

Appendix 2.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

(NBSAP-II)

Islamic Republic of Iran

Draft

October 2016

1. Background

2. The Current Status and Trends of Biodiversity in Iran

A complete report of the current status and trends of biodiversity in Iran is under preparation by the Biodiversity and Genetics Resources Museum Office of the Department of Environment (DoE) of Iran.

3. Institutional and Legal Framework, Upstream Strategies, Policies and Laws for Biodiversity Conservation

In the national legal framework of Iran, there are many laws and regulations that deal directly or indirectly with biodiversity conservation. The most important one is Article 50 of the Iranian constitution which is considered to be a firm cornerstone in the conservation of environment and biodiversity.

In this Article, the necessity and importance of environmental conservation, collective responsibility, intergenerational justice, etc. have been indicated. Other upstream documents in environmental conservation also pay attention to biodiversity conservation, including the Five-year development plans, the Vision 2025, and the general environmental policies. Other laws and regulations are also implying the conservation of biodiversity.

Iran is a state member of a considerable number of binding documents, conventions, and international treaties related to the environment. Some of these conventions are directly dedicated to biodiversity and its conservation, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and others which address issues such as ecosystem pollution or trade endangered species.

The list of the national laws and regulations, and international obligatory instruments in which Iran is a state party has been shown below.

International documents

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGR Treaty)
- Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2010
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992
- Ramsar Convention, 1971
- Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972

- Convention on international Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) , 1973
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, (MARPOL), 1973-1978
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of wild animals (CMS) 1979
- Kuwait Regional Convention for Cooperation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution, 1978
- Protocol Concerning Regional Cooperation in Combating Pollution by Oil & Other Harmful Substances in Case of Emergency, Kuwait, 1978
- Marine Pollution from Shelf Exploration and Extraction Protocol From Kuwait, 1989
- Protocol for the protection of the Marine Environment Against Pollution from Land- Based Sources, Kuwait, 1990
- Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (CEP), 2003
- International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, 1985
- Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1998
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, 1994
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), 2001
- Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter (London convention), 1972.
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, 1980
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, 2003

National laws and regulations

- Principle 50 of the Constitutional Code
- The Overall Environmental Policies Issued by Supreme Leader
- The Fifth Five years Development Plan
- Code of the Protection and Improvement of the Environment
- Code of methods to Prevent Air Pollution
- Code of Hunting and Fishing
- Vision 2025 for Development Plan
- Code of Equitable Distribution of Water
- Plants Preservation Law

- Islamic Republic of Iran Code of Conservation and Utilization of Aquatic Resources
- Code of Waste Management
- The Law on Exploitation and Protection of Forestry and Rangelands
- The Law on Conservation and Protection of Natural Resource and Forest Reserve of the Country
- The Law on Protecting the Sea and Boarder Rivers From Petroleum Products Pollution

4. NBSAP-I: Review and Lessons Learned

The first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Islamic Republic of Iran was submitted to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2006 which contains four strategies including twenty five action plans.

Structural review

The review of the planning structure of the NBSAP-I of Islamic Republic of Iran has provided insight into the stronger and weaker points elaborated on at the time of preparation:

Strengths

- Consideration and supporting traditional knowledge related to biodiversity conservation
- Consideration of the main dimensions of sustainable development
- Adopting participatory approach in biodiversity conservation
- Adopting integrated approach for protected areas and other conserved areas
- Elaborating strategies and action plans to improve policies related to biodiversity conservation
- Adopting multi-stakeholder approach for achieving strategic goals

Weaknesses

- Lack of engagement of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in implementation plans
- Some contradictions between approaches of different action plans
- Lack of integration and hierarchy between activities of some action plans

Legal review

One of the strong points of Iran's first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP-I) is the special attention to the rules and regulations related to biodiversity and its conservation. The document has addressed different fields of biodiversity conservation and encourages the investigation of, and appropriate action to draw up new laws and regulations or their modification. Besides addressing the need for direct legislation in the field of biodiversity conservation, paying attention to matters affecting biological diversity, including biosafety (11-5) and ecotourism (11-7).

