

WOW
WINGS OVER WETLANDS
The UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project

WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 1

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 June - 30 November 2007

Report Prepared by: Ibrahim Al-khader, Mohammad Ghaddaf & Omar Al-Saghier

Country	Republic of Yemen
Project Title	Site management planning in the Aden Wetlands
Project ref. number	G12
Name of Local Implementing Agency/NGO	BirdLife Middle East
Total amount of funds under this Agreement	US\$ 253,243
Expected project duration	June 2007- May 2010
Date of signature of the agreement	June 2 nd , 2007
Contact in Local Implementing Agency/NGO	Name: Ibrahim Al-Khader Title: Head of Middle East Division, BirdLife International e-mail:ibrahim.khader@birdlifemed.org

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary	3
1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period.....	3
1.3 Key issues & proposed solutions	4
2. Project Management	5
2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC).....	7
3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions.....	8
4. Funds Disbursement.....	11
4.1 Disbursement of GEF Funds.....	11
4.2 Status of co-financing	12
5. Performance Evaluation.....	13
5.1 Logical framework.....	13
Outcomes	13
5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool.....	17
5.3 Project Impact	17
6. Key Lessons Learned.....	17
7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period.....	18
7.1 Updated overall project workplan.....	18
7.2 Workplan for next six months.....	18
ANNEXES	20
Annex 1: Inventory of Outputs/Services.....	21

1. Executive Summary

The demonstration project in Aden started in June 2007, when the agreement was signed between the Yemen Society for the Protection of Wildlife (YSPW) and BirdLife Middle East Division. The team started consultation with stakeholders and agreed to adopt the same consultative structure successfully initiated under the UNDP project, with the addition of a few stakeholders that were not previously included. The team started setting up the steering committee and stakeholder committee meetings, and is taking first steps on other project activities set-out in the project workplan.

The project team started by collecting essential baseline information gained during the execution of the parallel UNDP project for the conservation of the Aden wetlands. Not all relevant documents have been obtained to date, and efforts are continuing to collect and revise all such data.

The management plan for the site is being forwarded to a specialist for revision. The WOW GEF project will build upon the findings and recommendations set out by the parallel UNDP project, and will focus on filling in gaps and consolidating the management plan to allow better adoption by stake holders and streamlining into relevant land-use policies at local level.

Despite the positive progress so far the project team found it difficult to revise the management plan prepared by the UNDP project, and is searching for a suitable consultant to revise this management plan and suggest key follow up measures. The next planned activities will be agreed upon with the project partner Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and steering committee.

BirdLife Middle East division has provided technical support to YSPW throughout the reporting period.

1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Yemen project team was recruited and consists of three staff with biology background based in Aden and supported by EPA Aden branch and the YSPW's staff in Sana'a, as well as BirdLife Middle East division.
2	Most of the baseline data was gathered from the prior and phasing out UNDP project
3	Mutual agreement was reached with project partners in Aden EPA on office set-up and operational arrangements. Including hosting the project unit in Aden.
4	Steering and stakeholders committees are in place as a result of the prior UNDP project, and their TOR and members are under revision to suit WOW project purposes.
5	Essential equipment was procured and is already in use by project team in Aden.

1.3 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	Revision of the management plan is proving a significant challenge to the local team.	Identify, and contract an expert to revise this plan	End of January	YSPW, Birdlife Middle East Division
2	Capacity for some activities is extremely limited in Yemen, which is proving extremely challenging to the project team. In particular the local project team is struggling with Management Planning on the ground, and the revision of the management plan (see point 1)	More training and backstopping	On going	BirdLife Middle East Division
3	Shortage of funding for on ground interventions and rehabilitation activities	Seek outside opportunities for funding to mobilize urgent intervention	ASAP	WOW, BirdLife Middle East Division

