

## **Lake Parishan integrated management plan (Revised version)**

### **Background**

Lake Parishan, an Iranian Ramsar Site in Fars Province, is one of the two demonstration sites for the UNDP/GEF Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project. It lies to the east of Kazeroun City and is part of the Arjan-Parishan Protected Area and is recognized by UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve.

The project aims to demonstrate reduction of the major threats to the internationally important biodiversity of this wetland protected area through promoting ecosystem-based, integrated management. Such an approach is required because rapidly increasing development pressures are leading to a degradation of the Lake's resources. The existing regulatory approach to management is not adequately addressing the needs of local people, nor the damaging activities which are arising outside the protected area.

This Management Plan is intended to provide a long-term shared vision and approach for achieving the sustainable management of the wetland and its valuable ecosystem services. Specifically, it aims to support the engagement of local people towards a wise use of the wetland's resources, to encourage inter-sectoral cooperation to achieve agreed objectives, and to raise awareness of the importance of Lake Parishan.

This management plan has been developed mainly based on the outcomes of three workshop sessions held in Shiraz and Kazeroun during February to November 2007, involving representatives of the key stakeholder groups for the wetland. Additional inputs from local communities have been provided through participatory rural appraisal (PRA) sessions. The plan has been submitted for final consultation by all stakeholders and enhanced through their constructive comments. It is intended that this participatory approach will ensure a more active involvement of all stakeholders in the wetland management. This version of the management plan will be submitted to higher level provincial and national authorities for formal approval.

### **Methodology**

A participatory strategic approach has been used to prepare the plan. Participation of stakeholders ensures inclusion of the views, knowledge and interests of the involved parties in the planning. This aims to enhance the sustainability of the plan and increases the likelihood that stakeholders will support and participate in its implementation, particularly the local communities who are most directly dependent on the wetland. The management planning process requires identification of the values of, and threats to, the wetland, as well as the capacities of the main stakeholders. It then uses a participatory

process to define a long-term vision for the Lake which can be supported by all stake-holders. The stakeholders then work to identify the main management objectives and actions that will deliver their common vision. This is the approach recommended by the Ramsar Convention for preparing a management plan for a wetland.

### **The process of developing the plan**

A two day workshop session was first held in Shiraz in February 2007 to introduce the program for CIWP, and to share views and knowledge from different stakeholders, for the purpose of preparing the first draft of the management plan for Lake Parishan. This workshop was followed by a supplementary one in Kazeroun in May 2007 with strong contribution from the local communities around the wetland.

More than 50 participants from local and provincial organizations and representatives of local communities attended each of the workshops and actively participated in the discussions. Despite the lack of comprehensive documented information on the attributes of the wetland, this process provided a good source of diverse information of the values, threats and capacities, which have been included in the management plan.

The first draft management plan was widely distributed in June 2007 among all the stakeholders for their comments.

The comments received from different stakeholders on the first draft plan were carefully reviewed and used for preparing the second draft of the management plan which was shared with the stakeholders for review and comments in a second workshop session held in Kazeroun in November 2007. Based on the outcomes of the latter workshop, this version of the management

plan was drafted for a final review and comments by the stakeholders. Upon receiving these comments, the final version of the management plan was prepared for approval and issue by the relevant provincial and national higher-level authorities.

This strategic Management Plan will be supported by a 5-year Action Plan, describing the priority activities and responsibilities of each stakeholder group.

### **Revised version of Lake Parishan integrated management plan**

Nearly 6 years have passed since the development of the Parishan Wetland Management Plan and the extensive ecological changes that have occurred in the Parishan Wetland Basin in recent years, and consequently the reduction of the efficiency of the previous program; With the current situation, it doubled the region. in the current situation, Parishan Wetland needs a program tailored to the existing conditions in order to

overcome the critical situation. Six years after the approval and announcement of the Parishan Wetland Management Program, it was necessary to evaluate this program and extract its strengths and weaknesses. for this purpose, a workshop to review the comprehensive management plan of Parishan Wetland was held on 17 and 18 September 2014, inviting all stakeholders who also participated in the preparation of the management plan. The present program is the product of participatory workshops in September 2014 and 2015.