



Department of the Environment

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

of the Islamic Republic of IRAN

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OVERVIEW & DEVELOPMENT



Overview of CBD in IRAN

- Iran ratified CBD in 1992
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is the NFP
- DoE is the competent authority



NBSAP Timeline

- The NBSAP project was signed in 1997
- NBSAP development started in November 1998 as a UNDP/GEF project
- Add-on/NBSAP-2
- The national biodiversity strategies were ratified by the Environmental High Council in June 2002
- Terminal report of the project was submitted in June 2003



Development Process

- Formation of the Project Steering Committee (May 1998)
- Establishment of the Project Secretariat (December 1998)
- Formation of four Working Groups (February 1999)
- Holding more than 20 workshops, meetings and seminars
- Publishing more than 10 books and several pamphlets, brochures, posters and fact sheets.



Iran's Biodiversity Strategies in NBSAP

- Awareness raising and public participation
- Biodiversity information systems
- Sustainable use of biodiversity resources
- Systematic management of biodiversity resources



Development of the Action Plan

- Reviewing existing models and drafting major action areas
- Distributing the pamphlet of draft AP among different sectors and stakeholders at national and provincial levels
- Reviewing and finalizing the AP based on the received comments
(a series of 25 action areas proposed, each with some activities)



Major Action Areas

- Formal and informal education and awareness raising
- Utilization plan of social institutions, especially local stakeholders
- Protection of traditional knowledge
- Strengthening of research infrastructures
- National biodiversity assessment, monitoring and reporting
- International and regional cooperation
- Sustainable development
- Legal capacities and improving laws, policies and regulations



Major Action Areas (continued...)

- Land use planning
- Environmental codes and standards
- Sustainability indicators
- Comprehensive plans for ecotourism and conservation of agrobiodiversity
- Coordinating governmental BD related activities
- Supporting in-situ and ex-situ biodiversity
- Strengthening of Protected Areas Network
- Reducing biodiversity-loss
- Conservation of aquatic biomes, and endangered species



IMPLEMENTATION



Strategy 1: Awareness Raising and Public Participation

- Biodiversity related festivals, exhibitions and competitions (e.g. festivals for Biodiversity International Day, Clean Air Day, Natural Digital Photography, Green Industries Congress, Photography Competitions, etc.)
- Preparing promotional materials (incl. posters, brochures and approximately 100 books, papers, scientific and technical publications, etc.)
- Training courses for the environmental NGOs, firms and experts
- Cooperation with media (for production films, clips, interviews, etc.)
- Active communications with local councils





Strategy 2: Formation of Biodiversity Information Systems

- Launching country-driven CHM website
- Developing biodiversity database
- Developing GIS maps for protected areas
- Updating protected areas information
- Establishing laboratories for biodiversity resources
(biotechnology laboratory, gene banks, herbariums, seed banks)



Strategy 3: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity Resources

- Developing environmental standards for utilization of biodiversity resources (e.g. water resources, wildlife, forest, etc.)
- Determining carrying capacity of forests, rangelands, wildlife and aquatic resources
- Estimating the economic values of biodiversity
- Developing national biosafety legal framework and holding related meetings and seminars
- Compiling ecotourism related laws and regulations



Strategy 4: Systematic Management of Biodiversity Resources

- Development of Comprehensive Management Plans for protected areas
- Increasing of protected areas from 4.75% of the country area in 1997 to 7.8% in 2008 of total country area
- Enforcing landuse planning and EIA for all large scale development projects of the country
- Signing several MoUs for cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation at regional and international levels
- Establishing a new unit for ecotourism in DoE and also a National Committee for ecotourism
- Developing and implementing a national project on protection of sensitive ecosystems
- Wildlife census and plant inventories



Mainstreaming biodiversity

- Establishment of the Biodiversity Subcommittee of the National Commission on Sustainable Development by the membership of relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations
- Addressing biodiversity related issues in the 3rd and 4th National Development Plans
- Developing and fund raising for conservation projects (e.g. Cheetah, Siberian Crane, Zagros Mountains, and Wetlands projects)
- Development of National Environmental Guidelines for consideration by different sectors
- Establishing Ecotourism National Committee with membership of related organizations



Success Stories

- Increasing public awareness on biodiversity values
- Promoting of awareness among decision makers at different levels
- Developing and disseminating scientific information and technical knowledge related to biodiversity conservation and management
- Considering biodiversity conservation in 3rd, 4th, and 5th National Development Plans (2000-2015)
- Introducing and developing national CHM,
- Preparing national reports on biodiversity,
- Developing national biodiversity indicators
- Supporting country commitments to other BD related conventions,
- Continuing NBSAP project as a national budgeted plan



Challenges

- Classic vision on national development strategies,
- Insufficient cooperation of all sectors
- Lack of mechanisms for developing project with international partners
- Gaps and weaknesses in laws and regulations,
- Lack of technical capacity
- Financial limitations
- Lack of clarity in responsibilities of stakeholders



Department of the Environment

Thanks for your attention

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Add-on Phase

- Started from 2001 and reported on 2003 with focus on:
 - Traditional Knowledge
 - Taxonomy
 - CHM