2. Project Management

CATEGORY	ISSUES Description of issues affecting project performance during the reporting period	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of decisions / actions to be taken	DEADLINE	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Recruitment & management of staff and consultants	<p>Project team members' full impact is currently limited by their recent appointment as they have not had time to develop a full grasp of project activities. This late appointment was the consequence of needing to spend longer time than ideal to identify good local staff. However, the team is now working with the EPA staff to work as one team addressing project challenges and ensure effective outputs.</p> <p>Difficulties in identifying a suitable consultant to review the management plan</p>	<p>Ask for the help of EPA Team in Aden to introduce the project team to the local government and plan for stakeholder committee meeting</p> <p>Seek advice from partners and BirdLife Middle East Division, WOW etc.</p>	<p>End of January</p> <p>January 2008</p>	<p>Project manager</p> <p>Project Manager</p>
Finance & administration	Financial adequacy to implement priority activities and handling of issues as they emerge	Review budget allocations to respond to expected emerging issues	End of December	YSPW
Logistics & operations	Delay in contacting high-level decision makers in Aden, most notably the governor, to give their	The EPA chairman in Aden was asked to help the team to meet the governor in Aden to give his	Mid of January	Project Manager and EPA Aden

	direction to the Ministry of Education to help the project team carry out project activities, especially in relation to education and awareness.	instruction to stakeholders belong to the Government to collaborate with project team.		director,
Reporting & communication				
Coordination with project partners	Slow coordination with project partners apart from EPA due to the late appointment of project team	Hold an immediate meeting early January to hold stakeholder committee meeting	By mid January	Project manager
External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons, etc.)	None			
Other	None			

2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

Date of last SC Meeting	No SC meeting yet held
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	13 th January 2008

QUESTION	ANSWER
This Report was reviewed and approved by the Project SC	No, consultation is underway to use SC from the closing UNDP project or re-select/add new members
The workplan & budget for next six months was reviewed & approved by the Project SC	NO, see above
The SC is meeting periodically and providing effective direction/inputs?	Yes, having known SC members for the UNDP project, it is believed that reselecting the same with an addition will have great help for project to achieve its goals.

Please provide updated list of SC Members (list the SC Chairperson first):

NB: Although discussions are far advanced, it is not appropriate to list the SC at this stage. However, the PSC will be finalized in advance of the next meeting in January 2008.

Name	Title	Email	Phone
	Chairperson		
Not yet selected			

3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

OUTCOMES & ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in Annex A of Memorandum of Agreement)	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS NA: Not scheduled for current reporting period IP: In progress (state % completed) C: Completed	PROGRESS Description of progress & achievements during the reporting period	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of problems encountered; issues that need to be addressed; decisions / actions to be taken	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Outcome 1 An integrated management plan for the Aden wetlands fully prepared			Already exist MP secured translated to English and ready to undergo revision and approval of Ramsar standard.	Revise the existing management plan and proceeds to strengthen and improve it recommendations.	
Activity: Raise awareness of the importance of the site, management plan	Mid 2009	50%	Education and training is in preparation awaiting high policy agreement	Ministry of Education required the approval of the Governor for conservation education and awareness programme in Schools.	YSPW
Activity: Establishment and running of a stakeholder coordination committee	End of January	10%	Contact is underway to obtained members approval and agreement of new members.	Letters to members to be drafted handed over by project manager followed by personal visit to each members' institution.	YSPW
Activity: Establish and populate a database	On going	10%	Bird list was obtained, some observations were filed.	Started to compile data and reports	
Activity: Compile a report on wetland management	On going	5%	Some reports were obtained from the former UNDP project	Lack of full inventory of relevant reports. Search is undergoing.	

planning			but many more are still to be collated.		
Outcome 2 : Increased awareness of the importance of wetland and waterbird					
Activity: Prepare and execute an outreach educational programme		10%	The team is ready to start this activity, and materials are prepared.	This required the approval of the Governor in order to allow team conduct activities in schools for student and teachers. Team are ready to meet the governor to secure his approval for schools' activities	
Activity: Raise awareness of wetland and waterbird conservation		0%	Strategy is made and outreach target groups identified	Equipments are purchased and team ready to start early Jnuary	
Outcome 3 The Aden Lagoons are integrated into national and local land use planning					
Activity: 1 Lobbying of government and non-governmental organizations		0%	This activity is already underway by UNDP project. WOW will continue from where that ends.	Need handing over from the UNDP project on status in order to continue from that end.	
Activity: Consultations with the World Bank Project and the Aden City authorities to integrate the Aden Wetlands management plan		50%	Consultations started through UNDP project, and this project is continuing this dialogue.	Upon revising the prepared management plan and add recommendations for adoption by the steering committee	

Outcome 4 Funds for the implementation of the management plan					
Activity: Fund raising strategy development for the implementation of the management plan		5%	One project concept for developing a local “site support group” among local community members was submitted to BirdLife International.	Project concept was sent to BirdLife MED. GEF- SGP will include Aden PA in their mandate early January.	
Activity: Elaboration of the financial implications of the management plan’s integration into the World Bank Funded Master plan for Aden City		0%			
Activity: Smooth project execution and evaluation of success		0%			

4. Funds Disbursement

4.1 Disbursement of GEF Funds

Report on the status of GEF Funds managed under this Agreement with UNOPS.

