

Potentials for transboundary cooperation in conservation for the IR Iran

Workshop on Transboundary Conservation in
Iran and Neighbouring Countries
Jolfa, 4th of August 2016

Background



- MoE of Armenia sent a request to MoE of Germany asking for help in developing 'Peace Park' with IR Iran
- MoE of Germany wanted to first understand the potential for TBC for both countries before making any commitment
- MoE Germany contracted Michael Succow Foundation for potential analysis (desk top)

Why TBC



There are good reasons for transboundary cooperation in conservation:

- Nature & wildlife do not follow political borders
- Nature is equally valued by most cultures
- Conservation is thus a good theme to enhance transboundary cooperation and mutual understanding

Our methodological approach



Planned steps of the project:

- Identification of ecological hotspots along borders
- Assessment of political, socio-economic & ethnical issues facilitating or hindering transboundary cooperation

De facto:

- Potential sites were identified based on both natural and other considerations

Transboundary cooperation Iran



1) Mesopotamian marshlands

- Central, Hammar & especially Hawizeh Marshes
 - Former largest wetland ecosystem of Western Eurasia, now drained to 10% of original size
 - Several villages & small cities
- = > excellent preconditions for transboundary BR

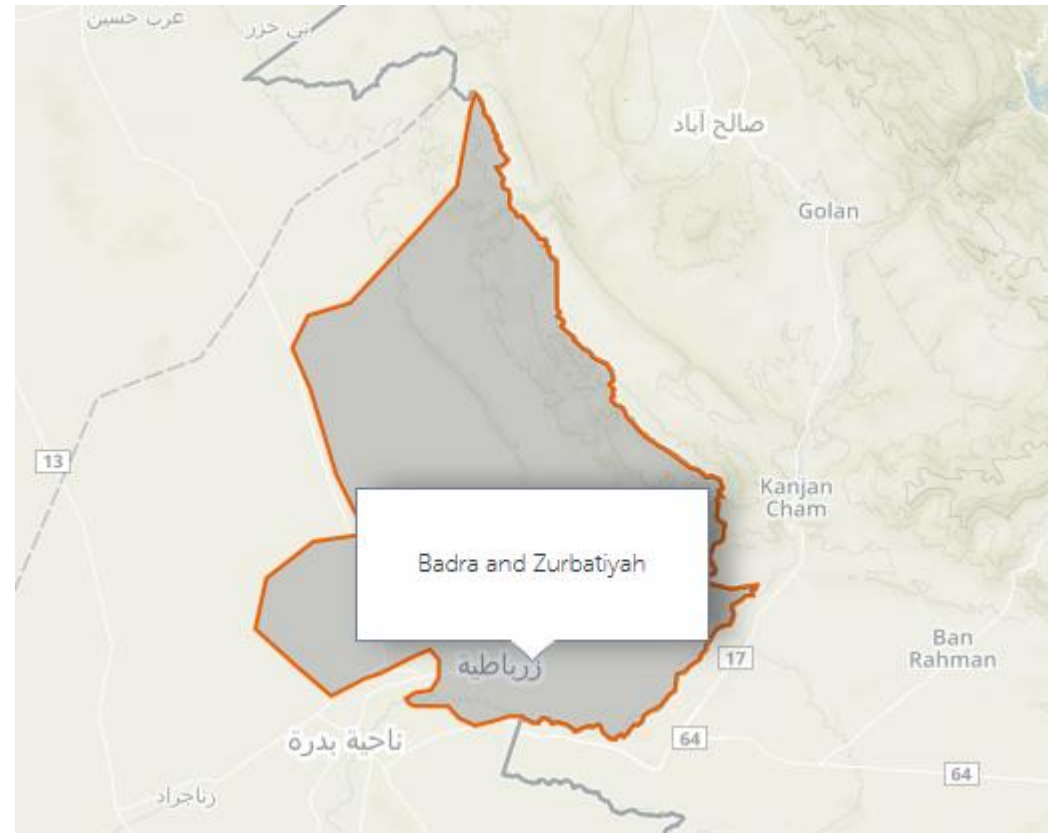
Land Cover Map, Hawizeh Marsh



Area by area: Iran - Iraq

2) Dinar Kuh, Badra & Zurbatiyah

- Eastern border
- Sparsely populated areas
- Migration routes for wildlife



3) Mount Ararat

- Only area mentioned along the border between Iran and Turkey
 - No significant protected areas on either side of the border so far
 - Need to get more relevant information
-

