



SIXTH SIX-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT FOR PROJECT

REPORT COVER PAGE

Participating UN Organization:

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

Cluster: A

Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resources Management

Project No. and Project Title: A5 – 15

OSRO/IRQ/503/UDG
Restoration and Modernisation of Fish Production in Iraq

Report Number:

02

Reporting Period:

1 January to 30 June 2007

Project Budget:

US\$7 312 177

List Implementing Partners:

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Project Coverage/Scope:

Iraq - Center/South Provinces, Wasit, Babylon, Kut and Al-Qadesei governorates

Abbreviations and acronyms:

MoA – Ministry of Agriculture
PSC – Project Steering Committee
GBFRD - General Board of Fish Resources Development

Project Duration/Closed Project:

2 years



Report Formatting Instructions: *We kindly ask that you review the instructions below and follow them in the preparation of your report:*

- Do not put the narrative text into boxes as was done in the previous report and do not incorporate boxes, graphs, etc into the narrative report.
- Add additional information including charts, graphs, etc as annexes to the report and clearly reference the annexes using footnotes or endnotes within the body of the narrative
- Number all sections and paragraphs as indicated below
- Format the entire document using the following font: 12point _ Times New Roman & do not use colours.

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

I.1. Provide the main objectives, outcomes, outputs of the programme/project

The longer term objective is to support fish production in Iraq by stimulating the resumption of fish farming in large and small scale enterprises through practical demonstrations of applicable fish farming techniques, supply at cost of fingerlings, and on-going support of an active, applied and adaptive research programme.

The immediate objective of this project is to:

- Build or restore the productive capacity to supply fish fingerlings to the commercial fish farming industry.
- Build and restore a series of fish farming enterprises in the most needed areas in Iraq.
- Demonstrate new lake-based fish farming methods, and initiate stocking of native carps in selected lakes.
- Improve local capacity to manage and develop the fishery/aquaculture sector.

Expected outputs are:

- a plan specifying all the required equipment and facilities for the proposed rehabilitation of the fish sector including established priorities for replacement



- equipment for rehabilitation specified.
- report and proposal submitted for funding continuation of research and extension for the fish industry in Iraq.
- fifteen sites selected and rehabilitated for fish farming in the most needy areas.
- established baseline information on Huweza Marsh
- pilot fish cage farms established at Huweza Marsh.
- five Iraqi scientists and 17 technicians trained in modern fish farming methods.
- extension materials developed to support the adoption of fish farming in Iraq.
- technicians, fish farmers, resource managers and local communities trained in improved fish farming methods, hatchery/nursery management, fish health and marketing. The direct beneficiaries are 1 500 small fish farmers (farms of 10 ha or less) and rural fishing communities.

Main activities:

- hold workshop in Amman (or in Basra if the security situation permits) to discuss and agree a detailed work plan (10 days)
- hold workshop to specify all equipment and restoration of buildings required to complete the project successfully (10 days)
- procure equipment, fish feed and brood stock
- restore capacity for producing fish fingerlings for distribution to farmers (6 months)
- review progress with international consultants and prepare and submit final report through FAO to potential sources of continued funding (3 months).
- identify sites for pilot studies in collaboration with local farmers (4 months)
- begin installation of small scale fish farms at the selected sites and take baseline measurements (4 months)
- carry out baseline studies on Huweza Marsh
- establish hatcheries and cage farms on Huweza Marsh (6 months)
- send scientists & technicians for study tours and training (30–45 days)
- consultant recruited to develop extension materials
- Wasit hatchery training workshops
- Pilot farms training workshops



I.2. 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

FAO will ensure project activities are integrated into the overall UN strategy for Iraq. This supports the Iraqi National Development Strategy while contributing to the Millennium Development Goals. The project is designed to achieve:

- enhanced and sustainable long-term food production and natural resource management;
- rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure;
- strengthened institutional development and capacity building;
- support to legislation, policy and strategy formulation;
- enhanced employment and income-generation;
- enhanced environmental restoration and conservation.

