

## Project Document Addendum<sup>1</sup>

### Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project- phase II (scale-up)

Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of)

UNDAF 2012-2016: Outcome 4	National, sub-national and local capacities enhanced to ensure 1) integrated management, conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, natural resources and biodiversity; 2. mainstreaming environmental economics into national planning and audits; 3) effective use of knowledge and tools in prevention, control and response to current and emerging environmental pollution; 4) formulation and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans and projects
CPAP 2012-2016: Output 4.1	Institutional capacities for integration of sustainable development in national policies supported
Expected country program outcome	Policy and community based interventions in key threatened ecosystems, watersheds and trans-boundary water bodies designed to protect the human environment, biodiversity and natural resources

Implementing Agency: Department of Environment

**Brief Description:** Upon the successful completion of the project entitled Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project, this is an addendum to the project in order to scale up its outcome to the second phase, addressing Terminal Evaluation recommendation on sustainability of results ensuring that the project's outcomes are systematically up-scaled both vertically and horizontally. This scale-up Project will establish wetland management plans and inter-sectoral coordination structures for 11 (8 new wetlands+3 CIWP demonstration sites) important Iranian wetlands through taking CIWP successful pilot to a large scale; Put in place Strong wetlands ecosystem management legislative platform and intersectoral administrative structures at national level supporting implementation of the "Ecosystem Approach" in important Iranian wetlands and Share CIWP and other wetlands management initiatives, knowledge and lessons learnt on with the entire region of South and central Asia.  
The attached project document would be the framework of the cooperation.

<p>Budget (USD)</p> <p>UNDP TRAC: 298000\$</p> <p>Gov.IR of Iran (Department of Environment): 500,000 \$</p> <p>Ramsar Convention Regional Center for West and Central Asia: 50,000 \$. (Mainly in-kind)</p> <p>Total: 848000 \$</p> <p>Other sources: 500,000</p>	<p>Management Arrangement: National Implementation</p> <p>Extension Period: 1st May 2013 – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2014</p> <p>Project Name: Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (Scale-up)</p>
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**For Government of Islamic Republic of Iran:**

Mohammad J. Mohammadi Zadeh

Vice President and Head of Department of Environment

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

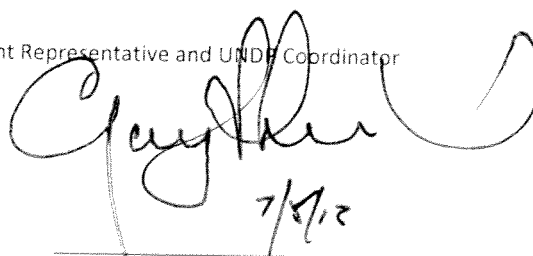
**For United Nations Development Program:**

Gary Lewis

UN Resident Representative and UNDP Coordinator

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



7/5/12

<sup>1</sup> This phase II (scale-up) document is considered equivalent to an addendum to the concluded Project Document of Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project signed between the Department of Environment and UNDP in 2005. Legal and administrative terms and conditions as stipulated under the aforesaid agreement shall apply to this addendum.



## Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project Scale Up

<b>Country Office</b>	UNDP, Iran, Islamic Republic of
<b>Project Title</b>	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (phase 2-scale up)
<b>UNDP Track budget</b>	298,000 \$
<b>Co-funding from other sources</b>	Gov.IR of Iran (Department of Environment): 500,000 \$ Ramsar Convention Regional Center for West and Central Asia: 50,000 \$. (Mainly in-kind)
<b>Duration</b>	(1 <sup>st</sup> May 2013 – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2014)

### Background/situation analysis

The Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) is an 8 year joint initiative among the GOIR of Iran (led by the Department of Environment as IP), GEF and UNDP, which will end on 30 April 2013 (<http://wetlandsproject.ir/English/Default.aspx>). The Project (CIWP) was undertaken to address the many challenges facing the sustainable management of Iran's system of wetland protected areas and to develop approaches to support Iran's implementation of its international environmental commitments, notably the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Iran contains over 1'000 wetland sites, 24 of which are reflecting Ramsar sites and approximately 90 reflecting important wetlands under any kind of protection (either national or international). Like many other countries, as Iran has developed, increasing pressure has been placed on its environment and natural resources, including the wetlands. Iran has numerous important wetlands including 83 protected areas and 24 Ramsar sites. Despite their importance for biodiversity and people's livelihoods, Iranian wetlands are vulnerable to climatic impacts such as drought, as well as other anthropogenic factors such as over-extraction of water for agriculture, building of dams on incoming rivers, conversion of wetland habitats and over-harvesting of fish and other wildlife. In response to these difficult conditions, and to help preserve the biodiversity values and ecosystem services provided by Iranian wetlands, the CIWP has assisted the Iranian government to introduce the CBD's ecosystem approach to wetland management.

