

Pastoral Nomadism in Iran Today– & its future



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Múuch Tanbal
CBD COP 13
Cancun, México, 11 December, 2016

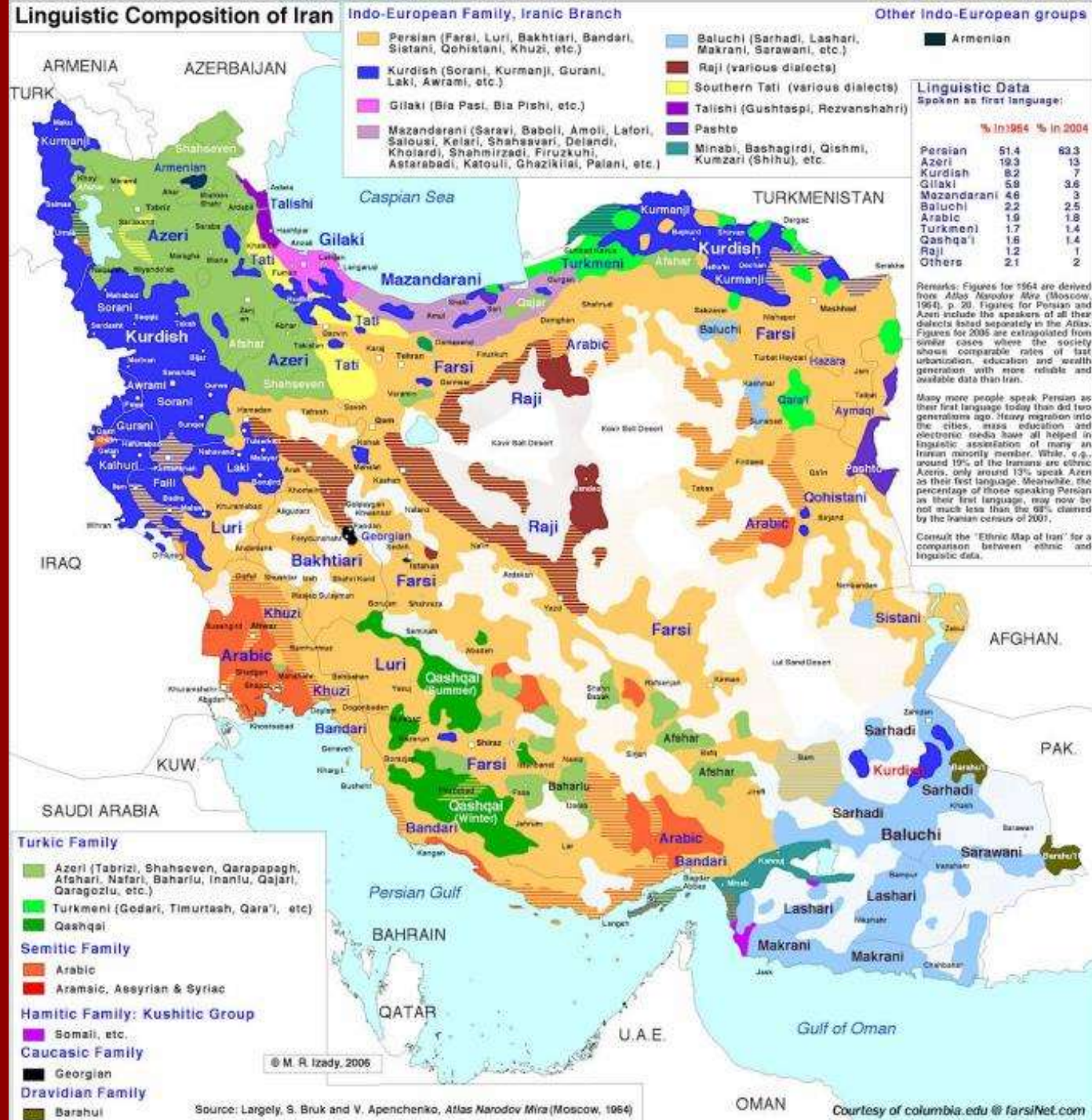




Indigenous Nomads of Iran

- ❖ We are some 700 tribes of indigenous nomadic pastoralists covering most of the national territory;
- ❖ About 1.5 million people (just over 2% of the population) producing about 25% of animal products of the country;
- ❖ Great ethnic & linguistic diversity;
- ❖ Some 12,000 years of history and culture;
- ❖ Practice seasonal migration to protect nature;
- ❖ Concept of territory as nature, livelihood, identity & survival;
- ❖ Customary institutions and tribal structures for management of natural resources and sustainable living;
- ❖ Great indigenous knowledge of environment including climate.

Ethno-linguistic diversity





Kushk-e Zar wetland, summering grounds of Qashqaï tribal confederacy, Eqlid District, Fars Province. The wetland harbours a variety of international migratory birds, which are kept in strict protection by the Qashqaï nomads. It is the first officially recognised ICCA of Iran.





Shahsevan tribal confederacy in seasonal migration, Ardebil province. Despite all the impediments, incursions and public & private land grabs, tribes in Iran persist in their traditional migration, showing high resilience to tenure and climate change.



Shahsevan tribal confederacy summering grounds, Ardebil province. The stone livestock pens are used seasonally, alachiqs and kumas—felt-covered tents organised in an “oba” or nomadic camp, which is the smallest unit (molecule) of tribal society.

Qashqai tribal confederacy tentholds, Fars province. This group of tents together represents the “oba” or nomadic camp—representing the smallest unit of tribal society. A number of obas come together to form a “bonku” (clan), who in turn combine into “tira” (subtribe), “tayfa” (tribe) and “i:l” (tribal confederacy).



