Overview of Status, Trends of and Threats to Biodiversity about Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran covers 164.8 million hectares situated where three climatic zones meet the Mediterranean, the arid West Asian and the temperate humid/semi-humid Caspian zone. The country is both a meeting point for many cultures as well as for many types of climate, land, water and biodiversity. Of the total land area, about 52.4% are rangelands; 8.6% are forests and 19.5% are deserts including bare salty lands. Being dominantly in an arid environmental zone, approximately 85% of Iran's agricultural lands are located in arid and semi-arid areas. Iran's location and geographic features thus cause the country to receive an annual rainfall of 240 mm, less than a third of world average precipitation. As a result, most rivers are seasonal and their flows depend heavily upon the amount of rainfall.

The country features three main climatic zones including Arid and semi-arid regions of the interior and far south, Mediterranean climate (mainly in the western Zagros mountains, the high plateau of Azerbaijan, and the Alborz mountains) and Humid and semi-humid regions (mainly in the Caspian, but also in west Azerbaijan and the southwest Zagros). In addition Iran's plateau with a vast desert located in the central areas, and two mountain ranges, Zagros in the West and Alborz in the north, comprise a significant portion of its territory. Iran's topography has given rise to four floristic zones, namely: Irano-Touranian arid and semi-arid deserts and Irano-Touranian arid and semi-arid mountains, Zagrosian, Hyrcanian, and Khalij-o-Omanian. Most of Iran's forest covers are located in Hyrcanian, Arasbaranian and Zagrosian zones.

The complex and varied climates, topography, geological formations and anthropological management of natural resources have led to a varied and unique biological diversity. In the Iranian ecosystems over 8,000 species of plants, 140 species of mammals, 293 species of birds, 219 species of reptiles, 112 species of fishes and 23 species of amphibians, have been recorded. This includes a large number of wild relatives of commercial species both plants and animals, confirming Iran's status as a centre of genetic biodiversity. Because of its large size and varied ecosystems, Iran is one of the most important countries in the Middle East and Western Asia for conservation of biological diversity. Habitat diversity in Iran allows for a wide range of animals to inhibit in Iran.
With regards to ecosystem diversity of marine and coastal zones in the North and South of the country, it consists of 25 ecological types and units, in which the most important are coral reefs, bays and small islands. Although much of Iran is extremely dry, the wetlands of Iran are globally significant; large populations of migratory birds winter at these wetlands or use them on their way to and from wintering areas in Africa or the Indian sub-continent. The country possesses a great diversity of wetland ecosystems, most of which can be grouped into six major systems. Also except for the interior deserts and the lowlands along the Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, half of Iran is composed of high mountains.

In order to conserve existing biodiversity of the country, representative samples of the nature of land have been selected and are being conserved under different categories such as Protected Areas, National Parks, Wildlife Refuges and National Natural Monuments.

Having this rich and great diversity in the country, several factors such as population growth, unsustainable and low performance utilization of basic resources and destructive human activities especially in rural settlements is threatening the biodiversity of the country. Extensive logging and clearing of forests for agriculture have nearly eliminated the forests ecoregions. The invasion of non-native plant species has also posed a serious threat to native plant communities. Overgrazing and shrub collection for fuel is markedly reducing plant biomass and altering plant communities. Diversion of water and increasingly frequent drought is drying wetlands and rivers with unknown effects on aquatic biodiversity. Hunting and trapping of waterbirds in wetlands of Iran and important bird areas is leading to the loss of population and some important endangered bird species.

It is very difficult to assess biodiversity trends in Iran since the national biodiversity indicators are not fully developed. However, what is obvious from reports, data and statistics in general biodiversity of Iran in different ecosystems and at different levels is degrading. Although the Iranian government has taken various measures to combat degradation and rehabilitate degraded natural resources but different factors such as prolonged and frequent drought cycles and maximized use of soil, water, and plant cover has aggravated the biodiversity decline in Iran. For example the country's population is more than 73 million with an annual average growth rate of about 1.3 % per annum. More than 21 million of the population live in rural areas.
**Current Status of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans**

The development of biodiversity strategies and action plan was a result of an enabling activity project known as The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which started in December 1998 in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and on the basis of the obligation assumed by the Islamic Republic of Iran upon becoming a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan** has significantly influenced the development and implementation of the country’s biodiversity policy framework. This framework, in turn, has led to the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy, preparation of the biodiversity National Action Plan for implementation of the national biodiversity strategies, and the preparation and delivery of many National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Iran's four national biodiversity strategies include Promotion of public awareness and participation; Formation of biodiversity information systems; Sustainable use of biodiversity resources; and Integrated management of biodiversity. In addition the first draft of Action Plan to make the national strategies practicable were prepared in 1999, after declaration of National Strategies, and in a participatory manner involving stakeholders from governmental, non-governmental and private sectors.

