

Mainstreaming the Global Environment

March 2016



Agency	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	
Project Title	Mainstreaming the Global Environment	
Project Objective	Integrating environmental economics into national decision making systems through Environmental Assessments. This will ultimately contribute to achieving global environmental benefits.	
Thematic area	Environment	
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government agencies • Academia and technical associations 	
Project Budget		US\$ 3,200,000
Funding required		US\$ 2,000,000
Estimated Project Duration	Five years	
Relevance to SDGs	5, 15	

Project Description

Iran is a developing country and is experiencing moderate economic growth. A large number of development plans, programmes and projects are being implemented in Iran. These will inevitably have an environmental impact. In order to minimize the environmental consequences of this rapid development, and thus Iran’s impact on the global environment, it is necessary to integrate environmental economics into national decision-making systems.

Iran since 1991. As a result, a joint UNDP/ Department of Environment project titled “Sustainable Development Strategy and Strategic Environmental Assessment” (SEA), is being initiated in Iran. The main objective is to minimise the environmental consequences of the country’s policies, plans and programmes.

However, Even with the EIAs and SEAs in place, Iran still continues to struggle with many environmental challenges. These are mainly as a result of the development schemes at different Policy, Plan, Programme and Project levels.

Initial reviews show that although Iran has been using environmental assessment tools over the past two decades, there is still a need to promote effective management.

The main challenges that the environmental assessment system is facing in Iran could be classified into the following:

- Inadequate capacity to recognise actual global environmental impacts within the environmental assessment process. Therefore, the global environmental dimensions of development are not well accounted



Environmental impact does not stop at borders.

The implementation of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) has been mandatory in

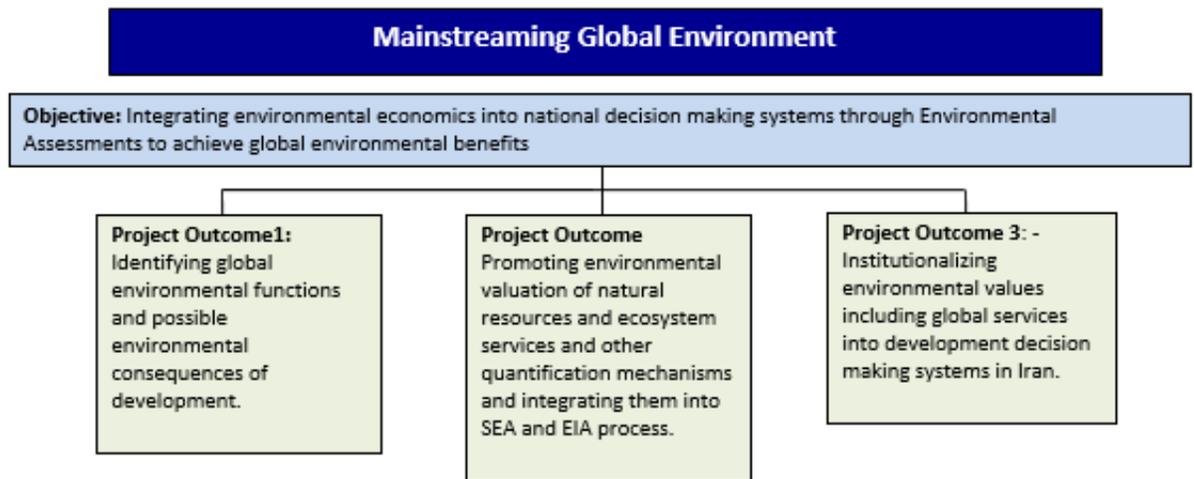
for in the current SEAs and EIAs processes.

- Although environmental impact assessments are mandatory in Iran, they are still not at a stage of general prevalence within the planning processes of the country. It is usually applied only at project level-towards the end of the development process – thereby decreasing the effectiveness of EIAs.
- Environmental impacts are usually not quantified in the environmental assessment processes whereas direct

development benefits are well quantified. This often creates an imbalance in the identification of assessable environmental consequences and direct development outcomes.

- Environmental valuation and economics is gradually developing in Iran but gaps still remain. Consequently, the financial value of environmental impacts cannot be reflected in the environmental assessment process.

Proposed Project Outcomes



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