Qashqaï tribal confederacy traditional spring migration of large herds of camels to their summering grounds, Fars province. Many Qashqaï tribes believe camels are better suited and more resilient to local and changing climatic conditions, despite many official pressures to eliminate the camel from the herd composition.





Qashqai tribal confederacy migration. Traditional migration (i.e. with the whole tenthold, on foot and animal back) persists despite pressures and hardships caused by untoward official policies and practices that have driven some nomads to turn to the less desirable alternative of mechanical migration (by cars and trucks). Cenesta and UNINOMAD are advocating returning the governance of migration back to the tribes and their elders.

Camels are a primary agent in facilitating living sustainably with the desert, as with the camel herders of Chodari independent tribe of Semnan Province, Central desert periphery. They are key to maintaining the balance between the desert and the foothills, by consuming thorn bushes & halophytes, enabling the sweeter plants needed by other animals. They are an essential element in the governance of ICCAs.





Small scale and community farmers and migratory tribes have an effective role in keeping the environmental balance & coping with global climate change.



کدو و عشاير

مرتع جان عشاير است

تغییر کدو و مرتع

آتش زدن مراتع
برای جلوگیری از ورود
عشایر

خاکبرداری از مراتع
و اطراف جاده ها

احداث کردن حوضچه های

قراغت در قلاصت

در عرض های مراتع

احداث یادگاہها

و میادین عشق نظام

در مراتع و بیابان

آلات بیه های نفی

و کارهای به موجب

بیماری می شود

شدن شهرها

مراتع

اقدامات به منظور

مراهمی سرنگ

استخراج نفت

و احداث تأسیسات

مرعی و زدن جاده

استخراج می شود

در مراتع را تغییر

کند

کدام خانه ها

بسیات ضمیمه

مراتع

مطلب ما کلیت از حواص
محلی (عشاير)

