



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

Period covered by this report: January to December 2015

Introductory notes:

- Systematic monitoring and reporting is an essential project management function. It supports management decision making, accountability and learning functions.
- Particular emphasis is given to reporting on results (namely the outputs and outcomes of a programme or project) as well as giving an honest assessment of constraints encountered and the actions required to support effective project implementation.
- Recipients of this report will be those who support (including financially) the partnership work of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNDP.
- Responsibility for completing this report rests with the relevant designated Project/Programme Coordinators. Due date for the first draft is 25th December and **15th January** for the final submission.
- The first draft of APPR will be reviewed and quality assured by the respective Programme Unit within the UNDP Country Office in Iran. The content of the report will provide the information base for the annual review process. Upon completion of the review process, and following any required editing of the reports, they will be uploaded on-line in Atlas.
- The following pages provide the format for UNDP Iran's Annual Project Progress Reports, together with some guidance on how to complete the different sections.
- To use the format, please *delete this cover page* and all the subsequent italicised text in the following pages, and then save the file with a new name. The file name for all APPRs for 2015 should follow the following convention: **APPR15 Project reference # version # (day month year)**.

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

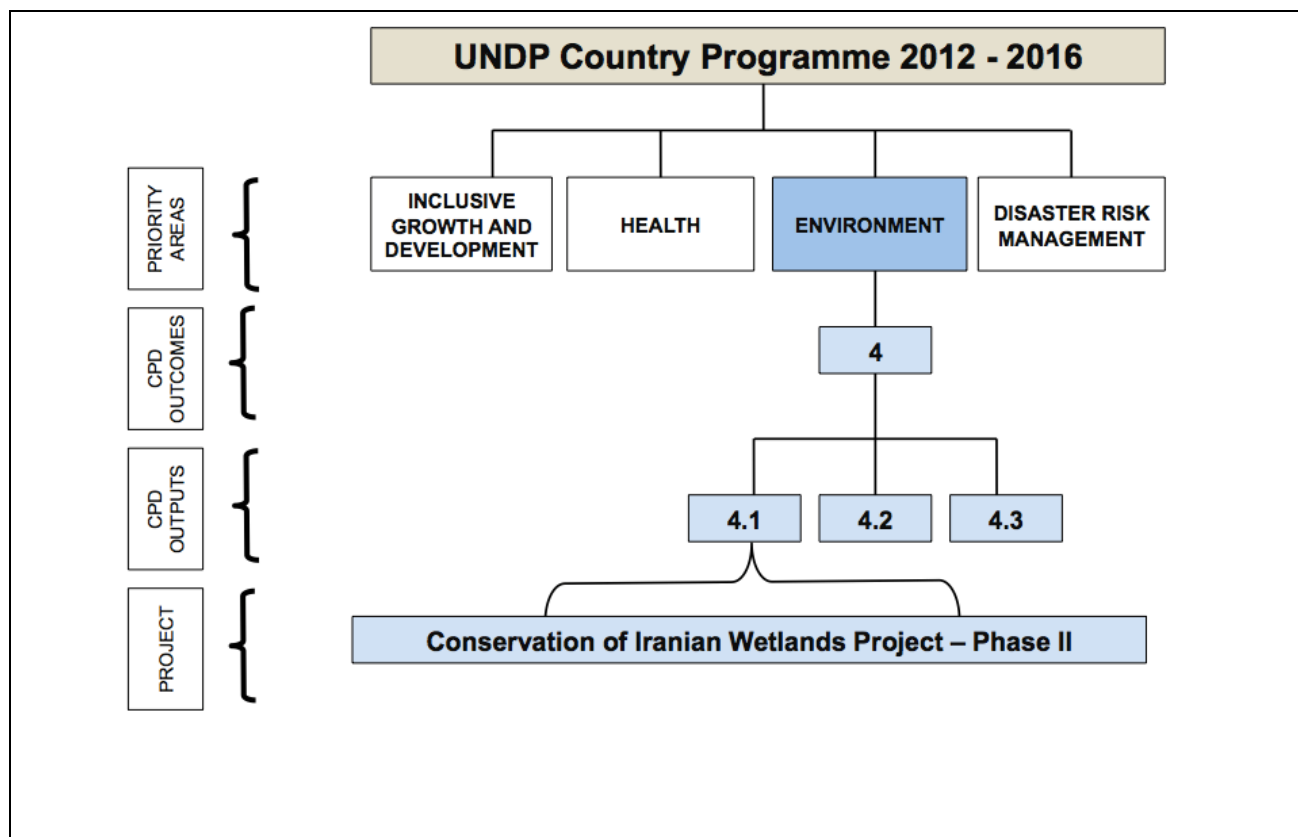
1. Context

Project Short Title	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project
Project Full Title	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project- Phase II, Restoration of Lake Uromiyeh
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	71323/89601