Area by area: Iran - Armenia

4) Arevik NP Complex & Dizmar PA

- Several PAs with different categories on Armenian & Iran side
- Potential for ecotourism
- Leopard corridor



Status:

Decision to establish a Peace Park in 2014,
potential for a Transboundary BR

Protected areas in Southern Armenia

- 2) Shikahogh State Reserve
- 3) Arevik NP
- 10) Boghakar State Sanctuary
- 11) Plane Grove State Sanctuary
- 14) Kiamaky National Park
- 17) Khustup Mountain Sanctuary
- 18) Zangezur Sanctuary

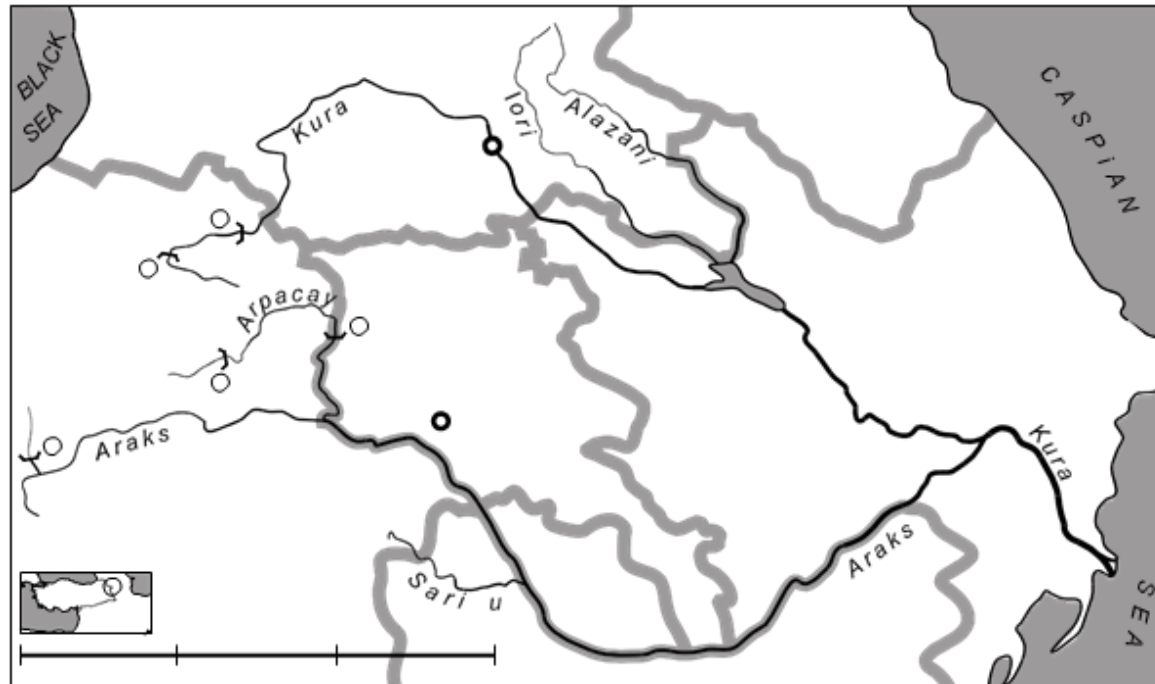


Area by area: Iran - AZ, ARM, TUR



5) Araks / (Kura) watershed management

- Some agreements & ongoing activities between Iran and neighbouring countries
- IRN-TUR 1955
- What kind of cooperation is possible here??



