

PROJECT DOCUMENT**Islamic Republic of Iran****Project Title:** Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project Phase 3**Project Number:** 00128285**Output Number:** 122284**Implementing Partner:** Department of Environment**Start Date:** June2020**End Date:** May 2025**PAC Meeting date:** 18 May 2020**Brief Description**

Phase III of the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) builds on the successes of the previous phases of the project since 2005 during which the ecosystem-based management approach was introduced and partly implemented for several wetlands. Valuable achievements of the project during previous phases include preparation of Integrated Management Plans for wetlands and establishment of the implementation structures, strengthening the wetland related legislations, laws and capacities at national level, awareness raising of the stakeholders and the public on the values of the wetlands.

But because of the challenges inherent in multi-stakeholder ecosystem-based management for wetlands and the lack of adequate collaboration between stakeholders, the approach has not yet been effectively implemented. Thus, many wetlands are still suffering from various threats. Therefore, the main aim of the present project is to more effectively apply ecosystem-based management approach for better wetland conservation and the promotion of more sustainable livelihoods for the local population, along with identifying and practicing new approaches or complementary tools.

The strategic components selected for the implementation of the project for sustaining the conservation of the wetlands and livelihood of the surrounding population are: 1) Iran's wetlands are better managed through mainstreaming the ecosystem approach and applying effective tools; 2) The management of land, water and biodiversity in wetland basins is sustainable and adapted to climate change, enhancing local community livelihoods and wellbeing; and 3) Iran's wetlands are in better condition due to increased public awareness and participation, enhanced collaboration, knowledge and sharing of innovative national and international technologies and practices. These components have been derived from discussions at several workshops organized with the participation of key stakeholders, experiences from previous years and reviewing new approaches

In order to achieve these components, the focus of the project will be on mainstreaming ecosystem-based management approach for the conservation of wetlands and empowering the stakeholders engaged in the management to apply improved methods through the provision of effective tools. The pre-requisite for implementing these approaches will be an effective campaign about the value and importance of functioning wetlands for raising awareness of the general public, local communities, and particularly of the managers and decision makers. The project also intends to embed the results-based approach into wetland management implementation, for which an effective, systematic and regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting system to follow up the results-based performance of the wetland management is envisaged as another prerequisite for the success of the program.

The project will embed climate change adaption and mitigation measures into wetlands management plans reflecting the significant role wetlands play in climate adaptation and mitigation and the variety of climate stressors they face. Therefore, the project will explore scenarios for climate change in the catchment areas of pilot wetland's and demonstrate participatory adaptation and mitigation measures for water and other uses in the basin area to sustain the livelihood of the communities as well as ensuring the functionality of the wetlands. Tying economic incentives and opportunities to wetland conservation and engaging the diversity of wetland users in the design and implementation of conservation measures will be guiding principles of the project.

Contribution outcome (UNDAF/CPD):

UNDAF Iran 2017-2021 Outcome 1.1: Responsible GOI agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resources management policies and programs more effectively.

UNDAF Iran 2017-2021 Outcome 1.2: Responsible GOI agencies formulate, implement and monitor low carbon economy and climate change policies and programs more effectively.

UNDP/CPD, Outcome 1: Responsible government agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resource management, low carbon economy and climate change policies and programs more effectively

Indicative outputs (UNDP 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/implemented by the IR Iran

Output 1.2:

Climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions developed and considered for adoption/ implementation by IR Iran

Total resources required:	USD 5,980,000	
Total resources allocated	UNDP TRAC:	USD 280,000
	Government (Department of Environment)	USD 700,000
Unfunded	USD 5,000,000 Note: UNDP and DOE shall jointly work to find international and national donors	
The portion of UNDP's commitment applicable beyond the current CPD period (2017-2021) shall be dependent on the next CPD signed for the period beyond 2021 and the priority areas defined within that document		

Agreed by:

UNDP	Implementing Partner
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Date: 2020/06/14 13:12 IRDT	Date

Abbreviations:

BTAS	Bureau of Technical Affairs and Standards (PBO)
CIWP	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project
CPD	Country Program Document
DOE	Department of Environment
DPC	Direct Project Costs
ESBM	Ecosystem Based Management
GMS	General Management Services
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
LURP	Lake Urmia Restoration Program
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCHHT	Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism
MoE	Ministry of Energy
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoIMT	Ministry of Industry, Mines, and Trade
MoJA	Ministry of Jihad Agriculture
PBO	Plan and Budget Organization
PCO	Project Central Office
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PWMS	Provincial Wetland Management Secretariat
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
WCRO	Wetland Conservation and Restoration Office (DOE)
WESO	Water Engineering Standards Office
WISP	Water Industry's Standard Project

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I DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

Iran is a territory with very diverse geological, topographical and climatological conditions in which different types of wetlands have evolved, including 41 of the 42 types of wetlands recognized around the world¹. Iranian wetlands are located midway along an important international migratory water bird flyway and thus provide resting and wintering grounds for large populations of these birds. Furthermore, Iran hosted the 1971 international conference at which the Ramsar Convention for the conservation of wetlands was originally signed by the founding contracting parties.

Iranian Wetlands deliver outstanding ecological functions most of them, in different parts of the country, have been providing considerable benefits to the livelihoods of the local population in different parts of the country. For some wetlands, the surrounding population is highly dependent on their water and products. Examples are the Hamoun in Sistan, Shadegan and Hour al Azim in Khuzestan, and Parishan in Fars Provinces. To date 25 of the wetlands have been registered as Ramsar Sites with international importance, and several others meet the criteria to be so entitled (Map 1). Five of the Ramsar sites are recognized as UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Several of the wetlands particularly Shadegan, Bakhtegan, Hamoun, and Lake Urmia are protecting surrounding towns and villages from flooding hazards. Shadegan has a unique importance in protecting fundamental oil and petrochemical industrial units in Abadan and Mahshahr. Many of the wetlands have significant cultural and historic values. Some of the ancient societies were formed near the productive wetlands; examples are Hour al Azim in Khuzestan, Hamoun in Sistan, Hassanlu in West Azerbaijan and Parishan in Fars Province. The importance of wetlands in regulating micro-climate and ground water for surrounding agriculture is also immense. These are evidences that explicitly reveal the high values of the wetlands and prove the necessity for their protection and improvement.

These multiple functions and values of wetlands have directed global attention towards the requirement for better conservation of wetlands across Iran during a period when Iran's wetlands were showing trends of degradation. This has mainly occurred due to unsustainable development particularly in the water resources system including construction of large storage dams, simplification and channelization of rivers, large scale irrigation and drainage and fish culturing development projects, large agro-business and agro-industrial projects, as well as oil field developments in wetland areas, and other damaging interventions.

Furthermore, Iran, located in the mid geographical latitudes (25°- 40° N) already suffers from a vulnerable climatological regime particularly with regards to rainfall pattern.

For the past two decades approximately, Global climate change has further exacerbated the conditions. The following changes have been noted in general: reduction of average precipitation; reduction in river flows and surface and ground water resources, drying out of land cover vegetation, soil erosion, and desiccation of wetlands mainly in central, southern and eastern regions, increase of average ambient temperature and evaporation potential, increase of the frequency and magnitude of extreme events for instance intensive precipitation, flash floods, prolonged droughts, etc. These processes result in significant increases in water abstraction for municipal uses and for irrigation. According to existing studies, the severity of changes is not uniform across the country, being more severe in the central, southern and eastern provinces. These changes have happened against a backdrop of population growth, rising needs for more production as well as increased demands for new jobs and alternative revenues.

¹ See Chapter 4.3.4: An Introduction to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 7th ed. (previously The Ramsar Convention Manual). Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland.

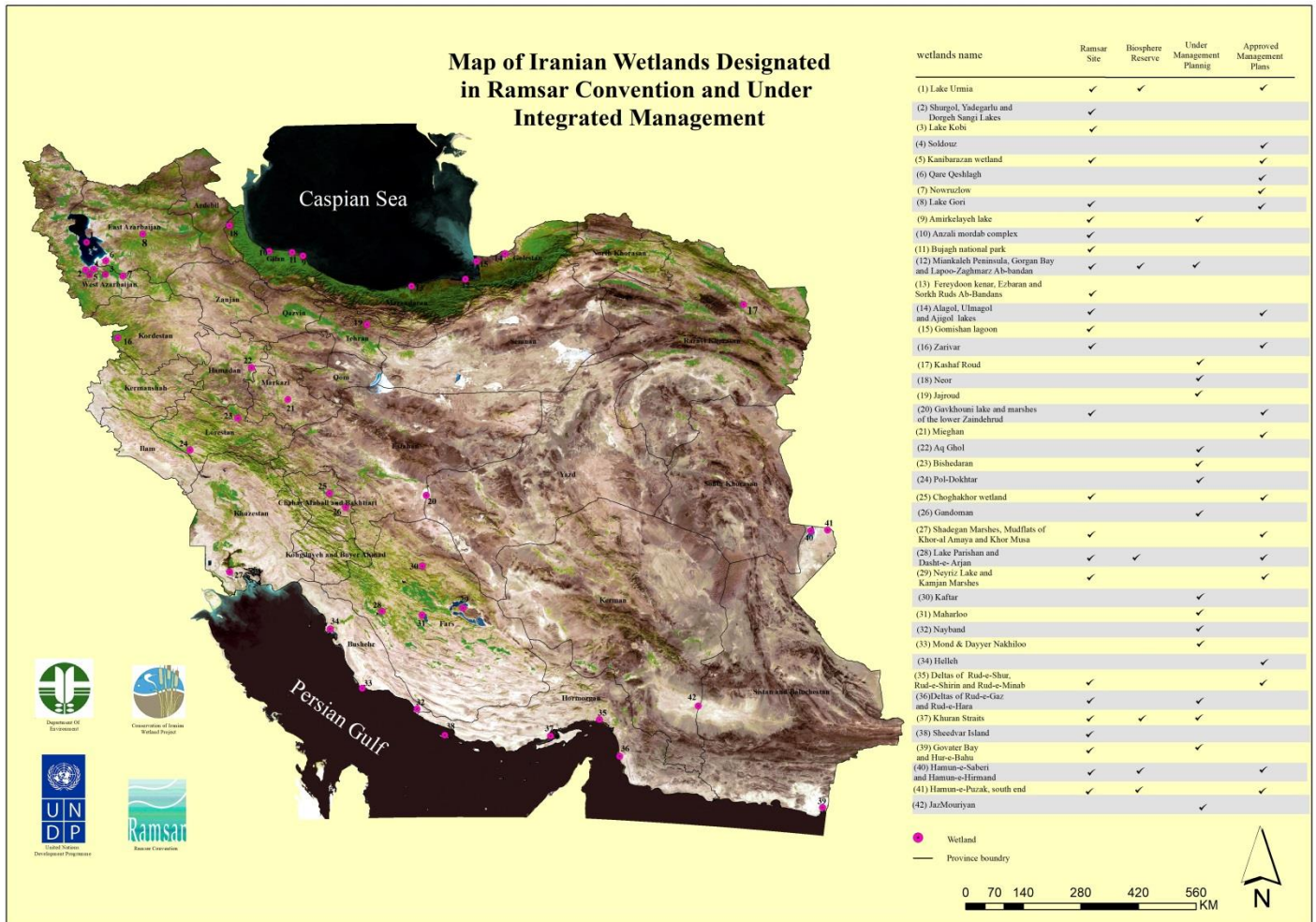
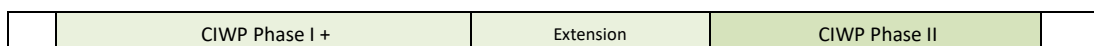


Fig 1: Map of Iranian Wetlands Designated in Ramsar Convention and Under Integrated Management

This has led to further problems in the rural areas, where thousands of illegal wells were constructed, existing wells were over-exploited, and illegal water withdrawn from surface water resources for irrigation, all at the cost of less water supply to the wetlands. Indeed the wetlands, particularly those located at the downstream end of the river basins (majority of larger wetlands of Iran), have been the main ecosystems suffering from the climate change and development-related challenges.

The Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project was first launched by UNDP and the Department of the Environment with support from the Global Environment Facility in 2005. Since then, CIWP, was organized in DoE, and implemented two successive project document/strategy in two phases as depicted in Figure2 below.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce Ecosystem Approach - Lake Urmia, Lake Parishan and Shadegan wetlands MPs development, approval and implementation and establishment of implementation structures - Draft Wetlands Law - Draft NWCSAP - Prepare Wetlands Ecosystem Approach Management toolkit - Project handover to DoE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replication of MP development in 7 other wetlands in Iran - Capacity development of national and provincial wetlands secretariats - Apply Wetlands EBM toolkit in other wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of 34 wetland MPs (17 MPs approved, 17 under development or awaiting approval) - Establishment of National Headquarter of Wetlands Coordination and Management - Approval of Wetlands Law and NWCSAP - Implementation of LU restoration project 	
2005	2012	2014	2020

Fig 2: Timeline of the CIWP and key achievements

The primary purpose for all these plans was to formulate strategies and to conduct programs to introduce an innovative Ecosystem Based Management approach as a tool to establish more effective conservation of the wetlands for the benefit of the communities (and wider stakeholders) and biodiversity that depend on these remarkable ecosystems. Ecosystem based management (EBM) is an integrated management approach that recognizes the full array of interactions within an ecosystem, including humans, rather than considering single issues, species, or ecosystem services in isolation. In particular, when applied to wetlands, this approach considers the wetland within its river basin context.

Despite such valuable achievements in changing traditional perceptions and attitudes among the decision-makers, officials and communities, the program has not yet effectively and adequately succeeded in changing the management practices of the governmental organizations and behaviors of the local population to the expected level. Hence, except for a few wetlands, many are still far from the desired level of conservation and continue to suffer from different threats. Therefore, it seems that further and more effective efforts to influence the attitudes and practices of particularly managers and decision-makers are required for assuring better conservation of the wetlands and wiser use of the land and water resources.

Direct threats and their underlying causes

Ecosystem-based management of wetlands is an approach that involves different stakeholders with different impacts and interests. It requires them to participate in planning for the sustainable use of the resources and contribute to their conservation for the benefit of the current and future generations as well as conservation of biodiversity.

To date, in addition to the three original demonstration wetlands (Uromiyeh Lake, Lake Parishan and Shadegan Wetland), ecosystem-based management plans have been developed and officially adopted for more than 31 other wetlands and rivers in different provinces of the country. As listed in the below table, the Integrated Management Plans of 17 wetlands have been approved and are under implementation now. While 6 other plans await approval and 11 are under preparation.

List of Wetlands with approved Management Plan

Approved and under implementation (17 wetlands)	Parishan, Shadegan, Urmia, Gharegheshlagh, Ghorigol, Mighan, Choghakhor, Zarivar, Hamoon, Helle, Bakhtegan, Alagol-Almagol-Ajjigol, Gavkhooni, Norooaloo, Solduz, Kanibarazan, Harra-e- Minab
Waiting for approval (6 wetlands)	Gwater, Gandoman, Jazmoorian, Neor, Mond and Daye-Nakhiloo, Nayband
Under preparation (11 wetlands)	Kashafrood, Jajrood, Poldokhtar, Bishedalan, Khoran Estuary, Harra-e-Gaz, Maharloo, Kaftar, Aghgol, Amirkelaye, Miankale

However, the expected improvements haven't been fully achieved to the condition of these wetlands. Most of them are still suffering from threats. Several social, political and economic reasons could be addressed as being responsible for such shortcomings. However considering the CIWP's experiences so far obtained during strategic planning workshops, and based on several participatory consultations conducted for the purpose of preparation of the current document, the primary reason for such shortcoming is that despite the adoption of the ecosystem based management plans for these demonstration wetlands and several other important wetlands of Iran, the responsible inter-sectoral organizations have not succeeded in establishing effective collaboration of sectoral agencies, or taking their individual responsibilities. DoE should have played a more effective role in monitoring and enforcing the implementation of the MPs and similarly the management committees should have been more effective in properly establishing an ecosystem-based management system in the target wetlands. The discussions in the same participatory consultations also distinguished the following among the main underlying causes to the above problem:

a- Wetland values and functions are not recognized well; As a result of the successfully championed outcome of CIWP during the past phases of the project, most of the decision makers and officials who are in some ways in contact with wetland management are now familiar with the concepts and theories of ecosystem-based management. However, , there is still very little evidence that this has resulted in these individuals or their institutions paying appropriate attention to the conservation of wetlands; i.e. respecting the wetland's water rights and providing required water flows, protecting its ecological resources, boundaries and environment. Also, local communities traditionally use the wetlands for livestock (particularly cattle) husbandry, as a natural source of fodder for animals, and goods and foods for their livelihood. While these are the values local communities attribute to the wetlands, since these are government-owned lands the individual farmers rarely recognize any responsibility to conserve it. The economic values of these services and the costs of losing them, remains poorly understood, and is a further constraint to good decision-making and stewardship.

Probably the unique exception to this is Lake Urmia where, following its drastic desiccation during the past decade(s), there has been and continues to be particular attention from the Government Organizations. The reason for this difference is that desiccation of large areas of the Lake resulted in the wide dispersal of salt particles over inhabited areas and agricultural lands around and within considerable distance from the Lake. This brought about a real danger for human health and severely hampered crop production and economic activities of the rural communities. These impacts were obvious enough to be clearly felt by the public and had the capacity to create a groundswell for a real socio-political crisis. It was only in this case that the real value of the wetland in controlling these processes was recognized by decision- makers, leading to the expenditure totaling close to 5.6 million dollars¹ for the restoration of the lake's ecosystem. This clearly confirms the fact that the public (and decision makers) may be aware of the values of the wetlands, but they perceive the values of protecting the wetlands for overall public good to be lower than the value to their individual livelihoods or businesses or sectors. While this reveals the level of the awareness of the public and the decision makers are not sufficiently high to affect their beliefs and behaviors, it reflects the classical "tragedy of the commons". It can only be resolved with strong enforcement of the laws, or by providing incentives to manage the land and water in wetland basins for public benefit.

1 -Equivalent to 4.8 million dollars plus 35.500 billion Rials; Report on the costs paid for LU restoration works, July 2019,LURP

b- Wetland condition and threats and the wetland management interventions and their outcomes are not properly monitored and evaluated. In all the strategic plans developed for and implemented in the demonstration wetlands, and similarly in all other ecosystem-based management plans prepared for the individual wetlands, M&E of the management activities has been addressed as a crucial outcome of the management arrangements, and required provisions have been made respectively. The particular intention of such provisions was to use M&E as a tool to assess the progress of activities and to evaluate whether or not the actions have resulted in their anticipated outcomes. Also, M&E should have been used as a tool to adapt the plans based on the evidence of progress, and for finding solutions to the potential implementation issues.

In practice it seems that effective M&E of the adopted management plans and activities has not been properly conducted either for the original three demonstration wetlands or for several others for which ecosystem-based management plans have been adopted. The evidence indicates that this crucial part of the work plans for establishing ecosystem-based management has not been adequately attended by the responsible agencies.

Another notable issue is that in the few cases that management plans and actions are monitored or evaluated, the procedures are usually task-oriented and not result-oriented. According to this procedure, initiating and continuing an action is the basis for evaluation regardless of whether the results anticipated for that action have been reached or not.

c- Existing Laws, Strategies, Management plans and Guidelines are not effective or properly implemented. In addition to many laws and by-laws which were already enforced and could positively affect the conservation of wetlands, some other regulations with particular direct attention to conservation of wetlands have been proposed by DOE and have been officially approved and enacted either by the Parliament or the Cabinet. These have been initially elaborated by CIWP as part of the work-plans during the previous phases of the project for provision of legal documents required for better conservation of wetlands. The following list describes these key legal documents.

- Bylaw: for Conservation, Restoration and Management of the Iranian Wetlands, 2015
- The Law of Conservation, Restoration and Management of the Iranian Wetlands, 2017
- Bylaw, the rules for Preventing irreversible degradation and contamination of the Iranian wetlands, 2018.