Award Number	38436
Duration (years/months)	May 2013 – December 2016
Start Date	May 2013
End Date	December 2016
Location(s)	East & West Azerbaijan; Kurdistan; Fars; Khouzestan; Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari; Sistan & Baluchestan; Boushehr; Hormozgan; Markazi; Golestan; Gilan;
UNDAF / CPD Outcome to which this project contributes	4. National, sub-national and local capacities enhanced to ensure 1) integrated management, conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, natural resources and biodiversity; 2. mainstreaming environmental economics into national planning and audits; 3) effective use of knowledge and tools in prevention, control and response to current and emerging environmental pollution; 4) formulation and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans and projects
UNDAF / CPD Output to which this project contributes	4.1. Institutional capacities for integration of sustainable development in national policies supported
Government Implementing Partner	I.R Iran Department of Environment
Overall Project Budget	UNDP TRAC: 100,000 USD Gov't Parallel Funding: Gov't Cost-sharing: Vertical Funds:
Annual Budget	UNDP TRAC: USD 196,000 Gov't Parallel Funding: 1,340,000 Gov't Cost-sharing: NA Vertical Funds: 727,923(Japan Fund)
Annual Expenditure	UNDP TRAC: 127,054 Gov't Parallel Funding: 1,325,000 Gov't Cost-sharing: NA Vertical Funds: 451,460 (Japan Fund)

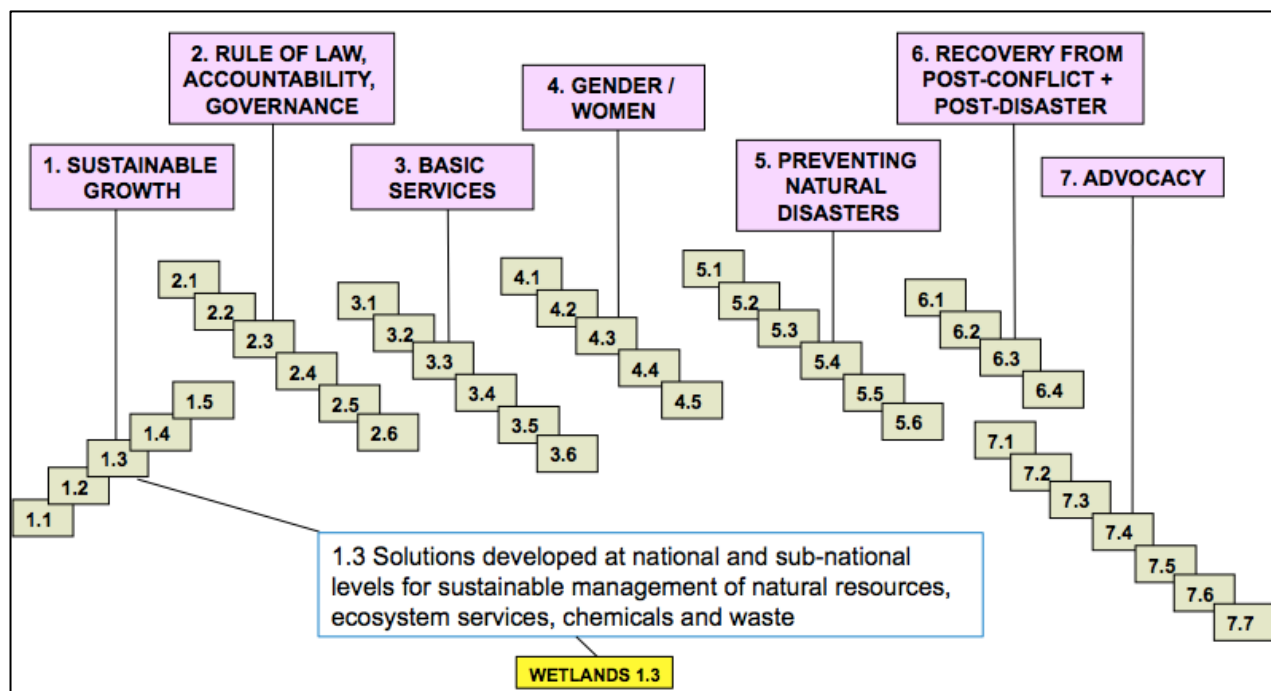
Brief Project Description:

The successful completion of the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands project (CIWP) by 2014 led to the formulation of the Lake Urumiyeh Project, which aimed to upscale its outcomes to the second phase by addressing terminal evaluation recommendations sustainability of results. It ensures that the project's wetlands management plans and inter-sectoral coordination structures for 11 (8 new Wetlands + 3 CIWP) demonstration sites) Iranian wetlands by taking CIWPs successful pilot to a large scale. This 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.

