

## Annex 1



Insert Fund specific logo, if applicable

[Iraq Trust Fund]

### ANNUAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2009

***Submitted by:***

Muralee Thummarukudy  
Programme Officer, United Nations  
Environment Programme  
e.mail [muralee.thummarukudy@unep.org](mailto:muralee.thummarukudy@unep.org)  
Tel +41 22 917 8622

***Iraq, Environment***

***Programme No: C5-07***

***MDTF Office Atlas No:***

***Programme Title:***

Strengthening Environmental Governance in  
Iraq through Environmental Assessment and  
Capacity Building

***Participating Organization(s):***

***UNOPS***

***Implementing Partners:***

- *Ministry of Environment, IRAq*
- *International Organizations, including NGOs*

***Programme Budget (from the Fund):***

*For Joint Programme provide breakdown by UN Organization*

UNEP : 4,700,000

Etc.

---

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

***Programme Duration (in months):***

Start date<sup>2</sup>: July 2004

End date: September 2007

- *Original end date, July 2005*
- *Revised end date, if applicable*
- *Operational Closure Date<sup>3</sup>, if applicable:  
September 2007*

**Budget Revisions/Extensions:**

*List budget revisions and extensions, with approval dates, if applicable*

---

<sup>2</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent.

<sup>3</sup> All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office.

### **Introduction:**

The Narrative Progress Report template is in line with the UNDG Standard Progress Report.

Building on continued efforts made in the UN system to produce results-based reports, the progress report should describe how the activities (inputs) contributed to the achievement of specific short-term outputs during the twelve month reporting period, and to demonstrate how the short-term outputs achieved in the reporting period collectively contributed to the achievement of the agreed upon outcomes of the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund<sup>4</sup>.

In support of the individual programme reports, please attach any additional relevant information and photographs, assessments, evaluations and studies undertaken or published.

The information contained in the Programme Summaries and Quarterly Updates prepared by the Participating Organizations may be useful in the preparation of the Annual Narrative Progress Report. These Summaries and Updates, where applicable, are available in the respective Fund sections of the MDTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mdtf.undp.org/>).

### **Formatting Instructions:**

- The report should not exceed 10-15 pages.
- The report should be submitted in one single Word or PDF file.
- Annexes can be added to the report but need to be clearly referenced, using footnotes or endnotes within the body of the narrative.
- Do not change the Names and Numbers of the Sections below.

## **NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT**

### **I. Purpose**

Provide the main objectives, outcomes, outputs of the programme/project  
The main objectives and outcomes as approved in the project document are:

As formulated and approved in the project document the development goal of the programme is:

“To support the sustainable development of Iraq by strengthening government capacity for environmental management and for addressing immediate environmental threats to human health and livelihoods”

---

<sup>4</sup> E.g. in the case of the MDG-F, it is important to show how the programme relates to the UNDAF and how it aims to support national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The causal links and rationale between the joint programme, the thematic window of the MDG-F and the MDGs should be clearly stated. In the case of the Peacebuilding Fund’s Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility (PRF), show how the programme relates to the PBF Priority Plan’s objectives. For the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund, explain how the programme relates to the UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq, UN MDGs, ICI, NDS, etc.

The key immediate objective of the programme is:

“to provide training, equipment, technical assistance and supervision to selected staff of the Iraqi environmental administration in order that baseline information can be produced to support the identification of environmental problems, priorities, policies and projects.”

The expected outcomes of the programme project are:

Although not explicitly formulated at the time of the approval of the project document, from the key immediate objective of the programme the following outcomes were targeted to be achieved:

1. “increased capacity for the production of baseline information to support the identification of environmental problems, priorities, policies and projects.”
2. “strengthened framework law, environmental impact assessment processes, and increased knowledge on environmental management”
3. “strengthened physical capacities for environmental monitoring and environmental information management”

*The expected outputs of the programme/project within this reporting period are:*

The key outputs as planned and agreed to in the UNEP project document include:

- **Policy Training:** Up to 200 training placements and 20 days of training will be provided to Iraqi policy makers from the Ministry of Environment (MoEn) in the areas of multi-lateral environmental agreements, Global Environmental Facility, environmental impact assessment, natural resources and biodiversity management, environmental monitoring, information management and reporting, disaster management and environmental enforcement and site inspections.
- **Technical Training:** Up to 50 training placements and 21 days of training will be provided to Iraqi technical experts from the Ministry of the Environment in the areas of contaminated sites assessments, field sample analyses and interpretation, institutional capacity assessments, and national environmental action planning.
- **Assessments and Reports:** Teams from the Ministry of Environment will conduct assessments on contaminated sites and institutional capacity for environmental management with training and support from UNEP. Final reports will be issued containing findings, recommendations and strategies. Risk reduction information will be provided to communities potentially affected by the contaminated sites, in order to reduce risks through increased awareness and access to information.
- **Equipment:** Field-testing and environmental monitoring equipment will be provided to the Ministry of Environment to support contaminated sites assessments and environmental quality monitoring.
- **Database:** A contaminated sites risk assessment database will be developed containing information on the location of approximately 300 industrial and military sites posing potential risks to human and environmental health. The database will be used as a field mission tool as well as a planning tool for land use development.

Explain how the programme/project is relevant to the following benchmarks:

- UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq,

- UN Millennium Development Goals,
- Joint Needs Assessment ,
- Iraqi National Development Strategy

**The Programme/Project contributes to the UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq in the following way:**

The main objectives for environmental management in the UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq are formulated under the objective statements for Cluster A Agriculture, Food Security, Natural Resources Management and Environment:

**Cluster A Objective:** to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development and to ensure effective management of natural resources, which benefits people, communities and their environment.

This project attempts to contribute to strengthen the governance and institutional mechanisms underlying environmentally sound development and reconstruction of Iraq.

***The Programme contributes to the following UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG):***

The MDG dealing with environmental management is:

***MDG: 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability***

Under this Goal the Programme focuses specifically on the first MDG target:

**MDG7, Target 1:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources

Indirectly, the project contributes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Target under MDG7 through enhanced capacity of the Iraqi Ministry of Environment and key stakeholders:

**MDG7, Target 2:** Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

**MDG7, Target 3:** Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020

However, Targets 2 and 3 are not specific objectives of this project.

***The Programme contributes to the following Iraq National Development Goals:***

The National Development Strategy identifies “environment protection” as a sector under the Sector Development Programmes. The NDS targets, among others, to

- “conduct a comprehensive environmental assessment of water, air and soil conditions in Iraq, identifying sources and extent of contamination and needed remedies
- To assess the current legal and regulatory framework for the environment and the requirements for improving environment protection in Iraq
- Promote the financial, human and technical capacity of the Ministry of Environment, to facilitate building an effective environment surveillance and control system.

This project contributes to all three elements of environmental protection needs defined by the Government of Iraq.

Indicate the main implementing partners, their roles and responsibilities, and their interaction with the Agency

The key implementation partners for the project were

UNOPS- Who undertook the contracting of the project

Ministry of Environment – Who was the main national counterpart institution

## **II. Resources**

### *Human Resources:*

National Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)

Work was undertaken basing the implementation office in Amman. So no national staff employed in Iraq

National staff was employed in Amman. This included 1 professional staff and 2 G staff.

International Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)

## **6 International staff**

### **III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements**

For exact details regarding the roles and responsibilities during the project implementation, please refer to annex I. These details were also outlined in previous progress reports.

UNEP, as a small UN Agency, is normally operating from regional or headquarters levels. Since rapid post conflict response through assessment and project implementation in Iraq would have been a challenge through the regular UNEP channels, UNEP had a project office operating in Amman, to assist with the operations and logistics of implementation. This office was again closed after the completion of most of the operational activity, and the responsibility for the Iraq Programme transferred to the UNEP Regional Office for West-Asia located in Bahrain.

