

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-4th JPN Contribute (Phase IV), Restoration of Lake Urmia-5th JPN Contribute (Phase V)			
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	71323/104720/110087			
Award Number	38436			
Duration (years/months)	May 2013- Dec 2019			
Start Date	May 2013			
End Date	December 2019			
Location(s)	East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan; Fars; Khouzestan; Kurdistan; Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari; Sistan & Baluchestan; Boushehr; Hormozgan; Markazi; Golestan; Isfahan, Kerman.			
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 (2018)	Annual Expenditure (2018)	Delivery Rate
UNDP TRAC	762,204	80,000	80,000	100%
Gov't Parallel Funding (cash/in-kind):	500,000	2,483,300	2,256,100	91%
Gov't Cost-sharing:	0	0	0	-
Vertical Funds (e.g. GEF, MP, GF):	0	0	0	-
Third Party Donor: (JAP Gov)	5,000,000	1,296,377	947,602	73%
Total:	6,262,204	3,859,677	3,283,702	85%

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 "*Modelling Local Community Participation in Restoration of Lake Urmia through Establishment of 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, 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 Wetlands Integrated Management Plans through inter-sectoral coordination structures for more than 20 Iranian wetlands 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 training as the main tools of development projects with participatory approach. This occurred through different small projects and activities on various areas which strengthen people's participation and involvement including alternative and sustainable livelihood, micro-credit funds, and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).

Since 2005 the project managed and secured more than USD 6.6 million of investment from international resources and USD 11 million from the Government for the conservation of Iranian wetlands. The project has successfully introduced integrated and participatory ecosystem-based approaches for conservation of Iran's wetlands while have raised the capacity of more than 500 from Department of Environment.

3. UNDP-CPD Results Achieved

3.1. UNDP CPD Outcome

CPD Outcome:	
Outcome indicators	Progress towards achievement of the intended CPD Outcome/Evidence
1. Annual emissions of CO2 in million metric tons Baseline (2010): 855 million tons Target (2030): 787 million tons (reduction of 8%)	Saving irrigation water in approximately 4500 ha of lands under SA project leads to decrease in amount of CO2 emissions from fossil-fuel pumps. There is no records of actual amount of reduction in CO2 emission though this is crystal clear that the amount of CO2 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 1,593,193 ha of Iran wetland basins. This include the wetland areas where Integrated Management Plans were developed and their implementation started (Lake Urmia, Lake Parishan, Shadegan, Hamoun, Mighan, Helle, Harraye Minab, Choghakhor, Alagol, Zarivar, Solduz, Gavkhouni, Gharagheshlagh, Ghourigol, Bakhtegan, Nowrouzloo, Kanibarazan, Gwater Bay, Gandoman, Jazmoorian) 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	NA
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	NA

3.2. UNDP CPD Output(s)

CPD Output(s):	
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	The total area of land under SA: 4500 ha The total area of wetlands with MP: 1,593,193
2. Number of sectoral guidelines with budget allocation for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into	20 Integrated Management Plans: Lake Urmia, Lake Parishan, Shadegan, Hamoun, Mighan, Helle,

development planning Baseline (2015): 28 Target : 40	Harraye Minab, Choghakhor, Alagol, Zarivar, Solduz, Gavkhouni, Gharagheshlagh, Ghourigol, Bakhtegan, Nowrouzloo, Kanibarazan, Gwater Bay, Gandoman, Jazmoorian 4 of them developed in 2018 (Kanibarazan, Gwater Bay, Gandoman, Jazmoorian)
3. Number of coordination mechanisms to address trans-boundary issues Baseline (2015): 0 Target: 2	