Linkage to UNDP Country Programme Document (2012-2016)



UNDP Iran project linkages to the new UNDP Strategic Framework (2014-2017)



2. UNDP CPD Results achieved (Objective, Outcome and Outputs)

2.1 UNDP CPD Outcome(s) and Outputs

This section relates to UNDP Country Programme Document. The outcome indicators and baselines information should be filled by UNDP Programme Unit.

CPD Outcome:			
Outcome indicators	Baseline (year: XY)	Milestone 2015	Actual 2015
1.	XY %	XY%	XY%
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

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

3.1 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	Baseline (year: XY)	Milestone 2015	Actual 2015
Ecosystem based wetland management planning system embedded within DoE	XY %	XY%	XY%
Strong wetlands ecosystem management legislative platform for wetlands introduced at national level	-	-	-
CIWP lessons learnt and knowledge shared with neighboring countries	-	-	-

Evidence of achievement at outcome level

1. What has changed in Iran under this outcome area in 2015 (with or without UNDP support)? Please specify the evidence used (refer to data sources used to back up the statement). [Maximum 2000 characters]

Note: Outcome level change includes changes in institutional capacity and performance; changes in capacities, attitudes, and behaviour among individuals or group; and changes in enabling conditions such as norms, power relations, policies and laws, social and economic conditions.) Outcome-level results normally would require the intervention of stakeholders other than UNDP and the Implementing partner through broader partnerships

- Participatory management system based on Ecosystem Approach and CIWP experience is now used by DoE at national and provincial level for wetland management and conservation
- *Integrated management plans for wetlands are now a basis for budget allocation at national level for conservation and management purposes*
- *Wetland Conservation and management regulation approved by cabinet and submitted to all related governmental organization*

2. What were project’s contributions to this outcome level change? Please explain how our work contributed to this outcome level change? [Maximum 2000 characters]
Do not list activities, but be very specific about what project’s contribution was, citing evidence for claims made. Elaborate on what were the main factors which contributed to this progress? OR If you cannot see sufficient progress or if the outcome is not on track to be achieved (i.e., most relevant 2015 milestones were not reached), what were the main factors which hindered progress?

- Excellent progress with implementation of CIWP 2015 work plan
- Up-scaling of integrated management plans to 7 new wetlands well advanced;
- Much improved collaboration with LU Restoration Commission
- Strong ongoing collaboration between CIWP and Habitats Office, particularly on budget

planning

- Review of Lake Parishan management plan completed
- National Wetlands regulation approved by Cabinet and Law re-submitted to Parliament
- Resource development plan being implemented for bilateral donors (Shadegan Wetland event) and international NGOs
- Planned cooperation with new National Environmental Fund for large fundraising event to support wetlands
- Potential interest from Japan embassy to fund a third year of the sustainable agriculture project at LU
- Completion of 7 minute documentary film on LU
- Initiating quick-win projects in 5 wetlands based on developed management plans
- Provincial DoEs and DoE habitat office are fully took responsibility of wetlands management planning processes
- Local governmental and non-govenrmtal stakeholders are fully involved within wetlands management planning processes
- Sustainable livelihood practices were introduced to local community around wetland in one pilot site

3. Please specify results achieved under this outcome that focus on increasing gender equality and improving the empowerment of women. **[Maximum 2000 characters]**

Note: this question can be skipped if no relevant contributions to gender equality were made by the project

- Women in local community around Ghare-Gheshlagh wetland are fully involved within alternative livelihood practices and they took the lead on production and marketing process
- Women who are active in local NGOs are invited and involved within management planning workshops for wetlands

