

PROJECT DOCUMENT
Islamic Republic of Iran

Project Title: Contribution to Lake Urmia Restoration via local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation

(Special component of UNDP's Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project)

Project Number: 104720

Implementing Partner: Conservation of Iranian Wetland Projects

Start Date: 1 Mar 2017 **End Date:** 28 Feb 2018

PAC Meeting date: N/A

Brief Description

Iran's diversity in climatic conditions and its rich aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems are rooted in its unique geography. Pressure has been put on environmental resources and biodiversity.

Water limitation normally leads to water allocation rivalry and natural ecosystems & initially wetlands usually suffer when in competition with development. As a result of this situation a number of Iranian wetlands across the 83 protected areas and 24 Ramsar sites are currently under pressure. These combined impacts have led to considerable shrinkage of wetlands, and in some parts of the country, major wetlands are entirely dried out, with serious impacts on biodiversity and local communities' livelihoods.

Lake Urmia (LU) is a vast hyper-saline wetland NW of Iran. The Lake is a National Park, Ramsar Sites, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and is the largest inland lake in Iran. There are about 100 islands in the lake; the three bigger ones are supporting populations of IUCN red listed endangered species of Persian Fallow Deer and Moeflon as a vulnerable species. The wetland also supports a number of other biodiversity species including 115 birds as well as 120 plant species.

The lake has several other functions supporting local communities' livelihoods to settle in the surrounding areas. There are more than 5 million inhabitants living in the basin and threats of drying lake will have tremendous impacts on their daily livelihoods.

Over the past decade, Lake Urmia has been affected by severe droughts and increasing pressures of over-extraction of water resources which have disturbed the inflow-outflow balance of the lake. During the past two years, the situation of Lake Urmia has been stabilized due to significant support provided by the government of Iran under Lake Urmia Restoration Program (LURP) and Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) implementing "local community participation in LU restoration project". However, the Lake still faces the threat of an irreversible condition where the dimension of its impacts would gradually spread from biodiversity to socioeconomic, affecting livelihood of the surrounding communities.

Currently Integrated Management plan of LU basin developed under Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP), which is adopted by the cabinet, contains a set of priority activities. Further, the new cabinet has also adopted a list of urgent actions which would contribute into restoration of the lake. Figuring in priority lists are the "wise use of land and water resources including agriculture water saving", "urgent biodiversity conservation" and "awareness raising".

Currently agriculture sector consumes more than 87% of the whole basin water use with a rather low efficiency rate. Hence there is a good scope for water saving in the area releasing more water discharge to the lake. This is also considered as the most critical step and can lead to revival of LU itself. Hence this formed the core activity of the grant from Japan in 2014 which was extended in the following two years. Under these grants, Sustainable Agriculture Techniques have been implemented and established in 90 villages located in LU ecological zone and welcomed by more than 10000 local farmers. The results showed an average of 35% water saving and 40% saving in agricultural chemical inputs (Fertilizers and Pesticides). During the period 500 Government staff as well as 150 local experts mainly in the form of local cooperatives were trained on socio-economic and technical aspects of Sustainable Agriculture. Besides, 150,000 local communities were targeted in the awareness raising campaign and 800 local communities were empowered by applying new tools and mechanisms including "Women Micro-credit Funds", "Alternative Livelihoods" and "Local Water Management Networks".

This proposed project is developed based upon the capacity built and the lessons learnt during last three phases of the project implementation and would effectively contribute in restoration of Lake Urmia through local community and farmer engagement in establishment of sustainable agriculture techniques in LU basin.

The proposal is targeting to upscale project sites to 20 new villages while institutionalizing Sustainable Agriculture practices in 49 villages initiated during 2015-2016 as well as applying new tools and mechanisms as complementary elements to sustainable agriculture. This phase will also involve sharing with a wide audience at basin level, the lessons learnt from Sustainable Agriculture as well as "public participation in alternative livelihoods", "women micro-credit funds", "payment for ecosystem services" and conservation of LU bio-diversity. The focus of this project is on LU ecological zone, containing 250 villages as LU most important buffer zone. Therefore, by its fourth year, the project will cover 110 out of 250 villages located in LU ecological zone (44% of the villages in LU ecological zone) with the aim of covering all 250 villages in this zone in the coming years. Establishment of Sustainable Agriculture in LU ecological zone could guaranty the up-scaling and its establishment in the entire LU basin.

Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD or GPD):

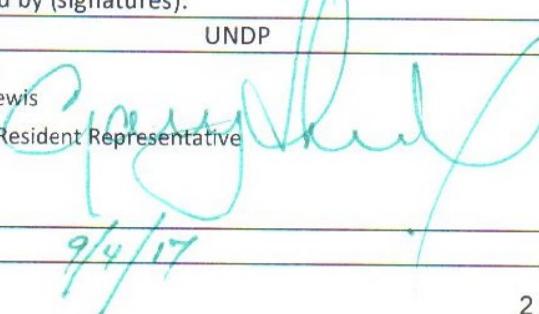
UNDAF: OUTCOME 1_ Responsible GOI agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resource management policies and programmes more effectively.

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

UNDP strategic plan Outcome 1: Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded; output 1.3; Solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste

Total resources required:	3,000,000 USD	
Total resources allocated:		
UNDP TRAC:		
Donor:	1,000,000	
Donor:		
Government:		
In-Kind:	2,000,000	
Unfunded:		

Agreed by (signatures):

UNDP	Implementing Partner
Name: Gary Lewis UNDP Resident Representative 	Name: Massoumeh Ebtekar Vice President and Head of Department of Environment 
Date: 9/4/17	Date: 2017, 4, 9.

I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Water limitation normally leads to water allocation rivalry and natural ecosystems & initially wetlands usually suffer when in competition with development. Challenges in the management of Iran's wetlands have been exacerbated by unsustainable use of water resources, persistent droughts and climate changes. As a result of this situation a number of Iranian wetlands across the 83 protected areas and 24 Ramsar sites are currently under pressure. These combined impacts have led to considerable shrinkage of wetlands, and in some parts of the country, major wetlands are entirely dried out, with serious impacts on biodiversity and local communities' livelihoods.

Lake Urmia (LU) is a vast hyper-saline wetland NW of Iran. The Lake is a National Park, Ramsar Sites, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and is the largest inland lake in Iran. There are about 100 islands in the lake; the three bigger ones are supporting populations of IUCN red listed endangered species of Persian Fallow Deer and Moeflon as a vulnerable species. The wetland also supports a number of other biodiversity species including 115 birds as well as 120 plant species.

The lake has several other functions supporting local communities' livelihoods to settle in the surrounding areas. There are more than 5 million inhabitants living in the basin and threats of drying lake will have tremendous impacts on their daily livelihoods.

The lake is shrinking at an alarming rate which has led to drying of more than 75% of its total 5000 Km² surface area. The underlying problem is that a range of users regularly extract water from the basin that feeds the lake. Add to this a recent drought, and, as a result, the water levels keep declining. Thus Lake Urmia is in a sudden threat of turning into irreversible situation where the dimension of its impacts has gradually spread from biodiversity into socioeconomics where livelihood and health of the surrounding communities have been affected. As a result, the lake has been drying out and salt particles are being blown around to adjacent crop lands. This will gradually increase soil salinity and contribute to making the agriculture of the entire basin unsustainable.

II. STRATEGY

Capacity building and education are the main tools of participatory-development projects. As ecosystem approach has a specific emphasis on engagement of all stakeholders, this tool makes the optimum participation of representatives from other organizations and related stakeholders possible to achieve the goals. On the other hand, considering the different potential and capacity of stakeholders, necessary training and capacity building plan should be developed and implemented for them. The following diagram illustrates different dimensions of participatory approach and its development.

