



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
National Environmental Protection Agency

Date: 27 May, 2007

Anita Nirody,
Country Director
UNDP Afghanistan

Subject: Afghanistan Request for UNDP Assistance for Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Use of the Sistan Basin Wetlands

The National Environmental Protection Agency presents its compliments to the United Nations Development Programme for its continued support to the National Environment Protection Agency in environmental management services including establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation unit within the National Environmental Protection Agency.

Reference to the subject, I am pleased to submit the final project brief of the captioned PDF-B project document. The project has been jointly formulated by the Government of Islamic Republic Afghanistan and the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran, and is aimed at preserving the integrity of the Sistan Basin for sustainable livelihood and biodiversity conservation. This project is crucial for the sustainable development and trans-boundary water management in the region. The project formulation process has been participatory, consultative and multi-stakeholder oriented, to include line ministries, government officials, academia, UNEP, UNDP and other related stakeholders from Iran and Afghanistan.

The Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Use of the Sistan Basin Wetlands proposal has been reviewed and technically approved by relevant government counterparts. Thus, in my capacity as the GEF Acting Operation Focal Point, I hereby endorse the project proposal and requests UNDP as GEF implementing agency to submit the documents on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Furthermore, I should highlight, that I had earlier endorsed this project on 16 October 2006, and according to the new GEF CEO decision, this project was taken out of the pipeline and the Governments of Afghanistan and Iran had sent letters to the CEO to emphasize the importance of the project for the two countries. It is fortunate that the GEF has agreed to reassess the approval of this project. And for this, I would like to thank UNDP and UNEP for the support in assisting the two governments for rolling the case with GEF towards this positive outcome.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank UNDP and your team panel in particular, for the strong support they have continually demonstrated since 2006, towards the finalization of this document in October 2006 and the resubmission of the document in next month on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. I should also thank UNEP for their continued support in facilitating bilateral discussions along with substantial inputs in the brief.

Continued.

On behalf of the National Environmental Protection Agency,
Madam, please accept, the assurances of my highest consideration,



Mostapha Zaher

Director – General
National Environment Protection Agency
&
GEF Operational Focal Point

Kabul – Afghanistan

Cc:

Dr. Asif Ali Zaidi,
Programme Manager
UNEP – PCDMB, Afghanistan



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

In the Name of Allah

No:620/26100

July 9, 2007

Dear Madam,

Referring to your letter, dated April 16, 2007, in my capacity as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Operational Focal Point for the Islamic Republic of Iran, I hereby endorse and submit the project document of "Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Use of Sistan Basin" to access the GEF funding.

This is also to express the consent of my Government on the implementation of the said project by the United Nations Development Programme.

Please accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Eshagh Alhabib,
Director General for
International Economic Affairs
and Specialized Agencies
As GEF Operational Focal Point

Ms. Monique Barbut
GEF and Chairperson
Global Environment Facility
Fax: 001-202-5223240/3245

CC: Mr. Knut Ostby,
Resident Representative,
United Nations Development Programme,
Tehran, I.R.Iran