



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

Period covered by this report: January to December 2016

Introductory notes:

- Systematic monitoring and reporting is an essential project management function. It supports management decision making, accountability and learning functions.
- Particular emphasis is given to reporting on results (namely the outputs and outcomes of a programme or project) as well as giving an honest assessment of constraints encountered and the actions required to support effective project implementation.
- Recipients of this report will be those who support (including financially) the partnership work of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNDP.
- Responsibility for completing this report rests with the relevant designated Project/Programme Coordinators. Due date for the first draft is 25th December and **15th January** for the final submission.
- The first draft of APPR will be reviewed and quality assured by the respective Programme Unit within the UNDP Country Office in Iran. The content of the report will provide the information base for the annual review process. Upon completion of the review process, and following any required editing of the reports, they will be uploaded on-line in Atlas.
- The following pages provide the format for UNDP Iran's Annual Project Progress Reports, together with some guidance on how to complete the different sections.
- To use the format, please *delete this cover page* and all the subsequent italicised text in the following pages, and then save the file with a new name. The file name for all APPRs for 2016 should follow the following convention: **APPR16 Project reference # version # (day month year)**.

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

1. Context

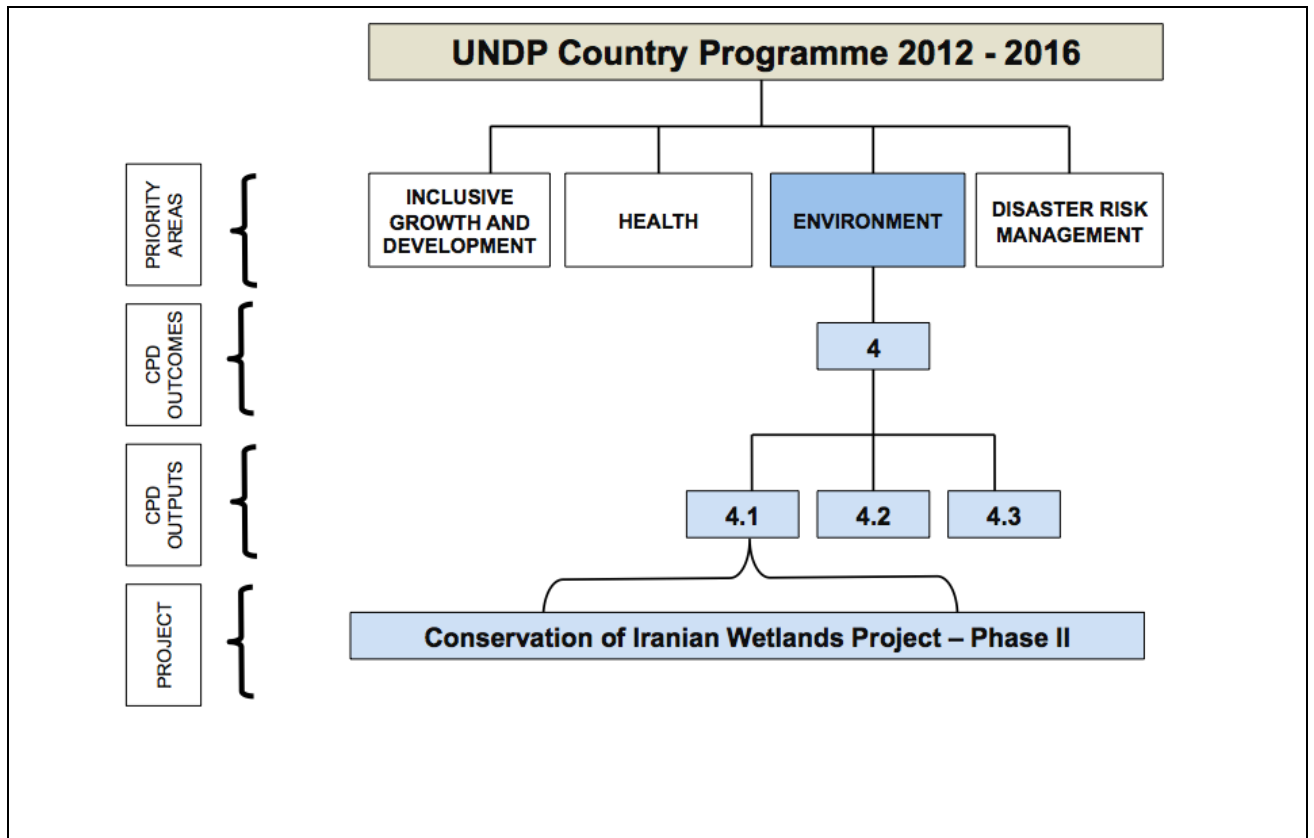
Project Short Title	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project
Project Full Title	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project- Phase II, Restoration of Lake Uromiyeh (Phase II & III)
Project Objective	To enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of Iran's systems of wetlands protect areas (WPAs) as a tool for conserving globally significant biodiversity
Project Number	71323/89601/99313
Award Number	38436
Duration (years/months)	May 2013 – March 2017
Start Date	May 2013
End Date	March 2017
Location(s)	East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan; Fars; Khouzestan; Kurdistan; Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari; Sistan & Balouchestan; Boushehr; Hormozgan; Markazi; Golestan;
UNDAF / CPD Outcome to which this project contributes	4. National, sub-national and local capacities enhanced to ensure 1) integrated management, conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, natural resources and biodiversity; 2. mainstreaming environmental economics into national planning and audits; 3) effective use of knowledge and tools in prevention, control and response to current and emerging environmental pollution; 4) formulation and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans and projects
UNDAF / CPD Output to which this project contributes	4.1. Institutional capacities for integration of sustainable development in national policies supported
Government Implementing Partner	I.R Iran Department of Environment
Overall Project Budget	UNDP TRAC: 675,676 USD UNDP Triple 8: 90,145 USD Third Party Cost Sharing:(JAP): 3,000,000 USD Gov't Parallel Funding: 500,000 USD
Annual Budget	UNDP TRAC: 109,855 USD Fresh UNDP Fund-Triple8 (May2016): 90,145 USD Third Party Cost Sharing:(JAP): 1,272,425 USD Gov't Parallel Funding: 2,171,000 USD
Annual Expenditure	UNDP TRAC: 82,983 USD Fresh UNDP Fund-Triple 8 (May2016): 88,702 USD Third Party Cost Sharing: 817,242 USD Gov't Parallel Funding: 2,048,000 USD



