

NEWSLETTER



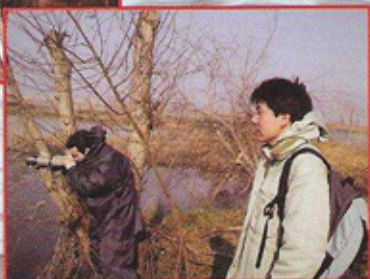
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استان گیلان

NIPPON KOEI
Challenging mind, Changing dynamics



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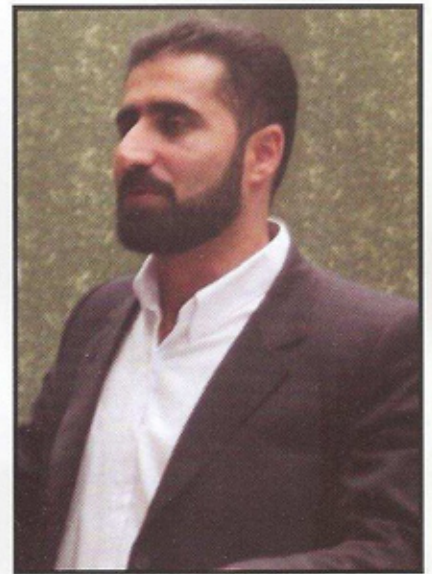
Message from the Director of the Project

Dr. Delavar Najafi, Deputy Head for Natural Environment and Biodiversity Division Central DOE

In this year, the slogan of the international wetlands conservation convention (Ramsar-1971) is "healthy wetlands, healthy people". We can see the meaning of this slogan in Anzali wetland and its local people in the wetland and its surrounding area. Anzali wetland has different uses, services and values for people and the area. Among those we can mention providing safety food and healthy environment. Unfortunately, the pollution and weakness of this valuable wetland damages the health of local residents and stakeholders directly and indirectly. It is the responsibility of decision makers and authorities to rehabilitate the wetland by attracting the public participation, promotion of awareness, and raising their responsibility.

I hope "Anzali Wetland Ecological Management Project" that is being carried out with JICA's technical assistance can act as a systematic bridge among different stakeholders, and it can act as facilitator for wetlands conservation and protection.

If national and provincial authorities and local residents support the plans and measures of "Anzali Wetland Ecological Management project", the results of the project will be more successful and it can also be an example of good practice for other national wetland areas.



Message from the Chief Advisor of the Project Mr. Tomoo Aoki

It is a great honor for the JICA Expert Team to work for the Anzali Wetland Ecological Management Project (AWEMP) jointly with DOE under the technical cooperation of JICA. The AWEMP is designed to enhance the DOE's capability of implementing adaptive



management of the Anzali Wetland in cooperation with various types of stakeholders.

We believe that this project will accelerate conservation of not only the Anzali Wetland as both nationally and internationally important wetland, but also the surrounding natural environment, especially in the watershed of the wetland, in Guilan Province as a part of precious natural environment in Iran.

This newsletter is aimed at making more information available to stakeholders of the AWEMP in this 2-year project. Your constructive comments and participation are very welcome and indispensable. We are looking forward to taking steps with counterparts toward our final goal "The Anzali Wetland Management System, for which DOE as a core constituent, practices adaptive management."

Message from the Manager of the Project Mr. Kamran Zolfinezhad General Director of Guilan DOE

There is no doubt that Anzali Wetland is one of the most important ecosystems in the Northern hemisphere and it is one of the most important wildlife area in our country. Wetlands are fragile ecosystems which can be easily degraded. According to ecological science, the



natural succession of wetlands ends up as forest. So, even if we could conserve wetlands against human activities, probably they will be changed by natural phenomena. Specialists think integrated ecological management is the only logical way to conserve wetlands. Anzali Wetland with its area of around 193Km² is not only being affected by natural phenomena, but also endangered by unnatural changes such as development activities in its watershed. Adaptive management is necessary for wetland conservation. The experience of developed countries such as Japan can be used for ecological management in our country, but it should be adapted to the Iranian system first. In this project, all stakeholders, relevant organizations, JICA Expert Team and Guilan DOE should come together in order to help the Anzali Wetland ecosystem through the establishment of a refined management system.