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

4.1 Project Outcome(s) and Outputs

Project Outcome 1: 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: 2017)	2018 Target	2018 Actual
1. Number of wetlands for which Integrated Management Plan was developed	16	18	20
2. Number of tools and mechanisms introduced to support establishment of wetland integrated management plans	9	11	11
3. Increased level of social responsibility and stakeholders participation and cooperation in wetlands management and conservation	40%	50%	50%
Evidence of achievement at outcome level			
<p>1. What has changed in Iran related to the subject of this outcome in 2018? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).</p> <p><i>Currently, the main approach of DoE towards conservation and management of wetlands is Ecosystem Approach. Undertaking this approach is emphasized in the 5th and the 6th Socio-economic Plans of the country. Since the beginning of the project Integrated Management Plans have been developed for 20 wetlands (Lake Urmia, Lake Parishan, Shadegan, Hamoun, Mighan, Helle, Harraye Minab, Choghakhor, Alagol, Zarivar, Solduz, Gavkhouni, Gharagheshlagh, Ghourigol, Bakhtegan, Nowrouzloo, <u>Kanibarazan</u>, <u>Gwater Bay</u>, <u>Gandoman</u>, <u>Jazmoorian</u>) among which 4 underlined were developed in 2018 (Annex 01) in Iran and implementation of plans through inter-sectoral mechanisms started in almost 10 wetlands. Implementation of these management plans is now a high priority in DoE annual budget planning. The level of stakeholders' participation and also social responsibility in restoration and conservation of wetlands have increased. High level documents and national policies including Wetland Act and its bylaw (Annexes 02 and 03) 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 stated by Supreme leader of Iran. Besides that articles 187, 191 and 192 of 5th 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. Online monitoring stations are also the tools which were introduced to 4 wetlands in the country (Choghakhor and Kanibaraza in 2017 and Solduz and Noroozloo in 2018) (www.woms.doe.ir).</i></p> <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>Strong technical and facilitation support provided by CIWP to related offices in DoE was the main contributing factor to this change. Besides the joint planning and work for development of 4</i></p>			

management plans, CIWP worked closely with DoE Wetland Ecosystems Bureau for empowerment of implementing structures of the Integrated Management Plans, and provincial secretariats in particular, for almost 16 wetlands. At least 8 joint meetings which were held for annual budget planning, helped changing the executive priorities of DoE in provinces. The CIWP experience and lessons learned regarding new tools and mechanisms which would help establishment of Ecosystem Approach was shared with DoE through discussions and meetings and it was tried to overcome the challenges cooperatively.

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

CIWP have always tried to give the women the opportunity of empowerment as a key target group of local communities who can strongly contribute to the project goals. Besides, gender equality has always been taken into consideration in selection of implementing partners.

In livelihood and micro-credit fund implemented by CIWP in 2 villages near Helle wetland, 45 women were engaged and one out of two established micro-credit funds is managed by rural women (Annexes 04, 05, 06).

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

Output indicators	Project Baseline	2018 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2018	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. 1. The number of developed "Integrated Management Plans"	16	18	20	CIWP planned to develop 2 integrated management plans based on the available budget and human resource of the project. Furthermore as 2 more wetlands received the budget for this activity, CIWP in cooperation with DoE Wetland Ecosystems Bureau provided the necessary technical and facilitation supports to these wetlands as well.
2. The number of meetings that implementation structures (provincial and local) of each selected wetland held	0	4	6	The baseline number mentioned here belongs to 3 pilots selected in 2018.
3. The number of priority actions of selected MPs which are accomplished	0	6	7	The baseline number mentioned here belongs to 3 pilots selected in 2018.
4. The number of budget plans CIWP contribute to its preparation	4	4	4	This happens regularly every year.
5. The number of capacity building workshop held for secretariats	7	8	8	

Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence

Integrated management plans of Jazmoorian, Kanibarazan, Qwater Bay, Gandoman wetlands were developed (Annex 01). The plan for Kanibarazan was also approved in Planning and Development Council at both national and provincial levels. To emphasize on the necessity of intersectoral cooperation for implementation of the management plan, one MOU was signed among the stakeholders of Zarivar Wetland (Annex 07). The stakeholder organizations then started to develop operational plans based on the priority actions of Zarivar integrated management plan.

CIWP tried to reinforce implementation of MPs by strengthening implementation structures at local and provincial levels. As a result of this follow-up, 2 meetings of Zarivar wetland committee, 1 meeting of Parishan wetland committee (Annex 09), one meeting of Gharegheshlagh wetland committee (Annex 10) and one for Ghorigol wetland were held (Annex 11).