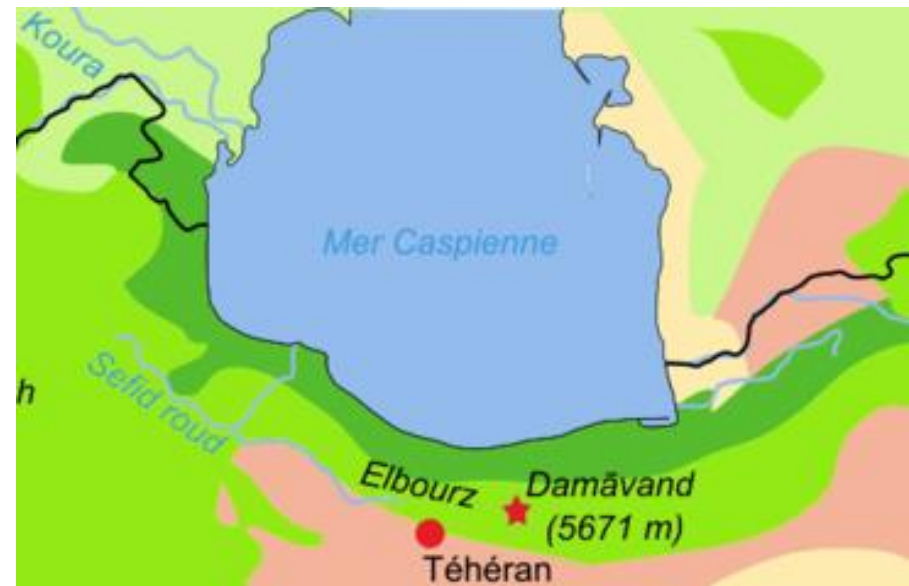
Area by area: Iran - Azerbaijan

6) Hyrkanian forests

- Potential serial World Heritage site
- Biggest part of the forest in the Iran

- AZE:
Hyrkanian forest NP

=> Nomination from
both countries
desirable



7) Kopet Dag mountains

- Several protected areas:
 - TKM: Kopet Dag Nature reserve & Archabil suggested NP
 - IRN: Sarany PA, Tandooreh NP
- Important area for Kulan conservation
- Leopard corridor

PAs in the Kopet Dag range



Area by area: Iran - Afghanistan



8) Razavi Khorasan - Hirat

- Representative *Artemisia*-step and mountain ecosystems
- Proposed North West Afghanistan game reserve
- Also water issues along Hari river