The unprecedented developments in the security situation in Iraq forced the UN agencies to operate on a remote basis. The operations and implementation modalities had to be adapted to successfully deliver in such circumstances. Some of the most important illustration in this regard are:

1. All meetings and trainings had to be undertaken outside Iraq. Most of these were organised in Amman. Initially road travel between Baghdad and Amman was possible but this became an increasingly risky process, and like all other UN Agencies UNEP proceeded to organise (more expensive) air travel. As a result, the unit cost of delivery of training increased, resulting in a decrease of the total number of people who could be trained, or provision of shorter and more intense courses. Nevertheless the targeted number of training placements has been met.
2. UNEP technical experts were unable travel into Iraq to assist and supervise the national experts and government staff undertaking various assessment activities. UNEP became much more dependent on national ownership of the assessment work, which on the one hand left the ministry fully in charge, but which also posed a challenge to the adequate design and formulation of follow up remediation actions for priority contaminated sites.
3. Not only the access of international staff, but also the mobility of the national experts and government staff within Iraq was very restricted. Any sign of engagement or liaison with

an international organisation, NGO could potentially pose a risk for Iraqi national staff. Consequently, they could always not make full use of the various skills and methodologies imparted to them.

4. Presence in Amman has enabled UNEP to reinforce and strengthen technical working relationships between the Ministry of Environment and organisations in Jordan and in the region. Through Jordan based environmental institutions (Jordanian Ministry of Environment, Royal Society for Conservation of Nature, Nature Iraq, Royal Scientific Society, etc.). This element can be considered a positive side effect of a remote implementation modality.
5. Contracting procedures have been implemented through (international) competitive bidding with the assistance of UNOPS. Despite UNOPS national staff presence in Iraq, the monitoring and completion of the various tasks in Iraq could not always be adequately verified due to the prevailing security circumstances. Exemptions had to be made in this regard.
6. Installation and commissioning of highly valuable environmental monitoring equipment took a disproportionate time due to the difficulty for the technicians from the suppliers to access the Ministry premises.

UNEP has been proactively trying to monitor implementation of the project in an increasingly volatile situation. Successful delivery was managed through the following mechanisms:

#### **Amman based implementation**

Since the major part of the project has been focusing on the transfer of knowledge, most of the activity have been implemented from Amman. Trainings, workshops and consultations with Ministry staff were conducted in Amman. The Iraqi counterparts were then made responsible for the follow up, such as collection of information on contaminated sites, or proceed with the formulation of environmental law.

#### **UNOPS Iraq based monitoring**

A UNOPS national staff member, based in Baghdad, was assigned to undertake regular monitoring and follow up to a variety of requests with the Ministry of Environment. Where possible UNEP has delegated the responsibility for delivery to national ownership, i.e. the Ministry of Environment, or through using private sector companies working through Iraqi counterparts. Working with national environment NGOs has not been possible.

#### **Ownership by Government of Iraq**

“Remote control operations” place much of the onus of delivery and impact on the institutions of the Government of Iraq. Particularly the follow through on the transferred knowledge and application of responsibilities, processes and procedures is key in this regard. This has not been without problems, but the strong dedication of the core counterpart staff in the Ministry of Environment in Iraq, have made a significant contribution to the success of this programme.

In short, despite the difficult delivery circumstances, the project has delivered its outputs particularly through good partnerships and the resilience and national ownership of our partners in the Iraqi Government.

Provide details on the procurement procedures utilized and explain variances in standard procedures.

Standard UN procurement practices were used in all procurements

Provide details on the monitoring system(s) that are being used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing programme/project.

Due to the prevailing security situation, field monitoring was not possible. Verification was done based on reports and photographs provided by the national staff and contractor.

Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

#### **IV. Results**

With reference to the output statements as approved in the project document, the project has been successfully delivered and can be considered 98% complete. This section summarizes the impacts of the programme on environmental management in Iraq (responding to the outcome statements under above “chapter 1 Purpose”).

##### **Impact of capacity building for environmental site assessment (component I)**

Under the Environmental Site Assessment component a total of 5 training workshops, resulting in 76 training placements, were provided during 15 training days. These activities have enabled the Ministry of Environment to conduct environmental site assessment on 5 priority sites, a capacity which did not exist at the time of project start. The impact of this activity has clearly added capacity to technical staff of the Ministry of Environment to conduct site assessments on sites contaminated with hazardous wastes and chemicals. As a result of the site assessment, more data has become available on the hazardous materials and risks posed to human health on 5 priority contaminated sites. The subsequent reporting on these sites, has raised awareness on the potential for public health risks posed by these sites, whereas recommendations and a package for support were formulated for follow through by the donor community.

