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"Annual Progress Report 2009"

«طرح حفاظت از تالاب های ایران»



۲۰۰۹



سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست



Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project UNDP/GEF

Annual Progress Report 2009



Department of Environment



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Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project

Project ID: 38436

Introduction

Department of Environment of Iran directs several activities in order to protect wetland habitats and to mitigate the threats they are facing. Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project is an example of one of these joint initiatives among the Government of Islamic republic of Iran, GEF and UNDP.

Following the signing ceremony in 2005, the project moved into the Inception Phase in 2006, when the Inception workshop was held. The total GEF budget of this project is 3.287 Million dollars, with 9.19 million co-financing from the government of IRI and 0.6 million dollars from government of Netherlands and the duration of the project is 7 years.

Project's Approach and objectives

The project seeks to analyze the root causes of degradation of Iranian Wetlands on an ecosystem based approach at three Local, Site and National Levels:

“Decision-makers and local communities will only support the sustainable management and restoration of wetlands if they are aware of (and benefit from) the multiple values of these areas, and if they are involved in their management.”

According to this approach, project's Goal and Objective are as followed:

Goal: *To catalyse the sustainability of Iran's system of wetland protected areas, thereby enhancing its effectiveness as a tool for conserving globally significant biodiversity*

Objective: *To systematically remove or substantially mitigate threats facing globally significant biodiversity and sustainability at two demonstration sites, while ensuring that the lessons learned through these demonstrations are absorbed within wetland protected area management systems throughout Iran and most particularly at a set of target replication sites.*

In order to move in line with its Goal and Objective and according to Project document and Inception Report, CIWP seeks to reach these 3 main outcomes¹:

A. Local WPA management structures (e.g., National Park offices, DoE Provincial offices) possess and use enhanced capacities to effectively manage WPA sites, including dealing with most 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity

B. Inter-sectoral co-ordination structures, established at provincial and basin level, enhance the sustainability of the WPA system by, inter alia, helping to address threats arising at ecosystem level

C. National-level WPA management and inter-sectoral co-ordination structures

possess and utilise enhanced capacities to strengthen WPA management, inter

alia, by supporting the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned through

Outcomes 1&2 above

The project will also seek to meet these goals, objectives and outcomes through the application of good project management, quality control and a strong commitment to the process of adaptive management – learning by doing. CIWP works at national and LU and LP site levels and will expand its activities throughout the country by adding replication sites.

¹ According to the recent trend of drought in the country and its negative impacts on the ecosystem of Lake Urmiya and lives of local communities who live near wetlands and following a visit by UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Iran to the lake, in the end of 2008 a new drought component was added to the project outcomes, with a total budget of 200000\$ from UNDP TRACK budget, which will be especially targeted for mitigating impacts of drought on wetlands and developing a management system for dealing with these impacts throughout the country.

Project Activities and Progress, based on 2009 annual work plan:

In 2009 Project has followed the new Annual Work Planning Package Format, designed for all UNDP/GEF Projects. In this work plan, apart from previous years' work plans which activities were defined at 3 levels, each outcome has some expected outputs with its' own indicators and annual targets and planned activities. The following table is designed based on 2009 annual work plan and contains progress made against each activity.

Table 1- Projects' progress against Outcome 1

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made
Outcome 1: Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity				
1	Output 1.1: Ecosystem-based management plans being implemented to address key internal threats by trained managers at Lake Uromiyeh and Lake Parishan	Output Indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of managers and key stakeholders trained in ecosystem-based management • Signed Management Plans being implemented • Sustainable 	Field training programme for DOE guards of LP&LU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Field Training Workshop on introduction of ecosystem approach to DOE Guards was held from October 31st to November 2nd in Urumiyeh. ○ 40 DOE guards from Khuzestan, East and West Azerbaijan, Kurdistan and Fars provinces attended in this workshop ○ This workshop mainly focused on exchange of knowledge and experience on new ecosystem approaches, especially on conservation and management of wetlands ○ A one day visit to Kaniborazan wetland and meeting the local NGOs of this area was also a part of this program ○ The last session of this workshop focused on discussion about lessons learnt and agreement on future steps.