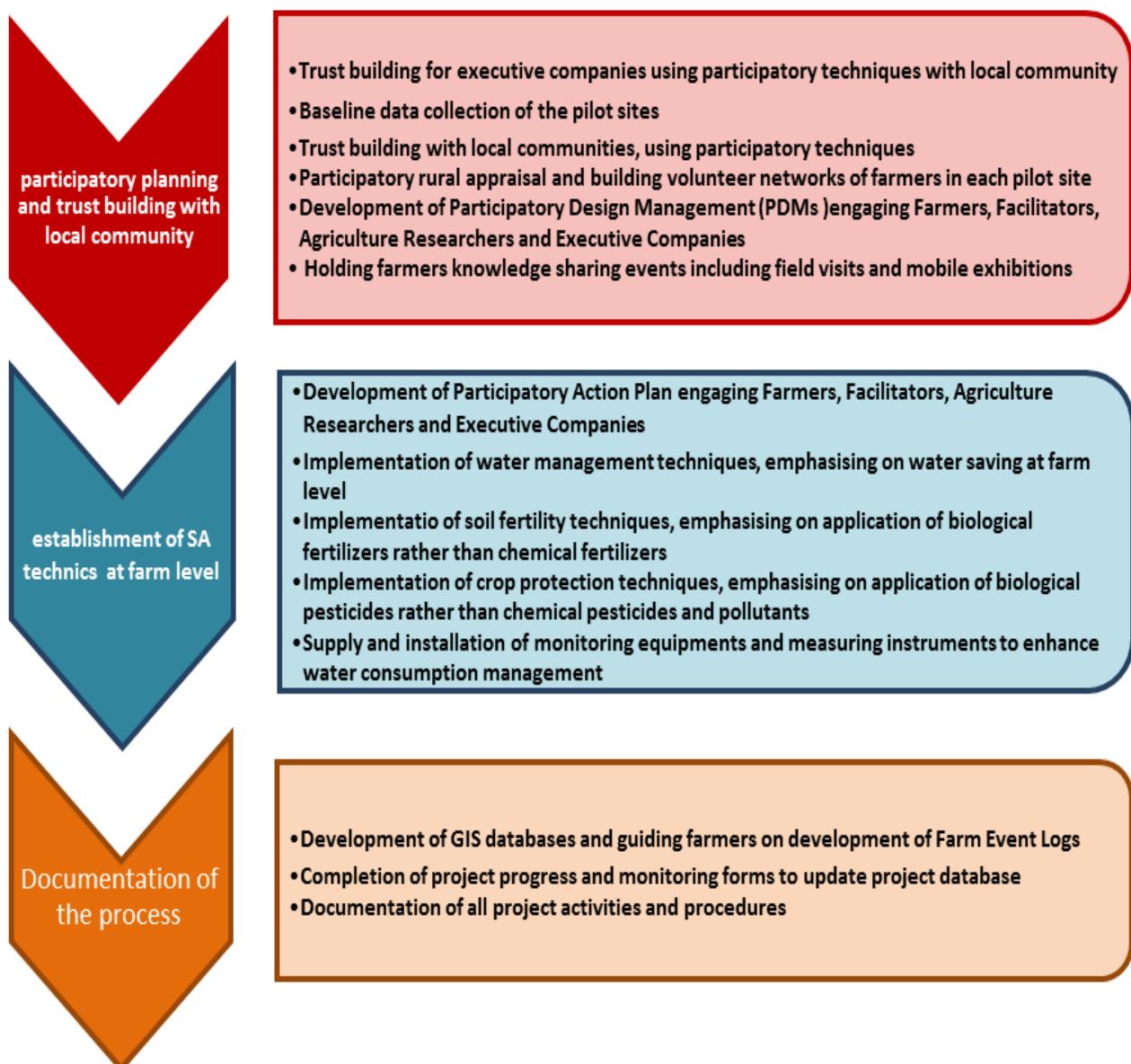
Neglecting people's role is one of the main gaps in wetlands management. In order to have an effective management, an appropriate understanding of socio-economic and political situation of the area as well as ecological characteristics is needed which is one of the primary principles of participatory approach.

The best condition in participatory approach is when "the work is done by people". It means analysis and implementation takes place in the site, the process include comprehensive talk and joint planning with all stakeholders, and the experts mostly facilitate the process. It should be considered that a series of regulations and policies are needed to put appropriate management methods in place.

Moving towards the right direction in participation spectrum and full engagement of people in participatory-development needs enough attention and resources. Neglecting this issue in any stage of the process could lead to loss of stakeholders' participation and moving in opposite

direction of the spectrum. This project attempts to apply the modelling of local communities' participation in the process of Lake Urmia restoration. As the main part of local communities' livelihood depends on the wetland and on the other hand allocation of wetland's water right depends on agricultural activities, this participatory model has formed based on sustainable agriculture.

The project aims to revolutionize the behaviour of local communities and farmers towards sustainable development mainly in the area of agricultural practices. In this regard, SA techniques are developed based on participatory approaches, bringing together farmers, agriculture research centres and professional facilitators aiming at water saving at farm level to help meet part of the lake water rights without compromising farmers' net income. Implementation of SA practices at LU basin follows below steps:



III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected Results

To address a part of the above threats and based on UNDAF/OUTCOME 1 (Responsible GOI agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resource management policies and programmes more effectively) and CPD/OUTCOME1 (Responsible government agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resource management, low carbon economy, and climate change policies and programmes more effectively) the project continues using Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) best experiences and lessons learned (establishing ecosystem based management approach and developing a detailed drought risk management model) as well as, demonstrating sustainable agriculture practices.

Results of initial sustainable agriculture piloted in the area back in 2011 as well as current project supported by the government of Japan demonstrated by CIWP in close cooperation with the government and good public participation revealed that applying participatory sustainable agriculture will not only decrease water use by average 35%, but also would reduce chemical uses tremendously. At the same time farmers net income, has increased due to increase in yield observed at treatment farms. Considering the promising results of this practice demonstrated in a few locations in Iran as well as 90 villages in 11 focal areas at Lake Urmia basin.

The 4th phase of the project would effectively contribute to restoration of Lake Urmia through local community and farmer engagement in establishment of sustainable agriculture techniques in LU basin.

The proposal is targeting to upscale project sites to 20 new villages while institutionalizing Sustainable Agriculture practices in 49 villages initiated during 2015-2016 as well as applying new tools and mechanisms as complementary elements to sustainable agriculture. This phase will also involve sharing with a wide audience at basin level, the lessons learnt from Sustainable Agriculture as well as “public participation in alternative livelihoods”, “women micro-credit funds”, “payment for ecosystem services” and conservation of LU bio-diversity. The focus of this project is on LU ecological zone, containing 250 villages as LU most important buffer zone. Therefore, by its fourth year, the project will cover 110 out of 250 villages located in LU ecological zone (44% of the villages in LU ecological zone) with the aim of covering all 250 villages in this zone in the coming years. Establishment of Sustainable Agriculture in LU ecological zone could guaranty the up-scaling and its establishment in the entire LU basin.

Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results

- The budget for this project (special component of CIWP – Scale Up project) will be provided by the Government of Japan while Government of Iran provides parallel in-kind resources (personnel and infrastructure etc).
- The handling procedures of interest income and unspent balance are in line with the policies and procedures of Japan-UNDP partnership fund.
- UNDP Country Office will submit a written request to the Government of Japan for the prior approval in case the re-deployment of funds between approved project budget components is required; if more than 20% increase or decrease is expected.
- Project implementation requires close partnership with provincial and local MoJA, DoE and Regional Water Authority in East and West Azerbaijan which has very well been established during previous phases (I, II and III) of SA project

- Personnel and infrastructures required at national level will be provided by CIWP project staff and UNDP staff however additional tools and consultancy human resources will be required to achieve the results.
- Main personnel and infrastructures required at local level will be provided by provincial/local MoJA, DoE and Regional Water Authorities as well as NGOs and private sector

Partnerships

Existing local/regional/national stakeholder partnerships 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 based on institutional arrangements and capacities built for inter-sectoral management of the Wetlands project would be available for implementation of this proposal. The Project governance will be assured through continuation of the inter-sectoral CIWP Project Steering Committee, which is chaired by DOE with UNDP as a full member and will meet twice each year and at the regional level Lake Urmia Regional Council, would also be engaged.