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

Outcome 2 indicators	Baseline (year: 2014)	Milestone 2015	Actual 2015
1. CIWP, DOE, MoJA, Regional Water Authority, Private Sector, NGOs collaborate in LU restoration	Intersectoral collaboration Initiated	Formation of National/Provincial Steering Committee	Intersectoral Cooperation fully Established
2. Local community Participates in LU restoration	30% of farmers participated	7-days Facilitation workshop	Participation improved to 75%
3. Sustainable Agriculture techniques are applied for water/chemical saving at farm level	1.5% of total number of LUB villages	Project scaled up from 41 to 75 villages	2.7% of total number of LUB villages
4. Management Plan for at least 2 LU satellite wetlands is developed aiming at biodiversity	water resources were secured for the	Project scaled up from 1 to 4 sites	Implementing partner is selected and

conservation of LUB	wildlife in Kabodan Island		Development of MP is initiated
5. ITC tools and media campaign are applied aiming at awareness raising and Social Mobilization for Lake Uromiyeh restoration	Non	Campaign/ITC contents developed	A media campaign along with an ITC program are in progress

Evidence of achievement at outcome level
<p>4. What has changed in Iran under this outcome area in 2015 (with or without UNDP support)? Please specify the evidence used (refer to data sources used to back up the statement). [Maximum 2000 characters]</p> <p><i>Note: Outcome level change includes changes in institutional capacity and performance; changes in capacities, attitudes, and behaviour among individuals or group; and changes in enabling conditions such as norms, power relations, policies and laws, social and economic conditions.) Outcome-level results normally would require the intervention of stakeholders other than UNDP and the Implementing partner through broader partnerships</i></p> <p>➤ Proof of concept – sustainable agriculture at LU During 2014/15 an independent monitoring team (Tarbiat Modarres University in collaboration with MoJA research centre) has measured and evaluated the impact of the applied Sustainable Agriculture Techniques on water saving at farm level. The results indicate that the applied techniques have led to an average of 25% water saving at farm level. It is worth mentioning that up to 50% water saving has also been measured in some of the monitored farms. Besides, almost all farmers expressed their satisfaction with regard to their yield/income increased, manpower/irrigation frequency/application of chemical pesticides decreased.</p> <p>5. What were project's contributions to this outcome level change? Please explain how our work contributed to this outcome level change? [Maximum 2000 characters]</p> <p><i>Do not list activities, but be very specific about what project's contribution was, citing evidence for claims made. Elaborate on what were the main factors which contributed to this progress? OR If you cannot see sufficient progress or if the outcome is not on track to be achieved (i.e., most relevant 2015 milestones were not reached), what were the main factors which hindered progress?</i></p> <p>➤ Institutionalization of participatory planning and decision making through establishment of National/provincial steering committee with participation of LU restoration main stakeholders including CIWP, DOE, MoJA, Regional Water Authority, NGOs and private sector.</p> <p>➤ Capacity building for MoJA extension offices as well as local technical companies on facilitation and Participatory Technology Development to improve working with and participation of local communities in LU restoration.</p> <p>➤ Holding capacity building workshops on sustainable agriculture techniques focusing on water saving as well as agricultural chemical input (chemical pesticides and herbicides) saving at farm level.</p> <p>➤ Development of Management plan for 2 LU satellite wetlands applying ecosystem approach aiming at biodiversity conservation of Lake Urmia.</p>

- Application of cutting edge technologies including ITC and mass media on broader awareness raising and social mobilization for LU restoration.
- Sustainable agriculture approach well embedded within MOJA
- Much improved collaboration with LU Restoration Commission
- Potential interest from Japan embassy to fund a third year of the sustainable agriculture project at LU
- Completion of 7 minute documentary film on LU

6. Please specify results achieved under this outcome that focus on increasing gender equality and improving the empowerment of women. **[Maximum 2000 characters]**

Note: this question can be skipped if no relevant contributions to gender equality were made by the project

More than 700 women were trained on the role of women in LU restoration and the importance of sustainable agriculture establishment at LUB. Trainings were delivered by 4 local NGOs. Training sessions were followed by some hands-on practices such as vermicompost production as well as edible mushroom planting.

It's worth mentioning that 4 brochures with circulation of 2000 each and 2 booklets with circulation of 1000 each were published and distributed among women in 41 project pilot sites.

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

Output 1.1: Ecosystem based wetland management plans and inter-sectoral coordination structures established for 11(8 new wetlands + 3 demonstration sites) important Iranian wetlands through taking CIWP successful pilot to a large scale

Output indicators <i>(as per the postulation of the project log frame – please see the project document)</i>	Baseline (year:2014)	Milestone 2015	Actual 2015
1. Integrated management plans for new wetlands	5	7 New 12 Total	5 New (Pre-final MP prepared)
2. Wetland management inter-sectoral structures for new wetlands(<i>Inter-sectoral local committees of 4 wetlands established and other 4 introduced</i>)	4	4 New 8 Total	4 new (Introduced)
3. Sustainable use strategies and MP activities being sustainably implemented for demonstration sites and introduced to the new sites		Budget allocated for MP activities	For 9 wetlands budget allocated based on MPs

Output 1.1.: Evidence of achievement

Describe the key output-level results achieved [Maximum 2000 characters]

Note: Output results should be understood as development changes resulting directly from project's products and services.¹ Thus, achievements of outputs by implication are within the control of the project (i.e. the implementing partner and UNDP).