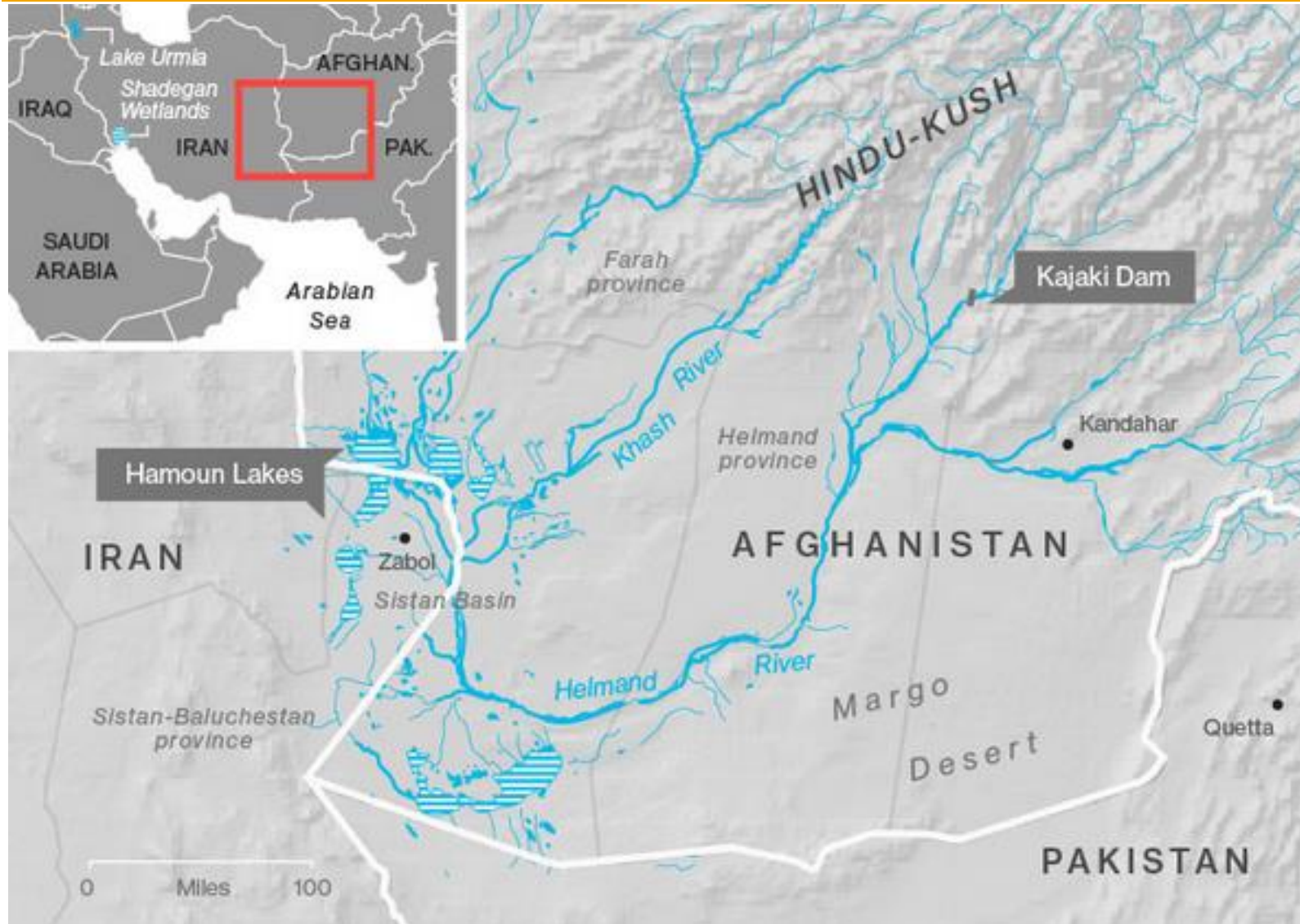
9) Hamoun Marshes & Lakes

- Issues of water management: not sufficient water remains the Hamoun marshes
 - Iran has recently established a BR
 - Transboundary BR suggested to achieve sustainable water management
- => Joined collaboration on water management recommended