Total Budget approved for the provision of technical services: US\$ 253,243

Funds advanced by UNOPS to date: \$50,987
 Total expenditure this reporting period: \$45,986.14
 Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule): \$52,306
 Balance (if applicable): \$5,000.86

Date of the next request for funds: December 2007

Certified by: Ibrahim Al Khader (BirdLife International Middle East Division), Omar Al-Saghier (YSPW)

General Category of Expenditure	total budget	total expenditure to date	total budget balance	Last payment received	Expenditure in reporting period = in previous six months (including outstanding payments)	Balance at end of reporting period = of prior six months period (if any)
Personnel	100,100	12,905.84	87,194.16	16,683	12,905.84	3777.16
Equipment	26,520	27,946	(1,426)	15,000	27,946	(12,946)
Subcontracts	30,818	0	30,818.00	5,000	0	5000
Workshops and training	27,000	77.57	26,922.43	4,000	77.57	3,922.43
Travel	18,977	3,783.95	15,193.05	3,000	3,783.95	(783.95)
Executing agency support overheads	34,052	1200.46	32,852	5,675	1200.46	4,474.54
Monitoring, evaluation, auditing	6,000	0	6000	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	2,400	72.32	2,327.68	1,629	72.32	1,556.68

<i>Education programme/community meetings (2500)</i>				0		
<i>Co-ordination committee meetings (1500)</i>				0		
				0		
Contingency (3%)	7,376	0	7,376	0	0	0
Total	253,243	45,986.14	207,256.86	50,987	45,986.14	5,000.86

4.2 Status of co-financing

Please report on the status of funds received by other donors and partners as co-financing for this project using the following table.

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing (cash + in-kind)	Total received to date	Balance
Yemen Wildlife Society		25,000	25,000	4,475	20,525
Env. Protection Authority		60,000	60,000	10,250	49,750
UNDP project	100,000		100,000	100,000	0
Totals	100,000	85,000	185,000	114,725	70,275
Additional co-financing mobilized					
additional amount spent under parallel UNDP project (now phasing out)			20,000	20,000	
			totals	20,000	

* UNDP project started much earlier than GEF project. Hence it uses all its committed co-financing by the onset of the GEF project.

5. Performance Evaluation

5.1 Logical framework

The project logical framework undertook some initial review as part of the WOW M&E review workshop held in the Netherlands in October 2007. The revised LF table is provided below. This will be further revised by the project team and the description of the baseline situation and progress will be included in the next progress report.

Revised logical framework diagram for demonstration project – Yemen – Aden Wetlands

Intervention	Indicator of performance	Means of verification	Baseline June 2006	Status as of November 2007	Risks & assumptions
Development Objective: Conservation and sustainable use of the Aden Wetlands critical site for migratory waterbirds					
Immediate Objective: Approaches to resource use and planning in Aden wetlands and surrounding areas are revised and made more sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies and practices of sectoral agencies and stakeholders reflect recognition of the need to conserve the biodiversity values of the Aden wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of key priorities set out in management plan Work-plans and policies of ministries and government departments in Aden Working practices and guidelines of stakeholder organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP project site management plan written WB Aden City Management Plan written 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received for review Under review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts between different ministries, and between conservation and development, can be resolved Stakeholders are in agreement with the aims and objectives of the management plan and are sufficiently responsive to amend their working practices.
Outcomes					
1. An integrated management plan for the Aden wetlands finalised (including by-laws and regulations) and under implementation by the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management plan is finalised, printed and distributed in 250 copies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal adoption and initial steps for implementation of the management plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch review and consultations process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan is adopted by all (or vast majority of) stakeholders