- 5 out of 7 are on track for 4th integrated MP workshops – zoning. Hamoun MP near to get approval (maps being prepared). Planning to get approvals for other wetlands in 2016.
- Good budgets available from DOE for the workshops and ownership by DOE provincial offices is remarkable.
- 1 workshop held for all new/old secretariats– good experience sharing.
- 4 quick win projects have been derived from management plans for 4 sites :
 - Zarivar: (Fisheries, boating, visitor centre),
 - Harra Minab mangroves: (livelihoods),
 - Choghakhor: (Awareness-raising campaign)
 - Helle : (Awareness-raising campaign)
- All proposals received and contracts have been made. The 4 quick wins will be implemented in 2016.
- HO and CIWP team have taken more role on holding MP workshops and dependence on NPM for workshops has been reduced.
- Unofficial inter-sectoral local committees are working for planning, but need formalising. Provincial and local Committees identified in 4 sites but will not be established until MPs approved.
- Based on results and lessons learned, the MP of Lake Parishan is revised but not operational as it has not got its final approval. Meanwhile make revision to the MPs of Shadegan Wetland and Lake Urmia will be started in 2016.
- CIWP jointly with LU Commission could base their agreement on developing a road map and ownership to make revision to Lake Urmia MP.
- 2 types of alternative livelihoods introduced to women local communities in 3 villages adjacent to Gharageshlaq wetland and products sold to market – handicrafts and school uniform by women. The lessons learnt on this project will be reviewed and published by national advisor.
- CIWP outreach achieved through media events ,e.g: a) 20 media people from national news and journalists visited Sustainable Agriculture(SA) project in Lake Urmia, b) A 7-minute film made on SA and broadcasted in 2 TV channel, c) 31 radio and TV interview including one with National TV and one with International TV have been conducted on Iranian wetlands situation

Output 1.2: Strong wetlands ecosystem management legislative platform and intersectoral administrative structures are in place at national level supporting implementation of the “Ecosystem Approach” in important Iranian wetlands

Output indicators <i>(as per the postulation of the project log frame – please see the project document)</i>	Baseline (year:2014)	Milestone 2015	Actual 2015
4. Adopted wetlands Law and by laws		YES	By law – adopted The law – in adaptation process
5. Adopted sectoral strategies with integrated approaches for wetland management		NWCSAP Approved	In Approval process
6. National level inter-sectoral wetland management structures		National wetland structure is functional	The combination of the structure proposed
7. Policies influenced in direction of ecosystem approach		Ecosystem approach being addressed in Wetland by-law and 6 th Development plan	Ecosystem approach addressed in Wetland by-law and 6 th Development plan

Output 1.2: Evidence of achievement

Describe the key output-level results achieved [Maximum 2000 characters]

¹ Source: UNDP Strategic Plan IRRF, September 2013 version
(<https://intranet.undp.org/unit/office/exo/sp2014/SP201417/default.aspx>)

Note: Output results should be understood as development changes resulting directly from project's products and services.² Thus, achievements of outputs by implication are within the control of the project (i.e. the implementing partner and UNDP).

- New regulation on wetland conservation adopted by Cabinet and Law sent back to Parliament. It is more likely that the law to be approved before new elections (March), but could be delayed again.
- Aiming to support national planning and annual budgeting system, NWCSAP needs to be revised and get final approval, however, Habitat Office currently have put old version of NWCSAP as supporting doc for national budgeting
- A new Council on Wetlands chaired by DOE with HO as Secretariat planned to be established with the aim to make operational inter-sectoral National Wetlands Management structure
- Much improved working by HO through better budget allocations and management / coordination mechanisms with other parts of DOE. Main progress has been on the wetland management plans.
- Management planning guideline is revised and will be published in 2016
- Lessons learned from sustainable livelihoods initiatives are reviewed

Output 1.3: Sharing CIWP and other wetlands management initiatives, knowledge and lessons learnt with the neighboring countries

