



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

| 1. Context | | | | |
|--|---|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project Short Title | Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) | | | |
| Project Full Title | Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project: (Phase II: Scale-Up), Restoration of Lake Urmia-5 th JPN Contribute (Phase V), Restoration of Lake Urmia-6 th JPN Contribute (Phase VI) | | | |
| 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 / 110087/ 114919 | | | |
| Award Number | 38436 | | | |
| Duration (years/months) | May 2013 – June 2020 | | | |
| Start Date | May 2013 | | | |
| End Date | June 2020 | | | |
| Location(s) | East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan; Fars; Khuzestan; Kurdistan; Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari; Sistan & Balouchestan; Boushehr; Hormozgan; Markazi; Golestan; Isfahan, Kerman, Ardabil, Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan. | | | |
| UNDAF / CPD Outcome to which this project contributes | UNDAF Outcome 1: <u>Environment</u> CPD Outcome 1: Responsible government agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resource management, low carbon economy, and climate change policies and programmes more effectively | | | |
| UNDAF / CPD Output to which this project contributes | UNDAF Output 1.1: Integrated natural resource management: Responsible GOI agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resource management policies and programmes more effectively. CPD Output 1.1: Strategies and measures that promote sustainable and integrated management of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services are developed and considered for adoption / implementation by the Islamic Republic of Iran | | | |
| Government Implementing Partner | I.R Iran - Department of Environment | | | |
| Project Financial Status | | | | |
| Source of Fund | Overall Budget | Annual Budget (2019) | Annual Expenditure (2019) | Delivery Rate |
| UNDP TRAC | 802,204 | 40,000 | 38,900 | 97% |
| Gov't Parallel Funding (cash/in-kind): | 1,526,600 | 1,526,600 | 1,486,000 | 97% |
| Gov't Cost-sharing: | 55,741 | 55,741 | 26,594 | 47% |
| Vertical Funds (e.g. GEF, MP, GF): | - | - | - | - |



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| Third Party Donor (Japan): [Phases: V] | 1,000,000 | 772,937.67 | 771,530 | 99% |
| Third Party Donor (Japan): [Phases: VI] | 892,857 | 340,876.56 | 185,189 | 54% |
| Total: | 8,277,402 | 2,736,155 | 2,411,431 | 88% |



2. Brief Project Description:

Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) is a joint initiative between the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran (led by the Department of Environment), Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which started in 2005 and was scheduled to end in April 2013. But to draw on the recommendations of Terminal Evaluation on sustainability of results for ensuring that CIWP's outcomes are systematically up-scaled both vertically and horizontally, a scale-up phase was approved by Department of Environment and UNDP to continue and fulfill the achievements of CIWP. Along with this scale up phase a project entitled "*Modelling Local Community Participation in Restoration of Lake Urmia through Establishment of Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation*" was added to CIWP in 2014 as a new component with financial support of the government of Japan.

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, 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 Wetlands Integrated Management Plans through inter-sectoral coordination structures for more than 20 Iranian wetlands and 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, as well as modeling local community participation in Lake Urmia restoration through establishment of sustainable agriculture practices and biodiversity conservation. In the component which is related to LU restoration there has been a strong focus on capacity building and training as the main tools of development projects with participatory approach. This occurred through different small projects and activities on various areas which strengthen people's participation and involvement including alternative and sustainable livelihood, micro-credit funds, Participatory Technology Development (PTD), and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).

Since 2005 the project managed and secured more than USD 10.26 million of investment from international resources and USD 17.5 million from the Government for the conservation of Iranian wetlands. The project has successfully introduced integrated and participatory ecosystem-based approaches for conservation of Iran's wetlands while have raised the capacity of more than 500 experts from Department of Environment.

3. UNDP-CPD Results Achieved

3.1. UNDP CPD Outcome

| CPD Outcome: | |
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| Outcome indicators | Progress towards achievement of the intended CPD Outcome/Evidence |
| 1. Annual emissions of CO ₂ in million metric tons Baseline (2010): 855 million tons Target (2030): 787 million tons (reduction of 8%) | Saving irrigation water in approximately 4500 ha of lands under SA project leads to decrease in amount of CO ₂ emissions from fossil-fuel pumps. There is no records of actual amount of reduction in CO ₂ emission though this is crystal clear that the amount of CO ₂ emission could be reduced as a result of decreased use of fossil fuel. |
| 2. Percentage of land area that is managed sustainably under an in-situ conservation regime, a sustainable use regime and / or an access and benefits sharing regime Baseline (2015): 10.4% Target (2020): At least 17 per cent | CIWP activities in 2019 covered 1,593,193 ha of Iran wetland basins. This includes the wetland areas where Integrated Management Plans were developed and their implementation started (Lake Urmia, Lake Parishan, Shadegan, Hamoun, Mighan, Helle, Harraye Minab, Choghakhor, Alagol, Zarivar, Solduz, Gavkhouni, Gharagheshlagh, Ghourigol, Bakhtegan, Nowrouzloo, Kanibarazan, Gwater Bay, Gandoman, Jazmoorian, Neor, Kashafrud, Jajrood) The participatory approach undertaken for management of these wetland sites promotes wise use activities and focuses on intersectoral cooperation. |
| 3. Tons of ozone depletion potential (ODP) used Baseline (2015): 309 ODP tons Target (2020): 260 ODP tons | N/A |
| 4. Disposal of the current persistent organic pollutants (POPs) inventory and importation control of POPs in general and of PCBs in particular. Baseline (2015): 11,000 tons of PCB oil and equipment (approx.) Target (2020): 2000 tons of low PCB contaminated oil and equipment as well as 100 tons of highly contaminated PCB oil and equipment and 80 tons of agricultural POPs | N/A |