As the first step for implementation of the Integrated Management Plans some priority actions of selected wetlands were implemented. These actions include boating plan, fishing plan, information brochure and boards for Zarivar wetland. One study on aquatic species of the wetland started as well (Annex 12). In Gwater bay also two actions on awareness raising and developing a plan for fishing harbor commenced (Annex 13, 14). Implementation of a part of monitoring plan in 4 wetlands namely Kanibarazan, Choghakhor, Solduz and Nowrouzloo started by establishing monitoring stations (www.woms.doe.ir).

A 3-day workshop was held in Ardabil for experts of provincial secretariats of ecosystem management in which more than 35 secretariats' experts participated (Annex 15, 16, 17). After the workshop a meeting was held for DGs of related provinces.

CIWP contributed to develop the budget plan for National plan of fine dust, National plan for critical wetland ecosystems, and Lake Urmia Restoration Program. The planning package of the 6th Socio-economic Development Plan was also developed with strong support of CIWP in related parts.

Under the activity related to livelihood and micro-credit funds on Helle Wetland 45 women and 15 men were engaged, 5 jobs were created and 2 micro-credit funds established (Annex 04, 05, 06, 08).

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

Output indicators	Project Baseline	2018 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2018	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Number of activities of selected BP implemented	0	2	5	
2. Number of pilot wetlands revised Economic Valuation methodology is applied for	0	2	1	Due to lack of time and budget the project could apply it for just one pilot.
3. Number of Ramsar Sites that Vulnerability Assessment analysis is accomplished for	18	24	24	

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

CIWP planned to implement at least 2 selected activities of Zarivar Business Plan. As this is a new concept, there were some challenges and required infrastructure and capacities were not available in some cases.

Though some activities were carried out including: equipping the wetland's guest house, buying new monitoring equipment, conducting ecotourism study, equipping guard stations, awareness raising for students, follow-ups on designation of the wetland as a Ramsar site, recruitment of new staff and conduct a survey on level of visitors' satisfaction on their visit to wetland (Annex 18, 45).

The Economic Valuation methodology was reviewed and updated (Annex 20). It was then applied for Kanibarazan Wetland (Annex 21).

Vulnerability Assessment analysis for 24 Ramsar sites completed in 2018. Several half-day workshops in

provincial DoE offices were held to complete this analysis (Annex 22, 23).

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

Output indicators	Project Baseline	2018 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2018	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Percentage of progress towards updating and implementation of CIWP annual CEPA plan	NA	100%	80%	Some publications such as guidelines were planned to be published based on the results of CIWP activities which were postponed to next year because those activities haven't been completed yet.
2. Percentage of progress towards implementation of CEPA planning guideline	60%	100%	90%	The guideline has been developed and is being finalized. The experience of developing and implementing CEPA for Kanibarazan wetland was added to this guideline as a national experience (Annex 42, 43)
3. Percentage of progress towards implementation of knowledge sharing plan	0	70%	70%	
4. Number of submitted proposals	15	25	18	The process of hiring a fundraising consultant took longer than expected
5. Number of funded proposals	5	6	6	
6. Number of awareness raising material produced and distributed	NA	50	95	Interviews, news stories, books and E-books, notebooks, calendar, memory sticks

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

To make CIWP experience accessible for interested individuals and experts, project experience in different areas were documented, published and distributed. Some of the recent publications include Alternative Livelihood (Annex 24), SA documentation book (Annex 25), TEEB book (Annex 26) and Vulnerability Assessment book (27). As a part of its knowledge sharing plan, CIWP presented its achievements in a number of conferences (Water Economics Conference, Chamber of Commerce, Tehran, Dec 2018 and a conference on Water resources management in Yazd and exhibitions (Annex 19, 36, 37). Two training sessions were also held at DoE to present CIWP experience in PES and establishing monitoring stations (Annex 38).

CIWP also produced/held many other public awareness material/events such as brochures (Annex 28, 29), animations (Annex 30), photo contest (Annex 31), exhibition (Annex 32), documentaries (33), calendar, games (Annex 34), etc. The project web site reconstruction finished in 2018 (www.wetlandsproject.ir) and media productions of CIWP were published through its Aparat Channel (Annex 35).

