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# "Annual Progress Report 2010"

«طرح حفاظت از تالاب های ایران»

۲۰۱۰

UNDP gef سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست

# Conservation of Iranian Wetlands

## Annual Report 2010

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Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project Annual Report - 2010

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This is the 2010 Annual Report of the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is being implemented through the cooperation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Its scope of coverage for this report ranges from 1 January 2010 until 31 December 2010**.**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

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## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| bcm | Billion Cubic Meters |
| mcm | Million Cubic Meters |
| CBO | Community Based Organisation |
| CPD | Country Programme Document |
| CDR | Combined Delivery Report |
| DCHT | Department for Cultural Heritage and Tourism |
| DoE | Department of Environment |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| IR Iran | Islamic Republic of Iran |
| LP | Lake Parishan |
| LU | Lake Uromiyeh |
| LUB | Lake Uromiyeh Basin |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MJA | Ministry of Jihad Agriculture |
| MFA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| MOE | Ministry of Energy |
| MRT | Ministry of Roads and Transport |
| MTE | Mid-Term Evaluation |
| NPD | National Project Director |
| NPM | National Project Manager |
| NPT | National Project Team |
| NRO | Natural Resources Organisation |
| SPAC | Office of Strategic Planning Affairs and Control of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran |

| | |
|---|---|
| SW | Shadegan Wetland |
| TOR | Terms of Reference |
| TPR | Tripartite Review |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| UNDAF | United Nations Development Assistance Framework |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Program |
| WPA | Wetland Protected Area |

# Executive Summary

This is an annual report for the activities of the *Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project* (the Project) for 2010. Although the headings may differ, this Executive Summary provides a breakdown of the key points from the body of this report.

## Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project in I. R. Iran

This is a project established through the cooperation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Iranian Department of Environment (DoE). It was brought about because of the drastically worsening condition of Iranian wetlands and to develop methods for Iran to comply with its international environmental commitments, notably the 1971 Ramsar Convention.

It aims to systematically remove, or substantially mitigate, threats to the biodiversity and sustainability of Lake Uromiyeh (LU), Lake Parishan (LP) and Shadegan Wetland (SW). In doing this it also aims to ensure that the lessons learned through this Project are absorbed with Iran's Wetland Protected Area (WPA) management systems. As many of Iran's wetlands face similar threats, particularly the tendency for key threats to originate within the wider watershed area outside of WPA boundaries, a demonstration of the removal of these threats will be of broad relevance.

As a result, the project places substantial emphasis on demonstrating approaches to conservation, sustainable use and threat removal/mitigation at WPAs within the Lake Uromiyeh Ecological Zone. This ecological zone includes LU itself, a c. 5,000 km$^2$ hypersaline lake and National Park in the highlands of northwestern Iran, together with various ecologically connected and smaller satellite wetlands of international importance. Further support also goes towards ensuring conservation and sustainable use of LP and SW, which are located in and Khuzestan Provinces respectively.

For the last ten years, Iran has also been experiencing a severe ongoing drought. As a result, the UNDP and the DoE are working together to develop a Drought Risk Management System. This has also been added as an additional component of this Project.

An outline of the key Project facts are noted in Tables 2 and 4 on pages 12 and 14 respectively.

## Overall Progress and Achievements

The Project has now completed its fifth year of operation and has made substantial progress towards its objectives. These objectives are noted in full in Tables 3 and 5 on pages 13 and 14 respectively. It is currently working to complete the remaining objectives at the demonstration sites. For the next two years, its focus extends to rolling out the wetland management framework to other Wetland Protected Areas (WPAs) throughout Iran. As such, it will be working to ensure the sustainability of the Project's activities by working to establish the National Wetlands Strategy Committee and having the DoE act as a secretariat for this committee. It will also look to build the capacities of national partners so that they may assume responsibility for the wetlands. The advantage here is that they will have the benefit of several years of established practice and experience to draw on.

## Major Results in 2010

Key results that have culminated in 2010 are the following:

### a. Lake Uromiyeh National Committee Established and Functional

This committee brings together key groups involved in the conservation of LUB, namely: three Provincial Governors of the provinces surrounding LU, five government Ministers, two Presidential Deputies and critically the First Vice President. As such, it is a very high level committee and is potentially critical for the implementation of the LU Management Plan.

### b. Second Draft of National Wetland Conservation Strategy and Action Plan Finalised

This is a document that incorporates both a strategy and an action plan, and aims to set a clear process for conserving Iran's wetlands. It covers all the relevant aspects of water conservation, especially water allocations and the mainstreaming of an ecosystem approach to WPAs. Once inputs are received from national partners and agencies, it will be submitted to the national Cabinet for approval.

### c. Agreement on Lake Uromiyeh Water Right

Through the support of the Project, the Lake Uromiyeh Water and Agriculture Working Group was established. This group, made up of technical experts, gave a recommendation on the water right for the surrounding provinces and LU. There has now been final agreement on the LU water right. This agreement ensures that each province will allow, as an environmental right, a specific amount of water for the preservation of the LUB environment. The water right part of this agreement is yet to be finalised.

### d. Management Plans Finalised and Implementation

Management Plans for LU, LP and SW (Project Sites) have now been finalised and adopted into the national system. Those for LU and LP are now in implementation. Based on these plans, the LU National Committee has begun to implement 12 emergency projects with a total budget of USD$4.7m, and has announced a budget of USD$1.3b allocated towards the implementation of 24 priority action plans over the next five years. Further, SW has had a Water and Agriculture Committee established which is working to develop a water right for the wetland. These management plans are comprehensive documents that identify the key actions to be taken for the restoration of each Project Site and the party responsible for the implementation of each part of the plan. They also work as an informal "shopping list" for the Government in securing budgets for key actions to be taken. These plans provide a common vision for the development and protection of the project sites.

### e. Establishment of Lake Parishan Local Management Committee

The committee is made up of representatives from key sectoral agencies, three NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBO), and also five village council representatives. The Governor of Kazeroun is its Chairperson. The Committee also has working groups that focus on biodiversity, water and agriculture, ecotourism and alternative livelihoods. It is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the LP Management Plan, resolving land use conflicts between the DoE and local farmers, finding methods for the sustainable use of groundwater, addressing the use of illegal wells,

identifying pilot villages for sustainable agriculture, and planning for the implementation of a biodiversity conservation programme.

### f. Establishing a Regional Community of Practice

This was an event that gathered wetland conservation project managers from nine countries in the region to share ideas, lessons learnt, good practice and experiences in wetland conservation. It was a new initiative from the project and was held in October at LU with cooperation from the Ramsar Regional Centre. It was highly successful and is to become an annual event and to be hosted by regional wetland projects.

### g. Establishment of Lake Parishan Provincial Technical Committee

This body was established to allow for easier consultation and faster decision-making on technical issues that are raised and proposed by the Local Committee. Each member of the Provincial Coordination Committee (PCC) introduces a representative to the Provincial Technical Committee (PTC). This committee works with the Local Committee to evaluate the feasibility of technical solutions proposed and the cost estimates made. Evaluations are then reported to the PCC for final approval and assigning required budget.

### h. Boundary Markers

Towards the achievement of outcome one, 80% of the boundary marking for LU has been completed, while 50% has been done for LP. For Shadegan Wetland, mapping has been conducted but the boundaries are not yet marked. These actions are aimed to identify where any land conflict issues exist and, if they do exist, to help resolve them. This has been achieved through working to engage the community and, where possible, resolving boundary disputes with local communities.

### i. Community Engagement, Awareness Raising and Sensitisation

The Project team has been working at local, provincial and national levels to raise awareness on the condition of the wetlands. These activities include capacity building, installing billboards around the project sites, preparing print media for circulation and working with the IRIB to broadcast information in the national media. They also select and award three Wetland Champions for their wetland protection activities at World Wetland Day ceremonies.

Although these are not specific outcomes from this year, they are still worthy of note. The Project's philosophy of participation and integration has been key to winning over the support of the local communities, which at the beginning of the Project were at times engaged in disagreements with local authorities and the DoE. Most recently, as a sign of how close the relationship has become, a community handed the Project Office a petition with approximately 4000 signatures that aimed to prevent the development of a road adjacent to their local wetland. They sought the Project's support in achieving this. Further, a poll conducted with the support of the IRIB showed that people in Kazreun had great awareness of the issues and threats affecting wetlands.

Sensitisation activities have also been conducted so that new initiatives can be adopted into national systems. This includes the sustainable agriculture plan and eco-villages. This work has been done with the MJA and DOE.

### j. Development of Iranian Wetland Database

This database will allow individuals to track and update general information, as well as details on the habitat from their local wetlands. They are also able to input information on the various species that are present at their wetland site and also the various human uses of the environmental resources. It is based on the MEDWET system but has been adapted to Iran's situation. It is currently undergoing final test and will eventually handed over to the DoE.

## Indirect Results

### a. Engagement of Civil Society

This Project has utilised the support and capacities of over 10 NGOs and approximately 12 CBOs[1]. In doing this, it has provided opportunities for these organisations to grow and develop, while also working towards the main project objectives. Through this, the capacity of civil society is developed such that it may continue to support the project goals and the community after the closure of the Project. An example of this is in the fact that the LP Management Committee has three seats dedicated to NGOs and CBOs and five seats dedicated to village representatives. Where possible, the Project has also worked to implement wetland protection initiatives proposed by local communities, such as the mini-reservoir at LP.

### b. Empowerment of Women

In line with the Third Millennium Development Goal (MDG), this project has also had an indirect result on the empowerment of women. Many of the environmental protection and advocacy activities require the critical engagement of women. This is particularly true in the ten villages around LP where training for ten women to work as facilitators in sustainable agriculture activities has been conducted. This training has been conducted with the cooperation of the provincial bureaux of the Department of Jihad Agriculture. These women will also be working to develop a local women's fund, improving farmer health and improving the livelihoods of village women. They are also becoming a focal point for the MJA for future interaction and education of the villages. This process was catalysed by the Project.

### c. South-South Cooperation

In a new initiative, the Project organised and held the first Regional Community of Practice for Wetland Conservation Managers. This was a workshop where Wetland Managers from various wetland protection projects in the region and IGOs were invited to share their experiences, lessons and ideas for wetland protection. In all 40 participants attended the event and 11 international case studies were presented. This was a great example of south-south cooperation as many of the participants were from southern countries.