3.2. UNDP CPD Output(s)

| CPD Output(s): | |
|---|---|
| Output indicators | Progress towards achievement of the intended CPD Output/Evidence |
| 1. Hectares of land/rangeland/forest being reclaimed or used sustainably for agriculture under pilot projects and scale-up schemes Baseline (2015): 109,764 hectares Target: 200,000 hectares | |
| 2. Number of sectoral guidelines with budget allocation for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into development planning Baseline (2015): 28 Target: 40 | A manual has been prepared on Economic Valuation of wetlands by CIWP and has been adopted by DoE office of Economy and Environmental Technology as the basis of their work until the guideline is prepared. |



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| | <p>A guideline on water monitoring was developed which focuses on environmental parameters of water and health of the ecosystem for survival of the biodiversity in wetlands.</p> |
| <p>3. Number of coordination mechanisms to address trans-boundary issues Baseline (2015): 0 Target: 2</p> | <p>A joint working group has been formed between DoE and MoE on water diplomacy which focuses on the issues related to trans-boundary waters. CIWP is a member of this working group as well. CIWP already developed an Integrated Management Plan for Hamoon Wetlands which was approved in the Provincial Planning and Development Council. Afterwards the project supported the process of defining and developing a 5-year project entitled “Enhancing integrated natural resource management for the restoration of wetland ecosystems and support to alternative livelihoods development of local communities” in Sistan and Baluchestan province, funded by EU.</p> |

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

4.1 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 (or related objective indicators) | Project Baseline (year: 2018) | 2019 Target | 2019 Actual |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Number of wetlands for which Integrated Management Plan was developed | 20 | 22 | 22 |
| 2. Number of tools and mechanisms introduced to support establishment of wetland integrated management plans | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| 3. Increased level of social responsibility and stakeholders participation and cooperation in wetlands management and conservation | 50% | 60% | 60% |

Evidence of achievement at outcome level

- What has changed in Iran related to the subject of this outcome in 2019? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).

At present the Ecosystem Approach has been emphasized and highlighted in many high-level documents and policies in the country including the 5th and 6th Socio-economic Plans of the country. Besides that Wetlands Law and the related Bylaw strongly support this approach as well. In response to these assignments Department of Environment continues to develop the Integrated Management Plans for wetlands all over the country. There are now enhanced capacities among the staff of Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Office of DoE for carrying out the processes related to development and implementation of management plans.

Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project supported DoE in developing these plans. There are now 22 Wetlands all over the country for which Integrated Management Plans have been developed and MPs are under implementation for 12 other wetlands (Attachment 001). Neor Wetland and Kashafrud River are 2 pilots of CIWP in 2019 and they are now finalizing the process of MP development. Besides the preparation of plans, the implementation mechanisms are better established in provinces now as a result of the capacity buildings for the Provincial Secretariats of Wetlands Ecosystem Based Management and NGOs (Attachments 002, 003). CIWP has also tried to closely work with provincial DGs to brief them on the role of Environment sector in facilitation of intersectoral mechanisms for establishment of Ecosystem Approach.

Another main achievement of this outcome which was gained as a result of a wide range of CIWP activities on awareness raising, is the enhanced level of social responsibilities and participation for wetlands restoration and conservation. Direct engagement of NGOs in preparation and implementation of CEPA plans could clearly prove this fact.
- Please explain how this project has contributed to this change? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).

Close cooperation of CIWP with Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Office of DoE has been an

important factor in strengthening this office for carrying out the process of establishment of Ecosystem Approach. The CIWP tried to pilot and introduce new tools such as Vulnerability Assessment and Payment for Ecosystem Services. The lessons learned and experience were shared and discussed then with related offices in DoE, and Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Office in particular. The other area of CIWP collaboration with Wetlands Office was the annual budget planning for wetlands which helped changing the executive priorities of DoE in provinces.

As developing CEPA plan for wetlands was in the agenda of Provincial DoE Offices, capacity building of the provincial experts and executing companies was of crucial importance, so it was addressed in a 4-day workshop jointly planned and conducted by CIWP and wetlands office for 40 participants from these target groups of 13 provinces. These attempts for capacity enhancement have been very helpful to agree on a unified methodology for developing CEPA for wetlands (<http://www.wetlandsproject.ir/news/detail/CEPA-Workshop/4073/view/>).

3. Please specify results achieved under this outcome related to women's engagement and empowerment.

In any area of CIWP activities, gender equality has always been taken into consideration. Providing the empowerment opportunity for rural women is of great importance as a key target group who can have a strong contribution to the establishment of project approach.

In livelihood and micro-credit fund implemented by CIWP in 2 villages near Helle wetland, 45 women have been engaged since 2018 and one out of two established micro-credit funds is managed by rural women. In 2019 CIWP planned to put more emphasis on sustainability of these established initiatives by enhancing the capacities of women in the area. For this purpose, 6 workshops were held in which the majority of participants were women (30 women and 20 men). The subjects addressed in these workshops include mechanisms for management of local organizations, wetlands values, functions and threats (Attachment 005).