CIWP is in the final stage of hiring a fundraising consultant who would develop a fundraising strategy for the project and help the project in developing and submitting proposals to potential donors. Though 3 proposals/ concept notes were developed and submitted to JICA and Government of Japan, among which

the one regarding phase VI of SA in LU basin was accepted to be funded by Japan (Annex 39, 40, 41). The other important achievement of the project is launching the mechanism of cost-sharing among Iran DoE and UNDP for the first time.

Output 1.4: Improved situation of Ramsar sites in the country as a consequent of better fulfillment of commitments to Ramsar Convention

Output indicators	Project Baseline	2018 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2018	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Number of Ramsar sites which are updated	0	12	5	The process of collecting and updating the information was more time-consuming than expected. Also official submission of the updated info-sheets to the Ramsar secretariat and receiving their confirmation is time-taking, hence project could only reach half of the set targets.
2. Number of Ramsar sites removed from Montreux list	1	2	1	The process is being followed for Anzali wetland but hasn't accomplished yet.
3. Number of new designated Ramsar sites	24	25	25	Zarivar is in the final stages of designation
4. Number of international events (related to Ramsar Convention) CIWP attended	2	2	1	Due to lack of budget CIWP couldn't afford Pre-COP 13 meeting and just attended COP 13 of Ramsar Convention in Dubai, Oct 2018 (Annex 44)

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

The info-sheets of 5 Ramsar sites including Boujagh, Amirkelaye, Anzali, Hamoun Poozak and Hamoun Hirmand are updated and submitted to the secretariat. The secretariat has provided some feedback on them. The information for other wetlands is being collected from related sources.

The process for removing Anzali wetland from Montreux record is being pursued and designation of Zarivar as a Ramsar site is in the final stages.

CIWP participated in Ramsar COP 13 which was held in October, in Dubai (Annex 44). World Wetlands Day ceremony and selection of Wetland Champion was held with strong support of CIWP in Feb 2018 in Ramsar (Annex 46).

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

Outcome 2 indicators (or related objective indicators)	Project Baseline (year: 2017)	2018 Target	2018 Actual
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	5	5
Evidence of achievement at outcome level			
1. What has changed in Iran related to the subject of this outcome in 2018? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).			
<p><i>The intersectoral cooperation through organizational framework which is formed through the joint project of Government of Japan, UNDP and DoE is institutionalized among CIWP, provincial MoJA and DoE, local Implementing Partners, NGOs and the farmers.</i></p> <p><i>Participatory project management, planning and implementation is introduced, practiced and is now 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.</i></p> <p><i>Social responsibility for restoration of LU has increased. The best evidence for this, is higher level of social demand regarding restoration and conservation of the lake which is obvious in visits and discussions.</i></p> <p><i>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 the budget for up-scaling of Sustainable Agriculture in 50 pilots (About 15 billion IRR). 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.</i></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><i>Reported in 2017.</i></p> <p>3. Please specify results achieved under this outcome related to women's engagement and empowerment.</p> <p><i>Reported in 2017.</i></p>			

Output 2.1: Institutionalizing SA in 49 villages (Phase II & III) initiated during 2015-2016 through further promoting SA practices				
Output indicators	Project Baseline	2018 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2018	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Number of pilot sites Participatory action plan for institutionalization of SA techniques are developed and implemented	41	90	90	
2. Number of booklets published on establishment of SA techniques	0	1	1	

3. Number of individuals trained	150	200	200	
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Describe project progress towards achievement of the intended output-level results/Evidence

Preparing and implementing a participatory action plan for institutionalizing SA techniques in 49 villages of phases II and III successfully achieved.

A booklet was developed to document stakeholders experience and lessons learnt in institutionalizing local community participation in establishment of SA (Annex 25). This booklet would facilitate replication of this experience in other wetland sites.

12 capacity building workshops conducted for MOJA/DoE staff, executive companies and NGOs with total number of 200 participants.