### d. Conflict Resolution

An indirect result of the Project's activities has been the resolution of conflicts between the local communities, the local authorities and the DoE. This has been a by-product of the efforts to map and mark the boundaries of the wetlands and to engage the community where possible. To achieve

[1] These CBOs largely consist of local Islamic Councils.

this, the Project is working to establish a dispute resolution process at LP in cooperation with the judiciary, Department of Natural Resources, Water Authority and local Councils. It also established the position of Community Liaison Officer at SW. This person is responsible for initiating public awareness activities and enhancing rural community engagement in wetland management.

### Contribution Towards Attaining CPD and UNDAF Outcomes

#### a. Country Programme Document

The Country Programme Document (CPD) has among its aims the objective of improving Iran's ability to meet the MDG targets. This Project's focus is in line with MDG-7, environmental sustainability. Due to the large demand on water resources, the Project is engaged in finding ways in which sustainable water management systems can be promoted and adopted within the Government's national strategies. Further, the levels of international cooperation this Project exhibits also contributes towards MDG8, the fostering of global partnerships.

The CPD also works to have environmental sustainability incorporated into national and local development strategies. This Project works to do just that and have WPA management systems incorporated at local, provincial and national levels through various committees, which are established and supported by the Project at various levels of Government. Further, these management plans have been tested and are currently being institutionalised.

#### b. United Nations Development Assistance Framework

This Project works directly towards the achievement of UNDAF Outcome 4.2 – "Global and national environmental concerns and environmentally sensitive development integrated into national development frameworks and implemented through community-based approaches to the sustainable use of natural resources, capacity-building, environmental assessment and the removal of financial, economic, legal, institutional and technological barriers."

This Project works by a philosophy of participation and integration in which the capacity development of local communities and organisation are actively pursued. What is more, it has worked to incorporate this philosophy into the wetland management plans. These plans factor in the various development and environmental concerns of the areas in question and have now been incorporated into national development strategies.

## Recommendations from Lessons Learned and Good Practices

Following the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE), ten recommendations were made. Of those recommendations, seven have been fully implemented and three are being finalised as part of the national roll-out strategy. A major reason for the Project's continued success is its focus on community involvement, consultation and participation in management and implementation decisions. This has also been true for its interactions with other stakeholders. Such an approach has been critical in its ability to resolve potentially difficult issues such as water allocations and land usage rights. What is more, it has also brought local communities onto the side of the DoE such that they are key supporters of the Project's objectives. Accordingly, this philosophy lies at the base of its lessons learnt and recommendations.

## Conclusion

To date the dedication of the Project team and their commitment to engaging stakeholders and local communities has allowed them to be successful in working towards the Project objective. However, the key risk that remains is the ongoing severe drought that continues to challenge its ability to fully achieve all the outcomes. Nevertheless, the next step will be to work towards rolling out the wetland management systems beyond the project sites to a national scale, so that once the project closes Iran's wetlands can continue to be effectively protected.

# 1.0 Introduction

Iran is a geographically diverse country. Its rich ecology and biodiversity can be found in its dry desert landscapes, snowy mountain peaks and green pastures and forests. Given that much of the country is characterised by dry, arid conditions, the many wetlands and watercourses across Iran provide an important escape and oasis. It is also here that much of the country's unique flora and fauna can be found. However, over past decades, these wetlands have come under increasing threat and as a result, have necessitated the implementation of active protection measures.

This is an annual report for the *Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project* (the Project), which is being implemented by Department of Environment (DoE) in the Islamic Republic of Iran (IR Iran). The Project receives funding from the Government of IR Iran, but is also supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It also has had some assistance from an international donor, the Government of Netherlands. The Project works to strengthen national wetland management capacities and address key threats to the environmental stability at three pilot wetland sites: Lake Uromiyeh (LU), Lake Parishan (LP) and Shadegan Wetland (SW).

This report provides an overview of the Project's activities for 2010. It starts by providing a general contextual background to the Project and a brief outline of the project history and key institutions involved. It then moves to discuss the progress against the Project objectives to date. This is followed by sections providing an overview of the Project finances, existing challenges and issues, potential upcoming risks and some lessons learned from good practices. It finishes by providing some recommendations for moving forward.

The objective of this document is to provide an outline to the contextual and operational background to the Project activities, a review of each Project's activities, and an outline of the lessons learned and recommendations to date.

In preparing this report, a two-pronged approach was taken. The first was a quantitative investigation of the Project through a desk review of the key Project documents available at the UNDP. A complete list of the documents used is available in the References section at the end of this report. As well as this document review, a qualitative investigation was also undertaken in the form of interviews with key Project stakeholders and staff. A full list of those interviewed is available in Annexure I.

# 2.0 Contextual Background

This chapter provides a basic description of the context in which the Project operates. This is done by first providing a brief situation analysis of Iran and wetlands in general. Within the context of the Ramsar Convention, a description of the status of wetlands in Iran is then provided.

## 2.1 Iran and Wetlands

Iran is a geographically expansive country at 1.648 million km$^2$ in size. To its north lies the Caspian Sea and at its southern border is the Persian Gulf. It also shares a border with Iraq to the west; Turkey, Armenia and Turkmenistan to the north; and Afghanistan and Pakistan to the East. The country boasts a varied terrain that ranges from coastal lagoons, dry desert plains, two expansive mountain ranges and green northern forests.

Iran also contains over 1000 wetland sites, over 150 of which are of international significance.[2] Wetlands are among the world's most productive environments.[3] They house vast amounts of biological diversity and provide the water to countless species, including humans, need for survival. They also support high concentrations of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrate species.[4] Iran's wetlands provide not only scenic beauty, but are also a cradle for a wide range of flora and fauna, many of which transit Iran in the form of migratory birds. These wetlands are also essential for providing sustenance to the people who inhabit the areas surrounding these wetlands.

However, like many other countries, as Iran has developed, increasing pressure has been placed on it's environment and natural resources, among these were the precious wetlands. This pressure did not go unnoticed by authorities and over the 1960's, increased international momentum was gained for the establishment of some means of protecting these areas.

### 2.1.1 Ramsar Convention 1971

This international momentum culminated in the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat* (Ramsar Convention). The Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and wetland resources.[5]

The general text of the convention was prepared over a series of technical meetings. Initially, the Convention aimed at protecting waterfowl, but as discussions progressed it developed into one conserving wetland habitats as a whole. Eventually, the final text was agreed to at a conference held in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. It entered into force in 1975 and has since then, worked to provide a general framework for the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands.

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[2] Peter Hunnam and Raya Benis, *Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project Mid-Term Evaluation*, Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project, 2009, pp.12 and 15.

[3] Ramsar Website, *Home*, http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-home/main/ramsar/1_4000_0__, (accessed 11 December 2010).

[4] Ibid, *Home*, (accessed 11 December 2010).

[5] Ibid, *Home*, (accessed 11 December 2010).

As States become members to the Ramsar Convention, they must designate at least one national wetland site to be registered as an official Ramar site. This is done in accordance with criteria set out in the Convention. Needless to say, Iran too is a signatory to the Convention and has several registered Ramsar sites. Table 1 below contains a breakdown of Iranian wetlands and their national and international status.[6]

| Breakdown of Iranian Wetland Sites | Breakdown of the Number of Sites | | | Area (ha) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wetland sites in Iran | 1000+ | | | |
| Wetland sites in DoE database | 152 | | | |
| Wetlands classified as Ramsar Sites | 22 | | | 1,483,824 |
| Wetland sites considered of international significance (WIS) | 76 | | | |
| - WIS sites not Ramsar listed nor nationally protected | | 40 | | |
| - Wetland protected areas (WPAs) Ramsar listed only | | 10 | | |
| - WPAs with some national legal protection | | 26 | | |
| - National Park | | | 2 | 619,500 |
| - Wildlife Refuge | | | 6 | 660,000 |
| - Protected Area | | | 13 | 407,000 |
| - Hunting-Free Zone | | | 4 | 21,000 |
| - Limited Hunting Area | | | 2 | 3,000 |

**Table 1**

## 2.2 Long Running Drought and Water Resource Management

Over the last decade, Iran as a whole has been suffering from a long running drought. This drought is affecting water levels in lakes across the country, including the wetlands that are the subject of this Project.

Since the year 2000, Lake Uromiyeh has had decreasing water levels and increased levels of salinity. The surrounding wetlands are also under threat as a result of rapid unplanned urbanisation, the construction of water resource development infrastructure, the unprecedented increase in land use for agriculture and pollution.[7]

[6] Hunnam as no.1 above, p.15; and Ramsar Website, Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-about-parties-contracting-parties-to-23808/main/ramsar/1-36-123%5E23808_4000_0__, (accessed 11 December 2010).

[7] UNDP, *Lake Uromiyeh Drought Risk Management Project for Sustainable Livelihoods, Biodiversity and Micro-climate Management (Supplementary project to the ongoing UNDP/GEF Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project*), p2.

Lake Uromiyeh is recharged through 17 tributary rivers, 39 floodways, and 14 seasonal rivers which are mainly in the northern part of the baisin. This inflow is estimated to be approximately 5300 mcm annually.[8] It also receives direct rainfall and groundwater seepage, however this has been greatly reduced in recent years due to agricultural groundwater extraction.

The Lake Uromiyeh Basin (LUB) has a population of over 5.9 million[9] and there are now more than 36 cities and 3150 villages the area.[10] To meet the increasing demand on water, the Government has completed or planned several resource development projects. Reportedly, 231 water development projects have been identified as feasible for the next 20 years. This includes 74 storage dams and 124 diversion weirs.[11]

As a result of its size, LU is a major factor in defining the microclimate of the region. This increased environmental and social pressure on LU and the surrounding wetlands is potentially catastrophic for the local environment and its inhabitants.

To address this, a supplementary project was created by the UNDP and DoE. This project is discussed further in the next chapter of this report.

[8] UNDP, as no.6 above, p1.

[9] 2010 estimation.

[10] Ibid, p1.

[11] Ibid, p2.

# 3.0 Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project in Iran

This chapter provides an outline of the Project itself as well as the key actors involved. For brevity, Tables 2 and 4 below have been prepared to provide the key information relating to the Project.

