

Morocco WPM Watershed Protection and Management Task Order No. 814 under the BIOFOR IQC

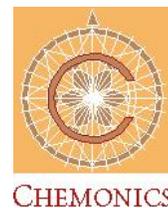
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2004 First Quarter Progress Report

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION..... 2

2. ACTIVITIES IN THE NAKHLA WATERSHED..... 3

3. ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUSS-MASSA RIVER BASIN..... 4

3.1. SOIL EROSION CONTROL..... 4

3.2. INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION PREVENTION 6

3.3. WASTE WATER TREATMENT AND REUSE..... 7

4. ACTIVITIES ANTICIPATED IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2004..... 8

4.1. SOUSS-MASSA RIVER BASIN 8

4.2. NAKHLA WATERSHED 8

5. MEETINGS AND EVENTS 9

6. CONSULTANTS MISSIONS 9

7. REPORTS AND DELIVERABLES..... 11

ANNEX A: BUDGET TABLES

ANNEX B: WPM PROJECT-TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

ANNEX C: TRAINING SHEETS

1. Introduction

This document presents the first quarter of 2004 progress report for the Morocco Watershed Protection and Management (WPM) Activity. This report covers the period from January 1st, 2004 to March 31st, 2004. The WPM activity has the following objectives:

- In the Nakhla watershed, the objective is to expand the successful Water Resources Sustainability (WRS) pilot project agroforestry and soil erosion control activities to the entire watershed, thereby reducing siltation of the Nakhla reservoir and prolonging its useful life.
- In the Souss-Massa river basin, the objective is to identify, design, and implement new watershed protection activities to control soil erosion, reduce the spread of desertification, and protect water quality.

These objectives are integrated in USAID's Strategic Objective 6 to improve water resources management in the Souss-Massa river basin. While activities related to the Nakhla watershed do not occur in the Souss-Massa region of Morocco, completing an integrated watershed management program in Nakhla will provide valuable lessons of integrated water management that can be applied and replicated in the Souss-Massa.

After this introductory section, Section 2 presents WPM activities undertaken in the Nakhla watershed during the first quarter of 2004, Section 3 presents activities in the Souss-Massa river basin, Section 4 shows activities anticipated in the next quarter, section 5 presents meetings and events attended by WPM staff in the first quarter of 2004, and Section 6 lists the consultants fielded during the reporting period. Annex A presents the budget tables and Annex B lists reports and deliverables.

2. Activities in the Nakhla watershed

In the first quarter of 2004, The DPA and CT staff did mark cropland area for plantation in zone 8. We planted 13,000 olive trees in this zone. These plantations ended the WPM plantation programs as mentioned in the work plan.

Given the success of the introduction of vines between olives trees on contour lines, the action was extended to other areas of the watershed. About 15,000 plants were planted.

We continued our support to the women association in Amtel. We provide feed for the rabbit and technical assistance through the CT and DPA staff. More efforts have been done to put together other women associations. This will be expanded more in the next quarter.

An association of olive and olive oil producers was created in the watershed. The olive oil extraction machine should be purchased by the Agence du Nord (APDN) as part of their contribution to the implementation of the project activities. The association will contribute by providing the land and its members will share the cost of construction. The bid document for the equipment will be prepared by the DPA and will be submitted to the APDN.

The technical assistance was provided to the beekeeping cooperatives, to women associations and to goat owners through the DPA, the CT and the project consultant. Farmers also benefited from this assistance by holding on site trainings regarding, chemical treatment and pruning, maintenance of water catchments around trees, stones strips and bands on contours lines

We were planning to give modern beehives to the third beekeeping association in this quarter. However, because of the reallocation of needed within line items in WPM budget, this action was postponed to third quarter. This allocation must have the CTO and the RCO approvals before it can be effective.

Collective ovens were also distributed in Zones 1, 2 and 3. These ovens (21) were bought by the APDN. Training sessions were held for the beneficiaries to demonstrate the best use and maintenance of these ovens.