Project in its 4th phase will continue the support for a strong partnership among stakeholders considering below lessons learnt:

- ✓ Bottom-up approaches applied in planning and implementation of SA project makes designed activities more relevant to the needs of local communities and guarantees their support. The above-mentioned approach will be continued and even enhanced during the 4th phase of SA project.
- ✓ The project has provided considerable awareness raising, capacity building and support for local women including alternative livelihood initiatives and community-led micro-credit fund. Involving women in the process of LU restoration is proved to be a necessity and would be continued during the 4th phase of the project, applying the best practices achieved and the lessons learnt in the first 3 phases of the project.
- ✓ Continuous capacity building for local partners as well as participatory project monitoring in a regular basis has proven to enhance the expected results both in technical and socio-economic aspects. This approach will be emphasized to be carried out in 4th phase of the project to enhance the results to greater extends.
- ✓ Establishing a smooth atmosphere of partnership was an added value which led to mobilization of considerable national infrastructures and resources in implementation of sustainable agriculture project.
- ✓ Inter-sectoral cooperation among government organizations supported by the project was very well practiced throughout the implementation of sustainable agriculture project. This approach led to utilization of even more national resources in implementation of the project. Therefore, involvement of related national organizations in the next phase of the project will mobilize considerable amount of national resources and utilize nationally existed infrastructures.
- ✓ Implementation of projects, utilizing national and international resources attracts more attention both at national and international levels which leads to mainstreaming the objectives of this project.

Risks and Assumptions

- ✓ Centralized and top-down decision making and leadership is institutionalized in some of partner organizations which makes the establishment of participatory and bottom-up approaches in project implementation and management sometimes challenging to achieve. Besides, weak inter-sectoral collaboration among some of key stakeholders including Ministry of Agriculture, Energy and the Environment has been very well dealt with during last three phases but still needs to be taken care of. Participatory decision making and planning at national, provincial and local level will enhance bottom-up and inter-sectoral collaboration during project phase (IV).
- ✓ Private sector and the NGOs are underdeveloped hence not being considered within decision making processes by the government. Besides, lack of skilled human resources, especially in the area of participatory approaches and targeted community mobilization, both in private and government sector are identified as project risks. To address the aforementioned risks, necessary capacity building provided by the project during last 3 phases has significantly improved local capacities and will be continued and even enhanced during project phase (IV).
- ✓ Local/indigenous knowledge is not effectively considered and local communities are not given the opportunity to have an active role in decision making process and/or participation in Lake Urmia restoration. As a result of Japanese earlier contribution to restoration of Lake Urmia the issue has significantly been improved during recent years in project pilot sites and the remaining needs will be addressed during project phase (IV).
- ✓ Lack of timely allocation of the national budget has been properly addressed by project resources, mobilizing significant national funds allocated for project pilot sites.
- ✓ Models of effective and large scale local community participation in conservation activities do not exist, nor are tried in the country. It has significantly been addressed during earlier years by the project using Japanese fund and will be continued as one of the project main objectives.

Stakeholder Engagement

Target Groups: Farmers living in villages located in Lake Urmia ecological zone are the main intended beneficiaries of the project. Besides, experts and engineers from government (MoJA, DoE and Regional Water Authorities) and private sector are also intended to be among major beneficiaries in this project. Project undertakes participatory approaches such as Participatory Technology Development as its main strategy to identify and engage target groups. This strategy has been applied during last 3 phases of project implementation and is always localized and modified to best fit project needs in terms of local community participation with emphasis to excluded and marginalized in LU restoration.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC)

The project has currently no plan for SSC/TrC however will explore options if any opportunity rises during the course of the implementation.

Knowledge

To manage technical knowledge and as a component of technical capacity building, the project will develop guidelines and codes of practices capturing results of the methods implemented in the pilots. Project has already produced a series of documentary films showing the

implementation process of sustainable agriculture techniques as well as promoting local community participation in Lake Urmia restoration.

Besides several brochures, a booklet documenting project best practices and lessons learnt have also been produced and made available to the public for further up-scaling of sustainable agriculture in LU and even other wetland basins in Iran. All knowledge products have been freely available and distributed among interested target groups. In its 4th phase the project will continue collecting its best practices and lessons learnt and will properly document and make them available to all project stakeholders and target groups. All project products will contain elements which shows Japanese support and their engagement in developing the results and respective products.

Sustainability and Scaling Up

From the early stages of project implementation (2014) Ministry of Agriculture (MoJA) and DOE have been the major implementing partners of the project. Within last 3 phases of project implementation a comprehensive training and capacity building has been carried out for the both entities involving key experts in East/West Azerbaijan preparing them to up-scale the project independently throughout the entire LU basin. MoJA has a great sense of ownership on the methodology as well as the momentum generated out of this practise and they are fully engaged in the implementation and are also on top of the process. This ensures sustainability of results within the MoJA system. Besides, the successful achievements of project implementation have now convinced MoJA high ranking officials at national level to take sustainable agriculture as one of MoJA top priorities to be implemented and established in LU basin and probably the whole country. Partnering with MoJA and other non-governmental key partners as agriculture focal point in the country will further be enhanced and capacity building for government partners promoting local community participation in establishment of SA in LU basin will further be improved during the 4th phase of project implementation ensuring sustainability and up-scaling as well as national ownership of the project.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT (1/2 PAGES - 2 PAGES RECOMMENDED)

Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

Project available resources during its previous phases (I, II and III) have mobilized significant national resources to achieve the maximum results. In its 4th phase the project will even mobilize more national resources as project approaches has been very well established within national system. On the other hand, the capacity built for local Implementing Partners and cooperatives has made a very good synergy through which the maximum results could be achieved with available resources.

Lake Urmia Restoration Program has developed an action plan for different government organizations having a stake on LU restoration. The project in its previous phases (I, II and III) has created an atmosphere of trust, partnership and cooperation in particular with provincial MoJA, DoE and MOE in East/West Azerbaijan using their expertise and infrastructures to maximize the results of the project with available resources.

MoJA as the major partner of the project having offices, personnel and infrastructure in all project pilot sites has offered a very good assistance on project monitoring which has significantly

maximized the results in previous phases of the project and will continue and even be enhanced applying the best practices and lessons learnt during phase IV of the project.

Project Management

The proposed project will be implemented as a special stand-alone component of the UNDP/ Government of Iran Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project Phase II (Up-scaling) already operational with the Department of Environment (DOE) as the implementing Partner under NIM modality. All UNDP NIM modality requirements would be applicable to this project ensuring efficient implementation of it.

CIWP project team would be responsible for facilitation of the process however new staffs hired to coordinate and follow up project activities including 2 technical experts at national and two other at field level supported by Monitoring and Evaluation expert and Public Awareness and Communications expert. If required by the Implementing Partner (i.e. DOE, National Project Director of the wetlands project) more staff will be added to the team in the new phase.

V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country [or Global/Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework: UNDAF Outcome 1: Environment Output 1.1: Integrated natural resource management Responsible GOI agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resource management policies and programmes more effectively.						
Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Global/Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets: 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						
Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: Outcome 1: Indicator Components - Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded						
Project title and Atlas Project Number: Contribution to Lake Urmia Restoration via local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity Conservation (Special component of UNDP's Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project)						
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)	DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
Output 1 <i>Institutionalizing SA in 49 villages (Phase II & III) initiated during 2015-2016 through further promoting SA practices</i>	1.1 Number of pilot sites <i>Participatory action plan for institutionalization of SA techniques in 49 pilots (phase II&III) are developed and implemented</i>	MoJA – Local Implementing Partners	Value	Year	Year (2017-2018)	
	1.2 Number of booklets published on establishment of SA techniques	National and Local Implementing Partners – MoJA	1	2016	A booklet on institutionalizing local community participation in establishment of SA techniques is published	Participatory workshops, write-shops and interviews with local communities
	1.3 Number of individuals trained	National implementing partner (private sector)	52	2016	At least 100 individuals including MoJA/DOE staff, executive companies and NGOs. are trained	Need assessment workshops and interviews