## 3.1 Wetlands Project Outline

As noted above, Iran has been an active founding member of the Ramsar Convention. However, actions previously taken in protecting wetland areas have not been effective in addressing the threats to these ecosystems. Over recent decades, it was noted that more work was needed to actively protect the country's wetlands. Many were becoming seriously degraded, some to the point where the biodiversity and human activities that were reliant on them were dying out.[12] This brought about the gradual development of the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project.

The Project plan was drawn up over six years from 1998 to 2004 by international consultants working with the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran (IR Iran), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF).[13]

Once the Project plan was completed, the Iranian Department of Environment (DoE) was designated as the Executing Agency[14]. The Ministry of Energy was also brought onboard to assist in implementing the support provided by the Government of Netherlands and coordinating with the GEF/Government components of the Project. Other participating national agencies were: Office of Strategic Planning Affairs and Control of the Government of the IR Iran (SPAC)[15], Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ministry of Jihad Agriculture (MJA), and the Ministry of Roads and Transportation (MRT). The involvement of these later organisations was largely in assisting in the coordination of the Project through representatives in its steering committee. In accordance with GEF requirements, the UNDP was designated as the implementing agency of the Project.

Originally the Project was planned to be completed by the end of 2010, however at the beginning of implementation, there were several changes in key staff that resulted in delays. Also, the onset of a continuing drought further hindered implementation. As a result, the project was extended for an additional two years on a no-cost basis.[16]

The Project is now planned to take seven years and has been assigned a budget of USD$12.905 million. This is comprised of funds from the Government of IR Iran (USD$9.190m) and from GEF (USD$2.915m). An additional USD$0.6m was granted by the Government of Netherlands for an existing project in a similar area, however this project was largely completed before the full commencement of the Project at hand.

Thus, an "at a glance" overview of the project is provided in Table 2 below.

[12] Hunnam, as no.1 above p.14.

[13] A description of these entities is given under heading 3.1.2 of this Report.

[14] This is also known as the Designated Institution in UNDP terminology.

[15] Formerly known as the Management and Planning Organisation (MPO).

[16] Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project, *Progress Implementation Report* (2010), p.Adjustments Tab.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Project Title** | Conservation of Iranian Wetlands |
| **Project Duration** | 7 Years |
| **Project Budget** | USD$12.905 million |
| **Executing Entity** | Iranian Department of Environment (DoE) |
| **Cooperating National Agencies** | The Ministry of Energy |
| | Office of Strategic Planning Affairs and Control of the Government of the IR Iran (SPAC) |
| | Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) |
| | Ministry of Jihad Agriculture (MJA) |
| | Ministry of Roads and Transportation (MRT) |
| **Implementing Agency** | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |

**Table 2**

The underlying aim of the Project is to conduct a pilot and demonstration conservation operation, which if proven successful, could be adopted by the Government and applied to the other national wetlands. Two pilot sites were select for this: Lake Uromiyeh Basin (LUB) and Lake Parishan (LP). The LUB, as part of a larger wetlands ecological zone, includes Lake Uromiyeh (LU), several satellite wetlands that were of international importance and a national park. Lake Parishan is a fresh water lake located in Arjan Protected Area in Shiraz Province. In 2009, following a Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE), it was also decided that Shadegan Wetland (SW), which had previously considered a replication site for the Proect, be considered a pilot site on its own.

In light of previous experience, if it were to be successful, the Project had to address the main threats to the pilot sites, namely:[17]

- Changes to the water regime (dams, diversion, irrigation, wastage);
- Aquatic and noise pollution (from agriculture, industry, domestic, boats and aircraft);
- Unsustainable exploitation of wetland resources (over-fishing, over-grazing and over-hunting);
- Conversion of wetland habitats (agriculture and urban developments);
- Land degradation in watersheds (deforestation, over-grazing, agriculture);

[17] Hunnam, as no.1 above, p.14, referencing the Project Brief (2003) and the Project Inception Report (2006).

- Transport infrastructure; and
- Species introductions, particularly invasive species (accidental and deliberate).

Because previously the designation of Wetland Protected Areas (WPAs) by the DoE had not proven effective, the designers of the Project wished to develop a plan that took a new approach in wetland conservation in Iran. The new approach that was decided upon is characterised by two key words:[18]

1. **Participation** – for relevant stakeholders to be appropriately and actively engaged in the conservation effort; and
2. **Integration** – to ensure that decisions about land, water and biodiversity use, which affect wetlands, take into account the diverse influences upon wetlands by all sectors of human economic development and livelihood activities.

Thus the goal, objectives and intended outcomes of the Project were developed. They are summarised in Table 3 below:[19]

| | |
|---|---|
| **Project Goal** | To catalyse the sustainability of Iran's system of wetland protected areas (WPAs), thereby enhancing its effectiveness as a tool for conserving globally significant biodiversity. |
| **Project Objective** | To establish an effective management system to systematically remove or substantially mitigate threats facing globally significant biodiversity and sustainability at two WPA demonstration sites, while ensuring that the lessons learned are absorbed within WPA management systems throughout Iran. |
| **Outcome 1** | Model wetland management system designed and being implemented by DoE and other local stakeholders at demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity. |
| **Outcome 2** | Model intersectoral coordination demonstrated at provincial and basin level enhances the sustainability of the wetland conservation system by, inter alia helping to address threats arising at ecosystem level. |
| **Outcome 3** | National level wetland management and inter-sectoral coordination structures poses and utilize enhanced capacities, and the model system developed through Outcomes 1 and 2 above is applied to wetlands throughout Iran through strategies, replications, tools and exchange of |

[18] Hunnam, as no.1 above, p.14.

[19] Ibid, p.17. Please note that the wording for the outcomes above differ from those in the original Project Document. This is because they were revised after the Mid-Term Evaluation conducted by Peter Hunnam and Raya Benis.

| | |
|---|---|
| | knowledge and lessons learned. |

**Table 3**

## 3.2 Drought Risk Management Project

As noted previously, the LUB is facing a critical threat in the form of a persistent drought and increased demands on local water resources. If this were to continue, it would be disastrous to the local microclimate and biodiversity. What is more, it puts to question the relevance and effectiveness of the overall Project.

In light of this critical situation, joint UNDP and Project team visits were undertaken in early July 2008. Discussions were held with local stakeholders including local officials, NGOs and communities. It was agreed to develop a drought risk management plan to be integrated into the Project.

As a result, the *Lake Uromiyeh Drought Risk Management Project for Sustainable Livelihoods, Biodiversity and Microclimate Management Project* was created. The rational of the project is to provide technical support that would "focus on building a critical technical knowledge base around climate change and its impacts on microclimates, persistent droughts and biodiversity."[20]

For brevity, Table 4 outlines the project key facts that differ from the overall Project, and Table 5 states the project goal and objective, it also contains the four outputs required of it.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Project Title** | *Lake Uromiyeh Drought Risk Management Project for Sustainable Livelihoods, Biodiversity and Microclimate Management Project* |
| **Project Duration** | 2 Years |
| **Project Budget** | USD$200,000.00 (UNDP) TRAC Funding |

**Table 4**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Project Goal** | To establish an ecosystem based management for the lake and its satellite wetlands within the context of sustainable development with effective involvement of all stakeholders including local communities. |
| **Project Objective** | Effective drought risk management for sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity in the environs of Lake Uromiyeh. |
| **Output 1** | [**X**] pubic officials, technical experts and NGO representatives benefited from national and international knowledge/experience exchange visits and other learning opportunities. |
| **Output 2** | International technical research and capacity building support provided to relevant public agencies for scientific |

[20] UNDP, as no.6 above, p2.

| | |
|---|---|
| | research around causative links/scientific evidence for climate change, persistent drought and local development interventions and threats to Lake Uromiyeh, including identification of opportunities for sustainable resource use. |
| **Output 3** | [**X**] multistakeholder demonstrative projects developed and implemented for improved /diversified livelihoods and natural resource management. |
| **Output 4** | [**X**] knowledge management/reflection sessions/researches organised to produce lessons learned documents/reports and wide distribution for replication. |

**Table 5**

### 3.2.1 Project Entities

There are several entities involved in the Project, three of which are noted below.

#### a. Global Environment Facility

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established in 1991 through the World Bank to assist developing countries protect the global environment and to promote environmentally sustainable development. The GEF works by providing grants, which when applied, should transform a national project into one that benefits the global environment.[21] Globally, GEF grants support projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants.

In 1994, GEF was restructured so that it became a permanent and separate institution in its own right. The UNDP, United Nations Environment Program and World Bank are the initial three implementing partners of GEF, though the World Bank has also become a trustee of the GEF Trust Fund. [22]

Today, the GEF is the largest funder of projects to improve the global environment. It has allocated USD$9.2 billion, supplemented by more than USD$40 billion in co-financing, for more than 2,700 projects in more than 165 developing countries and countries undergoing economic transition. Through its Small Grants Programme, the GEF has also made more than 12,000 small grants directly to nongovernmental and community organizations, totalling $495 million.[23]

#### b. United Nations Development Programme

The UNDP is the UN's development network. It works to advocate for change and connect countries to knowledge, experience and resources. In doing this, it also assists countries attract and use aid

[21] Global Environment Fund Website, *What is GEF*, http://www.thegef.org/gef/whatisgef, (accessed 12 December 2010).

[22] Ibid, (accessed 12 December 2010).

[23] Ibid, (accessed 12 December 2010).

effectively.[24] In this way, the UNDP is often, as in this case, an implementing partner and assists national projects in receiving and administering funds.

### c. Department of Environment

The DoE is headed by the First Vice President and tasked with the protection of Iran's natural environment. In order to achieve this, the DoE not only works to control the hunting of Iran's wildlife, but it also works in areas such as the preventing of the release of pollutants into waterways and the atmosphere, the prevention of the over extraction of Iran's natural resources and the compliance with Iran's international environmental commitments. In doing this, it also works with other Government ministries to find a balance between often competing demands.