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made
<i>Outcome 1: Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity</i>				
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use strategies and priority actions being implemented (fishery, tourism) • Area of wetland habitats conserved and restored • Management guided by baseline studies and monitoring key indicators <p>Annual Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guards LP&LU trained • LP management 	<p>Learning visit to appropriate site/programme by Iran delegation including preparation and followups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In close consultation with project international advisors, some international wetlands were short-listed for this purpose ○ Some negotiations were also done with UNDP for selecting the final destination ○ Finally the Murray/Darling basin in Australia was selected and approved by NPD ○ Necessary negotiations were done with SIPA and UNDP to follow up the next steps ○ Initial negotiations with MD basin authorities and also Ramsar Convention related offices via PCO and UNDP ○ The TOR for the study tour was drafted and finalized ○ National and provincial delegates were selected and invitation letters were sent by PCO 	<p>⇒ Follow up on approval of LP management plan through sending the final version of the MP to Fars DOE and requesting for approving it in Provincial Technical Committee (water and agriculture working group)</p> <p>⇒ In May 2009, the Lake Parishan Integrated Management Plan was endorsed by the Cabinet, following a visit to Fars Province to ensure implementation of this plan by all the related stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was planned to get the management plan approved and signed by provincial authorities (Governor, DOE and local communities) in the
3				
4		at	Endorsement of LP management plan by DOE and provincial Governor	

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made
<i>Outcome 1: Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity</i>				
5		plan approved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% management plan priority actions initiated for LU&LP • LP&LU Zoning plans approved • Fishery strategy for LP • Tourism strategy for LP&LU 	Promote implementation of priority actions through PSC and individual stakeholders LP&LU	next year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇐ Priority tasks of the LP and LU Management plans were identified in consultation with project consultants and experts and it was planned to include implementation of these tasks in 2009 work plan. ⇐ These priorities were planned to be presented at the first meeting of Lake Urumiyeh Regional council. ⇐ Summary of the management plans were designed as brochures, focusing on role of each stakeholder in implementation of priority actions. ⇐ These brochures were widely distributed among all national and local stakeholders and some bilateral meetings were held to plan implementation of the priority actions. ⇐ Several technical meetings were held between the project and experts from related organizations to plan implementation of the priority actions ⇐ In project steering committee meetings the role of each member organization for implementation f management plans was defined and clarified.
6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LP&LU boundaries marked • Kaniberazan designation document • LP&LU 2008 monitoring reports • 10% LU&LP monitoring 	Target GEF funds and co-financing spend to prioritised actions (LP&LU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇐ The format of proposals for projects related to implementation of management plans was introduced to governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and these proposals were then sent to Management committees for final approval and budget allocation ⇐ A meeting was held in Cabinets' infrastructural commission in November 2009 to follow up implementation of LU management plan at national level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deputy of Jihad agriculture ministry, managers of ministry of Energy, Deputy Governors of 3 provinces, Provincial heads of Water and agriculture, heads of provincial DOEs and representatives of NGOs attended this meeting. ○ This meeting was very fruitful and the commission approved that all

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<i>Outcome 1: Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity</i>				
		protocols implemented		<p>the stakeholders must send their proposals in line with LU management plan in one week, and CIWP should act as the facilitator of this process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In order to integrate the structure of these proposals, a certain format designed by CIWP was agreed and approved by all the stakeholders <p>⇐ Following this meeting, another meeting was held by WA deputy governor to review the results of previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In this meeting the proposed projects were developed into the format of CIWP portfolios to be sent to PCO in a week ○ If these proposals will be endorsed by the cabinet, a considerable amount of national budget will be allocated to their related organizations. <p>⇐ Follow up on Approval of a project called “conservation and monitoring of Lutra Lutra with cooperation of Local communities” after receiving comments of project consultants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This proposal was sent to DOE related offices to receive technical comments ○ The TOR was then finalized and approved by NPD to sign the contract
7		Ensure local agencies verify zoning maps, and make adjustments accordingly		<p>⇐ During meetings of biodiversity working groups, stakeholders commented on LU & LP Monitoring and zoning reports and zoning maps were finalized.</p> <p>⇐ Maps of biodiversity sensitive zones were then added to LU and LP management plans</p> <p>⇐ Draft of wetland zoning guidelines were prepared</p> <p>⇐</p>