Output 2.2: Up-scaling sustainable agriculture in 20 new villages in Lake Urmia basin resulting in 35% water saving

Output indicators	Project Baseline	2018 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2018	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Project best practices and lessons learned applied for updating implementation methodology	2	4	4	
2. Number of villages introduced to LU restoration via establishment of SA techniques	90	110	110	
3. Number of Sustainable agriculture techniques implemented in farms owned by volunteer farmers	3	3	3	
4. Percentage of water saving occurred in pilot farms	35	35	35	
5. Number of workshops held	10	22	22	

Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence

Reported in 2017.

Output 2.3: Social Mobilization and application of new tools and mechanisms as complementary elements of sustainable agriculture

Output indicators	Project Baseline	2018 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2018	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Number of individuals that will receive the LU public awareness campaign materials	NA	50000	50000	The campaign started in the 4 th phase. So there is no baseline for number of individuals exposed to related material. Of course many awareness raising material produced and distributed in previous years, but not for this campaign.
2. Number of public participation messages that will send to local	150000	450000	450000	

communities				
3. Number of alternative livelihood established in pilot sites	2	7	7	
4. Number of pilots establishing local water resource management networks	0	2	3	
5. Number of women empowered by community-led micro-credit funds	30	50	58	
6. Number of PES schemes established for enhancement of LU satellite wetlands	0	1	1	
7. Number LU satellite wetlands in which key/endangered species are identified and conservation measures taken	0	3	3	
Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence				
<i>Reported in 2017.</i>				

Project Outcome 3: Contribution to Lake Urmia Restoration via local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation (Phase V)

Outcome 3 indicators (or related objective indicators)	Project Baseline (year: 2017)	2018 Target	2018 Actual
1. Number of pilot sites in which SA initiated in previous phases and continued for further establishment	90	110	110
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	6	6
4. Number of engaged farmers	11000	12000	11500

Evidence of achievement at outcome level

What has changed in Iran related to the subject of this outcome in 2018? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).

In 2018, CIWP started 5th phase of SA project in LU basin. During this phase which hasn't been accomplished yet, the intersectoral cooperation of related stakeholders at provincial and local levels strengthened. So the project received more support from MoJA and DoE. On the other hand as a result of project attempts for up-scaling of SA at national level LURP provided the budget for establishing SA in 50 more villages. 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. The

experience of LU restoration through local communities participation

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

The project had a change in its approach in the 5th phase and instead of completing the activities based on a pre-defined TOR for the implementing companies, elicited the ideas of the companies through proposals. This made the process more time-consuming and challenging. While it has some advantages at the same time: There are innovations and creativity in some proposals and the procedures are defined based on the situation and needs of the area where it is being implemented.

The project continued training and capacity building for stakeholders 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.

Complementary tools (PES, micro-credit funds, participatory monitoring of endangered species and monitoring systems) helped establishment of SA and inspired the project with the idea of integration of different aspects of the project in the next phase.

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

There are now totally 16 pilots of sustainable livelihood and women micro-credit funds and more than 250 women are engaged in these project. The project started work in 10 of these pilots in 2018 and 6 pilots are related to previous years.

Output 3.1: Institutionalizing SA in LUB (110 pilots)				
Output indicators	Project Baseline	2018 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2018	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Number of reports produced	15	35	35	
2. Number of proposals supported by CIWP	0	15	35	
3. Number of knowledge and experience sharing events	105	140	140	Will be completed by the end of Phase V.
4. Number of systematized and disseminated traceable good practices	NA	2	0	A contract is being signed for documentation
5. Number of legal and institutional obstacles addressed	0	2	1	Based on the priorities taken out of the capacity building plan, 3 obstacles have been selected, but haven't been fully addressed yet.
6. Number of organizations/sectors involved in SA-related procedures	1	3	3	
7. Number of new fundraising sources which are secured	0	1	0	The process of hiring a fundraising consultant took longer than expected

8. Number of farmers' family members (women and youth) engaged in LU restoration and empowered	150	220	220	
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Describe project progress towards achievement of the intended output-level results/Evidence

CIWP received 35 proposals and all were funded by the project for institutionalizing SA in 110 villages. Some related organizations including LU restoration program, Water authorities and Governor's Office got involved in SA related process.

Regarding organizational obstacles, the priorities have been identified to be addressed. They include interaction with MOJA, recognition of participatory approach of executive companies and administrative obstacles.