## 3.2.2 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

A detailed Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan is included as Annex 1.2 of the Project Document. A summary of this M&E Plan is as follows:

| | Type of Action | Stakeholders | Due by |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Planning** | | | |
| 1 | Preparation and Submission of the Project Annual Planning & Reporting Package | Project Board & Project Team | By end of January 2010 |
| 2 | Quarterly Work plans 2010 | Project Team | 15 January, April, July, October 2010 |
| **Reporting** | | | |
| 3 | Quarterly Progress Reports | Executive Board, Implementing Partners as described in Project Document, Project Team, General Public (via Project website) | For comments: 1st Q report by 15 April 2010, 2nd Q report by 15 July 2010 & 3rd Q report by 15 Oct 2010 |
| 4 | Workshops to be reported by assigned rapporteur | Project Management, M&E and Workshop Participants | Within 1 month of workshop |
| 5 | Bilingual Annual Report | Project Board, Implementing Partners as described in Project Document, Project Team, General Public (via Project website) | 11 Dec 2010 to be sent for review of Project Team 15 Dec 10 incorporate comments, 17 Dec 2010 send copy to Board members |
| **Monitoring** | | | |
| 6 | Update Project Equipment | Project Management & M&E | Quarterly (last week of March, June, September and |

[24] United Nations Development Programme Website, *About UNDP*, http://www.undp.org/about/, (accessed 12 December 2010).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Inventory List | | December 2010) |
| 7 | Site visits | Project Management | Two missions in each quarter. Reports are due within three days upon return from mission. |
| 8 | Mission Logs | M&E | Quarterly (last week of Mar, Jun, Sept and Dec 10) |
| 9 | Risks, Issue and Lessons Learnt Logs | M&E | Quarterly (last week of Mar, Jun, Sept and Dec 10) |
| 10 | Project SC Meetings | Project Board Members, M&E | July and Dec 10 |
| 11 | Reviewing and applying management response for MTE | Project Board, Implementing Partners as described in Project Document, Project Team, General Public (via Project website) | Quarterly (last week of Mar, Jun, Sept and Dec 10) |

**Table 6**

# 4.0 Progress in Attaining Project Outcomes

This section of the report discusses the overall progress towards achieving the Project outcomes. Each section begins by stating the respective target outcome or objective and is followed by the key results for that outcome that have culminated in 2010. This is followed by a general overview regarding the Project's progress towards the overall objective, with reference to Table 10 is included in Annexure IV.

## 4.1 Local Model Wetland Management System

Outcome One: *Model wetland management system designed and being implemented by DoE and other local stakeholders at demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats to globally significant biodiversity.*

### a. Establishment of Lake Parishan Local Management Committee

This committee came to be established as an integral part of the LP Management Plan. Through the establishment of the LP Local Management Committee, the management philosophy of this lake has changed from that of a top-down, state and sectoral run process to an integrated and participatory approach. This approach is therefore now inclusive and consultative, and works to ensure the sustainable development of LP.

The committee is made up of representatives of key sectoral agencies (MJA, DOE, Water Authority, Natural Resources Organisation (NRO), Department for Cultural Heritage and Tourism (DCHT)), three NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBO), and five representatives from village councils. Indicative of the provincial authority's commitment to this lake, the committee is chaired by the Governor of Kazeroun. The Committee also has working groups that focus on biodiversity, water and agriculture, ecotourism and alternative livelihoods.

The key responsibility of this committee is to oversee the implementation of the LP Management Plan (discussed in more detail below). It also identifies development proposals and submits them to the relevant provincial authority for funding and approval. These proposals are based on the wetland Management Plan and also covers areas surrounding the wetland. Approximately ten proposals have been made so far though no budgets have been allocated as yet. The Committee also works to resolve land use conflicts between the DoE and local farmers, finding methods for the sustainable use of groundwater, address the use of illegal wells and identify pilot villages for sustainable agriculture.

### b. Lake Uromiyeh, Lake Parishan and Shadegan Wetland Management Plans

As a result of actions taken to develop Management Plans for the LU, LP and SW (Project Sites), there is now an agreed common vision between all stakeholders for the future of these protected areas and for their development. These management plans are comprehensive documents that identify the key actions to be taken for the restoration of each Project Site and who is responsible for the implementation of each part of the plan. They also work as an informal "shopping list" for the Government in securing budgets for key actions to be taken. An example of this has been the

ability of the LU National Management Committee to use them to have national budgets mobilised for the implementation of emergency and priority action projects.

The Management Plans were developed over the last two years through the participation of all key stakeholders, including the local communities. The later group is critical as it shows an understanding that in order for the outcomes and objectives of this project to be sustainable, local communities have to be brought on board so that they feel they have a stake in the health and future of their local environment.

All three Management Plans have now been adopted by Government authorities. The Management Plan for SW has only just been adopted, however those for LU and LP are now in implementation. The next steps are for these plans to continue in implementation until completion, and to have a short review of each before the end of the Project.

### c. Establishing Boundary Markers

Although it may appear relatively minor, a key step towards the achievement of Outcome One is the establishment of boundary markers around the Project Sites. By having this done, the Project will be able to reduce encroachment into the wetlands because there are clearly marked boundaries. More importantly, it will help identify areas where land conflict issues exist and work as a mechanism for the resolution these issues with local communities.

Having this done is no easy process. Although the Project is working to reduce these, there are still some boundary and land use disputes between local farmers and the DoE. Thus having these markers and boundaries created has involved much discussion, negotiation and cooperation with local stakeholders, especially NGOs and CBOs. The Project team is working as a facilitator between all the parties involved, while the DoE has been responsible for conducting the markings. Recently the Project worked to obtain funds from the national budget and the Fars Province DOE to help mark the boundary of LP.

To date, 80% of the boundary marking for LU has been completed, while 50% has been done for LP. Shadegan Wetland is yet to have any mapping work conducted.

### d. Community Engagement

This has been one of the most notable development outcomes of this Project. When the Project first commenced, there were heated debates between local farmers and villagers and the Government authorities, particularly the DoE. However, through the hard work of the Project Team and their commitment to the philosophy of engaged, community-based development, the situation has changed by almost 180degrees. Now, the community groups are among the strongest supporters of the DoE and often look to it to support their initiatives to protect their local environment. What is more, recently a local community prepared a petition with over 4000 signatures from the various villages in the area seeking that a road not be built through their area because of the damage it would cause to their wetland. This community looked to the Project Office and the DoE for their assistance.

As noted above, achieving this turn around has not been easy and has been the result of engaging local communities as much as possible. This includes:

- The involvement of CBOs and NGOs in the development of management plans and key decisions. The LP Management Committee has for example a total of eight seats dedicated to civil society representatives.

- The Project has also trained local Environment Guards in participatory approaches to wetland protection and trained locals to work as eco-guides. This work was also conducted with the assistance of the private sector.

- Female Sustainable Agriculture Facilitators have been trained at LP to not only engage locals but also specifically work to include women into the development process. This is particularly true in the ten villages around LP where training for ten women to work as facilitators in sustainable agriculture activities has been conducted. This training has been conducted with the cooperation of the provincial bureaux of the MJA.

- Eco-tourism guides have also been trained in the villages around LP through the support of a NGO. It is hoped that these guides will serve as a model for further eco-tourism and alternative livelihood creation at other wetlands around the country.

Recently, the Project also worked to implement a wetland protection measure proposed by the local community at LP. Noting the low water levels of the wetland, local villages proposed to the Project that they develop a small water reservoir on the edge of the wetland where animals and fish could take refuge until the winter rains arrived. This proposal was accepted and through the effort of the local community, this reservoir has been successfully created. This serves as an example of the close relationship of the Project Office and the local community, and the level of local engagement in the Project objectives.

### e. Establishment of Lake Parishan Provincial Technical Committee

This body was established to allow for easier consultation and faster decision-making on technical issues that are raised and proposed by the Local Communittee. Each member of the PCC introduces a representative to organise Provincial Technical Committee (PTC). This committee works with the Local Committee to evaluate the feasibility of technical solutions proposed and the cost estimates made. Evaluations are then reported to the PCC for final approval and assigning required budget.

## 4.2 Provincial Level Model Intersectoral Coordination

Outcome Two: *Model intersectoral coordination demonstrated at provincial and basin level enhances the sustainability of the wetland conservation system by, inter alia, helping to address threats arising at ecosystem level.*

### a. Lake Uromiyeh National Committee Established

The establishment of the LU National Committee has been a major step towards ensuring intersectoral coordination between the various groups involved in the sustainable conservation and development of the LUB. This committee brings together the three Provincial Governors of the provinces surrounding LU, five government Ministers, two Presidential Deputies and critically the First Vice President. As such, it is a very high level committee and is potentially critical for the implementation of the LU Management Plan.

In general, this committee is responsible for the implementation of the LU Management Plan, though given the serious condition of the lake it has initially focused on emergency issues. Since its establishment, this committee has held three meetings. Some of the key decisions from these meetings include:

1. A ban on any further water development projects in the LUB, with the exception of Kurdistan which may continue to have some projects up to the level of its watershare (which is to be finalised soon). It is these development projects that have been a reason behind the dangerously low water levels at LU.
2. A guaranteed water allocation of 3.1bcm for LU and a further 73mcm for the satellite wetlands. This has been noted as their environmental water right.
3. Twelve emergency action plans for 2011, with a total budget of USD$4.7m.
4. Twenty-four priority actions to be taken, as per the management plans. These have been allocated a massive USD$1.3b budget for over the next five years.
5. That the MJA is to support any local farmer water efficiency plan by providing 50% of the required costs of the proposed plan. The remaining 50% is to be given to farmers in the form of bank loans.
6. That the MJA is to work to enforce the controls on illegal water abstraction around the lake.

The Project team has been critical to the establishment of this committee. Not only did they catalyse its formation but it has also been through their facilitation efforts and direction that it has been brought together. To demonstrate its further support, the NPM is currently acting as secretary to this committee.

### b. Lake Uromiyeh Water and Agriculture Working Group

Related to the achievement above has been the establishment of the LU Water and Agriculture Working Group. This committee is made up of experts in the fields of water, agriculture and environment. It also includes representatives from provincial agencies (MJA, DOE, Water Authority, NRO, DCHT).

It has been through the establishment of this working group that the water requirements for LU and the satellite wetlands have been calculated and the recommendations for the three provincial water allocations have been made. As such, this committee has been very active in the basin water right calculation processes and continues to be active in the watershare calculation process.

The Project team has been a major contributor to the creation of this Committee. It has worked with the provincial partners to facilitate its design, governance and structure. It has also assisted by setting out the TORs for each of its requisite members.