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<i>Outcome 1: Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity</i>				
				<p>⇐ Reports and maps of code of practice zoning workshops were sent to stakeholders for comments</p>
8			Hold LP Fishery workshop to draft strategy and then finalise strategy	<p>⇐ Holding Lake Parishan fishery workshop (with cooperation of Fars fisheries, DOE and local fishers):</p> <p>⇐ This workshop was held on 15th of April with attendance of 60 local fishers, two senior experts from Fars fisheries and 3 DOE experts. The attendants of workshop discussed about their problems and some solutions in 2 working groups. As a result of this workshop, a memorandum of agreement was signed between the stakeholders on sustainable fishing and also establishment of a corporative was agreed by everyone.</p>
9			Hold LP&LU (Eco)tourism workshop (Tehran) to draft strategy and then finalise strategy at local level	<p>⇐ LP Ecotourism Workshop was held in November 2009 in Kazeroun and focused on following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An Introduction to principles of ecotourism development in a protected area, looking at international best practices. ○ An analysis of present situation of Lake Parishan to identify ecotourism opportunities ○ Focusing on best local-community based ecotourism practices, to identify ways for engaging organizations like DOE and CHTO in this field. ○ Agreement on a certain process and framework for future steps ○ More than 40 people from local communities, NGOs, universities, DOE, Islamic councils, CHTO and natural resources and also some representatives from other project demonstration sites attended this workshop. A report was prepared on results of this workshop and sent to

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Outcome 1: Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity				
10			Support Resolving land use conflict for LP	<p>LP local committee as a draft of ecotourism strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇐ A draft proposal for solving land conflicts at LP was developed in consultation with local communities and other organizations. ⇐ Follow up on land conflict resolution by paying some field visits to LP and some meetings with stakeholders. ⇐ A meeting was held in Kazeroun DOE with representatives of organization of natural resources, CIWP and local communities to review progress made so far and agree on Mapping process and comparing it with land registration data in natural resources organization, based on DOE maps. ⇐ It was proposed that a meeting would be held in March to follow up this issue with representatives of DOE, natural resources, CIWP, local communities, registration organization and MOJA ⇐ The results of above-mentioned meetings and also progress made against this task was presented in meetings of local committee and future steps such as defining the conflicted lands and benchmarking the non-conflicted areas was approved.
11			Verify marked boundaries LP&LU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇐ More than 80 percent of LU boundaries were marked by West Azerbaijan DOE. ⇐ Necessary materials for benchmarking Lake Parishan borders were provided and this process will be started after defining the boundaries
12			Facilitate submission of designation document for Kaniberazan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇐ This task was followed up from WA DOE and necessary documents were sent to them to collect necessary Data for registering this wetland ⇐ Agreement with WA DOE for identifying a clear process in consultation with national/international consultants and local experts to introduce LU satellite wetlands as Ramsar Site, especially KaniBorazan wetland

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<p>Outcome 1: Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity</p>				
13			Support Restoration of Yadegarlu or Gherde Gheet wetland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇐ Following some field visits to Yadegarlu and Zinevar wetlands by consultants and experts, they announced their technical comments for restoration of these wetlands ⇐ A meeting was held among CIWP, DOE and Local communities to reach a common approach on restoration of these wetlands ⇐ A meeting was held with GEF/SGP office in UNDP to integrate joint activities in this field <p>Note: in 2009, restoration of Zinevar wetland was added to the workplan instead of Gerdeghit wetland.</p>
14			Support preparation of integrated 2008 monitoring reports for LP&LU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇐ Necessary information related to this report was collected by DOE offices and project consultants. ⇐ It was decided that the summary report of each demonstration site will be produced by consultant. ⇐ These reports will be developed until mid 2010 for LP, LU and Shadegan Wetland.
15			Provide monitoring equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇐ After asking provincial DOEs to announce their necessary equipments for monitoring, the legal query was done and the equipments were purchased. ⇐ Some of these equipments were delivered to the project in 2009 and the rest of them will be delivered in 2010
16			Promote implementation of monitoring protocols through individual stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇐ Monitoring plan and protocols were reviewed and translated and sent to related stakeholders for their comments. ⇐ Using these protocols for monitoring project sites was followed up from DOEs and other stakeholders

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made
Outcome 1: Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity				
17	Output 1.2: Local communities aware of values and actively participating in management of Lake Parishan and Lake Uromiyeh	Output Indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of locals receiving awareness activities• Awareness of local communities• NGOs and users involvement in management• Community participation in priority activities Annual Targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Wetland" awareness of local communities raised by 5%	"Awareness" baseline measured for LP&LU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⇐ In cooperation with national TV's research centre, a general survey of public awareness about wetlands, their functions and benefits was done⇐ This survey was done in Shiraz, Kazeroun, Urumiye and Tabriz (project demonstration sites) and Tehran, Gorgan and Ahwaz cities. About 3000 people filled out the related questionnaires.⇐ The result of this survey was summed up as a report, showing the level of knowledge about wetlands in these cities.⇐ This report has been sent to national and provincial stakeholders.
18			Facilitate Holding LP Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⇐ In 2009, No festival was held in Parishan, but some other awareness raising programs such as a drought campaign was held in there.
19			Facilitate holding LU Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⇐ Despite several follow ups from related provinces, this activity was not done
20			Produce awareness materials + LU/LP billboards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⇐ Some awareness raising billboards about LP and LU characteristics were prepared with cooperation of Fars and Urumiyeh DOEs and will be installed in 2010⇐ Some awareness raising materials on LP such as posters, brochures, photos and stickers were produced in cooperation of a national NGO and Fars DOE and distributed among stakeholders at different levels.⇐ In cooperation with Plan4land NGO, two brochures were prepared on Lutra Lutra and White Pelican, two of LP's important species.⇐ The Atlas of Lake Urumiyeh is in final stages of publication and will be ready in 2010⇐ About 5000 copies of environmental books for children were distributed in school villages around LP, with cooperation of Kazeroun education organization.
21			Media engaged in all main project activites at LU&LP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⇐ Project NPM had interviews with different newspapers and news agencies about project activities at demonstration sites.⇐ News related to project activities and demonstration sites were uploaded on