One follow up activity of the environmental site assessment component has been the removal of a public health hazard at Al Qadissiya and Al Suwaira sites, a separate project funded under the Iraq Trust Fund, and which is now also operationally nearing completion.

##### **Impact of capacity building for institutional capacities and environmental policy development (component 2)**

A total of 162 training placements and 46 days of training have been provided to the Government of Iraq. These trainings and consultations have contributed to transfer knowledge and information on the multi-lateral environmental agreements, the Global Environmental Facility, environmental impact assessment processes and procedures, environmental law, natural resources and biodiversity management, environmental quality monitoring, information management and reporting, disaster management and environmental enforcement and site inspections.

The impact of such investment in training of human resources depends to a large extent on the use of this knowledge by the Ministry staff during the implementation of their assignments. According to feed back from the Ministry of Environment, the trainings have certainly contributed to discussions and motion on the various environmental management issues i.e.: an environmental law was drafted and presented to peer review and decision makers, discussions are ongoing regarding Iraq’s reconnection to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, etc.

## **Impact of capacity building and strengthening environmental facilities of the Ministry of Environment (component 3)**

Iraq's sustainable development is severely constrained by the absence of adequate environmental monitoring facilities. This project has procured equipment for a state of the art environmental monitoring laboratory in the Ministry of Environment. Procurement has been completed, however, installation and technical trainings are remaining to be delivered. Once operational, the laboratory will play a highly valuable role in collecting data for policy and strategy development, monitoring, environmental impact assessment, enforcement and compliance.

The procurement and installation of an environmental resource center has just been completed, and the information center is now fully operational. This result will have an important impact on the public outreach function of the Ministry of Environment, particularly when the security situation improves.

### **1. For the duration of the project**

During the project the following results have been achieved:

#### **COMPONENT I: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PRIORITY CONTAMINATED SITES**

**Database development:** In order to support the Ministry of Environment with an information database on contaminated sites issues, UNEP/PCoB started with the development and delivery of a project website, templates and guides for data collection, and a contaminated site database. Based on this database of 311 contaminated sites, a selection of 5 priority sites was made by the Ministry of Environment. These sites were:

- Khan Dhari: a refinery chemicals warehouse
- Al Mishraq: A vast sulphur mining and acid complex
- Al Suwaira: A pesticides warehouse complex
- Ouwaireej: A scrapyard containing conflict damaged military and civilian vehicles
- Al Qadissiya: a destroyed small arms metal plating and annealing works.

For the purpose of assessing these sites into more details the following project activities were delivered:

**Technical Training:** A total of 5 workshops were provided during the duration of the project:

1. Environmental Site Assessment workshop: introduction, 4 – 7 october 2004, Amman, Jordan. 21 staff members from the Ministry of Environment, as well as from the Ministries of Agriculture, Oil, Finance and Industry and Minerals, and the Al Rasheed County Municipality participated.
2. Environmental Assessment Planning workshop: planning & management of site assessment projects, 21 – 22 november 2004, Amman, Jordan.
3. Environmental Sampling workshop: skills training in site assessment equipment & techniques, 12 – 14 December 2004, Amman, Jordan.
4. Field Sampling preparation: development of detailed sampling plans, 16 – 17 march 2005, Amman, Jordan.
5. Interpretation, risk assessment and remediation, 22 – 24 august 2005

**Assessments and Reports:** Based on this training, provision of measuring equipment (valued at US\$ 250,000 total) and provision of remote technical advice from UNEP 5 teams from the Ministry of Environment conducted site assessments on 5 selected contaminated sites during 2005. Satellite imagery was procured, and data was gathered (for purposes of “ground truthing”), analysed by AI Control Laboratories in the UK, and discussed with the teams. A final report was drafted containing findings, recommendations and strategies and jointly published by the Ministry of Environment and the UNEP/PCoB on 10 november 2005. Through translation into Arabic and dispatch of this publication relevant stakeholders were provided with information regarding the contaminated sites.