It is very clear that **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan** has redirected the environmental agenda of the Country by influencing the conservation agenda and proposing new tasks for several governmental institutions, mainly the Department of the Environment (DoE) and Forest, Rangelands and Watershed Organization (FRWO), two lead agencies in Iran.

Also Iran has benefited from the **Global Environmental Facility** funding opportunities for developing National Strategies, National Action Plans and Communications to **Multilateral Environmental Agreements** (in particular Rio Conventions). It is appears clear that several national conservation agendas have been initiated by **Global Environmental Facility** supported projects. The best example is the success of the **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan**, which have incorporated biodiversity conservation efforts into the national level planning.
In the process of **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan** project there are several lessons learned. Following are few examples:

1. **Conservation solutions need to involve stakeholders with different priorities and needs.**
2. **More efforts shall be put into the promotion of biodiversity conservation.**
3. **The Department of the Environment cannot do any parturient activities on addressing and promoting the strategic significance of biodiversity to the public separately from the other related organizations and stakeholders such as Education and Training Ministry.**
4. **Iran has entered a crucial stage for biodiversity conservation, but the biodiversity monitoring work lags far behind conservation needs.**

### Mainstreaming and Integration of Biodiversity Consideration

Article 50 of the Constitution is the most important accredited existing legal statement concerning protection of the environment and preventing its pollution and degradation. It states that all legal and real persons have a duty to protect the environment. The Constitution prohibits all activities, economic or otherwise, that may result in irreparable damage to the environment. Over the past 15 years, the Government has increasingly striven to operationalize these objectives, by paying increasing attention to environmental issues and to biodiversity conservation.

Since conversion of the Hunting Center (established in 1956) to an organization and then to the Department of the Environment in 1974, several regulations and laws have enacted in sectors to directly ensure environmental conservation. The article 58 of the 4th National Development Plan urges the government to implement the national action plan for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources at the national level and it makes appropriate coordinations among relevant organizations.

Although the importance of biodiversity conservation has been established in environment and development policy of Iran for some time, it is only in recent years that sectoral policy and
programmes have started to mention the importance of nature and/or biodiversity conservation. Now, in almost all relevant ministries such as agriculture, energy, oil, etc. there is an environment office to monitor environmental matters. For example:

- The Ministry of Jihad-e- Agriculture has also initiated a plan to establishing a Decision Support System for desertification control through floodwater spreading in Iran.
- In the water sector, the mandate of the Water Affairs Department of the Ministry of Energy emphasizes the importance of protecting the hydrological cycle and conserving catchments areas. Recently there has been a revision in administrative and management structures for improvement of water resources management;
- In the tourism sector, Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, is obliged to take steps to co-ordinate the sustainable exploitation of the country's natural heritages, and to work closely with the Department of Environment.
- In the training and research sector, the Environment and Sustainable Development Research Center (ESDRC), has been established affiliated to the Department of the Environment, acting as technical and scientific back stopping center to the conservation activities at the national level.

**Biodiversity Related Conventions and Agreements**

Since the establishment of the Department of the Environment in 1974, several regulations and laws have enacted, directly, in sectors to ensure biodiversity conservation such as:

- The Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA), 1967
- The Executive Rules of the EPEA, 1975
- Coastal Properties Act, 1975
- Fair Water Distribution Law, 1983
- The Clean Water Act, 1984
- Law for the Protection of Natural Resources and Forest Reserves, 1992
- The Amendment to the Clean Water Act, 1994
- Regulations on EIA and Amendments, 1994, 1997, 1999
- Law for the Protection and Utilization of Aquatic Resources, 1995
Biodiversity Related Conventions and Agreements

Iran is a committed and active member of several international agreements, which in part reflect its moral, ethical and scientific obligations towards the protection of its national biological resources and the global biodiversity. Due to this commitment and immense biodiversity it has unsurpassed opportunities for long-term conservation plans. Currently Iran has bilateral environmental cooperation with the governments or research institutions of many countries. Among the ratified biodiversity related multilateral agreements, which Iran is a party are:

1 - Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty, which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention on Wetlands came into force for the Islamic Republic of Iran on 21 December 1975. Iran presently has 22 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, with a surface area of about 1,500,000 hectares. The two most important recent activity conducted under this convention in Iran include removal of Alagol, Almagol and Ajigol sites from the Montreux Record and extension of Kiashahr Ramsar site to total area of Boujagh National Park. Regional Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in West and Central Asia has been established in Ramsar city, in Iran. This centre works under the supervision and guidance of the
Ramsar convention and it was approved to be established at the 8th Conference of Parties to Ramsar Convention held in Valencia. The overall goal of the centre is to enhance the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the region through training, research, advocacy and public awareness programmes. To date the centre has conducted many regional workshops and meetings. More information on the centre is available at: http://www.rrc-cwa.org/en/index.php

2- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Iran signed the convention in 1992 and became a party to CBD in 1996. With the current report so far, Iran has submitted four national reports on the implementation of the Convention. Iran has been actively participating in CBD meetings and events. In 2000, Iran also signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, leading to its ratification in 2004.

The Regional Capacity Development Workshop for Central Asia on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the Mainstreaming of Biodiversity co-hosted by the Department of the Environment and the Ramsar Regional Center for Central and Western Asia, took place in Ramsar City of Iran from 9 to 12 March 2009. It was organized by the CBD Secretariat, and brought together more than 20 participants including representatives from following member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO): Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The overall purpose of the Workshop was to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, reviewing and updating NBSAPs and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, through exchange of experiences; and to provide an opportunity for countries to identify ways and means for overcoming challenges in the implementation of NBSAPs. The field trip of the workshop also provided valuable insights in the link between biodiversity conservation and development.

CBD Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC, UNU, IUCN and IAU gave numerous presentations on introducing tools for the preparation of the fourth national reports, progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target, the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention and the Conservation Commons, national reports feed into the 3rd Global Biodiversity Outlook, integrated planning of protected areas and economic valuation of ecosystem services. Additional information about the Workshop can be found at: http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops/central-asia.shtml
3- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The objective of the UNCCD is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification. The UNCCD is working to develop long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously on improved productivity of land, and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level.

Iran is one of the first countries that signed the Convention to combat desertification and completed the ratification processes in 1996. In line with its commitments, Iran submitted its First National Report on the Implementation of the Convention in February 2000. The Second and the Third National Reports were also submitted to the UNCCD secretariat in May 2002 and May 2006, respectively. National strategies and actions have been defined for this convention and there is a permanent secretariat in Iran. Also, national committee on desertification has been formed including authorities from related organizations.

4- The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

The CMS aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of UNEP, concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. The CMS was also called the Bonn Convention, sometime ago.

Iran acceded as 106th Party to the Convention in February 2008. Migratory species represent an important component of Iran’s biodiversity. Altogether, 24 Appendix I and 136 Appendix II CMS listed migratory species live in Iran, among them species like the Blue Whale, Humpback Whale, Indo-Pacific Hump-backed Dolphin, Whale Shark, Dugong as well as 5 turtle species and such majestic animals as the Imperial Eagle and the White-tailed Eagle.

Iran has joined, a Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane (MoU) in 1993 and other MoUs for Slender-billed Curlew and Marine Turtles, both, under the auspices of CMS to help further protect and conserve these important endangered species.

5- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
CITES is an international agreement between governments, which came into force in 1975. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

The convention was ratified by Iran in August 1976 and according to the provisions of the Convention, 3 months later, in November 1976, it entered into force for the country. The official custom of Iran follows this Convention very strictly and all the imported and exported species are controlled according to the CITES appendices.

The recent activities conducted under CITES in Iran include:
1) Participation in the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010,
2) Inclusion of salamandrid species Neurergus kiaseri in Appendix I of the convention
3) Membership in advisory Committee of the convention secretariat to review Appendix II,
4) Coordination with customs duties throughout the country to control the import and export of plants and animals.

6- The World Heritage Convention (WHC)

The World Heritage Convention (WHC) is an international agreement that was adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1972. It is based on the premise that certain places on Earth are of outstanding universal value and should therefore form part of the common heritage of mankind. The Convention seeks to identify and safeguard our world's most outstanding natural and cultural heritage.


