



1. Project Data:		Date Posted : 04/28/2003	
PROJ ID: P005237		Appraisal	Actual
Project Name: Gulf Of Aqaba Env Action Plan (GAEAP)	Project Costs (US\$M)	3.5	3.6
Country: Jordan	Loan/Credit (US\$M)	2.7	2.7
Sector(s): Board: ENV - Central government administration (94%), Solid waste management (6%)	Cofinancing (US\$M)		
L/C Number:			
	Board Approval (FY)		96
Partners involved :	Closing Date	12/31/1999	06/30/2002
Prepared by :	Reviewed by :	Group Manager :	Group:
Robert C. Varley	George T. K. Pitman	Alain A. Barbu	OEDST
2. Project Objectives and Components			
a. Objectives			
<p>The overall objective was to implement a regional collaborative framework for sustainable management and protection of the Gulf of Aqaba, the primary environmental "hot spot" in the region, and to conserve its coral reef within the context of a multilateral GAEAP (the parties being the Red Sea littoral nations Jordan, Egypt and Israel, and the donors). The project was to develop and implement priority measures to halt and prevent further deterioration of the marine environment and the transboundary aquifers in the Aqaba Coastal Zone . Specific objectives of the Jordanian GAEAP were to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. develop collaborative mechanisms for the management and protection of the coastal zone and marine biodiversity; 2. develop and implement the legal framework and regulations to control transboundary pollution; 3. safeguard against oil pollution of aquifers and the marine environment; 4. establish and implement guidelines for the sustainable development of the coastal zone; 5. assess the effects of wastewater seepage on the transboundary groundwater table; 6. control transboundary solid waste impact; and 7. establish the Jordanian segment of the Red Sea Marine Park 			
b. Components			
<p>The project cost of \$3.6 million comprised: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of regulatory and institutional framework (58%); 2. Emergency assessment of Oil Pollution Hazards and Measures to Promote Waste Oil Recovery and Reuse (3%); 3. Safeguarding Transboundary Groundwater Resources through Monitoring and Assessment of Wastewater Seepage (3%); 4. Development and Implementation of a Jordanian Marine Park to Protect Coral Reefs (37%). 			
c. Comments on Project Cost, Financing and Dates			
<p>The Global Environment Fund (GEF), implemented jointly by World Bank, the United Nations Environment Program and the United Nations Development Program, financed this project with a grant of \$ 2.7 million. There was parallel financing of \$7.8 million from Japan-Oil, EU-Oil, EU-Marine Park, USAID-Marine Park and Government Industrial Pollution Control. The balance of \$2.2 million for the overall GAEAP was made up by the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The implementing agency, the Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) was transformed into the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) in 2001, and all project activities and outcomes were transferred. Government also contributed to related activities outside the project such as the creation of ASEZA and additional park infrastructure.</p>			
3. Achievement of Relevant Objectives:			
By component: -			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regulatory, institutional and regional collaboration achievements exceeded expectations and cost recovery 			

mechanisms were established. Two directorates were established in a Commission for Environmental Regulation and Enforcement Affairs (CEREA) with wide-ranging functions including standard setting, auditing, public awareness, coastal policing and marine park management. Key project elements have been fully incorporated in binding ASEZA legislation. Transboundary ship-based pollution is being actively managed with enforcement including the use of public security forces; fines have been issued for violations, and equipment purchased under the project is being used for monitoring. Industrial pollution prevention activity has been successfully completed. Cost recovery mechanisms put in place include marine park fees, issuance permits and fines for environmental damages. Revenue from fees and fines are earmarked to the Department of Environment, Regulation and Enforcement.

2. The Port Authority (PA) has upgraded its facilities to comply with new ASEZA laws and a system for waste oil recovery has been implemented. Legal as well as preventive measures for chemical and oil spills have been defined in an MOU between the PA and ASEZA. Strict laws are being enforced and two ships have been prosecuted to date.
3. Data collection and modelling exercises were completed as planned and within the project's limits. This has catalyzed larger scale efforts based on the operational capacity built by the project. Due to careful environmental management the state of the aquifers is not an issue.
4. The development and implementation of the marine park has been partially achieved. There is a legal basis and an Aqaba Marine Park Committee (including representation of diverse stakeholders.) The preservation of 8 kms of shoreline is legally assured and physically enforced by a team of rangers with two patrol boats. Zoning and infrastructure of marine park facilities have been completed and other preparations such as ranger training and hiring, approval of an updated management plan and production of brochures have been achieved.

4. Significant Outcomes/Impacts:

1. The project has developed Jordan's ability to enhance the sustainability of its coastal zone management operations.
2. Despite subsequent political circumstances between the three countries bordering the Gulf of Aqaba regional cooperation was exemplary. Progress in implementing the transboundary components was maintained and outcomes were beyond expectations.
3. The Environmental Department created within ARA was instrumental in influencing the organizational set-up and management systems of ASEZA.
4. Aqaba is the only region in Jordan where a legalized Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) system is enforced.
5. The project has catalyzed efforts at environmental cooperation by other donors.

5. Significant Shortcomings (including non-compliance with safeguard policies):

There were two major hiatuses caused by changes in ARA management and delays in decision making by the government.

6. Ratings:	ICR	OED Review	Reason for Disagreement /Comments
Outcome:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Institutional Dev.:	High	High	
Sustainability:	Highly Likely	Likely	Unstable regional political situation and consequent impact on tourism demand present some real risks.
Bank Performance:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Borrower Perf.:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Quality of ICR:		Satisfactory	

NOTE: ICR rating values flagged with '*' don't comply with OP/BP 13.55, but are listed for completeness.

7. Lessons of Broad Applicability:

1. Dialogue with polluters can bring about consensus and lead to solutions - project staff initiated a dialogue with three major producers of waste oil which led to a major oil refinery agreeing to accept and pay for recovered waste oil, thereby eliminating a source of pollution.
2. Crossing institutional borders through having different ministries and organizations (Health, Port Corporation, private sector, NGOs, police) participate in training and capacity building activities can enhance the overall effectiveness of implementation.
3. Well-designed cost-recovery mechanisms with strong enforcement help to ensure financial sustainability.
4. Integration of environmental data for both planning and monitoring demonstrate the important role of GIS applications in decision-making.

8. Assessment Recommended? ☐ Yes ☒ No

9. Comments on Quality of ICR:

Satisfactory.