This component has been delivered in a satisfactory manner, and follow up activities have focused on the formulation of follow up activities addressing the recommendations of the site assessment report.

## **COMPONENT II: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> project component focused on the strengthening of the Ministry of Environment in some of the most important policy areas, such as environmental law, environmental impact assessment, multilateral environmental agreements, biodiversity and emergency response.

### **Environmental Law:**

In response to a request of the Iraqi Ministry of Environment, UNEP met on 15 February 2005 with the Minister of Environment and delegation, to discuss the development of an environmental framework law and environment article in the Constitution. UNEP brought into this meeting 3 legal advisors from the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, Beveridge and Diamond (a US based environmental law firm), and a UNEP legal expert.

Immediately following up on the recommendations of the Ministerial Consultation, UNEP organised a technical workshop on environmental law development and enforcement, which was held in Amman from 7 – 10 March 2005. This workshop was organised in cooperation with UNITAR. Training was provided to 20 officials from a number of Ministries on environmental law, compliance and enforcement. The course identified a continued need for training specifically in the areas of economic instruments, public participation, access to information, access to justice, NGO and civil society role in environmental monitoring/compliance and enforcement, human rights and environment.

After the workshops and consultative meetings, the Deputy Minister of Environment took on an active role to develop an environmental law. However, the Deputy Minister was replaced, after which the Ministry of Environment decided to create a Drafting Committee, and requested UNEP for assistance. Subsequently, during January – February 2006, UNEP sent an Iraqi expatriate lawyer, Mr. Sami Shubber, to work jointly with Ministry of Environment staff to expedite the development of the Iraqi environmental law. The Committee for the redrafting of the Environmental Law consisted of ten members, i.e. three lawyers from the Ministry, five technicians, a secretary, the UNEP consultant as advisor, with a senior staff in the Ministry of Environment functioning as the Chairman. This committee has prepared a 1<sup>st</sup> draft text, which was submitted by the Minister of Environment for review by other key ministries and stakeholders. A second draft was prepared, and was submitted to the Ministerial Council for review and endorsement. The UNEP assistance in support of the environmental law development has been finalised during march 2006.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment**

In order to familiarise the Iraqi Ministry of Environment with the processes and procedures for

Environmental Impact Assessment, UNEP organised 2 training workshops:

1. EIA Train the Trainers workshop (based on the UNEP EIA Training Resource Manual), 20 – 24 September 2004, Tunis, Tunisia
2. UNEP Capacity Building Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment, 8 – 12 January 2005, Amman, Jordan.

During the first workshop with a regional character, 5 Iraqi participants were trained to function as EIA trainers, jointly with colleagues from the region (Albania, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine). The participants were provided with the UNEP EIA manual.

Subsequently, UNEP focused more specifically on capacity building for Iraqi government officials with a workshop for Iraqi Government officials in charge of different responsibilities for EIA, pollution control and monitoring. This workshop focused on the development of skills in the implementation of the EIA process in Iraq in support of Iraq's sustainable reconstruction and development. The specific objectives of the workshop included:

- Familiarizing the participants with EIA best practices
- Gaining the necessary skills to manage the EIA process
- Understanding the contribution of EIA stakeholders to the effective implementation of EIA
- Making the best use of the UNEP EIA manual.

The recommendations to move ahead on the development of an effective EIA process in Iraq, that were formulated based on this process were discussed with the Ministry of environment during the consultation on 15 February 2005 in Amman, with which support to this activity came to an end under this project.

#### **Institutional Capacity Assessment:**

During the year 2005, UNEP has had two consultations (on 19 April 2005 and on 10 July 2005) with the Ministry of Environment on the undertaking of an institutional capacity assessment of the Ministry of Environment. This activity aimed to provide assistance to the ministry to clarify roles and to design structures that would enhance the Ministry's capacity to fulfil its mandate. Based on these consultative meetings between UNEP and the MoEN, agreement was reached that the assessment would focus on synthesising information of the Ministry's environmental management capacity and focus on the administrative, legal and functional framework and its existing resources (human resources, financial resources and technical resources). The Ministry of Environment proceeded with establishing a taskforce for the institutional capacity assessment.