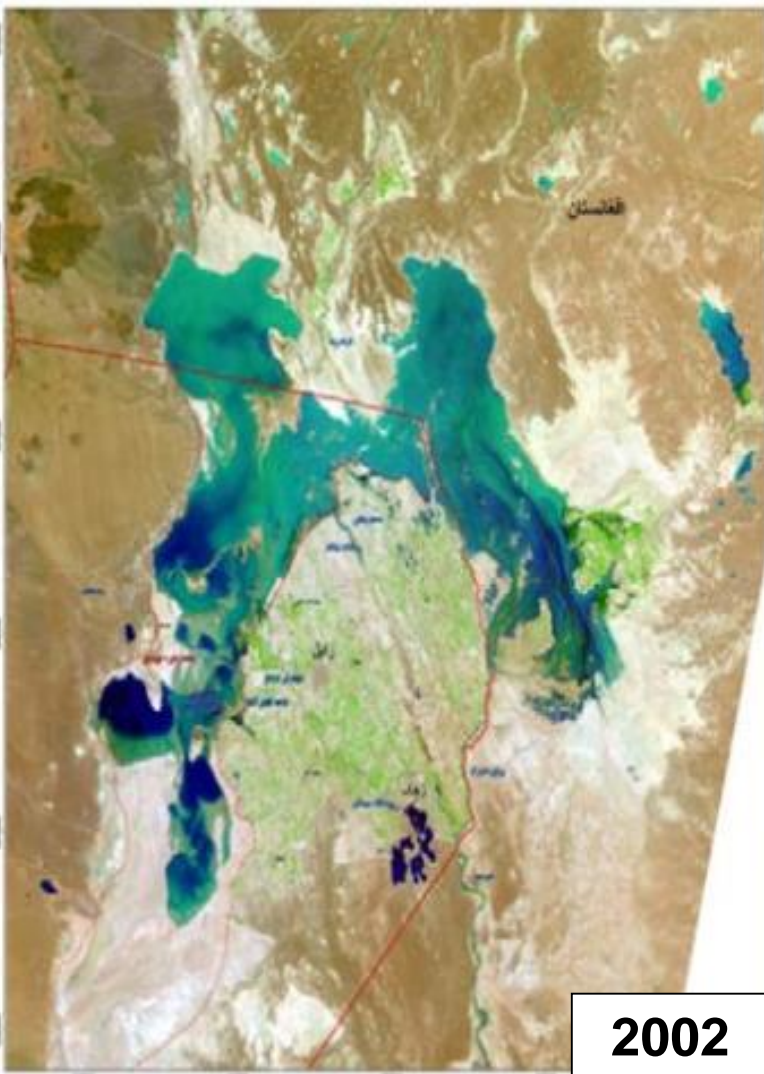
Hamoun Lakes & watershed



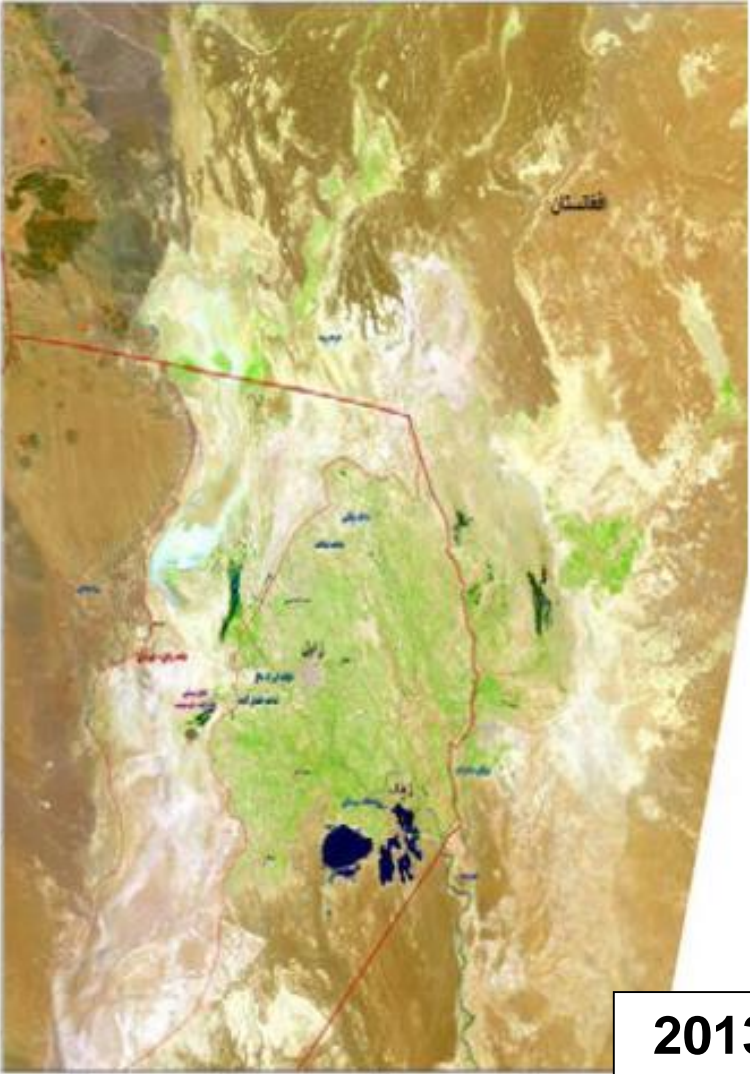
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Changes to Hamoun Lake



2002



2013

Area by area: Iran - Pakistan

10) RCD Lake

Pakistan possibly eager to participate in a potential project on Hamoun Lakes.

However, as distance of the RCD Lake in Pakistan to the Hamoun Lakes is about 180 km, a trilateral project would be too big.



Area by area: Iran - Pakistan

11) Bahukalat (Gando) Protected Area

- Marshes and estuarine ecosystems
 - Home of Iranian crocodile
 - Govatar Bay wetland
- => Some cooperation already existing



Area by area: Iran - Oman

12) Marine protected areas Strait of Hormuz

- Hara protected area and Biosphere Reserve
- Warm Beach NP

=> Distance less than 50 km, good relations between IRN and OMN



Ideas mentioned so far:

- Silk road: Turkmenistan is interested in a thematic cooperation along the theme „Silk road“
- Transnational conference „Environmental issues of Persian Gulf states“

Questions to you...



- 1) What did we get wrong?
- 2) What did we miss?
- 3) What is impossible? Why?
- 4) What is already ongoing?
- 5) Where do you see priorities for future work on TBC?

For discussion ...



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Thank you for your attention!

Uli Frank Gräbener

uli.graebener@succow-stiftung.de

+49 176 23 51 49 41