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made
Outcome 1: Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity				
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LP NGO strengthened in business skills • Local communities and NGOs represented on LP&LU Management Committees • Local communities participate in 10% of priority actions of management plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LP NGO strengthened in business skills • Local communities and NGOs represented on LP&LU Management Committees • Local communities participate in 10% of priority actions of management plans 	Organisational management skills training programme for LP&LU NGOs/Local communities	<p>project website</p> <p>⇐ Holding a training course for NGOs related to the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first course was held in first week of December for NGOs from LP, LU, Khuzestan and Kurdistan, focusing on personal and managerial techniques. <p>⇐ The second course is planned to be held in the second week of January 2010</p>
23			Ensure local community and NGO representation in membership of LP&LU Management Committees	<p>⇐ After some follow ups, 5 local community representatives and 3 representatives from NGOs joined the LP local committee as members and were present in 2 recent meetings of this committee.</p>
24			Facilitate and support local community/ NGO engagement in priority actions for LP&LU Management plans	<p>⇐ A symbolic ceremony was held with cooperation of local NGOs and communities at LP, for awareness raising about drought.</p> <p>⇐ Supporting approval of a project for monitoring and conservation of Lutra Lutra with cooperation of a National NGO and local communities.</p> <p>⇐ Support holding the World Wetlands Day ceremony with help of LP local NGOs.</p> <p>⇐ Cooperation with LU local NGOs for restoration of satellite wetlands</p>

Table 2- Projects' progress against Outcome 2

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made
Outcome 2: Model intersectoral coordination demonstrated at provincial and basin level enhances the sustainability of the WPA system by, inter alia helping to address threats arising at ecosystem level.				
1	Output 2.1: Inter-sectoral governance mechanisms established addressing basin-wide threats to sustainability of LU and LP	Output Indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate high level, intersectoral governance Management committees Working Groups 	Initiate and facilitate establishment of the council and Facilitate organisation of 1st meeting of LU Regional Coun	<p>⇐ Follow up on holding the first meeting of LU Regional Council from Urumiyeh governor and preparing the agenda of this meeting. (this meeting was postponed to 2010)</p>
2			Memberships and TOR of LP&LU (EA&WA) Management Committees approved	<p>⇐ Membership and TOR of LP management committees at local and provincial level was prepared and approved</p> <p>⇐ Establishment of these committees at LU will be decided in the first meeting of LU regional council.</p>
3		Annual Targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LU Regional Council holds one meeting LP&LU Management Committees established and hold 2 meetings 3 Inter-sectoral working 	Facilitate 2 meetings each of LU (EA&WA) & LP Management Committees	<p>⇐ Two meetings of LP Local and Provincial Committees were held in 2009</p>
4			Facilitate 2 meetings for each of the 3 working groups of LP&LU	<p>⇐ Several meetings of biodiversity working groups were held for both sites</p> <p>⇐ Several meetings of water and agriculture working groups were followed up and held in 2009</p>

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made
Outcome 2: Model intersectoral coordination demonstrated at provincial and basin level enhances the sustainability of the WPA system by, inter alia helping to address threats arising at ecosystem level.				
		groups for LU&LP meet at least twice		
5	Output 2.2: Strategies being implemented to address main basin-level threats to LU and LP	Output Indicator:	Facilitate agreement of provincial water share to LU	⇐ This process has been followed up during meetings of LU water and agriculture working group and also by MOE at national level and as a result the criteria for water allocation was agreed by all the provinces
6		• Water allocation to environment • Pollution levels • Watershed/river restoration and projects	Obtain formal approval of water share to LU by the Regional Council / the National Committee	⇐ This activity depends of each province's water share and budget allocation.
7			Support EA&WA Water Authorites to prepare Water Master plans based on available allocations	⇐ This activity depends of each province's water share and budget allocation.
8		Annual Targets:	Facilitate preparation of IWRM drought protocol and Obtain formal approval by Regional Council / National Committee	⇐ Because of the delay in recruitment of drought coordinator and importance of LU IWRM and also postponing the meetings of LU regional council, this task was postponed to the next year.