The project will have a direct contribution to the attainment of the MDG's in Iraq. The Goals that will be focused on are Goal 1 "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" through the increase in domestic fish production and associated job creation and promotion of income-generating activities; Goal 3 "Promote gender equality and empower women" through encouraging women to engage in the project activities.

The project will also indirectly contribute to other Goals (2, 4, 5 and 7) through its capacity building/training interventions and improvement of the food security situation.

I.3. Indicate the main implementing partners, their roles and responsibilities, and their interaction with the Agency

FAO will implement this project in collaboration with the MOA's Directorate of Fisheries. Linkage with Cluster C will be established as required to explore the governance and human development aspects of cooperation.

Universities, civil societies and NGOs will be involved where necessary.



II. Resources

Financial Resources:

II.1. Provide total funds provided, disbursed and committed

The total approved budget for this project, as specified in the signed Project Document, amounts to US\$ 7 312 177. The funds were received in June 2006. By the end of June 2007 total disbursement was US\$ 469,724 and commitment was US\$ 545,047.

II.2. Highlight any variation(s) in projected versus actual spending for the reporting period indicating the reason for such variation(s).

No such variations observed.

II.3. Explain programme/project expenditures within the 10 budget categories, including security expenditures.

Tabulated details are annexed (Annex 1).

II.4. Indicate other funding sources, if applicable.

Not applicable.

II.5. Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the UNDG ITF Steering Committee, if applicable

Not applicable.

II.6. Project expenditures for the 1 July to 31 December 2007 period.

The project expenditure is estimated at US\$ 4,948,000 for the period 1st July to 31st December 2007 with the following budget lines:

5011 – Salaries (professional): US\$ 210,000

5012 – Salaries (general service): US\$ 96,000

5013 – Consultants: US\$ 90,000

5014 – Contracts: US\$ 100,000

5020 – Locally contracted labour: US\$ 12,500

5021 – Travel: US\$ 45,000



5023 – Training: US\$ 434,500

5025 – Non-expendable procurement: US\$ 3,750,000

5027 – Technical support services: US\$ 10,000

5028 – General operating expenses: US\$ 100,000

5029 – Support cost: US\$ 100,000

Human Resources:

II.7. National Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)

According to the approved budget there are 14 operation staff members and 2 program staff members.

II.8. International Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)

According to the approved budget there are 3 operation staff members and 3 program staff members.

III. Methods of Operating

III.1. Summarize the implementation mechanisms primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the challenging operating context.

The project is operated in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, in particular in close collaboration with the General Board of Fish Resources Development (GBFRD).

III.2. Provide details on the procurement procedures utilized and explain variances in standard procedures.

Standard UN procedures are being adopted.



III.3. Provide details on the monitoring system(s) that are being used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing programme/project.

The project activities are monitored in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of agriculture, in particular in close collaboration with the General Board of Fish Resources Development (GBFRD). Also, the assistance of FAO office in Baghdad is obtained where necessary.

III.4. Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

Not applicable.

IV. Results

IV.1. Provide a summary of programme/project progress in relation to planned outcomes and outputs; explain any variance in achieved versus planned outputs during the six month reporting period.

After the 1st Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting held at the end of 2006, it was expected that project activities will be progressing in line with the project implementation plan. However, due to persisting constraints some major activities were delayed and further discussions were made at the 2nd Project Steering Committee meeting.

The second Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was held on 25th March 2007 in Amman, Jordan, with the participation of all stakeholders involved.

The PSC identified capacity building of General Board of Fish Resources Development (GBFRD), Iraq, as an important component as professional and technical staff of the country has been isolated from the international scientific community for a considerable period.

It was agreed that training of selected scientists and technicians to be commissioned to Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) who has vast experience on arranging such trainings on aquaculture and inland fisheries.

IV.2. 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.

Not relevant at this stage.



IV.3. Report on the key outputs achieved in the six month period including # and nature of the activities (inputs), % of completion and beneficiaries.