At the time of its elaboration these strengths constituted important advancements. New challenges and needs have since come forth in the world of national conservation since then. These include:

- Need for specific plans for the reform of the legal system for support of biodiversity conservation;
- Need for consideration of governance issues in protected areas and biodiversity conservation, including the adoption of participatory processes, policies, programmes, and practices related to biodiversity with the involvement of all stakeholders;
- Need for attention to the participation of all stakeholders in the policy- and decision-making processes (11-3);
- Need for attention to international obligations, new international concepts, and frameworks on the rights and responsibilities of indigenous peoples and local communities (11-6, 7, 8, 11 &13), on new dimensions.

Analysis of implementation

Iran's first NBSAP comprises four strategies including twenty five action plans. Under the first Strategy, **Raising awareness about biodiversity and public participation**, significant progress has been observed.

Department of Environment (DoE) as the main organization related to environmental issues, has a long term comprehensive awareness raising program and promotes its objectives regarding formal and informal education through universities, institutes, media and recently social networks, in addition to promoting public participation in biodiversity conservation. By the way there is a special deputy regarding education, research and technology and two general directories under this deputy, called the Bureau of Education and the Bureau of Public Participation in DoE especially dedicated to these issues.

Provincial authorities as well have undertaken various forms of awareness-raising and trainings on biodiversity values and the steps to take for its conservation. CSOs & CBOs have done their best to introduce the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services to public and engaging them in conserving biodiversity.

The training methods include: national and international workshops, celebrating important international days, multimedia, exhibitions, websites, social networks and publications including books, bulletins and brochures.

Under the second Strategy, **Establishing biodiversity information and research systems**, a good progress has been observed.

Establishing Gene banks in different organizations, GMO detection lab, Biotechnology and Genetic labs, Species Information Banks, Biosafety Clearing House, etc. are examples of the progress in this regard.

Under the third Strategy, **Sustainable use of Biodiversity**, a lot of efforts have been made. For instance the followings can be referred:

- Establishing national sustainable development committee consisting of representatives from all the relevant organizations to adopt strategies and policies regarding sustainable development and sustainable use of biodiversity
- Establishing and implementing sustainable development plans and programs
- Increased compensation for environmental crimes
- Compensation insurance for the conflicts between some endangered species and people

Regarding the fourth Strategy, **Establishing Systematic Management System for Conserving Biodiversity**, a good progress has been observed.

Increasing the protected areas to 12 %, implementing special conservation projects, signing MoUs with other organizations and institutions related to biodiversity conservation and better management, promoting participatory management approach in conservation, promoting transboundary conservation, requiring environmental impact assessment (EIA) for large-scale plans, etc. are examples in this regard.

5. National Biodiversity Strategy: Principles, Priorities and Targets

5.1. Guiding principles

- Integrated management of natural resources will be achieved through alliance of all stakeholders including government, indigenous and local communities, civil society and private sector.
- Sustainability of economic development is ensured through consideration of conservation measures.
- Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs/LCs) of Iran have a critical role of in conservation of natural resources.
- Both traditional knowledge and modern science must be considered in conservation and sustainable development.
- Department of Environment is not the only responsible organization for biodiversity conservation. All of governmental organizations, CBOs and

private institutes are obliged to arrange their policies and activities towards sustainable development and biodiversity conservation.