Output indicators	Baseline (year:XY)	Milestone 2015	Actual 2015
8. Countries are introduced to the approach		Countries in west and central Asia	6 countries in the region introduced
9. Functional Community of Practice in the region		NA	NA

Output 1.3: Evidence of achievement

Describe the key output-level results achieved [Maximum 2000 characters]

- Wetlands regulation and draft NWCSAP were shared at the Ramsar Regional centre opening (4-5 countries) and in a regional meeting Istanbul (shared with Iraq, Turkey)
- A side event was organised at Ramsar COP12 to share CIWP experiences and products.
- Exploring joint trans-border project opportunities, CIWP attended IUCN regional meeting in Jordan to develop collaborations on joint project IRAN and Pakistan on Gwatar trans-boundary wetland. Also discussing Hamouns and Hawr al Azim (because of dust storms).
- Dialogues have taken place between President of Afghanistan and Head of DoE to establish joint WG.

Outcome 2: Contribution to Lake Urmia Restoration via local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation

Output 2.1: Sustainable Agriculture expansion in 12 satellite villages (an average of 700 ha each) while also embedding SA in the pioneer 41 villages initiated during 2014 through further promoting SA practices and applying new tools

Output indicators <i>(as per the postulation of the project log frame – please see the project document)</i>	Baseline (year:2014)	Milestone 2015	Actual 2015
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² Source: UNDP Strategic Plan IRRF, September 2013 version
(<https://intranet.undp.org/unit/office/exo/sp2014/SP201417/default.aspx>)

1. Expanding sustainable agriculture techniques to 12 satellite villages (700 ha each) adjacent to existed 41 sites covering at least 8,400 Hectares of farms and orchards.	No satellite villages	12 satellite villages were identified	SA techniques were implemented in 12 villages
2. All farmers in 41 villages are fully introduced to SA techniques and at least 75% implementing one sustainable agriculture technique in their farms and orchards.	30% of farmers introduced	100% of farmers introduced	At least 70% implement one technique
3. At least %20 of farmers and orchards implement SA techniques for Spring Cultivation Season in each village as Farmer Reference Clusters (FRCs)	No spring crops covered by SA techniques	20% of farmers identified	At least 20% of farmers implemented SA techs
4. At least 1 water friendly alternative livelihood is introduced and applied in 2 focal areas.	No AL introduced	Contract made with IP	Introduction of AL on progress
5. At least 1 local water management initiatives is formed in 2 focal area	No LWMI introduced	Contract made with IP	LWMI on progress

Output 2.1.: Evidence of achievement

- 12 satellite villages identified adjacent to main villages and contracts made with implementing companies
- PDMs for autumn/ spring crops are developed and SA techniques are implemented for autumn crops
- External Monitoring and Evaluation team monitor project achievements
- Sustainable Agriculture is now well embedded in MOJA at provincial level
- SA techniques were implemented in over 20% of farms and orchards for Spring crops
- Water friendly alternative livelihood is initiated in 2 focal areas
- Formation of local water management initiative is started in 2 focal areas after several meetings with MOJA and DOE.

Output 2.2: Up-scaling sustainable agriculture in 22 new villages (in average 700 ha each) in Lake Urmia basin resulting in at least 35% water saving

Output indicators	Baseline (year:2014)	Milestone 2015	Actual 2015
1. Sustainable Agriculture methodology is reviewed and updated.	SA implementation guideline	Methodology revised	Revised methodology applied
2. 22 Reference Farmers Cluster is formed with minimum 10 farmers in each village	0 farmers practice SA techniques	SA Introductory workshops	More than 20 farmers volunteered in each village
3. All farmers in villages are introduced to SA techniques and at least 40% are implementing one SA technique in their farm	No farmer implement SA techniques	All farmers introduced to SA techs	More than 40% of farmers implement SA techs

4. Participatory Action Plans for main crops are developed	No PDM for Autumn/Spring Crops	Participatory PDM development sessions	PDM for Autumn/Spring crops developed
5. Sustainable agriculture techniques are implemented in the farms owned by volunteer farmers applying Participatory Action Plan.	Non	PDMs approved	SA techniques implemented based on approved PDM
6. At least 1 capacity building program implemented for MoJA extension offices/executive companies.	Non	Needs assessment	More than 5 workshops implemented

Output 2.2: Evidence of achievement

Describe the key output-level results achieved [Maximum 2000 characters]