In practice, despite all the existing, and seemingly very comprehensive regulation framework, the wetlands are still not benefiting from the opportunities these laws and bylaws could provide for wetlands to sustain their functions. Some of the reasons for this are given below:

- According to the Law, wetlands have privilege (next to the drinking water) over other users (Municipal, agriculture and industry) to receive water from controlled resources.
 - In the special economic condition of the country under the imposed sanctions, socio-political restrictions will force the Government to give priorities to agricultural and industrial production as well as livelihood of the rural population. Indeed, the inability to provide alternative sources for livelihood in the rural areas, forces the Government to “turn a blind eye” to the existing law.
 - There are clear indications that several development programs are implemented with many negative impacts on the wetland’s condition even though existing laws instruct otherwise.
 - Wetlands are usually located far downstream from dams and reservoirs. Given MOE releases water for wetlands, water users along the river course commonly and illegally take water from the river before it reaches the wetland. It seems that either MOE or DOE should take the responsibility and provide facilities to safeguard the allocated

discharge for the wetlands. Doing this will require effective provisions for supervising water use along the river course. Evidence shows that such supervision does not exist and required resources for creating such supervision are very limited.

- In the case of wetlands that are recharged mainly from ground water resources, over-exploitation of aquifers through water wells (almost entirely for irrigation and very commonly illegal) usually severely affects the wetland. A very clear example is Parishan Wetland, a very sensitive Ramsar site which is now almost completely dry. It is understandable that any attempt to tackle such a problem for rationalizing groundwater use seems to be extremely difficult, if possible, at all. The reason is that eliminating part of the wells will end in socio-political crisis, simply because there is very little or no opportunity for alternative livelihood of the rural population.
- These challenges are compounded by the very low cost of water which exacerbates over-use.
- In addition to the DOE, several organizations are - because of the nature of their activities – more specifically involved in the management of the wetlands; these are: Ministry of Energy, Ministry of the Interior, Budget and Planning Organization, Ministry of Jihad Agriculture, Ministry of Industries, Mines and Trade, etc. Each organization has its authority to prepare development plans according to the standards and criteria. However when the development project is defined as large and with significant environmental impact, the responsible organization should prepare and submit to DOE, an Environment Impact Assessment Statement to ensure that the development plan has no serious impact on the environment; and in case it has impacts, the development plan should already have proposed remedial solutions to prevent or to reduce the impacts to a level acceptable to DOE. Only in this case DOE will allow for the execution of the project. Without such a permission the agencies, whether governmental or private sector, are not allowed to implement development projects.

Although the law and the procedures seem theoretically to be able to safeguard environmental assets including wetlands against external interventions, several indications prove that this is not always the case. The main causes are:

- The impacts of projects are evaluated within their own boundaries and usually do not include impacts on the environmental assets far distant upstream or downstream from the project. Very distinct examples for this deficiency are Lake Urmia and Shadegan Wetland which are subject to impacts from numerous individual projects within their upstream watersheds.
- A further problem is that within the large watersheds, in addition to assessing the impacts from any individual project, the cumulative impacts from several individual projects should also be assessed. Because this type of assessment requires much basic information from the natural environment of the entire basin (which sometimes does not practically exist), as well as information from all the development projects in the basin, including established instructions / methodologies on how to balance the requirements between the projects (which usually are not available to the assessor), one can conclude that this type of strategic assessment has probably never been undertaken properly in Iran.
- In evaluation of the EIA documents of the requesting organizations, it seems that DOE is primarily concerned about the obligations the organization must accept in the EIA as remedial measures to the impacts. There seem to be cases where remedial obligations are accepted on paper but are not respected in the field and even not followed-up by DOE.

- Other cases which can be basically considered as contradictory or inappropriate implementation of the laws are:
 - The system for Government Resource (budget) Allocation. There are several evidences that the government organizations with economic development plans (Ministries of Energy, Agriculture, Industry, Oil and petrochemicals,...), particularly those related the livelihood of rural population, and socio-political programs (Ministries of Roads and housing, hygiene, ...), usually have privilege over DOE in acquiring resource.
 - There are cases where an organization and/ or group of people do not comply with the existing laws and / or instructions and undertake activities that harm the wetlands. If the case is linked to the livelihood of the rural people, usually the local governors expect DOE offices to compromise their regulatory responsibilities to avoid causing unrest.
 - According to the instructions for economic evaluation of water resources development projects, the damages these projects impose on the wetlands and the costs for their remediation have to be included in the benefit - cost analysis for economic justification of the projects. This has never been observed in the water resources development projects because of the following reasons:
 - Intentional overlooking of the consultants as well as the clients to include these costs, just to show higher benefit - cost ratios;
 - Lack of sound information on the economic value of the wetland's productions and/or functions;
 - Lack of practical and effective instructions or guidelines for such valuations.

II STRATEGY

Considering the direct threats to the condition and functioning of wetlands described in the previous section, the most promising strategies for eliminating/ or effectively reducing the problems have been identified through several desk review, bilateral meetings and participatory consultation workshops with the members of stakeholder groups. First, the problem trees and solution trees for wetland conservation were derived and potential strategies were identified by experts from the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) jointly with the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Office (WCRO) of DoE. Second, the potential strategies were shared and discussed among the representatives from relevant inter-sectoral organizations including Ministries of Energy, Jihad Agriculture, Industries-Mines and Trades, Cultural Heritage-Handicraft and Tourism, Plan and Budget Organization, etc., as well as professionals from provincial organizations. The third workshop was held with the experts from the Provincial Wetland Conservation Secretariats who shared their experiences and discussed the problems related to wetland conservation and the solutions, and finally the fourth workshop was organized with the representatives from NGOs active in wetland conservation from different provinces.

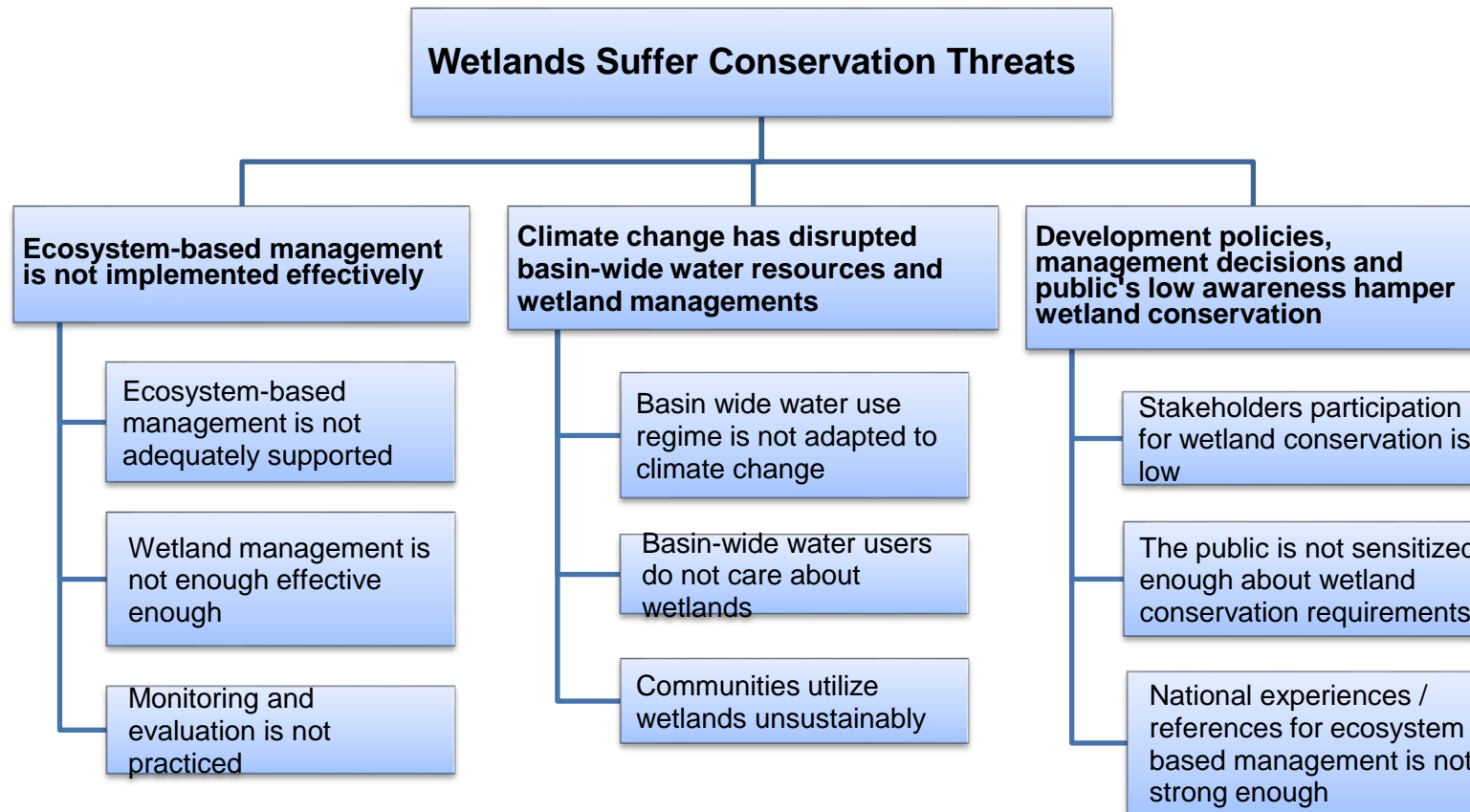


Figure 3 **Root causes of the wetland degradation**

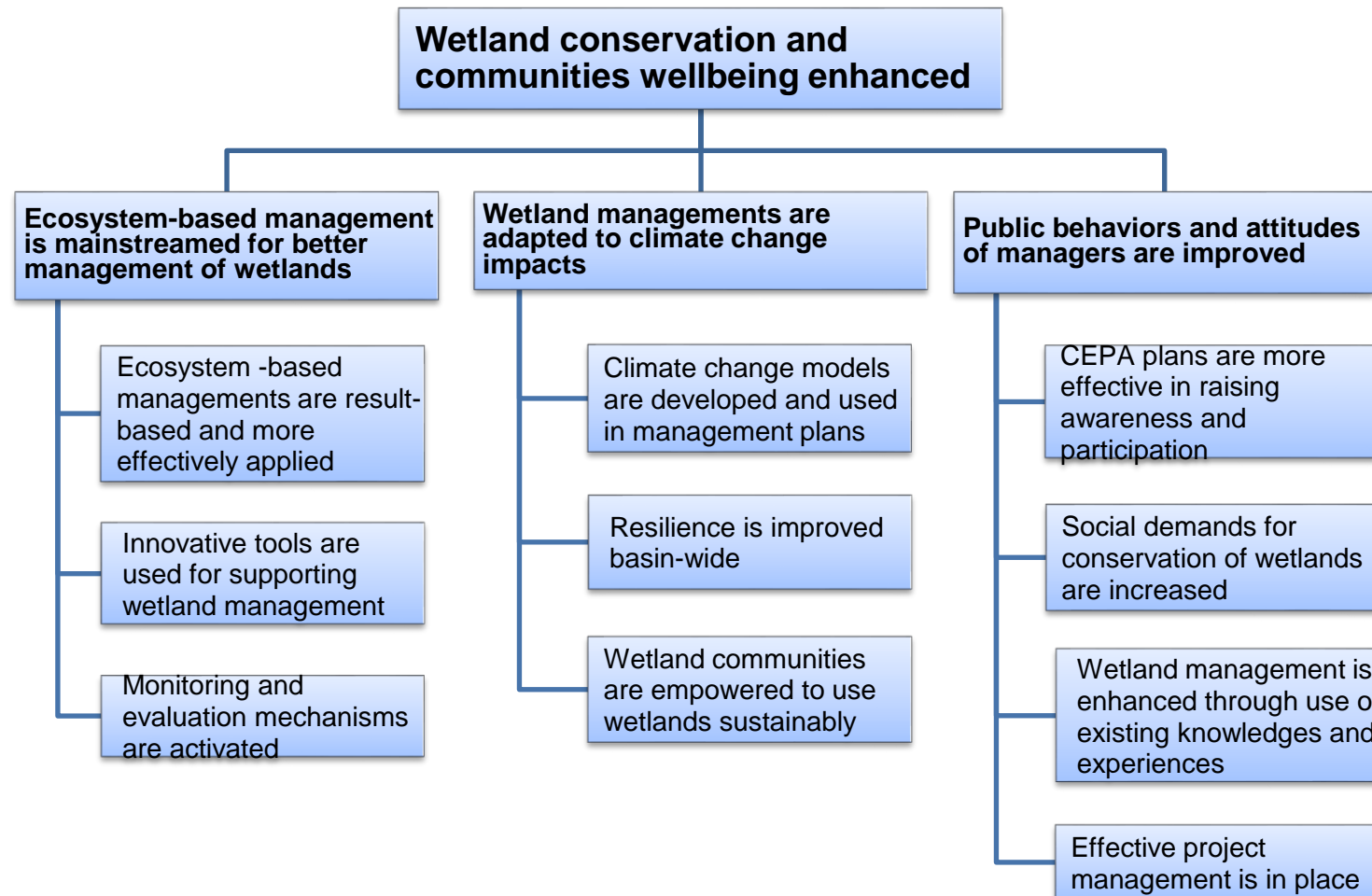


Figure 4 Solution tree

The workshops presented an opportunity for different stakeholders to vocalize their views and experiences on the current problems related to wetland conservation as well as their proposals for the solutions. Finally, with all this information in hand, the project technical team reviewed, classified and finalized the products from the workshops and elaborated the Vision and Goal for CIWP's program during the coming years, and the main components and Outputs which were organized into a logic framework. The Logic Framework thus developed was then presented in a last verification and approval workshop with the presence of representatives from all the organizations who participated in the previous workshops. The project document and its results frame work presented to the Project Steering Committee in its 25th meeting held in February 2020 and approved by the committee members. The log-frame is presented in Table 1 and the following provides a narrative explanation on the details of the strategies:

Vision:

The favorable condition of Iranian Wetlands provides the current and future generations the opportunity to use wetland benefits sustainably.

Goal:

Effective application of the Ecosystem Approach in wetland basins enhances the economic situation and wellbeing of local communities and conserves wetlands.

Expected Outcomes:

The project will be delivered through three components. The planned components identified for this phase III of CIWP that will be followed for the purpose of more effective implementation of Ecosystem Based Management of wetlands are:

Component 1: Better management of Iran's wetlands through mainstreaming the ecosystem approach and applying effective tools

During the past project phases, CIWP focused on introducing the ecosystem-based management and facilitated developing plans for some 34 wetlands and several important laws and by-laws were approved which brings great hope for stronger support for more effective conservation of the wetlands.

On the other hand, the implementation of ecosystem-based management approach for wetlands has not yielded the expected results and many wetlands continue to be under severe threat. Therefore additional efforts for capacity development and coordination amongst stakeholder organizations and local people are required because ecosystem-based management plan for a wetland should receive the adequate level of resources to be effectively implemented and will require more binding commitment by each individual stakeholder organization to be collaborative and play the role anticipated for that organization. This will require tenacious follow-up, monitoring and evaluation by the local and provincial wetland management committees to secure stakeholders' commitments.

Mainstreaming the ecosystem-based management and increasing the effectiveness of stakeholder interventions in conservation of wetlands is the strategy CIWP believes will help. Also, wetland conservation concepts and requirements need to be appropriately incorporated into the contents of the next National Socio-Economic Development Programs and the related provincial plans. Several by laws, instructions and codes of practices developed by technical bureau of the Plan and Budget Organization need to be reviewed and appropriate modification proposed for the items which do not (but are expected to) consider the wetland's needs.

Component 2- Management of land, water and biodiversity in wetland basins is sustainable and adapted to climate change, enhancing local community livelihoods and wellbeing

In most parts of Iran, global climate change has affected the temperature and hydrological regimes and therefore the activities of the population within the basins for use of land and water resources for domestic, industrial and particularly agricultural uses as well as for the wetlands. Therefore following the CIWP's attempts to establish and implement ecosystem-based management plans for wetland conservation, it seems essential to embed an appropriate climate change adaptation strategy in the ecosystem-based management plans. This will require an in depth investigation of the nature of the changes over the wetland's catchment area, and implies conducting simulation studies to help develop scenarios to define the priorities and rights of different water users within the basin to benefit from the existing water resources in different status of availability and or shortage of water resources. This will assist optimizing the use of natural resources for ensuring both the livelihoods of the local population and the functionality of the wetlands.

Several studies have been conducted in Iran for simulating the impacts of climate change. However, little is known about integrating and successfully implementing socio-economic options into the model to optimize allocation of existing water and other resources to priority users. Therefore it will be advisable that subsequent to developing climate change scenarios in the sample river basin, the procedures for adaptation be worked out through a participatory discussion with the presence of representatives from key communities over the entire basin including the wetland area.

Two points should be mentioned here: 1) Once the models for climate change adaptation are developed and available for operation, implementing its recommendations will need strong and careful enforcement of laws, by-laws and agreements with the stakeholders; 2) Ministries of Jihad Agriculture and Energy are very closely involved in planning and implementation of climate change adaptation programs. Therefore as much support and collaboration as possible should be requested from them for successful implementation of the program. Once the climate change adaptation programs are successfully demonstrated in one or two selected basins, all experiences gained during such exercises will be utilized to prepare a comprehensive guideline to be used elsewhere. It should also be noted that the above project would positively affect the greenhouse gases mitigation and contribute to National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

Component 3- Increased public awareness, enhanced collaboration, knowledge and sharing of innovation national and international technologies and practices contributed to- better condition of Iran's wetlands

Through participatory development of CIWP 5-year document, two causes for inefficient implementation of the ecosystem-based management in the wetlands were identified: 1) Low understanding and ineffective awareness of the public and of the managers and decision makers; and 2) Conflicts of interests both for the local wetland communities and also for the decision makers. Although CIWP has been implementing public awareness activities for more than a decade, it seems necessary that by drafting and implementation of national and local CEPA plans, try to better understand the reasons why public awareness remains low, and to find ways to proceed more effectively. For the cases described above, the awareness and understanding of people could be noted as one of the main reasons that need a prompt attention. However when the local people unsustainably utilize the wetland for their livelihood, it means that other mechanisms are required in addition to raising awareness, i.e. alternative livelihood and/ or other incentives.

The strategy selected to improve the quality of the awareness raising campaign will therefore be to collect factual information about the values and functions and the significance of the

wetlands in supporting nature and the local communities, and to deliver the information in an appropriate manner that can attract high attentions and concerns of the audiences.

Besides these 3 main components, there is one component addressing issues related to the effective project management.

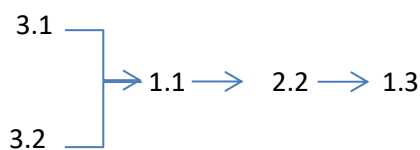
Theory of Change

As applied to project evaluations, “Theory of Change” (TOC) reveals the logical sequence of desired changes that the project is expected to contribute towards. It shows the causal linkages between changes at different results levels (outputs, components) and identifies the factors that influence those changes. The reconstruction of a TOC helps identify linkages between outputs and components and sequences that need to be followed to achieve impact; these causal pathways of outputs may vary considerably from their numerical sequence or position in the logical framework.

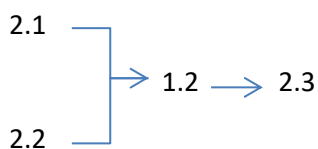
In the case of the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project, most of the outputs lead to their respective component, and there are several examples of causal pathways connecting outputs associated with different components.

In this project Component 1 is closest to the project goal, though the key pathway begins with component 1 (Mainstreaming ecosystem management approach and applying effective tools for better management of Iran’s wetlands) and 2 (Management of land, water and biodiversity in wetland basins is sustainable and adapted to climate change, enhancing livelihood and wellbeing of local community). Indeed both are prerequisites to the project main goal. From a TOC perspective, Component 2 represents the intermediate stage that must be reached in order to enable the achievement of the project goal and expected impacts. While the certainty of these components is directly related to component 3 (To improve wetlands’ conditions, increase public awareness and participation and enhance collaboration, knowledge and sharing innovative national and international technologies and practices).