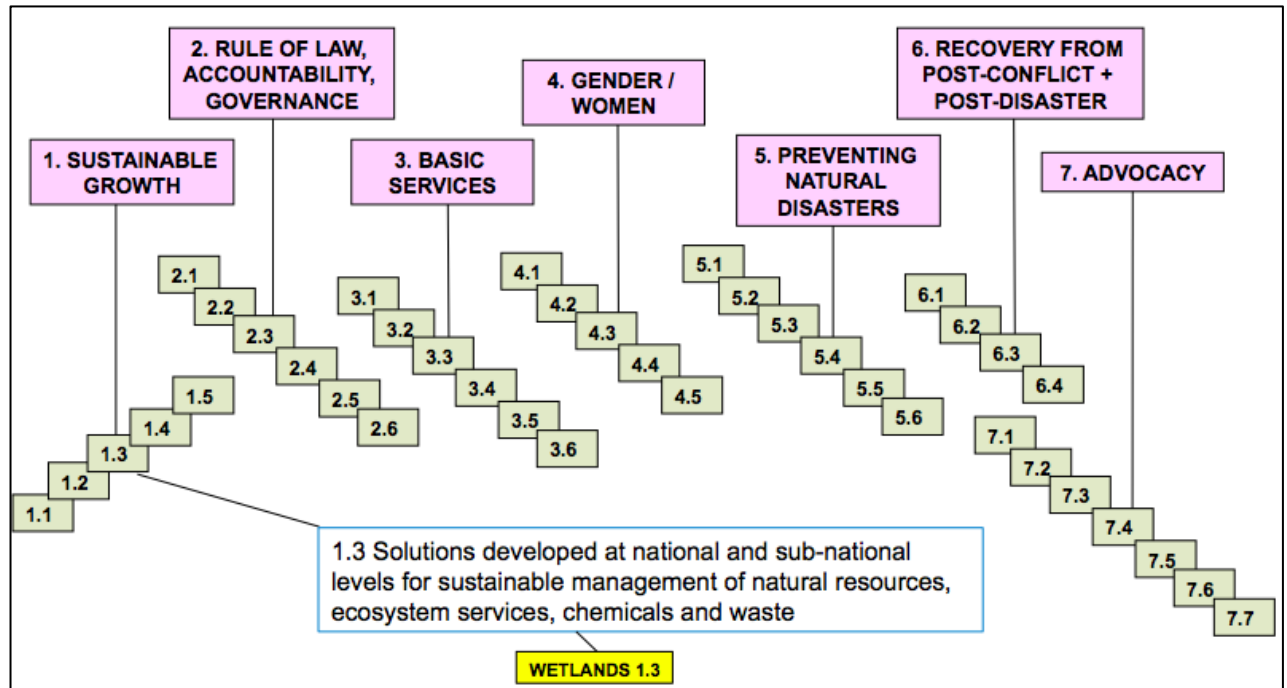
Brief Project Description:

The successful completion of the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands project (CIWP) by 2015 led to the formulation of Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (Phase II) and the Restoration of Lake Urmia (Phase II & III), which aimed to sustain CIWP achievements and upscale its outcomes by addressing terminal evaluation recommendations concerning sustainability of results and application of complementary tools and mechanisms. It supports development and implementation of Wetland Management Plans through inter-sectoral coordination structures for 15 Iranian wetlands (12 new wetlands + 3 CIWP demonstration sites) as well as modeling local community participation in Lake Urmia restoration through establishment of sustainable agriculture practices and biodiversity conservation. This puts in place a strong wetlands ecosystem management legislative platform and inter-sectoral administrative structures at national level, supporting implementation of the ‘‘Ecosystem Approach’’ in the wetlands and shares the CIWP and other wetlands initiatives, knowledge and lessons learnt with the regions of South and Central Asia.