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made
<i>Outcome 2: Model intersectoral coordination demonstrated at provincial and basin level enhances the sustainability of the WPA system by, inter alia helping to address threats arising at ecosystem level.</i>				
9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for adequate environmental water allocations to LU agreed by end 2009 • Strategy for sustainable abstraction of groundwater at LP initiated • Pollution baseline and strategy prepared by end 2009 	<p>scientific research and produce analytical report (to establish evidence) on causes, long and short term affects, and associated risks to different sectors due to drought/unsustainable resource</p>	<p>↳ CIWP supported this task by publishing an advertisement for research projects. Among 9 proposed projects, 7 of them were approved.</p> <p>↳ These research projects mainly focus on impacts of drought on ecosystem and local communities and also public awareness on drought.</p>
10			<p>Identify Drought Risk Management/Sustainable Resource Management demonstration projects and implement the same in selected locations/communities as feasible</p>	<p>↳ Because of the need for inter-sectoral coordination and technical support from related consultant, this task was postponed to the next year.</p>
11			<p>Produce sectoral contingency plans for drought response including inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms as per the agreed guidelines/framework collated as provincial contingency plans</p>	<p>↳ Since the process for recruitment of Drought coordinator was cancelled, coordination among different organizations for preparing the contingency plans was postponed to next year.</p>

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made
<i>Outcome 2: Model intersectoral coordination demonstrated at provincial and basin level enhances the sustainability of the WPA system by, inter alia helping to address threats arising at ecosystem level.</i>				
12			Support Water WG to prepare report on options for reducing evaporation from LU	⇐ Basic discussions were done in different meetings of this working group. In the end it was decided that the Ministry of Energy takes the lead for integrating the proposals in this regard
13			Develop TOR and issue contract (national co-financing) for water use sustainability indicators in LU Basin and prepare database and atlas of water use across the basin, annually	⇐ Initial negotiations were done with national and international consultants on the way of undertaking this task. Since the details of this task is a part of MOE responsibilities, necessary follow ups with MOE will be done next year.
14			Stimulate EA&WA Agriculture departments to include priority actions from IWRM workshop in their programmes	⇐ This task was postponed to the next year
15			Stimulate EA&WA Agriculture departments to include priority actions from IWRM workshop in their programmes	⇐ There were some initial negotiations with the research centre of ministry of Jihad Agriculture in this regard.
16			Support a study on options for water pricing and the need	⇐ After finalization of the TOR, a contract was signed between Fars DOE and a consultancy firm and the draft of the study has been sent to PCO.

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made
<i>Outcome 2: Model intersectoral coordination demonstrated at provincial and basin level enhances the sustainability of the WPA system by, inter alia helping to address threats arising at ecosystem level.</i>				
			for subsidies and incentives in the agricultural sector	
17			Prepare TOR and issue contract (national co-financing) for assessment of groundwater use around LP and options for control	<p>⇐ After finalization of the TOR, a contract was signed between Fars DOE and a consultancy firm in LP and the draft of the study has been sent to PCO.</p> <p>⇐ For LU, this study was postponed to the next year.</p>
18			Organise pollution workshops for LP&LU and prepare strategy	<p>⇐ Postponed to the next year</p>

Table 3- Projects' progress against Outcome 3

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made
<p>Outcome 3: National level WPA management and inter-sectoral coordination structures possess and utilize enhanced capacities, and the model system developed through Outcomes 1&2 above is applied to WPAs throughout Iran through strategies, replications, tools and exchange of knowledge and lessons learned</p>				
1	<p>Output 3.1: National DOE and inter-sectoral capacity to apply the ecosystem approach to WPAs raised and DOE has a strategy to roll out the project system for WPA management across Iran</p>	<p>Output Indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised capacity for ecosystem approach • Policies influenced in direction of ecosystem approach • Number of replications <p>Annual Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of 15 key staff from DOE, MOE, MOJA and other key sectors raised to 	<p>Organise 3 day study visit (including field visits and workshop) for 25 managers and experts from National DOE and 5 experts each from MOE and MOJA to 1 demonstration site</p>	<p>⇐ Postponed to the next year Workplan</p>
2			<p>Hold workshop on agriculture and wetlands with DOE and MOJA to identify perverse and favourable policies</p>	<p>⇐ Initial negotiations and planning has been done, while the task itself has been postponed to the next year</p>
3			<p>Initiate review</p>	<p>⇐ Initial negotiations were done with MOJA, but the task was postponed to the next</p>