CIWP is in the final stage of hiring a fundraising consultant who would develop a fundraising strategy for the project and help the project in developing and submitting proposals to potential donors. Though 3 proposals/ concept notes were developed and submitted to JICA and Government of Japan, among which the one regarding phase VI of SA in LU basin was accepted to be funded by Japan (Annex 39, 40, 41).

Output 3.2: Out-scaling of SA, non-farm livelihood (as alternative livelihood) and women's micro-credit funds in new villages in Lake Urmia basin based on past learning (20 pilots)

Output indicators	Project Baseline	2018 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2018	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Number of proposals received on SA in 20 pilot sites and, AL and MC in up to 4 new pilots and accepted by the committee	0	20	24	
2. Number of beneficiaries exposed to participatory action plans	NA	400	400	The result achieved is related to fall crops and spring crops beneficiaries will be added to this figure. Since the project activities for this 20 pilots started in this phase there is no baseline for the number of beneficiaries.
3. Number of prepared reports	4	2	1	The second report will be prepared during till the end of this phase.
4. Number of best practices identified and published	NA	NA	NA	This phase of the project hasn't been accomplished yet, so some of the activities are under implementation and will be done by the end of this phase.
5. Number progress reports, number of meetings of national working group, number of field visits	8 reports 11 meetings 40 visits	9 15 50	9 15 50	Since phase V will continue till March 2019, the final figures will be provided later.

Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence

To implement the new approach of the project, 24 proposal received from the companies for Out-scaling of SA (Annex 53), non-farm livelihood (as alternative livelihood) and women's micro-credit funds (Annex 54) in new villages in Lake Urmia basin. As we have just gone through autumn crops we don't have the final

figures for the people exposed to participatory plans and the final number of reports, meetings and visits.

Output 3.3: Up-scaling sustainable agriculture in Lake basin

Output indicators	Project Baseline	2018 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2018	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. number of pilot villages supported by MOJA/LURP	50	150	150	
2. Number of beneficiaries supported	NA	100	100	For up-scaling women micro-credit fund and alternative livelihood at national level, some planning and follow-ups at national level have been done including signing one MOU with Jahad Daneshgahi and coordination with related office of Ministry of Cooperatives Labour and Social Welfare.
3. Number of wetlands to which SA experience for LU restoration is introduced	1	3	4	

Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence

As a consequence of CIWP effort for up-scaling SA organizational framework at national, provincial and local levels, Lake Urmia Restoration Program (LURP) provided MOJA with the budget for establishing SA in 100 pilot villages, based on the methodology experienced by CIWP.

For up-scaling women micro-credit fund and alternative livelihood at national level, some planning and follow-ups at national level have been done including signing one MOU with Jahad Daneshgahi and coordination with related office of Ministry of Cooperatives Labour and Social Welfare.

An exhibition (Annex 32) held in Miandoa, West Azerbaijan, in Dec 2018 exposed the experience of LU restoration through local participation. The exhibition was welcomed by 20,000 visitors during 3 days.

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. The experience of the project in LU was shared with stakeholders in other wetland basins including Zarivar wetland in Kurdistan province and Neor and Mil-Moghan wetlands in Ardabil province (Annex 52).

Output 3.4: Application of environmental tools and mechanisms as complementary elements of biodiversity conservation in LUB