During a first meeting with this taskforce on 28 September 2005 (Amman), the ministry staff was provided with tools, the methodology and planning for the analysis. Questionnaires were also shared with the taskforce, which would collect information from all levels (national, governorate, administrative and mandate related structures, and resources). The analysis of the questionnaires was done during December 2005, after which a workshop was organised in Amman from 4 – 6 January to conduct a strength-weakness-opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis. Based on the analysis and collected documentation a final assessment report was written and shared with the Ministry of Environment with recommendations for institutional change and further capacity building requirements. The results have been presented to and discussed with the Minister in September 2006.

#### **Support to Iraqs reconnection to the Multilateral Environment Agreements**

Iraq's isolation from the international policy arena, has led to Iraq not being party to any of the

Multilateral Environment Agreements. In addition, a lack of knowledge on these international conventions and policy tools hampers Iraq's reconnection, and the Government of Iraq fails therefore to benefit from an important opportunity for international collaboration on important global policy issues.

UNEP has assisted the Ministry of Environment and key stakeholders in this area. A concept paper on multilateral environmental agreements applicable to Iraq was completed during the beginning of the project, During that time the applicable Transitional Authority Law did not permit the transitional cabinet to enter into international agreements. But with the adoption of the Constitution the door was opened for potential accession of Iraq to the MEAs of its choice.

UNEP organised a workshop on Iraq's accession to any of the Multilateral Environment Agreements from 11-13 July 2005 in Amman for 20 officials from the Ministry of Environment and other key stakeholder ministries. This workshop served as a basis for discussion on Iraq's return to the international environment community. The workshop contributed to the creation of a network of key stakeholders in an attempt to facilitate an inter ministerial approach, and to start a dialogue in the Ministry of Environment on the obligations and entitlements vis a vis the MEAs. During UNEPs consultations with the Minister, it became clear that Iraq is keen to start accessing and ratifying a number of Multilateral Environment Agreements. Several proposals have been developed and submitted to Cabinet for endorsement.

As a follow up to this initial support to promote the MEAs, and in pursuit of Iraq's environmental responsibilities towards the global community, UNEP Regional Office for West Asia has designed a concept for a programme towards the ratification and effective implementation and compliance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). This programme has as key immediate objectives:

- Positioning Iraq to join the international community in the protection of the environment through MEAs
- Improved capacity within Iraq in the compliance and enforcement of national and international environmental law

The Minister of Environment has endorsed this activity in principle, and considers this a high priority for strengthening environmental management.

## **ADDITIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS**

### **Biodiversity and natural resources management**

A workshop on Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management was held from 29 September – 2 October 2005 in the Dana Wildlife Reserve. The workshop was organised in close collaboration with the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature, a Jordanian Environment NGO. 20 officials from a variety of stakeholder institutions participated in this workshop, during which they were provided with information, methods and tools for the formulation and implementation of policies and strategies related to biodiversity and natural resources management.

This workshop brought together officials from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Agriculture, the General Establishment of the Kurdistan Environment Protection and an environment NGO "Nature Iraq". Discussions focused on the relevance of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for Iraq.

### **Environmental Emergencies: Marine Oil Spills**

In response to a query of the Ministry of Environment on its mandate regarding emergency response, UNEP provided the Ministry with technical advice and best practices in other countries. As a direct activity UNEP has completed technical training for 20 staff from the MoEN and other ministries on response to environmental emergencies during marine oil spills. This workshop was organised in cooperation with the Aqaba Port Authorities in Aqaba from 22 – 23 June 2006. Initially, this workshop was planned to be conducted in Southampton, United Kingdom. However, the workshop was transferred to Jordan, due to the UK Embassy rejecting entry visa for all participants.

### **Paperless Management and Human Resources Training**

At the request of the Deputy Minister of Environment, UNEP facilitated participation of 9 Government officials to attend a Human Resources training and paperless solution system training. This training was organised by the International Dialog for Human Resources Development in Amman from 19 – 23 June 2005.