Output 2 Up-scaling sustainable agriculture in 20 new villages in Lake Urmia basin resulting in 35% water saving	2.1 Project best practices and lessons learned applied for updating implementation methodology	National and Local Implementing Partners – MoJA- DoE – CIWP – Project consultants	3	2016	Sustainable Agriculture methodology is reviewed and updated.	Participatory workshops, Project effectiveness assessment
	2.2 Number of villages introduced to LU restoration via establishment of SA techniques	MoJA – DoE – RWA - LURP	15	2016	All farmers in 20 villages are introduced to LU restoration via establishment of SA and at least 25% are implementing SA techniques in their farm	MoJA, RWA and DoE indicators are discussed in workshops and meetings.
	2.3 Number of Sustainable agriculture techniques implemented in farms owned by volunteer farmers	MoJA, Local Implementing Partners, Volunteer farmers,	0	2016	At least 3 SA techniques are implemented	Field visits, local and technical workshops, Participatory Rural Assessment
	2.4 Percentage of water saving occurred in pilot farms.	MoJA, Local Implementing Partners, Volunteer farmer, Independent monitoring team	39	2016	At least 35% water saved in farms owned by volunteer farmers	Technical monitoring methods such as installing partial flumes, etc.
	2.5 Number of workshops held	National Implementing Partner	9	2016	At least 10 capacity building program implemented for MoJA staff, executive companies and NGOs in each	Need assessment workshops and interviews
Output 3 Social Mobilization and application of new tools and mechanisms as complementary elements of sustainable agriculture	3.1 Number of individuals that will receive the LU public awareness campaign materials	DoE, MoJA, Local Implementing Partners	40,000	2016	By 2018, 50,000 individuals have received LU public awareness campaign material and join the movement	Media and social networks
	3.2 Number of public participation messages that will send to local communities.	DoE, MoJA, Local Implementing Partners	120,000	2016	At least 150,000 SMS on public participation in restoration of LU is sent to local communities in project pilots	Media and social networks, local SMS competition
	3.3 Number of alternative livelihood established in pilot sites	DoE, MoJA, Local NGOs and Implementing Partners	2	2016	At least 10 water-friendly alternative livelihood are established	Local and participatory workshops with local community

	3.4 Number of pilots establishing local water resource management networks	DoE, MoJA, RWA, Local Implementing Partners	3	2016	Local farmer initiatives on better management of water resources is up-scaled in 2 pilots	Local and participatory workshops with local community
	3.5 Number of women empowered by community-led micro-credit funds	DoE, MoJA, Local Implementing Partners	60	2016	At least 50 women are empowered in pilot sites.	Local and participatory workshops with local community
	3.6 Number of PES schemes established for enhancement of LU satellite wetlands	DoE, national and Local Implementing Partners	1	2016	At least 2 PES schemes are established and implemented in 2 pilots	Participatory Training workshops with local community
	3.7 Number LU satellite wetlands in which key/endangered species are identified and conservation measures taken.	DoE, national and Local Implementing Partners	0	2016	Key species in at least 3 LU satellite wetlands are identified and conservation measures are taken to protect endangered species	Field level and library researches, participatory workshops with local community
	3.8 Numbers LU satellite wetlands in which comprehensive monitoring mechanisms are established.	DoE, national and Local Implementing Partners	0	2016	Comprehensive monitoring mechanisms are established in at least 2 main LU satellite wetlands	Field level and library researches, participatory workshops with local community

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.	National and Provincial DOE and MoJA offices	
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.		
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.	National and Provincial DOE and MoJA offices Local cooperatives and communities	
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.		
Review and Make	Internal review of data and evidence from all	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons	Project steering	

Course Corrections	monitoring actions to inform decision making.		and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.	committee members	
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)			
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	Specify frequency (i.e., at least annually)	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.	Project steering committee members	

VII. PROJECT WORK PLAN

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET (USD)		
			Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Output 1 Institutionalizing SA in 49 villages (Phase II & III) initiated during 2015-2016 through further promoting SA practices	To develop a “participatory action plan” for institutionalization of SA techniques in 49 villages (Phase II&III) based upon “project effectiveness evaluation”	DoE/MoJA/IP	Japan	71300 72100 71600	65,000
	To provide farmers with hands-on training, knowledge and experience sharing events on establishment of SA techniques including field visits, share fairs, etc based on “participatory action plan”	CIWP/MoJA/IP	Japan	71300 72100 71600	70,000
	To provide training workshops and consultancy for farmers in 49 pilots on application of SA techniques aiming for water/chemical saving based on “participatory action plan”	MoJA/IP	Japan	72100 71600	50,000
	Documentation of best practices and lessons learnt for further up-scaling and institutionalization of local community participation in establishment of SA techniques for LU restoration	CIWP/MoJA/IP	Japan	71600 72100	15,000
	Capacity building for MoJA/executive Companies/NGOs on establishment of sustainable agriculture in LUB	CIWP	Japan	71300/71600 72100	35,000
	Sub-Total for Output 1				235,000
Output 2 Up-scaling sustainable agriculture in 20 new villages in Lake Urmia basin resulting in 35% water saving	Updating sustainable agriculture methodology based on best practices and lessons learnt as well as establishing organizational frame work at national, provincial and local level	CIWP/MoJA/IP	Japan	71300/ 71600	10,000
	Introduction of sustainable agriculture related approaches to local communities, Participatory Rural Assessment (PRA), trust building, formation of farmer volunteer groups and demonstration visits	MoJA/IP	Japan	72100/ 71300 71600	80,000
	Implementation of sustainable agriculture techniques at farm level based on participatory farm action plans	MoJA/IP	Japan	72100/ 71300 71600	130,000