The analysis suggests that the impact pathway which must be followed to achieve the component 1 of the project is based on an implementation sequence linking outputs



The 2nd component of the project seems to be achieved through following this sequence among the outputs



This flow also leads directly to component 3

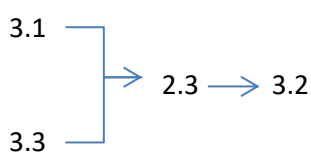




Figure 5 Theory of Change

Alignment with national and international targets

The strategies outlined are strongly in line with the national macro-policies for environment endorsed by the I.R. Iran's Supreme Leader and addressed in the 5-year national socio-economic development plans.

The strategies have a strong linkage with the provisions in the Law of Conservation, Restoration and Management of the Iranian Wetlands (issued on May 2017).

Also, the 6th National Development Plan includes several sections which are directly and indirectly related to project outputs and provides a good basis for further linkages of planned and ongoing project activities with resources at the national level.

The CIWP phase III will constitute a major part of the I.R. of Iran's efforts to fulfill its national and international commitments to Iranian wetlands including Ramsar Sites conservation.

The Project is also in line with the below UN and UNDP Strategic Documents:

Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG15, Life on Land: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

SDG 13, Climate Action: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

UNDP 2018-2021 Strategic Plan:

Signature solution 4: "Promoting nature-based solutions for a sustainable planet. Biodiversity and terrestrial and marine ecosystems to provide the foundation for human societies and a safety net of resources and ecosystem services for billions of people.

United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Iran:

Outcome 1.1. "Responsible Government of Iran agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resource management policies and programs more effectively"; and outcome 1.2. "Responsive GOI agencies formulate, implement and monitor low carbon economy and climate change policies and programs more effectively".

UNDP Iran Country Program Document (CPD) 2017-2021: Outcome 1 under which "responsible government agencies formulate, implement and monitor integrated natural resources management, low carbon economy, and climate change policies and program more effectively".

III RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIP

Project purpose and overall goal

This 3rd phase of the CIWP builds upon the outcomes of the past two phases since 2005 and will be implemented over the five-year period: 2020-2025. The main Goal of this phase will be the application of the ecosystem approach in wetland basins to enhance the economic situation and wellbeing of local communities and participatory conservation of wetlands along with identifying and practicing new approaches or complementary tools.

Expected Results

The interventions the project will conduct during this period to implement its theory of change and achieve the intended results are explained below.

Component 1: Iran's wetlands are better managed through mainstreaming ecosystem management approach and applying effective tools

The CIWP's most crucial mission during the previous phases of the project has been to introduce and advocate planning and implementation of ecosystem-based management approach for the wetlands. This approach, if thoroughly applied, should be able to assure a well-balanced utilization of resources within the wetland's basin and bring about win-win interventions among the beneficiaries, including the wetlands. However, achieving this requires strong commitment of all stakeholders on the objectives and implementation actions defined in the ecosystem-based management plan. Despite many important achievements in establishing and implementing ecosystem based management in several wetlands, CIWP's evaluation is that the ultimate expectations from these developments are not yet obtained and further efforts are required to: 1) improve the current management system to a results-based system; 2) incorporate innovative tools in the management system to support its more effective implementation; and 3) set in place effective mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the wetlands and their management.

Component 2: Management of land, water and biodiversity in wetland basins is sustainable and adapted to climate change through a participatory approach, enhancing livelihood and wellbeing of local community

Considering that climate change and the effects arising from it are expected to grow during the coming years, it seems essential that any integrated management plan for a wetland anticipates the scenarios that the basin will face (including drought) such that all the priority water users in the basin know how to manage and use water such that the wetlands can also receive enough water to survive and sustain livelihoods.

The models are also able to simulate scenarios for water supply and use and prioritize users in different sectors. However, because of the different physical, geographical, ecological and sociological attributes of the river basins, a single model will most probably not suit all of them and separate models need to be developed and verified for each individual basin. Considering the above explanations, it is expected develop climate change adaptation scenarios and strategies based on the rapid assessments and engagement of stakeholders. The outcomes of these strategies will be incorporated into the wetland ecosystem-based management plans for implementation. The results will aim to facilitate developing a practicable guideline for carrying out similar studies on other wetlands' basins.

As far as conservation of wetland resources is concerned, priority attentions should be focused on the local populations who, in most cases, use these resources for their livelihood. CIWP realizes that any suggestion to the local population for refraining from detrimental use of the wetland resources implies introducing potential sustainable sources for income. Therefore the main issue is to recognize these potentials of the wetlands and to introduce them to the local

populations. CIWP will also work with the local communities and assist them to establish necessary communications with the relevant government and private sectors to acquire required credits and permission for setting up new businesses, and support the process of business planning.

Component 3: Increased public awareness, enhanced collaboration, knowledge and sharing of innovation national and international technologies and practices contributed to better condition of Iran's wetlands

Raising awareness has been one of the earliest endeavors CIWP started since the very beginning of the program and evidence indicates that quite a tangible change has occurred in the perceptions and understanding of people all over the country including technicians, managers and the general public of the wetlands. However, the extent of knowledge and understanding has not reached the level required to influence their attitudes, participation and collaboration in effective conservation of the wetlands. Considering the significance of public awareness for wetlands' conservation, this component is expected to result in the enhanced level of understanding and awareness among local population, managers and decision makers.

To meet the planned targets, there should be a strong support and follow up by the higher ranking DOE managers to establish appropriate communication and lobbying with the relevant managers in the stakeholder organizations to affect their contribution to the wetland conservation. The higher level Wetland Coordination and Management Headquarter, chaired by the Vice President, should provide excellent assistance for establishing such communications.

A key result expected to be achieved under this component is to create an international platform to share knowledge and spread messages about the best practices for wetland conservation and wise use. It will positively influence the multi-lateral Environmental Agreements and promote good wetland management.

Resources Required Achieving the Expected Results

The main budget for this project shall be provided by the Department of Environment (DoE) through the national budget under the UNDP- Government cost-sharing modality, at a total value of USD 700.000. UNDP shall also provide USD 278.000 under the lifetime of the project, to be used for project management purposes as indicated in the Multi-year Work Plan, Section VII. Throughout the project duration, joint efforts shall be made towards mobilization of additional financial resources through partnerships with local and international NGOs and donors.

As per the previous phases of the project, DoE shall also continue to provide in-kind contributions at the national level including personnel, particularly NPD, office space, utilities, and maintenance etc. In addition, DoE and UNDP will jointly take steps to recruit a full project team as illustrated in the Project Management Section.

Main personnel and infrastructure required at the provincial and local level will be provided through in-kind contributions by provincial and local DoE authorities.

Moreover, UNDP staff time from the Iran Country Office has been adequately estimated, costed and included in the project budget under the Direct Project Costing item. UNDP management support at the country, regional and headquarter level has also been captured in the General Management Services item of the project budget.

Additional tools, consultancy and staffing requirements in both the Project Office in DoE and UNDP will be assessed and considered on an ongoing basis during project implementation and if needed, necessary funds will be sourced from the project budget.

During the last phase of the project, the Government of Japan supported, through UNDP, a project to assist sustainability of Lake Urmia, titled as “*Local community participation in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation for Lake Urmia Restoration*”. Recently, the seventh stage of the project was approved and the related budget allocated, and there is great hope that Japan will support continuation of the project. Also there are negotiations ongoing to obtain support from the European Union for initiating similar activities in other wetlands.

Partnerships

The success of future conservation efforts of the Project depends on drastically increased national and international financial and legal support and on stronger inter-institutional cooperation.

The main partner of UNDP in this project is the Iranian Department of Environment. This partnership will provide a good platform for participation of all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to play their role in the framework of Ecosystem-based Management plans of wetlands.

The DoE as key partner of project is also responsible for the management of the Iranian Wetlands and it is represented in its central offices in Tehran, in provincial general directorates and as local management authorities.

Governmental partner organizations and their areas of contribution will be discussed with them in a participatory approach to be reflected in each management plan and include but are not limited to:

- The MoE and its related directorates and offices at provincial and local level have key roles in establishing mechanisms for sustainable management of the wetlands through assigning appropriate water resources according to the natural regime of the wetlands and Article 2 of the “Conservation, Restoration and Management of the Iranian Wetlands” , the Law which determines that “DoE is required to determine and inform MoE of the water requirements of the wetlands, and MoE is required to allocate these water requirements according to a defined established program”. Thus, MoE and its subsidiary organizations plays a key role in leading the activities and responsibilities in conservation of the wetlands.
- The MoJA and its commanded provincial and local offices is the second organization with key role in sustainable contribution to wetlands’ conservation. The areas with key influences and control by the MoJA and its related organizations are: 1) water uses by farmers in the wetland catchment areas who are the most important competitors with the wetlands for use of water resources, 2) use of agro-chemical substances as one of the crucial source of contamination inflow to the wetlands, 3) fisheries and animal husbandry activities with major effects on the wetland attributes and function and, 4) livelihoods of rural population around the wetlands.
- Ministry of Interior, Budget and Planning Organization and Governor offices at provincial and local levels have a key role to establish intersectoral mechanisms for sustainable management of the wetlands;
- Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare Handicraft and Tourism that will support the development and promotion of communal

structures for sustainable livelihoods such as community-based ecotourism to ensure income sustainability and wise use of wetlands;

- Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade with influence and control on releasing mines and industrial contaminations into water resources that inflow to the wetlands;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs that mediates for formal coordination with the international institutions and expatriates for collaboration with the Project
- The Ministry of Education that will have very basic role and partnership in including the wetland conservation topics in public school books thus play a crucial role in contribution to raising public awareness on wetland values and functions and the need for their conservation.

Besides the above governmental partnerships, the Project will intensively work with NGOs and CBOs at national and local levels as important entities for conservation of the wetlands.

Finally, but importantly, the Project is built upon and needs international partnerships for the purposes of scientific and technical guidance as well as financial support. Since its beginning in 2005, the project has benefitted from the consultation of international experts from Wetlands International, IUCN, UNEP, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, UNESCO, FAO, Wetland Link International (WLI), and independent expatriate specialists.

It is desired to strengthen these partnerships and to enlarge the network. International expertise will be particularly valuable in regard to management practices as well as in the project monitoring and evaluation. In addition to their technical support, international partnerships are also important to keep the attention towards the Iranian Wetlands and the potential for additional international funding at a high level.

Risks

Despite the clear need and benefits of forming the partnerships described above, the associated transfer of responsibility for certain actions lessens the control of the Project over their fulfilment. The centralized and top-down decision making and leadership structures in some of these organizations may impede multi-institutional collaboration. To avert the risk of decreased priority given to those actions by the partner institutions, the project needs to strongly enliven active cooperation and the allocation of sufficient resources for the above activities.

A list of possible risks which needs to be considered during project implementation include:

- Sectoral approaches within related government entities may affect project progress and achievement of result
- Imposed Sanctions on Iran
- COVID-19 Pandemic in the country and project pilot sites
- late provision of the budgets required for the implementation of the Program
- Climate Change or abnormal climatic conditions might influence management arrangements and the stakeholders' activities during the time of the project implementation.

Assumptions

The following assumptions need to hold true for the duration of the project for it to achieve its purpose and continue to be valid beyond this period to ensure its contribution to the overall

goal in the long term. However, as opposed to the risks which may at least partially be mitigated through project efforts, these assumptions lie outside the control of the CIWP.

- DOE and WCRO will provide their full support to effective implementation of the ESBM and of the programs of this project.
- The Government of Iran will provide the budget required for the implementation of the project on time and according to the provisions of the program;
- Stakeholder organizations will follow their commitments and implement whatever they have agreed on the paper for collaboration in efficient establishment of ESBM for wetlands. This particularly refers to the commitments of MoE for ensuring adequate water supply to the wetlands;
- To achieve anticipated targets of raising awareness campaigns, the higher managers of DOE succeed in establishing fruitful communication with the higher managers of the stakeholder organizations to obtain their support for conservation of the wetlands;
- Local managers and social leaders effectively support convincing local communities and collaborate for implementing participatory plans developed for climate change adaptation within the basins;
- Stakeholder organizations are committed to the required adaptation programs that come out of the periodical participatory evaluation reports as solution to the immediate problems within the wetlands' condition;

Stakeholder Engagement

The nature of the wetland's ecosystem-based management is to largely involve and effectively engage key stakeholders in the management process. Stakeholder analysis is therefore the primary step in the process for planning wetland management. Stakeholders are those entities who are influencing the wetlands condition by their interventions or are affected by the interventions for wetland management. Parts of the stakeholders are government organizations that were earlier listed in the "*partners*" section. Ministries of Energy and Jihad Agriculture are playing extremely important roles in the wetland management processes.

There are also non-governmental entities that have important influence on the processes of wetland management. The more important groups are water users upstream from the wetlands and those who release wastewaters into the river courses. Also large municipalities and cities are also among the groups that although using less water are releasing more untreated wastewater into the river system or ground water resources, and therefore are sources of contamination. Mines and industrial units (particularly the chemical units) if existing in a river's watershed may have significant impact on the water quality of the rivers.

Based on the past experiences, CIWP has learnt to invite and engage all these key stakeholders for developing wetland's ecosystem-based management plans, and the concept is well defined and transferred to the DOE's managers and staff who are involved in wetland management planning. However, the mechanisms for keeping stakeholders committed to the agreements in the wetland's management plans are not effective or not well defined and there is a prompted urgent need to improve them. CIWP needs to focus on finding and transferring effective tools to improve commitments of the key stakeholders to collaborate with the requirements defined in ecosystem-based management plans. Essential for doing this will be planning and conducting effective awareness raising campaigns, as well as proposing legislative tools for approval and enforcement.

Knowledge

The project will increase knowledge with relevance to the values as well as functions of wetlands and the requirement for their conservation among the local communities, scientists, managers and technicians working with DoE, as well as with stakeholder partners, and among the general public. Most prominently the project will aim to profoundly enhance the knowledge on the values and functions of the wetlands and the role they play in sustaining the natural balance within an ecosystem through provision of enhanced tools that will facilitate simple but substantially reliable methodologies for assessing socio-economic system of the communities around the wetlands, estimating the economic as well as ecological values of the wetlands, and the overall social costs of their loss and/or substantial reductions in their functionalities. CIWP will aim to engage technicians from local wetland management system for piloting these tools in one or two example wetlands. The latter will ensure that the experiences gained and methods used in the project can contribute to the conservation of the wetlands in similar contexts worldwide.

CIWP will also facilitate appropriately using this knowledge to convince policy makers, decision makers, and high positioned managers in key stakeholder partners of the wetland's values and the prompt requirement for their conservation.

Sustainability and scaling up

The conservation of wetlands has been constituted in the I.R. of Iran and its international agreements and will therefore continue to be under the country's and the DoE's responsibility after the end of the project. At the end of this phase, DoE will be able to incorporate additional knowledge, skills and experiences gained over more than 20 years of CIWP in the management and conservation of the wetlands. To enable the local adoption and long-term continuation of good monitoring practices, the project will integrate and train community members in monitoring activities throughout the project.

The CIWP's main intention in this phase of the project is to enhance institutionalizing the responsibilities for wetland conservation in different organizations to increase their cooperation. Public and particularly higher level managers and authorities need to understand that the sustainability of wetlands and maintenance of the resilience of the wetland's ecosystem is not the sole responsibility of DoE but extensively depends on the collaboration of all the key stakeholder partners.

The CIWP activities have a core of sustainability and will be further developed with the focus on their long term positive impacts. Example of the results that will remain after the project termination are the upgraded status of wetlands in some of those with adopted ecosystem-based management, the trends in collaboration of MoE in allocating water rights to wetlands, more effective use of land and water resources by farmers for crop production, NGO's activated in wetland conservation practices, etc. Most of the lessons learnt from the pilot works will have the capacity for replication in other wetlands across the country.

Connections established through the collaboration between different stakeholder groups, the scientific knowledge and the consciousness about the wetlands that people including the wider public have gained through the activities of the CIWP will last. CIWP's activities and achievements have already been appreciated for the wide effects on the consciousness of particularly the local people for the conservation of the wetlands. In fact, the knowledge, affection and interest produced by the project are and will be a strong guarantor for the continuation of the efforts for enhancing the processes for the future. It is envisaged that the increased awareness and knowledge of the public and particularly the higher positioned managers will increase their participation in wetland conservation.

IV PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Cost effectiveness and efficiencies

The evolution and design of the strategies for this phase of the project is built on over 15 years of experience in wetland conservation under the CIWP. This facilitated, the effectiveness of activities undertaken during the previous phases to be critically reviewed, evaluated, and considered in the development of the current action plan. Furthermore, activities have been designed according to the urgent requirement for enhancing the wetland management system. Careful attention has been paid to avoiding unnecessary expensive activities, studies, and productions.

The strategy of the program has strong focus on activating M&E mechanism based on substantial participation of the local communities. This will empower both the management and the communities to enhance sustainable livelihoods and to prevent inefficient activities and expenditures through adaptive management approach.

Project Management

The project will continue to be implemented in accordance with the UNDP's National Implementation Modality (NIM) with the Department of Environment (DOE) designated as National Implementation Partner (NIP) under the UNDP Country Office support to the government. This modality encompasses the direct payment by UNDP for goods and services (including personal) procured by the implementing partner.

Government cash contribution to the project will be provided in accordance with the rules and procedures governing the UNDP Government Financing modality, which requires the transfer of funds by the Department of Environment into UNDP's account. Under this phase of the program, the Financing arrangements shall require for UNDP to receive the Government contributions to the project in advance and in lump sum instalments as per the agreed schedule outlined in the signed Government Financing Agreement. Continuation of the project implementation will be conditional upon the timely observation of the aforementioned cost-sharing arrangements.

Project funds, including government financing contributions will be disbursed on planned activities as indicated in Annual Work Plans of the project. Such disbursement will be made by UNDP upon receipt of a Request for Direct Payment signed by the project NPD along with copies of supporting documentation confirming that the concerned goods and services have been delivered to the NPD's satisfaction. Original supporting documents (contract, invoices, etc.) will be appropriately kept at the Central Project office and ready for disclosure to auditors at the time of annual project audits. No advance payment shall be made under this project.

In line with the rules and procedures governing NIM, the Department of Environment - which is represented by the National Project Director – will be entrusted with full responsibility for effective and efficient use of project resources, production of planned outputs, and materialization of the intended outcomes. The NPD also assumes full responsibility for the planning and implementation of project activities as indicated in the Results and Resources Framework and Budget in the corresponding sections of this document.

The Project Board (Project Steering Committee) will oversee project implementation and ensure that quality Outputs are produced towards intended Outcomes (please refer to Section VIII for project governance structure).

A National Project Manager (NPM) will be recruited through a transparent, competitive recruitment process, overseen by the NPD and UNDP, and will assume the responsibilities

delegated under the ToR in Annex 5. The NPM, along with a project team to be established and composed of the positions as illustrated in figure 3.

UNDP Direct Country Office Support Services

As per the established practices of the previous phases, UNDP will continue to provide Project Assurance services in consultation with the project management.

As the implementing partner, DoE will, from time to time, request UNDP to provide direct support services in the implementation of project activities in various areas such as:

- Identification and/or recruitment of project consultants;
- Procurement of goods and services including customs clearance;
- Ad-hoc Travel management services;
- Logistical support to project events.

Terms, conditions and prerequisites as stipulated in the Letter of Agreement for the Provision of Support Services apply (see Annex 9).