CIWP's Purpose is "to systematically remove or substantially mitigate threats facing globally significant biodiversity and sustainability at two WPA demonstration sites, while ensuring that the lessons learned are absorbed within WPA management systems throughout Iran". Demonstration sites include three of Iran's most significant wetlands; Lake Urmia, Lake Parishan and Shadegan wetland. The project started

in January 2005 and finished in April 2013, and had a planned budget of US\$2.915M from GEF, US\$9.190M of national co-financing and US\$0.6M co-financing from the Government of the Netherlands. As a result of a severe ongoing drought, a Drought Risk Management component was added for Lake Uromiyeh demonstration site (US\$200,000) and an up-scaling project in the final months (US\$50,000) – both funded through UNDP-TRAC.

Integrated wetland management has been introduced at the three demonstration sites, with a shift from sectoral top-down decision-making by government agencies, to more integrated and participatory approaches involving all stakeholders including local communities and NGOs. At national level, the project has supported roll-out of the ecosystem approach through development of a National Wetland Strategy and Action Plan, and formation of a National Wetland Committee, various policy and financing mechanisms and development of a range of tools and guidelines. These will be used to improve wetland management throughout the country.

The Terminal Evaluation (December 2012) concluded that the project was of continued high relevance to Iran, and had been conducted efficiently since 2007 after a slow start. The Mid-Term Evaluation and subsequent review of the log-frame had enhanced the effectiveness of the project. Sustainability of project achievements was considered to be “Moderately Likely” except for risks around socio-political changes, economic challenges and the lack of progress in developing alternative livelihoods. Outcome ratings were all considered to be “Satisfactory”

While the project made good progress towards achieving its Objective and Goal, several Impact indicators were not achieved as a result of the severe challenges on water resources, and will require more time to be addressed effectively by the stakeholders. A project exit strategy, implemented over the final 2 years of the project contributed significantly to the sustainability of results and uptake of responsibilities by DOE. Continued international support to DOE is recommended to achieve the proposed national roll-out.

## Justification for CIWP scale up

The ecosystem approach provides an effective mechanism for addressing threats including the problems caused by drought and water shortages at the project demonstration sites, due to its focus on sustainable development, inter-sectoral decision-making and local, participatory and long-term solutions. The current progress through the implementation of the integrated management plans and inter-sectoral decision-making bodies such as the Lake Uromiyeh National Committee and Regional Basin Council, and the Lake Parishan and Shadegan Wetland local and provincial management committees are encouraging and should be supported strongly.

A persistent drought, combined with unsustainable use of water resources for agriculture prevented the project from achieving the planned biodiversity outcomes and alternative livelihood measures. However, new approaches to more sustainable water and drought risk management were introduced and operationalised. While the project made good progress towards achieving its Objective and Goal, several Impact indicators were not achieved as a result of the severe challenges on water resources, and will require more time to be addressed effectively by the stakeholders.

The recently concluded Terminal Evaluation of CIWP has confirmed the significant progress that has been made through the piloting of this innovative approach. However it has strongly recommended that further support is needed to the main stakeholders before the results at the demonstration sites and nationally can be considered as sustainable and secure.

Although, a project exit strategy, implemented over the final 2 years of the project contributed significantly to the sustainability of results and uptake of responsibilities by DOE. Continued international support to DOE is recommended to achieve the proposed national roll-out.

This is required:

- a. At the project demonstration sites, to ensure that the local institutional and governance mechanisms are fully able to drive the process forward so that these are model examples of the ecosystem approach in practice which can be used for demonstration and training purposes nationally.
- b. Geographical/Horizontal Up-scaling at a further 8 wetland sites throughout the country
- c. DOE and other government stakeholders as well as NGOs, local communities and CBOs capacity building to ensure sustainable roll out the new approach to all Iranian wetlands.
- d. Vertical Up-scaling Nationally, where laws, regulation, strategies, plans and institutional arrangements need to be further developed, approved and implemented

The CIWP has initiated sharing of lessons learned and knowledge in the region. There has been south-south cooperation between the project and similar projects/governmental sectors in the region (<http://www.undp.org.ir/index.php/project-highlights/542-18-september-2012-wetlands-south-south-cooperation> (e.g. site visits by WWF-Pakistan/Gov wetlands project <http://wetlandsproject.ir/English/ennewsdescription.aspx?ID=1261> Turkey wetlands project <http://wetlandsproject.ir/English/ennewsdescription.aspx?ID=1531>, some request from Iraq for conducting site visit etc). Meanwhile the project launched a regional event in 2010 to initiate a community of practice of wetland projects in the region (<http://wetlandsproject.ir/English/enreport.aspx?id=1102>).