- Full documentation of the Year 1 SA activities and final report is published. Sustainable Agriculture methodology was revised in participation with SA National Steering Committee, MoJA E/W Azerbaijan and CIWP experts/consultants.
- National level steering committee now established for decision-making, (Process much more secure).
- Reference Farmers Cluster in 22 main pilot sites and 12 satellite villages are formed. Each main site has more than 20 volunteer farmers, implementing SA techniques
- Participatory Action Plans are developed for autumn/spring crops
- Participatory Technology Development (PTD) exhibitions held in both east and west Azerbaijan provinces.
- Non volunteer farmers are approaching executive companies to benefit from the SA techniques
- The project is having a massive impact on capacity building with more than 200 experts engaged through 19 companies

Output 2.3: Social Mobilization for Lake Uromiyeh restoration and biodiversity conservation

Output indicators	Baseline (year:2014)	Milestone 2015	Actual 2015
1. At least one capacity building workshop on awareness raising for active NGOs in LUB.	Non	Needs assessment conducted	Contact made with IP
2. One public awareness campaign is developed in which communities, authorities and the media are involved	Non	Campaign contents developed	Contact made with IP
3. An ITC based participatory monitoring and information dissemination system is established.	Non	Participatory workshops held SMS contents developed	Contact made with IP
4. Participatory Management Plan for 2 LU satellite wetlands is developed and at least 1 win win activity for each site.	Non	LU satellite wetlands selected	Development of MP initiated

Output 2.3: Evidence of achievement

Describe the key output-level results achieved [Maximum 2000 characters]

- Contract made with campaign implementing partner.
- Public awareness raising campaign is planned to be developed in which communities, authorities and the media are involved. The selected implementing partner has initiated its work and committed to raise 5X extra resources from banks and companies. Aim is to raise wetlands restoration demand among public.
- Development of Participatory Management Plan for 2 LU satellite wetlands initiated:
 - West Azarbaijan - Soldouz – NGO selected. MP will be completed rapidly and select win-win activity will be implemented
 - East Azarbaijan - Gharageshlaq and Gorigol (MPs both completed). Win-Win activities for Gorigol will be to design and implement a project through which the water right of Gorigol wetland is secured; this may include developing a participatory water management plan in which wetland water right is recognized.

3.2 For output results under this project that were not delivered as expected (i.e., which have not met 2015 milestones or targets) [Maximum 3000 character]

- 2 out of 7 are not on track for 4th integrated MP workshops
- new management planning guidelines has not been finalised
- Urgently pursue review and adoption of NWCSAP (Need internal technical meeting to finalise NWCSAP by the end of January 2015, then agree with NPD and key stakeholders and send to Cabinet for approval)
- There is some sustainability in farms, but there is risk of regression – needs further monitoring
- the % of saved water in LU basin in result of applying SA techniques in both West and East Azarbaijan has not scientifically reported by external monitoring team
- Technical dialogues are not initiated on a joint plan with Afghanistan
- Securing external donor funding for 2016 and beyond
- Future of the Wetland Databank still not decided

3.3 Unanticipated results (positive or negative)? [Maximum 3000 character]

Project's may often have unanticipated results, given that they are implemented in a dynamic/changing environment. If there is any evidence that unforeseen benefits are being achieved, these should be described here. Similarly, if there is any evidence of unanticipated negative results this should also be mentioned here.

- Implementation of the CIWP Resource Development Plan (RDP) is overseen by a Task Force comprising representatives of UNDP, DOE and CIWP, with focal points appointed for implementation in CIWP and UNDP. A fundraising brochure including concept notes for 7 projects has been published. The following progress has been made:
 - A 2- day visit to Shadegan Wetland for Ambassadors / Embassy representatives to raise awareness of wetland issues and seek interest in funding projects took place in September. It was attended by representatives of Norway, Austria, Australia, Sweden and Belgium (out of 15 countries invited), plus UNDP-RR. The visit was very successful and a high-level welcome was provided by provincial and local officials. Although no formal

offers of cooperation have yet been received, there has been some follow-up from both Austria and Australia. It was agreed that CIWP should continue to follow-up individual contacts (via UNDP as appropriate), but that actions will now need to be tailored individually to the status of engagement with each country.

- CIWP had an strong contribution in 6th National Development Plan preparation
- Engagement of CIWP in cooperation with IUCN for conservation of transboundary wetlands

3.4 Continued relevance/ quality of the design? [Maximum 3000 character]

The relevance of the project design needs to be reviewed on an ongoing basis, given likely changes in operating context, policies, partner needs, etc. This is a part of risk analysis and management.

If outcomes, outputs, activities or inputs need to be modified in light of any significant changes in the operating environment or through lessons learned during implementation, these should be noted in this section. Proposals for re-design should also be described, and if necessary a project revision document prepared and submitted.