UNDP Cost Recovery Policy

General Management Service (GMS) fees and Direct Project Costs (DPC) will be charged to DoE cost-sharing contributions as per the concerned rules and procedures of UNDP's cost recovery policy. Based on this policy, the project will be charged 5% GMS for the Government Financing contributions. If the project receives other unforeseen government contributions in future, the applicable GMS rate will be applied accordingly. As per UNDP's cost recovery policy, DPC will also be charged based on the estimated and costed UNDP CO staff time required for this phase of the project, as included in the Direct Project Costing item in the project budget of the Multi-year Work Plan. This estimation is based on the project management/ assurance services and operational support services required to be provided by UNDP (constituting UNDP Direct Country Office Support Services) and calculated on the entire project budget including both Government cost-sharing contributions and UNDP allocated funds.

Audit

As a NIM project, the project as defined under this Project Document shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures provided for in the financial regulate.

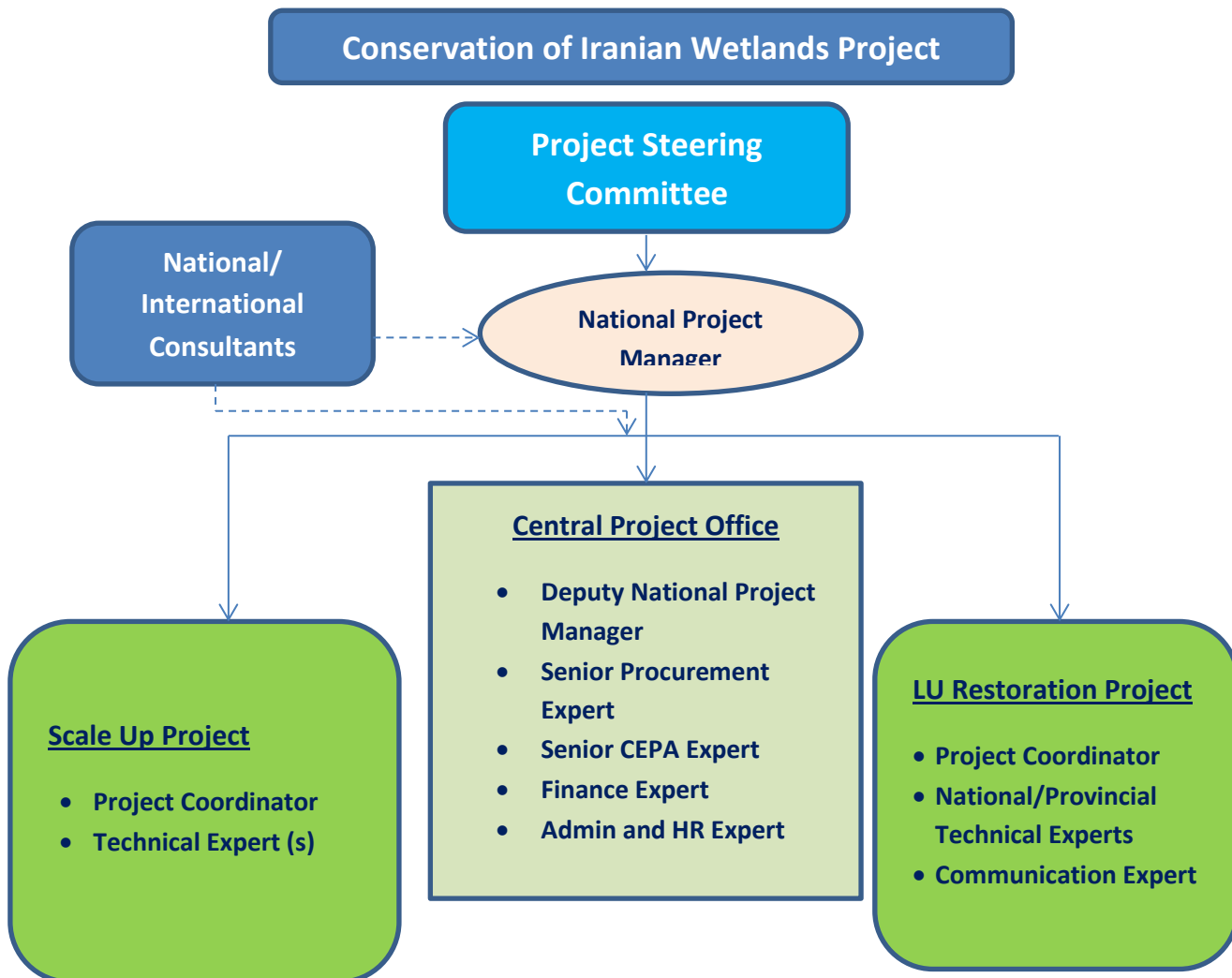


Figure 6 Project Structure¹

1 . If a new outcome such as LU Restoration Project is added to the project, related human resource could be added to this structure accordingly.

V RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Components /Outputs	Output indicators	Baseline (2019)	Target					Means of Verification and Risks
			1	2	3	4	Final	
Component 1: Better management of Iran's wetlands through mainstreaming the ecosystem approach and applying effective tools and governance								
Indicator: # of articles/chapters of 7 th national socio-economic development plan and 2025-2045 IR Vision Document and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in which the issue of ecosystem-based wetlands conservation and restoration are incorporated Target: 3 articles/chapters of 7 th national socio-economic development plan and mentioning the clear strategy in IR Vision Document and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)								
1-1 Ecosystem-based management of wetlands is results-based and is applied more effectively to selected wetlands of the country	# of wetlands with approved Integrated Management Plans	17	21	27	30	32	34	Approval of MPs in provincial planning and development councils
	# of wetlands with MPs recording a "satisfactory" score as measured by scorecard ¹ for implementation effectiveness	Approved Integrated Management Plans are not being implemented effectively because they are not included in development plans	2 wetlands	5 wetlands	8 wetlands	11 wetlands	14 wetlands	Approval in the provincial planning and development councils and wetland management committees, annual monitoring reports of wetlands prepared by the secretariats

¹ This scorecard is designed based on the advice and recommendations of IUCN in Evaluating Effectiveness: A framework for assessing management effectiveness of protected areas, 2nd Edition and includes all six components of management identified in the Framework (context, planning, inputs, process, outputs and outcomes)

	# of annual and 5-year provincial development plans including wetland conservation	As mentioned in the above row	2 wetlands	5 wetlands	8 wetlands	11 wetlands	14 wetlands	Approval of Wetlands Provincial Committee / BPO
1-2 Innovative tools to support implementation of wetland MPs are identified, piloted, evaluated, replicated and incorporated in related high-level documents and legislations	# of new tools piloted and existing tools replicated	50 existing tools in CIWP toolkit	2 tools piloted and 1 replicated	4 tools piloted and 2 replicated	6 tools piloted and 3 replicated	8 tools piloted and 4 replicated	10 tools piloted and 5 replicated	Approval of the project steering committee and formal recognition of the tools
1-3 Monitoring, Evaluation and Decision Support System (DSS)	# of annual wetlands monitoring reports collected from the	In 2019 such reports have not been prepared	3	7	12	17	20	Annual wetlands monitoring reports presented to the provincial wetlands management

mechanisms for wetlands are launched and set in place	stakeholders and compiled by the secretariats							committees (MoM of the committees)
	# of wetlands whose data is entered in DSS and applied for reprogramming and making new decisions/ policies by their management structures	DSS is being developed	3	7	12	17	20	Send the update reports of DSS in wetlands management committees
Component 2- Management and use of land, water and biodiversity in wetland basins is sustainable and adapted to climate change, enhancing local community livelihoods and wellbeing								
Indicator: # of wetlands with approved and allocated water right (fully/partially) Target: At least the water right of 17 wetlands under ecosystem-based management is allocated (fully/partially)								
2-1 The model and action plan of climate change adaptation and mitigation is developed for wetlands and incorporated in the management plans and higher-level documents	# of wetland MPs with climate change adaptation and mitigation incorporated, approved and formally designated	A climate change model has been developed for Bakhtegan wetland which has not been implemented yet		1 wetland MPs	2 wetlands MPs	3 wetland MPs	Set in place the guideline for climate change adaptation and mitigation for wetlands	MoMs of wetlands management committees/ PSC/ water shortage adaptation WG/ National Committee for Climate Change
2-2 Effective Climate-Smart initiatives are	# of wetlands in which at least one	4 wetlands	7 wetlands	9 wetlands	12 wetlands	15 wetlands	17 wetlands	The reports of activities presented to

identified and implemented towards increasing the environmental, social and economic resilience of the wetland basins	of the listed initiatives have been piloted and scaled-up							the wetland management committee and the project steering committee
2-3 Wetland communities are empowered to manage and use wetlands sustainably	# of wetlands with community-based alternative/sustainable livelihood initiatives	In Kanibarazan one community-based initiative implemented (50% increase in farmers' income and improved quality water inflow)	2 wetlands	3 wetlands	4 wetlands	5 wetlands	6 wetlands	The reports of activities presented to the wetland management committee and the project steering committee
Component 3- Increased public awareness, enhanced collaboration, knowledge and sharing of innovation national and international technologies and practices contributed to better condition of Iran's wetlands								
Indicator: Qualitative and quantitative levels of CEPA components in piloted wetland basins Component								
Target: 15% increase by 2020 towards changes in wetlands conservation attitudes and approaches of stakeholders								
3-1 Effective awareness raising and public participation for wetland conservation is achieved through implementation of national and local CEPA plans	# of wetland MPs with CEPA mainstreamed and local conservation groups established	1 local CEPA is developed and under implementation, 7 local CEPA plans are being developed	3 Wetlands / 3 local conservation groups	7 Wetlands/ 7 local conservation groups	10 Wetlands/ 10 local conservation groups	14 Wetlands/ 14 local conservation groups	17 Wetlands/ 17 local conservation groups	Reports presented to the wetlands management committee

3-2 Social demands for better conservation of wetlands and implementation of related laws and instructions is increased (campaign, network)	# of established wetland networks (campaigns, social media, NGOs, Philanthropists, secretariats, DGs of DoE, Mayors of wetlands cities, etc)	Wetland NGOs and secretariats networks established	2 per year	2 per year	2 per year	2 per year	2 per year	Report to the project steering committee and Wetlands National Committee
3-3 National, international, scientific and traditional knowledge and experiences are harnessed and the results are shared to enhance the cooperation for wetlands management	# of international and/or national cooperation mechanisms established and functioning for wetlands management	In 2019 two collaborative events were conducted with JICA and Ramsar Regional Centre	2 international and/or national cooperation mechanisms	4 international and/or national cooperation mechanisms	6 international and/or national cooperation mechanisms	8 international and/or national cooperation mechanisms	10 international and/or national cooperation mechanisms	Report to the project steering committee and the link of published items
Component 4: Effective project management								
1-4 Effective Project Management is in place	Evaluation rating at annual, mid-term and terminal evaluations	A TOR for evaluating the project progress	The annual evaluation indicates at	The annual evaluation indicates at	The Mid-term evaluation indicates at	The annual evaluation indicates at	The Terminal Evaluation indicates at least	Reports to the Project Steering Committee

		is being prepared	least Satisfactory	least Satisfactory	least Moderate Satisfactory	least Satisfactory	Moderate Satisfactory	
	# of new project proposals submitted and successfully funded	The cost-sharing mechanism is established. The VII phases of LU restoration funded by the Gov. of Japan.	1 per year	1 per year	1 per year	1 per year	1 per year	Reports to the Project Steering Committee and signed documents

VI MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint) and Cost (if any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analyzed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.	
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.	
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.	
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.	
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	According with the pace of activities / continuously (but at least annually)	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed internally and used to make course corrections.	
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Director and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level,	Annually and at the end of the project (final report)		

	the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk log with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.			
Project Review	The project's governance mechanism will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, an end-of project review shall take place to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	twice in the lifetime of the project	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed among the project governance and management mechanism and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.	

Evaluation Plan

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	Related Strategic Plan Output	UNDAF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
Mid-Term Evaluation	-	Strategic Plan (2018-2021): SP Output 1.4.1	UNDAF (2017-2021): Outcome 1.1, and Outcome 1.2 CPD (2017-2021): Outcome 1, Output 1.1, and Output 1.2	Mid-project	Local community representatives; local/provincial DoE/national DoE; other government entities at various levels; UNDP	Cost: TBD, Source of Funding: DoE
Final Evaluation	-	Strategic Plan (2018-2021): SP Output 1.4.1	UNDAF (2017-2021): Outcome 1.1, and Outcome 1.2 CPD (2017-2021): Outcome 1, Output 1.1, and Output 1.2	Final year of project	Local community representatives; local/provincial DoE/national DoE; other government entities at various levels; UNDP	Cost: TBD, Source of Funding: DoE

In accordance with UNDP Iran's programming policies and procedures, a Project Annual Planning and Reporting Package (PAPRP) shall be prepared and submitted to UNDP at the beginning of each year. The packages will be internally reviewed and potentially adapted halfway through the year to inform UNDP. A PAPRP includes a) an Annual Workplan (AWP), b) an Annual procurement plan, c) a Monitoring Calendar and d) a Risk Log.

Where UNDP transfers responsibility for managing resources to third parties, governments or NGOs, UNDP must receive assurance as to whether the resources are being properly used. This assurance is achieved through various monitoring means, of which the National Implementation (NIM) audit exercise is one key component. The UN Board of Auditors carefully reviews the results of the annual NIM audit exercise to establish and report to the Executive Board the appropriateness and completeness of the expenditure recorded in UNDP books.

Following the NIM guidelines, the implementing partner shall prepare and submit annual and mid-year progress reports on the project. The Annual Project Progress Report (APPR) will follow the standardized form shared with the project by UNDP. The APPR should be certified by the National Project Director.

A Statement of Assets and Equipment for the project shall be updated for the entire lifetime of the project with a separate breakdown for each year and a total cumulative amount as of 31 December of the reporting year. The updated Statement shall be signed by the National Project Director for each year.

The project will develop a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanism to be overseen by the M&E Expert. Monitoring and reporting on substantive progress of the project and achievement of results will be conducted under the supervision of the M&E Expert. In addition, regular spot checks and field visits will be conducted by UNDP, at least twice a year, in order to monitor progress against annual targets as reflected in the signed Annual Work Plan.

An independent mid-term evaluation will be carried out half way through the project implementation period, while a final evaluation will be carried out in the final year of the project directed towards documenting the ultimate impacts of the project and the lessons learned.

VII ANNUAL WORKPLAN

VI ANNUAL WORKPLAN Budgeting 2020-2025															
Expected Outputs	Planned Activities	Planned Budget by Year (US\$)										Funding Source (US\$)			
		Y1		Y2		Y3		Y4		Y5		UNDP TRAC (USD)	Government Cost Sharing (USD) I.R.I. DoE	Unfunded	
			Unfunded		Unfunded		Unfunded		Unfunded		Unfunded				
Component 1: Better management of Iran's wetlands through mainstreaming the ecosystem approach and applying effective tools and governance															
1-1 Ecosystem-based management of wetlands is results-based and is applied more effectively to selected wetlands of the country	1-1-1 Assess the process and effectiveness of management planning and document the lessons learnt and results	2,500	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	4,000	3,500	8,000
	1-1-2 Prepare a results-based tool and support capacity building of the wetlands management committees for applying the tool	5,500	10,000	6,000	10,000	6,200	10,000	6,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	12,700	16,000	50,000	
	1-1-3 Revise the existing Management Planning guideline for revision of the existing MPs	2,000	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,500	4,000	3,500	4,000	7,000	

1-1-4 Update and support implementation of the capacity development plan for the wetlands management system at national, provincial and local levels	6,000	6,000	9,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	8,000	7,000	6,000	1,500	16,000	20,000	28,500
1-1-5 Assist developing Integrated Management Plans for other wetlands of the country based on the lessons learnt and the tools	0	0	6,700	5,000	8,000	5,000	7,000	5,000	4,000	2,000	12,000	13,700	17,000
1-1-6 Support developing and implementation of annual and 5-year plan of action for the wetlands management committees	12,500	20,000	24,000	20,000	24,000	20,000	23,000	20,000	21,000	20,000	24,500	80,000	100,000
1-1-7 Support The National Wetlands Coordination and Management Headquarter in	1,650	1,600	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,800	1,600	2,227	1,000	3,550	5,227	7,400

	revising, approval and implementation of NWCSAP and implementation of wetland-related laws and by-laws													
	Sub-Total for Output 1.1	30,150	43,600	47,200	43,600	46,800	43,600	45,800	43,600	48,727	43,500	76,250	142,427	217,900
1-2 Innovative tools to support implementation of wetland MPs are identified, piloted, evaluated, replicated and incorporated in related high-level documents and legislations	1-2-1 Investigate and identify the gaps in existing wetlands management tools and revise/complete them	9,000	11,868	7,000	15,000	7,000	15,000	8,500	15,000	7,456	15,000	11,500	27,456	71,868
	1-2-2 Support developing and capacity building for application of new management tools, such as participatory economic valuation of wetlands and master planning	7,243	8,200	17,000	7,000	15,000	7,000	14,500	7,000	15,000	7,000	25,000	43,743	36,200

	1-2-3 Assess the results of applying the management tools, document the lessons for replicating in other wetlands	5,000	9,000	7,500	7,500	9,000	7,500	8,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	12,000	25,000	39,000
	1-2-4 Assist preparation of legal proposal for the tools and follow-ups for institutionalizing the developed tools in legislation, policy-making and decision-making processes	3,000	1,500	4,000	1,000	4,120	1,000	4,500	1,000	5,000	1,000	6,620	14,000	5,500
	Sub-Total for Output 1.2	24,243	30,568	35,500	30,500	35,120	30,500	35,500	30,500	34,956	30,500	55,120	110,199	152,568
1-3 Monitoring, Evaluation and Decision Support System (DSS) mechanisms for wetlands are	1-3-1 Revise the monitoring and evaluation guideline for wetlands and support piloting it in selected wetlands	4,700	6,100	5,120	3,100	5,500	6,000	6,000	6,000	5,200	6,000	9,700	16,820	27,200

launched and set in place	1-3-2 Support designing, launching and updating a Decision Support System (DSS)	4,500	7,000	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,500	6,000	12,000
	1-3-3 Facilitate the application of M&E and DSS reports by wetlands management committees	0	0	5,000	5,000	9,500	7,100	10,175	7,100	9,600	7,100	9,775	24,500	26,300
	Sub-Total for Output 1.3	9,200	13,100	15,120	13,100	15,000	13,100	16,175	13,100	14,800	13,100	22,975	47,320	65,500
Sub-Total Component I		63,593	87,268	97,820	87,200	96,920	87,200	97,475	87,200	98,483	87,100	154,345	299,946	435,968
Component 2- Management and use of land, water and biodiversity in wetland basins is sustainable and adapted to climate change, enhancing local community livelihoods and wellbeing														
2-1 The model and action plan of climate change adaptation and mitigation is	2-1-1 Baseline studies, search for best practices and collecting the necessary data	3,200	65,502	0	0	1,200	10,000	500	5,000	0	0	1,000	3,900	80,502

developed for wetlands and incorporated in the management plans and higher-level documents	2-1-2 Design a model for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the basin of selected wetlands	0	0	2,000	30,000	2,000	30,000	2,000	30,000	0	0	0	6,000	90,000
	2-1-3 Support assessment of a) environmental, social and economic resilience and adaptation of the selected wetlands to climate change, b) Identifying the impacts of wetlands on the climate	0	0	700	10,000	700	10,000	700	10,000	0	0	0	2,100	30,000
	2-1-4 Facilitate determining the scenarios and identifying the measures for enhancing the adaptation, resilience and mitigation	0	0	300	10,000	500	5,000	500	5,000	1,000	30,000	0	2,300	50,000
	2-1-5 Assist incorporating the action plan of climate change mitigation in the	0	0	500	10,000	1,000	5,000	1,163	10,000	1,600	30,000	1,663	2,600	55,000