<p>Yemeni government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipulations in the management plan are being reflected in the practices of relevant stakeholders • A Government decree is issued and implementation started for protecting Aden Wetlands, by end of Year 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work-plans and policies of ministries and government departments in Aden municipality • The official Gazetteer of the Government of Yemen (or equivalent for local government bye-laws) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MP wins the necessary support from within government for this lengthy process to be completed during the lifetime of the project
<p>2. Increased awareness of the importance of wetland and waterbird value and especially the Aden wetlands, in Yemen.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of the project at least 50% of government employees at Aden are able to give at least three reasons why the Aden wetlands are important • By the end of the project at least 30% of general public are able to give at least 2 reasons why it is important to conserve the Aden wetlands and their biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys of random samples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low levels of awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress scheduled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable materials (photographs) and skills (specialist wildlife TV photographer) are available
<p>3. The Aden Lagoons are integrated into the national biodiversity action plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Aden Wetlands are mentioned specifically in the NBAP • The wetland management plan is integrated into other land use/development plans for Aden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBAP (document) • Management Plan for Aden (document) 	<p>Low level of implementation Low level of awareness Other main sites of conservation value in the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review process to be launched early 2008. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bank funding of MP for Aden goes ahead

			area not addressed		
4. Funds for the implementation of the management plan raised by the end of the demonstration project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters of commitment from donors, or signed contracts/funding agreements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of contracts/letters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No funds yet committed to implementation UNDP project initiated the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review process to be launched Develop communication and fundraising strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donors are supportive of measures to conserve wetlands and biodiversity at Aden, and the political climate in Yemen continues to be favourable for international donor funding
5. Smooth project execution and evaluation of success.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of reference for all staff and the Project Advisory Committee completed within 3 months of the project starting Project staff in position by 3 months into the project. Regular periodic reports submitted to the Overall project coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of reference document Staff contracts Progress and financial reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TORs, contracts, reporting procedures agreed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff recruited, TORs agreed and reporting process is executed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable staff is recruited

Activities:

- 1.1 Raise awareness on the importance of the site, management plan and planning process amongst local and national stakeholders.
- 1.2 Establish and run a stakeholder coordination committee.
- 1.3 Establish and populate a database for the implementation of the management plan and provide a baseline of information for monitoring and evaluation.
- 1.4 Compile a report on wetland management planning with particular focus on the Middle Eastern Region
- 1.5 Finalize the management plan including detailed plans for the restoration of the Aden Marshes
- 1.6 Secure the support for the management Plan by the government.
- 1.7 Publish and disseminate the management plan.
- 2.1 Prepare and execute an outreach educational programme for local communities.
- 2.2 Raise awareness on wetland and waterbird conservation nationally using the Aden Lagoons site and management plan as a context.**
- 3.1 Lobbying of government and non-governmental organizations to include the Aden Lagoons site in local and national land use plans.
- 3.2 Consultations with the World Bank and Aden City authorities to integrate the Aden Lagoons management plan in the Aden City Master Plan.
- 4.1 Fund raising strategy development for the long-term implementation of the management plan.
- 4.2 Elaboration of the financial implications of the management plan's integration into the World Bank Aden City plan.
- 5.1 Creation of project team and steering committee.
- 5.2 Supervision and financial administration of implementation.
- 5.3 Reporting.

5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

QUESTION	ANSWER
Was the PAMETT performed for the Aden Wetlands protected area?	yes
Date of first PAMETT:	7 Nov 2007
PAMETT performed by:	Ali Adimi, Faisal at-Thalabi.

5.3 Project Impact

QUESTION	ANSWER
STAKEHOLDERS	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	6 (3 in Aden, 1 in Sana'a; 2 in BirdLife Middle East Division)
# of Government Staff involved in this project	4 (at EPA aden)
# of Volunteers involved in this project	1 (Mr. Volker Bluml, planned to come from Germany in early January for two weeks)
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	Nil
TARGET BENEFICIARIES	20 schools were identified.
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	Not yet
# of people involved in project workshops	Nil
# of people trained under this project	Nil
COMMUNICATION ISSUES	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	0
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	0
# of publications produced under this project	0
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	0

6. Key Lessons Learned

7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period

7.1 Updated overall project workplan

The overall project workplan is undergoing revision and update by the newly established project team, to reflect the actual start date and status of project activities.