NA

3.5 Follow up actions: [Maximum 3000 character]

reflecting separately on the factors that helped and those that hindered progress towards outputs, what are the key implications for management action in the year ahead, either to tap opportunities or to deal with bottlenecks?

- Establishing the NWCSAP and national governance mechanisms
- Creation of the proposed National Wetlands Committee
- Maintaining regular communications and information flow to all bilateral would remain a priority
- Get final approval of all 7 MPs developed by key stakeholders
- Continue to pursue bilateral donors actively
- To integrate LU Commission and DOE/CIWP activities into a longer term common strategic framework to rescue Lake Urmia

7. Monitoring & Evaluation

This section should provide a brief narrative summary of what the project has done to help collect, record, analyse, share and use information relevant to assessing whether or not project outputs, outcomes and the overall impacts are being effectively delivered/supported.

Key topics to be covered could include:

- *Availability of baseline information, or activities being undertaken to establish a baseline.*
 - *Description of the activities being undertaken and tools being used to collect, analyse and share information with stakeholders regarding project progress and results achieved.*
 - *How/if the project is supporting the development of local systems and capacity to collect and use results-oriented management information.*
 - *How/if the project is collecting/using gender disaggregated data.*
 - *Any specific surveys or reviews that have been undertaken in the reporting period, and key findings.*
 - *Any independent / external evaluation activities undertaken in the reporting period and key findings, or that are being planned.*
 - *The outcomes of any tri-partite reviews conducted.*
-
- Make contract with External Monitoring team to monitor SA project achievements
 - Recruit M&E expert to review the project progress
 - Recruitment of intern to conduct survey on 3 major baseline determined in CIWP strategy
 - Conduct monthly internal M&E meeting to review actual performance against planned activities as well as planned budget against actual expenditure
 - Develop quarterly progress report
 - Conduct up to 50 monitoring field visit

8. Problems (internal and external) encountered and action taken or required.

This section should draw on information provided previously in other sections, and summarize key issues /problems that the project has encountered and what has been done, or needs to be done, to address such problems / issues.

This is an important section, as it should help highlight to key stakeholders the management actions that need to be taken to help ensure project benefits are maximized and sustained. Open and honest reporting of issues /problems and actions taken/required also helps demonstrate effective risk management.

Problem / Issue	Action taken or required (and by whom)
Lack of sufficient fund to implement priority activities	

Add rows as required

6. Risk Management

#	Description	Date Identified	Type ³	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

Add rows as required

³ Operational, Financial, Organizational, Regulatory, Security, Strategic, Political, Environmental, etc.
2015 UNDP Annual Project Progress Report

7. Financial Report

This information should be accessed from Atlas. Thus information should be furnished in coordination with UNDP Programme Unit.

Brief narrative should also be provided to help explain any significant deviations from budget/plan, as well as any issues arising with budget availability and its impact on implementation.

2015 Annual Financial Status (US\$)				
Projects Outputs	Planned Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Unutilized Balance (USD)	Implementation Rate (%)
Output 1.1: Ecosystem based wetland management plans and inter-sectoral coordination structures established for 11(8 new wetlands + 3 demonstration sites) important Iranian wetlands through taking CIWP successful pilot to a large scale	141,100	101,642	39,458	72.03544
Output 1.2: Strong wetlands ecosystem management legislative platform and intersectoral administrative structures are in place at national level supporting implementation of the “Ecosystem Approach” in important Iranian wetlands	36,400	9,358	27,042	25.70879
Output 1.3: Sharing CIWP and other wetlands management initiatives, knowledge and lessons learnt with the neighboring countries	18,500	16,054	2,446	86.77838
Outcome 1:	196,000	127,054	68,946	64.82347
Output 2.1: Sustainable Agriculture expansion in 12 satellite villages (an average of 700 ha each) while also embedding SA in the pioneer 41 villages initiated during 2014 through further promoting SA practices and applying new tools	335,964	235,015	100,949	69.95244
Output 2.2: Up-scaling sustainable agriculture in 22 new villages (in average 700 ha each) in Lake Urmia basin resulting in at least 35% water saving	261,759	183,613	78,146	70.14582
Output 2.3: Social Mobilization for Lake Uromiyeh restoration and biodiversity conservation	130,200	32,832	97,368	25.21659
Outcome 2:	727,923	451,460	276,463	62.0203
Grand Total	923,923	578,514	345,409	-



8.1: Acronyms / Abbreviations

2015 UNDP Annual Project Progress Report