	MPs and other high-level documents													
	2-1-6 Technical support for revising the policies and decisions by considering the rate of contribution of climate change and mismanagement of water resources (separately) to drying up of wetlands	0	0	1,500	5,502	500	5,502	500	5,502	500	5,502	1,000	2,000	22,008
	Sub-Total for Output 2.1	3,200	65,502	5,000	65,502	5,900	65,502	5,363	65,502	3,100	65,502	3,663	18,900	327,510
2-2 Effective Climate-Smart initiatives are identified and implemented towards increasing the environmental, social and	2-2-1 Support problem definition and engage the stakeholders	1,600	40,000	2,100	43,000	2,100	43,000	2,100	43,000	2,100	43,000	500	9,500	212,000
	2-2-2 Identify the priority actions for implementation	3,775	58,341	4,500	20,000	4,400	20,000	4,000	20,000	3,500	20,000	3,675	16,500	138,341

economic resilience of the wetland basins	2-2-3 Facilitate defining the criteria (environmental, social and economic) for selection of pilots	2,000	40,000	3,700	45,000	3,300	45,000	3,300	45,000	3,400	45,000	3,700	12,000	220,000
	2-2-4 Support developing and implementing participatory action plan	1,400	40,000	3,500	70,000	4,100	70,000	4,200	70,000	3,800	70,000	3,000	14,000	320,000
	2-2-5 Assist monitoring and documentation of the results as a guideline and assess the feasibility of replication	2,500	40,000	2,000	40,341	2,000	40,341	2,000	40,341	4,000	40,341	1,500	11,000	201,364
	Sub-Total for Output 2.2	11,275	218,341	15,800	218,341	15,900	218,341	15,600	218,341	16,800	218,341	12,375	63,000	1,091,705
2-3 Wetland communities are empowered to manage and use wetlands sustainably	2-3-1 Introduce community-based approaches (such as PES and Business Plan, etc.) and capacity building among decision-makers for	2,200	35,000	2,800	33,000	2,800	33,000	2,700	33,000	2,500	33,000	3,300	9,700	167,000

establishment of the approaches													
2-3-2 Support the approach of prioritizing the local communities in allocation of investment projects	1,700	40,000	2,700	40,000	2,700	40,000	2,700	40,000	2,700	40,000	1,000	11,500	200,000
2-3-3 Support empowerment of local communities to implement, make income and manage businesses considering the wetlands conservation	1,800	40,000	2,800	40,000	2,800	40,000	2,800	40,000	2,800	40,000	1,500	11,500	200,000
2-3-4 Facilitate monitoring and documentation of the results and assess the feasibility of replication	2,200	37,000	3,200	39,800	3,300	39,800	3,200	39,800	3,113	39,800	3,513	11,500	196,200
Sub-Total for Output 2.3	7,900	152,000	11,500	152,800	11,600	152,800	11,400	152,800	11,113	152,800	9,313	44,200	763,200

Sub-Total Component II	22,375	435,843	32,300	436,643	33,400	436,643	32,363	436,643	31,013	436,643	25,351	126,100	2,182,415	
Component 3- Increased public awareness, enhanced collaboration, knowledge and sharing of innovation national and international technologies and practices contributed to better condition of Iran's wetlands														
3-1 Effective awareness raising and public participation for wetland conservation is achieved through implementation of national and local CEPA plans	3-1-1 Facilitate assessing the local CEPA plans including their efficacy and preparing a guideline	1,500	15,500	3,100	15,500	0	0	0	0	2,800	20,500	1,900	5,500	51,500
	3-1-2 Identify and apply the tools, platforms and innovative and effective approaches to increase public awareness and participation	3,000	15,000	4,500	15,000	4,500	19,000	4,500	19,000	3,000	15,000	4,500	15,000	83,000
	3-1-3 Support capacity building for CEPA planning and implementation at national and local levels	2,400	18,000	2,900	18,000	4,200	21,000	4,128	21,000	3,400	13,000	2,900	14,128	91,000

	3-1-4 Support developing and implementing national and local CEPA plans	2,400	17,000	3,100	17,000	3,800	25,502	3,700	25,502	3,388	17,000	2,488	13,900	102,004
	Sub-Total for Output 3.1	9,300	65,500	13,600	65,500	12,500	65,502	12,328	65,502	12,588	65,500	11,788	48,528	327,504
3-2 Social demands for better conservation of wetlands and implementation of related laws and instructions is increased (campaign, network)	3-2-1 Identify priority issues and critical wetlands requiring campaigns and mainstreaming in social networks	3,500	10,000	3,500	10,000	3,600	10,000	3,700	10,000	3,500	10,000	2,800	15,000	50,000
	3-2-2 Support establishment and activating the key and more effective wetland conservation networks	1,500	15,000	2,100	15,000	2,000	15,000	2,000	15,000	1,900	15,000	2,500	7,000	75,000
	3-2-3 Effectively introduce wetland values and functions and related laws to the public and the networks	1,000	15,000	2,300	15,000	2,400	15,000	2,500	15,000	2,328	15,000	3,300	7,228	75,000

	3-2-4 Support public campaigns and events and assess their effectiveness	2,400	25,500	4,700	25,500	4,700	25,500	4,900	25,500	4,800	25,500	3,500	18,000	127,500
	Sub-Total for Output 3.2	8,400	65,500	12,600	65,500	12,700	65,500	13,100	65,500	12,528	65,500	12,100	47,228	327,500
3-3 National, international, scientific and traditional knowledge and experiences are harnessed and the results are shared to enhance the cooperation for wetlands management	3-3-1 Improve the existing experience sharing platforms of CIWP (web site, aparat, social networks, etc.)	4,500	40,000	7,000	40,000	6,000	40,000	6,400	40,000	7,300	40,000	5,200	26,000	200,000
	3-3-2 Support establishment of a network of international development projects and related committees and conventions (Ramsar, MAB, ROPME, Tehran, Londo, CBD, etc) in Iran	2,300	17,000	3,800	17,000	4,100	17,000	4,200	17,000	3,900	17,000	3,600	14,700	85,000
	3-3-3 Identify relevant international projects in other countries to develop	3,199	15,000	3,400	15,000	4,300	15,000	4,300	15,000	3,100	15,000	4,399	13,900	75,000

	effective communication and collaboration with them													
	3-3-4 Develop and implement a joint plan of CIWP and Ramsar Regional Centre	1,500	15,450	2,500	15,400	2,500	15,400	2,650	15,400	2,600	15,400	2,650	9,100	77,050
	Sub-Total for Output 3.3	11,499	87,450	16,700	87,400	16,900	87,400	17,550	87,400	16,900	87,400	15,849	63,700	437,050
Sub-Total for Component III		29,199	218,450	42,900	218,400	42,100	218,402	42,978	218,402	42,016	218,400	39,737	159,456	1,092,054
Outcome IV														
Project Management														
1-4 Effective Project Management is in place	1-4-1 Cooperate in development and implementation of a joint strategy for CIWP and Wetlands Conservation and Restoration office of DoE	1,700	3,000	1,000	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	3,000	2,700	7,000

1-4-2 Facilitate capacity development of CIWP and Wetlands Conservation and Restoration office of DoE	1,000	13,000	2,500	9,500	3,500	5,000	2,000	3,000	2,100	500	4,600	6,500	31,000
1-4-3 Prepare and implement HR management plan	1,332	14,000	2,400	14,000	2,900	7,000	3,400	3,000	1,900	500	10,000	1,932	38,500
1-4-4 Design and implement CIWP monitoring and evaluation system	1,500	3,000	1,900	1,000	1,600	1,000	1,700	1,000	1,350	500	4,000	4,050	6,500
1-4-5 Office running and maintenance (project central office and provincial offices)	3,500	96,000	6,500	103,000	7,000	115,000	6,500	122,000	6,226	128,000	15,726	14,000	564,000
1-4-6 Develop and implement CIWP fundraising strategy and plan of action	1,000	2,000	1,100	2,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,079	2,500	2,600	8,079
Sub-total for Outcome IV	10,032	131,000	15,400	131,000	17,000	131,000	15,600	131,000	13,576	131,079	39,826	31,782	655,079
Programmable for Project office	125,199	872,561	188,420	873,243	189,420	873,245	188,416	873,245	185,088	873,222	259,259	617,284	4,365,516
Direct Project Cost (DPC): 5%	4,449	43,628	6,591	43,662	6,640	43,662	6,656	43,662	6,528	43,661	0	30,864	218,276

General Management Support (GMS): 8%	10,372	73,295	15,601	73,352	15,685	73,353	15,606	73,353	15,329	73,351	20,741	51,852	366,703
sub Total Budget	140,020	989,484	210,612	990,258	211,745	990,260	210,678	990,260	206,945	990,234	280,000	700,000	4,950,495
Coordination Levy: 1%	0	9,895	0	9,903	0	9,903	0	9,903	0	9,902	0	0	49,505
TOTAL BUDGET per Year	140,020	999,379	210,612	1,000,160	211,745	1,000,162	210,678	1,000,162	206,945	1,000,136	280,000	700,000	5,000,000
Total Budget: Funded + Unfunded	1,139,399		1,210,772		1,211,907		1,210,841		1,207,081		Total Budget of Doc		5,980,000

VIII GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

In order to strengthen oversight and support for the project, a formal approach is proposed by constituting a **Project Steering Committee (PSC)**. The PSC is the group responsible for making by consensus, management decisions for the project if guidance is required by the Project Manager, including recommendation for UNDP/Implementing Partner approval of project plans and revisions. To ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, PSC decisions should be made in accordance to standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition. In case a consensus cannot be reached within the PSC, final decision shall rest with the UNDP Resident Representative/Deputy Resident Representative. In addition, the PSC plays a critical role in UNDP commissioned project evaluations by quality assuring the evaluation process and products, and using evaluations for performance improvement, accountability, and learning.

The Project reviews by this group shall be made at designated dates (normally twice a year) during the running of the project, or as necessary when raised by the National Project Manager. It ensures that required resources are committed and arbitrates on any conflicts within the project or negotiates a solution to any problems between the projects and external bodies.

This group contains three roles:

- **Executive:** the individual representing the project ownership to chair the group, in this case DoE's Deputy for Marine Environment and Wetlands who is also the NPD;
- **Senior Supplier:** individual or group representing the interests of the parties that provides funding and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier's primary function within the PSC is to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project. This function will be assumed by UNDP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Planning and Budgeting Organization, DoE and other related line ministries including but not limited to MOJA, MOE, MCHHT, Ministry of Industry, Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare, Supreme Audit Court of Iran, and Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade.
- **Senior Beneficiary:** individual or group of individuals representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary's primary function within the PSC is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. This role can be performed by representatives of local communities, related NGOs as well as local/provincial/national DoE

Representatives of other stakeholders can be included in the PSC as appropriate.

Project Assurance is the responsibility of each PSC member; however, the role can be delegated. The project assurance role supports the PSC by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed. Project Assurance has to be independent of the Project Manager; therefore, the PSC cannot delegate any of its assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager.

IX LEGAL CONTEXT

The project document shall be the instrument envisaged and defined in the [Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document](#), attached hereto and forming an integral part hereof, as “the Project Document”.

This project will be implemented by the Department of Environment (“Implementing Partner”) in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

Standard Annex to project document for use in countries which are not parties to the Standard Basic Assistant Agreement (SBAA)

Standard Text: Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document:

The Legal Context

General Responsibilities of the Government, UNDP and the Implementing Partner

1. The Government, assuming its overall responsibility, shall designate the Government Co-operating Agency named in the cover page of this document (hereinafter referred to as the “Co-operating Agency”) which shall be directly responsible for the implementation of the Government contribution to the project.
2. The Project Document, and the term as used in this Annex, includes the Country Program Action Plan (CPAP) signed by the Government of Iran (The Government) on (signing date of the current CPAP), and the Annual Work plan (AWPs), together with this Annex attached to the AWPs.
3. UNDP project activities shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions to the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and, along with them, the new definitions of ‘Executing Entity’⁵ and ‘Implementing Partner’⁶ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDP simplification and harmonization initiative.
4. All phases and aspects of the project shall be governed by and carried out in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent United Nations organs and the principles embedded in UNDP’s Financial Regulations and Rules, and in accordance with UNDP’s policies and procedures for such projects, and subject to the requirements of the UNDP Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System.

⁵ Executing Entity shall mean, for UNDP program activities carried out under the harmonized operational modalities established in response to General Assembly resolution 56/201, the entity that assumes the overall ownership over and responsibility for UNDP program activities and the acceptance of accountability for results and shall normally be the program country Government.

⁶ Implementing Partner shall mean, for UNDP program activities carried out under the harmonized operational modalities established in response to General Assembly resolution 56/201, the entity to which the Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in a signed document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in such document.

5. The Co-operating agency shall remain responsible for its part in UNDP-assisted development projects and the realization of their objectives as described in the Project Document.
6. Assistance under the Project Document is provided for the benefit of the Government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Co-operating Agency shall bear all imputable risks of operations in respect of this project.
7. The Co-operating Agency, in accordance with the Project Document, shall provide to the project the national counterpart personnel, training facilities, land, buildings, equipment and other required services and facilities.
8. The UNDP undertakes to complement and supplement the Co-operating Agency participation and will provide through the Implementing Partner the required expert services, training, equipment and other services within the funds available to the project.
9. Upon commencement of the project the Implementing Partner shall assume primary responsibility for project implementation and shall have the status of an independent contractor for this purpose. However, that primary responsibility shall be exercised in consultation with UNDP and in agreement with the Co-operating Agency. Arrangements to this effect shall be stipulated in the Project Document as well as for the transfer of this responsibility to the Co-operating Agency or to an entity designated by the Co-operating Agency during the implementation of the project.
10. Part of the Co-operating Agency's participation may take the form of cash contribution to UNDP. In such cases, the Implementing Partner will provide the related services and facilities and will account annually to the UNDP and to the Co-operating Agency for the expenditure incurred.

(a) Participation of the Government

1. The Co-operating Agency shall provide to the project the services, equipment and facilities in the quantities and at the time specified in the Project Document Budgetary provision, either in kind or in cash, for the Co-operating Agency's participation so specified shall be set forth in the Project Budgets.
2. The Co-operating Agency shall, as appropriate and in consultation with the Implementing Partner, assign a director for the project on a full-time basis. He shall carry out such responsibilities in the project as are assigned to him by the Co-operating Agency.
3. The estimated cost of items included in the Co-operating Agency contribution, as detailed in the project budget, shall be based on the best information available at the time of drafting the project proposal. It is understood that price fluctuations during the period of execution of the project may necessitate an adjustment of said contribution in monetary terms; the latter shall at all times be determined by the value of the services, equipment and facilities required for the proper implementation of the project.
4. Within the given number of work-months of personnel services described in the Project Document, minor adjustments of individual assignments of project personnel provided by the co-operating Agency may be made by the co-operating Agency in consultation with the Implementing Partner, if this is found to be in the best interest of the project. UNDP shall be so informed in all instances where such minor adjustments involve financial implications.
5. The Co-operating Agency shall continue to pay the local salaries and appropriate allowances of national counterpart personnel during the period of their absence from the project while on UNDP fellowships.
6. The Government shall defray any customs duties and other charges related to the clearance of project equipment, its transportation, handling, storage and related expenses within the country. It shall be

responsible for its installation and maintenance, insurance, and replacement, if necessary after deliver to the project site.

7. The Co-operating Agency shall make available to the project – subject to existing security provisions and national laws and regulations – any published and unpublished reports, maps, records and other data, which are considered necessary to the implementation of the project. Such reports, maps, records and other data shall be exclusively used for the implementation of the project. In cases when the Co-operating Agency, due to security provisions or national laws and regulations, does not make available reports, maps, records and other data considered necessary to the implementation of the project, UNDP and the Government may decide to modify or redesign the project or outcomes thereof.
8. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties in each case, patent rights, copyright and other similar rights to any discoveries or work resulting from UNDP assistance in respect of this project shall belong to the UNDP. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties in each case, however, the Government shall have the right to use any such discoveries to work within the country free of royalty and any charge of similar nature.
9. The Co-operating Agency undertakes to assist all project personnel in finding suitable housing accommodation at reasonable rents.
10. The services and facilities specified in the Project Document which are to be provided to the project by the Co-operating Agency by means of a contribution in cash shall be set forth in the Project Budget. Payment shall be made in accordance with the Schedule of Payments in the Project Document.
11. Payment of the above-mentioned contribution on or before the dates specified in the Schedule of Payments is a prerequisite to commencement or continuation of project operations.

(b) Participation of the UNDP and the Implementing Partners

1. The UNDP shall provide to the project through the Implementing Partner the services, equipment and facilities described in the Project Document Budgetary provision for the UNDP contribution as specified shall be set forth in the Project Budgets.
 2. The Implementing Partner shall consult with the Co-operating Agency and UNDP on the candidature of the Project Manager⁷ who, under the direction of the Implementing Partner, will be responsible in the country for the Implementing Partner's participation in the project.
 3. The Project Manager shall supervise the experts and other entity personnel assigned to the project, and the on-the-job training of national counterpart personnel. The Project Manager shall be responsible for the management and efficient utilization of all UNDP-financed inputs, including equipment provided to the project.
 4. The Implementing Partner, in consultation with the Co-operating Agency and UNDP, shall assign international staff and other personnel to the project as specified in the Project Document, select candidates for fellowships and determine standards for the training of national counterpart personnel.
 5. Fellowships shall be administered in accordance with the fellowships regulations of the Implementing Partner.
 6. The Implementing Partner may, in agreement with the Co-operating Agency and UNDP, implement part or the entire project by subcontract. The selection of subcontractors shall be made, after
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consultation with the Co-operating Agency and UNDP, taking into account the Implementing Partner's procedures.

7. All material, equipment and supplies which are purchased from UNDP resources will be used exclusively for the implementation of the project, and will remain the property of the UNDP in whose name it will be held by the Implementing Partner. Equipment supplied by the UNDP shall be marked with the insignia of the UNDP and of the Implementing Partner.
8. Arrangements may be made, if necessary, for a temporary transfer of custody of equipment to local authorities during the life of the project, without prejudice to the final transfer.
9. Prior to completion of UNDP assistance to the project, the Co-operating Agency, the UNDP and the Implementing Partner shall consult as to the disposition of all project equipment provided by the UNDP. Title to such equipment shall normally be transferred to the Co-operating Agency, or to an entity nominated by the Co-operating Agency, when it is required for continued operation of the project or for activities following directly there from. UNDP may, however, retain title to part or all of such equipment in accordance with UNDP regulations and rules.
10. At an agreed time after the completion of UNDP assistance to the project, the Co-operating Agency and the UNDP, and if necessary the Implementing Partner, shall review the activities continuing from or consequent upon the project with a view to evaluating its results.
11. UNDP may release information relating to any investment oriented project to potential investors, unless and until the Co-operating Agency has requested the UNDP in writing to restrict the release of information relating to such project.

(c) Rights, Facilities, Privileges and Immunities

1. In accordance with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 1946, given effect to by the Act of 4 March 1973 of the Iranian National Assembly, and the Agreement between the United Nations Special Fund and the Government of Iran Concerning Assistance from the Special Fund, signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs 6 October 1959, the officials of UNDP and other United Nations organizations associated with the project shall be accorded rights, facilities, privileges and immunities specified in said Convention and Agreement.
2. (a) Should the Parties agree to involve "Persons Performing Services" in this project in accordance with Article 8(3) of the Agreement between the United Nations Special Fund and the Government of Iran Concerning Assistance from the Special Fund, signed on 6 October 1959, the expression "persons performing services" as used in this Article of this Annex includes UN Volunteers, operational experts, Implementing Partners, their employees and contractors, implementing or assisting in the implementation of UNDP assistance to a project, other than Government nationals employed locally. Any agreement between the parties to involve persons performing services has to be approved in accordance with the Iranian national procedures.

(b) The expression "persons performing services" does not extend to cover nationals and the residents in the territory of Iran.

(c) The privileges and immunities are accorded to the officials of UNDP and other relevant UN organizations associated with the projects in the interest of the United Nations and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves. The Secretary-General shall have the right and duty to waive the immunity of any official in any case where, in his opinion, the immunity would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the interest of the United Nations. The United Nations shall cooperate at all times with the appropriate authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to

facilitate the proper administration of justice, secure the observance of police regulations and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connection with the privileges, facilities and immunities referred to above.

