



**14<sup>th</sup> Project Board Minutes of Meeting**  
**Conservation of Biodiversity in the Central Zagros Landscape**  
**Conservation Zone**

**19 June 2017**



## In the name of God

**Date:** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Venue:** Conference Hall of Deputy of Natural Environment and Biodiversity,  
Department of Environment, Pardisan Eco Park

**Start:** 10:30 – 12:30

### **Agenda:**

- Welcome by Dr. Dabiri (NPD), a brief presentation on conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in Zagros
- Integrated and adaptive management in Zagros
- Presenting an overall implementation trend of Zagros Project, lessons learnt management response to TER, transfer of title of non-expendable supplies and equipment from the UNDP to the Government of Iran, DOE, legal and institutional arrangement and the GIRI responsibilities in implementation and management of Zagros Conservation and Sustainable Development Program as the exit strategy of the CZM project.
- Discussion and Feedbacks on how to implement long-term conservation and sustainable development of Zagros through planning and budgeting Participatory based on the achievements of the project in the 4 first priority watershed management areas
- Considering and deciding on the extension of the achievements of the Central Zagros Project in two phases:
  - A. Generalize the achievements of the first 4 watershed management areas to 6 watershed management areas in central Zagros
  - B. Generalize the achievements of the project to all Zagros growth areas (12 Zagros Provinces)

### **Attendees:**

Please see the attachment

### **Absents:**

**Mr. Khandan-Del:** Deputy of Urban and Rural Development, Ministry of Interior

**Mr. Pour-Mohammadi:** Deputy of Production Affairs, Planning and Budgeting Organization

**Mr. Moghadasi:** Deputy of Forest, Rangeland, and Watershed Management Organization

**Mr. Zand:** Chief of Agricultural Research, Training, and Promotion Organization, Ministry of Agriculture

**Mr. Fahmi:** Deputy of Planning for Water and Wastewater, Ministry of Energy

**Mr. Barmaki:** Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Mr. Hashemi: Director General of Kohguilyeh and Boyerahmad DOE**

**Talks minute:**

After the opening, Mr. Dabiri expressed great welcome and thanked the members of the committee. He pointed out that participatory, integrated activities are rather new in Iran. Environmental and natural resources management have never been managed in an integrated manner. Each relevant agency pursues its own TOR: FRWO in forests and ranges; DOE in four types of protected area; Ministry of Energy manages water resources according to its patterns and protocols; and MOAJ deals with agricultural affairs. Local management is simple and non-participatory. For about 70 years, this has been the management trend; however, recently a decision has been made to change the course of implementation toward participatory, integrated practices. Also, in previous participatory experiences there was little serious contribution from environmental NGOs/CBOs, and local community's capacity was not benefitted from. These issues, hand in hand, challenged achievement of Zagros Project. Hence, participatory, integrated approach encountered two pitfalls: 1) capacity development on the part of stakeholders and government agencies and 2) engaging local capacity and NGOs/CBOs. He also noted that the experience by the project was to a great extent successful in that four general governors signed a MOU and its integral part, i.e. C+SD. Also C+SD footprint is observable throughout Article 38 of 6<sup>th</sup> NDP.

Since national management of the project was attributed to DOE, it pursued deliverables according to its organizational attitude involving local participation in protected areas. However, the communities targeted mainly were located outside such areas, requiring a certain mechanism: cross-sectoral structure. Success was attainable only through this mechanism. Sustainable development is a task beyond the work of one department within an agency, even beyond that of one agency, so other agencies need to contribute properly.

Following Mr. Dabiri, Ms. Abolghasemi, the NPM, presented project performance since the beginning, remarked final achievements, explained the project's performance in the last 6 month of its lifecycle, introduced lessons learned as well. She also pointed out actions taken to fulfill TE, transfer equipment and assets to DOE.

After this, the members attending discussed their viewpoints as follows.

**Committee members' viewpoints**

**Ms. Carlsen (Resident Representative, UNDP)**

The project undertook a long piece of work involving great endeavor and big number of people. Two points held great significance: 1) planning to implement a new approach and 2) the manner of implementation in a wider horizon. The project success is considerable within these two areas. Performance evaluation proves to be effective too, for after mid-term evaluation the project found its correct course. It established a baseline to monitor biodiversity conservation and succeeded in developing a roadmap that was missing before. Now, there is hope this trend carries on because participatory activities have become a trademark regarding UNDP and GOIR cooperation, e.g. MENARID, Wetland Conservation, and Carbon Sequestration. For example, FRW agreed to the scale-up of previously undertaken projects to allow for local community participation as well as livelihood improvement. The experience by Zagros Project facilitates future activities. This is an approach where sustainable development is guaranteed and through which negative human impact is minimized while benefits from the environment is maximized. Furthermore, land use planning proves to be an effective tool with this regard because it is integrated and participatory by nature involving sustainable development elements: who, where, and how something should be done. Land use planning was a major task undertaken by Zagros Project.

