

REPORT ON PROJECT VISIT

PROJECT ID AND TITLE: 00083748, "Strengthening Efficiency and Sustainability of Newly Established Lower Amu-Darya Biosphere Reserve (LABR)"

PROJECT DURATION: July 2012 - June 2013

DATE OF THE VISIT: 25 March, 2013

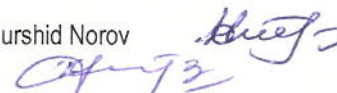
UNDP CO TEAM: Ms. Guzal Khodjaeva, EEU Programme Associate
Ms. Roza Iskhakova, EEU Programme Assistant



OTHER PARTNERS:

PROJECT TEAM MET:

PROJECT MANAGER: Task Manager – Mr. Khurshid Norov
PROJECT AFA: Ms. Dilnora Khakimova



COMPONENT OF THE MONITORING	YES	NO	N/A	FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS
1. GENERAL				
<input type="checkbox"/> Project office environment & working conditions are adequate		X		Due to budget constraints, the projects does not have internet connection, land phones and corporate mobiles, as well as own project office. The team has to use private ITC equipment and reside in other UNDP project's premises, which is closing shortly. All of these affect performance and timeliness of workflow.

2. SUBSTANTIVE PROJECT ACTIVITIES			
<p>Objectives of the visit (maybe added depending on the nature of the project)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular monitoring visit / follow-up mission <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding issues / challenges faced by the project that needs attention and follow-up from the CO (project staff concerns) <input type="checkbox"/> Beneficiaries met (2-3) to assess the work of the project <input type="checkbox"/> Synergies with other projects/programmes <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership arrangements with national and international agencies <input type="checkbox"/> Any deviations from the AWP and annual targets set <input type="checkbox"/> Gender mainstreaming - all data collected during project is disaggregated by gender (list of participants, research baselines, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Outputs of consultants/experts work (Reports, Translations, etc.) are available in project files as well as PEFs 	<p>X X X X X X X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Budget constrains does not allow project staff to conduct regular monitoring visits to pilot. Lack of funds and weak ownership on the part of NPC remain to be the most significant issues in implementation of this project, despite regular efforts of the project to involve the project's stakeholders within last 7 months (2 meetings with LABR administration in Karakalpakstan, regular meetings with LABR administration (every two months) in Tashkent, 1 meeting with the Governor of Beruniy district, regular weekly meetings with NPC). Hard component of the project was mostly implemented during the initial 6 months of the project implementation; the 2nd half will be devoted to capacity development of LABR personnel and local communities of Amu-Darya and Beruniy districts (with due consideration to gender issues). Several attempts were made toward fund raising by meeting and consulting with representative of Zuccow Foundation and communication with WWF Russia. No significant deviations from AWP were noted, except for the procurement of the equipment for LABR, which was based on request of LABR's administration. No PEFs of the project's NCs are prepared. Synergy activities are conducted in form of consultancy with Zapoveniki, BD in O&G projects.</p>
3. ATLAS UPDATES			
<p><u><i>Before visiting the project, the programme focal point has to visit the Executive Snapshot/Programme & Project Management > Overview of Awards > Select Award ID > Click on "View the Progress Report for this Award."</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Log/Progress report is updated in ATLAS <input type="checkbox"/> Risk logs is updated in ATLAS by PM and management response by Programme Officer / programme focal point <input type="checkbox"/> Issues logs/monitoring logs updated <input type="checkbox"/> Lessons learned are reflected appropriately (offline in the programme files) <p>If ATLAS updates are not available, the project visit will help to identify why the updates are not made in timely manner by the Project manager and team</p>			<p>All project data (activities, outcomes, budget, results and targets) were timely updated in Atlas, despite of several issues with entering data, which were resolved through HQ. Risk management is well applied, issues during project implementation were addressed. Lessons learned section need to be added.</p>