Outline of the Project



Background

The Anzali Wetland has an area of around 193 km² and is located on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea. It is partially registered (150 km²) as a **Ramsar site in June 1975** in accordance with the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. However, due to a range of influences related to human activity, **the wetland ecosystem has been degraded.**

Under the situation described above, the Government of Iran asked the Government of Japan to consider a **technical co-operation** for a comprehensive study to establish a plan for conservation of the Anzali Wetland. In response to the request, the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** implemented 'the Study on Integrated Management for Ecosystem Conservation of the Anzali Wetland' over a period of 26 months, between February, 2003 and March, 2005 (The Master Plan Study).

As a next step, the Government of Iran asked the Government of Japan to consider a technical co-operation for implementing the main parts of the six components proposed in the Master Plan. Based on this request, JICA dispatched a Preparatory Study Team in October, 2006. During the study, **JICA and the Government of Iran agreed with a framework of co-operation.** On 10th February, 2007, they signed and exchanged the Record of Discussion (R/D) on 'the Anzali Wetland Ecological Management Project'

Objectives

A **cross-sectoral framework**, for which the Department of the Environment (DOE) is a core constituent, is to be established as a foundation for comprehensive environmental management around the Anzali Wetland areas damaged by human activity. The project purpose is achieved in the **Project Design Matrix (PDM)** agreed in the R/D.

The project purpose is 'to establish a basic system



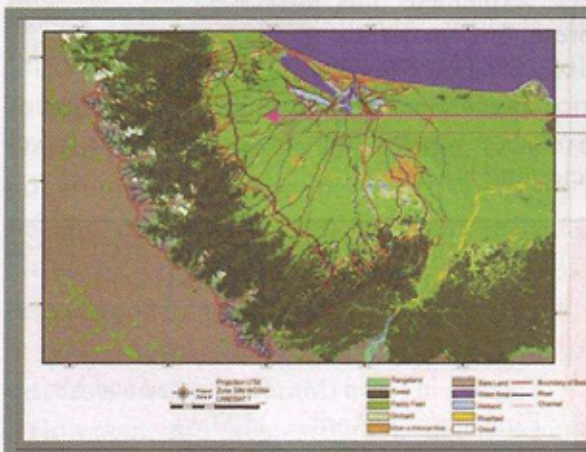
including institutional and technical aspects for the management of the Anzali Wetland, for which DOE is the core constituent'.

The Project establishes the Anzali Wetland Management Committee of which DOE is the main actor. The Committee aims at developing and arranging activities of all relevant organizations, and becomes the foundation of a cross-sectoral framework in which all relevant organizations are involved.

To achieve the overall goal of the Project, '**the Anzali Wetland management system, for which DOE is the core constituent, practices adaptive management**', the Project aims at establishing an institutional and technical system, in which DOE is the core actor, as the foundation for Anzali Wetland management. The **roles of the JICA Expert Team are to support the above mentioned activities and transfer technologies to direct stakeholders and concerned personnel.**

Project Area

The project area is the Anzali Wetland in Guilan Province, Iran





Main Events Related to the Project

1st Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting (JCC)

13th and 14th November 2007

1st Joint Coordinating Committee was held on 13th November 2007 at the Natural Environment and Biodiversity Division, DOE Tehran. As a result of discussion, JICA and DOE agreed their roles, responsibilities and inputs to the Project, and signed the minutes of the meeting. JCC meeting was also held on 14th in Rasht, and JCC members in Guilan discussed the commencement of the Project. (From left, Mr Zolfinejhad, Dr Najafi, Mr Aoki, and Mr Ashino)



1st Wetlands Specialists Meeting

28th November 2007



The Wetlands Specialists Meeting was held to provide advices to JCC.

Specialists involved in wetlands management in Iran such as Ramsar Regional Center and UNEP-GEF joined the Meeting.

World Wetlands Day 2008 in Anzali

2nd February 2008



We participated in the ceremony of the World Wetlands Day 2008. Mr Tanimoto, wetland conservation and monitoring expert of the Project made a presentation about the road construction passed through Ramsar site.

1st Ecotourism Workshop

4th February 2008

The Project organized the first ecotourism workshop on 4th of February, 2008. With the aim of sharing a concept of ecotourism. The project explained this by presenting materials and video about good practice of ecotourism in Japan. The main target of the workshop was the tourism sector such as travel agencies and hotels.



1st Project Workshop

28th November 2007

The 1st Project Workshop was held on the same day as the wetlands specialists meeting at the amphitheater of DOE Guilan. The purpose was to disseminate information on the project.