## **COMPONENT III; CAPACITY BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**

This component focused primarily on strengthening the facilities of the Iraqi Ministry of Environment. To this a well stocked environmental information center was established, and equipment for a state of the art environmental monitoring laboratory has been delivered.

### **Establishment of environmental laboratory**

The procurement of environmental monitoring equipment with a total value of approx. US\$ 550,000 was done through competitive bidding, in line with IRFFI requirements and UN Rules and Regulations. Tender procedures for procurement of the laboratory were completed in July 2005. The Dubai based company Gulf Scientific Corporation (GSC) was selected and contracted. The delivery has faced significant delays, caused by delays in the planned move of the Ministry of Environment into new premises, and difficulties in customs clearance for chemically sensitive items. Once all equipment had arrived at the Ministry of Environment, the contractor had to withdraw its staff due to the deteriorating security situation. Therefore the only activity left to undertake under this project is the actual installation of the equipment and the training in operations and maintenance once the security situation permits the contractor to return. This is scheduled to happen during April 2007, if the security situation allows.

### **Environmental Information Center**

UNEP has assisted MoEN with the establishment of an Environmental Information Centre within its premises. A first training to 4 staff of the Ministry has taken place at UNEP HQ in Nairobi during October 2005. An additional training for 4 staff members has taken place during May 2006. Specific computer equipment configured with library software, furniture, and 1500 publications (both UNEP and non-UNEP publications) have been provided to the Ministry. Subscriptions to international online research databases have been delivered. A video conferencing facility has also been set up part of the information center to facilitate remote training.

Report on progress made toward the achievement of specific medium-term outcomes of the programme/project as a result of the achieved short-term outputs during this reporting period.

During the reporting period 12 national experts were trained in use of equipment. This completed the project. The staff now have the equipment as well as training to use them.

Report on the key outputs achieved in the six month period including # and nature of the activities (inputs), % of completion and beneficiaries.

100 % of training now completed

Explain, if relevant, delays in programme/project implementation, the nature of the constraints, lessons learned in the process and actions taken to mitigate future delays.

There were initial delays due to contracting and later due to security. However the project was completed in 2007.

List the key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.

The programme was implemented by UNEP and UNOPS. UNEP has mainly been responsible for issuing UNEP staff contracts and their travel, whereas UNOPS has taken on the full range of administrative, financial, contracting and monitoring support.

The collaboration with UNOPS has been fruitful, and has enabled UNEP to reach out into Iraq through the UNOPS national staff member, who maintained a close link with the staff in the ministry of environment and local contractors.

Summarize achievements against planned results for cross cutting issues: security, gender, human rights, employment (including # of short and/or long-term jobs created), and environment.

**Security:**

This project does not have an explicit objective to contribute to stabilizing the security situation. Indirectly however, through enhanced capacities at the ministry of environment, leading to more effective environmental protection, the quality of the livelihoods would improve and contribute to a more stable living condition.

**Gender:**

The last 2 Ministers of Environment are female. Both these ministers of environment have made it an issue to send an increasing number of qualified women to attend the training courses. Several women have been provided with opportunities to strengthen their skills: i.e. the Director of the Radiation Protection Center is a woman having benefited from the environmental assessment trainings, and the Institutional Capacity Assessment task force was headed by a woman and composed of 4 women and 1 man.

**Human Rights:**

This project indirectly contributes to the human right to a healthy and clean environment

**Employment:**

Created no jobs short term /long term.

This project has not created jobs as such, but has built the technical capacities of key ministry staff, particularly the Ministry of Environment and their immediate stakeholders.

**Environment:**

This project has specifically targeted the strengthening of environmental management at the national level.

**V. Future Work Plan (if applicable)**

The project is operationally closed. No future activity left on this project except to prepare the completion report.

- .

**VI. Performance Indicators (optional)<sup>5</sup>****VII. Abbreviations and Acronyms**

UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme  
UNOPS- United Nations Office for the Project Services  
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment  
MoEN – Ministry of Environment  
GSC – Gulf Scientific Cooperation  
NGO – Non Governmental Organisation.

---

<sup>5</sup> E.g. for the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund and the MDG-F.