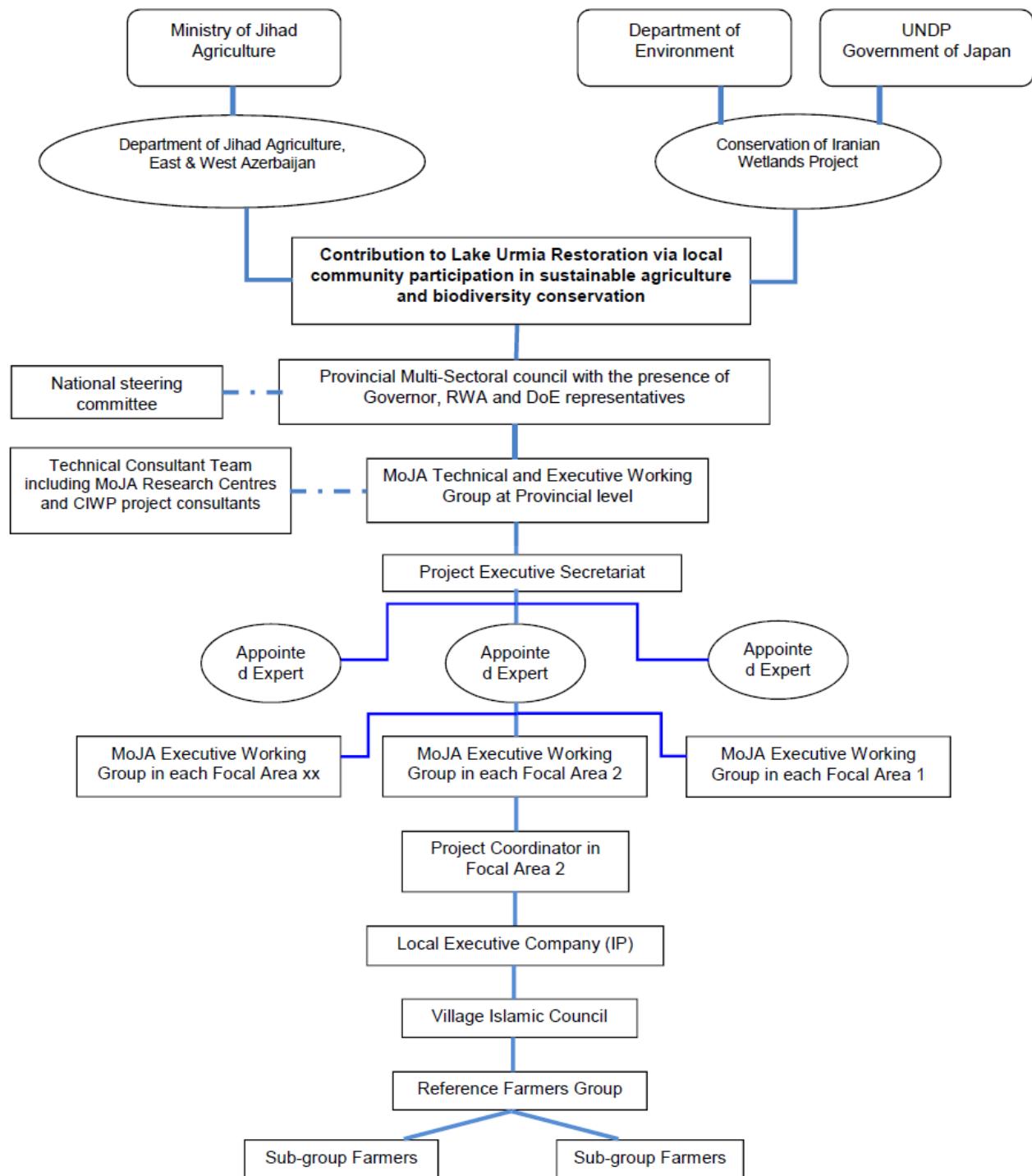
	Monitoring and evaluation of indicative farm results (particularly water saving) through expanding and using established monitoring system including monitoring equipment ¹ at farm level	CIWP/MoJA/IP	Japan	71300/ 71600 72100	30,000
	Project coordination, monitoring, reporting and regular follow ups (includes office equipment, expenses and possible staff requirement)	CIWP	Japan	71200/71300/ 71600/74200/ 75700/72200/ 72400/72500/ 73400/74100/ 74500	65,524
	Sub-Total for Output 2				
Output 3 Social Mobilization and application of new tools and mechanisms as complementary elements of sustainable agriculture	To continue implementation of public awareness campaign to make Lake Urmia Restoration as one of the main public demands	CIWP/IP	Japan	71300/ 71600 72100/74200	30,000
	Utilizing ITC for dissemination of informative and training materials on local community role in restoration of Lake Urmia, sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation	CIWP/IP	Japan	71600/72100	5,000
	Up-scaling water-friendly alternative livelihoods particularly with women involvement as a complementary element of sustainable agriculture in 5 villages	CIWP/DoE/IP	Japan	71300/ 71600 72100	65,000
	Up-scaling local farmer initiatives (networks, cooperatives, etc.) on better local water resources management in 2 villages	CIWP/DoE/MoJA/ RWA/IP	Japan	71300/ 71600 72100	30,000
	Up-scaling community-led micro-credit fund that enables local communities to take out affordable loans and start water-friendly micro-enterprises as a long-term sustainable approach to LU restoration in 2 villages.	CIWP/DoE/IP	Japan	71300/ 71600 72100	40,000
	To implement payment for ecosystem services (PES) approach as a market-based mechanism, to encourage the conservation and restoration of LU via participation of local communities, private sector, Industrial sector and the government in at least 2 villages.	CIWP/DoE/IP	Japan	71300/ 71600 72100	47,000
	Identify key species in at least 3 main LU satellite wetlands and support protection of vulnerable and endangered species as biodiversity conservation measure towards LU restoration.	CIWP/DoE/IP	Japan	71600/ 72100	40,000

¹ This would mainly include field required equipment for implementing sustainable agriculture practices at farmlands level enabling calculation and monitoring of water consumption (e.g. by using water meters, and parshall flume etc), monitoring soil humidity (e.g. using tensiometer) and other practices. At the same time as required (depending on available water resources monitoring networks) ground and/or surface water monitoring equipment would also be included under this activity.

	Pilot the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring platform in 2 main LU satellite wetlands supporting sound planning and implementation of biodiversity conservation of satellite wetlands as LU biodiversity reserves.	CIWP/DoE/IP	Japan	71300/ 71600/ 72100/ 74200	70,000	
	Sub-Total for Output 3					327,000
General Management Support						74,074
Direct Project Cost						48,402
TOTAL						1,000,000

VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Project governance will be assured through continuation of the inter-sectoral CIWP Project Steering Committee, which is chaired by DOE with UNDP as a full member and will meet twice each year and at the regional level Lake Urmia Regional Council, would also be engaged. It will be implemented by UNDP under the ongoing CIWP – Phase III project.



IX. LEGAL CONTEXT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

[NOTE: The following section is required for all project documents, and contains the general provisions and alternative texts for the different types of implementation modalities for individual projects. Select one option from each the legal context and risk management standard clauses and include these in your project document under the Legal Context and Risk Management Standard Clauses headings]

LEGAL CONTEXT STANDARD CLAUSES

This Project is continuation of “Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project” and hence, the Supplemental Provisions which was an integral part of the Project Document of Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project shall continue to serve as the legal context of this Project.

X. ANNEXES

- 1. Project Quality Assurance Report**
- 2. Social and Environmental Screening Template**
- 3. Risk Analysis.**
- 4. Project Board Terms of Reference and TORs of key management positions**
- 5. Theory of Change**

ANNEX [1]: Project Quality Assurance Report

PROJECT QA ASSESSMENT: DESIGN AND APPRAISAL

OVERALL PROJECT

EXEMPLARY (5) ◎◎◎◎◎	HIGHLY SATISFACTORY (4) ◎◎◎◎○	SATISFACTORY (3) ◎◎◎○○	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (2) ◎◎○○○	INADEQUATE (1) ◎○○○○
At least four criteria are rated Exemplary, and all criteria are rated High or Exemplary.	All criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and at least four criteria are rated High or Exemplary.	At least six criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and only one may be rated Needs Improvement. The SES criterion must be rated Satisfactory or above.	At least three criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and only four criteria may be rated Needs Improvement.	One or more criteria are rated Inadequate, or five or more criteria are rated Needs Improvement.

DECISION

- **APPROVE** – the project is of sufficient quality to continue as planned. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner.
- **APPROVE WITH QUALIFICATIONS** – the project has issues that must be addressed before the project document can be approved. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner.
- **DISAPPROVE** – the project has significant issues that should prevent the project from being approved as drafted.