Output 1.1: Ecosystem based wetland management plans initiated by CIWP are approved and operational and up-scaling is continued by DoE

| Output indicators | Project Baseline | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
|--|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. 1. The number of developed Integrated Management Plans | 20 | 22 | 22 | |
| 2. The level of engagement of provincial secretariats in implementation of MPs | 30% | 50% | 50% | |
| 3. The progress towards implementation of MPs | 10% | 30% | 30% | |

Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence

In 2019 CIWP planned to support Provincial DoE offices of Khorasan Razavi, Tehran and Ardabil to develop the Integrated Management Plans for Kashafrood River, Jajrood River and Neor Wetland (Attachments 006, 007, 008), respectively. The plans of Kashafrood and Neor are in final stages, and for Jajrood River, the Stakeholders Analysis and Inception workshops have been conducted so far. Besides that the management planning process of some other wetlands including Agh-gol, Jazmoorian, Gandoman, Miankale and Amirkelaye were technically supported by CIWP. To enhance the capacities of provincial secretariats for implementation of Wetlands Integrated Management Plans, two 6-monthly workshops and a half-day meeting were held in presence of 40 experts

from 17 Provincial DoE Offices (Attachment 002). Provincial DGs were another target group of this activity. The proactive participation of the provincial expert in the workshops and also pre-workshop and post-workshop activities is an indicator of their increased level of engagement. Compare to the last year, they are now more skilful in preparing the work plans and doing the necessary follow-ups with MP stakeholders. The bilateral meetings of NPM with DGs of 9 provinces (Fars, Chahar mahal, Isfahan, Hormozgan, West Azerbaijan, Golestan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Khorasan Razavi and Ardabil), along with the 2-day gathering of DGs in Khuzestan province was very helpful in highlighting the importance of Provincial Secretariats of Wetlands Integrated Management in establishment of Ecosystem Approach. A 2-day workshop was held for 30 representative from NGOs to discuss their role in implementation of the management plans. These capacity development measures caused to good increase in the implementation of Integrated Management Plans. There were serious follow-ups on approval of previously developed management plans and as a result the management plan of Haraye Minab was approved in the provincial planning council of Hormozan. CIWP also attended the meetings of Parishan local management committee.

Output 1.2: National policies and local implementation mechanisms and tools are introduced for better wetland management

| Output indicators | Project Baseline | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
|---|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Number of BPs/ PES schemes under implementation | 5 | 2 | 5 | The follow-ups for allocation of national budget from DoE for this activity didn't result in budget allocation |
| 2. Number of meetings/ workshop in which Economic Valuation and Vulnerability Assessment are introduced | 2 | 8 | 8 | |

Describe project progress towards achievement of the intended output-level results/Evidence

For sustainability of the livelihood project initiated by CIWP in 2018 in 2 villages near Helle Wetland, some capacity building activities were planned and accomplished in 2019 through holding 6 general workshops with 50 participants in each (total of 300 people) and 3 target-oriented workshops for women, farmers and camel keepers (70 people in total). The developed plan for fishing in Gwater Bay was finalized. The billboard of wetland and a symbolic structure were constructed for Gwater Bay. All mentioned activities helped the improvement of local capacities for better management of wetlands. There were also some attempts at national level including first phase of Vulnerability Assessment web site (www.vaoiw.ir) and serious follow-ups for finalizing Economic Valuation guideline (3 meetings with related offices and professionals)(Attachment 009). To identify the bugs and deficiencies of the web site it was discussed with 40 provincial experts in a workshop. The project presented its experience in different occasions such as the joint event with JICA and the provincial secretariats workshop.

Output 1.3: Public participation and support for wetland conservation enhanced at local, national and international level

| Output indicators | Project Baseline | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Number of updated Ramsar Sites | 5 | 24 | 5 | Due to delay in allocation of cost- |

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| | | | | sharing budget, this activity did not proceed as scheduled in the time-table. |
| 2. Percentage of progress towards development of national CEPA for wetlands | 10 | 70 | 10 | In order to review some international experience in this regard and benefit from international expertise this activity was postponed to 2020. |
| 3. Reports on CEPA activities and events at local level | 0 | 2 | 2 | |

Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence

A contract was signed with a local NGO (Moj va Marjan) to develop the CEPA plan for Gwater Bay (Attachment 010).

The CEPA plan of Ramsar Convention for 2016-2024 and National CEPA plan of China were translated to be published in 2020. These samples could be used as international experiences (Attachment 011) and would help us in developing National CEPA plan for Iranian wetlands which will be developed in 2020. CIWP supported provincial DoE offices preparation of CEPA plan for wetlands (Mighan, Amirkelaye, Choghakhor, Harraye Minab and Gavkhooni wetlands).

Some CEPA activities were carried out by a local NGO in Kanibarazan (Attachment 012, 032). This includes painting, photo and story writing competitions for school students.

To support DoE in celebrating World Wetlands Day in 2019 which was held in Khamir wetland city in the south of the country and preparation for the ceremony of 2020 in Kordistan Province near Zarivar Wetland , CIWP attended 5 coordination and planning meetings which was held in Wetlands Office This support includes translating the thematic poster and GIFs, carrying on the processes related to selection of Wetland Champions, side exhibitions, etc. CIWP held a photo contest as well. The selected photos are usually displayed in an exhibition coincidentally with the WWD ceremony.