Iran is also a party to the following regional and international biodiversity related MEAs and initiatives:

7- The Regional Convention for Co-operation to Protect and Improve Coastal Zones and the Marine Environment (ROPME)
ROPME undertakes promotion of environmental policy, research and the implementation of joint projects in the Persian Gulf area. Pollution prevention, emergency response, biodiversity conservation and improved coastal zone management are major policies pursued. This convention which was adopted by the Persian Gulf Littoral States in April 1978, was approved by the Iranian parliament paving the way for Iran to become an active party in protecting the marine environment in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. Recent activities and achievements under this convention in Iran include:

- Organizing oceanography tours throughout Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman (ROPME Marine Area),
- Implementation of some survey projects on Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman
- The confirmation by Ministers' Council of Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman Area (Kuwait Convention) to establish the Marine Biodiversity Regional Center in Iran.

8- UNEP Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)

The Iranian government is happy to announce that during the 7th meeting of the littoral states of the Caspian Sea, held in July 2002, Tehran, the text of UNEP Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea was finalized.

The Caspian Environment Programme (CEP) is a regional umbrella programme developed for and by the five Caspian Littoral States, Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan, aiming to halt the deterioration of environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea and to promote sustainable development in the area. The need for joint protection and management of the Caspian environment and its resources has been an ongoing issue for the Caspian States. During the Ramsar meeting held in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in May 1998, the CEP was officially launched. Iran signed an agreement with the Caspian Sea littoral states (CEP) to combat pollution in the Caspian Sea in 1992. Some of the recent achievements under CEP include:

- Compiling the drafts of four extension protocols to the framework of the convention
- Implementing organizational obligations in the plan of coastal areas of the Caspian Sea

9- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
The World Conservation Union brings together states, governments, and a diverse range of non-governmental organizations in a unique world partnership about 1300 members across nearly 150 countries. Its mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. Through its six Commissions, IUCN draws together over 10,000 expert volunteers.

From Iran one government organization which is the Department of Environment and four NGOs (Kanoon-Bazneshastegan-e Sazman-e Mohite Ziest, Moaseseyeh Tahghigh Va Tosee Paydare Sarzamin, Centre for Sustainable Development and Mountain Environment Protection Society) are a member of IUCN. As a member state to IUCN, A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in November 2006 between IUCN WESCANA Regional Office and Department of Environment to hold The 6th Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) in Tehran in May 2007. This forum provided a platform for all the experts, NGOs and governments in the region to participate and exchange knowledge to provide a secure living for a just and healthy environment in line with IUCN's vision.

10-International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources (ITPRFRA)

The objectives of this Treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. These resources are essential for achieving sustainable agriculture and food security, while no country is self-sufficient in genetic resources. Therefore, the newly established Treaty can play an instrumental role in the fight against hunger and poverty and for the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7.

Iran has played a very constructive role for achieving such an important international agreement through:

- Being a bureau member (vice-chair) of the Contact Group for Negotiating the Treaty under FAO
- Being the only developing country hosting the Contact Group Meeting (in June 2000, Tehran)
- Co-Chairing the very delicate negotiations on ANNEX 1 Crops
- Chairing the Panel of Experts for developing the list of food crops
- Chairing the Panel of Experts for developing the list of forage crops
• Chairing the Near East Group since 2000 in the Treaty negotiation meetings
• Chairing the Third Party Beneficiary (TPB) Committee
• Co-chairing the Ad hoc Advisory Working Group on Compliance and Issues of Non-compliance
• A bureau member (vice-chair) of the Governing Body of the Treat.

**11-Bioversity International**

Bioversity International is the world's leading organization dedicated to researching on agricultural biodiversity to improve people's lives. This Institute in partnership with other CGIAR centres, national agricultural research systems and centres of excellence seeks sustainable solutions to meet three important challenges:

- Malnutrition and hidden hunger of missing micronutrients
- Sustainability and resilience in food supplies and farming systems
- Conservation and Use of agricultural biodiversity, ensuring that these resources remain accessible to all

Iran has, particularly, collaborated with Bioversity International and the CGIAR centres in the region in enhancing the capacity of national programs on genetic resources in the countries of the CWANA and Africa region through organizing technical workshops and joint training programs. The rationale for promoting synergies and collaboration among the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is to avoid duplication of efforts, to strengthen joint efforts and to use available resources more efficiently by taking into consideration the interlinkages between the issues that they address under the common objective of sustainable development as defined by the Rio Earth Summit and its Agenda 21.

The introduction of a new reporting and monitoring system is an important element and is in line with the current paradigm shift of the Rio Conventions towards indicator based reporting and results based management. In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the high reporting burden, which is even increasing, because each convention provides guidance on content and format of their new indicator based reports independent from the other Conventions creating an "artificial" institutional fragmentation at the national level along individual
Recognizing the benefits of synergetic implementation of the three Rio conventions, including integrated reporting, an informal collaboration committee has been established between DoE and MAJ to exploring and enhancing synergies, with due regard to their respective mandates, in the elaboration and implementation of strategies and action plans under the respective conventions.