All the above activities and connections provide a practical basis to achieve the regional community of practice and support applying ecosystem approach for wetland management in the region which may have a considerable effect on better trans-boundary management of Iranian wetlands.

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### Results Framework

The Strategic Results Framework for the scale up project is tabulated in the log-frame. Three high level Outputs will be delivered by the project inline with GOAL of conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project and a new outcome.

The Goal:

- To enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of Iran's system of wetland protected areas (WPAs) as a tool for conserving globally significant biodiversity

The Outcome:

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

The 3 outputs are:

- Ecosystem based wetland management plans and inter-sectoral coordination structures established for 11(8 new wetlands + 3 demonstration sites) important Iranian wetlands through taking CIWP successful pilot to a large scale;
- Strong wetlands ecosystem management legislative platform and intersectoral administrative structures are in place at national level supporting implementation of the "Ecosystem Approach" in important Iranian wetlands.
- Sharing CIWP and other wetlands management initiatives, knowledge and lessons learnt with the neighboring countries

- CIWP Scale-Up PROJECT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK, April 2013

GOAL	OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	TARGETS	BASELINE	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS
To enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of Iran's system of wetland protected areas (WPAs) as a tool for conserving globally significant biodiversity						
<b>Outcome 1</b>						
Model management system designed and being implemented by DOE and other local stakeholders at WPA demonstration sites based on CIWP achievements and lessons learnt to effectively address the most significant 'internally arising' threats						
Output 1.1	Ecosystem based wetland management plans and inter-sectoral coordination structures	integrated management plans for new wetlands	Targets (year 1) 4 wetlands have first draft of integrated management plans	3 wetlands have integrated management plans & intersectoral management structures	No. of management plans  No. of intersectoral wetland management structures	Improved knowledge and skills are effectively used
	established for 11(8 new wetlands + 3 demonstration sites)		Ecosystem approach for wetlands management introduced to all related provincial agencies	Provincial DoEs were introduced to ecosystem approach for wetlands management	No. of MP priority actions being implemented by stakeholders	
	successful pilot to a large scale;		Adopted MIPs in 3 demonstration sites are implemented by stakeholders	3 signed management plans		inter-sectoral and inter-provincial
	wetland management inter-sectoral					

	structures for new wetlands	<p><b>Targets (year 2)</b></p> <p>8 wetlands have adopted management plans</p> <p>Inter-sectoral governance mechanisms for 8 wetlands established</p> <p>The 3 Demo sites MIPs are fully functional and revised based on results and lessons learned</p>	for 3 sites	<p>Implementation started for demonstration sites</p> <p>2 Fishery / Tourism strategies</p> <p>3 zoning plans</p>	cooperation
	Sustainable use strategies and MP activities being sustainably implemented for demonstration sites and introduced to the new sites				Secured budget for MIP implementation
Output 1.2	Strong wetlands ecosystem management legislative platform and intersectoral administrative structures are in place at national level supporting implementation of the "Ecosystem Approach" in important Iranian	<p><b>Targets (year 1)</b></p> <p>National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan adopted</p> <p>National Wetlands Conservation Law finalized and Adopted</p> <p>Inter-sectoral National Wetlands Management structure established,</p>	<p>National wetlands strategy and action plan finalized and waiting for final approval by the cabinet</p> <p>Draft of specific law developed waiting for parliament approval</p>	<p>No. of adopted national strategies</p> <p>No. of adopted Laws</p> <p>No. national level intersectoral management structures</p>	

wetlands	National level intersectoral wetland management structures	<p>Policies influenced in direction of ecosystem approach</p> <p><b>Targets (year 2)</b></p> <p>New wetlands related Law and regulation are practiced within National Planning and annual budgeting system</p> <p>Inter-sectoral National Wetlands Management structure fully functional</p> <p>National Monitoring/ supervising mechanisms functional for wetlands management</p>	<p>There are some connection with related wetlands projects in neighboring countries</p> <p>A community of practice initiated by CIWP in the region</p>	No. of countries introduced to the approach	There are good capacities for bilateral cooperation with neighborhood countries
Output 1.3	Sharing CIWP and other wetlands management initiatives, knowledge and lessons learnt with the neighboring countries	<p><b>Targets (year 1)</b></p> <p>5 countries of the region are introduced to Ecosystem approach application for wetlands management</p> <p>Regional Wetlands champion system</p>	<p>countries introduced to the approach</p> <p>Functional Community of Practice in the region</p>	Sharing CIWP and other wetlands management initiatives, knowledge and lessons learnt with the neighboring countries	



established and introduced to the region.

but not fully functional

**Targets (year 2)**

Regional Wetlands champion selection institutionalized in the region,

At least one trans-boundary wetlands management project initiated in the region based on the Ecosystem approach

## Implementation arrangements

The scaling-up project will build the basis for a Wetlands Management Secretariat established in DOE through implementation arrangements already developed for CIWP, which has involved a highly effective partnership working between UNDP and DOE (as the lead government agency on behalf of GOIRI).

Project governance will be assured through continuation of the inter-sectoral CIWP Project Steering Committee, which is chaired by DOE and will meet twice each year. Project coordination will be assured through the Project Central Office established within DOE which will be linked to the related environmental regional centers as well.

### Tentative bi-annual work-plan

OUTPUTS AND TARGETS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	INPUTS \$			
		UNDP		Gov. IR Iran	
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2
Output 1		90,000	110,000	150,000	150,000
Wetland management plans and inter-sectoral coordination structures established for 11(8 new wetlands+3 CIWP demonstration sites) important Iranian wetlands through taking CIWP successful pilot to a large scale;	1. Supporting management plan implementation for integrated management.(3 demo sites)	International consultants;		Contractual services for field activities (individuals/Companies)	
	2. Revising the 3 existing MPs of the CIWP sites	Local consultants;		Office running	
	3. Supporting Management planning for the 8 new wetland sites	Contractual services (individuals/Companies);		Hospitality	
	4. Building capacities of DoE provincial offices and Holding practical training courses for provinces	Travel;			
	5. Institutionalizing the ecosystem approach with mid and high level managers	Equipments;			
	6. Institutionalizing ecosystem approach within NGOs, universities and research centers	Printing;			
		Grants;			
Targets (year 1)					
4 wetlands have first draft of integrated management plans					
Ecosystem approach for wetlands management introduced to all related provincial agencies					
Adopted MPs in 3 demonstrations sites are implemented by stakeholders					
Targets (year 2)					
8 wetlands have adopted management plans					
Inter-sectoral governance mechanisms for 8 wetlands established					
- The 3 Demo sites MPs are fully functional and revised based on results and lessons learned					

OUTPUTS AND TARGETS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	INPUTS \$			
		UNDP		Gov. IR Iran	
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2
Output 2  Strong wetlands ecosystem management legislative platform and intersectoral administrative structures are in place at national level supporting implementation of the "Ecosystem Approach" in important Iranian wetlands  Targets (year 1) - National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan adopted - National Wetlands Conservation Law finalized and Adopted - Inter-sectoral National Wetlands Management structure established, Targets (year 2) -New wetlands related Law and regulation are practiced within National Planning and annual budgeting system - Inter-sectoral National Wetlands Management structure fully functional and monitoring supervising/monitoring national wetlands management around the country	1. Support reviewing current laws and regulations and creating new ones for sustainable management of wetlands based on ecosystem approach 2. Support reviewing and implementation for better inter-sectoral cooperation among different stakeholders 3. Holding training and consultative courses on ecosystem approach implementation for wetlands for Parliament members and other high level decision making related structures 4. Support institutionalizing of financial mechanisms at national level for applying ecosystem approach	25,000	25,000	50,000	50,000
		Local consultants; Contractual services (Companies); Equipments; Printing;		Contractual services (individuals/Companies); Office running Hospitality	
Output 3  Sharing CIWP and other wetlands management initiatives, knowledge	1. Holding regional training and exchange visits to introduce and discuss practical experience applying the	25,000	23,000	50,000	50,000

OUTPUTS AND TARGETS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	INPUTS \$			
		UNDP		Gov. IR Iran	
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2
<p>and lessons learnt with the neighboring countries</p> <p><b>Targets (year 1)</b> -5 countries of the region are introduced to Ecosystem approach application for wetlands management - Regional Wetlands champion system established and introduced to the region.</p> <p><b>Targets (year 2)</b> - Regional Wetlands champion selection institutionalized in the region,  - At least one trans-boundary wetlands management project initiated in the region based on the Ecosystem approach</p>	<p>ecosystem approach for wetlands management in the region (west and central Asia)</p> <p>2. Providing technical support to neighboring countries on applying ecosystem approach for their wetlands</p> <p>3. Support institutionalization of Wetlands champion selection in the region</p> <p>4. Close cooperation with related international organizations (Ramsar Secretariat, IUCN, WWF, WI, UNEP, etc) to develop and introduce best practices on applying ecosystem approach for wetland management in the region</p> <p>5. Support institutionalizing of a community of practice in the region on wetland management</p>	<p>International consultants;</p> <p>Local consultants;</p> <p>Contractual services (Companies);</p> <p>Travel;</p> <p>Printing;</p> <p>Grants;</p>	<p>Contractual services (individuals/Companies)</p> <p>Office running</p> <p>Hospitality</p>		