level and using their experience to finalize the methodology.
- Despite extremely limited budget of the project the project staff could successfully attend 3 international events with full financial support from the host country.
  - 5 abstract on different areas of CIWP work were submitted to Asian Wetlands Symposium and all accepted to be presented as poster/oral presentations. After negotiation with the host country (Japan) they agreed to cover the expenses of one representative from the project to attend the symposium.
  - One of the project staff attended a 3-week training course by China Academy of Science (CAS) with full coverage of expenses.
  - NPM had a one week visit to China hosted by CAS to negotiate possible mechanisms of cooperation with them and have a study tour to their water monitoring stations.
- 2 case studies of project activities on relation of local people with wetlands were submitted to Ramsar Secretariat to be published in their report
- Alternative livelihood and micro-credit funds along with related empowerment and capacity building activities had a significant positive impact on rural women regarding their attitude towards wetlands conservation
- Resource mobilization at national level for SA scale-up: about 900'000 USD from LU restoration program was allocated to scale-up SA practices in 50 villages in the basin
- Voluntary participation of local farmers and also private sector (executive companies) in SA project without any incentives was significant

## 1.3 Negative unanticipated results and follow up actions that project has taken to address them

- Lack of regulations related to Business Plans discouraged the provincial experts to continue the process. Because necessary infrastructure for implementing Business Plans were not available.
- Lack of supporting regulation was the problem of local water management cooperatives as well. So they are not officially recognized by Water Authorities to take responsibility of local projects.
- There are no incentives for farmers who use less water and chemical inputs so there are fewer volunteers.
- There is no support from the government for the sustainable livelihood initiatives.

## 1.4 Justification for project continuation

CIWP is a kind of development project seeking behavioural changes in stakeholders which is inherently a time-consuming process. Some actions such as enhancing legal infrastructures which have been commenced by the project need more time to come to an intended result.

On the other hand, CIWP gained a lot of experience and lessons learnt during years of work. It is necessary to take actions for preparation of some scientific documents and publications and share the experience with related audience.

### 1.5 What are the main areas of the project 2018 work-plan?

- Implementation of Integrated Management Plans in two pilot wetlands
- Develop Integrated Management Plan for at least 2 new pilots
- Develop and implement monitoring protocols for wetlands
- Economic valuation of wetlands
- Implementation of NWCSAP
- Develop and implement CEPA plan for wetlands
- Alternative livelihoods
- Second phase of wetlands Geo-portal
- Wetlands water requirement
- Establishment of National Wetlands Committee and secretariat
- International commitments

## 5. Monitoring & Evaluation

### 5.1 What has been the main project monitoring activities during 2017?

- CIWP prepares progress reports on quarterly basis.
- Regular internal meetings with staff are conducted to review progress towards completion of project activities and plan next steps.
- Project steering committee has semi-annual meetings. (Annex 08)
- SA national steering working group conducts bimonthly meetings.
- Financial/ administrative software of the project launched in 2017.
- Two provincial experts follow up and monitor SA project activities in East and West Azerbaijan. (Annex 09)
- An evaluation on socio-economic efficiency of SA project was carried out. (Annex 04)
- Technical monitoring of SA project results was carried out. (Annex 06)

### 5.2 If the project has been evaluated in 2017, what have been the main recommendations? What are the follow up actions to address recommendations.

Senior Project International Advisor (SIPA) had an evaluation of the project during his mission to Iran in July 2017. The following items are his recommendation to UNDP, project NPD and NPM.

1. Following the recommendation of the PSC meeting to continue with the current legal status of CIWP, a prioritised action plan for fundraising was prepared. UNDP and the NPM should actively follow-up the proposed actions. UNDP notes that any future TRAC funds would be contingent on success with cost-sharing mechanisms (1%)
2. UNDP agrees to provide “host-support” (invitation, visa support, security assistance etc.) for the proposed international foundation(s) donor visit in 2018. SIPA to advise once this seems likely to proceed.
3. Due to the incompatibility of the 2017 Budget and Work Plan for the scale up project, the NPM is advised to submit a mid-year review of the work plan: a) stopping all activities/missions that are not fully funded (eg Gwater Bay and Bakhtegan MPs); b) taking on no new requests from DOE unless they are funded; c) transferring more responsibility to DOE-HO for management planning; d) restricting Omid Fund work to LU where it can be resourced/contracted out through the Japan budget (and if necessary transferring proposals from other provinces to the DOE-HO or Public Participation Office.

4. Full attention should be given to delivery of the Japan funded Phase III and IV work with high level publicity, to increase the probability of further funding.

#### 6. Problems/issues (internal and external) encountered and action taken or required.

Problem / Issue	Action taken or required	Responsible body
Insufficient project budget	Use national capacities	CIWP
Lack of cost-sharing mechanisms	Follow-ups with related DoE offices and UNDP to identify possible mechanisms	??CIWP
Lack of human resource	Use voluntary potentials (Interns)	??CIWP
Lack of secure financial resources for next years of the project	Try to find new donors, Submit proposals to possible donors	??CIWP
Delay in national budget allocation	Try to find alternative resources from provincial budget in case of delay	DoE
Conflict among stakeholders at provincial level which makes approval of management plans challenging	Bilateral meetings with key stakeholders before taking action for approval of management plans	DoE (Provincial)

## 7. Risk Management

#	Description	Date Identified	Type <sup>1</sup>	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	concurrent of phase III and phase IV of SA project	March 2017	<i>Operational</i>	Low/Low	Recruitment of new staff at provincial level, precise planning and monitoring of project progress	UNDP/DoE			
2	Lack of local experience in some areas of Work Plan including business planning, PES and sustainable water infrastructure		<i>Operational</i>	Low/Low	Collect international experiences and introduce them to local experts holding capacity building workshops				
3	Change in USD exchange rate		<i>Financial</i>	High/High	Accomplish some activities such as publications, etc. at the end of the year to compensate				
4	Lack of infra-structures at provinces for holding capacity building workshops		<i>Operational</i>	Medium/Medium	Redesign the workshops with fewer number of participants at local levels				
5									
6									

*Add rows as required*

<sup>1</sup> Operational, Financial, Organizational, Regulatory, Security, Strategic, Political, Environmental, etc.

## 8. Annexes

### 8.1. Guidance Note for Completion of APPR:

- Systematic monitoring and reporting is an essential project management function. It supports management decision making, accountability and learning functions.
- Particular emphasis is given to reporting on results (namely the outputs and outcomes of a programme/project) as well as giving an honest assessment of constraints encountered and the actions required to support effective project implementation.
- Recipients of this report will be those who support (including financially) the partnership work of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNDP.
- Responsibility for completing this report rests with the relevant designated management team of the project. Due date for the first draft is **16 December 2017** and **31 December 2017** for the final submission.
- The first draft of APPR will be reviewed and quality assured by the respective Programme Unit and Programme Support Unit (PSU) within the UNDP Country Office in Iran. The content of the report will provide the information base for the annual review process. Upon completion of the review process, and following any required editing of the reports, they will be uploaded on-line in Atlas.
- To use the format, please *delete* all the subsequent *italicised green text* in the template, and then save the file with a new name. The file name for all APPRs for 2017 should follow the following convention: **APPR2017 Project reference # version # (day month year)**.

Should you require guidance / support with respect to completing your reports, please contact the relevant Programme focal point at the UNDP Iran Country Office.