3. Activities in the Souss-Massa River basin

3.1. Soil erosion control

In the first Quarter of 2004, we distributed 10,000 almonds trees and 9,000 olive trees to farmers from the watershed. These trees were planted around douars in private land. Most of the olive trees were planted in irrigated areas of the douars. Almond, in the other hand, were planted under rainfed conditions.

In the forest areas of the watershed, we planted 20 ha in Aoudjou with Prosopis (4,300 plants), Acacia (1,600 plants), Atriplex (5,700 plants) and Cactus (10,600 plants). A total of 22,000 plants were planted in this perimeter. Twelve thousands Argan trees were planted in the Amzaourou perimeter. In the Alemzi perimeter, 8,000 argan were planted.

We also planted 24,900 cactus plants in a perimeter close to Sinit village. Carob trees were also planted in the Ida Ouswar perimeter. A total of 25,000 carob trees were planted besides 20,000 cactus.

An ethno-botanic survey was also done to identify major aromatic and medicinal plants in the watershed.



We finished our identification of farmers who will benefit from the genetically improved male goat to be introduced in the area. These goats will not be imported but will be bought from others regions of Morocco with similar conditions. The identified farmers have signed a contract that states their responsibility towards the maintenance and the sharing of the male goat.

As for beekeeping, we delivered 150 modern beehives to two cooperatives, Chourfat and Igui N'Blal in Goungui and Ida Ouswar villages, respectively.

We continued our support to the argan extraction women cooperative by providing technical assistance through DREF and ODECO. The women in the board benefited from training sessions on accounting and a field visit was done to another women cooperative in Tiout, close to Taroudant.



We finished the second phase of the irrigation network rehabilitation in Goungui and Ida Ouswar and we started the rehabilitation of 160t underground reservoir for water harvesting to be used for irrigation of the plantation in the forest area.

In our approach to exchange experience between farmers from the two watersheds where we are working, we organized a field trip for 30 farmers from the Dou Tamma watershed to visit the nakhla watershed. It was a good opportunity for the farmers from both watersheds to meet again and to talk about their respective experience.



In order to get local NGO's involved in the watershed management, a workshop was held in the site. The objective of this workshop is to identify ways of involving others NGOs to be very active and to sustain the effort done by the WPM project in term of watershed management.



3.2. Industrial pollution prevention

During the first quarter of 2004, we worked with COPAG in the choice of the treatment both within the technical committee and outside it. We also sit in the selecting committee related to the company which will be build the treatment plant. COPAG received 20 company propositions.

We made sure the contact with FODEP is still on and their commitment to contribute in the funding of the COPAG's treatment plant is still valid.

During this quarter, we also start the Environmental Impact Assessment for COPAG activity. A team from ABH, MOE and lead by Dr. Messaho was put together to do this study. A first survey to collect baseline data was done by the team and meetings with technical committee were also held to explain the purpose and the importance of the EIA study.

3.3. Waste Water treatment and reuse

In the first quarter of 2004, we issued a request for price quotation related to the construction of the sewage network for two douars, Kharba and Breij, and of the WWTP. We received 5 price quotations. These quotations were looked at within the technical committee to choose one company to be in charge of the construction.

We also finalized the funding plan for the implementation of the feasibility study result regarding the wastewater treatment and reuse. An agreement was signed by the CRs of Sidi Bibi and Ait Amira, the Chtouka Ait Baha provincial Counsel, the associations and endorsed by the governor of the Chtouka Ait Baha Province for a total of 2,118,000 MAD. A fund request was also submitted by the associations to the Development Social Agency for 2,000,000 MAD. More funding sources will be explored to secure the total cost (Amount to be secured is around 900,000 MAD).