Project Outcome 2: Enhanced intersectoral cooperation and increased level of public participation resulted in better management of wetlands in the country

| Outcome 2 indicators (or related objective indicators) | Project Baseline (year: 2018) | 2019 Target | 2019 Actual |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Empowered organizational capacities | 40% | 60% | 60% |
| 2. Enhanced level of public participation in wetlands and biodiversity conservation | 50% | 60% | 60% |
| 3. Number of implemented actions of Integrated Management Plans | 25 | 30 | 30 |

Evidence of achievement at outcome level

I. What has changed in Iran related to the subject of this outcome in 2019? Please provide figures and

data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents). *The cooperation between CIWP and DoE Wetlands Office has enhanced in planning and implementing wetland-related activities. As DoE Wetlands Office is the main office in DoE which is in charge of wetlands and works very closely with CIWP, it has always been the main target for the capacity development measures. In 2019, one joint workshop (Attachment 013) was held in July for identifying the mutual expectations of both offices and the training needs as well. Besides at least 5 joint meetings were held to review the work plans of both offices and find the overlaps and the subjects which could be carried out jointly. Working on preparation of Wetland Integrated Management Plans and implementation of MPs priority actions are the main activities which have been carried out cooperatively by CIWP and Wetlands Office.*

2. Please explain how this project has contributed to this change? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).

Supporting wetlands office, provincial DoE offices and wetland management secretariats in preparation of Wetlands Integrated Management Plans (Khoran Estuary, Kashafrud river, Neor wetland, Jajrood river, etc.) and implementation of the priority actions in different pilots (livelihood practices in Helle wetland, visitors information centre in Noroozloo wetland, fishing agreement with fishermen in Gwater bay) were some key examples of the project contribution in strengthening the intersectoral cooperation. As a key partner in almost all mentioned activities were local people and local NGOs, enhanced level of public participation could obviously be observed.

3. Please specify results achieved under this outcome related to women's engagement and empowerment. CIWP results regarding women's engagement and empowerment were explained in the previous outcome (Page 7).

| Output 2.1: Reinforcement of human resources and organizational capacities to support wetlands-related issues in Department of Environment | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Output indicators | Project Baseline (2018) | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
| 1. Number of training needs assessment workshops | 0 | 1 | 0 | Due to delay in allocation of cost-sharing budget |
| 2. Number of training workshops held | 0 | 1 | 0 | Due to delay in allocation of cost-sharing budget |
| 3. Number of Wetlands Bureau and CIWP joint actions implemented | 4 | 2 | 3 | |
| 4. Number of updated Ramsar sites | 5 | 24 | 5 | Due to delay in allocation of cost-sharing budget |
| Describe project progress towards achievement of the intended output-level results/Evidence | | | | |
| <i>It was planned to reinforce the human resources and organizational capacities of CIWP and Wetlands Office of DoE and develop a strategy for better cooperation of these two offices. An initial workshop was held in which all staff of both offices were present. In this workshop the mutual expectations were discussed and prioritized (Attachment 013). The steps for completing this activity have been developed and will be</i> | | | | |

carried out in early 2020. Nevertheless CIWP and Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Office already carried out different joint activities including preparation of MPs, enhancing national capacities for wetlands management (wetland law, NWCSAP, etc.), empowering provincial wetland management secretariats, and celebrating World Wetland Day. During 2019, preparation of local CEPAs, revision of NWCSAP and formation of a network for DGs of provinces which have wetlands were the joint actions implemented by these two offices.

A contract was signed with Damoon NGO for updating the info-sheets of Ramsar sites. Two coordination meetings have been held with them to review their detailed plan and time-table for data gathering, data entry, answering the comments and final approval by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. As the formal communication with the Ramsar Convention in this regard is carried out by the government authorities the mechanism for approval of the entered data in the system was agreed in the meeting as well.

Output 2.2: Enhance public participation through training and awareness raising on wetlands and biodiversity issues at national and local levels

| Output indicators | Project Baseline (2018) | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Number of implemented PES schemes engaging the local people | 2 | 3 | 2 | Delay in budget allocation+ preparation of the TOR with habitats office took longer than expected |
| 2. Number of implemented actions of the business plan engaging the local people | 0 | 1 | 0 | There was not necessary capacities at local level |

Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence

In order to implement a PES scheme in Kanibarazan on Ecotourism, it was necessary to know the ecotourism carrying capacity of the wetland. A contract was signed with Boomiran Company to study the carrying capacity of 3 wetlands including Choghakhor, kanibarazan and Gwater bay. The results of this study in case of Kanibarazan wetland would be used to complete implementation of Ecotourism PES scheme.

Output 2.3: Support development and implementation of MP

| Output indicators | Project Baseline (2018) | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|---|--|
| 1. 1. Number of secretariats supported | 30 | 34 | 34 | |
| 2. Number of MP committee meetings held | 20 | 23 | 4 meetings attended by CIWP, 24 other meetings were also held | |
| 3. Number of priority actions implemented | 6 | 3 | 3 | |
| 4. Number of meetings of the National committee | 0 | 1 | 1 | |

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| 5. Number of measures implemented to address deficiencies in the process of MPs development and implementation | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Describe project progress towards achievement of the intended output-level results/Evidence | | | | |
| <p><i>The project national consultant started the process of Evaluating Management Planning processes. This process started in a meeting with Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Office, NGOs at national level and the experts of wetlands management secretariats at provincial level. The TOR for developing Integrated Management Plans has been updated as well.</i></p> <p><i>The project experience in developing MP for Parishan wetland is being documented (Attachment 014). The documents related to Wetland City were downloaded from Ramsar Convention's web site and shared with Hormozgan Province to be used for Khamir Port. In a visit to the area and meeting with stakeholders, different areas of cooperation for designation of Khamir port as a Wetland City was discussed. CIWP publications were sent to the newly established library of Khamir Port. A proposal was also developed for implementing a PES scheme in Khor Khoran on Ecotourism. The municipality of Khamir Port would be a donor of this project as well.</i></p> <p><i>A meeting of National Wetlands Coordination and Management Headquarter was held in September 2019 (Attachment 015). One of the main issues discussed in this meeting was revising and updating National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NWCSAP). The technical working group of the headquarter also met 3 times during 2019.</i></p> <p><i>The platform of online monitoring station in Choghakhor wetland was reconstructed.</i></p> <p><i>The management committees at local and provincial levels held 28 meetings among which 4 were attended by CIWP (2 meetings related to Parishan Wetland and 2 related to Noroozloo wetland).</i></p> <p><i>During 2019 the process of developing MPs started for Kashafrood and Jajrood rivers and Neor wetland and the secretariats were established for these 3 pilots as well.</i></p> | | | | |