Socio-Economic Survey February to March 2008

Socio-economic survey is ongoing. The main objective is to collect information relevant to land use, resource use and zoning boundaries.



Coming Events

Inspection by Mr. Nagata, Second Secretary of Japan Embassy (3rd March – 4th March)
2nd JCC and Wetlands Specialists Meeting (5th March and 3rd March)
Training in Japan (Mr. Zolfinezhad and Mr. Farajpoor; 21st April – 11th May)

Outputs of the Project

Outputs of the project will be as follows:

1. A basic institutional structure for the integrated wetland management, for which DOE is the core organization, is established.
2. Monitoring procedures for the wetland management are established.
3. Zoning is determined and management strategies (rules and regulations) for each zone are drafted, considering socio-economic status of the Anzali area.
4. The basis for environmental education using the Environmental Education Centre of the Anzali Wetland is developed.
5. The basis for ecotourism is developed.

Anzali Wetland Management Committee



The future sustainable management and protection of the wetland will best be achieved by coordination and cooperation between the various stakeholders, including civil society. Dialogue will result in an integrated approach to management of the wetland, which will be to the benefit of all interested parties. A formal forum is required for such a coordinated approach, and that forum is referred to as the Anzali Wetland Management Committee (AWMC).

It is anticipated that the AWMC will be established in a 'step-by-step' process. In its initial preparatory stages, the AWMC will be established by the DOE and the Governorate of Guilan Province. At a later stage, other major government bodies and local authorities will be added. Finally, other relevant institutions, cities, NGOs and other civil society groups will be added. The objective is to create a body that is truly representative of the many and varied interests in the wetland.

However, this representative and consultative

body will also have an official advisory role, and ultimately, decision-making powers. There will therefore need to be regular meetings of the AWMC, and these meetings will need to discuss matters of substance, on which the AWMC must come to conclusions followed by actions. By this means, future decisions on development or conservation in and around the wetland will be taken in a collegiate manner – it will not be possible for a single body to take unilateral action which may damage to other interests.

As time goes by, there will be some important conflicting issues that the AWMC will have to discuss and decide upon. For example, the potential conflict between new road construction and wetland conservation. As the sea level continues to rise, the demand for improved coastal defenses may also lead to a conflict of interests between agriculture, which will want all land defended, and conservation, which may welcome extension of the wetland by 'managed retreat'.





Project Members

Iranian Side

Name	Field	Current Position in DOE
Dr.Delavar Najafi	Project Director/Institutional Development	Deputy Head for Natural Environment and Biodiversity Division, Central DOE
Dr.Kamran Zolfinezhad Khansari	Project Manager/ Institutional Development	General Director. DOE Guilan
Mr.Asan Bagherzadeh	Leader of Wetland Conservation / Monitoring	Senior wetland expert, DOE Guilan (on loan to GROW)
Mr.Abbas Ashouri	Wetland Conservation /Monitoring(1)	Birds expert, DOE Guilan
Mr.Reza Alaei	Wetland Conservation /Monitoring(2)	Expert, DOE Anzali Laboratory
Mr.Mohammadreza Borji	Leader of Zoning and Institutional Development	Manager, DOE Langeroud
Ms.Sepideh Keshtkar	Zoning/Institutional Development (1)	GIS expert, DOE Guilan
Mr.Abbas Hassanpoor	Zoning/Institutional Development (2)	GIS expert, DOE Guilan
Mr.Mahmoud Farajpoor	Leader of Environmental Education	Relation section expert, DOE Guilan
Mr.Hossein Dideban	Environmental Education (1)	Education expert, DOE Guilan
Mr.Siavash Homam	Environmental Education(2)	Public relation expert, DOE Guilan
Mr.Mansour Sarbazi	Leader of Ecotourism	Deputy of Natural Environment of Biodiversity Section, DOE Guilan
Mr.Balal Dayan	Ecotourism (1)	Deputy of Human Environment Section, DOE Guilan
Ms.Delaram Golmarvi	Ecotourism (2)/coordinator	Senior expert of natural resources and biodiversity, DOE Guilan

JICA Expert Team

Name	Field
Mr. Tomoo Aoki	Chief Advisor / Institutional Development (1)
Mr. Shin'ichiro Tanimoto	Wetland Conservation and Monitoring
Dr. Paul Driver	Zoning / Institutional Development (2)
Ms. Naoko Nagatomi	Environmental Education
Mr. Takashi Kaji	Ecotourism

Contact Address

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