Linkage to UNDP Country Programme Document (2012-2016)



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





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

2.1 UNDP CPD Outcome(s) and Outputs

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

CPD Outcome:			
Outcome indicators	Baseline (year: XY)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
1.	XY%	XY%	XY%
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

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

3.1 Project Outcome(s) and Outputs

Project Outcome 1: Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites based on CIWP achievements and lessons learnt to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats			
Outcome 1 indicators	Baseline (2015)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
CIWP successful approaches are up-scaled (Integrated Management Plan for Iran Ramsar sites are developed)	16.5 % Iran Ramsar Sites (4)	30% Iran Ramsar Sites (7)	37.5% Iran Ramsar Sites (9)
New tools and mechanisms are introduced to enhance wetland management in Iran	0 % PES, BP	50 %	50%
Plans and policies incorporating wetland ecosystems to support sustainable development, climate adaptation and human security are developed	0% Revision and approval of NWCSAP	70%	70% NWCSAP is revised
Wetlands in Iran are benefiting from increased public participation, support and knowledge	16.5 %	70%	60%

Evidence of achievement at outcome level

1. What has changed in Iran under this outcome area in 2016 (with or without UNDP support)? Please specify the evidence used (refer to data sources used to back up the statement). [**Maximum 2000 characters**]

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

- Participatory management system based on the Ecosystem Approach and CIWP best practices and lessons learnt is now used by DoE at national and provincial level for wetland management and conservation.
- *Integrated management plans for wetlands are now a basis for budget allocation at national level for conservation and management purposes*
- *Iran DoE is introduced to new tools and mechanisms to enhance wetland management*
- *NGOs are empowered and involved in wetland conservation activities and now trusted by the government as a reliable counterpart.*
- *Regulation of Wetland Conservation and management approved by Cabinet and submitted to all related governmental organization*
- *Local communities are informed, their capacity is built and they have become one of*

the active stakeholders in the process of wetland management

2. What were project's contributions to this outcome level change? Please explain how our work contributed to this outcome level change? **[Maximum 2000 characters]**
Do not list activities, but be very specific about what project's contribution was, citing evidence for claims made. Elaborate on what were the main factors which contributed to this progress? OR If you cannot see sufficient progress or if the outcome is not on track to be achieved (i.e., most relevant 2016 milestones were not reached), what were the main factors which hindered progress?
- More than 350 individuals were trained on development of Integrated Management Plans for 9 selected wetlands in Iran.
 - Participatory approach and intersectoral collaboration for planning was introduced and practiced by different stakeholders including GOs, NGOs and the local communities for the first time in 9 different provinces.
 - In the process of MP development Provincial DoEs were given a new role as facilitators ensuring intersectoral collaboration and providing the opportunity for all stakeholders particularly local communities for their voice to be heard by high level authorities.
 - CIWP provided support on development of integrated management plans for 8 new wetlands while Esfahan and Fars provincial DoEs voluntarily began development of MPs for Ghav-Khooni and Bakhtegan wetlands with CIWP technical support.
 - Local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders are fully involved within wetlands management planning processes
 - PES and Business Planning were introduced by CIWP to provincial DoEs as new tools and mechanisms for wetland management where 6 provinces volunteered to apply them for wetland protected areas in their provinces.
 - A task force with members from CIWP, MOE and DoE on Sustainable Water Infrastructure has initiated collection, introduction and promotion of international experiences and best practices to improve Dam Management in Iran.
 - Sustainable livelihood practices are introduced to wetland dependent communities in two pilot site
 - To reinforce inter-sectoral collaboration and local participation in response to environmental change applying ecosystem approach, CIWP provided technical support to DoE on updating previously developed MPs for Lake Parishan and initiated the process for Lake Urmia and Shadegan Wetland.
 - NWCSAP was revised and updated by CIWP in collaboration with Habitat Office
 - CIWP awareness raising campaign on wetland conservation has mobilised public support, participation and contribution in development of management plans for 8 new wetlands as well as implementation of priority actions and quick wins in support of wetland conservation. In this regard, several NGOs have also been empowered and their capacity was built to involve wetland conservation activities proactively.
 - Much improved collaboration with LU Restoration Commission
 - Budget planning in Habitats Office takes place based on needs assessment with technical support provided by CIWP
 - An MOA is signed between DoE and Omid Entrepreneurship Fund in support of livelihood opportunities in accordance with wetland conservation.

3. Please **specify results achieved** under this outcome that focus on increasing gender equality and improving the empowerment of women. **[Maximum 2000 characters]**
- Note: this question can be skipped if no relevant contributions to gender equality were made by the project*
- Women have been encouraged, involved and participated in the process of development and implementation of Integrated Management Plans in for 9 new wetlands.
 - Women are encouraged to involve in implementation of developed Management Plans. In this regard, establishment of alternative livelihood in support of Ghare-Gheshlagh MP was a priority action carried out by Zarineh&Chichast Women Cooperative.
 - Women empowerment through introducing sustainable livelihood is carried out for 2 wetland dependent communities around Harra-Minab.

Project Outcome 2&3: Contribution to Lake Urmia Restoration via local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation			
Outcome 2 indicators	Baseline (year: 2015)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
1. Inter-sectoral collaboration is established and CIWP, DOE, MoJA, Regional Water Authority, Private Sector, NGOs and the Local Community collaborate in LU restoration	Inter-sectoral collaboration Initiated	Inter-sectoral collaboration established 50%	Inter-sectoral collaboration established 50%
2. Local community believe in the project and actively participates in LU restoration	30% of farmers participated	75% of farmers participated	75% of farmers participated
3. Sustainable Agriculture techniques are applied by farmers for water/chemical saving at farm level	75 villages in LUB	90 villages in LUB	90 villages in LUB
4. New tools and mechanisms including ICT, PES, community-led microcredit fund(Mic-Fund), Local Water management Networks (LWMN) and Alternative Livelihood (AL) are introduced as complementary elements to sustainable agriculture for LU restoration	ICT=0% of project pilots Mic-Fund=0 pilots PES=0 LWMN=0 AL=0	ICT=50% of project pilots Mic-Fund=3 pilots PES=Introduced LWMN=5pilots AL=2pilots	ICT=50% of project pilots Mic-Fund=3 pilots PES= Introduced LWMN=5pilots AL=2pilots

