



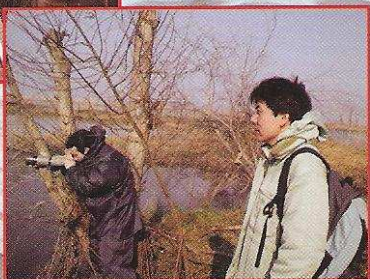
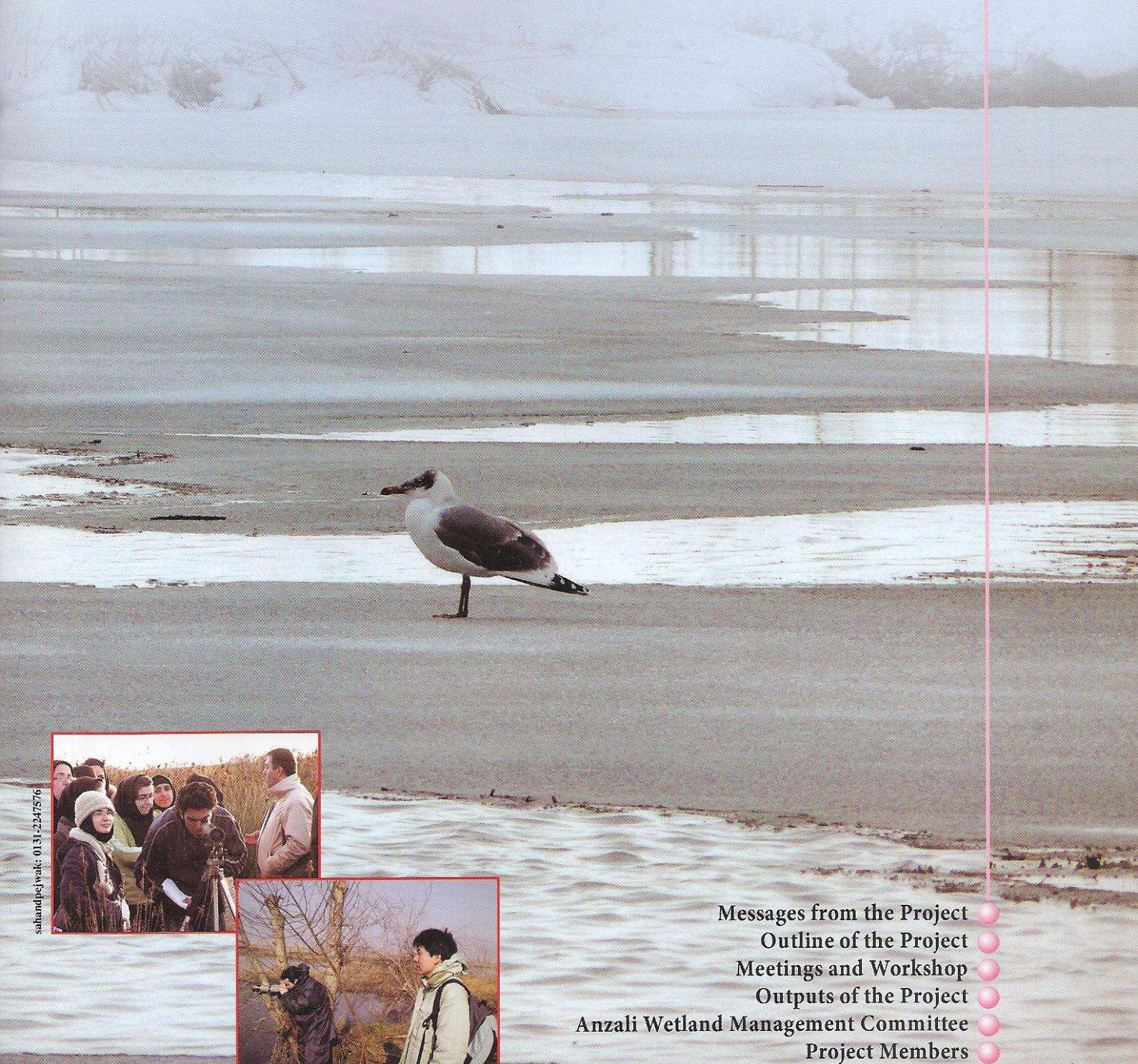
NEWSLETTER

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اداره کل حفاظت محیط زیست
استان گیلان

NIPPON KOEI
Challenging mind, Changing dynamics



sahand@pc.waik: 01.31.2247576

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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 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