3. (a) For purposes of the instruments on privileges and immunities referred to in the preceding parts of this Article:
 - i. All papers and documents relating to a project in the possession or under the control of the persons referred to in sub-paragraph 2(a), above, shall be deemed to be documents belonging to UNDP, the United Nations or the Specialized Agency concerned, as the case may be; and
 - ii. Equipment, materials and supplies brought into or purchased or leased by those persons within the country for purposes of a project shall be deemed to be property of UNDP, the United Nations or the Specialized Agency concerned, as the case may be.
4. The Cooperating Agency shall ensure:
 - (a) Prompt clearance of experts and other persons performing services in respect of this project; and
 - (b) The prompt release from customs of:
 - i. Equipment, materials and supplies required in connection with this project; and
 - ii. Property belonging to and intended for the personal use or consumption of the personnel of the UNDP, its Implementing Partners, or other persons performing services on their behalf in respect of this project, except for locally recruited personnel.
5. Nothing in the Project Document shall be construed to limit the rights, facilities, privileges or immunities conferred in any other instrument upon any person, natural or juridical, referred to hereunder.
6. The Co-operating Agency shall facilitate the project implementation under the provisions of the Project Document.

(d) Suspension or termination of activities

1. Following mutual consultation with the Co-operating Agency, UNDP may by written notice to the Co-operating Agency and to the Implementing Partner concerned suspend any project activities, if in the judgment of UNDP, any circumstances arise which interferes or threatens to interfere with the successful completion of the project or the accomplishment of its purposes.
2. The procedure for suspension and termination of a project are as follows:
 - a. Suspension: During the period of suspension, the Parties may consult and try to resolve the problems by corrective measures. If the problems are resolved, the project activities may be resumed. The UNDP Resident Representative confirms to the Parties the date for resuming such activities. However, UNDP may directly terminate a project, in cases it deems as force majeure.
 - b. Termination: A project may be terminated only after a period of suspension. If neither party has been able to reach a resolution of the problem within a reasonable period of time, either party may recommend the project's termination. Unspent TRAC1 or TRAC2 funds from a terminated project may be reprogrammed, taking into account the outstanding obligations of the terminated project. The Implementing Partner proceeds with the steps required for financial completion.
3. The UNDP Resident Representative takes the necessary steps regarding suspension or termination of a project and confirms it in writing to the parties concerned, in consultation with the national coordinating authority and the Implementing Partner.

X RISK MANAGEMENT

1. Consistent with the *Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document*, the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. To this end, the Implementing Partner shall:
 - a) Put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
 - b) Assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.
2. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.
3. The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml.
4. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).
5. The Implementing Partner shall: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
6. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.
7. The Implementing Partner will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption, by its officials, consultants, responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or using UNDP funds. The Implementing Partner will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.
8. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to the Implementing Partner: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. The Implementing Partner agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.
9. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP has the obligation to conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP projects and programmes. The Implementing Partner shall provide

its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to the Implementing Partner's (and its consultants', responsible parties', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with the Implementing Partner to find a solution.

10. The signatories to this Project Document will promptly inform one another in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality. Where the Implementing Partner becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, the Implementing Partner will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). The Implementing Partner shall provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.
11. UNDP shall be entitled to a refund from the Implementing Partner of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the Implementing Partner under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document. Where such funds have not been refunded to UNDP, the Implementing Partner agrees that donors to UNDP (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of the funds for the activities under this Project Document, may seek recourse to the Implementing Partner for the recovery of any funds determined by UNDP to have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document.

Note: The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.
12. Each contract issued by the Implementing Partner in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from the Implementing Partner shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.
13. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.
14. The Implementing Partner shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are included, *mutatis mutandis*, in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

XI- Annexes

1. Quality assurance
2. Social and Environmental Screening
3. Risk Log
4. The responsibilities of Project Steering Committee
5. The responsibilities of National Project Director
6. The responsibilities of National Project Manager
7. The Senior International Project Advisor
8. Letter of Agreement between the Government and UNDP
9. Financing agreement between the UNDP and GOI

ANNEX 1. Project Quality Assurance Report

PROJECT QA ASSESSMENT: DESIGN AND APPRAISAL

OVERALL PROJECT

EXEMPLARY (5) ¥¥¥¥	HIGHLY SATISFACTORY (4) ¥¥¥¥i	SATISFACTORY (3) ¥¥¥ji	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (2) ¥¥iii	INADEQUATE (1) ¥iiii
At least four criteria are rated Exemplary, and all criteria are rated High or Exemplary.	All criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and at least four criteria are rated High or Exemplary.	At least six criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and only one may be rated Needs Improvement. The SES criterion must be rated Satisfactory or above.	At least three criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and only four criteria may be rated Needs Improvement.	One or more criteria are rated Inadequate, or five or more criteria are rated Needs Improvement.

DECISION

- **APPROVE** – the project is of sufficient quality to continue as planned. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner.
- **APPROVE WITH QUALIFICATIONS** – the project has issues that must be addressed before the project document can be approved. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner.
- **DISAPPROVE** – the project has significant issues that should prevent the project from being approved as drafted.

RATING CRITERIA

For all questions, select the option that best reflects the project

STRATEGIC

1. Does the project specify how it will contribute to higher level change through linkage to the programme's Theory of Change?

- **3:** The project is clearly linked to the programme's theory of change. It has an explicit change pathway that explains how the project will contribute to outcome level change and why the project's strategy will likely lead to this change. This analysis is backed by credible evidence of what works effectively in this context and includes assumptions and risks.
- **2:** The project is clearly linked to the programme's theory of change. It has a change pathway that explains how the project will contribute to outcome-level change and why the project strategy will likely lead to this change.
- **1:** The project document may describe in generic terms how the project will contribute to development results, without an explicit link to the programme's theory of change.

**Note: Projects not contributing to a program must have a project-specific Theory of Change. See alternative question under the light bulb for these cases.*

3

2

1

The project has a ToC which clearly shows the way the project is going to achieve intended results. Not enough credible evidence is available to support the ToC. The ToC is well linked to the CPD's ToC. The ToC has been developed based on previous phases of the project and in consultation with stakeholders who have been engaged in the implementation of the project in the past.

2. Is the project aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3: The project responds to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan⁸ and adapts at least one Signature Solution⁹. The project's RRF includes all the relevant SP output indicators. <i>(all must be true)</i> 2: The project responds to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan⁴. The project's RRF includes at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. <i>(both must be true)</i> 1: The project responds to a partner's identified need, but this need falls outside of the UNDP Strategic Plan. Also select this option if none of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF. 	3	2
	1	
	The project responds to development settings and adapts the signature solution "Promotion of nature based sustainable planet". The project RRF includes all relevant output indicators.	
3. Is the project linked to the programme outputs? (i.e., UNDAF Results Group Workplan/CPD, RPD or Strategic Plan IRRF for global projects/strategic interventions not part of a programme)	Yes	
RELEVANT		
4. Does the project target groups left furthest behind? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3: The target groups are clearly specified, prioritising discriminated and marginalized groups left furthest behind, identified through a rigorous process based on evidence. 2: The target groups are clearly specified, prioritizing groups left furthest behind. 1: The target groups are not clearly specified. <p><i>*Note: Management Action must be taken for a score of 1. Projects that build institutional capacity should still identify targeted groups to justify support</i></p>	3	2
	1	
	The project will work with local communities residing in wetland area and also within the catchment areas which are not necessarily the furthest behind.	
5. Have knowledge, good practices, and past lessons learned of UNDP and others informed the project design? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3: Knowledge and lessons learned backed by credible evidence from sources such as evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, and/or monitoring have been explicitly used, with appropriate referencing, to justify the approach used by the project. 2: The project design mentions knowledge and lessons learned backed by evidence/sources, but has not been used to justify the approach selected. 1: There is little or no mention of knowledge and lessons learned informing the project design. Any references made are anecdotal and not backed by evidence. <p><i>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</i></p>	3	2
	1	
	The project is built based on lessons learned during the past phases which are well documented and kept in project office.	

⁸ The three development settings in UNDP's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan are: a) Eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions; b) Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development; and c) Build resilience to shocks and crises

⁹ The six Signature Solutions of UNDP's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan are: a) Keeping people out of poverty; b) Strengthen effective, inclusive and accountable governance; c) Enhance national prevention and recovery capacities for resilient societies; d) Promote nature based solutions for a sustainable planet; e) Close the energy gap; and f) Strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

<p>6. Does UNDP have a clear advantage to engage in the role envisioned by the project vis-à-vis national/regional/global partners and other actors?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: An analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, and credible evidence supports the proposed engagement of UNDP and partners through the project, including identification of potential funding partners. It is clear how results achieved by partners will complement the project's intended results and a communication strategy is in place to communicate results and raise visibility vis-à-vis key partners. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have been considered, as appropriate. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 2: Some analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, and relatively limited evidence supports the proposed engagement of and division of labour between UNDP and partners through the project, with unclear funding and communications strategies or plans. • 1: No clear analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area that the project intends to work. There is risk that the project overlaps and/or does not coordinate with partners' interventions in this area. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have not been considered, despite its potential relevance. <p>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <p>UNDP has been the partner of chose for the Government in this project for a long time and given the strong partnership shaped, no partner can compete with UNDP in this area however no systematic analysis has been done.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	3	2	1		<p>UNDP has been the partner of chose for the Government in this project for a long time and given the strong partnership shaped, no partner can compete with UNDP in this area however no systematic analysis has been done.</p>	
3	2						
1							
<p>UNDP has been the partner of chose for the Government in this project for a long time and given the strong partnership shaped, no partner can compete with UNDP in this area however no systematic analysis has been done.</p>							
PRINCIPLED							
<p>7. Does the project apply a human rights-based approach?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The project is guided by human rights and incorporates the principles of accountability, meaningful participation, and non-discrimination in the project's strategy. The project upholds the relevant international and national laws and standards. Any potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were rigorously identified and assessed as relevant, with appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into project design and budget. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 2: The project is guided by human rights by prioritizing accountability, meaningful participation and non-discrimination. Potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were identified and assessed as relevant, and appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into the project design and budget. <i>(both must be true)</i> • 1: No evidence that the project is guided by human rights. Limited or no evidence that potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were considered. <p>*Note: Management action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <p>The project has no adverse impact on enjoyment of human rights.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	3	2	1		<p>The project has no adverse impact on enjoyment of human rights.</p>	
3	2						
1							
<p>The project has no adverse impact on enjoyment of human rights.</p>							

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Islamic Republic of Iran

<p>8. Does the project use gender analysis in the project design?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: A participatory gender analysis has been conducted and results from this gender analysis inform the development challenge, strategy and expected results sections of the project document. Outputs and indicators of the results framework include explicit references to gender equality, and specific indicators measure and monitor results to ensure women are fully benefitting from the project. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 2: A basic gender analysis has been carried out and results from this analysis are scattered (i.e., fragmented and not consistent) across the development challenge and strategy sections of the project document. The results framework may include some gender sensitive outputs and/or activities but gender inequalities are not consistently integrated across each output. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 1: The project design may or may not mention information and/or data on the differential impact of the project’s development situation on gender relations, women and men, but the gender inequalities have not been clearly identified and reflected in the project document. <p>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p> <p>A gender analysis will be carried out at the onset of the project implementation.</p>	3	2
<p>9. Did the project support the resilience and sustainability of societies and/or ecosystems?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: Credible evidence that the project addresses sustainability and resilience dimensions of development challenges, which are integrated in the project strategy and design. The project reflects the interconnections between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Relevant shocks, hazards and adverse social and environmental impacts have been identified and rigorously assessed with appropriate management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. <i>(all must be true)</i>. • 2: The project design integrates sustainability and resilience dimensions of development challenges. Relevant shocks, hazards and adverse social and environmental impacts have been identified and assessed, and relevant management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. <i>(both must be true)</i> • 1: Sustainability and resilience dimensions and impacts were not adequately considered. <p>*Note: Management action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p>	3	2
<p>10. Has the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) been conducted to identify potential social and environmental impacts and risks? The SESP is not required for projects in which UNDP is Administrative Agent only and/or projects comprised solely of reports, coordination of events, trainings, workshops, meetings, conferences and/or communication materials and information dissemination. [if yes,</p>	Yes	No
	SESP Not Required	
<p>No specific gender analysis has been made and but experiences from previous phases was included in project design</p>	1	
<p>Socio-economic aspects of local communities will be assessed and measures foreseen to address interlinked challenges.</p>	1	

upload the completed checklist. If SESP is not required, provide the reason for the exemption in the evidence section.]	
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MANAGEMENT & MONITORING

<p>11. Does the project have a strong results framework?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The project’s selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the key expected development changes, each with credible data sources and populated baselines and targets, including gender sensitive, target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators where appropriate. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 2: The project’s selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators, but baselines, targets and data sources may not yet be fully specified. Some use of target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators, as appropriate. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 1: The project’s selection of outputs and activities are not at an appropriate level; outputs are not accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the expected change and have not been populated with baselines and targets; data sources are not specified, and/or no gender sensitive, sex-disaggregation of indicators. <i>(if any is true)</i> <p><small>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</small></p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table>	3	2	1		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table> <p>The project has outcome/ outputs at an appropriate level with SMART indicators accompanied by baseline and targets however, indicators are not gender sensitive and sex-disaggregated.</p>	1	
3	2							
1								
1								
<p>12. Is the project’s governance mechanism clearly defined in the project document, including composition of the project board?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The project’s governance mechanism is fully defined. Individuals have been specified for each position in the governance mechanism (especially all members of the project board.) Project Board members have agreed on their roles and responsibilities as specified in the terms of reference. The ToR of the project board has been attached to the project document. <i>(all must be true)</i>. • 2: The project’s governance mechanism is defined; specific institutions are noted as holding key governance roles, but individuals may not have been specified yet. The project document lists the most important responsibilities of the project board, project director/manager and quality assurance roles. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 1: The project’s governance mechanism is loosely defined in the project document, only mentioning key roles that will need to be filled at a later date. No information on the responsibilities of key positions in the governance mechanism is provided. <p><small>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</small></p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table>	3	2	1		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table> <p>The project board is well defined in the ProDoc and key roles are described.</p>	1	
3	2							
1								
1								
<p>13. Have the project risks been identified with clear plans stated to manage and mitigate each risk?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: Project risks related to the achievement of results are fully described in the project risk log, based on comprehensive analysis drawing on the program’s theory of change, Social and Environmental Standards and screening, situation analysis, capacity assessments and other analysis such as funding potential and reputational risk. Risks have been identified through a consultative process with key internal and external stakeholders, including consultation with the UNDP Security Office as required. Clear and complete plan in place to manage and mitigate each risk, including security risks, reflected in project budgeting and monitoring plans. <i>(both must be true)</i> • 2: Project risks related to the achievement of results are identified in the initial project risk log based on a minimum level of analysis and consultation, with mitigation measures identified for each risk. • 1: Some risks may be identified in the initial project risk log, but no evidence of consultation or analysis and no clear risk mitigation measures 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table>	3	2	1		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table> <p>The project risk log is complete based on the analysis done in the ToC of the project.</p>	1	
3	2							
1								
1								

<p>identified. This option is also selected if risks are not clearly identified, no initial risk log is included with the project document and/or no security risk management process has taken place for the project.</p> <p>*Note: Management Action must be taken for a score of 1</p>		
EFFICIENT		
<p>14. Have specific measures for ensuring cost-efficient use of resources been explicitly mentioned as part of the project design? This can include, for example: i) using the theory of change analysis to explore different options of achieving the maximum results with the resources available; ii) using a portfolio management approach to improve cost effectiveness through synergies with other interventions; iii) through joint operations (e.g., monitoring or procurement) with other partners; iv) sharing resources or coordinating delivery with other projects, v) using innovative approaches and technologies to reduce the cost of service delivery or other types of interventions.</p> <p><i>(Note: Evidence of at least one measure must be provided to answer yes for this question)</i></p>	<p>Yes (3)</p>	<p>No (1)</p>
	<p>Monitoring and procurement of project will be conducted jointly with the Government partner and it will increase the cost-effectiveness of the project activities.</p>	
<p>15. Is the budget justified and supported with valid estimates?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The project’s budget is at the activity level with funding sources, and is specified for the duration of the project period in a multi-year budget. Realistic resource mobilisation plans are in place to fill unfunded outcomes. Costs are supported with valid estimates using benchmarks from similar projects or activities. Cost implications from inflation and foreign exchange exposure have been estimated and incorporated in the budget. Adequate costs for monitoring, evaluation, communications and security have been incorporated. • 2: The project’s budget is at the activity level with funding sources, when possible, and is specified for the duration of the project in a multi-year budget, but no funding plan is in place. Costs are supported with valid estimates based on prevailing rates. • 1: The project’s budget is not specified at the activity level, and/or may not be captured in a multi-year budget. 	<p>3</p>	<p>2</p>
	<p>1</p>	
<p>16. Is the Country Office/ Regional Hub/ Global Project fully recovering the costs involved with project implementation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The budget fully covers all project costs that are attributable to the project, including programme management and development effectiveness services related to strategic country programme planning, quality assurance, pipeline development, policy advocacy services, finance, procurement, human resources, administration, issuance of contracts, security, travel, assets, general services, information and communications based on full costing in accordance with prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL.) • 2: The budget covers significant project costs that are attributable to the project based on prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL) as relevant. • 1: The budget does not adequately cover project costs that are attributable to the project, and UNDP is cross-subsidizing the project. <p>*Note: Management Action must be given for a score of 1. The budget must be revised to fully reflect the costs of implementation before the project commences.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>2</p>
	<p>1</p>	
	<p>The project will follow UNDP’s cost recovery strategy as elaborated in the project document.</p>	

EFFECTIVE		
17. Have targeted groups been engaged in the design of the project? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: Credible evidence that all targeted groups, prioritising discriminated and marginalized populations that will be involved in or affected by the project, have been actively engaged in the design of the project. The project has an explicit strategy to identify, engage and ensure the meaningful participation of target groups as stakeholders throughout the project, including through monitoring and decision-making (e.g., representation on the project board, inclusion in samples for evaluations, etc.) • 2: Some evidence that key targeted groups have been consulted in the design of the project. • 1: No evidence of engagement with targeted groups during project design. 	3	2
	1	
	Key targeted groups have been consulted in the design of the project	
18. Does the project plan for adaptation and course correction if regular monitoring activities, evaluation, and lesson learned demonstrate there are better approaches to achieve the intended results and/or circumstances change during implementation?	Yes (3)	No (1)
19. The gender marker for all project outputs are scored at GEN2 or GEN3, indicating that gender has been fully mainstreamed into all project outputs at a minimum. <small>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of "no"</small>	Yes (3)	No (1)
Evidence		
SUSTAINABILITY & NATIONAL OWNERSHIP		
20. Have national/regional/global partners led, or proactively engaged in, the design of the project? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: National partners (or regional/global partners for regional and global projects) have full ownership of the project and led the process of the development of the project jointly with UNDP. • 2: The project has been developed by UNDP in close consultation with national/regional/global partners. • 1: The project has been developed by UNDP with limited or no engagement with national partners. 	3	2
	1	
	The national counterpart has led project design process.	
21. Are key institutions and systems identified, and is there a strategy for strengthening specific/ comprehensive capacities based on capacity assessments conducted? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The project has a strategy for strengthening specific capacities of national institutions and/or actors based on a completed capacity assessment. This strategy includes an approach to regularly monitor national capacities using clear indicators and rigorous methods of data collection, and adjust the strategy to strengthen national capacities accordingly. • 2: A capacity assessment has been completed. There are plans to develop a strategy to strengthen specific capacities of national institutions and/or actors based on the results of the capacity assessment. • 1: Capacity assessments have not been carried out. 	3	2
	1	
	Plans are included for strengthening the capacities of several stakeholders involved.	

