

Conserving Biodiversity in Yemen

Improve rural livelihoods

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Project name | Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Yemen |
| Commissioned by | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) |
| Partner | Environment Protection Authority (EPA) |
| Implementing Agency | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH |
| Provinces | Capital Sana'a and Socotra Island |
| Programme objective (short form) | The local population (women & men) benefits from sustainable management of natural resources and livelihood. |
| Duration | 04/2011 – 06/2018 |

Context

The pressure on natural resources like water, cultivable land and biodiversity in the Republic of Yemen is increasing due to widespread poverty and rapid population growth. These factors contribute to the degradation of livelihoods in rural areas. The biodiversity in Yemen is subject to high pressure of use, as a result of which natural resources are often exploited without regard to sustainability considerations. Conservation of nature and the environment does not have a long tradition in Yemen. Therefore the institutional framework is not well established. The capacities of Environment Protection Authority (EPA) are insufficient for the major faced challenges. Adequate mechanisms and tools on how conservation of biodiversity could effectively contribute to improve rural livelihoods are urgently needed.

Objective

The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) commissioned GIZ in March 2011 to support

strengthening the capacities of the relevant Yemeni institutes in biodiversity conservation and management. The aim of the program is to promote local economic development through sustainable use of natural resources and through conservation of biodiversity in Yemen. The topic is particularly relevant in view of the need to adapt rural production systems and the management of natural resources to climate change. Beneficiaries are the people in need living in or around protected areas, using the natural resources for their means of livelihood.

Approach

The program operates in three different areas on national and local level;

- supporting the development of institutional capacities within the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) at national level as well as for other partners at local level as well,
- implementing concrete measures on the Island of Socotra as a pilot area,
- improving internal and external communication between EPA and its branches, and with other involved authorities.

Results

Development of institutional capacities of partners

With the aim to strengthen the conservation capabilities of the national institutes in Yemen; the program supported building the technical and management capacities of EPA and its branches as well as other partner institutions at local levels. The support consists of offering official trainings, on the job trainings and



Photo left: Training and distribution of water purification filters in Socotra

Photo right: Training EPA technical staff in Utmah Protected Area



Malek A. Abdulaziz
Programme Manager

Photo left: Local farmers harvesting millet in Socotra

Photo right: Training locals in Sustainable use of aloe in Socotra

workshops leading to improve staff efficiency, technical and management skills. Accordingly, more than 500 national employees received and participated in internal and external trainings. The program has supported the conduction of a “Training Need Assessment” study for all EPA staff covering staff in EPA head-quarter and staff in 22 branches. Based on the outcome a four year’ training plan according to the needs was developed.

Implement concrete measure in Socotra Island

Rehabilitation of millet fields in Socotra

The Program has financially and technically supported the revival of 119 historical millet fields, with an average size of 90m², in twentyfive villages in Socotra. Up to date more than 300 families have directly benefited from the millet farming rehabilitation projects, other 600 families have indirectly benefited from this activity. Benefits include, shortterm income from Cash-for-Work activities as well as training during the rehabilitation of the traditional millet farming fields. 30 new millet fields have been established by individual initiatives motivated by the program outcomes. The supported fields produce more than 10 tons of millet a year, of 30 per cent to 40 per cent is sold.

Sustainable farming and conservation of aloe

The leaf juice of the aloe plant is traditionally extracted in a non-sustainable and processed in a way not obeying hygienic rules. In order to enable the local population for sustainably use of the plant, a two-phase training has been implemented. The first phase involved a theoretical training during which the participants were trained on conservation issues, the sustainable use of natural resources and hygiene. In the second phase a practical training on leaf harvesting and juice as well as gel extraction was conducted. As a result, targeted communities adopted the new sustainable practices and started to replant the aloe in a controlled way in wider areas on the island.

Dissemination of knowledge and experience

The program supported EPA to improve its internal and external communications to ensure a better dissemination of knowledge and experience to their branches and the involved authorities. To this regard, four workshops with more than 400 participants have been conducted during 2016 and 2017. Two internal workshops aimed to improve communication and coordination between EPA HQ and branches and the development of an “environmental fees collection mechanism” as part of the activation of relevant ministerial legislations. Likewise; two workshops have targeted relevant national authorities, more than 30 authorities participated in events. To further enhance promotion of environmental knowledge to the public, the program supported the design and establishment of a new web site for EPA.

- 150 staff of 10 national institutions improved work efficiency, as results of program support in improving working conditions.
- Established by GIZ-BioDiv the clean fund in Socotra is able to generate over YR 1,000,000 annual income.
- 2,860 families benefited from support of the programs on water supply in Socotra Island.
- 1,651 families and 14 schools have directly benefited from the distribution of water purifications filters in Socotra Island.
- 100 families benefited from improved date farming and production training and therefore, generate sustainable income.
- More than 120 participants have attended 3 workshops on gender awareness.
- 3 women were appointed in the position of director general in Socotra Governorate, as result of focus trainings on gender in Socotra.
- Women have participated actively in the GIZ supported activities in Socotra Island, half of the elected local committees were women out of 116 people.

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Yemen
P.O. Box 692
Sana’a, Republic of Yemen
Phone +49 (0)00 123 456 789
Fax +49 (0)00 123 456 789
malek.abdulaziz@giz.de
www.giz.de

As at March 2018

Design cmuk, Iris Christmann

Photo credits Abdullah Abo Alfutoh: page 1
Ghanem Al Kubari: page 2
Jamal Qaihan: page 1
Karim Nasher: page 2

Text Malek A. Abdulaziz

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)