توسیع مراتع به وسیله کدو و عشاير
و ایجاد امنیت در منطقه

مردم شده اند و امور را تغییر

شدن به زدن جاده ها و راه ها

به منظور بهر دست داشتن می

در مراتع

بسیات بزرگ و دانش را در

بسیات بزرگ و دانش را در

بسیات بزرگ و دانش را در

بسیات بزرگ و دانش را در

بسیات بزرگ و دانش را در

اسکان عشاير

در مکان های مناسب

و در مکان های مناسب

و در مکان های مناسب

و در مکان های مناسب

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و در مکان های مناسب

و در مکان های مناسب

برای آمادگی غیر شکاری

طرح کدو و عشاير

طرح کدو و عشاير

طرح کدو و عشاير

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طرح کدو و عشاير

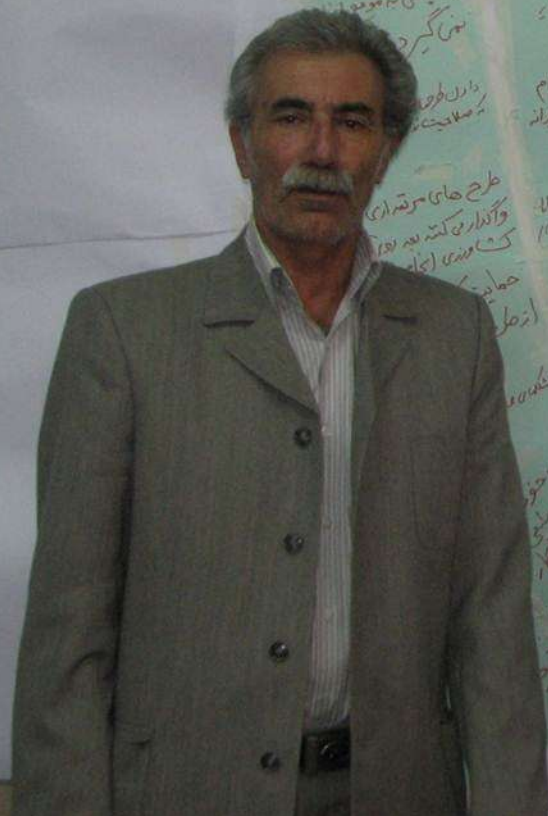
طرح کدو و عشاير

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طرح کدو و عشاير



Building stakeholder alliances and participatory planning workshop towards re-empowerment of indigenous and local communities and biodiversity conservation



A historic moment (December 2013):
Indigenous nomadic tribes participated in
drafting the new law of natural resources

Results:



- Preparation of community biodiversity registers (at various tribal levels);
- Understanding of CBD and ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing) issues relevant for the rights of nomadic pastoralists over their territories and biodiversity;
- Setting the stage for reversing the loss of biodiversity.



Shahsevan Tribal Confederacy seasonal migration



Summer territories of Shahsevan Tribes



Setting up the tents is a collective task with women in the lead

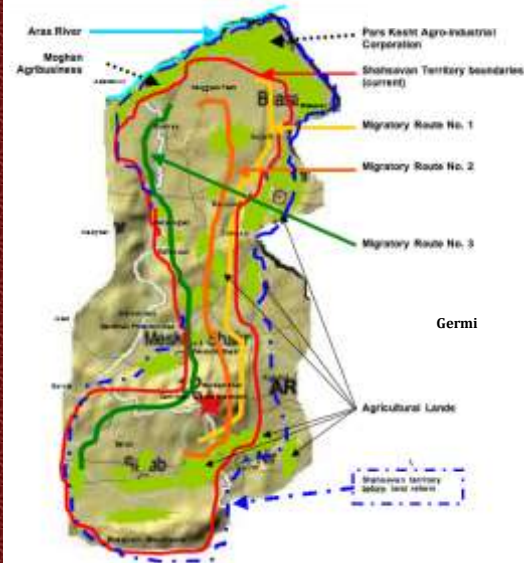
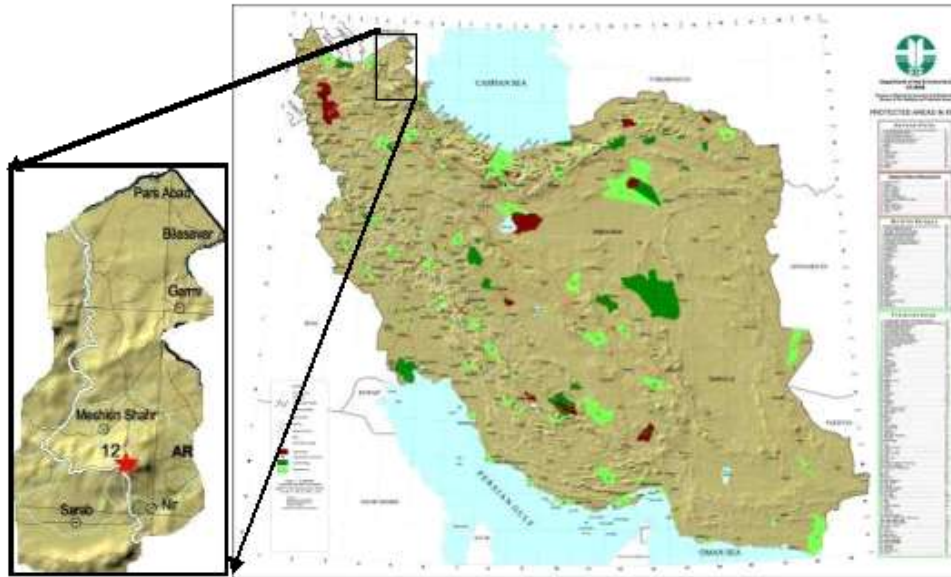
Community Bio-cultural Diversity Registers & Protocols in Iran