22. Is there a clear strategy embedded in the project specifying how the project will use national systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluations, etc.) to the extent possible?	Yes (3)	No (1)
23. Is there a clear transition arrangement/ phase-out plan developed with key stakeholders in order to sustain or scale up results (including resource mobilisation strategy)?	Yes (3)	No (1)



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PROJECT DOCUMENT

Islamic Republic of Iran

Annex 2. Social and Environmental Screening

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project Phase 3
2. Project Number	00128285/122284
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Iran

Part A. Integrating Overarching Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?
<i>Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams the human-rights based approach</i>
Although the project is not directly targeting human rights objectives but as the project is aiming to engage key stakeholders for conservation and improved management of wetlands and provide opportunities for effective engagement of local communities including CBOs and NGOs in overall process of the project. Project will build local capacities, establish platforms for people’s participation in the decision making processes as well as implementation activities which are all in line with human-rights based approach.
<i>Briefly describe in the space below how the Project is likely to improve gender equality and women’s empowerment</i>
The project sets a stage and opportunity to involve local communities in implementation of the project’s activities and delivering respective results. The process also builds local communities, including women, capacities enabling them to take part in the project. The previous years’ experience shows that there are several numbers of opportunities for women groups to benefit from the project activities. Women economic empowerment is incorporated in the project approach and will be followed during the project implementation.
<i>Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability</i>
The project’s main goal is environmental sustainability. As reflected in the project title, conservation of Iranian wetlands is what the project is trying to achieve while the project will also advocates for environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation. The project will be building the capacity of stakehoders, including local communities/NGOs/CBOs, toward achieving conservation of wetlands and sustainable development.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 – Risk Screening Checklist (based on any “Yes” responses). If no risks have been identified in Attachment 1 then note “No Risks Identified” and skip to Question 4 and Select “Low Risk”. Questions 5 and 6 not required for Low Risk Projects.</i>	QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 6</i>			QUESTION 6: What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?
Risk Description	Impact and Probability (1-5)	Significance (Low, Moderate, High)	Comments	Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.
No Risk Identified				
	QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?			
	Select one (see SESP for guidance)			Comments
	Low Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Moderate Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>		

QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?		
Check all that apply		Comments
<i>Principle 1: Human Rights</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>4. Cultural Heritage</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>5. Displacement and Resettlement</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>6. Indigenous Peoples</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Final Sign Off

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the Project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have “checked” to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have “cleared” the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
Principles 1: Human Rights		Answer (Yes/No)
1.	Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
2.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups?	No
3.	Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?	No
4.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
5.	Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?	No
6.	Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No
7.	Have local communities or individuals, given the opportunity, raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?	No
8.	Is there a risk that the Project would exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
1.	Is there a likelihood that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
2.	Would the Project potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
3.	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?	No
4.	<p>Would the Project potentially limit women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services?</p> <p><i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i></p>	No
Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific Standard-related questions below		

Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
1.1	<p>Would the Project potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services?</p> <p><i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i></p>	No
1.2	<p>Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?</p>	No
1.3	<p>Does the Project involve changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)</p>	No
1.4	<p>Would Project activities pose risks to endangered species?</p>	No
1.5	<p>Would the Project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?</p>	No
1.6	<p>Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?</p>	No
1.7	<p>Does the Project involve the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?</p>	No
1.8	<p>Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water?</p> <p><i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i></p>	No
1.9	<p>Does the Project involve utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)</p>	No
1.10	<p>Would the Project generate potential adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?</p>	No
1.11	<p>Would the Project result in secondary or consequential development activities which could lead to adverse social and environmental effects, or would it generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area?</p> <p><i>For example, a new road through forested lands will generate direct environmental and social impacts (e.g. felling of trees, earthworks, potential relocation of inhabitants). The new road may also facilitate encroachment on lands by illegal settlers or generate unplanned commercial development along the route, potentially in sensitive areas. These are indirect, secondary, or induced impacts that need to be considered. Also, if similar developments in the same forested area are planned, then cumulative impacts of multiple activities (even if not part of the same Project) need to be considered.</i></p>	No
Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation		

2.1	Will the proposed Project result in significant ¹ greenhouse gas emissions or may exacerbate climate change?	No
2.2	Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?	No
2.3	Is the proposed Project likely to directly or indirectly increase social and environmental vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)? <i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i>	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions		
3.1	Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?	No
3.2	Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.3	Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?	No
3.4	Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)	No
3.5	Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions?	No
3.6	Would the Project result in potential increased health risks (e.g. from water-borne or other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections such as HIV/AIDS)?	No
3.7	Does the Project pose potential risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project construction, operation, or decommissioning?	No
3.8	Does the Project involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?	No
3.9	Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
4.1	Will the proposed Project result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: Projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No

¹ In regards to CO₂, 'significant emissions' corresponds generally to more than 25,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources). [The Guidance Note on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation provides additional information on GHG emissions.]

4.2	Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
5.1	Would the Project potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement?	No
5.2	Would the Project possibly result in economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3	Is there a risk that the Project would lead to forced evictions? ¹	No
5.4	Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
6.1	Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	No
6.2	Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	<p>Would the proposed Project potentially affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the Project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)?</p> <p><i>If the answer to the screening question 6.3 is “yes” the potential risk impacts are considered potentially severe and/or critical and the Project would be categorized as either Moderate or High Risk.</i></p>	No
6.4	Has there been an absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.5	Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6	Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No
6.7	Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8	Would the Project potentially affect the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No

¹ Forced evictions include acts and/or omissions involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating the ability of an individual, group, or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protections.

6.9	Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No
Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
7.1	Would the Project potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
7.2	Would the proposed Project potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
7.3	Will the proposed Project potentially involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or materials? Does the Project propose use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Conventions on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Montreal Protocol</i>	No
7.4	Will the proposed Project involve the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
7.5	Does the Project include activities that require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

Annex 3 Risk Log

#	Description	Date Identified	Type ¹	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted, Updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Sectoral approaches within related government entities may affect project progress and achievement of result	April 2020	<i>Organizational</i>	Medium/Medium	Capacity development of stakeholders, bilateral and multilateral meetings with stakeholders	CIWP			
2	Imposed Sanctions on Iran	April 2020	<i>Operational</i>	Medium/High	Planning and predicting countermeasures to reduce the impact of sanctions including innovative payment methods for	CIWP			

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

					international consultants				
3	COVID-19 Pandemic in the country and project pilot sites	April 2020	<i>Operational</i>	Medium/High	Compatibility countermeasures based on innovative models				
4	late provision of the budgets required for the implementation of the Program	April 2020	<i>Financial</i>	High/Medium	Serious follow-ups for timely allocation of the budget, detailed action planning to compensate the delays in budget allocation	CIWP			
5	Climate Change or abnormal climatic conditions might influence management arrangements and the stakeholders' activities during the time of the project implementation.	April 2020	<i>Environmental/ Strategic</i>	Medium/Medium	Provision of alternative management arrangements for unexpected situation	CIWP			

Annex 4. Terms of Reference of the Project Steering Committee

The **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** will meet at least twice a year with the role of overseeing project planning, implementation and performance. It will consist of national and local-level representatives from each of the project partners. The PSC will be responsible, *inter alia*, for adopting annual work program prepared by the PCO. It will monitor the project's implementation to ensure timely progress in attaining the desired results, and efficient coordination with other projects. The specific tasks of the Steering committee will be to:

- Advise on CIWP development, implementation and resourcing;
- Advise on adaptive management;
- Assist with securing partner and stakeholder engagement;
- Review work plans and progress reports;
- Advise on risk mitigation and sustainability issues;
- Securing national budget.

The official membership of the PSC will consist of two representatives from each of the following institutions:

1. Department of Environment-DoE (PSC chair)
2. Ministry of Energy-MoE
3. Planning and Budgeting Organization-PBO
4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs-MFA
5. Ministry of Agricultural Jihad-MoAJ
6. Ministry of Industry, Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization
7. United Nations Development Program UNDP
8. Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare
9. Ministry of Interior- Mol
10. Supreme Audit Court of Iran
11. Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade
12. Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism
13. NGOs
14. Technical Committee (non-voting representatives)

The PSC composition could be expanded during the implementation of the Project and upon approval of PSC members. PSC will make decisions on a consensus basis. In addition to the official PSC representative of each of the above organizations who will participate in project oversight and governance through the PSC, a second representative will be nominated by each institution as an "Institutional Focal Point" who will be a working level, technical counterpart to the project and will be involved in providing day-to-day collaboration, technical input and coordination to the project team as and when necessary.

ANNEX 5. Terms of Reference of the National Project Director

The **National Project Director (NPD)** is ultimately responsible and accountable for project implementation on behalf of Government. S/he will act as the focal point and responsible party for project implementation and inter-sectoral cooperation. S/he will ensure that all Government inputs committed to the project are available in a timely manner. S/he will chair the steering committee and also act as the chair of panel for staff appointments and selection of international consultants.

The NPD is a state employee designated by Government and entrusted with overall guidance and coordination of the project implementation. It is an unpaid position covered by the Government as an in-kind contribution to the project. The NPD is accountable for partnership building, production of the project outputs, appropriate use of the project resources provided by other donors, and coordination of the project with other programmes and projects implemented in Iran in the area of wetlands protected area management.

Tasks

In particular the NPD will:

- submit (to UNDP) project work plans, budget revisions and if necessary project revisions after PSC approval;
- chair the PSC;
- be responsible for inter-sectoral coordination of project activities with other involved governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the provision of national co-financing;
- ensure that national legislation, rules and procedures are fully met in the course of the project implementation;
- approve terms of reference, selection of project staff and reports produced by the PCO and the key experts/contractors;
- approve/certify project monitoring reports (APRs), audit reports and evaluation reports;
- facilitate liaison and cooperation with the central Government authorities in the course of the project implementation;
- liaise with UNDP and project partners as required, on a regular basis, to build an effective partnership for the successful delivery of expected project outcomes, and;
- ensure that there is a clear and unambiguous decision-making process for project implementation so that project activities are planned well in advance and necessary resources are available.
- ensure that the project management team has enough capacity to implement the project and renew contracts of the project staff based on the results of performance review.
- liaise with the higher level officials in particular Head of Department of Environment and facilitate drafting and signature of MOU between official partners of the project.

The work of the NPD will be supported by the NPM and other project staff, as well as by the SIPA and UNDP office in Tehran. If appropriate, the NPD may temporarily delegate some or all of his/her responsibilities to the NPM, e.g., during overseas travel, etc.

ANNEX 6. The responsibilities of the National Project Manager (NPM)

The **National Project Manager (NPM)** will be responsible for day-to-day management of project activities as head of **Project Central Office (PCO)**. The NPM will ensure smooth implementation of the project in accordance with the project document and UNDP procedures. He/she shall liaise directly with designated officials of the PSC, SIPA, Project national and international consultants, existing and potential project donors, and others as deemed appropriate and necessary by the PSC or by the NPM him/herself.

He/she shall be responsible for coordinating, overseeing the preparation of, and the delivery of all substantive, managerial and financial reports from and on behalf of the project. He/she will supervise all project staff in the PCO and Site Offices as well as the project budget. The NPM will prepare an annual work plan on the basis of the project document, under the general supervision of the PSC and in close consultation and coordination with the NPD, SIPA, Coordinating Committees, and UNDP.

Overall duties

The NPM will have the following responsibilities:

1. Ensure smooth implementation, as well as strategic development, of the project in accordance with the annual work plans and in the framework of the Project Document and UNDP's procedures.
2. Oversee management of all contracts.
3. Lead establishment of project Health Safety & Environment policy and sound implementation of it;
4. Select and supervise all project staff in the PCO and Site Offices. Certify attendance sheets, and oversee the establishment and operation of project personnel performance reviews.
5. Ensure strategic management of the project budget, particularly securing the allocation of existing and new co-financing.
6. Coordinate, monitor and be responsible to the PSC for implementation of the annual work plans.
7. Ensure consistency and integration among the various program elements and related activities provided or funded by various sources (inc. Government and UNDP);
8. Work with SIPA and UNDP Tehran to prepare Terms of Reference and manage the recruitment of consultants and contractors;
9. Foster and establish links with other relevant programs and, where appropriate, with other relevant regional programs;
10. Provide input to project activities where appropriate;
11. Be an *ex-officio* member of the PSC and be responsible for the preparation, organization, and follow-up necessary for the effective conduct of PSC business;
12. Submit reports of relevant project progress and problems to the PSC;

13. Organize round-table discussions on project successes and failures, as per the annual work plans.
14. Encourage an atmosphere of adaptive management in the project office, where people focus on meaningful results “on the ground”, rather than simply the spending of funds or production of reports.
15. Oversee an effective ongoing project monitoring program and development of a process whereby the project assesses best practices as it gains experience.
16. Co-operate with UNDP to ensure that specified project tasks are outsourced to suitable consultants and/or organizations.
17. Directly oversee and supervise communications and networking activities as well as public participation.

ANNEX 7. The responsibilities of the Senior International Project Advisor

The SIPA will represent the primary source of international technical support for project implementation. The SIPA will monitor and support the implementation of all project outcomes through home-based technical support services. The home-based support will include responding to technical queries, commenting on, and acceptance/approval of, project technical reports, project activity reports, and project monitoring and evaluation reports (e.g., annual project progress reports), etc.

The SIPA will ensure that the project maintains strategic direction during implementation with a sharp focus on quality outputs. S/he would also support the project in high quality planning, monitoring and supervising as well as transferring up-to-date technical knowledge. The SIPA shall support the project by providing relative experience as well as UNDP best practices. In addition to direct technical support, this will include the development of linkages between the project and other UNDP projects implemented in the region and in other parts of the world. S/he would also help the project to ensure a learning and adaptive approach to project management and implementation as well as development of TORs, and intra-project communications.

Tasks

The key tasks of the SIPA are mentioned below:

1. Provide technical backstopping to all activities of the project as well as project management and reporting requirements;
2. Ensure that the project maintains strategic direction through support in implementation of the monitoring and evaluation system with a particular focus on assessing progress towards the project's targets and to emphasizing a learning and adaptive approach to project management and implementation
3. Sharpen the project's focus on quality outputs, through reviews and inputs to all major project outputs and assist in documentation of lessons learned throughout the project
4. Provide technical advisory in preparation of Annual Work Plans, project future road map, reviewing, and endorsing for acceptance/approval of, project technical reports, project activity reports, TORs, and project monitoring and evaluation reports including Annual Project Progress Report (APPR)/ Project Donor Reports
5. Provide a conduit for international best practice and knowledge-sharing
6. Advise Government, the project and UNDP in order to identify and resolve, problems and challenges facing project implementation, particularly through promoting inter-sectoral coordination
7. Contribute to, and monitor, the project's achievements sustainability plan

ANNEX 8. Letter of Agreement between UNDP and Government of Iran for the Provision of Support Services

1. Reference is made to consultations between officials of the Government of Iran (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) and officials of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for nationally managed programmes and projects. UNDP and the Government hereby agree that the UNDP country office may provide such support services at the request of the Government through its institution designated in the relevant programme support document or project document, as described below.
2. The UNDP country office may provide support services for assistance with reporting requirements and direct payment. In providing such support services, the UNDP country office shall ensure that the capacity of the Government-designated institution is strengthened to enable it to carry out such activities directly.
3. The UNDP country office may provide, at the request of the designated institution, the following support services for the activities of the programme/project:
 - Identification and/or recruitment of project and programme personnel;
 - Identification and facilitation of training activities;
 - Procurement of goods and services including customs clearance;
 - Travel Management Services;
 - Financial Record Management;
 - ICT Services
 - Logistical support to Event Organizations
4. The provision of support services as per paragraph 3 above by the UNDP country office shall be in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures. Support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be detailed in an annex to the programme support document, project document or the AWP, as negotiated and agreed upon by both parties. If the requirements for support services by the country office change during the life of a programme or project, the annex to the programme support document or project document is revised with the mutual agreement of the UNDP resident representative and the designated institution.
5. The relevant provisions of the Legal Annex to Project Documents including the provisions on liability and privileges and immunities, shall apply to the provision of such support services. The Government shall retain overall responsibility for the nationally managed programme or project through its designated institution. The responsibility of the UNDP country office for the provision of the support services described herein shall be limited to the provision of such support services detailed in the annex to the programme support document, project document or the AWP.

6. Any claim or dispute arising under or in connection with the provision of support services by the UNDP country office in accordance with this letter shall be handled pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Legal Annex to Project Documents.
7. The manner and method of cost-recovery by the UNDP country office in providing the support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be specified in the annex to the programme support document or project document.
8. The UNDP country office shall submit progress reports on the support services provided and shall report on the costs reimbursed in providing such services, as may be required.
9. Any modification of the present arrangements shall be effected by mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.

ANNEX 9. FINANCING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

WHEREAS the United Nations Development Program (hereinafter referred to as "UNDP") and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereinafter referred to as the "Government") have agreed to co-operate in the implementation of a project in the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereinafter referred to as "the Project"), as described in the project document (Award 00128285, Project No. 122284) "Conservation of the Iranian Wetlands Project, Phase III", in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and submitted to the Government for information. Add the Government's reference if any;

WHEREAS the Government has informed UNDP of its willingness to contribute funds (hereinafter referred to as "the contribution") to the UNDP on a cost-sharing basis to increase the resources available for the Project;

WHEREAS the UNDP shall designate an Implementing Partner for the implementation of Project financed from the contribution (hereinafter referred to as "the Implementing Partner")

NOW THEREFORE, UNDP and the Government hereby agree as follows:

Article I

1. The Government shall, in the manner referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, place at the disposal of UNDP the contribution of USD 700,000.
2. The Government shall, in accordance with the schedule of payments set out below, deposit the contribution in Bank Account No.: 342515339, Bank Account Name: UNDP Representative in Iran, SHEBA No.: IR 16 0180 0000 0000 0342 5153 39 at the Tejarat Bank, Eskan Branch, Branch Code 033

	<u>Date payment due</u>	<u>Amount (USD)</u>
a.	July 2020	100,000
b.	July 2021	150,000
c.	July 2022	150,000
d.	July 2023	150,000
e.	July 2024	150,000

3. The Government will inform UNDP when the Contribution is paid via an e-mail with remittance information to contributions@undp.org, providing the following information: Government's name, UNDP country office, (Award 00128285, Project No. 122284) "Conservation of the Iranian Wetlands Project, Phase III", Government reference (if available). This information should also be included in the bank remittance advice when funds are remitted to UNDP.
4. The value of the payment, if made in a currency other than United States dollars, shall be determined by applying the United Nations operational rate of exchange in effect on the date of payment. Should there be a change in the United Nations operational rate of exchange prior to the full utilization by the UNDP of the payment, the value of the balance of funds still held at that time will be adjusted accordingly. If, in such a case, a loss in the value of the

balance of funds is recorded, UNDP shall inform the Government with a view to determining whether any further financing could be provided by the Government. Should such further financing not be available, the assistance to be provided to the Project may be reduced, suspended or terminated by UNDP.

5. The above schedule of payments takes into account the requirement that contributions shall be paid in advance of the implementation of planned activities. It may be amended to be consistent with the progress of project delivery. UNDP shall not absorb any loss (including but not limited to exchange fluctuations) under the Project. The Parties acknowledge and agree that all losses shall be charged to the Project.
6. All financial accounts and statements shall be expressed in United States dollars.
7. UNDP may agree to accept Contributions in a currency other than United States dollars provided such currency is fully convertible or readily usable by UNDP and subject to the provisions of paragraph 6 above. Any change in the currency of the Contribution shall be made only in agreement with UNDP.

Article II

1. In accordance with the decisions and directives of UNDP's Executive Board reflected in its Policy on Cost Recovery from Other Resources, the Contribution shall be subject to cost recovery for *indirect costs incurred by UNDP headquarters and country office structures* in providing General Management Support (GMS) services. To cover these GMS costs, the contribution shall be charged a fee equal to 5%. Furthermore, as long as they are unequivocally linked to the specific project(s), all direct costs of implementation, including the costs of implementing partner, will be identified in the project budget against a relevant budget line and borne by the project accordingly.
2. The aggregate of the amounts budgeted for the project, together with the estimated costs of reimbursement of related support services, shall not exceed the total resources available to the project under this Agreement as well as funds which may be available to the project for project costs and for support costs under other sources of financing.

