

Islamic Republic of Iran

Thematic Report on Mountain Ecosystems

for the

Convention on Biological Diversity

Prepared by:

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

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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 Forest Ecosystems 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).

Mountain Ecosystems

1. What is the relative priority your country accords to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
2. How does your country assess the resources available for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems, both domestic and international?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
3. Has your country requested financial assistance from GEF for funding the activities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?					
a) no					
b) yes, please provide details					X - Conservation of Central Zagros Mountains Biodiversity - Yakhkesh Mountain

Assessment, Identification and Monitoring

4. Has your country undertaken any assessment of direct and underlying causes of degradation and loss of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, please specify major threats and their relative importance, as well as gaps	
c) If yes, please specify the measures your country has taken to control the causes of loss of mountain biodiversity	X (see below)

5. Has your country identified taxonomic needs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, please specify	X <i>(Through developing master plans for Protected Areas and also through the Zagros Project.)</i>

6. Has your country made any assessment of the vulnerability or fragility of the mountains in your country?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	X
b) yes, please specify the results and observed impacts on mountain biodiversity	
7. Has your country made any assessment important for conservation of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels? (You may wish to use the Annex I of the Convention for categories of biodiversity important for conservation)	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, some assessments or monitoring undertaken (please specify)	X <i>(Through developing the Zagros Project.)</i>
c) yes, comprehensive assessments or monitoring programmes undertaken (please specify where results can be found, and opportunities and obstacles, if any)	

Regulatory and Information System and Action Plan

8. Has your country developed regulations, policies and programs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify sectors	X <i>(There are some in the water and forest sectors.)</i>
9. Has your country applied the ecosystem approach (adopted at COP 5) in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	X
b) yes, please provide some cases or examples	

10. Does your national biodiversity strategy and action plan cover mountain biological diversity?	
a) no, please specify why	
b) yes, please give some information on the strategy and plan, in particular on mountain biodiversity	X <i>(see below)</i>
11. Has your country disseminated the relevant information concerning management practices, plans and programmes for conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide details where information can be retrieved concerning management practices, plans and programmes	X <i>(Limited, by the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad and the Ministry of Energy.)</i>

Cooperation

12. Has your country undertaken any collaboration with other Parties for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems at the regional level or within a range of mountains?	
a) no	X
b) yes, please specify the objectives of this collaboration and achievements	
13. Has your country signed or ratified any regional or international treaty concerning mountains?	
a) no	X
b) yes, please specify which treaty and provide as much as possible a report on the progress in the implementation of the treaties, including any major constraints in the implementation of the treaties	

Relevant thematic areas and cross-cutting issues

14. Has your country taken account of mountain ecosystems while implementing thematic programmes of work on agricultural; inland waters; forest; and dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes – but in only one or two thematic programmes of work	X
c) yes, included in all programmes of work	
d) if yes, please specify details	X <i>(In EIA of dams and other large scale projects)</i>

15. Has your country taken any measures to ensure that the tourism in mountains is sustainable?	
a) no , please specify why	
b) yes, but in early stages of development (please specify the reasons)	X <i>(National Tourism Comprehensive Plan is under development by ITTO.)</i>
c) in advanced stages of development (please specify the reasons)	
d) relatively comprehensive measures being implemented (please specify the reasons)	
16. Has your country taken any measures to protect the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes, but in early stages of policy or programme development	
d) yes, in advanced stages of development	
e) some programmes being implemented	X <i>(Under implementation as an add-on activity to NBSAP.)</i>
f) comprehensive programmes being implemented	
17. Has your country developed any programmes for the protection of natural and cultural heritages in the mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide some information in the programmes	X <i>(see below)</i>
18. Has your country established protected areas in mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify the percentage of mountains under protected areas out of total mountain areas in your country	X <i>(about 5%)</i>

19. Has your country undertaken any activities to celebrate the International Year of Mountains and Eco-tourism?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify	X (see below)

Case-studies

Please provide case-studies made by your country in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems.

Several case studies conducted through developing master plans for Protected Areas and also through the rapid appraisal of the Zagros Project.

Further Comments

4 c)

At National Level undertaking direct assessment by selecting & approving through Environmental High Council, most of the Mountain Ecosystems as Protected Areas and 7 high peaks of Iran as National Natural Monuments.

10 b)

On May 2002, the Environmental High Council approved following four strategic components to conserve biodiversity:

- *Promotion of public awareness and participation;*
- *Formation of biodiversity information systems;*
- *Sustainable use of biodiversity resources;*
- *Integrated conservation of biodiversity.*

Strategies are general, but many actions and activities are indirectly related to Mountain ecosystems. Within the framework of the NBSAP, many planning meetings have been held. These emphasised the importance of the Mountains of west and north of Iran as a high priority. Diverse topographical and climatic conditions have led to a high biological diversity in these areas.

17 b)

DoE has recognized several mountains as National Monuments. There are also some other mountains under supervision of the Cultural Heritage Organization because of their cultural/historical values.

19 b)

Celebration of International year of the Mountains in Dena Mt., holding a seminar on IYM, launching the Zagros GEF project, Reprinting several brochures, Several radio addresses on Tehran and National radio stations, Providing texts or technical supporting to several related articles in national newspapers. Beside these, NGOs and provincial offices of the Department of Environment in different cities celebrated this Year by conducting various awareness program like local festivals, theater, folklore concert, painting/drawing competitions, TV programs, Radio interviews, special pages or editions of newspapers or magazines, free nature tours, cleaning the mountains, etc....
