

Islamic Republic of Iran

Thematic Report on Protected Areas

for the

Convention on Biological Diversity

Prepared by:

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**Thematic report on protected areas
or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biodiversity**

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

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<i>Submission</i>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	<i>June 2003</i>

Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

The present document is the Thematic Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Protected Areas to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It was drawn up with the support from the “National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)” Project Secretariat, under the supervision of a Steering Committee, including representatives of Department of Administration and Planning, the Department of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Jihad-e-Keshavarzi, Ministry of Oil, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, Biodiversity sub-committee of the National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD), University of Tehran and Environmentalists Association(NGO). the first national report for the CBD and a compendium report for the WSSD titled "Biodiversity Conservation Planning in Iran“ were used as basis for the report.

Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

System of protected areas

1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions?				
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low
2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas?				
a) no				
b) in early stages of development				
c) in advanced stages of development				X
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process				
3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity?				
a) no				
b) an assessment is being planned for				
c) an assessment is being undertaken				X
d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made				

Regulatory framework

4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents	X (see below)
5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	
d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets	X (see below)

6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures, for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors, or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples)	X (see below)
c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples)	

Management approach

7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so that programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is being planned for	
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been completed	
e) programmes and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken)	X (see below)

8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some areas	X
c) yes, in all areas (please provide details)	
9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes?	
a) No, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes	
b) many areas have similar objectives/management regimes, but there are also some exceptions	
c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details)	X (see below)
10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) with some, but not all protected areas	X
c) yes, always (please provide details of experience)	
11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognized in any formal manner?	
a) no, they do not exist	X
b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized	
c) yes, they exist and are formally recognized (please provide further information)	

Available resources

12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas?	
a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	X (see below)
c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
d) yes, good resources are available	

13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) funding has been requested, but not received	
c) funding is currently being requested	X (see below)
d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents)	

Assessment

14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints?	
a) no	X
b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information)	
c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further information)	
15. Is a programme in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information?	
a) no	
b) yes, a programme is under development (please provide further information)	X (see below)
c) yes, a programme is in place (please provide further information)	
16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is planned	X
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information)	

Regional and international cooperation

17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighbouring countries in the establishment and/or management of transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) information is not available	

19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognised or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them. <i>(see below)</i>	
21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X (see below)

Further comments

The conservation of the country's natural ecosystems and biological diversity is one of the many vital responsibilities of the DoE. The Bureau of Habitats and Protected Areas is charged with the task of technically managing the conservation programs for the 8.6 million hectares of protected areas in the country. In addition to conducting research activities and developing indicators in collaboration with other DoE offices, identifying endemic and endangered plant and animal species and developing a protected areas network are among other responsibilities of this Bureau.

The protected areas and reserve system provide the core areas for biodiversity conservation. This reserve system is not sufficient in itself for long-term conservation, and must be harmonized with conservation efforts in other areas and land-uses. At the present time, areas protected by the Department of the Environment cover more than 8% of the total land area. The DoE's goal is to increase this proportion to 10%. It is a priority to make the reserve system comprehensive, adequate and representative in regard to Iran's biodiversity assets. Limited tourism and research take place in these areas. The National Program for Monitoring of the Ecological Situation of Protected Areas, management of Ramsar sites (wetlands of international significance) and MAB sites (under the Man and the Biosphere Reserves Program of UNESCO) are principal concerns in this regard.

In addition, other governmental organizations also manage a number of protected areas; for example the Watershed, Forests and Rangelands Organization (affiliated to the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad) manages 131 reserves with a total area of over 111,000 hectares. Of these, 19 are Natural Forest Parks, 91 are Forest Reserves and 21 are Natural Parks.

4 d)

All documents are in Farsi/Persian. Some information are in the first national report of Iran to the CBD.

5 d)

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6 b)

There are not considerable implemented measures: some natural Parks or protected areas have entrance fees.

7 e)

- 1) Preparation and implementation of the project for developing the Comprehensive Plan for the Management of Protected Areas.*
- 2) Survey of the restrictions needed in each province in order to avoid, as much as possible, the negative impacts of tourism on the DoE-managed protected areas.*
- 3) About 15 projects have been developed to deal with treats to biodiversity.*
- 4) Crisis Management Plan is under implementation in the Division of Natural Environment & Biodiversity of DoE.*

9 c)

More information is in the first national report of Iran to the CBD. It is a priority to make the National Protected Area Network (PAN), comprehensive, adequate and representative in regard to Iran's biodiversity assets.

12 b)

In some areas basic Monitoring Tools, but most of them lack of human resources.

13 c)

Through some GEF projects such as “Zagros Mountains” and “Wetlands”.

15 b)

the project for developing the Comprehensive Plan for the Management of Protected Areas.

20)

UNESCO/MAB, RAMSAR

21 b)

Over 30 years of experience in management of PAs, will naturally provide many points to share with other countries.
