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United Nations Development Programme

Country/Region/Global: UNDP-IRN

Initiation Plan

Project Title	:	To finalise a Project Document (ProDoc) for project "Strengthening Resilience of communities and enhancing Strategies for Managing Sand and Dust Storms in I.R.Iran"
Expected UNSDCF/CPD Outcome(s)	:	Outcome 3.2: By 2027, environmental conservation and integrated natural resource management are enhanced and the capacity to address climate change challenges is strengthened.
Expected CPD Output(s)	:	Output 3.2: Biodiversity conservation is reflected in the relevant sectoral directives and action plans of the Government. Output 4.1: Institutional capacity for mainstreaming disaster preparedness and mitigation into development planning is strengthened.
Initiation Plan Start/End Dates	:	03/12/2024 - 31/12/2025
Implementing Partner	:	Department of Environment (DOE)

Brief Description

Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) represent prevalent environmental hazards, particularly in semiarid and arid regions, caused by natural factors and human activities. The transboundary nature of SDS poses formidable challenges at both national and international levels due to their capacity to transcend national borders, adversely impacting multiple countries.

This project aims to address SDS challenges in pilot provinces through adaptive and mitigative measures, supporting the government in creating mechanisms to reduce the negative impacts of SDS, strengthening national institutional capacities, and improving early warning systems for better forecasting and mitigation measures for potential replication in neighbouring countries. This project will utilize innovative ecosystem-based approaches to enhance resilience in affected pilot sites. Additionally, it will promote the sharing of best practices in mitigation and adaptation, ensuring inclusive participation from relevant stakeholders.
To initiate the project, UNDP Iran has engaged with the Government of Iran to finalize a comprehensive Project Document (ProDoc).
The primary objectives of this initiation plan are to finalize the ProDoc and gather critical insights to inform the project's design for more effective implementation. The expected deliverables are:

- Finalization of the Project Document (ProDoc).
- Activities to refine project formulation, ensuring alignment with national development priorities.

This initiation phase focuses on laying a solid foundation for the project through collaborative planning and informed design, enabling its success in addressing SDS challenges effectively.

Total resources required	304,000
Total allocated resources:	188,000
• Regular- UNDP TRAC	74,000
• Other:	
○ Donor	
○ Government	114,000
Unfunded budget:	116,000
In-kind Contributions	_____

Programme Period: 1 January 2023- 31 December 2027

Quantum Project Number: 01003574

Quantum Output Number: 01003574

Ayshanie Labe

Agreed by UNDP: O7uResident Representative

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I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

Sand and dust storms (SDS) in Central and West Asia pose challenges for affected countries, requiring collaborative efforts, scientific knowledge, and transboundary risk assessments for effective responses. In Iran, SDS is exacerbated by national development issues, leading to hotspots, climate changes, socioeconomic disparities, ecosystem threats, livelihood degradation, and negative impacts on well-being. Contributing factors include deforestation, poor water management, and soil deterioration. The project to be designed, targets four Iranian border provinces, focusing on both external and internal SDS impacts, selected based on damage intensity, proximity, and transboundary effects.

The proposed project activities are designed to provide insights and lessons learned from previous national SDS initiatives in Iran. This approach aims to refine the formulation and design of future interventions, ensuring more effective implementation and adaptation measures to combat SDS. All of these activities envisaged under the current initiation plan has been identified based on close consultation with the National Secretariat for Policy Making and Coordination of SDS Management to gather insights for refining project design and ensuring the effectiveness of future SDS-related interventions in Iran.

The activities under the current initiation plan are critical and most urgent in nature and aim to ensure non interruptible service provision in combating SDS. The expected output of this initiation plan can be summarised as below:

- **Finalized Project Document (ProDoc):**

  The previously initiated discussions will be continued between UNDP Iran and the Government of Iran to address the remaining items to finalize a full pledged project document.

- **Undertake activities to gain better insights for formulating and designing the project and ensuring its alignment with development needs**
  During the phase of the ProDoc, UNDP will support SDS-related initiatives in Iran by conducting activities that provide insights for designing effective adaptation and mitigation measures. These efforts aim to inform and refine project formulation while ensuring alignment with national priorities. Key areas of focus include:

  - **Strengthening institutional and community capacities to combat SDS effectively:**
    This includes enhancing SDS management through innovative solutions such as improved monitoring, forecasting, and Early Warning Systems. Additionally, it involves developing a web-GIS platform and centralized GIS database, bolstering community preparedness, and conducting needs assessments for priority hotspots.
  - **Promoting innovative and knowledge-based approaches for SDS adaptation and mitigation:**
    Activities include leveraging cutting-edge tools and methodologies to address SDS challenges, enhancing monitoring and forecasting capabilities, and establishing robust data platforms to inform targeted interventions and community-level preparedness.