| Project Outcome 3: Contribution to Lake Urmia Restoration via local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation (Phase V) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Outcome 3 indicators (or related objective indicators) | Project Baseline (year: 2018) | 2019 Target | 2019 Actual |
| 1.Number of pilot sites in which SA initiated in previous phases and continued for further establishment | 110 | 130 | 130 |
| 2.Number of new pilots in which SA is up-scaled | 0 | 20 | 20 |
| 3.Number of complementary tools used to help establishment of SA | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 4.Number of engaged farmers | 11500 | 12500 | 12500 |
| Evidence of achievement at outcome level | | | |
| <p>5. What has changed in Iran related to the subject of this outcome in 2019? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).</p> <p><i>During phase V of the project, the intersectoral cooperation of related stakeholders at provincial and local levels continued to be strengthened. So the project received more support from MoJA and DoE. The project has become a practical model of public participation in wetland conservation which has the potential to be</i></p> | | | |

up-scaled within the entire LU basin and even other wetlands in Iran.

6. Please explain how this project has contributed to this change? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents).

In this phase the ideas and innovation of the companies have been elicited in their proposals which was more time-consuming and challenging. But at the same time helped to define the processes according to the needs of the farmers and the situation.

The project continued training and capacity building for stakeholders and NGOs as well as local farmers and they are now acting as resources persons on facilitation and Participatory Technology Development to improve working with and participation of local communities in LU restoration.

Complementary tools (PES, micro-credit funds, participatory monitoring of endangered species and monitoring systems) helped establishment of SA and inspired the project with the idea of integration of different aspects of the project in the next phase.

7. Please specify results achieved under this outcome related to women's engagement and empowerment.

There are now totally 16 pilots of sustainable livelihood and women micro-credit funds and more than 250 women are engaged in these project. The project started work in 10 of these pilots in 2018 and 6 pilots are related to previous years.

| Output 3.1: Institutionalizing SA in LUB (110 pilots) | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Output indicators | Project Baseline (phase IV) | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
| 1. Number of reports produced | 0 | 35 | 35 | |
| 2. Number of proposals supported by CIWP | 0 | 15 | 18 | |
| 3. Number of knowledge and experience sharing events | 50 | 70 | 70 | |
| 4. Number of systematized and disseminated traceable good practices | 1 | 3 | 3 | |
| 5. Number of legal and institutional obstacles addressed | 2 | 4 | 4 | |
| 6. Number of organizations/ sectors involved in SA-related procedures | 2 | 6 | 6 | |
| 7. Number of new fundraising sources which are secured | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| 8. Number of farmers' family members (women | 0 | 220 | 220 | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| and youth) engaged in LU restoration and empowered | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|

Describe project progress towards achievement of the intended output-level results/Evidence

The final reports related to efficiency assessment workshops were prepared and submitted to the project by implementing companies in 35 villages (Attachment 016). After the assessment, the companies developed their proposals for continuing the work in 35 villages from previous phases under supervision of MoJA and CIWP experts (Attachment 017).

About 70 Knowledge sharing events including visits and share-fairs were held in pilot villages of phases III and IV. In villages from previous phases, experience sharing through visits and exhibitions were carried out. In West Azerbaijan in total 6 visits were conducted for 400 farmers (Attachment 018).

In East Azerbaijan about 40 farmers visited Kesht va Sanat Moghan, 5 visits were carried out in different focal areas by about 200 farmers, and 80 farmers visited tomato farm in Malekan (Attachment 018).

Related informative material and brochures were prepared and published for each visit.

The assessment of efficacy of these knowledge sharing activities will be conducted in Phase VI of the project to help future planning of the activities.

The facilitation stories of the companies were documented in a book titled “The footprint that remains”. This book has been finalized and is ready to be published in 2020. A good practice of the project on stakeholders engagement was published in WLI bulletin as well (<https://wli.wwt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/DRAFT-WLI-update-1909-9-Sept-2019.pdf>).

11 capacity building workshops on different subjects were held for the implementing companies. A 6-day workshop on “participatory application of audio-visual tools in working with local communities” with two international trainers from Praxis Institute was held for implementing companies.

The third phase of Evolutionary Plan started in 50 villages by LURP. The evolutionary plan is the approach which was adopted by MoJA after significant results of CIWP joint project with the government of Japan in LUB.

In 4 pilots, integrated method is being conducted and about 10 families in each village are fully engaged in related measures.

The MoJA (national level) formally assigned its provincial administrative organisations to apply the project approach. The provincial committee quarterly meetings were held in presence of representatives from related sectors of MoJA including soil and water, cultivation and plant breeding departments. There were negotiations with related sectors on budget allocation for the project.