Activities	6	12	18	24	32	36
1.1 Raise awareness of management plan						
1.2 Establish and run coordination committee						
1.3 Establish and populate database						
1.4 Compile report on wetland management planning						
1.5 Finalize and start implementation of management plan						
1.6 Secure support for the management plan by gov't						
1.7 Publish and disseminate the management plan						
2.1 Prepare and execute an outreach programme						
2.2 Raise awareness nationally						
3.1 Lobbying of government						
3.2 Consultations to integrate in Master Plan						
4.1 Fund raising strategy development						
4.2 Elaboration financial implications of WB plan						
5.1 Creation of project team and steering committee						
5.2 Supervision and financial administration of implementation						
5.3 Reporting						

7.2 Workplan for next six months

This workplan is tentative undergoing revision and update by the newly established project team, in consultation with key project stakeholders, to reflect the actual start date and status of project activities.

PLANNED ACTIVITY	Period					
	<insert dates of next reporting period>					
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
1.1 Raise awareness of management plan	Xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
1.2 Establish and run coordination committee	Xx					
1.3 Establish and populate database	Xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
1.4 Compile report on wetland management planning	Xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
1.5 Finalize and start implementation of management plan	Xx	xx				
1.6 Secure support for the management plan by gov't			xx	xx	xx	xx
1.7 Publish and disseminate the management plan						
2.1 Prepare and execute an outreach programme			xx	xx	xx	xx

2.2 Raise awareness nationally				XX	XX	XX
3.1 Lobbying of government						
3.2 Consultations to integrate in Master Plan						
4.1 Fund raising strategy development					XX	XX
4.2 Elaboration financial implications of WB plan						
5.1 Creation of project team and steering committee	Xx	xx				
5.2 Supervision and financial administration of implementation						
5.3 Reporting					XX	

ANNEXES

In each report, please include the following information in the annexes:

- ✓ List of workshops (title, date, location, # of participants) held in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of technical reports produced in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of media communication (TV/radio/press) released in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of publications produced in the period covered by this report
- ✓ Updated inventory of equipment purchased with project funds (please use the table provided – double-click on the file icon below, insert items, and then “save” the file)



inventory

Please send by email to the PCU:

- ✓ 1 photograph of the project team as a group, and passport size photo of project manager
- ✓ Photographs representing main aspects of project work, and illustrating project impact (i.e. of workshops, field research, education and awareness, ecotourism, volunteer groups. Please take pictures illustrating the impact of the project, i.e. of the situation “before”, “during” and “after” the project)
- ✓ general photographs illustrating the environment of the site
- ✓ Soft copy of technical reports produced by project
- ✓ Soft copy of workshop reports

Please keep records of (for later review/consultation by the PCU)

- ✓ Financial records (invoices, receipts) of all expenditure incurred with project funds
- ✓ Hard copy of press articles and publications produced by the project
- ✓ Copy of TV/radio programs

Annex 1: Inventory of Outputs/Services

a) Meetings

No	Meeting Type ⁴	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened by	Organized by	# of Participants	Report issued as doc no	Language	Dated
1.	EPA Aden	Introducing project team	EPA, Aden	17/10/07	Omar Al-Saghier	Mohd Ghaddaf	5	Organization structure and relation outlines	Arabic	No report
2.										
3.										

b) Printed Materials

No	Type ⁵	Title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Publisher	Symbol	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.	Nil						
2.							
3.							

⁴ Meeting types (Inter-governmental Meeting, Expert Group Meeting, Training Workshop/Seminar, Other)

⁵ Material types (Report to Inter-governmental Meeting, Technical Publication, Technical Report, Other)

c) Media coverage

No	Description	Date
1.	Nil	
2.		
3.		

d) Technical Cooperation with relevant parallel initiatives

No	Type ⁶	Purpose	Venue	Duration	For Grants and Fellowships		
					Beneficiaries	Countries/Nationalities	Cost (in US\$)
1.							
2.							

e) Other Outputs/Services (e.g. Networking, Query-response, Participation in meetings etc.)

No	Description	Date
1.	Team member , Safwan Al-Saghier Participated in IBA monitoring training, held in AlAzraq wetlands reserve in Jordan and attended BirdLife Middle East partnership meeting	
2.	Team Leader Dr. Mohammed Ghaddaf, Participated in Wetlands management training Held In Al-Azraq wetlands reserve in Jordan organized by the RSCN followed by visit to bird\Life International Middle East Division for consultation and get to know.	
3.		

⁶ Technical Cooperation Type (Grants and Fellowships, Advisory Services, Staff Mission, Others)