In this phase continuous dialogue with stakeholders, including the Government of Iran, UNDP, and DoE, will ensure the alignment of SDS-related objectives with national priorities and pave the way for a full-scale project launch.

II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

UNDP will implement this project through close collaboration with the “National Secretariat for Policy Making and Coordination of SDS Management” in the Department of Environment (DOE). DOE will ensure sound implementation of this initiation plan towards achieving its goals and objectives in line with the fundamental principles of national ownership and leadership and ensures full alignment of activities with

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the Government's development policies and priorities. UNDP and the National Secretariat will also work with other stakeholders to ensure achievement of intended results of this Initiation Plan.

Quality assurance of the outputs will be the responsibility of UNDP led by the UNDP Resident Representative and his/her designated staff, with support from a designated Programme Analyst.

The Steering Committee will be co-chaired by Department of Environment (DOE) and UNDP. The Steering Committee will also include other relevant sectoral ministries. Strategic oversight will be conducted by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will also contribute to the overall management of the project functioning as the to coordination mechanism and when needed, ensuring better design and implementation of the activities mentioned in this document.

III. MONITORING

The following monitoring mechanisms will be in place for this Initiation Plan implementation:

- UNDP and the National Secretariat will convene twice a year meetings with its counterparts – in the form of Technical Coordination Committee- to review the progress made and share the priorities for the quarter.
- Where need be, site visits will be conducted to ensure smooth implementation of project activities.
- A project document is to be prepared at the end of the Initiation Plan in full coordination with the National Secretariat using the standard UNDP format available in the Executive Snapshot.
- Steering committee will contribute to the overall management of the project and will ensure better design and implementation of the activities mentioned in this document

This initiation phase will be jointly monitored by the National Secretariat and UNDP through the following monitoring plan:

Monitoring Activity	**Purpose**	**Frequency**	**Expected Action**	**Partners (if joint) and Cost (if any)**
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the workplan below will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the initiation phase in achieving the agreed outputs.	In the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.	DoE and UNDP
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.	DoE and UNDP
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects	Once in the lifetime of the project	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform	DoE and UNDP

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	and partners and integrated back into the project.		management decisions.	
Project Report	A final Project Report will be prepared and presented to the meeting of counterparts at the end of the Initiation Phase.	At the end of project implementation		
Project Review	The project's coordination meetings will be held as and when needed to review and assess the performance of the initiation plan.	Twice a year	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed among the project governance and management mechanism and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.	DoE and UNDP

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IV. WORK PLAN

Period[1]: 25 November 2024 to 31 December 2025

EXPECTED OUTPUTS *And baseline, indicators including annual targets*	**PLANNED ACTIVITIES** *List activity results and associated actions*	**TIMEFRAME**					**PLANNED BUDGET**		
		Q4 (2024)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Output 1: Finalization of Project Document	1.1 Finalization of Project Document						GCS and UNDP	- Consultancy services - Workshops and meetings	3,000
Output 2: Institutional and community capacities for effectively combating SDS are enhanced through capacity development plan	2.1 Conduct a thorough capacity assessment within current institutional frameworks and community capacity to identify gaps and develop action plan for combating SDS						GCS	- Consultancy services - Workshops and meetings - -Travel	40,000
Output 3: Innovative and knowledge-based approaches for adaptation to and mitigation of SDS are promoted and implemented	3.1 Identification of pilot sites based on the clear criteria for the implementation of SDS mitigation and adaptation measures.						GCS	- Consultancy services - Workshops and meetings - Travel	26,000
	3.2 Implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures against SDS in pilot sites						GCS and UNDP	-Consultancy services	128,860
	3.3 Enhancing SDS Monitoring, Forecasting Early Warning Systems (EWS) based on the recent studies						GCS and UNDP	-Consultancy services - Equipment - Workshops	45,000

[1] Maximum 18 months

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS *And baseline, indicators including annual targets*	**PLANNED ACTIVITIES** *List activity results and associated actions*	**TIMEFRAME**					**PLANNED BUDGET**		
		Q4 (2024)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Project Management Unit	Project Coordination Unit in DoE						GCS and UNDP	- Individual contracts	30,000
	Miscellaneous and office cost						GCS and UNDP	-Contractual Services - Equipment	5,000
UNDP Total									105,930
Government Cost Sharing Total									171,930
Grant total									277,860
Direct Project Costs-UNDP									6,700
Direct Project Costs- Government									6,700
GMS									12,740
TOTAL									304,000

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