The question remains: how is DOE going to take advantage of such opportunity? UNDP anxiously looks forward to future negotiations for further cooperation.

**Mr. Mirzaee Rad (System and Planning Expert, Zagros Project)**

He introduced MIS, and debuted its corresponding application. He also explained the latter's installation, render, and use.

**Mr. Ahmadi (Director General of Charmahal-Bakhtiari DOE)**

Most of Charmahal-Bakhtiari is located within the scope of Zagros Project, including 5 CMAs. The project provided stakeholders with an opportunity to get together in order to avoid a sector approach. Though good workshops have been held; project achievements were fed into province land use planning; a lot has been done toward sustainable tourism; these only led to the issue of a notification for the Executive Secretariat. It deems necessary to establish a regional office to manage C+SD implementation, hence avoiding waste of 10 consecutive years of efforts. As the project embeds most of this province, it is recommended the abovementioned office be stationed in CHB.

**Mr. Zohrabi (Director General of Isfahan DOE)**

Cross-sector mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation which is a participatory task has been done not only in one province but also several ones with national and local involvement by Zagros Project. This vast scope of activity impeded the project. Turnover also caused some degrees of trouble in the first years. Now the problem is provision of budget from national level to operationalize preliminary activities after

the handover process. Then province and local agencies need to depend on their own annual budget to carry on C+SD implementation.

**Mr. Sakhaie (Deputy of Tourism, CHHTO)**

Partner organizations including CHHTO, which was one of the first partners, played a key role. It had developed some tourism plans within the project scope before CMAs were defined – in Farsan, Ardal, and Kuhrang. These plans would take pressure off of natural resources and generate jobs. International experience and expertise was used to develop such plans. Executive secretariats should be aware of these plans and activities.

**Mr. Nematollahi (General Directorate of Improving Nomad Affairs)**

Two points matter: 1) a centralized steering committee 2) centralized budgeting. Without them international projects usually fail. Province committees need to keep holding meetings to continue the activities used to be done by the project. Within the nomad affairs area, similar work has been conducted, even outside the project scope. Nomad Affairs expects the project to provide fresher ideas. Centralized management is emphasized too.

**Mr. Soleimani (Director of Environmental and Socioeconomic Development Programs, UNDP)**

There has been similar cooperation between GOIRI and UNDP. Now that GEF is through in Iran, there is no clear perspective of future projects. However, one solution is that the government agencies take part themselves in terms of budgeting. FRWM, for instance, agreed to budget scale-up of Carbon Sequestration Project, and seeks technical support from UNDP. Another example includes Wetland Conservation where GIORI injected national sources to extend the project, which was accompanied by donation from Japanese Government. But there are also failures where exit of a project leads to disappearance of legacy. So the question is what DOE is willing to do about the future of Zagros Project and who the main responsible entity at national level is. We cannot add to the burden on the shoulder of the provinces, so what is the plan at national level?

*Response from Dr. Dabiri:* even as if the project brought about no achievements, it created a new experience relying on local community participation. These kinds of activities lack traditional and customary support from nomads, rural community, and public sector. High-level documents such as 6<sup>th</sup> NDP have the capacity to be translated into projects. Negotiations with PBO are being held to do so and allocate the budget required. Since this is a cross-sector task, other deputies and agencies need to collaborate in order to employ project staff at national and province levels and maintain the project.

**Ms. Javaherian (General Director of Office of Sustainable Development, DOE):**

C+SD is in line with SDGs and its underlying participatory approach allows for community involvement and acting in harmony. Also it covers green economy.