- All society should be aware of the concept of conservation and biodiversity values.
- All social, cultural, spiritual, ecological and economic values of biodiversity should be considered in development plans

5.2. Strategic Goals and National Targets

Strategic Goal 1: Mainstreaming biodiversity across state and society and promoting public participation

National Targets

- 1.1. Promoting innovations in the formal education system in biodiversity conservation concepts, values and practices
- 1.2. Promoting practical informal and lifelong education in biodiversity conservation concepts, values and practices
- 1.3. Building capacity of CSOs and CBOs for mainstreaming biodiversity
- 1.4. Requiring Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies and actions to ensure sustainability, biodiversity conservation and equity
- 1.5. Promoting regional and international cooperation for capacity building and experience sharing on biodiversity conservation policies and practices

Strategic Goal 2. Promote conservation (preservation, sustainable use and restoration) of biodiversity at all levels

National Targets

- 2.1. Ensuring that biodiversity conservation policies and practices align fully with the national and international policy frameworks
- 2.2. Improving ecological connectivity and reducing habitat fragmentation by elaborating an integrated network of protected and conserved areas
- 2.3. Promoting *in situ* as well as *ex situ* conservation of biodiversity
- 2.4. Eliminating overuse, misuse and over-exploitation of natural resources with consideration of safe ecological limits
- 2.5. Restoring and rehabilitating degraded ecosystems and habitats
- 2.6. Identifying and prioritizing invasive alien species and their pathways, controlling or eradicating the priority species and managing pathways for preventing their introduction and establishment
- 2.7. Effectively conserving threatened and endangered species with particular attention to endemic species
- 2.8. Establishing and promoting biosafety and security standards to conserve genetic resources

Strategic Goal 3: Combat threats to biodiversity

National Targets

- 3.1. Eliminating sources of pollution (water, soil & air) in accordance with a roadmap
- 3.2. Preventing land use change and land degradation
- 3.3. Promoting integrated water resource management
- 3.4. Promotion of sustainable agricultural approaches

Strategic Goal 4: Develop and take measures to reduce climate change impacts

National Targets

- 4.1. Investigating climate change impacts
- 4.2. Promoting traditional and/or technological innovations in mitigation, resilience and adaptation to climate change and combating desertification
- 4.3. Mainstreaming combating land degradation in national development policies and plans
- 4.4. Improving the enabling environment for combating land degradation: institutional, financial, legal and policy aspects

Strategic Goal 5: Promote good governance of biodiversity resources

National Targets

- 5.1. Promoting environmental diplomacy
- 5.2. Promoting accountability and transparency in decision/policy making related to biodiversity conservation and governance of natural resources
- 5.3. Building and supporting alliances and integration among different stakeholders including Government, Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities and private sector in biodiversity conservation and governance of natural resources
- 5.4. Adapting Iran's protected areas system to the IUCN Matrix – including the four recognized types of governance
- 5.5. Incorporating traditional knowledge into conservation and management practices
- 5.6. Implementation of Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS)
- 5.7. Appropriate recognition of IPs/LCs FPIC (Free Prior and Informed Consent) in all projects and plans which have impact on their related biodiversity (including ecosystems, species and genetic resources)

Strategic Goal 6: Support the elaboration and implementation of local, national and international sustainable development policies and practices to ensure biodiversity conservation

National Targets

- 6.1. Recognising the social, cultural, spiritual, ecological and economic value of biodiversity elements and integrating these values into decision makings and political considerations
- 6.2. Promoting synergy among multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in national and regional biodiversity conservation actions (Including CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Ramsar, CMS, CITES, etc.)
- 6.3. Including cumulative and long-term impacts of development plans on biodiversity
- 6.4. Adopting dynamically adaptive management systems in local, national and regional biodiversity conservation
- 6.5. Considering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) in national development programmes

6. National Action Plans

The Action Plans will be elaborated after confirmation of the strategic goals and national targets by the steering committee. The process for elaboration of action plans includes holding several meetings and participatory workshops with specialist groups and committees and representatives from different stakeholders.

7. NBSAP-II Implementation Plan and Institutional Arrangement

The implementation plan will be developed after elaboration of the action plans.

8. Learning by Doing (Monitoring, Evaluation and Indicators) and reporting

This part will be developed after elaboration of the action plans.