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made
Outcome 3: National level WPA management and inter-sectoral coordination structures possess and utilize enhanced capacities, and the model system developed through Outcomes 1&2 above is applied to WPAs throughout Iran through strategies, replications, tools and exchange of knowledge and lessons learned				
4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> address the ecosystem approach to WPAs • Project influences one key policy issue in direction of ecosystem approach for WPA management 	of policy water pricing and incentives for sustainable use of water in agriculture	year.
5	Output 3.2: National system established to plan and roll-out demonstration model approach to WPAs throughout Iran	Output Indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of replications • NWCSAP • Iran Wetland Database and Guidelines Annual Targets:	Support local community meetings to secure support for Shadegan management plan	⇐ After several negotiations, the ground is now ready for constant participation of Local Community members in LP management planning sessions.
6			Support and secure finalisation and approval of Shadegan Management	⇐ So far, two Management planning workshops were held for Shadegan Wetland in consultation with main stakeholders and the third version of this plan was prepared based on their comments to be approved.

No.	Expected outputs (as per Project document)	Indicators of outputs and Annual Targets	Planned Activities	Progress Made												
Outcome 3: National level WPA management and inter-sectoral coordination structures possess and utilize enhanced capacities, and the model system developed through Outcomes 1&2 above is applied to WPAs throughout Iran through strategies, replications, tools and exchange of knowledge and lessons learned																
7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One replication site applying the ecosystem approach, and next 2 replication sites identified 	Plan <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Support establishment and 3 meetings of Shadegan Management Committee</td> <td>⇐ A meeting was held with managers of related organizations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Support establishment of Shadegan Secretariat</td> <td>⇐ A temporary secretariat has been established in Khuzestan DOE to follow up endorsement and implementation of Shadegan management plan.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Support IWRM workshop for Shadegan</td> <td>⇐ This workshop was held in Shadegan visitor centre, in October 2009</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Support Shadegan local community awareness activities</td> <td>⇐ Khuzestan DOE has been provided with the Budget and has started planning to hold an awareness raising program in Shadegan Wetland.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contribute to ecotourism plan for Shadegan town/wetland (specialist)</td> <td>⇐ Following initial negotiations with Khuzestan DOE and CHTO, this task was planned for the next year.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prepare framework for NWCSAP</td> <td>⇐ After holding some thematic workshops and related negotiations, this framework is ready to be shared with related stakeholders.</td> </tr> </table>	Support establishment and 3 meetings of Shadegan Management Committee	⇐ A meeting was held with managers of related organizations	Support establishment of Shadegan Secretariat	⇐ A temporary secretariat has been established in Khuzestan DOE to follow up endorsement and implementation of Shadegan management plan.	Support IWRM workshop for Shadegan	⇐ This workshop was held in Shadegan visitor centre, in October 2009	Support Shadegan local community awareness activities	⇐ Khuzestan DOE has been provided with the Budget and has started planning to hold an awareness raising program in Shadegan Wetland.	Contribute to ecotourism plan for Shadegan town/wetland (specialist)	⇐ Following initial negotiations with Khuzestan DOE and CHTO, this task was planned for the next year.	Prepare framework for NWCSAP	⇐ After holding some thematic workshops and related negotiations, this framework is ready to be shared with related stakeholders.	
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		produced		
13		Organise workshop on NWCSAP with DOE (and key stakeholders)		⇐ This workshop was held in November 2009 in Khuzestan DOE, with presence of national and local stakeholders.
14		Oversee and review results of contract for Wetland database		⇐ The query for selecting the wetlands databank was done and a consultancy firm was selected. The TOR and related contract are in finalization process.
15		Publish guideline on wetlands and tourism		⇐ This task was postponed to the next year
16		Publish guideline on wetlands zoning		⇐ This guideline is being prepared by 2 of national and international consultants
17		operate an efficient PCO (core staff, office running, communications)		<p>Necessary planning and follow up was done for mission of SIPA, Protected areas and IWRM consultants to iran, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning to get visa ○ Preparing and finalizing the mission schedules ○ Coordination with related stakeholders and planning the details of each mission