4. Activities anticipated in the second quarter of 2004.

4.1. Souss-Massa River Basin

In the second quarter of 2004, we will continue the implementation of the rehabilitation of the irrigation network. In terms of reforestation and rangeland plantation, we will finish the plantation in the forest area of the watershed. We will finish the construction of the women cooperative and we will start the purchase of equipment procedure. We will continue our assistance to the beekeeping associations. We will also introduce the genetically improved male goats in the watershed. More effort will be on the involvement of local NGO's in the project to ensure sustainability after WPM.

In Sidi Bibi, we will start the implementation of the feasibility study result by starting the construction of the sewage network. We will also do more dissemination work.

In the COPAG activity, we will still work with COPAG until they get the FODEP final commitment for fund and follow up the construction work if it starts. We will do dissemination whenever it is possible.

4.2. Nakhla watershed

We will help the third beekeeping cooperative start, implement more soil conservation practices in the watershed. We will also be doing income-generating activities through the women associations.

5. Meetings and events

Table 1 below shows the meetings and events attended by WPM staff in the first quarter of 2004.

Table 1 Key Meetings Attended in the first quarter 2004		
Meeting Description	Participants	Date
Planning EIA study for COPAG activities	WPM –Consultants- RBA	14/01/04
Discussion of DPA activities related to WPM	WPM-CTO Consultant-DPA-CT	15/01/04
Discussion of DREF activities related to WPM	WPM-CTO Consultant-DREF	15/01/04
Start up of EIA study	WPM-RBA-Consultant	20/01/04
Technical committee meeting on EIA study	COPAG Technical Committee	27/01/04
Method of Analysis of Bid document for COPAG treatment Plant	WPM-RBA-Inspection Envir-Iskane-COPAG	24/02/04
Analysis of bid documents	WPM-RBA-COPAG	02/03/04
Analysis of bid document regarding the WWTP	WPM-Sidi bibi technical Committee	10/03/04

6. Dissemination

In term of disseminating project approach and achievements, we participate at the international soil conference held in Marrakech between 09 and 11 Feb 2004. In this conference our participation was three folds: We help in the organization, we presented our results related to the soil and water conservation pilot sites in Nakhla and Dou Tamma watersheds, and we support the participation of three SEE staff to the conference.

Another presentation was made to the MEDCOASTLAND network project at their meeting held in Marrakech on 12-14 Feb 2004.

We elaborate posters for each project components. The Dou Tama Poster was presented by the DREF –SO at seminar held in Ouarzazate on Natural Resources Management.

We also finalized the elaboration of the replication manual that will be distributed to project partners.

7. Consultant missions

Nakhla activities

- **Rachid Bouabid and Mohamed Mounsi** were fielded in this first quarter of 2004 to implement and monitor the plantation of olive and vine on the contour lines, the beekeeping association and prepare the work regarding other activities that should be implemented with the DRTEF-RIF.

Souss-Massa activities

- **Rachid Bouabid and Mohamed Mounsi**, were fielded in this first quarter of 2004 to supervise almond and olive trees distribution, forest plantation, goat management and genetic improved male goats introduction in the watershed, follow up the work on the rehabilitation of the irrigation network, assist local NGO's to define their role in the watershed management after the WPM project, and technical assistance and creation of beekeeping associations.
- **Lahcen Kenny** was fielded to supervise the cactus plantation in the forest area of the watershed, assist local NGO's to identify local project on plant propagation for plantation in the watershed.
- **Driss Messaho** was fielded to work with COPAG on treatment option selection and water saving projects definition and to start the Environmental Impact Assessment study on the COPAG activity..
- **M'hammed Tayaa** was fielded to start to define and select soil conservation measures to be presented in handout for dissemination.

8. Reports and Deliverables

The table 2 below shows the reports prepared under the WPM activity in the first quarter of 2004.

Table 2		
Reports and Deliverables in the first quarter of 2004		
No.	Report Title	Date
1	Annual Progress Report - Year 2003	Feb. 2004