RATING CRITERIA

STRATEGIC

1. Does the project's Theory of Change specify how it will contribute to higher level change? (Select the option from 1-3 that best reflects the project):	3 2 1	Evidence : Annex 6 of the project document
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The project has a theory of change with explicit assumptions and clear change pathway describing how the project will contribute to outcome level change as specified in the programme/CPD, backed by credible evidence of what works effectively in this context. The project document clearly describes why the project's strategy is the best approach at this point in time. • 2: The project has a theory of change. It has an explicit change pathway that explains how the project intends to contribute to outcome-level change and why the project strategy is the best approach at this point in time, but is backed by limited evidence. • 1: The project does not have a theory of change, but the project document may describe in generic terms how the project will contribute to development results, without specifying the key assumptions. It does not make an explicit link to the programme/CPD's theory of change. 	3 2 1	
*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1	3 2 1	Evidence SP outcome1 , output 1.1 as reflected in the project
2. Is the project aligned with the thematic focus of the UNDP Strategic Plan? (select the option from 1-3 that best reflects the project):	3 2 1	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>3</u>: The project responds to one of the three areas of development work¹ as specified in the Strategic Plan; it addresses at least one of the proposed new and emerging areas²; an issues-based analysis has been incorporated into the project design; and the project's RRF includes all the relevant SP output indicators. (<i>all must be true to select this option</i>) <u>2</u>: The project responds to one of the three areas of development work¹ as specified in the Strategic Plan. The project's RRF includes at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. (<i>both must be true to select this option</i>) <u>1</u>: While the project may respond to one of the three areas of development work¹ as specified in the Strategic Plan, it is based on a sectoral approach without addressing the complexity of the development issue. None of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF. This answer is also selected if the project does not respond to any of the three areas of development work in the Strategic Plan. 	document
RELEVANT	
<p>3. Does the project have strategies to effectively identify, engage and ensure the meaningful participation of targeted groups/geographic areas with a priority focus on the excluded and marginalized? (select the option from 1-3 that best reflects this project):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>3</u>: The target groups/geographic areas are appropriately specified, prioritising the excluded and/or marginalised. Beneficiaries will be identified through a rigorous process based on evidence (if applicable.) The project has an explicit strategy to identify, engage and ensure the meaningful participation of specified target groups/geographic areas throughout the project, including through monitoring and decision-making (such as representation on the project board) (<i>all must be true to select this option</i>) <u>2</u>: The target groups/geographic areas are appropriately specified, prioritising the excluded and/or marginalised. The project document states how beneficiaries will be identified, engaged and how meaningful participation will be ensured throughout the project. (<i>both must be true to select this option</i>) <u>1</u>: The target groups/geographic areas are not specified, or do not prioritize excluded and/or marginalised populations. The project does not have a written strategy to identify or engage or ensure the meaningful participation of the target groups/geographic areas throughout the project. 	3 2 1 <i>Select (all) targeted groups: (drop-down)</i> Evidence This has been addressed in Partnership and stakeholders engagement section of the Project document
<p>*Note: Management Action must be taken for a score of 1, or select not applicable.</p> <p>4. Have knowledge, good practices, and past lessons learned of UNDP and others informed the project design? (select the option from 1-3 that best reflects this project):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>3</u>: Knowledge and lessons learned (gained e.g. through peer assist sessions) backed by credible evidence from evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, and monitoring have been explicitly used, with appropriate referencing, to develop the project's theory of change and justify the approach used by the project over alternatives. <u>2</u>: The project design mentions knowledge and lessons learned backed by evidence/sources, which inform the project's theory of change but have not been used/are not sufficient to justify the approach selected over alternatives. <u>1</u>: There is only scant or no mention of knowledge and lessons learned informing the project design. Any references that are made are not backed by evidence. <p>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p>	3 2 1 Evidence This has been addressed in all section of project document specially project workplan outputs, strategy,

¹ 1. Sustainable development pathways; 2. Inclusive and effective democratic governance; 3. Resilience building

² sustainable production technologies, access to modern energy services and energy efficiency, natural resources management, extractive industries, urbanization, citizen security, social protection, and risk management for resilience

	knowled ge and partner ship				
5. Does the project use gender analysis in the project design and does the project respond to this gender analysis with concrete measures to address gender inequities and empower women? (select the option from 1-3 that best reflects this project):	<table border="1" style="float: right; margin-right: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #0070C0;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFD900;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #0070C0;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #0070C0;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Evidence</p> <p>The previous years experience show that there are a number of opportunities for women groups to benefit from the project activities. Women economic empowerment is incorporated in the project approach and will be followed during the project implementation.</p>				
*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1					
6. Does UNDP have a clear advantage to engage in the role envisioned by the project vis-à-vis national partners, other development partners, and other actors? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):	<table border="1" style="float: right; margin-right: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFD900;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #0070C0;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #0070C0;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #0070C0;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Evidence</p> <p>This mainly addressed in sustainability part of the project document</p>				

There is risk that the project overlaps and/or does not coordinate with partners' interventions in this area. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have not been considered, despite its potential relevance.	
*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1	

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

<p>7. Does the project seek to further the realization of human rights using a human rights based approach? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3: Credible evidence that the project aims to further the realization of human rights, upholding the relevant international and national laws and standards in the area of the project. Any potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were rigorously identified and assessed as relevant, with appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into project design and budget. (<i>all must be true to select this option</i>) 2: Some evidence that the project aims to further the realization of human rights. Potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were identified and assessed as relevant, and appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into the project design and budget. 1: No evidence that the project aims to further the realization of human rights. Limited or no evidence that potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were considered. 	3 2
	1
<p>8. Did the project consider potential environmental opportunities and adverse impacts, applying a precautionary approach? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3: Credible evidence that opportunities to enhance environmental sustainability and integrate poverty-environment linkages were fully considered as relevant, and integrated in project strategy and design. Credible evidence that potential adverse environmental impacts have been identified and rigorously assessed with appropriate management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. (<i>all must be true to select this option</i>) 2: No evidence that opportunities to strengthen environmental sustainability and poverty-environment linkages were considered. Credible evidence that potential adverse environmental impacts have been identified and assessed, if relevant, and appropriate management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. 1: No evidence that opportunities to strengthen environmental sustainability and poverty-environment linkages were considered. Limited or no evidence that potential adverse environmental impacts were adequately considered. 	3 2
	1

*Note: Management action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1

		a vital natural resource at national level
9. Has the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) been conducted to identify potential social and environmental impacts and risks? The SESP is not required for projects in which UNDP is Administrative Agent only and/or projects comprised solely of reports, coordination of events, trainings, workshops, meetings, conferences and/or communication materials and information dissemination. [if yes, upload the completed checklist. If SESP is not required, provide the reason for the exemption in the evidence section.]	Yes S	No
	SESP Not Required	
MANAGEMENT & MONITORING		
10. Does the project have a strong results framework? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):	3 2 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level and relate in a clear way to the project's theory of change. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure all of the key expected changes identified in the theory of change, each with credible data sources, and populated baselines and targets, including gender sensitive, sex-disaggregated indicators where appropriate. (<i>all must be true to select this option</i>) 2: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level, but may not cover all aspects of the project's theory of change. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators, but baselines, targets and data sources may not yet be fully specified. Some use of gender sensitive, sex-disaggregated indicators, as appropriate. (<i>all must be true to select this option</i>) 1: The results framework does not meet all of the conditions specified in selection "2" above. This includes: the project's selection of outputs and activities are not at an appropriate level and do not relate in a clear way to the project's theory of change; outputs are not accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the expected change, and have not been populated with baselines and targets; data sources are not specified, and/or no gender sensitive, sex-disaggregation of indicators. 	Evidence The project has well designed results framework as reflected in the project document	
*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1		
11. Is there a comprehensive and costed M&E plan in place with specified data collection sources and methods to support evidence-based management, monitoring and evaluation of the project?	Yes (3)	No (1)
12. Is the project's governance mechanism clearly defined in the project document, including planned composition of the project board? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):	3 2 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3: The project's governance mechanism is fully defined in the project composition. Individuals have been specified for each position in the governance mechanism (especially all members of the project board.) Project Board members have agreed on their roles and responsibilities as specified in the terms of reference. The ToR of the project board has been attached to the project document. (<i>all must be true to select this option</i>) 2: The project's governance mechanism is defined in the project document; specific institutions are noted as holding key governance roles, but individuals may not have been specified yet. The product lists the most important responsibilities of the project board, project director/manager and quality assurance roles. (<i>all must be true to select this option</i>) 1: The project's governance mechanism is loosely defined in the project document, only mentioning key roles that will need to be filled at a later date. No information on the responsibilities of key positions in the governance mechanism is provided. 	Evidence It has been reflected in Governance section of the project document and Annex 5	
*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1		
13. Have the project risks been identified with clear plans stated to manage and mitigate each risks? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):	3 2 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3: Project risks related to the achievement of results are fully described in the project risk log, based on comprehensive analysis drawing on the theory of change, Social and Environmental Standards and screening, situation analysis, capacity assessments and other analysis. Clear and complete plan in place to manage and mitigate each risk. (<i>both must be true to select this option</i>) 	Evidence The project risks are identified	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>2:</u> Project risks related to the achievement of results identified in the initial project risk log with mitigation measures identified for each risk. <u>1:</u> Some risks may be identified in the initial project risk log, but no evidence of analysis and no clear risk mitigation measures identified. This option is also selected if risks are not clearly identified and no initial risk log is included with the project document. <p>*Note: Management Action must be taken for a score of 1</p>	d and and mitigatio n measure s are reflected in the project docume nt
---	---