Evidence of achievement at outcome level
<p>4. What has changed in Iran under this outcome area in 2016 (with or without UNDP support)? Please specify the evidence used (refer to data sources used to back up the statement). [Maximum 2000 characters]</p> <p><i>Note: Outcome level change includes changes in institutional capacity and performance; changes in capacities, attitudes, and behaviour among individuals or group; and changes in enabling conditions such as norms, power relations, policies and laws, social and economic conditions.) Outcome-level results normally would require the intervention of stakeholders other than UNDP and the Implementing partner through broader partnerships</i></p>

- An organizational framework facilitating inter-sectoral collaboration among the Government of Japan, UNDP, DoE, CIWP, provincial MoJA and DoE, local Implementing Partners, NGOs and the farmers is fully established at national, provincial and local levels.
 - Participatory project management, planning and implementation is introduced, practiced and now is applied by different project stakeholders including MoJA, DoE, RWA, Private Sector, Local Communities and the NGOs in all aspects of project implementation.
 - More than 2000 individuals including local farmers, local experts in both private and the government sectors as well as local NGOs are trained among whom at least 100 resource persons are capable of promoting and supporting project implementation in LU basin.
 - Public awareness on the role of local communities in establishment of Sustainable Agriculture for Lake Urmia restoration is very well raised to the point where more and more of local farmers are volunteered to join the movement.
 - Sustainable agriculture is now taken into consideration in national attempts/programmes by MoJA and Lake Urmia Restoration Program in the process of Lake Urmia restoration.
 - The project has become a practical model of public participation in wetland conservation which has the potential to be up-scaled within the entire LU basin and even other wetlands in Iran.
5. What were project's contributions to this outcome level change? Please explain how our work contributed to this outcome level change? **[Maximum 2000 characters]**
Do not list activities, but be very specific about what project's contribution was, citing evidence for claims made. Elaborate on what were the main factors which contributed to this progress? OR If you cannot see sufficient progress or if the outcome is not on track to be achieved (i.e., most relevant 2016 milestones were not reached), what were the main factors which hindered progress?
- Decentralized project planning and decision making through establishment of National and provincial steering committees where representatives from CIWP, DOE, MoJA, Regional Water Authority, NGOs, universities and private sector take part in project planning and decision making.
 - Project has introduced, supported and applied participatory approaches to the point where, all Implementing Partners are now understood, value and apply participatory approaches in all aspects of project implementation.
 - Project has trained and build the capacity of MoJA experts within technical and extension offices (More than 500 staff) and local executive companies and NGOs (200 experts) as well as local farmers (2000 volunteers) and now they are acting as resources persons on facilitation and Participatory Technology Development to improve working with and participation of local communities in LU restoration.
 - More than 10,000 farmers are introduced to sustainable agriculture techniques focusing on water saving as well as agricultural chemical input (chemical pesticides and herbicides) saving at farm level.

- Two documentary films picturing SA implementation process are produced expanding the achievements among wider audience.
- Sustainable Agriculture mobile fair was held in 44 pilot sites to introduce SA techniques to all farmers in project pilot sites and raise their awareness in establishment of Sustainable Agriculture for Lake Urmia restoration.
- Project held several events to introduce and promote the establishment of Sustainable Agriculture for wetland restoration and now it has become a priority action for MoJA and Lake Urmia Restoration Program in the process of Lake Urmia restoration.
- The project made a massive effort on bringing together all the major pieces of the puzzle including International organizations, different government organizations (MoJA, DoE and Local Water Authorities etc), Private sector, the NGOs and local community itself to work together as a single and unite system towards achieving a common goal (restoration of Lake Urmia) which has the potential to be up-scaled within the entire LU basin and even other wetlands in Iran.

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

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

- More than 30 women from Zarineh&Chichast Women Cooperative were provided with vocational training including dressmaking and marketing in Ghare-Gheshlagh village and now are producing and selling different products. They have provided CIWP with a variety of awareness raising material including scarves, shopping bags etc.
- Production of a documentary film promoting the successful experience of Zarineh&Chichast Women Cooperative is initiated and will be available to other women in project pilot sites.
- Three community-led microcredit funds are established in SA pilot sites running and managed by women enabling them to take out affordable loans and start water-friendly microenterprises as a long-term sustainable approach to LU restoration.

Outcome 1: Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites based on CIWP achievements and lessons learnt to effectively address the most significant ‘internally arising’ threats

Output 1.1: Ecosystem based wetland management plans for 8 important Iranian wetlands are finalized and approved through taking CIWP successful pilot to a large scale

Output indicators <i>(as per the postulation of the project log frame – please see the project document)</i>	Baseline (year:2015)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
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Number of wetlands introduced to ecosystem approach and initiated the process of MP development	5	12	14
Number of MPs finalized and approved	5	12	10
Number of previously developed MPs revised	0	3	3
Number of provincial DoEs adopted MP voluntarily	0	2	2

Output 1.1.: Evidence of achievement

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

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

- Nine new wetlands including Ghav-Khooni, Bakhtegan, Helle, Mighan, Harra-Minab, Alaghol-Almaghol-Ajighol, Choghakhor, Zarivar and Hamoon are introduced to ecosystem approach and initiated the process of MP development
- Five MPs including Helle, Mighan, Choghakhor, Zarivar and Hamoon are finalized and approved.
- MP guideline is developed, reviewed by Senior International Project Advisor and finalized by CIWP.
- The process of revising MPs for Lake Urmia, Shadegan and Parishan is initiated.
- Parishan MP revision is finalized.
- Two provincial DoEs including Ghav-Khooni and Bakhtegan adopted MP voluntarily and CIWP is providing them with technical support to accomplish MP development.