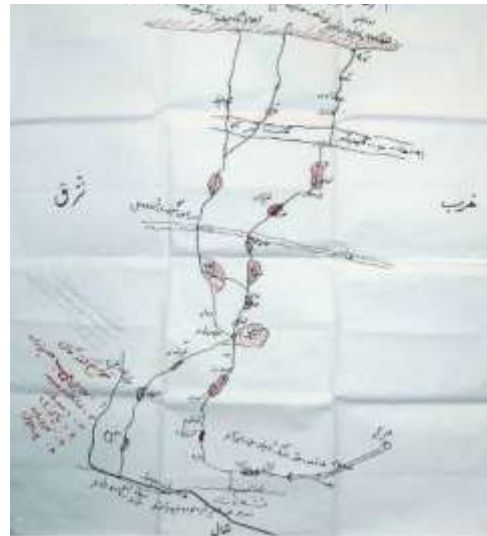




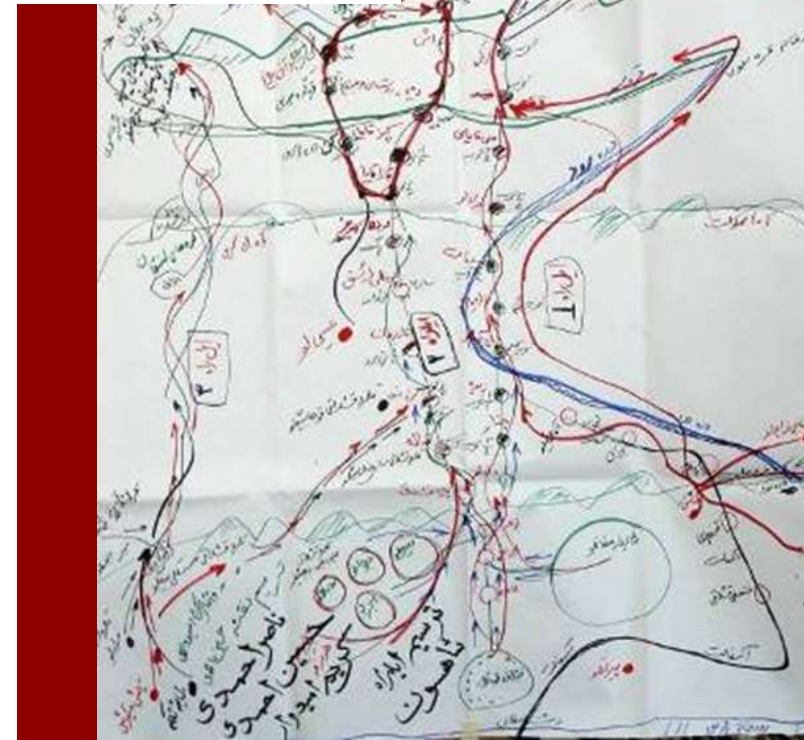
موقعیت جغرافیایی قلمرو عشایر ایل شاهسون در شمال غرب کشور



