

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

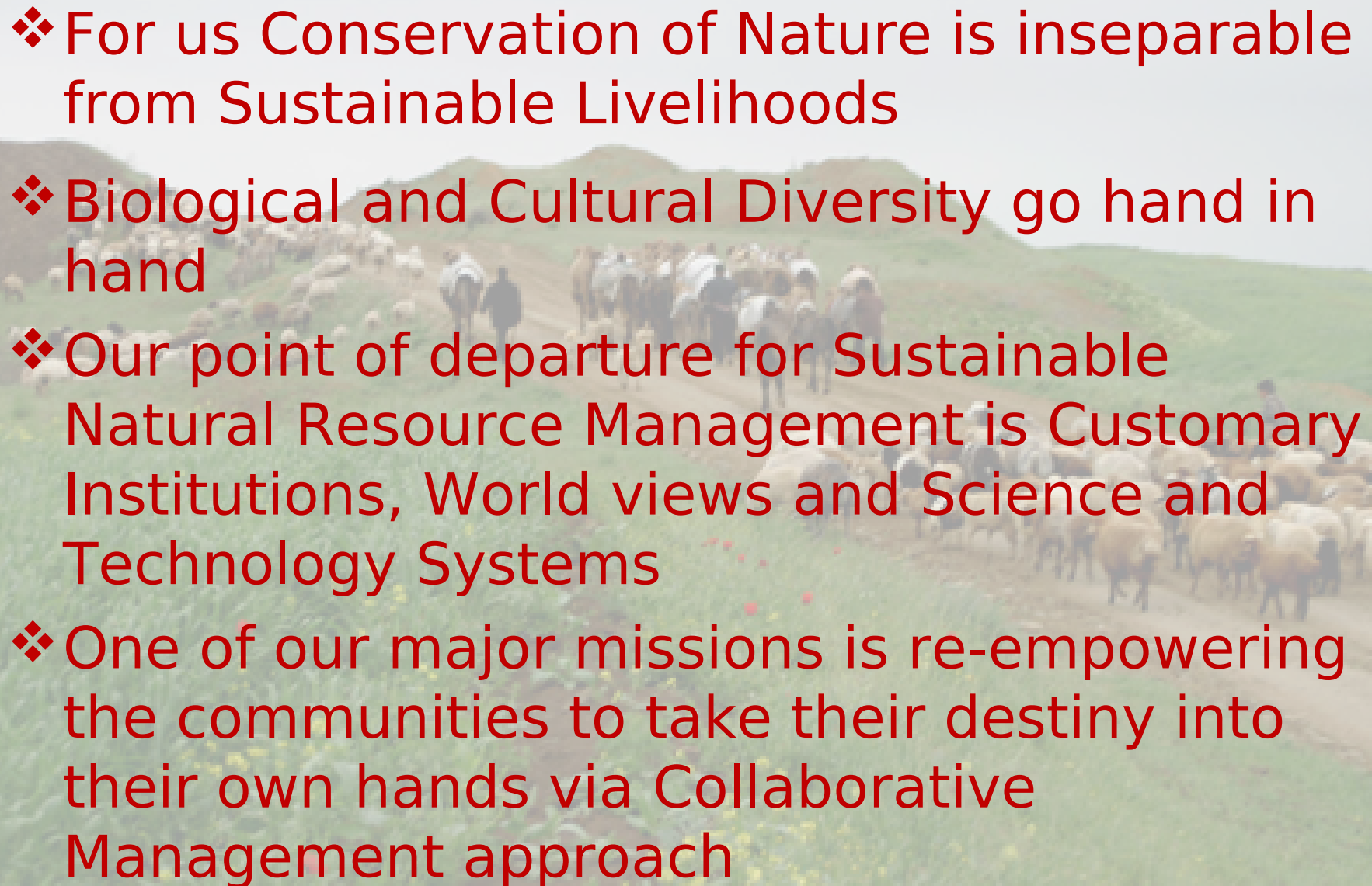
➤ **Endogenous** development

➤ **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
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- A background image showing a herd of sheep being herded by several people on a dirt road in a green, hilly landscape. The scene is slightly blurred, suggesting a focus on the text in the foreground.

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
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- A photograph of a large herd of sheep grazing in a lush green field. In the background, several people are visible, some standing and some riding horses, likely herding the sheep. The scene is set in a rural, hilly area with green hills in the distance under a clear sky.

...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
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- A photograph of a large herd of sheep being herded by several people on a dirt road in a rural landscape. The sheep are moving along the road, and the herders are positioned around them. The background shows rolling green hills under a clear sky.

...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