Output 1.2: Approved management plans are being implemented

Output indicators (as per the postulation of the project log frame – please see the project document)	Baseline (year:2015)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
Number of priority activities or quick wins implemented across CIWP pilot sites	0	7	15
National budget is allocated to implement MPs in 7 sites	0	70,000 USD	35,000 USD
12 wetlands have inter-sectoral local committees operational (at least one meeting held for each)	5	12	12
Number of CIWP pilots (authorities) introduced to lessons learnt on sustainable livelihoods	0	12	12
Number of wetland-dependent communities introduced to Alternative Livelihood	0	2	2

Output 1.2: Evidence of achievement

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

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

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

- 15 Priority actions and quick-win projects for Zarivar (MP development for Boating, Establishment of visitor center and installation of info signboards), Alaghol (Establishment of visitor center, website and posters), Helle (Awareness raising campaign), Choghakhor (Installation of info signboards/trash bin and construction of visitors center), Mighan (Sustainable tourism), Urmia (determination LU water needs) and Hamoon (Design and publish posters, design and produce Hamoon elements and awareness raising tools) are identified and implemented.
- Habitat office allocated 35,000 USD from national budget for implementation of priority actions and quick-wins.
- Inter-sectoral local committees are operational in development of MPs for 7 new wetlands.
- A document on CIWP best practices and lessons learned on sustainable livelihood is developed and shared with authorities in CIWP pilots.
- Two wetland-dependent communities around Harra-Minab are introduced to alternative livelihood.

Output 1.3: Introducing new financial resources and business planning mechanisms for wetland conservation

Output indicators	Baseline (year:2015)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
Guideline for piloting business planning is developed	0	1	1
# of awareness materials about PES and business planning disseminated among experts	0	4	4
# of workshops held on business planning	0	2	2
# of workshops held on PES	0	1	1
# of individuals benefited from business planning workshops (disaggregated by gender, province)	0	30	40
# of individuals benefited from PES workshops (disaggregated by gender, province)	0	30	40
Best practices and lessons learnt on development of business planning for wetlands are published	0	1	0
Business plan to X wetland developed	0	1	5

Output 1.3: Evidence of achievement

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

- An international consultant was recruited by whom PES methodology and its implementation road-map was developed and a training workshop was held in which 40 participants from provincial DoE, habitat office, CIWP and NGOs were trained and familiarized with PES concept and issues in Iran.
- Business Planning guideline and related documents are provided by SIPA, reviewed and translated by CIWP
- Two training workshop is held and facilitated by SIPA/CIWP on Business Planning in which more than 40 individuals from national and provincial DoEs as well as budget and planning organization were trained.

² Source: UNDP Strategic Plan IRRF, September 2013 version (<https://intranet.undp.org/unit/office/exo/sp2014/SP201417/default.aspx>)

- 6 Wetland Protected Areas (WPAs) are volunteered to develop Business plan for their WPAs.

Output 1.4: Operationalising Iran's new Regulation on the Conservation of Wetlands

Output indicators	Baseline (year:2015)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
NWCSAP revised	0%	100%	100%
NWCSAP approved by the cabinet	0%	0%	0%

Output 1.4: Evidence of achievement

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

- NWCSAP document is revised and finalized CIWP and Habitat Office.
- The submission of NWCSAP to the cabinet is followed up and necessary coordination made.

Output 1.5: Master Plan for the conservation of Iran's Ramsar sites

Output indicators	Baseline (year:2015)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
Vulnerability assessment for 24 Ramsar Sites initiated	0%	Indicators developed	50%
Roadmap and framework for development of Iran Ramsar site Master plan prepared by DoE	0%	Road Map developed	50%

Output 1.5: Evidence of achievement

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

- An intern is assigned to develop indicators and the road-map for vulnerability assessment
- A guideline on wetlands vulnerability assessment is collected by Senior International Project Advisor and reviewed by CIWP
- Necessary coordination is made holding several meetings with DoE Habitat Office to plan for and initiate the process of vulnerability assessment for Iranian wetlands.

Output 1.6: Reducing the impacts of water infrastructure on wetlands

Output indicators	Baseline (year:2015)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
Task force established	0%	100%	100%
Current and existing best practices reviewed	0	100%	100%
Number of capacity building workshops/events conducted	0	1	0

Output 1.6: Evidence of achievement

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

- A taskforce with members from Ministry of Energy, DoE and CIWP is established and regular coordination meetings are held.
- International best practices are collected and reviewed by CIWP and Senior International Project Advisor and shared with representatives from Ministry of Energy.