Output indicators	Project Baseline	2018 Target	Actual Result Achieved 2018	Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any)
1. Number of PES schemes which are implemented	0	2	1	One scheme is under implementation and two other schemes are being pursued. 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 and capacity building.
2. Number of LU satellite wetlands for which integrated management plans are developed	4	6	5	The integrated management plan was developed for Kanibarazan wetland. Considering the fact that almost all important satellite wetlands of LU have management plans, CIWP decided to focus on other activities for getting these plans implemented. Participatory monitoring in Nowrouzloo and Solduz wetlands are two substitute actions carried out under this output.
3. Increased number of key species in pilot sites	NA	NA	NA	The action plan has been developed and some actions have been implemented. But as we are in the middle of phase V, the target would be measured at the end of this year.
Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence				
<p><i>After finalizing the study phase of PES for Kanibarazan wetland, based on the identified priorities it was planned to work on water quality and quantity. For this purpose a lagoon in which Typha is planted has been constructed near the wetland for water purification. The other priorities include fishing and hunting management, awareness raising on wetland values, and ecotourism. There will be some complementary work for developing PES schemes on the themes listed above.</i></p> <p><i>The process of integrated management planning for Kanibarazan wetland finished (Annex 47) and the plan was approved in both local and provincial Planning and Development Councils. Besides that the project published the book of MPs for Nowroozloo and Solduz Wetlands. (Annex 56-57)</i></p> <p><i>The action plan for conserving endangered species was developed (Annex 48) and some actions regarding raising the awareness of local hunters on identifying importance of endangered species were implemented by holding 3 workshops (Annex 49). Some other parts of the plan will be implemented the next year.</i></p>				

1.2 Positive unanticipated results

A series (13 meetings) of working breakfast gatherings were held with the theme of Water and Wetlands in presence of 3 main deputies of DoE and other related offices in which related issues were discussed and dealt with. These gatherings were very helpful in following up the subjects related to wetlands in the country.

There were also some opportunities which haven't been planned in the project work plan but found to be very helpful in presenting CIWP achievements to other related organizations. These events include the 2nd conference of Water Economy held by Chamber of Commerce in Dec 2018, and the Conference on Water Resources Management held by Yazd University in Nov 2018.

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

The dramatic change in exchange rate of the USD doubled the project budget in the middle of the year. This issue imposed a lot of pressure to the project team, as several new activities were added to the work plan.

1.4 Justification for project continuation

The project established a strong partnership among stakeholders including Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture (main partner in implementation of the project), Department of Environment (project coordination and facilitation), Ministry of Energy (collaborating partner of the project), Private local companies and local communities on the basis of institutional arrangements and capacities built for inter-sectoral management of the Wetlands project. As a result of follow-ups done by CIWP the cost-sharing mechanism between DoE and UNDP started for the first time. There is also a close collaboration with Lake Urmia Restoration Program (LURP) in planning and financial support of the project. The mentioned mechanisms formed in recent years need some time for sustainability to make sure the full hand-over process to the government has happened.

On the other hand the critical situation of water resources in the country makes it necessary to seriously continue tackling with this situation through intersectoral cooperation.

1.5 What are the main areas of the project 2019 work-plan?

2. Implementation of Integrated Management Plans
3. Develop Integrated Management Plan for new pilots
4. Develop and implement CEPA plan for wetlands and at national level
5. Alternative livelihoods
6. Capacity building for vulnerability assessment, wetlands economic valuation and business planning
7. International commitments

5. Monitoring & Evaluation

5.1 What has been the main project monitoring activities during 2018?

- Preparation of regular progress reports
- Regular internal meetings with staff are conducted to review progress towards completion of project activities and plan next steps
- Two Project steering committee meetings in 2018 (Annex 50)
- Bimonthly meetings of SA national steering working group (Annex 55)
- Technical monitoring of SA project results was carried out (Annex 51)

5.2 If the project has been evaluated in 2018, what have been the main recommendations? What are the follow up actions to address recommendations.

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

Problem / Issue	Action taken or required	Responsible body
Dramatic increase of exchange rate which almost doubled the project budget	Hard work of CIWP staff, accomplish some activities such as publications, capacity building workshops, etc.	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

7. Risk Management

#	Description	Date Identified	Type ¹	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	concurrent of phase IV and phase V of SA project	March 2018	<i>Operational</i>	Low/Low	Precise planning and monitoring of project progress	UNDP/DoE			
2	Change in USD exchange rate		<i>Financial</i>	High/High	Hard work of CIWP staff, accomplish some activities such as publications, capacity building workshops, etc.				
3	Lack of local experience in some areas of Work Plan including business planning, PES and BP		<i>Operational</i>	Low/Low	Collect international experiences and introduce them to local experts, hold capacity building workshops				

¹ *Operational, Financial, Organizational, Regulatory, Security, Strategic, Political, Environmental, etc.*



8. Annexes

The annexes mentioned in the document are attached to this report on a memory stick.