Article III

1. The contribution shall be administered by the UNDP in accordance with UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures, applying its normal procedures for the execution of its projects.
2. Project management and expenditures shall be governed by the regulations, rules, policies and procedures of UNDP and, where applicable, the regulations, rules, policies and procedures of the Implementing Partner.

Article IV

1. The implementation of the responsibilities of the UNDP and of the Implementing Partner pursuant to this Agreement and the relevant project document shall be dependent on receipt by the UNDP of the contribution in accordance with the schedule of payments set out in Article I, paragraph 2, above. UNDP shall not start implementation of the activities prior to receiving the Contribution or the first tranche of the Contribution (whichever is applicable).
2. If unforeseen increases in expenditures or commitments are expected or realized (whether due to inflationary factors, fluctuation in exchange rates or unforeseen contingencies) UNDP shall submit to the Government on a timely basis a supplementary estimate showing the further financing that will be necessary. The Government shall use its best endeavors to make available to UNDP the additional funds required.
3. If the Contribution referred to in Article I, paragraph 2, above, are not received in accordance with the payment schedule, or if the additional financing required in accordance with paragraph 2, above, is not forthcoming from the Government or other sources, the assistance to be provided to the Project under this Agreement may be reduced, suspended or terminated by UNDP.

Article V

Ownership of equipment, supplies and other property financed from the contribution shall vest in UNDP. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by UNDP shall be determined in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of UNDP.

Article VI

The contribution shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures provided for in the financial regulations, rules, policies and procedures of UNDP.

Article VII

UNDP shall provide the Government on request with financial and other reports prepared in accordance with UNDP reporting procedures.

Article VIII

1. UNDP shall notify the Government when all activities relating to the Project have been completed in accordance with the Prodoc.
2. Notwithstanding the completion of all activities relating to the Project, UNDP shall continue to hold unutilized funds from the Contribution until all commitments and liabilities incurred in implementation of the activities financed by the contribution have been satisfied and these activities brought to an orderly conclusion.
3. If the unutilized funds prove insufficient to meet such commitments and liabilities, UNDP shall notify the Government and consult with the Government on the manner in which such commitments and liabilities may be satisfied.
4. In cases where the Project is completed in accordance with the project document any funds below 5,000 USD (five thousand US Dollars) that remain unexpended after all commitments and liabilities have been satisfied shall be automatically reallocated by UNDP. Any funds above 5,000 USD (five thousand US Dollars) that remain unexpended after all commitments and

liabilities have been satisfied shall be reallocated by UNDP after consultation with the Government.

Article IX

The Parties agree that it is important to take all necessary precautions to avoid corrupt practices. To this end, UNDP shall maintain standards of conduct to govern the performance of its staff, including of corrupt practices in connection with the award and administration of contracts, grants, or other benefits, as set forth in the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules, and the UN Procurement Manual.

Article X

Consistent with numerous United Security Council resolutions, including S/RES/1269 (1999), S/RES 1368 (2001), and S/RES/1373 (2001), both the Donor and UNDP are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. It is the policy of UNDP to seek to ensure that none of its funds are used, directly or indirectly, to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism. In accordance with this policy, UNDP undertakes to use reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the Donor funds provided under this Agreement are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism.

Article XI

1. After consultations have taken place between the two Parties to this Agreement and provided that the funds from the Contribution already received are, together with other funds available to the Project, sufficient to meet all commitments and liabilities incurred in the implementation of the Project, this Agreement may be terminated by UNDP or by the Government. The Agreement shall cease to be in force thirty days after either of the Parties may have given notice in writing to the other Party of its decision to terminate the Agreement.
2. If the unutilized contribution-payments, together with other funds available to the Project, are insufficient to meet such commitments and liabilities, UNDP shall notify the Government and consult with the Government on the manner in which such commitments and liabilities may be satisfied.
3. Notwithstanding termination of this Agreement, UNDP shall continue to hold unutilized funds until all commitments and liabilities incurred in implementation of the activities financed by the contribution have been satisfied and these activities brought to an orderly conclusion.
4. In cases where this agreement is terminated before Project completion any funds below 5,000 USD (five thousand US Dollars) that remain unexpended after all commitments and liabilities have been satisfied shall be automatically reallocated by UNDP. Any funds above 5,000 USD (five thousand US Dollars) that remain unexpended after all commitments and liabilities have been satisfied shall be reallocated by UNDP after consultation with the Government.

Article XII

Any notice or correspondence between UNDP and the Government will be addressed as follows:

- (a) To the Government: Mr. Ahmad Reza Lahijanzadeh Deputy Head of Marine Environment and Wetlands.

Address: Department of Environment, Tehran, Iran

- (b) Upon receipt of funds, UNDP shall send an electronic receipt to the Government email address provided below as confirmation that the remitted funds have been received by UNDP

Government email address: _____

Attention: _____

- (c) To UNDP: Mr. Claudio Providas, UNDP Resident Representative

Address: United Nations Development Programme, UN Common Premises, No. 8, Shahrzad Boulevard, Darrous, Tehran, I.R. Iran


Article XIII

This Agreement shall enter into force upon the signature of this Agreement by parties hereto, on the date of the last signature.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the present Agreement in the English language (s) in two copies.

For the United Nations Development Programme:

For the Government:

UNDP	Implementing Partner
Claudio Providas UNDP Resident Representative <i>Claudio Providas</i>	Ahmadsreza Lahijanzadeh Deputy Head of Marine Environment and Wetlands Department of Environment of Iran 
Date: 2020/06/14 13:12 IRDT	Date: _____

ANNEX 10. LOCAL PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MEETING

UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE IN I.R. IRAN

LOCAL PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LPAC) MEETING NOTES

18 May 2020



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Project Information:

Award Title and number	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project, Phase 3
Source of fund and budget	Department of Environment/ UNDP/ Other Resources
Implementing Partner	Islamic Republic of Iran (represented by Department of Environment)
Start date	May 2020
Planned duration	5 Years
UNDP Officer	Mohsen Soleymani Roozbahani

Participants:

Row	Name	Title	Signature
1	Mr. Ahmadreza Lahijan-zadeh	DoE- Deputy Marine Environment and Wetlands	
2	Ms. Hosna Khalvandi	MFA- Expert	
3	Ms. Sanaz Sabeti	DoE- International Affairs and Conventions Center Expert	
4	Ms. Razieh Mirzajani	DoE- International Affairs and Conventions Center Expert	
5	Mr. Ali Arvahi	CIWP- NPM	
6	Ms. Mehri Asna ashari	CIWP- DNPM	
7	Mr. Mazen Gharzeddine	UNDP- Deputy Resident Representative	
8	Mr. Ali Nazaridoust	UNDP- Head of Programme and Assistant Resident Representative	
9	Mrs. Arghavan Farzin Motamed	UNDP- Economist	
10	Mr. Mohammadeza Khosravi	UNDP-Programme Support Unit Analyst	
11	Mr. Mohsen Soleymani	UNDP- Programme Analyst	
12	Mr. Hessam Mirnezami	UNDP Head of Finance	
13	Mr. Alireza Mohammadi	UNDP Programme Analyst	
14	Ms. Parvin Pakzad Manesh	UNDP-Global Fund Project Analyst	
15	Ms. Sara Koochaki	UNDP- Programme Associate	
16	Ms. Raha Emami	UNDP- Programme Associate	
17	Ms. Sareh Sadat Razavi Khavah	UNDP- Consultant	
18	Ms. Melika Bagheri	UNDP-Intern	

Background and Purpose of LPAC Meeting:

Phase III of the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) builds on the successes of the previous phases of the project since 2005 during which the ecosystem-based management approach was introduced and partly implemented for several wetlands. Valuable achievements of the project during previous phases include preparation of Integrated Management Plans for wetlands and establishment of the implementation structures, strengthening the wetland related legislations, laws and capacities at national level, awareness raising of the stakeholders and the public on the values of the wetlands.

However, because of the challenges inherent in multi-stakeholder ecosystem-based management for wetlands and the lack of adequate collaboration between stakeholders, the approach has not yet been effectively implemented and many wetlands are still suffering from various threats. Therefore, the main aim of the present project is to apply ecosystem-based management approach more effectively for better wetland conservation and the promotion of more sustainable livelihoods for the local population, along with identifying and practicing new approaches or complementary tools.

The strategic outcomes selected for the implementation of the project for sustaining the conservation of the wetlands and livelihood of the surrounding population are: 1) Iran's wetlands are better managed through mainstreaming the ecosystem approach and applying effective tools; 2) The management of land, water and biodiversity in wetland basins is sustainable and adapted to climate change, enhancing local community livelihoods and wellbeing; and 3) Iran's wetlands are in better condition due to increased public awareness and participation, enhanced collaboration, knowledge and sharing of innovative national and international technologies and practices. These outcomes have been derived from discussions at several workshops organized with the participation of key stakeholders, experiences from previous years and reviewing new approaches

In order to achieve these outcomes, the focus of the project will be on mainstreaming ecosystem-based management approach for the conservation of wetlands and empowering the stakeholders engaged in the management to apply improved methods through the provision of effective tools. The pre-requisite for implementing these approaches will be an effective campaign about the value and importance of functioning wetlands for raising awareness of the general public, local communities, and particularly of the managers and decision makers. The project also intends to embed the results-based approach into wetland management implementation, for which an effective, systematic and regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting system to follow up the results-based performance of the wetland management is envisaged as another prerequisite for the success of the program.

The project will embed climate change adaption and mitigation measures into wetlands management plans reflecting the significant role wetlands play in climate adaptation and mitigation and the variety of climate stressors they face. Therefore, the project will explore scenarios for climate change in the catchment areas of pilot wetland's and demonstrate participatory adaptation and mitigation measures for water and other uses in the basin area to sustain the livelihood of the communities as well as ensuring the functionality of the wetlands. Tying economic incentives and opportunities to wetland conservation and engaging the diversity of wetland users in the design and implementation of conservation measures will be guiding principles of the project.

The project is expected to:

- Improve management of Iran's wetlands through mainstreaming the ecosystem approach and applying effective tools

- Adapt and improve sustainability of the management of land, water and biodiversity in wetland basins to climate change, enhancing local community livelihoods and wellbeing
- Make a better condition for Iran's wetlands due to increased public awareness and participation, enhanced collaboration, knowledge and sharing of innovative national and international technologies and practices

It is envisaged that this project shall be implemented for the period 2020-2025, to be funded by Government Financing, UNDP and other possible donors including funds from the Government of Japan for restoration of Lake Urmia, resources from Iran Environment National Fund etc. The implementation modality will be National Implementation Modality (NIM), whereby the Department of Environment shall be the Implementing Partner, under the overall management of Deputy Marine and Wetland of DoE, through experienced existing CIWP project team.

The draft of the UNDP Project Document was shared with relevant parties along with invitation to the present Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC) which was convened on 18 May 2020 to review and finalize the Project Document for approval by authorities.

The Meeting and Roundtable Discussions

The meeting was opened by UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), Mr. Mazen Gharzeddine who chaired the session. He welcomed the attendants and thanked them for their participation in the meeting. He explained the nature of LPAC meetings and added that it is an opportunity to collect feedback, from different angles and points of view, on the project document. He continued by adding that the present project document has built on successful achievements of the previous phases of the wetlands project and UNDP is looking forward to continued cooperation with DoE and other key partners in this regard.

Then Mr. Lahijanzadeh, DoE Marine Environment and Wetlands Deputy and NPD of project expressed his satisfaction to discuss the next integrated document for Wetlands Project. He mentioned that this document is the result of a collective wisdom and inputs of different stakeholders as well as NGOs and local communities (which play an important role in the project implementation) and is a result of several workshops. He then announced the start of the new EU Hamouns project in Sistan and Baluchistan which was developed based on successful experiences of the same project. He further expressed his gratitude to all the stakeholders that were involved in this process and hoped that they would continue to support the project in achieving its' the goals.

The floor was then given to Mr. Mohsen Soleymani, UNDP Programme Analyst who presented the overall perspective of project document. He elaborated an overview of Iranian wetlands and their importance for the country and the region, pointing out that Iran is the birth-place of the Ramsar Convention with 25 wetlands registered and that these wetlands are also important resting and breeding habitats for the migratory birds. He then drew on Mr. Lahijanzadeh's remarks that the phase 3 of CIWP is based on previous successful achievements, starting as a GEF project, continuing with UNDP funds and later on, absorbing more funds from the Government of Japan and the DoE. He mentioned the previous achievements of the project as below:

- A very strong and committed team with well-established mechanisms
- Integrated management plans (approved, under approval process or in development) for 35 wetlands all over the country have now
- Strengthening the wetland related legislations, laws and capacities at national level
- Awareness raising among stakeholders and the public on the values of the wetlands

- Introduction of new management tools for wetlands in Iran, including Sustainable Livelihood, payment for ecosystem services, protected areas business plan etc.
- Successful implementation of 6 phases of “Local Community Participation in Restoration of Lake Urmia through sustainable land and water management and Biodiversity Conservation” With funds from Japan, and establishment of alternative livelihood, sustainable agriculture etc. in the area

He then enlisted the key development challenges faced by the project as below:

- Wetland values and functions are not recognized well
- Wetland condition and threats and the wetland management interventions and their outcomes are not properly monitored and evaluated.
- Existing Laws, Strategies, Management plans and Guidelines are not effective or properly implemented.

He continued by elaborating the participatory process of the project document development with 100 representatives from different stakeholders, DoE national and provincial director generals, Wetlands secretariats and the project steering committee. He then went over the problem tree and theory of change of the project and explained that total project budget is estimated \$5,980,000, a part of which is Funded (by DoE and UNDP) and some unfunded resources, which will be mobilized possibly from government of Japan and National Environment fund. He then described the 3 Strategic Outcomes (components of the project) in details including:

1. Better management of Iran’s wetlands through mainstreaming the ecosystem approach and applying effective tools
2. Management of land, water and biodiversity in wetland basins is sustainable and adapted to climate change, enhancing local community livelihoods and wellbeing
3. Iran’s wetlands are in better condition due to increased public awareness and participation, enhanced collaboration, knowledge and sharing of innovative national and international technologies and practices

He later illustrated the results framework of the project and the need to focus on implementation of management plan and the need for better monitoring mechanisms and Decision Support Systems.

In the end, the composition of the steering committee and central office, the National Implementation Modality and project annexes were briefly described and Mr. Soleymani thanked the project team for working on this project document.

The floor was then open for discussion by UNDP DRR, who thanked Mr. Soleymani for the good presentation of project scope and expectations.

Opening the discussion was Mr. Ali Nazaridouost, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative and Head of Programme, who thanked the project colleagues and DoE for leading this successful project and developing the third phase of it. He pointed out to the unfunded budget of the project and requested the team to ensure that additional resource mobilization opportunities beyond that of Japan would be explored. He pointed out to the government financing budget as a good sign, emphasizing that other national opportunities such as National Environment Fund, as well as Private Sector potentials must be pursued.

Mr. Gharzeddine then expressed that the project scale has broadened but there is an ambition to bring in more resources. He confirmed that UNDP will support the project from its core funding by contributing a

total budget of \$280,000, with \$150,000 already secured during the next 3 years and the remaining funds to be explored and secured within the next CPD cycle.

Then Ms. Khalvandi, the representative of MFA pointed out that it is a well-prepared project but human rights might be perceived as an area of low relevance for such type of projects. She further stated; *“The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the above-mentioned project and is of the view that implementation of this project will impact significantly conservation of wetlands and the life and livelihoods of the people living in the vicinity of these ecosystems. Therefore, we need to address the most pressing issues on the ground and avoid losing our focus through being distracted to marginal issues not having immediate relevance on the main subject. In our view implementation of the project is the best manifestation of observing the basic rights of the people living in these areas and on this basis we do not need to evaluate the steps of the implementation with human rights standards. We believe that human rights principles are best observed through assisting people living in these areas to have a sustainable livelihood and decent jobs, while preserving the ecosystem and protecting the environment. The project outcomes when realized and tangible results when enjoyed by the people on the ground are a better assessment tool to evaluate the workability of this project. On this basis we believe that all references to human rights in the annexes and all other project documents are inappropriate and out of context.”*

On this subject, Mr. Nazaridoust explained that Human Rights references are part of corporate annexes that can't be avoided by UNDP, but MFA points will be considered in the LPAC minutes which will be accordingly annexed to the project document.

The meeting continued with comments from Mr. Mohammadreza Khosravi, UNDP Programme Support Analyst who congratulated the project team for preparing this high-quality document. He then suggested to include the threats to wetlands ecosystems in the project brief description and then echoed UNDP DRR and ARR on the unfunded budget of the project as detailed in page 51, noting that the total budget for year 1 is more than 1 million USD which is beyond the project available resources, and will jeopardize the achievements of the entire work plan. He proposed that the project would prioritize activities with available budget and defining it in their work plan. He also suggested to change the wording from outcome to component because in UNDP, outcome is considered as CPD outcome. He also pointed out that indicators in the results framework must be more result-based and smart and suggested to have a separate session to discuss it in more details with DoE.

Mr. Soleymani acknowledged the valid points on the project document and explained that there were lots of attempts to include phase 7 of the LU Project under this project, which did not happen. He ensured that the year 1 budget would be revised accordingly, and he agreed to have a separate session to re-work on result-based indicators.

Later, M. Ali Arvahi, the National Project Manager of the CIWP appreciated UNDP and DoE colleagues for their participation and explained that preparation of this document was a lengthy and participatory process and that the project will try its best to mobilize new resources with support of UNDP.

Mr. Lahijan-zadeh also thanked the participants for their comments and remarks and expressed his contentment that the document could be finalized in early 2020, trying to bring in new ideas drawing on the lessons learned from the past. He committed to try his best to mobilize new resources from other governmental sectors and national environment fund and he also invited UNDP to support these efforts by mobilizing additional resources. In the end he acknowledged receiving feedback from colleagues and welcomed them to visit the project sites.

Ms. Sabeti from DoE International Affairs asked for some additional time to review the legal annex of the document, to which Mr. Nazaridouost explained that this is a standard text that has been confirmed by the legal office of MFA, and asking DoE legal offices comments would take significant time. He then suggested that the same annex would be accepted and used, which was agreed by DoE.

In the end, Mr. Gharzeddin, thanked Mr. Lahijanzadeh and all the colleagues especially from DoE and MFA who participated in this meeting by adding that UNDP looks forward to continued engagement in this fruitful collaboration.

He concluded the meeting by expressing hope that good engagements on this flag project could continue in favor of Iran's environment and the people who benefit from them.

LPAC Recommendations:


In concluding the meeting, UNDP DRR summarized the recommendations of the LPAC as follows:

- The Project Document is approved by the LPAC members, however, the additional comments to be received by the 27th of May 2020 from DoE and MFA will be considered into the final project document, including comments from UNDP PSU.
- UNDP will incorporate the received comments and the project document will be signed between UNDP and DoE by end of May 2020.

Certification:

The undersigned certify that LPAC recommendations are fully incorporated in the document as appears in the attachment hereto.	
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Endorsement:

I endorse the recommendations made by the LPAC as reflected in these minutes and in the document attached hereto.	UNDP Deputy Resident Representative: Name: Mazen Gharzeddine Signature:  2020/05/26 17:54 IRDT
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Follow-up Action:

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Incorporate the LPAC comments in the project document as necessary.2. Upon incorporation of the recommended changes, the project document could be recommended for signature.3. Once the document is signed, UNDP to carry out the Atlas related tasks required to make funds available for project implementation. |
|--|

ANNEX 1

LPAC Meeting Presentation



LPAC presentation
18 May 2020-update