Output 1.7: Raising public support for wetland conservation at national and international level			
Output indicators	Baseline (year:2015)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
LU CEPA plan developed	0%	100%	50%
A guideline to develop CEPA plan is produced	0%	100%	80%
At least 2 wetland-related public dialogues widely reported in the media	0	2	4
At least two international cooperation initiatives established	0	2	2
CIWP participated in at least two international events	0	2	3

Output 1.7: Evidence of achievement
Describe the key output-level results achieved [Maximum 2000 characters]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A proposal to develop LU CEPA plan is received from Kordestan University, reviewed and finalized by CIWP and habitat office. ➤ The first draft of CEPA plan guideline is developed. ➤ More than 9 interviews with national newspapers including Taadol, Etemad, Shargh, Hamshahri, Sabzineh and Guardian international newspaper on the subject of wetlands. ➤ Ten interviews with national news agencies including Ilna and Mana, Tabnak, Fars, Isna, Irna, Ana as well as 2 interviews with Radio News Unit and Radio Iran on the subject of wetlands. ➤ One Interview with National TV news channel. ➤ Third phase of “Modelling local community participation in LU restoration” project was approved by the government of Japan, MOA was signed with DOE and implementation process carried out by CIWP. ➤ The proposal for Gwadar Bay project is finalized and implementation roadmap is developed. ➤ Preliminary arrangements and preparation are carried out at national level with NPD and DoE office of International Affairs and at International level with IUCN Senior Program Officer, Water and Wetlands, Asia Regional Office to implement Gwadar Bay project. ➤ Preliminary arrangements and preparation with Murray darling basin and LURP is carried out to organize an international dialogue and experience sharing platform for LU restoration. ➤ CIWP participated in 2 wetland related International events including “World Wetland Day” and “Workshop on Transboundary Conservation (TBC) in Iran and Neighbouring Countries”

Outcome 2&3: Contribution to Lake Urmia Restoration via local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation			
Output 2.1: Continuing to strengthen in the pioneer 75 villages initiated during 2014- 2015 through further promoting SA practices			
Output indicators (as per the postulation of the project log frame – please see the project document)	Baseline (year:2015)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
Percentage of farmers in 75 pilots (Year I&II) introduced to SA techniques	41 pilots = 75% 34 pilots = 50%	41 pilots = 100% 34 pilots = 75%	41 pilots = 100% 34 pilots = 75%
Percentage of farmers implementing at least one sustainable agriculture technique in their farms and orchards.	41 pilots = 50% 34 pilots = 25%	41 pilots = 75% 34 pilots = 50%	41 pilots = 75% 34 pilots = 50%
Number of individuals trained within government staff, local technical experts (LTE) and farmers	GO = 200 LTE = 100	MoJA = 500 LTE = 200	MoJA = 500 LTE = 200



	Farmer = 1200	Farmer = 2000	Farmer = 2000
Sustainable Agriculture methodology is reviewed and updated.	1 st update	2 nd update	2 nd update

Output 2.1.: Evidence of achievement

- 75 Effectiveness Assessment workshops were held in which more than 2000 farmers were involved in determination of specific capacity building needs in 75 pilot sites.
- 75 workshops on Soil Nutrient Enhancement were held in project pilot sites in which more than 600 farmers were introduced to applicable Soil Nutrient techniques.
- 75 workshops on Orchards Pruning were held in project pilot sites in which more than 600 farmers were benefited from the trainings.
- 75 participatory SA fairs were held through which SA techniques were exposed to more than 7500 farmers.
- Several meetings were held with participation of CIWP, National Project Consultant, MoJA experts, Local Executive Companies and the farmers through which Sustainable Agriculture methodology was reviewed and updated.

Output 2.2: Up-scaling sustainable agriculture in 15 new villages in Lake Urmia basin resulting in 35% water saving

Output indicators	Baseline (year:2015)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
Percentage of farmers in 15 villages introduced to LU restoration via establishment of SA	0	70%	70%
Percentage of farmers implementing SA techniques in their farm	0	20%	20%
Percentage of farms equipped with monitoring equipments	0	15%	20%
Number of Sustainable Agriculture booklets developed in which SA process, technical results, good practices and lessons learnt are documented	0	1	1
Number of major reports produced	0	Quarterly (4) Mid-year (1) Annual (1)	Quarterly (4) Mid-year (1) Annual (1)

Output 2.2: Evidence of achievement

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

- 30 introductory workshop was held in East and West Azerbaijan in which more than 1500 farmers were introduced to LU restoration via establishment of SA
- 500 farmers are volunteered to implement SA techniques in their farms and orchards.
- 250 Participatory Farm Action Plans for autumn crops were developed together with farmers, MoJA experts and the executive companies.
- 100 farms and orchards are equipped with water measuring systems.
 - 4 booklets including “An overview of SA project best experiences and lessons learned”, “SA



Brochure”, “An introduction to SA techniques” and “Implementation process of SA project” were developed, published and disseminated among 4000 individuals.

Output 2.3: Mobilization and application of new tools and mechanisms as complementary elements of sustainable agriculture

Output indicators	Baseline (year:2015)	Milestone 2016	Actual 2016
Number of PES mechanism initiated in LU satellite wetlands	0	1	1
Number of community-led micro-credit fund established to empower women in SA pilot sites	0	2	3
Drought Risk Management model is adopted by water authorities and its utilization is initiated to enhance water allocation to different water users in LUB	0	1	1
Number of pilots in which ICT system established for public engagement and transferring key messages as a means of public awareness mechanism	50 pilots	90 pilots	90 pilots
Number of villages in which Local Water Management Networks are formed	2	4	5

Output 2.3: Evidence of achievement

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

- An international consultant was recruited to introduce PES mechanism and an implementation road-map was developed.
- CIWP held a workshop in which more than 30 individuals at national and provincial levels were introduced to PES mechanism.
- Three Community-led Micro-credit Fund is established through which more than 50 individuals (female) are benefitted.
- A TOR for installation and application of online wetland monitoring tools including drought monitoring tools is developed and the process of selecting implementing partner is initiated.
- An agreement is signed with a local NGO to upscale the ICT system through which 90 pilots of SA project are covered for public engagement and transferring key messages as a means of public awareness. More than 10,000 farmers and other local community members are receiving awareness raising material through their mobile phones.
- Three Local Water Management Networks are formed in SA pilots (East and West Azerbaijan) and capacity building process is initiated by local Implementing Partner. Local IP held several participatory planning sessions for these networks to build their capacity for better water allocation in pilot sites.