### c. Final Agreement on Lake Uromiyeh Water Right

For some time the massive demands on the water resource of the LUB has been a major threat to the future and sustainability of the lake and surrounding wetlands. However now, through the support of the Project, there has now been final agreement on the LU Watershare. This agreement

ensures that each province will allow, as an environmental right, a specific amount of water each for the preservation of the LUB environment. It takes an integrated water resources management approach. As before, the agencies involved are the MJA, DOE, Water Authority, NRO, DCHT. It uses a modelling system for the water allocation, which is based on existing statistical data on the LUB.

As noted above, the creation of this agreement has been conducted through the involvement of the Water and Agriculture Working Group, which made recommendations to the LU National Management Committee. The next steps will be to implement the agreement and ensure that the water needs of the LUB are met.

## 4.3 National Wetland Management and Coordination

Outcome Three: *National level wetland management and intersectoral coordination structures poses and utilize enhanced capacities, and the model system developed through Outcomes 1 and 2 above is applied to wetlands throughout Iran through strategies, replications, tools and exchange of knowledge and lessons learned.*

### a. Second Draft of National Wetland Conservation Strategy and Action Plan

In order to create a national wetland management framework and assist in the coordination of the various organisations and stakeholders, the Project has now finalised the second draft of the National Wetland Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. This is a document that incorporates both a strategy and an action plan and aims to set a clear process for conserving Iran's wetlands.

As such, it covers all the relevant aspects of wetland conservation, especially water allocations and the mainstreaming of an ecosystem approach to WPAs. The approach it takes is again that of an integrated water resources management.

It has been developed through the facilitation of the Project Office and inputs from MJA, DOE, Water Authority, NRO, DCHT. This was done through holding three participatory workshops that were facilitated by the Project team and receiving feedback and comments from relevant parties.

The next steps will be to have the document adopted by the national government and secure the requisite funds for its implementation.

### b. Development of Iranian Wetland Database

It is hoped that a key national coordination and information gathering tool will be the Wetland Database which is being developed through the Project. It works on the approach taken by MEDWET and will be a tool for the storing, monitoring and sharing of information on the status of wetlands around the country. This is a technology that has been widely used in other international wetland protection programmes and has now been adapted to the Iranian situation.

The Wetland Database is web-based so individuals are able to track and update information and habitat details from their local wetlands. They are also able to input information on the various species that are present at their wetland site and also the various human uses of the environmental resources.

Eventually it will be made available to the public and have information inputted by all the provincial offices of the DoE. The database is still going through the final stages of its testing but once completed, it will be adopted by the DoE.

### c. Awareness Raising and Sensitisation

Since commencement, the Project team have understood that a key tool for ensuring the protection of national wetlands is public awareness raising activities. These efforts have not gone unrewarded and as the project's awareness raising activities have resulted in the public's appreciation of national wetlands, the need for their management and their significance.

The project worked to raise public awareness about wetlands on three levels: local, provincial and national. On a local level the Project works closely with the communities in various ways, especially in capacity development. These are noted throughout this report. At a provincial level, the Project has conducted activities such as installing billboards around the Project sites. Nationally the Project works closely with the IRIB to ensure information about the wetlands, their condition and their threats are broadcast on public media where possible. For example September, the Project team met with the IRIB to discuss the broadcasting of a documentary on the drought risk to the LUB. This public broadcasting is also complemented by various publications and printed material that the Project team itself prepares. Further, each year, with the support of the DOE, the Project team places an advertisement in public newspapers calling for nominations for Wetland Champions. Once selected, the three Wetland Champions are given awards for their wetland protection activities at the World Wetland Day ceremonies.

Indicative of the effectiveness of these activities has been the adoption of World Wetland Day ceremonies by the public. When the Project first started ceremonies were held at only one of the project sites and they were organised by the Project Office. However, now the Project office is inundated each year with requests that they attend wetland ceremonies in provinces not even part of the project, where local communities, NGOs and provincial authorities have taken it upon themselves to organise events.

Sensitisation activities have also been conducted so that new initiatives can be adopted into national systems. The sustainable agriculture plan has been proposed and developed with the MJA and pilot sites have now been identified around LU. Through the sensitisation work conducted these plans are to begin implementation in 2011. The Project team is now working with the MJA and DOE to have an environmental awareness and ecosystem approach included in provincial development plans. Part of this has been attendance of key policy makers at the community of practice workshops in October. It is also working to introduce the eco-village concept to the authorities around LU. Information on this concept has been given and two villages have been selected as demonstration sites. The next task will be to have this practice recognised officially and fully begin implementation.

### d. Establishing a Regional Community of Practice for Wetland Conservation Managers

A highlight of the Project activities this year, and an advancement towards the achievement of Outcome Three, has been the establishment of a Regional Community of Practice for Wetland Conservation Managers. This was a new initiative of the Project and involved the gathering of

wetland conservation managers from the region and sharing ideas, lessons learnt, good practice and experiences in wetland conservation. Prior to this, there were few opportunities for wetland managers to directly interact and share their experiences.

After much planning and organisation by the Project team, the first Community of Practice Workshop was held in October on the edge of LU. Forty participants attended the event and eleven international case studies were presented.

The workshop proved very successful and it is now to occur on an annual basis, with various international projects hosting the workshop. The Project office has also organised and produced a report about the key information shared from the workshop. What is more, future events are likely to be supported and co-financed by the Ramsar Regional Centre, UNDP and UNEP.

## 4.4 Drought Risk Management

Objective: *Effective Drought Risk Management for Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity in the Environs of Lake Uromiyeh.*

### a. International Drought Risk Management Workshop

Similar to the establishment of a regional community of practice, the Project has come up with the idea and has now conducted the logistical preparation for hosting an international drought risk management workshop. As before, this workshop works to allow international experts to attend a knowledge-sharing and knowled-transfer workshop on this topic. To date, experts from around the world, including Europe and Australia, have been invited to attend and it is hoped to take place in early February 2011.

### b. University Based Research and Ideas

The Project has been working with post-graduate and PhD students to develop ideas and conduct research on drought risk management. These students sign memoranda of understanding with the Project Office to conduct this work, and in exchange they receive financial support for their work. One such student developed a 20minute film on the effect threatened state of Iran's wetlands and received first prize at a national film competition.

## 4.5 Progress Towards the Overall Objective

Overall Objective: *To establish an effective management system to systematically remove or substantially mitigate threats facing globally significant biodiversity and sustainability at two WPA demonstration sites, while ensuring that the lessons learned are absorbed within WPA management systems throughout Iran.*

The Project has now completed its fifth year of operation and has made substantial progress towards its objectives. It is currently working to complete the remaining objectives of Outcomes One and Two. For the next two years, its focus will be on rolling out the wetland management framework beyond the project sites and to all the other Wetland Protected Areas (WPAs). This is in line with Output 3.2 of the Annual Work Plan and mobilising resources from national budgets. As

such, it will be working to ensure the sustainability of the Project's activities by working to establish the National Wetlands Strategy Committee and having the DoE act as a secretariat for this committee. It will also look to build the capacities of partners so that they may assume responsibility for the wetlands.

In line with this strategy, the Project has developed a Rapid Assessment of Key Wetlands in the country based on the experience gained at the main demonstration sites. The Habitat Office of the DOE has worked to develop a guideline for the assessment and these have been introduced to the provincial DOE offices where the project sites are located. DOE staff have also been trained on how to conduct the assessments so that they can be later introduced to other offices in the country.

## 5.0 Financial Overview

The information below is a break down of the Project finances to date. Please note that unless stated otherwise, all figures are given in US Dollar denominations. [25]

Table 7 below provides a breakdown of the various sources of funding for the Project. Only two sources of funding are controlled by the UNDP, that from the TRAC and GEF budget lines. The rest is provided in parallel from government partners.

| Fund | Allocation |
|---|---|
| TRAC* | 200,000.00 |
| GEF | 2,915,000.00 |
| Government of Iran (In Parallel) | 9,190,000.00 |
| Government of Netherlands (In Parallel) | 600,000.00 |
| **Total** | **12,905,000.00** |

**Table 7**

Table 8 below provides information on the total amount of TRAC and GEF funding budgeted and utilised by the Project. An annual breakdown of the figures below is available in Annexure V as Table 11. However, for simplicity, Figures 1 and 2 on the following page present this information in graphical form.

| Fund | Total Allocated TRAC and GEF Funding | Funds Utilised (2005-2010)** | Balance |
|---|---|---|---|
| TRAC | 200,000.00 | 119,697.99 | 80,302.01 |
| GEF | 2,915,000.00 | 2,166,325.10 | 748,674.90 |
| **TOTAL** | **3,115,000.00** | **2,286,023.09** | **828,976.91** |

**Table 8**

[25] Financial overview of the project was prepared based on annual CDRs.

* For the drought component.

** Figures for 2010 are indicative and subject to change with the completion of 2010 End Year financial closure processes.