EFFICIENT

<p>14. Have specific measures for ensuring cost-efficient use of resources been explicitly mentioned as part of the project design? This can include: i) using the theory of change analysis to explore different options of achieving the maximum results with the resources available; ii) using a portfolio management approach to improve cost effectiveness through synergies with other interventions; iii) through joint operations (e.g., monitoring or procurement) with other partners.</p>	Ye s (3)	No (1)
	Ye s (3)	No (1)
<p>16. Is the budget justified and supported with valid estimates?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>3:</u> The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, and is specified for the duration of the project period in a multi-year budget. Costs are supported with valid estimates using benchmarks from similar projects or activities. Cost implications from inflation and foreign exchange exposure have been estimated and incorporated in the budget. <u>2:</u> The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, when possible, and is specified for the duration of the project in a multi-year budget. Costs are supported with valid estimates based on prevailing rates. <u>1:</u> The project's budget is not specified at the activity level, and/or may not be captured in a multi-year budget. 	3	2
	1	
<p>17. Is the Country Office fully recovering the costs involved with project implementation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>3:</u> The budget fully covers all project costs that are attributable to the project, including programme management and development effectiveness services related to strategic country programme planning, quality assurance, pipeline development, policy advocacy services, finance, procurement, human resources, administration, issuance of contracts, security, travel, assets, general services, information and communications based on full costing in accordance with prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL.) <u>2:</u> The budget covers significant project costs that are attributable to the project based on prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL) as relevant. <u>1:</u> The budget does not adequately cover project costs that are attributable to the project, and UNDP is cross-subsidizing the project. 	3	2
	1	

*Note: Management Action must be given for a score of 1. The budget must be revised to fully reflect the costs of implementation before the project commences.

EFFECTIVE

<p>18. Is the chosen implementation modality most appropriate? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>3:</u> The required implementing partner assessments (capacity assessment, HACT micro assessment) have been conducted, and there is evidence that options for implementation modalities have been thoroughly considered. 	3	2
	1	

Evidence

**Yes it
has been
fully
reflected
in DPC
line of
project**

Evidence
**It has
been
fully
addresse
d in
project
docume
nt**

<p>There is a strong justification for choosing the selected modality, based on the development context. <i>(both must be true to select this option)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2: The required implementing partner assessments (capacity assessment, HACT micro assessment) have been conducted and the implementation modality chosen is consistent with the results of the assessments. • 1: The required assessments have not been conducted, but there may be evidence that options for implementation modalities have been considered. <p>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p>	<p>Iran is not a HACT compliant country and all projects are being managed under special NIM arrangement where no fund is advanced to the Implementing partner and UNDP transfers payment s directly to the vendors/contractors upon receiving confirmation as well as supporting documents from the IP</p>						
<p>19. Have targeted groups, prioritizing marginalized and excluded populations that will be affected by the project, been engaged in the design of the project in a way that addresses any underlying causes of exclusion and discrimination?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: Credible evidence that all targeted groups, prioritising marginalized and excluded populations that will be involved in or affected by the project, have been actively engaged in the design of the project. Their views, rights and any constraints have been analysed and incorporated into the root cause analysis of the theory of change which seeks to address any underlying causes of exclusion and discrimination and the selection of project interventions. • 2: Some evidence that key targeted groups, prioritising marginalized and excluded populations that will be involved in the project, have been engaged in the design of the project. Some evidence that their views, rights and any constraints have been analysed and incorporated into the root cause analysis of the theory of change and the selection of project interventions. • 1: No evidence of engagement with marginalized and excluded populations that will be involved in the project during project design. No evidence that the views, rights and constraints of populations have been incorporated into the project. 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50px; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="width: 50px; text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Evidence</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">The project was developed based on earlier engagements of all stakeholders while key ones were also engaged in the</td> </tr> </table>	3	1	Evidence		The project was developed based on earlier engagements of all stakeholders while key ones were also engaged in the	
3	1						
Evidence							
The project was developed based on earlier engagements of all stakeholders while key ones were also engaged in the							

	project development process directly
20. Does the project conduct regular monitoring activities, have explicit plans for evaluation, and include other lesson learning (e.g. through After Action Reviews or Lessons Learned Workshops), timed to inform course corrections if needed during project implementation?	Yes (3) No (1)
21. The gender marker for all project outputs are scored at GEN2 or GEN3, indicating that gender has been fully mainstreamed into all project outputs at a minimum. *Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of "no"	Yes (3) No (1)
	Evidence The project targets women empowerment in some of the key activities but it does not include women element as GEN3 or 2 in all outputs
22. Is there a realistic multi-year work plan and budget to ensure outputs are delivered on time and within allotted resources? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):	3 2 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>3</u>: The project has a realistic work plan & budget covering the duration of the project at the activity level to ensure outputs are delivered on time and within the allotted resources. <u>2</u>: The project has a work plan & budget covering the duration of the project at the output level. <u>1</u>: The project does not yet have a work plan & budget covering the duration of the project. 	Evidence The workplan in in project document
SUSTAINABILITY & NATIONAL OWNERSHIP	
23. Have national partners led, or proactively engaged in, the design of the project? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):	3 2 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>3</u>: National partners have full ownership of the project and led the process of the development of the project jointly with UNDP. <u>2</u>: The project has been developed by UNDP in close consultation with national partners. <u>1</u>: The project has been developed by UNDP with limited or no engagement with national partners. 	Evidence Project future activities and result shared with project board and partner which has been reflected

	in project document	
24. Are key institutions and systems identified, and is there a strategy for strengthening specific/comprehensive capacities based on capacity assessments conducted? (select from options 0-4 that best reflects this project):	3 2 1.5 1	2.5
		Evidence Within project previous phases and current project document there is a special focus on capacity development for different stakeholders
25. Is there is a clear strategy embedded in the project specifying how the project will use national systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluations, etc.,) to the extent possible?	Yes (3)	No (1)
26. Is there a clear transition arrangement/ phase-out plan developed with key stakeholders in order to sustain or scale up results (including resource mobilisation strategy)?	Yes (3)	No (1)

Annex [2]. Social and Environmental Screening

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Contribution to Lake Urmia Restoration via local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation (Special component of UNDP's Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project)
2. Project Number	
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Iran

Part A. Integrating Overarching Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?
<i>Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams the human-rights based approach</i>
Although the project is not directly targeting human rights objectives but as the project is aiming to mobilize communities for Lake Urmia restoration and engages with local communities including CBOs and NGOs, overall process of the project will build local capacities, establish platforms for people's participation in the decision making processes as well as implementation of restoration activities which are all inline with human-rights based approach.
<i>Briefly describe in the space below how the Project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment</i>
The project sets a stage and opportunity to involve local communities in implementation of the project's activities and delivering respective results. The process also builds local communities, including women, capacities enabling them to take part in the project. The previous years experience show that there are a number of opportunities for women groups to benefit from the project activities. Women's economic empowerment is incorporated in the project approach and will be followed during the project implementation.
<i>Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability</i>
The project's main goal is environmental sustainability. As reflected in the project title, sustainable agriculture, is what the project is trying to achieve while the project will also advocate for environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation. The project will be building the capacity of stakeholders, including local communities/NGOs/CBOs, toward achieving environmental conservation and sustainable development.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

<p>QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?</p> <p><i>Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 – Risk Screening Checklist (based on any “Yes” responses). If no risks have been identified in Attachment 1 then note “No Risks Identified” and skip to Question 4 and Select “Low Risk”. Questions 5 and 6 not required for Low Risk Projects.</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?</p> <p><i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 6</i></p>			<p>QUESTION 6: What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?</p>												
<p>Risk Description</p>	<p>Impact and Probability (1-5)</p>	<p>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</p>	<p>Comments</p>	<p><i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i></p>												
Risk 1:	I = P =															
Risk 2	I = P =															
Risk 3:	I = P =															
Risk 4:	I = P =															
[add additional rows as needed]																
	<p>QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <p>Select one (see SESP for guidance)</p> </td> <td> <p>Comments</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <p>Low Risk <input type="checkbox"/></p> </td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <p>Moderate Risk <input type="checkbox"/></p> </td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <p>High Risk <input type="checkbox"/></p> </td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				<p>Select one (see SESP for guidance)</p>		<p>Comments</p>	<p>Low Risk <input type="checkbox"/></p>			<p>Moderate Risk <input type="checkbox"/></p>			<p>High Risk <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>Select one (see SESP for guidance)</p>		<p>Comments</p>														
<p>Low Risk <input type="checkbox"/></p>																
<p>Moderate Risk <input type="checkbox"/></p>																
<p>High Risk <input type="checkbox"/></p>																
	<p>QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <p>Check all that apply</p> </td> <td> <p>Comments</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <p>Principle 1: Human Rights</p> </td> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> </tr> </table>				<p>Check all that apply</p>		<p>Comments</p>	<p>Principle 1: Human Rights</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>						
<p>Check all that apply</p>		<p>Comments</p>														
<p>Principle 1: Human Rights</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>														