## Results and conclusion:

- The project is to a large extent successful in achieving its deliverables: the MOU signed by four governors general, PBO, MOI, and DOE. C+SD found its way into Article 38 in 6<sup>th</sup> NDP where accountability of government agencies is clearly defined. There have been negotiations between PBO and DOE to turn this article into projects and define budgetary mechanism. This is to respond to UNDP eagerness toward further cooperation.
- After the mid-term evaluation, the project got on the right track and established a baseline to monitor biodiversity conservation and develop a roadmap.
- Participatory projects are now a trademark representing cooperation between GIORI and UNDP.
- Land use planning, a bottom-top approach, is participatory by nature and includes all elements of sustainable development: who, where, and how to do things – ecological capacity evaluation, the prelude of land use planning, was one the outcomes of Zagros Project.
- Main achievements by Zagros Project: designation and establishment of Tang-Sayad, Sabzkuh, and Dena Biosphere Reserves; MIS and its application; sustainable tourism; sustainable agriculture to moderate stress on natural resources and manage production; sustainable management of animal wildlife thorough National Biodiversity Action Plan; sustainable development of forests, ranges, and physical resources including soil, air, and water.
- A regional office should be established to monitor and evaluate C+SD performance; cross-sectoral structure needs to be activated at national level (the members unanimously requested establishment of the national secretariat).
- In response to supplying financial sources the way mentioned in C+SD: the projected budget is considered only for establishing the cross-sector structure and mechanism, and the implementation of the activities and executive strategies are predicted to be supplied from province budget.
- As GEG4 is finished in Iran, further cooperation requires DOE and UNDP to formulate new projects. It is recommended that GOIRI supply the budget.

Attachment – PB register

**طرح حفاظت از تنوع زیستی در سیمای حفاظتی زاگرس مرکزی**  
 لیست اسامی شرکت کنندگان در چهاردهمین نشست "گروه مدیریت عالی طرح" (Project Board)  
 ۱۳۹۶/۰۳/۲۹

ردیف	نام و نام خانوادگی	سازمان اداره	سمت	تلفن همراه	پست الکترونیکی	امضاء
۱.	فرها دبیری	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	رئیس			
۲.	سارا کوشک	UNDP	Programme Associate		Sara.Koschaki@undp.org	
۳.		UNDP	PRR		AUNE.MITCHELL@CAFRESERVAIRE	
۴.	کن سیدمنظری	UNDP	PA		Mohsen.Sidekmanesh@undp.org	
۵.	زها خجریان	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل توسعه پایدار		ZohraVahedian@gmail.com	
۶.	سلما سنی	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل			
۷.	ابدر پروا	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	کارتاپ سلامت		Abas.Bat.Perva@yahoo.com	
۸.	محمد نظری	حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل			
۹.	ابوالفضل مرادی	حفاظت محیط زیست	سرپرست		Aloradi_1265@yahoo.com	

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ردیف	نام و نام خانوادگی	سازمان اداره	سمت	تلفن همراه	پست الکترونیکی	امضاء
۱۰.	شهرام احمدی ناریان	اداره حفاظت محیط زیست استان چهارمحال و بختیاری	مدیرکل		Shahram.Ahmedy@cah.gov.ir	
۱۱.	مریما جعفری	انجمن زیست‌شناسان (امو)	مدیر		Mariamajafari@gmail.com	
۱۲.	رفیق رحمانی	طرح آبریز	کارشناس		Reza.Rahmani@yahoo.com	
۱۳.	سیدرضا حسینی	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل		Mosadimichini@yahoo.com	
۱۴.	سیدمحمد غازی	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل		MohammadGhazi@yahoo.com	
۱۵.	داریوش نیک‌دل	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل		Darush121@yahoo.com	
۱۶.	فرزانه رحمانی	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل		FarzanehRahmani@yahoo.com	
۱۷.	حسن محمدی	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل		calopteryx90@yahoo.com	
۱۸.	داریوش علیزاده	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل		Darush45@yahoo.com	

**طرح حفاظت از تنوع زیستی در سیمای حفاظتی زاگرس مرکزی**  
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ردیف	نام و نام خانوادگی	سازمان اداره	سمت	تلفن همراه	پست الکترونیکی	امضاء
۱۹.	زهرا شمس‌الهی	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل		ZohraShamsi@yahoo.com	
۲۰.	شیرین ابدانعی	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل		ShirinAbdane@yahoo.com	
۲۱.	پویا رضی زان	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل		Pooya.Razizan@yahoo.com	
۲۲.	امیر مانی	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل		Amir.Mani@yahoo.com	
۲۳.	علیرضا میرزایی	سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست	مدیرکل		Alireza.Mirzai@yahoo.com	
۲۴.						