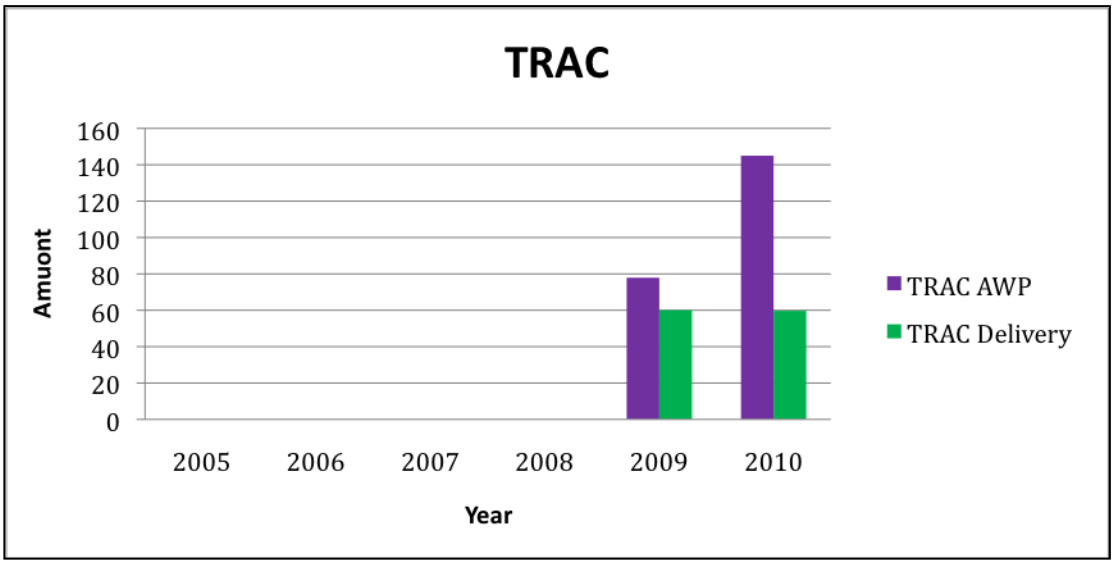


**Figure 1**

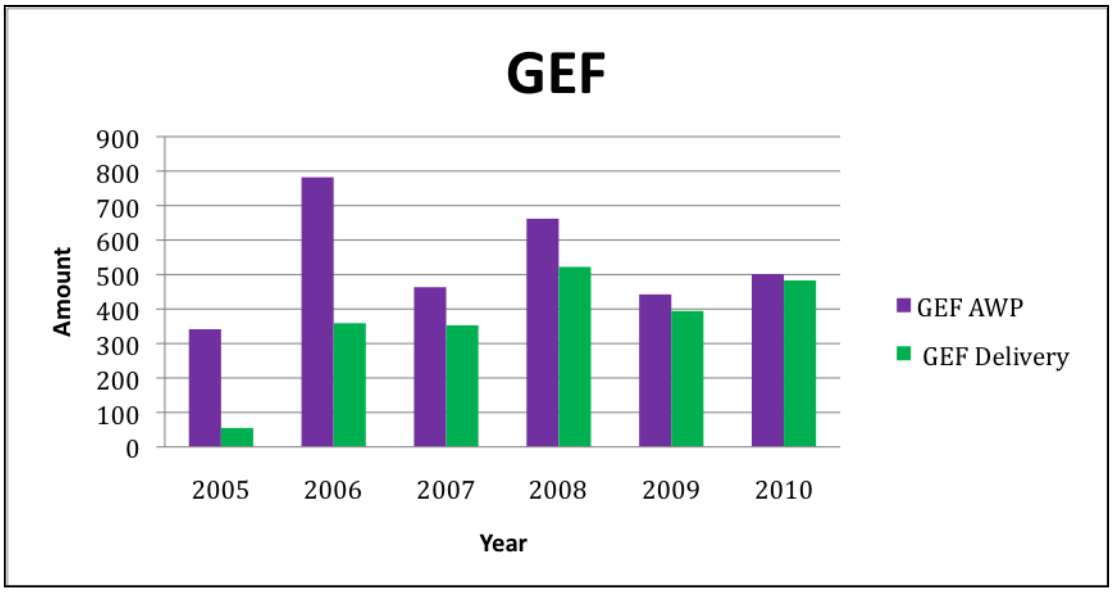


**Figure 2**

The last table, Table 9, provides a breakdown of how the TRAC and GEF funding lines. Tables 11 and 12 in Annexure V provide an individualised breakdown for these budget lines.

| Budget Categories | TRAC and GEF Funds Utilised in 2005-2010* | Percentage of Total TRAC & GEF Utilised ($2.3mil) |
|---|---|---|
| Human Resources (including consultants) | 1,322,482.96 | 57.85% |
| Travel | 267,403.51 | 11.70% |
| Equipments | 503,861.41 | 22.04% |
| Others** | 192,692.25 | 8.43% |
| Gain & Loss | -417.23 | -0.02% |
| **Total** | **2,286,022.90** | **100.00%** |

**Table 9**

For 2011 and 2012, the Project will move into the implementation of its exit strategy. As such it will focus its activities and spending on the achievement of outcome three and the rolling-out of the Wetland Management Systems to all the national wetland areas.

* Figures for 2010 are indicative and subject to change with the completion of 2010 End Year financial closure processes.

** Others includes: Sundry, Audit, Supplies, Grants, Hospitality, Professional Services and ISS.

# 6.0 Challenges and Issues

### a. Institutionalisation of Budgets and Management Structures

Although the Project has not had any direct budget problems itself, a challenge faced by the Project has been in having the budget allocations for the LU, LP and SW Management Plans institutionalised within national systems. As such, this has as also meant that there is a challenge in ensuring these budget allocations are sustained into the future.

Related to this is the challenge of ensuring management structures are sustainable. The Project has been successful in having key management structures created for the sustainable management of the Project Sites. However, it will be important to ensure that these entities are able to be maintained by national partners into the future.

These will be issues that will need to be overcome if the successes achieved to date are to continue after the Project has closed.

### b. Transferring Responsibilities

Over the life of the Project, many new and innovative activities have been attempted and these have, by and large, been successful. The Project is now moving into its final stage of ensuring the work done can be adopted into the wetland management system. As such, a challenge faced by the Project is having the newly created responsibilities transferred over to national partners and carrying out the national roll-out strategy.

## 7.0 Risk Management

| Risk | Suggested Solution |
|---|---|
| Wetlands will dry out as a result of the severe drought. | The new Drought Risk Management component has been added to the Project through the assistance of the UNDP to address this risk at LU. This could then become part of the Ecological Management Plan.<br>At LP immediate action has been taken to help save endangered species. This included the collection and transfer of turtles to available water bodies with the local community. A pond has also been created on the coastal part of LP to create a temporary habitat for endangered species.<br>To continue to mitigate this risk, it will be important to ensure the Watershare Agreement is adhered to in the future. |
| A shift in priorities such that agreement made on the watershare for the LUB are not complied with. | In order to minimise this risk, the agreement reached by WAWG should gain statutory status for the issuing of Water Allocation Permits. This could be administered by a commission named after, for example, Article 67 of the 4th Development Plan. The Commission could have representatives from all provinces and also from the MOE and MJA.- This is because the Basin Council is too large to do manage the specific issue of water allocation monitoring. |

# 8.0 Lessons Learned and Good Practices

### a. Public Awareness Surveys

The Project needed to know the level of public awareness regarding the condition of national and local wetlands. However, there was some difficulty in conducting effective public awareness surveys at national, provincial and local levels because of Project capacities. To overcome this, the Project worked to gain the cooperation of the IRIB. Using its extensive public feedback structures, the IRIB was able to conduct over 3000 face-to-face interviews with people from Gorgan, Karzerun, Tehran, Shiraz, Uromiyeh and Tabriz. Through the IRIB, the Project was able to utilise their institutional surveying infrastructure to conduct the required surveys.

### b. Community Engagement

If projects are to be successfully implemented and the outcomes to be long lasting, it is critical that local community leaders are assured of the motives of the project and agree with the proposed activities. To achieve this, the support and networks of local NGOs can be obtained and utilised. The Project's experiences and commitment to implementing a plan that was based on participation and integration, coupled with its successes to date, are an example of the benefits of community engagement.

### c. Water Allocations

A critical step towards the achievement of Outcome Two was the achievement of an agreement between the three provinces surrounding LUB. In order to have this agreement maintained, it was critical to have the three provincial authorities happy with its terms. Therefore, through various consultative meetings the Project team worked with these parties to decide a workable water allocation. This proved difficult as one of the provinces wanted more than what the Water and Agriculture Working Group had recommended. To overcome this challenge, the Project had to revise and check its method of calculating the water allocations and to come up with a workable figure. Ultimately, through further consultation and the revision mentioned, an agreement where all parties were happy was reached.

### d. Dispute Resolution

A key challenge that the Project Team has learnt to overcome is how to manage disputes with locals at project sites. These often occurred because there were disagreements about the boundary of the lakes and wetlands and the land should be used. To overcome this, the Project team establish a structured dispute resolution mechanism at LP where grievances could be aired and addressed. This was done with the cooperation of key partners the judiciary. This mechanism is still a work in progress though it is assisting in the gradual resolution of disputes.

Another technique employed by the Project team has been the appointment of a Community Liaison Officer at SW. This was because it was noted that a full-scale dispute resolution mechanism was not needed here.

### e. Establishing a Community of Practice

A good practice implemented by the Project was the establishment of a regional community of wetland management practice. As discussed above, this action helped bring together wetland management experts from various countries in the region so that experiences and knowledge could be easily shared. This will serve as a useful tool in the future for ensuring the mutual improvement of WPA management practices across the region. This is also a demonstrable example of South-South cooperation.

# 9.0 Recommendations

## a. Previous Recommendations

Following the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE), ten recommendations were made. Of those recommendations, seven have been fully implemented and three are being finalised as part of the national roll-out strategy.

## b. Community Buy-in

It was noted by the Project Team that if programmes are to be implemented that require local buy-in, a useful method in achieving this is to hold a large ceremony at the start of implementation. However, instead of having the Project Office organise the ceremony, give the responsibility of organisation to the local community. In this way, they are more likely to take pride in the event organised and that they have a stake in the success of the programme.

## 10.0 Conclusion

Over the last five years of implementation, the Project has come a long way towards achieving its objective of establishing an effective management system that addresses the threats to the Project Sites. What is more, it is working to ensure the lessons learned from this experience are absorbed within WPA management systems throughout Iran.

On a national level, the urgent need to address the threats to wetland ecosystems has been taken to the highest levels of Government through the establishment of the LU National Management Committee. It has been established within the Office of the President. Further, the National Wetland Conservation Strategy has been drafted and circulated to stakeholders for comments. The next step will be to send it to cabinet for approval.

On a provincial level, integrated Management Plans have been created for each of the Project sites. Two of these, LU and LP, are now undergoing implementation. Further, a water distribution model has been developed for LU through the Water and Agriculture Working Group, a group established through this Project. This should ensure that the provinces surrounding LU release adequate water into LU to maintain its ecological integrity. The Regional Lake Uromiyeh Basin Management Committee has been established, though it is yet to convene meetings. Once a decision on water allocations in the regional basin is finalised it will commence operation.

At the local level, wetland mapping techniques have been passed onto the pilot sites and mapping has begun at LU and LP. The fact that this has been possible has been through the active engagement of the local community and the efforts of the Project team to establish mechanisms for the resolution of land use despites between the DoE and locals. In collaboration with NGOs and the UNDP, participatory approaches to wetland rehabilitation and management have also been advocated to local communities. Most recently, through the support of the MJA, female sustainable agriculture facilitators have been trained for LP.