**Progress Towards the 2010 Target and Implementation of the Strategic Plan**

Iran has not yet completed the development of its national biodiversity targets and indicators. However, the indicators are under negotiation by the biodiversity subcommittee of the NCSD (National Committee for Sustainable Development).

Iran has made some progress towards the 2010 biodiversity targets. From 2008 until the end of August 2010 the coverage of the protected areas has increased by 0.1%. At present, approximately 7.8% of the national territory is under the national protection systems and included in protected areas. These areas have been selected on the basis of being representatives of the world's ecological regions. Conservation of threatened species and their habitats are one of the main concerns of the country.

Iran has conducted research activities, enhanced legal protection of the habitats, increased public awareness and started captive breeding. Also national targets relating to the endangered species; "supporting in situ and ex situ biodiversity emphasizing on endangered plant and animal species" and "conservation of endangered species", have been included in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Also Iran is well known as one of the world's major centres of origin and diversity for many important crop plants. Activities related to conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources in Iran started nearly 70 years ago, mostly with cereals. A specific unit for ex-situ conservation of plant genetic resources was established in 1977, which was then elevated to National Plant Gene Bank of Iran (NPGBI) in 1983.

However unsustainable consumption continues to be a major cause of biodiversity loss in Iran. There are some laws and regulations, which controls unsustainable consumption of biological
resources and their impacts but still not enough. The government of Iran has taken steps to encourage sustainable production and consumption at all levels to keep the use of natural resources within the ecological limits.

Polluting and contamination of the natural habitats are severely prohibited and subject to high penalties. The sewage of the factories is periodically checked and has to meet the standards. However, still about 60-70% of industrial sewage is discharged into the environment. Also, the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is very high in the agriculture. Only in 2% of the national agricultural lands crops are produced organically. The highest water pollution in the country comes from agricultural activities.

In recent years, Iran has allocated good funds for national and international biodiversity conservation programs and projects. Although these funds have not been enough to address all the critical needs of biodiversity conservation but it has attracted the required attention of high level decision makers and other groups of the public to the issue of biodiversity conservation. Financial and technical international supports have and can help Iran in better implementation of biodiversity projects.

**Strategic Plan**

Iran is currently in the process of completing its legal and administrative framework to fully implement its obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Iran developed its National Biosafety Framework under the UNEP-GEF capacity building project. The main reason for Iran to develop its National Biosafety Framework is to put in place an enabling mechanism for making decisions on the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs. Also, Iran has developed a National Biotechnology Document which includes the national biotechnology strategy-planning national short, mid and long-term action plans in this field. Iran has a national council and under this council, National committees and working groups have been established for biotechnology in different sectors.

In addition, Iran's National Institute of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (Ministry of Science, Research and Education) succeeded to establish a National Biosafety Clearing House as a result of "UNEP-GEF (United Nations Environmental Programme- Global Environmental
Facility) capacity Building Project for Effective Participation in Biosafety Clearing House™ in year 2009.

Conclusions

Iran is committed to the objectives of the Convention by implementing its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Some of these objectives have been achieved but most of are still actively underway. Conservation measures on biodiversity and ecosystems in some sectors have made progress but there are still many challenges ahead. In general, it appears that the rate of decline in many species and ecosystems has increased during the past few years.

Considering the progress already achieved towards biodiversity protection and sustainable use, priority actions for the future include:

1. Revise and update the first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Iran for incorporating biodiversity indicators, targets and specific strategies for implementing priority elements of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

2. Complete national biodiversity indicators and develop a systematic approach for their measurement;

3. Improve public awareness on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources;

4. Field studies on selected species and ecosystems for better understanding of biodiversity status and trends, and implementation of conservation and rehabilitation measures for threatened endemic species;

5. Implement and support further conservation projects encouraging a community-based approach to natural resource management, sustainable use and biodiversity conservation;

6. Further increase in the protected areas, including the establishment of new protected areas, the extension of existing ones, completion of all the management plans for protected areas, the improvement of management effectiveness and the facilitation of financial sustainability;

7. Establishment of a national biosafety system; and completion and implementation of the national biosafety regulation;

8. Improvement in law enforcement including the strengthening of controls on illegal resources use.
References

1. Constitution of Iran
4. Mostafa Taghizade Ansari (2000), Environmental policies in Iran, Samt publication (resource of Persian books)