1. PSC held in Amman to discuss the constraints on project activities - 100% of planned.
2. Terms of reference (TOR) to commission NACA to undertake short-term training programs was developed and finalized. - 100% of planned.
3. Procurement in progress for equipment and material to set up two pilot and demonstration cage culture facilities at Kut and Hindia. - 20% of planned.
4. Procurement in progress for equipment and material to set up a complete recirculation system to ensure continuous fish seed supply. - 20% of planned.
5. Procurement is in progress for equipment and material to upgrade the laboratory facility at Wasit hatchery- 20% of planned.
6. Fifteen farming sites identified by GBFRD for rehabilitation are being prepared for operation. - 30% of planned.
7. Designs and Bill of Quantities for the construction of hatchery buildings and ponds to be located in Huweza, Kut and Hindia are being finalized. - 50% of planned.
8. Terms of reference (TOR) to prepare aquaculture extension material were finalized. - 100% of planned.
9. Letter of Agreement was signed between parties to carryout the baseline survey study on Huweza marsh. - 100% of planned.

IV.4. 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.

1. No tender offers received to purchase the required chemicals for GBFRD activities. Alternate arrangements are being made to procure chemicals.
2. Pending lay-out drawings from NACA to modify the existing hatchery at Wasit to Chinese style hatchery.
3. Delay in commencement of risk assessment prior to relocate fish into Iraq.
4. Security condition in Iraq hinders the proper on-site project management.
5. Commencement of Baseline survey in Huweza Marsh (to be conducted by the University of Bashra and GBFRD) was postponed to July 2007 due to a delay in signing the agreement between parties.



IV.5. List the key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.

The project is operated in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, in particular in close collaboration with the General Board of Fish Resources Development (GBFRD). Due to the prevailing security situation at present which does not allow for normal field visit of the international staff to the areas of programme implementation within Iraq, the management is undertaken from the FAO-Iraq Office relocated to Amman with remote-control mechanism. Contribution of GBFRD and MOA and also FAO office in Baghdad ensure smooth running of project activities.

IV.6. 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.

Not applicable at this stage.

V. Future Work Plan

V.1. Summarize the projected activities up to the end of June 2007.

1. To explore possibilities for purchasing required chemicals locally or to assign the manufacturer (either Sigma or BDH) to supply, and completion of procurement process.
2. Specifications will be obtained as soon as possible from NACA for suitable time and places for short-term training for 26 personnel, and training will be completed.
3. To commence negotiations immediately with NACA to make necessary arrangements for short-term training for GBFRD officials and technicians based on the TOR prepared by the PSC and to obtain the inputs on layout design of Chinese style hatchery.
4. To make immediate arrangements to commission NACA to carry out the required risk assessment to relocate brood fish into Iraq in a timely manner so that the new broodstock will be available for next breeding season in early 2008.
5. Arrangements have already been made to receive required signatures from all partners to commence the Huweza marsh survey in July/August. Study on the components of water quality monitoring and environmental conditions for fish breeding will be conducted in a split manner to collect data covering dry as well as rainy seasons to get a clear picture of the situation and to compensate the late commencement.



Annex 1

Expenditures within provided budget categories.

No:	category	Budget	disbursed	total committed
1	salaries professional	500,368	72,256	52,620
2	salaries general	150,632	79,980	107,153
3	consultants	100,000	24,301	38,219
4	contracts	250,000	24,312	78,190
5	locally contracted labour	216,800	57,721	57,721
6	travel	180,000	73,880	73,880
7	training	450,000	0	0
8	expendable procurement non-expendable	522,000	11,151	11,151
9	procurement	3,823,074	4,574	4,574
10	technical support services general operating	20,000	0	0
11	(+security)	620,936	88,385	88,385
12	support costs	478,367	27,036	27,036
13	general overheads	0	38	28
14	chargeback	0	6,090	6,090
	total	7,312,177	469,724	545,047