	<i>Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>4. Cultural Heritage</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>5. Displacement and Resettlement</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>6. Indigenous Peoples</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Final Sign Off

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the Project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have "checked" to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have "cleared" the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

ANNEX [3]: Project Risk Log

OFFLINE RISK LOG

Project Title: Contribution to Lake Urmia Restoration via local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation (Special component of UNDP's Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project)	Award ID:	Date: 16012017
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#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Centralized and top-down decision making and leadership is institutionalized in some of partner organizations	Jan 2017	Environmental Financial Operational Organizational Political Regulatory Strategic Other	establishment of participatory and bottom-up approaches in project implementation and management sometimes challenging to achieve P = 2 I = 2	Participatory decision making and planning at national, provincial and local level will enhance bottom-up and inter-sectoral collaboration during project phase (IV).	Project Team	Project Team		
2	lack of skilled human resources, especially in the area of participatory approaches and targeted community mobilization, both in private and government	Jan 2017	Environmental Financial Operational Organizational Political Regulatory Strategic Other	Process of engaging local community and authorities within the process may take longer than predicted in workplan P = 1 I = 2	necessary capacity building provided by the project during last 3 phases has significantly improved local capacities and will be continued and even enhanced during project phase	Project Team	Project Team		

	sector are identified as project risks				(IV).				
3	Lack of timely allocation of the national budget	Jan 2017	Environmental Financial Operational Organizational	This may effect smooth running of the project in some pilot sites P = 3 I = 3	The project team will address it by mobilizing new resources for project pilot sites from national budget	Project Team	Project Team		
						Project Team	Project Team		

ANNEX [4]: Project Board Terms of Reference and TORs of key management positions

Project board (national working group) consists of DoE (National Project Management of CIWP), MoJA experts (deputies of extension, water and soil, environment and food security), MoE, provincial DoEs, provincial Jihad-agriculture managers (head of extension offices), Provincial Regional water authorities of East and West Azerbaijan and the capacity building consultant of the project.

The board members would provide the below tasks in a participatory approach:

- High level decision making and planning and development of implementation framework
- Development and monitoring strategic objectives to deal with challenges and threats
- Support and monitor smooth and timely implementation of activities

ANNEX [5]: Theory of Change

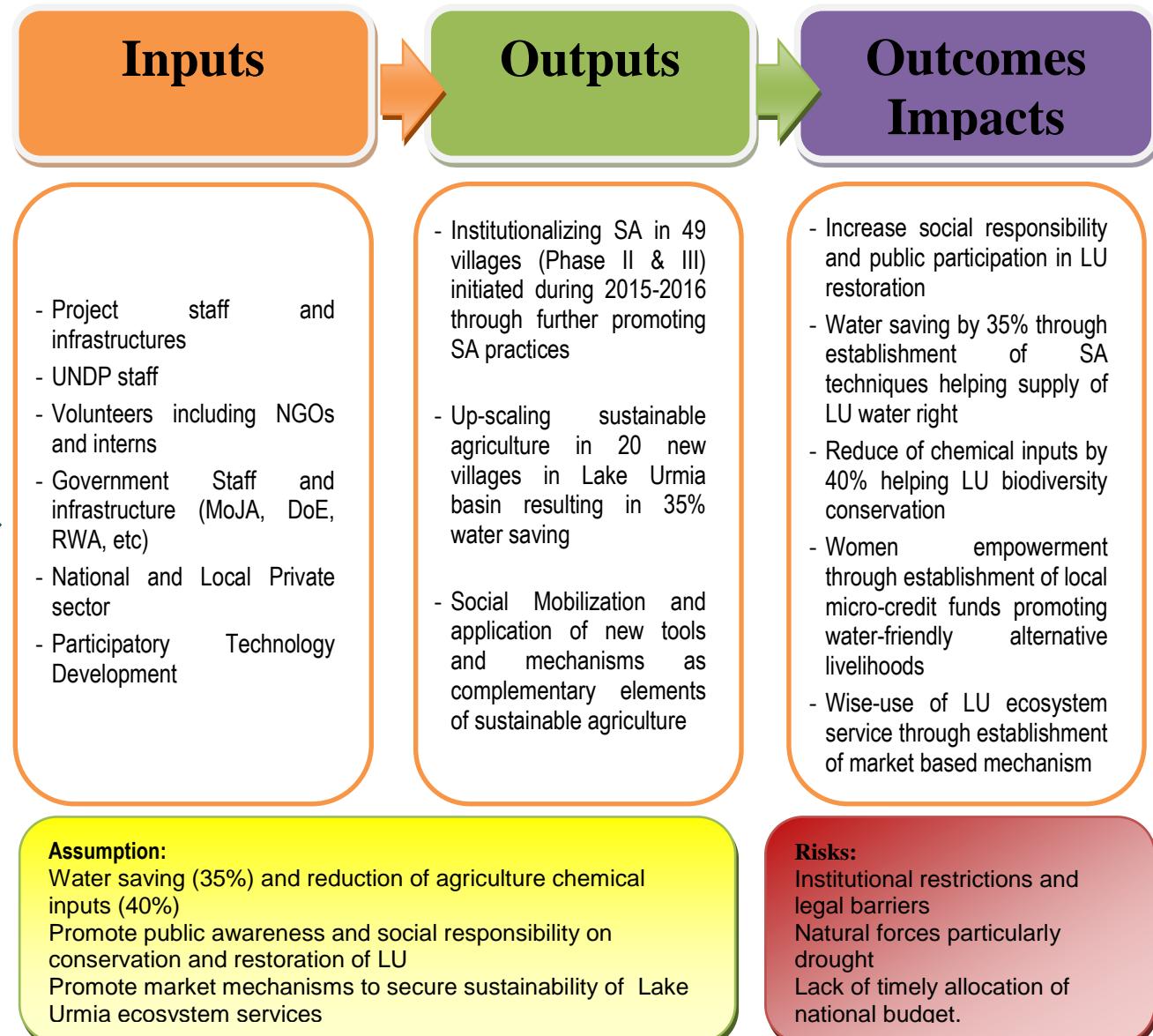
Water limitation normally leads to water allocation rivalry and natural ecosystems & initially wetlands usually suffer when in competition with development. As a result of this situation a number of Iranian ecosystems including wetlands are affected and these combined impacts have led to considerable of sustainable development and daily livelihood of people.

Currently agriculture sector consumes more than 87% of the whole basin water use with a rather low efficiency rate. Hence there is a good scope for water saving through local community and authorities participation in the area releasing more water discharge to the lake. This is also considered as the most critical step and can lead to revival of Lake Urmia itself.

Partnering with MoJA and other governmental and non-governmental key partners as agriculture focal point in the country will further be enhanced and capacity building for stakeholders promoting local community participation in establishment of SA in LU basin will further be improved during the 4th phase of project implementation ensuring sustainability and up-scaling as well as national ownership of the project.

Diagram for Theory of Change

- 1) UNDAF(2017-2021) Outcome1: Environment
Output 1.1: Integrated natural resource management
- 2) CPD (2017-2021): Outcome 1 Responsible government agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resource management, low carbon economy, and climate change policies and programmes more effectively
- 3) Indicative Output(s):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 /



**Public participation in
Lake Urmia**