3.2 For output results under this project that were not delivered as expected (i.e., which have not met 2016 milestones or targets) [Maximum 3000 character]

- MPs for 7 wetlands are developed and approved but 2 are not yet approved
- LU and Shadegan MPs are not yet revised nor approval
- 7 new wetlands have not their inter-sectoral local committees operational yet
- Draft guideline for piloting business planning is not yet finalized
- NWCSAP is revised but not yet approved by Cabinet
- National Council and Secretariat for NWCSAP is not yet established
- Capacity building workshops for Sustainable Water Infrastructure is not conducted
- Lake Urmia CEPA plan is not yet developed
- Public awareness campaign is not fully activated
- Piloting PES in one wetland is not yet initiated
- Drought Risk Management model is not functional and target has been revised to establishing a monitoring system

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

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

- DoE approach to CIWP asking for support with regard to MP development for 2 wetlands in Iran shows that MP development based on Ecosystem Approach is fully established within DoE.
- Considerable financial/infrastructure support from DoE to implement developed MPs showing that MPs have become a basis for budget allocation for wetlands within DoE.
- Business Planning and PES being introduced as new tools and mechanisms for better management of WPAs for the first time in Iran were fully supported by national and provincial DoEs to the point where 6 provincial DoEs were volunteered to pilot Business Planning.
- Six proposals were developed and submitted to UNDP and Adaptation Fund for resource mobilization.
- A Mobile Fair along with Street Theatre promoting SA techniques (water/chemical saving) as well as farmer's role and participation for Lake Urmia restoration was conducted in 44 pilot sites which was absolutely welcomed by local communities and had tremendous impact with regard to awareness raising and public participation for LU restoration.
- Doubtful farmers in project pilot sites are now voluntarily approaching local private executive partners asking for consultancy to apply SA techniques.
- Capacity of interested farmers, local executive partners and MoJA experts is tremendously improved to the point where we have more than 100 resource persons in the area of Sustainable Agriculture in LU basing.
- Considerable job creation for local experts is another unanticipated result of SA project implementation.



- Application of ICT tools and social networks for awareness raising and promotion of Sustainable Agriculture among farmers in project pilot sites showed that new technologies have greater potential
- Application of some simple, cost-free and yet effective SA techniques such as resizing and splitting farm lands into smaller pieces or using ring-shaped irrigation systems resulted in astonishing water saving at farm level.
- Three years of modelling local community participation in LU restoration and the results achieved has been an outstanding example for government sector to the point where the model has been mentioned by many top level authorities particularly governors and MoJA directors of East/West Azerbaijan as well as Madam Ebtakar (vice president and the head of DoE).

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

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

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

- For the year 2016, CIWP strategy for 2016-2019 was the basis for the work-planning of the project which caused some changes within outcomes and outputs of the project as compared to 2015 work-plan. The new CIWP strategy has emphasise on applying new tools for wetland management as complementary action for previous project activities and achievements. Project National Steering Committee holds semi-annual meetings to track and make necessary changes in project work-plan if needed.

3.5 Follow up actions: [Maximum 3000 character]

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

- Providing the necessary conditions for Intersectoral collaboration in decision making, planning and implementation of projects helped progress towards outputs. key implications for management:
 - Promoting Intersectoral collaboration at national and local level
- Regular and timely capacity building for GOs, NGOs and the private sector at local level helped CIWP in progress towards the outputs. key implications for management:
 - Promoting and utilizing local community involvement
 - Promoting local capacities with regard to wetland conservation
- Application of participatory approaches in decision making, planning and implementation process of projects helped CIWP in progress towards the outputs. key implications for management:
 - Promoting application of participatory approaches among GOs, NGOs and the private sector
- Allocation of only one third of the estimated budget for 2016 work-plan hindered progress towards outputs. key implications for management:
 - provision of timely and secure budgets for international projects by UNDP
 - Independent fundraising by CIWP
 - Obtaining a legal status for CIWP for independent fundraising



- Lack of knowledge and expertise on new conservation tool and mechanisms within the country hindered progress towards outputs. key implications for management:
 - Recruitment of International consultant and capacity building at national level

7. Monitoring & Evaluation

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

Key topics to be covered could include:

- *Availability of baseline information, or activities being undertaken to establish a baseline.*
 - *Description of the activities being undertaken and tools being used to collect, analyse and share information with stakeholders regarding project progress and results achieved.*
 - *How/if the project is supporting the development of local systems and capacity to collect and use results-oriented management information.*
 - *How/if the project is collecting/using gender disaggregated data.*
 - *Any specific surveys or reviews that have been undertaken in the reporting period, and key findings.*
 - *Any independent / external evaluation activities undertaken in the reporting period and key findings, or that are being planned.*
 - *The outcomes of any tri-partite reviews conducted.*
- Make contract with External Monitoring team to monitor SA project achievements in both technical and socio-economic areas
 - Independent technical monitoring team (has measured and evaluated the impact of the applied Sustainable Agriculture Techniques on water saving at farm level. The results indicate that the applied techniques have led to an average of 35% water saving at farm level.
 - Independent socio-economic monitoring team will assess the socio-economic effectiveness of SA project on local communities particularly the farmers in project pilot sites.
- Recruit DNPM to carry out project monitoring and evaluation.
 - A project expert at provincial level regularly collecting field data and information ensuring that project outcomes and the overall impacts are being effectively delivered.
 - Senior International Project Advisor conducting semi-annual external project monitoring and evaluation
 - Conduct monthly internal M&E meeting to review actual performance against planned activities as well as planned budget against actual expenditure.
 - Develop quarterly progress report and sharing it with related and key stakeholders including steering committee members.
 - Conduct more than **200 man/day** monitoring and evaluation field visits.