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇐ Planning and Monitoring Project Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessment of project achievements in 2009 ○ Revision of project logframe: this revision was done based on MTE recommendations. ○ Revision of project international budget until the end of project: Following revision of logframe, a strategic revision of international budget was done, based on MTE recommendations. ○ Preparation of 2010 Work plan. (Finalized in a meeting with all CIWP staff) ○ An assessment of implementing MTE recommendations. ○ Assessment of status of national/international consultants, upcoming missions and planned activities ⇐ Holding monthly meetings with site coordinators to review progress of activities in each site ⇐ Finalization of recruitment process for two national consultants (institutional structures and socio-economic) and signing contracts ⇐ Preparing Monitoring plan and protocols and distributing them among stakeholders for their comments ⇐ Holding a meeting of technical committee to coordinate priority actions of management plans
18		Mid term and terminal evaluation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇐ The Midterm evaluation was done in June 2009 ⇐ The report of this evaluation was prepared, translated and distributed ⇐ A plan has been developed to follow up MTE recommendations

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19	<p>Output 3.3: Public awareness of wetland values is raised</p>	<p>Output Indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness <p>Annual Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National public awareness of wetland values raised by 5% 	<p>Measure public awareness baseline</p> <p>Broadcast TabAb film on TV</p> <p>Translation & publication of wetland ecology book</p> <p>Other public awareness activities</p>	<p>⇐ In cooperation with national TV's research centre, a general survey of public awareness about wetlands, their functions and benefits was done</p> <p>⇐ This survey was done in Shiraz, Kazeroun, Urumiye and Tabriz (project demonstration sites) and Tehran, Gorgan and Ahwaz cities. About 3000 people filled out the related questionnaires.</p> <p>⇐ The result of this survey was summed up as a report, showing the level of knowledge about wetlands in these cities.</p> <p>⇐ This report has been sent to national and provincial stakeholders.</p> <p>⇐ According to a memorandum of understanding with National TV, the Tabe Ab documentary was broadcasted from TV channel 1 for 6 months.</p> <p>⇐ This book is being translated and will be published in 2010</p> <p>⇐ Bulletins, brochures and posters on project activities were occasionally produced and distributed and several training programs were held at national and provincial level.</p> <p>⇐ Project participated in CEPA workshop, held by Ramsar regional centre and had a booth in its' related exhibition.</p> <p>⇐ Cooperation with Ramsar regional centre for holding a workshop and festival in Ramsar</p> <p>⇐ Taking part in different public awareness exhibitions at national and local level.</p>

Challenges:

1. Despite several follow-ups, establishment of Lake Urmia Regional Council (Following signature of a joint MOU) has been postponed to next year and this may conduce in delays in implementation of LU management plan.
2. Leading the project further into implementation phase, while ensuring national and international budget from different stakeholders might be a great challenge.
3. Obtaining Regional and inter-sectoral agreement on water right of each province at Lake Urmia basin, especially the amount of water each province can use/should dedicate to the basin is still in process.
4. Revision of LU Basin provinces development plans, according to the maximum water available and each provinces share of water.
5. Continuing drought situation and lack of water at project sites and related problems.
6. Contracts of national project staff are not secured.
7. National consultants in Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture were not recruited although the advertisements were published.
8. The difference between Iranian and UNDP calendar takes lots of time and energy from the project, because it has to report (To DOE and UNDP/GEF) on different time lines which are sometimes problematic. Agreement on one time line for reporting will help solving this problem.
9. Since the project has always focused on development of management plans for its' demonstration sites and planning software's rather than implementation, to some extent it has failed to meet expectations of stakeholders, especially local communities who seek to see some physical and tangible results, and this might be a considerable challenge.

Lessons Learnt:

1. Involving all the stakeholders and increasing their sensitivity about issues will ensure success of the plans.
2. According to the arrangements for the study tour to Murray Darling Basin in Australia, It is important that planning for such missions, such as choosing candidates etc. would be done delicately and smoothly, without taking too much energy from the administrative team and also without leaving negative impacts on future coordination with stakeholders.
3. Awareness raising activities should be a permanent and continuous process.
4. Before and during doing any activities with local communities, there should be an assessment of the conflict causing potentials and negotiations must be done to avoid further conflicts.
5. Project should avoid complicated discussions while working with local communities. Agreements should be reached on general issues and then on detailed issues.
6. The process of ecosystem-based management is a long-term and time taking process, so all the stakeholders should have enough time to involve in the activities and their role should be clarified.
7. External factors could sometimes threaten the project. With on-time planning we can turn these threats into opportunities to move in line with project objectives.
8. Since one of the project's main objectives is improving capacity among governmental organizations, capacity-building of DOE experts should be a priority.
9. There should be continuous awareness raising meetings with several stakeholders.
10. Establishing a local NGO will improve activities at site level and with increase sensitivity of local communities.
11. Governors offices of site provinces should be informed about all the project activities at their sites.
12. During the project's implementation phase, some issues might occur in demonstration sites. In this case the project should stay away from implementation or decision-making process of the related organisation and act as a multi-sectoral body, otherwise, taking sides with one organization (such as DOE) will distort this inter-sectoral look and turn into a threat. In such situations project should act as a facilitator, using it's technical capacity and consulting with national and international advisors.
13. Procurement of supplies and facilities for the project should be done based on local standards and technical capacities of each country. For instance, provision of four Toyota Land cruisers for project offices (although these cars are technically OK) resulted in a few years delay in delivering the cars and also these cars are way better than vehicles used by provincial DOEs which may lead to over-expectations from CIWP.

Summary of Midterm Evaluation Report

Following the Midterm Evaluation carried out in June 2009, the evaluation team proposed some recommendations to strengthen the implementation of the project for its' remaining duration. Summary of these recommendations are as followed. The project team of course continually considers some management actions and revisions, based on these recommendations.

Recommendation 1. Project plan, logical framework, M&E

- ◎ Revision of project Logframe and some changes in main outcomes

Recommendation 2. Project supervision and Wetlands governance

- ◎ Establishment of a National working group for wetland conservation as a high level monitoring body

Recommendation 3. CIWP management – Human resources

- ◎ Raise in number and capacity of staff

Recommendation 4. CIWP Financial management

- ◎ More expenditure from national funds

Recommendation 5. Long-term institutional arrangements for wetlands conservation

- ◎ Institutional arrangements and clarification of inter-sectoral coordinations

Recommendation 6. Management Plans for wetland sites and basins

- ◎ Promote mechanisms for integrated management of wetlands at national level

Recommendation 7. Capacity development under the CIWP

- ◎ Systematic capacity building

Recommendation 8 Influencing Government Policy

- ◎ Preparing a National Wetlands Strategy and Action Plan and influencing national 5year development plans

Recommendation 9. Pilot evaluation and confirmation of the new style of wetland conservation and water basin management

- ◎ Finalization of activities at demonstration sites and adding Shadegan wetland as another demonstration site

Recommendation 10. Replication strategy

- ◎ Changing the approach from replication site to demonstration sites and focusing on CIWP's role as facilitator

Recommendation 11. Project duration, extension and completion

- ◎ Extension of project duration until the end of 2012

Project Financial Report:

A summary of project financial report in 2009 (National and International Budget):

Project Expenditure (National co-financing), in Million Rials

	Fars		West Azerbaijan		Khuzestan	
	title	amount	title	amount	title	amount
Cash	Lake Parishan Ecotourism Workshop	200	Holding Training course for DOE Guards	150	Holding Lake Shadegan IWRM Workshop	100
	Marking LP boundaries	150	Equipment of LU regional council secreteriat	300	Holding Lake Shadegan Mapping workshop	150
	Prepare a fenced, non-grazing area for conservation of Lui and study restoration of Lake Parishan	100	Dredging and restoration of traditional streams around LU and satellite wetlands	200	Promote public awareness at Lake Shadegan	100
	Mark LP boundaries and support land use conflict resolution by mapping and separating the national lands	350	Money remaining from LU Festival	80	Hold World Wetlands Day	200
	Equipment of Lake Parishan local committee	250				
	Total expenditure(in cash)	1050	Total expenditure(in cash)	730	Total expenditure(in cash)	550
	East Azerbaijan (remains of LU Festival)				75	
National Level				2649		
Total Cash					5054	
Total In-kind					3836	
Total National Co-financing in 2009						8890

In 2009, expenditure of international budget has been done based on each outcome, which also includes drought project.

Project Expenditure (International co-financing), in us dollars

Outcome	Title	Expenditure (us. Dollars)
1	<i>Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity</i>	151,470
2	<i>Model intersectoral coordination demonstrated at provincial and basin level enhances the sustainability of the WPA system by, inter alia helping to address threats arising at ecosystem level</i>	22971
3	<i>National level WPA management and inter-sectoral coordination structures possess and utilize enhanced capacities, and the model system developed through Outcomes 1&2 above is applied to WPAs throughout Iran through strategies, replications, tools and exchange of knowledge and lessons learned</i>	219853
Total GEF		394294
Total Drought UNDP TRAC		60007
Total		454301