Output 3.2: Out-scaling of SA, non-farm livelihood (as alternative livelihood) and women’s micro-credit funds in new villages in Lake Urmia basin based on past learning (20 pilots)

| Output indicators | Project Baseline | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Number of proposals received on SA in 20 pilot sites and, AL and MC in up to 4 new pilots and accepted by the committee | 0 | 20 | 18 | |
| 2. Number of beneficiaries exposed to participatory action plans | 800 | 1600 | 1600 | |
| 3. Number of prepared reports | 1 | 3 | 3 | |
| 4. Number of best practices identified and published | 4 | 8 | 8 | |
| 5. Number progress reports, number of meetings of | NA | 9 reports, 7 WG | 14 reports/ 3 WG meetings/ | |

| | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|-----------|--|
| national working group, number of field visits | | meetings, 17 visits | 50 visits | |
|---|--|------------------------|-----------|--|

Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence

18 proposals for work in new pilots received and in each of these pilots 15 farmers are directly and 25 farmers indirectly exposed to participatory action planning.

A modelling study is being done by Tarbiat Modares University to find out the efficiency of project activities in water saving and increasing the water flow to Lake Urmia.

Monitoring of water saving and chemical inputs were conducted by monitoring team in 11 pilots and by implementing companies in 47 pilots. 4 training workshops were held with 120 participants on data analysis (Attachment 022).

The results of monitoring indicate 34% decrease in water use and 40% increase in irrigation efficiency (Attachment 022).

Humidity sensors and Meta-analysis had also 3 pilots in E. and W. Azerbaijan. The results related to water-saving and efficacy of SA techniques are described in the related reports (Attachments 022)

6 pieces of social comic Animations (Dirin Dirin) were produced and published (Attachment 023)

The CIWP experience in LU restoration and preparation of CEPA for Kanibarazan was published in Wetlands Link International (WLI) bulletin (<https://wli.wwt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/DRAFT-WLI-update-1909-9-Sept-2019.pdf>).

3 short clips and 2 animation related to achievements of the project, wetlands values and history of CIWP were published through the project web site and Aparat with more than 1000 views (Attachment 024)

The festival of innovative ideas for LU restoration was held (Attachment 025).

3 meetings of National Working Groups were held (Attachment 026).

Besides regular visits (50 visits) of the project experts, one visit to the pilot sites was done by the project NPD, one was carried out by UNDP and one visit was conducted for a group of experts from the 7 countries in the region. The delegates were from Iraq (Ministry of Environment), Armenia, Uzbekistan (Ministry of Environment), Kazakhstan (Ramsar Regional Initiative), Syria (Ministry of Environment), Azerbaijan (Ministry of Environment), Oman (Ministry of Environment). The visit was along with a workshop in which the project achievements in LU restoration were presented to the participants and their experiences were also shared. (Attachment 027).

Output 3.3: Up-scaling sustainable agriculture in Lake Urmia basin

| Output indicators | Project Baseline | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
|---|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. number of pilot villages supported by MOJA/LURP | 90 | 110 | 110 | |
| 2. Number of beneficiaries supported | 100 | 200 | 234 | |
| 3. Number of wetlands to which SA experience for LU restoration is introduced | 4 | 6 | 6 | |

Describe project progress towards achievement of the intended output-level results/Evidence

Executive Manager of LURP visited the project pilot sites and CIWP participated in a meeting of LURP with the subject of decrease in water use.

In this phase the project supported livelihood and micro-credit funds in 10 villages (6 new villages and 4 from previous phase). The total number of involved people is 234. The number of held capacity building and training workshops is 30. More details about the livelihood options and activities related to micro-credit funds are explained in the reports (Attachment 028).

The experience sharing was done in the workshop jointly organized by CIWP, W. Azerbaijan provincial office of DoE and Ramsar Regional Centre. The experts from different countries in central and west Asia

shared their experience regarding wetland conservation with others as well as being introduced to CIWP experience in LU. At national level, the experts from Ardabil and Kurdistan provinces were introduced to CIWP experience by visiting the exhibition in Miandoab and field visit to the project site.

Output 3.4: Application of environmental tools and mechanisms as complementary elements of biodiversity conservation in LUB

| Output indicators | Project Baseline | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
|--|---|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Number of PES schemes which are implemented | 2 | 3 | 3 | |
| 2. Number of LU satellite wetlands for which integrated management plans are developed | 4 | 6 | 5 | All important satellite wetlands have got the MPs and the project tried to focus on implementation of the plans instead. |
| 3. Increased number of key species in pilot sites | As mentioned in the work plan, engagement of local communities in conservation of the species and their habitats is the sign of their enhanced level of awareness on the importance of biodiversity which will lead to increased number of species. | | | |

Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence

Kanibarazan ecotourism master plan was shared with related offices at national and provincial levels and finalized.

The artificial lagoon adjacent to Kanibarazan wetland was reconstructed in some parts.

Two PES schemes with farmers and livestock keepers are being implemented. The monitoring indicate that the farmers are following the agreement and there are about 20 other farmers in the area who are willing to join the MoA. (Attachment 033). The workshops for livestock keepers were held and the plan is being developed.

The participatory monitoring of Noroozloo and Kanibarazan Wetlands are being done by the local people and the data is recorded on the online data bank.

The MP of Noroozloo wetland finalized and the information centre for this wetland was constructed. In addition, CIWP provided technical support for activating the wetland management secretariats of 4 wetlands (gharegheshlagh, Solduz, Noroozloo, Kanibaraza). The secretariat of Gharegheshlagh wetlands started the process of revising its integrated management plan.

