Centre for Sustainable Development
CENESTA
The Oldest NGO in Iran (since 1979)
National & International Memberships...

- Member, International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN
- Founding Member, ICCA Consortium
- NGO Member, National Commission to Combat Desertification
- Member, Global Forest Coalition (GFC)
- Founding Member, DryNet: NGOs in support of the Convention to Combat Desertification
- Founding Member, World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP)
National & International Memberships

- Founding Member, Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran (UNINOMAD)
- Founding Member, Union of Indigenous Camel Herders of Iran (UNICAMEL)
- Founding Member, Union of Agroecology Producers of Iran (UNI-AGROECOLOGY)
- Accredited to the three Rio Conventions: UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC
- Hosting IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic & Social Policy (IUCN/CEESP) 2001-2008
Who we are...

- Cenesta has alternative approach to Development:
  - **Sustainable**, with the following dimensions:
    - Economic and financial
    - Social and cultural
    - Ecological and environmental
    - Institutional and policy
  - **Endogenous** development
  - **Equitable and Rights based**:
    - Gender,
    - Ethnicity
    - Social
...Who we are

- For us Conservation of Nature is inseparable from Sustainable Livelihoods
- Biological and Cultural Diversity go hand in hand
- Our point of departure for Sustainable Natural Resource Management is Customary Institutions, World views and Science and Technology Systems
- One of our major missions is re-empowering the communities to take their destiny into their own hands via Collaborative Management approach
Our Principles…

- Communities should define their own approach based on the unique needs and conditions of their environment and society;
- Outside institutions should be acting in a supportive, enabling and empowering role for community decisions;
- Externally introduced concepts will be avoided in preference to structures and mechanisms that are deeply rooted in the local culture;
Our Principles

- Any initiatives must respond to the needs of the local communities as defined by them through their own analytical processes;
- Gender issues will be addressed within the greater context of community and cultural issues;
- Funds should be used largely for investment and re-investment purposes, and much less for services.
…What we do

- Combating Desertification & Living with the Desert
- Sustainable Development
- Endogenous development through re-empowerment of indigenous and local communities (IPLCs) in Iran
- Conservation & Value of Biological & cultural Diversity
  - Co-management of natural resources (Rangeland, Forest, Desert, Wetland, Wild Life, etc.)
  - Customary law & Customary institutions of IPLCs
...What we do

- We value and protect Cultural Diversity
  - Indigenous peoples (particularly mobile indigenous)
  - Traditional knowledge
  - Customary law
  - Customary institutions
  - Identity and rights
  - Agricultural biodiversity
...What we do

We do Sustainable Livelihoods with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

- Participatory Action Research on Agricultural biodiversity by focusing on Traditional knowledge
- Agro-ecology, Food sovereignty, and community based organic production
- Participatory and Evolutionary Plant Breeding
- Renewable energies and appropriate technologies for human settlements and environmental sanitation