In spite of these successes, the persistent drought continues to be a major threat to Iran's wetlands, particularly. Of particular concern is that they have resulted in the drastic diminishing of the water levels of LU and LP and as a result both lakes are on the brink of desiccation. As such, the Drought Risk Management component of the Project has not been able to deliver some of its planned outputs for this period.

# References

The documents reviewed in the preparation of this report were:


- Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project, *Annual Progress Report* (2007)
- Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project, *Annual Progress Report* (2008)
- Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project, *Annual Progress Report* (2009)
- Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project, *Progress Implementation Report* (2010).
- Global Environment Facility Website, www.thegef.org.
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- Ramsar Website, www.ramsar.org.
- United Nations Development Programme – Iran, *Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project Document*, (2004).
- United Nations Development Programme – Iran, *Lake Uromiyeh Drought Risk Management Project for Sustainable Livelihoods, Biodiversity and Micro-climate Management (Supplementary project to the ongoing UNDP/GEF Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project*).
- United Nations Development Programme Website, www.undp.org.

# Annexures

## Annexure I – Interviewees

The names of those interviewed, as well as their relationship with the Projects Group, are noted below:

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## Annexure II – Project Logical Framework

**Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project**

**PROJECT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK, November 2009**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GOAL** | **To enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of Iran's system of wetland protected areas (WPAs) as a tool for conserving globally significant biodiversity** | | | | | |
| **PURPOSE** | **To systematically remove or substantially mitigate threats facing globally significant biodiversity and sustainability at two WPA demonstration sites, while ensuring that the lessons learned are absorbed within WPA management systems throughout Iran** | | | | | |
| | | **INDICATORS** | **TARGETS** | **BASELINE** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** | **RISKS/ASSUMPTIONS** |
| | | Population of indicator bird species in Lake Uromiyeh and satellite wetlands | <u>Flamingos</u><br>>2,500 breeding pairs annually<br><br><u>White Pelican</u> | 209 pairs, Average 2003-2006. (Was15-25,000prs in mid 1970s (Scott 1995))<br><br>110 Pairs, Average 2003-2006. (Was 1000-1600 prs in mid 1970s (Scott 1995)) | Waterbird counts | Externally arising threats (eg and climate change/drought) negate efforts to sustainably manage the sites<br><br>Government institutions are |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | >200 breeding pairs annually<br><br><u>4 globally threatened waterbirds</u><br><br>20% increase in counts | Average 2003-2006 (all satellite wets.)<br><br>Marmaronetta angustirostris[26] :9<br><br>Oxyura leucocephala[27]: 40<br><br>Aythya nyroca[28] :27<br><br>Branta ruficollis[29] : 1<br><br>TOTAL: 77 | | willing to collaborate inter-sectorally, and adapt their strategies in-line with the project approach<br><br>Provinces are willing to collaborate<br><br>Co-financing commitments are realised |
| | | **INDICATORS** | **TARGETS** | **BASELINE** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** | **RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS** |
| | | Lake Uromiyeh's status and salinity levels | Safeguard as "a magnificent example of a natural, hyper-saline lake | The current status of "a magnificent example of a natural, | Annual management | |

[26] Marbled Teal
[27] White-headed Duck
[28] Ferruginous Duck
[29] Red-breasted Goose

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | with great scenic beauty."<br><br>Salinity less than 240 gr/lit[30] . | hyper-saline lake with great scenic beauty" at risk due to increased salinity levels and decreased water levels.<br><br>Salinity 258.46 gr/lit | reports | |
| | | Area of protected satellite wetlands around Lake Uromiyeh | 1000 ha satellite wetlands gain increased protection | 0ha | DOE list of protected areas | |
| | | Breeding population of globally threatened Dalmation Pelican at Lake Parishan | A 30% increase by the end of project | There is no 2000-05 data on breeding population. Scott (1995) quotes 5-10 pairs for mid 1970s<br><br>Wintering: 64 (2000-05 Jan. average) | Waterbird counts | |

[30] Maximum acceptable level for Artemia is about 230-240 gr/lit while optimum is about 150 gr/lit.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Area of disputed agricultural lands encroached into Lake Parishan | Reduced by 50% | Ca. XXX ha | Annual management reports | |
| | | Ecosystem approach being applied strategically to WPAs at national level | Ecosystem approach to WPAs being promoted through national strategy by end 2010 and being implemented in minimum 5 provinces by EoP | No strategy<br><br>0 provinces | NWCSAP | |

| | OUTPUTS | INDICATORS | TARGETS | BASELINE | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Outcome 1** | **Model wetland management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at demonstration sites to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats** | | | | | |

| | OUTPUTS | INDICATORS | TARGETS | BASELINE | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **to globally significant biodiversity** | | | | | |
| Output 1.1 | Ecosystem-based management plans developed, approved and regularly evaluated by well trained DOE and key stakeholders | Number of staff of DOE and other key stakeholders trained in ecosystem-based management | Training provided in a minimum of 4 key subjects for at least 25 staff of DOE and other key stakeholders at demonstration sites by 2010 | 0 persons<br>0 key subjects | Training course reports | Improved knowledge and skills are effectively used |
| | | Signed Management Plans | LU and LP management plans designed and approved by end 2009 and Shadegan by end 2010, with 1 review carried out for each by end 2011. | No signed management plans for either site<br>0 Reviews | Signed management plans<br>Review reports | Inter-sectoral and inter-provincial cooperation |
| | | Number of successful priority actions from management plans | 50% of priority actions delivering improvements by EoP | 0 | Reports | |
| | | Management guided by baseline studies and monitoring key indicators | Baseline studies and monitoring plans completed by end 2008, site annual reports produced in 2009, 2010 and 2011 | LP No baseline<br>LU: Yekom 2002<br>Shadegan 2002 | Baseline studies<br>Monitoring plan<br>Annual reports | Lead agencies are willing to accept their responsibilities for monitoring |

| | OUTPUTS | INDICATORS | TARGETS | BASELINE | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | and 50% of protocols being implemented by end 2011 | No monitoring plans<br><br>0% implementation | | |
| Output 1.2 | Conservation of wetland biodiversity enhanced by implementation of management plans | Area of wetland habitats conserved and restored | Wetland boundaries identified and marked by end 2009, 1000 ha satellite wetlands better protected by end 2010, and 500ha wetlands restored by end 2011 | Area delineated and marked = 0 ha<br><br>Area with enhanced protection = 0 ha<br><br>Area restored = 0ha | Annual reports | Enforcement if not respected |
| | | Population status of important species | Population of status of important species enhanced (See "Goal" | See "Goal" | See "Goal" | See "Goal" |

| | OUTPUTS | INDICATORS | TARGETS | BASELINE | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | targets) | | | |
| Output 1.3 | Sustainable use of wetland/local resources reducing direct threats to the lake and providing alternative livelihoods by implementation of management plans | Implementation of sustainable ecotourism strategies | Ecotourism Zoning plans developed and approved by end 2009 (Shadegan, 2010).<br><br>Sustainable eco-tourism strategies approved LP by end 2010, Shadegan by end 2011, and 3 ecotourism initiatives sustained by EOP | 0 Tourism strategy<br><br>0 zoning plans<br><br>3 ecotourism initiatives | Zoning plans<br><br>Strategies<br><br>Annual reports | Drought<br><br>Constraints on demand |
| | | Implementation of sustainable fisheries strategies | Fisheries Zoning plans developed and approved by end 2009 (Shadegan, 2010),<br><br>Sustainable fishery strategies approved by end 2010 for LP and 2011 for Shadegan and 1 | 0 Fisheries strategy<br><br>0 zoning plans<br><br>0 cooperatives | Zoning plans<br><br>Strategies<br><br>Annual reports | Cooperation of fishermen<br><br>Drought |

| | OUTPUTS | INDICATORS | TARGETS | BASELINE | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | cooperative operating by EOP | | | |
| | | Eco-village initiatives | Pilot eco-villages selected / activated for LP by end 2010, LU and Shadegan by end 2011 | 0 eco-villages | Reports | Cooperation of villagers |
| Output 1.4 | Local communities aware of values and actively participating in management of demonstration sites | Awareness of local communities | 20% of local population have been engaged by direct "wetland" awareness raising activities by end 2010 (LP/LU) and 2011(Shadegan), and "Wetland" awareness of local communities raised by 20% by EoP | Small-scale sectoral activities by NGOs<br><br>Awareness = XXX | Activity reports | |
| | | Civil society involvement in governance | NGOs and local communities strengthened and represented on management committees by end | 0 | Management plans | Existing disputes with users are resolved |

| | OUTPUTS | INDICATORS | TARGETS | BASELINE | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2008 | | | |
| | | Community participation in priority activities from management plans | Local communities participate in 25% of priority actions of management plans by EOP | 0% | | |
| **OUTCOME 2** | **Model intersectoral coordination demonstrated at provincial and basin level enhances the sustainability of the wetland conservation system by, inter alia helping to address threats arising at ecosystem level.** | | | | | |
| Output 2.1 | Inter-sectoral governance and institutional mechanisms established at demonstration sites | Appropriate high level, intersectoral governance | Lake Uromiyeh Basin Council or Authority established by end 2009 and meeting minimum once per year | No Council,<br>0 meetings | Declaration | Governmental resolve for action |
| | | Management committees | Inter-sectoral management committees established by end 2009 (2010 Shadegan) and meeting at least twice per year | No committees<br>0 meetings | Management plans | Willingness for intersectoral and inter-provincial cooperation. |

| | OUTPUTS | INDICATORS | TARGETS | BASELINE | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Working Groups | 3 Inter-sectoral working groups for LU and LP established by end 2007 (end 2010 for Shadegan) and meeting at least twice per year | No working groups<br>No meetings | Project reports | Commitment of decision-makers and managers |
| | | Secretariats | Secretariats established for LU and LP by end 2010 and Shadegan end 2011 | No secretariats | Project reports | Commitment of decision-makers |
| Output 2.2 | Water requirements of wetlands secured through successful implementation of IWRM | Water allocations to environment | Provincial water allocations to LU approved by end 2009 (mid 2011 for Shadegan), and being implemented by end 2011 (EOP for Shadegan) | No allocations | Project reports | Political will to resolve critical long-term issues |
| | | Drought / climate change adaptation | Drought protocols for LU by end 2010, | 0 | Protocols | Political will to resolve critical long-term issues |