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

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

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

Problem / Issue	Action taken or required (and by whom)
Lack of sufficient fund to implement priority of CIWP strategy 2016-2019	Fundraising activity of CIWP needs to be stronger in terms of bilateral cooperation and support from internal donors.
SA Project 1- Centralized decision making and leadership of the project during the 1 st course of project implementation 2- Financial resources for embedding Sustainable Agriculture was not secured 3- Lack of skilled human resources both in private and government sector.	SA Project 1- Participatory planning and decision making is institutionalized through establishment of National/provincial steering committee during the 2 nd course of project implementation 2- Consultation with LURC as well as MoJA to dedicate national fund for implementation of SA in all villages at LU basin 3- Held numerous capacity building and TOT workshops for both private and government sector

Add rows as required

6. Risk Management

#	Description	Date Identified	Type ³	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner
1	The allocated budget to carry out scale-up project activities (2016) has reduced to 1/3 of estimated budget	Feb-16	<i>Financial</i>	Significant/ Medium	Reduce money-consuming activities based on available budget	UNDP/ DoE
2	Understaffing due to budget issues	Mar-16	<i>Operational</i>	Significant/ Medium	Secure budget and recruit staff according to workload	UNDP/ DoE
3	concurrent of phase 2 and phase 3 of SA project	Mar-16	<i>Operational</i>	Low/Low	Recruitment of new staff	UNDP/ DoE
4	Lack of local experience in some areas of Work Plan including business planning, PES and sustainable water infrastructure	Mar-16	<i>Operational</i>	Low/Low	Collect international experiences and introduce them to local experts holding capacity building workshops	

Add rows as required

³ *Operational, Financial, Organizational, Regulatory, Security, Strategic, Political, Environmental, etc.*
2016 UNDP Annual Project Progress Report

7. Financial Report

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

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

2016 Annual Financial Status (US\$)					
Projects Outputs	Planned Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Unutilized Balance (USD)	Implementation Rate (%)	Commitments
Output 1.1: Ecosystem based wetland management plans for 8 important Iranian wetlands are finalized and approved through taking CIWP successful pilot to a large scale	19,596	10,540	9,056	53%	N/A
Output 1.2: Approved management plans are being implemented	135,428	135,330	98	99%	N/A
Output 1.3: Introducing new financial resources and business planning mechanisms for wetland conservation	6,500	5,493	1,007	85%	N/A
Output 1.4: Operational sing Iran's new Regulation on the Conservation of Wetlands	3,000	2,697	303	90%	N/A
Output 1.5: Master Plan for the conservation of Iran's Ramsar sites	2,000	1,867	133	93%	N/A
Output 1.6: Reducing the impacts of water infrastructure on wetlands	17,000	7,808	9,192	46%	N/A
Output 1.7: Raising public support for wetland conservation at national and international level	16,476	7,950	8,526	48%	N/A
Outcome 1-71323:	200,000	171,685	28,315⁴	86%	N/A
Output 2.1: Sustainable Agriculture expansion in 12 satellite villages (an average of 700 ha each) while also embedding SA in the pioneer 41 villages	182,156	182,156	0	100%	N/A

⁴ unutilized balance was not allocated due TRAC budget limitation, therefore, project adjusted the activities base on allocated budget;.



initiated during 2014					
Output 2.2: Up-scaling sustainable agriculture in 22 new villages (in average 700 ha each) in Lake Uromiyeh basin resulting in at least 35% water saving	104,000	104,000	0	100%	N/A
Output 2.3: Social Mobilization for Lake Uromiyeh restoration and biodiversity conservation	76,000	76,000	0	100%	N/A
Outcome 2-89601:	362,156	362,156⁵	0	100%	N/A
Output 2.1: Continuing to strengthen in the pioneer 75 villages initiated during 2014- 2015 through further promoting SA practices	265,330	77,558	41,114	29%	146,658
Output 2.2: Up-scaling sustainable agriculture in 15 new villages in Lake Urmia basin resulting in 35% water saving	438,750	132,027	115,475	30%	191,248
Output 2.3: Mobilization and application of new tools and mechanisms as complementary elements of sustainable agriculture	206,280	52,358	76,685	37%	77,237
Outcome 3-99313:	910,360	261,944	233,274⁶	29%⁷	415,143
Grand Total	1,472,516	1,295,620	261,589	88%	415,143

⁵ The project "89601" finished by Dec2016, and fully achieved the goals.

⁶ This column shows the expenditure plus commitments related to project 99313.

⁷ It shows (%) actual expenditures.





8. Annexes

8.1: Acronyms / Abbreviations

AWP	Annual Work Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPD	National Project Director
NPM	National Project Manager
QPR	Quarterly Progress Report
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme