

23 December 1997

Dear Mr. Von Der Schulenburg,

Subject: IRA/97/G42/A/1G/99 - Conservation and
Integrated Management of Major Wetlands

Please be advised that the above-mentioned PDF A project has received the appropriate clearance in accordance with GEF established procedures.

I am therefore very pleased to delegate to you the authority to sign the attached project document on behalf of UNDP and commence the implementation of this project when signed by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Please ensure that a fully signed copy of the project document, budget revisions including mandatory revisions, are forwarded to Mr. Bernabe Garcia, Chief, Programme Support of this UNDP/GEF Unit

Yours sincerely,



Emma Torres
Officer-in-Charge and
Deputy Executive Coordinator
Global Environment Facility/SEED/BPPS

Mr. Michael S. Von Der Schulenburg
Resident Representative
UNDP
Iran

c.c. Mr. Nay Htun, Regional Director, RBAP
c.c. Mr. Kevin Hill, GEF/RBLAC
PM

UNDP-GEF PDF PROPOSAL TRACKING SHEET

PDF BLOCK "A"

Project Title: Iran: Conservation and Integrated Management of Major Wetlands of Iran

Regional Bureau: RBAP

GEF Thematic Area: Biodiversity

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| Office of Executive Coordinator | Received by: _____ (Signature) | Date: _____ |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Advisor: | Endorsement of Concept: <u>EF</u> (Signature) | Date: <u>19 Nov 97</u> |
| Chief, Programme Support Unit: | Funds available: <u>P. Chan</u> (Signature) | Date: <u>20/11/97</u> |
| Executive Coordinator: | Endorsement in principle: _____ (Signature) | Date: _____ |
| The following information is to be provided by Regional Coordinators: | | |
| Distributed to Implementing Agencies by: | _____ | Date: _____ |
| Comments received from UNEP | No: _____ | Yes: (Comments attached) If yes, what action proposed |
| Comments received from World Bank | No: _____ | Yes: (Comments attached) If yes, what action proposed |
| Comments received from Secretariat | No: _____ | Yes: (Comments attached) If yes, what action proposed |
| Executive Coordinator: | Final Approval: <u>[Signature]</u> (Signature) | Date: <u>22/13/97</u> |
| Distributed to Secretariat for Records by: | _____ | Date: _____ |
| Assigned Project Number*: _____ | | |
| * Project numbers are assigned by Programme Support Unit after Executive Coordinator signs final approval. | | |

**United Nations Development Programme
Global Environmental Facility
PROJECT DOCUMENT**

Project Title Conservation and Integrated Management of Major Wetlands of Iran

Project Number: IRA/97/G42/A/1G/99

Country: Islamic Republic of Iran

Convention Ratification: Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified 6 August 1996.

Duration: 2 months (including in-country mission to undertake GEF consultations and brief finalization in Jan/Feb. 1997)

ACC/UNDP Sector: 2000, Environment

Sub-sector: Biodiversity

GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity, Coastal, Marine, and Freshwater Ecosystems

Executing Agency: UNDP

Estimated Start Date: January 1998

Government Endorsement: Mr. Pirooz Hosseini, Director General, International Economic Affairs and Specialized Agencies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, letter dated 11 February 1997.

UNDP/GEF INPUT PDF Funds: US\$ 25,000 for PDF Block A funds

Brief Description: The overall objective of the proposed PDF A will be to prepare and finalize a GEF PDF B project brief. The PDF A will be carried out in such a way that the PDF Block B project brief will be designed using the incremental cost approach. The PDF B project brief will ensure that activities of the full-scale project are technically, economically and environmentally feasible, yet consistent with social and political constraints. Financially realistic GEF contributions will be distinguished from the non-GEF contributions designed to address the threats to biodiversity conservation. The PDF B project brief will be designed to develop a full project for the conservation and sustainable management of two or three major wetlands using the incremental cost approach.

APPROVED:

On behalf of:

Islamic Rep.
Iran

Signature *A. Nojehi* Date 19/Jan-98 Name/Title Mr. Nojehi DOE Deputy

UNDP:

Signature *[Signature]* Date 19/1/98 Name/Title RR

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

PDF BLOCK A Request

PART I - ELIGIBILITY

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| 1. Project name: Conservation and Integrated Management of Major Wetlands of Iran | 2. GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP |
| 3. Country: Islamic Republic of Iran | 4. Country eligibility: a) Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified 6 August 1996. b) Participation in the restructured GEF on 25 May 1994 |
| 5. GEF focal area: Biodiversity | 6. Operational Programme: Coastal, Marine, and Freshwater Ecosystems |

7. Project linkage to national priorities, action plans and programmes:

a) Second Five-Year Development Plan:

This project is in line with the environmental objectives of the Second Five-Year Development Plan (1995-2000) which places emphasis on preservation, development and optimal use of natural resources, endemic species and their natural habitat. Furthermore, according to the Plan, all economic and social activities, as well as any use of natural resources, must respect environmental considerations in general.

b) Constitution, art. 50:

Objectives of sustainable development with regards to environmental standards and regulations and potential environmental capacity should be taken into account in order to maintain environmental equilibrium.

c) A number of laws and regulations such as:

1972 Act for the Conservation and Enhancement of the Environment

1974 By-Law on the Conservation and Enhancement of the Environment

d) Other links:

Iran is a founding member of the Ramsar Convention that calls for the improved conservation, wise use and integrated management of major wetlands. Iran has 18 Ramsar-designated wetland sites. Iran is also a member of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Maritime Environment (ROPME), which includes the protection of the wetlands in the Persian Gulf. The Government of Iran pursues an active policy of wetland conservation and has established an effective network of protected areas, which includes many of the country's most important wetlands.

8. GEF national operational focal point and date of country endorsement:

Mr. Pirooz Hosseini, Director General, International Economic Affairs and Specialized Agencies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the focal point. In dispensing his duties he is assisted by a GEF Sub-committee whose membership includes the Department of the Environment (DOE), a number of technical ministries and representatives of the NGO and academic community. Letter of endorsement dated 11 February 1997.

9. Project rationale and objectives:

Out of the approximately 286 identified wetlands in Iran, 63 are of international importance. Much of these wetlands constitute vital staging and wintering areas for millions of migratory waterfowl using the West Siberian- Caspian- East African and Central Siberian- Indus- South Asian flyways, and also support large breeding populations of many species. The wetlands of Iran are very important for seven species of birds listed as globally threatened in the 1994 "IUCN List of Threatened Animals" (Groombridge 1993), namely, Pygmy Corinorant, Dalmerain Pelican, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Marbled Teal, White-headed Duck, White-tailed Eagle and Siberian Crane.

In many parts of Iran, the level of exploitation of wetlands is high. Floodplain wetlands, river banks and lake shores are utilized for the cultivation of cereals, rice or vegetables, while the rivers and lakes themselves support intensive freshwater fisheries. The wetlands provide vital sources of water for domestic and industrial consumption, and constitute natural water storage reservoirs that can be utilized for irrigation purposes. Many of the larger rivers have been dammed to provide the means for generating hydro-electricity while some of the inland salt lakes are exploited as an abundant source of various salts. Reeds are widely used for thatching and weaving purposes or as fuel, and in the vast reed-beds of the Sistan Basin, marsh-dwelling communities were until recently almost totally dependent on reeds for their construction needs. Large numbers of domestic livestock, particularly cattle and water buffalo, are allowed to graze on wetland vegetation, and in some areas aquatic plants are harvested to provide fodder during the winter months.

Wetlands in Iran, as elsewhere in the region, are increasingly coming under pressure from man's activities. The most serious threats to wetlands have been the drainage and "reclamation" of wetlands for agriculture, industry and urban development, and diversion of water applies for irrigation purposes. Heavy grazing of marsh vegetation by domestic livestock is inhibiting natural plant succession and is causing permanent damage to aquatic plant communities as the highly palatable species are grazed to extinction. This degradation of wetland vegetation and the introduction of exotic fish species have had a detrimental effect on some of the native freshwater fishes. Some of the mangrove communities in the Persian Gulf have also been degraded by excessive utilization for fuelwood and fodder and over-grazing by camels. Many wetlands, especially those down stream of large urban centers and major farming areas, have been polluted with domestic sewage, herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, industrial effluents and other waste products and some of Iran's coastal wetlands and inshore waters are now badly polluted.

10. Expected outcomes:

Conservation and sustainable management of two or three major wetland sites of international importance (Ramsar sites), on the flight path of migratory birds, and protection of the endangered endemic species of these areas.

11. Planned activities to achieve outcomes:

Improved administration of the selected wetlands through the strengthening and establishment of protected area management boards, training and hiring of wetland park rangers, incorporation of biodiversity conservation into land-use plans for wetland areas, environmental awareness campaigns, etc.

12. Stakeholders involved in project:

- a) Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Energy, Agriculture, Jihad, and The Department of the Environment (DOE);
- b) local NGOs such as: The Environmentalist Society of Iran, Women Society for Environment, Green Front of Iran, and Committee for Sustainable Development and the Environment;
- c) relevant international NGOs such as: BirdLife International, and Ramsar Convention;
- d) local communities; and
- e) the private sector.

PART II- INFORMATION ON BLOCK A PDF ACTIVITIES

13. Activities to be financed by the PDF:

The PDF A will be carried out in such a way that the PDF Block B project brief will be designed using the incremental cost approach. In this respect, the additional (or incremental) cost of those measures over and above the baseline to achieve global environmental benefits will be determined. Existing national and sustainable development plans and activities, as well as relevant activities undertaken by other actors will be reviewed. The incremental cost will depend on the choice of alternative GEF activities, which delivers the

equivalent domestic benefits as well as additional global benefits over and above those achievable in the baseline. The PDF Block B project brief should be designed to ensure that activities of the full scale project are technically, economically and environmentally feasible, yet consistent with social and political constraints. Financially realistic GEF contributions will be distinguished from the non-GEF contributions designed to address the threats to biodiversity conservation.

- a) An international consultancy will be fielded for a total period of one working month. The international consultancy will preferably be contracted from a renowned international NGO with significant experience in this field. The international consultancy will be responsible to conduct meetings with the Government and other stakeholders including NGOs, local communities and private sector; as well as local travel to key wetland sites and preparation of background papers in order to prepare project brief.
- b) The international consultancy will include the participation of a total of three w/m of national consultants to assist in the collection and analysis of the required documentation.
- c) There will be a one-day workshop with the participation of major stakeholders.

14. Expected outputs:

The scientific, technical, environmental and economic assessment of Iran's major wetlands would lead to the preparation of the project brief, identifying two or three major wetlands as targets for the full project. The project brief will be produced in line with the principles (wise use and integrated management planning) and obligations of the Convention as outlined in the Ramsar Strategic Plan 1997-2000, which was adopted by Contracting Parties in 1996.

Expected completion date: February 1998.

15. Other contributors/donors:

There is Government contribution in the form of in-kind, transport, logistics, etc.

16. Budget:

| Line Item | Description | Impl. Agency | Total W/M | Total US\$ |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| 11.00 | International Personnel | Gov't | | |
| 11.01 | International Consultant | | 1 | 15,000 |
| 11.99 | <i>Sub total</i> | | | 15,000 |
| 15.00 | Duty Travel | Gov't | | |
| 15.01 | International mission costs | | | 2,000 |
| 15.02 | National Travel * | | | |
| 15.99 | <i>Sub total</i> | | | 2,000 |
| 17.00 | National Project Personnel | Gov't | | |
| 17.01 | National Project Coordinator * | | | |
| 17.02 | National Consultants | | 3 | 5,000 |
| 17.99 | <i>Sub total</i> | | | 5,000 |
| 50.00 | Miscellaneous | | | 3,000 |
| 54.01 | <i>Project support services</i> | | | 3,000 |
| 59.99 | <i>Sub-total</i> | | | 3,000 |
| 99.00 | GRAND TOTAL | | | 25,000 |

* Local costs, including cost of Project Coordinator, local travel, logistical and administrative support will be covered by DOE

PART III- INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT INSTITUTION

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| 17. Name: Department of the Environment | 18. GEF Implementing Agency: DOE |
| 19. Mandate/terms of reference: To identify/formulate/implement environmental strategies, policies, standards and norms; supervise and monitor observance of environmental regulatory policies and activities. | 20. Country eligibility: a) Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified 6 August 1996. b) Participation in the restructured GEF on 25 May 1994 |
| 21. Recent activities /programmes, in particular those relevant to the GEF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Iran signed the project document for biodiversity enabling activity on 31 August 1997. b) In collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank, the DOE formulated the National Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development in 1996. c) DOE signed a project with UNDP worth \$300,000 to develop environmental impact assessment methodology. d) Under the leadership of a newly appointed Director, namely Ms. Ebtekar, DOE has initiated in late September a plan of action for the implementation of the National Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development. | |

PART IV- INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED BY IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

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| 22. Project identification number: IRA/97/G42/A/1G/99 |
| 23. Implementing Agency contact person: Kevin Hill, RBAP/GEF Biodiversity/International Waters |
| 24. Project linkage to Implementing Agency programme(s): DOE is deeply concerned with the state of wetlands, given the existing destructive threats. The DOE is presently conducting a major study on the Anzali lagoon that is expected to be carried out for other wetlands. The present study would very much complement DOE's efforts to preserve Iran's wetlands. |

Terms of Reference

International Consultant

Duration: One month

Starting Date: January 1998

Site: Based in Tehran, with frequent travel to key wetland sites as required.

Background: The Global Environment facility has allocated a grant of US \$ 25,000 to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran under a Block A Project Development facility to enable it to design a PDF Block B project brief. This brief must be designed using the incremental cost approach for the conservation of major wetlands of Iran. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will execute the Block A project to start in January 1998.

Work Description: The international consultant will be mobilized for a period of four (4) weeks. He/she will, in collaboration with the national consultants and other stakeholders, prepare a detailed work plan for the project in order to design the PDF Block B brief using the incremental cost approach. In this respect, the additional (or incremental) cost of those measures over and above the baseline to achieve global environmental benefits will be determined. Existing national and sustainable development plans and activities, as well as relevant activities undertaken by other actors will be identified and reviewed. The incremental cost will depend on the choice of alternative GEF activities, which delivers the equivalent domestic benefits as well as additional global benefits over and above those achievable in the baseline.

The PDF Block B project brief should be designed to ensure that activities of the full scale project are technically, economically and environmentally feasible, yet consistent with social and political constraints. Financially realistic GEF contributions will be distinguished from the non-GEF contributions designed to address the threats to biodiversity conservation.

The activities proposed in the project brief should address the brown issues and threats to the biodiversity, and identify the sources of co-funding to pay for these activities which are considered part of the baseline to the project. The project brief must make an overwhelming case for the global benefits of the biodiversity, and that the threats to this biodiversity are addressable by the proposed full project. The project brief must clearly demonstrate that the project will be implemented using the integrated ecosystem management approach and that a manageable number of project sites are proposed for consideration as part of the undertaking of the PDF B and full project.

Principle Activities:

1. Assess major wetlands of Iran.
2. Conduct meetings with the Government and other major stakeholders including NGOs.
3. Local travel to key wetland sites.
4. Preparation of background papers in order to prepare project brief.
5. Conduct one-day workshop with the participation of major stakeholders.

6. Consult with UNDP Country Office and UNDP/GEF Headquarters as to the development of the project brief to ensure that it meets with GEF eligibility criteria.

Qualifications: The international consultant should be a senior level professional, preferably from a renowned international NGO with significant experience in this field. The international consultant will need to have excellent communications and diplomatic skills and the ability to act as a facilitator and lead meetings. The international consultant should experience in integrated resource management, project design and participatory planning processes as well as wetland conservation.

National Consultants

Three national consultants will complement the work of the international consultant under the supervision of the National Project Director. These national consultants will be selected amongst researchers, experts and wetlands management personnel from various ministries as well as from universities and NGOs.