| | OUTPUTS | INDICATORS | TARGETS | BASELINE | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | measures | Shadegan end 2011 | | | Drought |
| | | Sustainable abstraction of groundwater | Strategy for sustainable abstraction of groundwater at LP agreed by mid 2010 and being implemented by 2010 | No strategy and 0% implementation | Report | Political will to resolve critical long-term issues<br>Drought |
| Output 2.3 | Sustainable agriculture, land and waste management practices reduce threats to wetlands | Reduction in pollutant discharges from key point sources to wetlands | 10% reduction in 2/5 most damaging inputs to LP and LU by EoP | Awaiting baseline | Baseline<br>Reports | Enforcement |
| | | Reduction in fertiliser and pesticide/herbicide applications within 1 km of wetlands | 10% reduction around LP and 2 LU satellite wetlands by EOP | Awaiting baseline | Baseline<br>Reports | |
| | | Irrigation efficiency | Irrigation efficiency improves 3% for LP | Awaiting baseline | Strategy<br>Reports | Engagement of Jihad Agriculture |

| | OUTPUTS | INDICATORS | TARGETS | BASELINE | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | and LU by EOP | | | |
| **OUTCOME 3** | **National level wetland management and inter-sectoral coordination structures possess and utilize enhanced capacities, and the model system developed through Outcomes 1&2 above is applied to wetlands throughout Iran through strategies, replications, tools and exchange of knowledge and lessons learned** | | | | | |
| Output 3.1 | National DOE and inter-sectoral capacity to apply the ecosystem approach to wetlands raised | Raised capacity for ecosystem approach | Capacity of 50 key staff from DOE, MOE, MOJA and other key sectors raised to address the ecosystem approach to wetlands, by end 2010 | 0 | Training course and workshop reports | High level support within DOE |
| | | Evidence on threats and management effectiveness | Assessment of threats and management effectiveness at all nationally important wetlands in Iran available by mid 2010 | 0 | Report | |

| | OUTPUTS | INDICATORS | TARGETS | BASELINE | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 3.2 | National system established to plan and roll-out demonstration model approach to wetlands throughout Iran | Wetland conservation policy and implementation plan | Policy / Plan approved by end 2010, with clear "ownership", by national committee | No policy or plan<br>No "owner"<br>0 provinces | Policy / plan | Political will |
| | | Policies influenced in direction of ecosystem approach | Project influences at least 3 key policy issues in direction of ecosystem approach for wetland management | 0 | Project reports | Political will |
| | | Iran Wetland Database and Guidelines | National tools, including wetland database and 4 key guidelines, available by EoP | 0 | Project reports | |
| | | Number of provinces using the system | All provinces introduced to the system, and 3 new provinces starting implementing it by EOP | 0 | Project reports | |

| | OUTPUTS | INDICATORS | TARGETS | BASELINE | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 3.3 | Public awareness of wetland values is raised | Public awareness of wetlands | National public awareness of wetland values raised by 20% by EOP | Baseline: XXX | Awareness surveys | |
| Output 3.4 | Effective project management | Evaluation results | Mid-term and Terminal Evaluations give Satisfactory assessments | 0 | MTE, TE | |
| | | % annual activities achieved | PCO management delivers at least 80% of annual work plan activities | 0 | SIPA reports | |

NB. Main changes to logframe made in November 2009 (post MTE Recommendations)

1. Shadegan added as project demonstration site (not replication site)
2. Outputs in Outcomes 1&2 expanded/strengthened to focus on root causes
3. Emphasis shifted from "wetland protected areas" to "wetlands"
4. New Output (3.4) added to address project management (mainly for budgeting purposes).
5. Concept of replication sites replaced by national policy / plan and broad roll-out strategy across country

## Annexure III – Multistakeholder Agreement

## Annexure IV – Progress towards Project Objective[31]

| ***Objective: To establish an effective management system to systematically remove or substantially mitigate threats facing globally significant biodiversity and sustainability at two WPA demonstration sites, while ensuring that the lessons learned are absorbed within WPA management systems throughout Iran.*** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Indicator** | **Project Target Level** | **Baseline** | **Status at 30 June 2010** |
| Population of indicator bird species in Lake Uromiyeh and satellite wetlands. | – Flamingos >2,500 breeding pairs annually<br>– White Pelican, >200 breeding pairs annually<br>– Four globally threatened waterbirds, 20% increase in counts | – Flamingos ,209 pairs, Average 2003-2006. (Was15-25,000 pairs in mid-1970s (Scott 1995))<br>– White Pelicans, 110 Pairs, Average 2003-2006. (Was 1000-1600 pairs in mid 1970s (Scott 1995))<br>– Marmaronetta Angustirostris: 9<br>Oxyura Leucocephala: 40<br>Aythya Nyroca: 27<br>Branta Ruficollis: 1<br>TOTAL: 77<br>Average 2003-2006 (all satellite wetlands) | – Flamingos: 3670<br>– White Pelicans: 603<br>– Marmaronetta Angustirostris :25 (the decreased level of water in the lake and its wetlands seem to be the main reason for the decrease in the number of observed waterbirds)<br>Oxyura Leucocephala: 123<br>Aythya Nyroca: 289<br>Branta Ruficollis: 0<br>TOTAL: 114 |
| Lake Uromiyeh's status and salinity levels. | – Safeguard as "a magnificent example of a natural, hypersaline lake | – The current status of "a magnificent example of a natural, hypersaline lake | – Drought crisis has further reduced water levels and scenic beauty |

[31] Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project, as above no.14, p. Progress toward meeting Development Objective Tab.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | – with great scenic beauty."<br>– Salinity less than 240 g/L. | – with great scenic beauty" at risk due to increased salinity levels and decreased water levels.<br>– Salinity 258.46 g/L | – Salinity: 370 g/L. |
| Area of protected satellite wetlands around Lake Uromiyeh. | – 1000 ha of satellite wetlands gain increased protection. | – 0 ha | – 230 ha Gorigol (non-hunting area), Garegheshlagh 48000 ha (non-hunting area). |
| Breeding population of globally threatened Dalmatian Pelican at Lake Parishan. | – >200 pair annually. | – There is no 2000-05 data on breeding the population. Scott (1995) quotes 5-10 pairs for mid 1970s.<br>Wintering: 64 (2000-05 January average). | – Wintering: 0 (Jan 2010) because of severe drought. |
| Area of disputed agricultural lands encroached into Lake Parishan. | – Reduced by 50%. | – Ca. 800 ha (Still under negotiation) | – 0% (The issue raised in local management committee, mapping has been started, a committee formed for conflict resolution). |
| Ecosystem approach being applied strategically to WPAs at national level. | – Ecosystem approach to WPAs being promoted through national strategy by end 2010 and being implemented in minimum 5 provinces by EoP. | – No strategy, 0 provinces. | – Second draft of National Strategy prepared and shared with stakeholders for finalisation.<br>– Shadegan Management Plan finalised in stakeholders workshop and hoped to be approved in the near future. |

**Table 10**

## Annexure V – Detailed Project Finances

The Table 11 below provides an annual breakdown of the total GEF and TRAC funding allocated to the Project and the total amount utilised.

| Year | GEF AWP | GEF Delivery | TRAC AWP | TRAC Delivery | Total CDR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 341,461.00 | 55,107.13 | - | - | 55,107.13 |
| 2006 | 782,194.00 | 358,924.64 | - | - | 358,924.64 |
| 2007 | 463,340.00 | 352,962.03 | - | - | 352,962.03 |
| 2008 | 662,122.00 | 522,136.50 | - | - | 522,136.50 |
| 2009 | 442,500.00 | 394,294.80 | 77,900.00 | 60,006.09 | 454,300.89 |
| 2010* | 501,500.00 | 482,900.00 | 100,000.00 | 59,691.90 | 542,591.90 |
| **TOTAL** | **3,193,117.00** | **2,166,325.10** | **177,900.00** | **119,697.99** | **2,286,023.09** |

**Table 11**

Tables 12 and 13 on the subsequent pages provide a breakdown of how the respective TRAC and GEF budget lines were spent.

* Figures for 2010 are indicative and subject to change with the completion of 2010 End Year financial closure processes.

| Budget Categories | Total TRAC budget (2009-2011) | Amount of TRAC Utilised 2005-2010* | Percentage of Variation From Total TRAC Budget ($200K) | Percentage from Total Funds Utilsed ($120K) | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Human Resources including Consultants** | 141,000.00 | 74,255.96 | 47.34% | 62.04% | |
| **Machinery and Equipment** | 23,500.00 | 6,719.89 | 71.40% | 5.61% | |
| **Travel** | 33,000.00 | 21,341.25 | 35.33% | 17.83% | |
| **Others**[++] | 2,500.00 | 17,582.90 | -603.32% | 14.69% | |
| **Gain and loss** | 0.00 | (202.10) | 0.00% | -0.17% | |
| **TOTAL** | **200,000.00** | **119,697.90** | **0.00** | 100.00% | |

**Table 12**

[++] Others includes: Sundry, Audit, Supplies, Grants, Hospitality, Professional Services and ISS.

| Budget Categories | Total GEF Budget (2005-2012) | Amount of GEF Utilised 2005-2010* | Percentage of Variation from Total GEF Budget ($2.915 mil) | Percentage from Total GEF Utilzed ($2.166mil) | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Human Resources Including Consultants** | 1,258,600.00 | 1,248,227.00 | 0.82% | 57.17% | |
| **Travel** | 713,390.00 | 246,062.26 | 65.51% | 11.27% | |
| **Office Machinery & Equipments** | 301,250.00 | 497,141.52 | -65.03% | 22.77% | |
| **Others**** | 641,760.00 | 175,109.35 | 72.71% | 7.24% | |
| **Gain & Loss** | 0.00 | -215.13 | 0.00% | -0.01% | |
| **TOTAL** | **2,915,000.00** | **2,183,387.00** | | **99.22%** | |

**Table 13**

* Figures for 2010 are indicative and subject to change with the completion of 2010 End Year financial closure processes.

** Others includes: Sundry, Audit, Supplies, Grants, Hospitality, Professional Services and ISS.