Project Outcome 4: Contribution to Lake Urmia Restoration via local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation (Phase VI)

| Outcome 4 indicators (or related objective indicators) | Project Baseline (Phase V) | 2019 Target | 2019 Actual |
|--|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|--|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|

| | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| 4. Number of pilot sites in which SA initiated in previous phases and continued for further establishment | 40 | 80 | 80 |
| 5. Number of new pilots in which SA is up-scaled | 20 | 40 | 40 |
| 6. Number of complementary tools used to help establishment of SA | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 7. Number of engaged farmers | 12500 | 13500 | 13500 |
| Evidence of achievement at outcome level | | | |
| 8. What has changed in Iran related to the subject of this outcome in 2019? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents). <i>The outcome level achievements could not be reported at this stage.</i> | | | |
| Please explain how this project has contributed to this change? Please provide figures and data and attach the source of the data (supporting documents). | | | |
| 9. Please specify results achieved under this outcome related to women's engagement and empowerment. | | | |

| Output 4.1: SA, water-friendly livelihood and Micro-credit Funds in LUB are integrated and institutionalized in previous pilot sites | | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Output indicators | Project Baseline | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
| 1. Number of villages in which SA is embedded | 110 | 150 | 150 | |
| 2. Number of farmers' family members (women and youth) engaged in LU restoration and empowered | 220 | 520 | 520 | |
| 3. % increase of Public awareness among communities around the lake | 35% | 50% | 50% | |
| Describe project progress towards achievement of the intended output-level results/Evidence | | | | |
| <p>SA practices is continued in 40 villages from previous phases. A comprehensive assessment of the previous phase has been conducted and participatory action planning for phase VI accomplished. MoJA experts are also engaged in the institutionalizing the project achievements in previous pilot sites.</p> <p>Based on the experience from previous phase, 2 pilots were selected for integration of SA, livelihood and micro-credit funds.</p> <p>Participatory Technology Development (PTD) will also be continued by 5 implementing companies in 11 villages.</p> <p>5 short clips for environment related events and subjects were produced and published as well as the interview clips of Head of DoE, DG of Wetlands office and CIWP National Project Manager (Attachment 030).</p> | | | | |

| Output 4.2: Out-scaling integrated approach of SA, water-friendly livelihood/women micro-credit funds in selected pilots | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------|---|---|
| Output indicators | Project Baseline | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
| 1. Number of pilots in which SA, non-farm livelihood (water-friendly livelihood) and micro-credit funds are piloted in an integrated way | (NA)There is no baseline for that as we start working in 20 new pilots in this phase | 20 | 20 | |
| 2. Number of local cooperatives/companies involved and empowered in project activities | 23 | 30 | 30 | |
| 3. % of water saving in new pilot sites based on monitoring reports | 35% | At least 20% | Final results of monitoring will be ready at the end of cropping season | |
| Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence | | | | |
| <p><i>The capacity building team is preparing their plan based on the request from the sites. They will conduct the workshops for new companies. There will also be capacity development for 11 villages which work with PTD approach.</i></p> <p><i>SA practices in 20 new villages started through 25 contract with local implementing companies.</i></p> <p><i>A TOR was prepared for monitoring of water and chemical inputs. Follow-ups are being done for selecting the qualified team for conducting the monitoring.</i></p> <p><i>For Socio-economic assessment of the project activities a TOR was prepared and the process of selecting the implementing partner is being followed-up.</i></p> | | | | |
| Output 4.3: Institutionalize, consolidate and integrate project results and achievements to up-scale project approach at basin and National level | | | | |
| Output indicators | Project Baseline | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
| 1. Number of new wetlands introduced to best practices | 2 | 4 | 4 (under implementation) | |
| 2. Number of knowledge sharing mechanisms established for presenting project achievements at provincial and national levels | 2 | 4 | 4 (under implementation) | |
| 3. The amount of allocated | | 300,000 | 100,000 USD | The project |

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| budget to SA, micro-credit funds and water-friendly livelihood by related organizations at provincial and national levels | | USD | | duration hasn't been finished yet |
| Describe project progress towards achievement of the intended output-level results/Evidence | | | | |
| <p><i>The project web site and Aparat page will be fully updated as a platform for sharing the achievements of the project with related stakeholders and interested individuals.</i></p> <p><i>A TOR was prepared for producing awareness raising content for the project and proposals received to CIWP for this purpose.</i></p> <p><i>Initial coordination has been done for selecting 2 other wetlands in other provinces for introducing and presenting the project's approach and experience to. These two provinces will probably be Golestan and Fars provinces.</i></p> <p><i>Lake Urmia Restoration Program allocated about 100000 USD to West and East Azerbaijan DoE offices to replicate CIWP experience in their pilot villages.</i></p> | | | | |
| Output 4.4: Conservation of LU satellite wetlands biodiversity & ecosystem is supported through implementation of MPs and SA integrated approach | | | | |
| Output indicators | Project Baseline (Phase V) | 2019 Target | Actual Result Achieved 2019 | Explain the reason for difference between target and the result (if any) |
| 1. Number of functional management mechanisms and priority actions implemented for LU satellite wetlands MPs | 5/3 | 5/6 | Empowerment of 5 existing management committees / 6 actions | |
| 2. Number of PES schemes implemented | 3 | 4 | 4 | |
| 3. Number of biodiversity conservation activities implemented | 1 | 3 | Under implementation | |
| 4. Number of accomplished activities of CEPA plan | 3 | 6 | Under implementation | |
| Explain project progress towards achievement of the intended Output/Evidence | | | | |
| <p><i>2 meetings of Solduz local committee and 3 meetings of wetland technical working group were held (Attachment 031).</i></p> <p><i>2 meeting of Kanibarazan local committee and 4 meetings of wetland technical working group were held (Attachment 032).The representatives of the secretariats in satellite wetlands attended the regular capacity development workshops (2 two-day workshops and 1 one-day workshop) of the secretariats.</i></p> <p><i>A number of proposals have been received from NGOs regarding biodiversity and habitat conservation in Solduz and Gharegheshlagh wetlands.</i></p> <p><i>A proposal on implementation of CEPA received and is being reviewed for final decision.</i></p> <p><i>Establishing monitoring stations for Noroozloo and Solduz wetlands were carried out in 2019. Arranging livestock grazing in Kanibarazan and Ecotourism infrastructures were the priority actions of MPs which were implemented as PES schemes as well.</i></p> | | | | |



1.2 Positive unanticipated results

- *Alternative livelihood and micro-credit funds along with related empowerment and capacity building activities had a significant positive impact on rural women regarding their attitude towards wetlands conservation*
- *Voluntary participation of local farmers and also private sector (executive companies) in SA project without any incentives was significant*
- *There was an opportunity to introduce the LU project achievements and gains to other countries during the ceremony which was held in appreciation of the Gov of Japan. This could be a positive step towards mobilizing new financial sources for the project.*

1.3 Negative unanticipated results and follow up actions that project has taken to address them

The changes in exchange rate of the USD increased the project budget in the middle of the year. This issue imposed a lot of pressure to the project team, as several new activities were added to the work plan. Besides that change of NPM and NPD encountered CIWP with delay in completing planned activities. Moving to a new office space adversely affected the project as well.

1.4 Justification for project continuation

CIWP has gained much experience in different areas regarding wetlands management and conservation during its life time. The critical situation of the wetlands and water bodies in the country seriously needs the capacities and experience of CIWP at this critical situation. On the other hand the project established a strong partnership among stakeholders including Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture (main partner in implementation of the project), Department of Environment (project coordination and facilitation), Ministry of Energy (collaborating partner of the project), Private local companies and local communities on the basis of institutional arrangements and capacities built for inter-sectoral management of the Wetlands project. As a result of follow-ups done by CIWP the cost-sharing mechanism between DoE and UNDP started for the first time.

1.5 What are the main areas of the project 2020 work-plan?

- Implementation of Integrated Management Plans
- Develop and implement CEPA plan for wetlands and at national level
- Pilot wetland management tools and develop guidelines
- Sustainable Agriculture, water-friendly livelihoods
- vulnerability assessment, wetlands economic valuation and business planning
- International commitments
- Strengthen national and international experience and knowledge exchange

5. Monitoring & Evaluation

5.1 What have been the main project monitoring activities during 2019?

- Preparation of regular progress reports
- Regular internal monthly meetings with staff are conducted to review progress towards completion of project activities and plan next steps
- Preparation of Quarterly Delivery Reports
- Project steering committee meeting in Feb 2019 (Attachment 034)
- Bimonthly meetings of SA national steering working group (Attachment 026)
- Technical monitoring of SA project results (Attachment 022)

5.2 If the project has been evaluated in 2019, what have been the main recommendations? What are the follow up actions to address recommendations.

6. Problems/issues (internal and external) encountered and action taken or required.

| Problem / Issue | Action taken or required | Responsible body |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Increase of exchange rate which led to gaining significant amount of money | Hard work of CIWP staff, accomplish some activities such as publications, capacity building workshops, etc. | CIWP |
| Lack of human resource | Use voluntary potentials (Interns) | CIWP |
| Lack of secure financial resources for next years of the project | Try to find new donors, Submit proposals to possible donors | CIWP |
| Delay in national budget allocation | Try to find alternative resources from provincial budget in case of delay | DoE |
| | | |

7. Risk Management

| # | Description | Date Identified | Type ¹ | Impact & Probability | Countermeasures / Management response | Owner | Submitted, updated by | Last Update | Status |
|---|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|-------|-----------------------|-------------|--------|
| 1 | concurrent of phase V and phase VI of SA project | March 2018 | <i>Operational</i> | Low/Low | Precise planning and monitoring of project progress | CIWP | | | |
| 2 | Change in USD exchange rate | Since the beginning of the year | <i>Financial</i> | High/High | Hard work of CIWP staff, accomplish some activities such as publications, capacity building workshops, etc. | CIWP | | | |
| 3 | Lack of experience in some areas of Work Plan including business planning and National CEPA planning | June 2019 | <i>Operational</i> | Low/Low | Collect international experiences and introduce them to local experts, hold capacity building workshops | CIWP | | | |
| 4 | Change of NPD | July 2019 | <i>Organizational</i> | Medium/High | Hold briefing and coordination meeting with new NPD | CIWP | | | |
| 5 | Change of NPM | March 2019 | <i>Organizational</i> | High/High | | CIWP | | | |
| 6 | Moving to new office space | September 2019 | <i>Operational</i> | Medium/Medium | The project tried to deal with this risk and minimizes the negative impacts of this movement, though the consequences | CIWP | | | |
| 7 | Delay in allocation of cost-sharing budget | Feb 2019 | <i>Financial</i> | Medium/High | | CIWP | | | |
| 8 | Delay in formal signing | Feb 2019 | <i>Operational</i> | Medium/ Low | As most of the activities in | CIWP | | | |

¹ Operational, Financial, Organizational, Regulatory, Security, Strategic, Political, Environmental, etc.



| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| of LU phase VI pro-doc | | | | this component depend on the agricultural calendar, actually we started planning processes where possible. | | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|