Example of a nomadic rangeland in Iran: the Shahsavan territories



Participatory hand-drawn map of Shahsavan rangelands and migratory routes by local community members



Abolhassani desert ICCA



Community mapping of ICCA (territory)

Iran's camel herders—in the context and history of indigenous nomadic tribes—have been subjected to policies of neglect, sedentarisation, industrialization, marginalisation, fragmentation and dispossession of their ancestral domains in the past century.



Bakhtiari Nomadic Tribal Confederacy

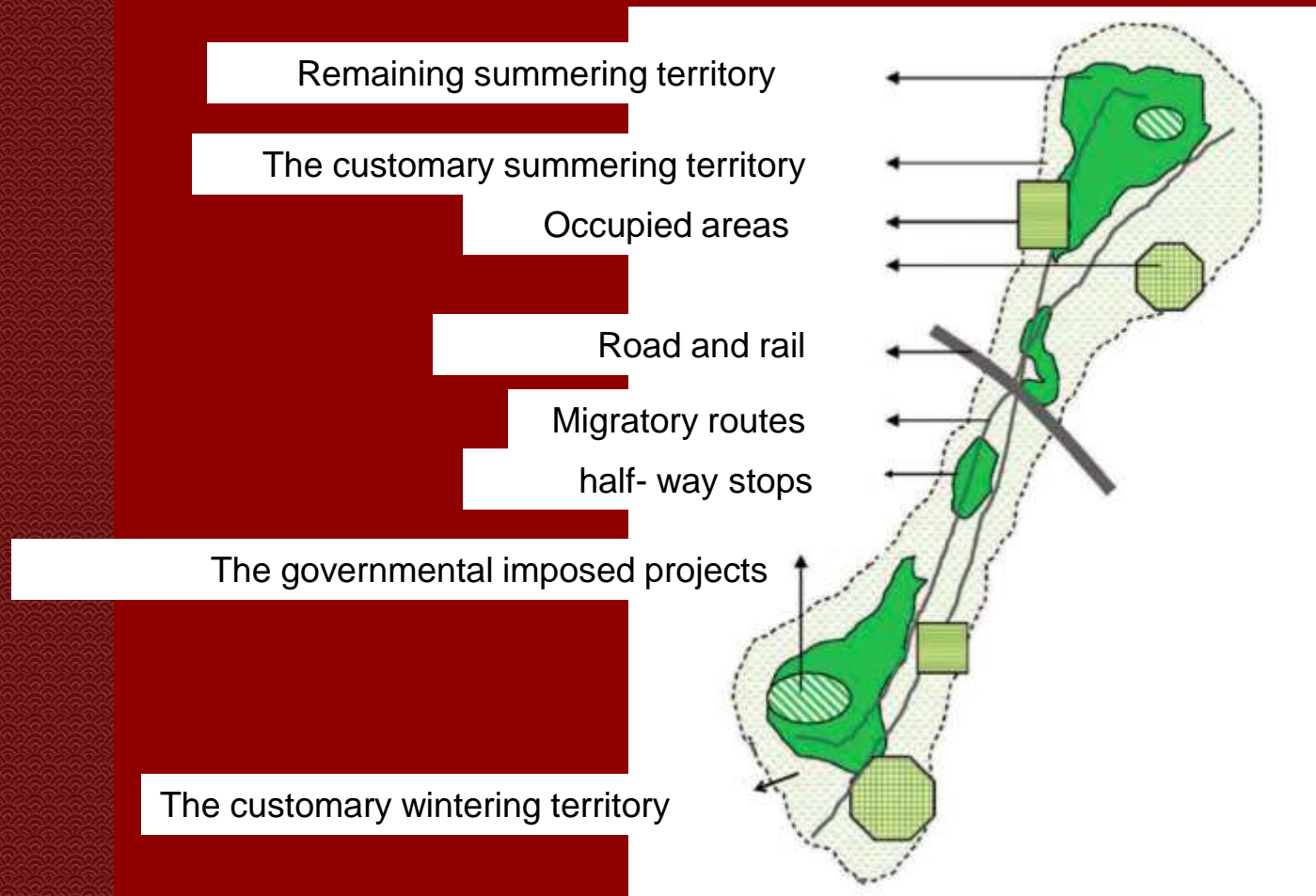


Crown imperial (inverted) tulips— endemic to Iran

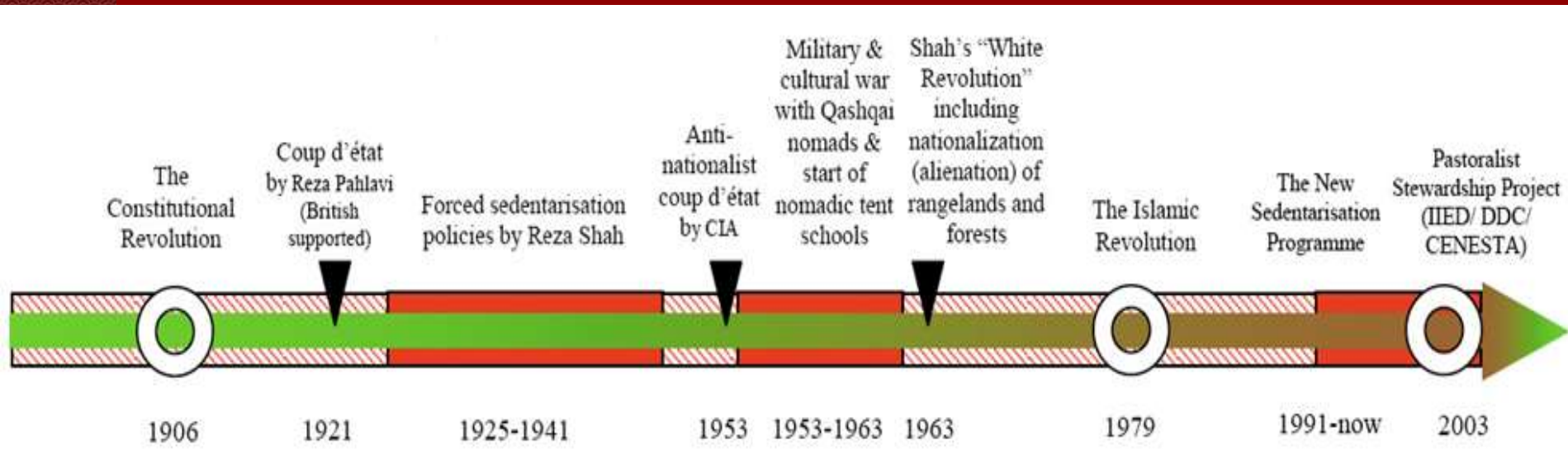


The “Palestinisation” of ICCAs?

schematic map of encroachment on nomadic territories



Historic events in Iran affecting nomadism and rangeland ICCAs (not to scale)



**Main reasons for seasonal migration in
tribal territories between summering &
wintering grounds:
(next three slides)**



1. To avoid severe extremes of climatic conditions



2. To protect nature by avoiding overgrazing



3. To avoid conflict over seasonal scarcity of rangeland resources





Nomadic pastoralists are
adapted & resilient
to climate change

However...



**...Climatic changes are now taking place
on a scale, severity and frequency
beyond living memory!**



Climatic Changes impacting nomadic tribes

(5 slides)

1. Drought

A community-conserved wetland before and after the recent unprecedented severe droughts; long-awaited recent rains have revived much of the territory of this ICCA.



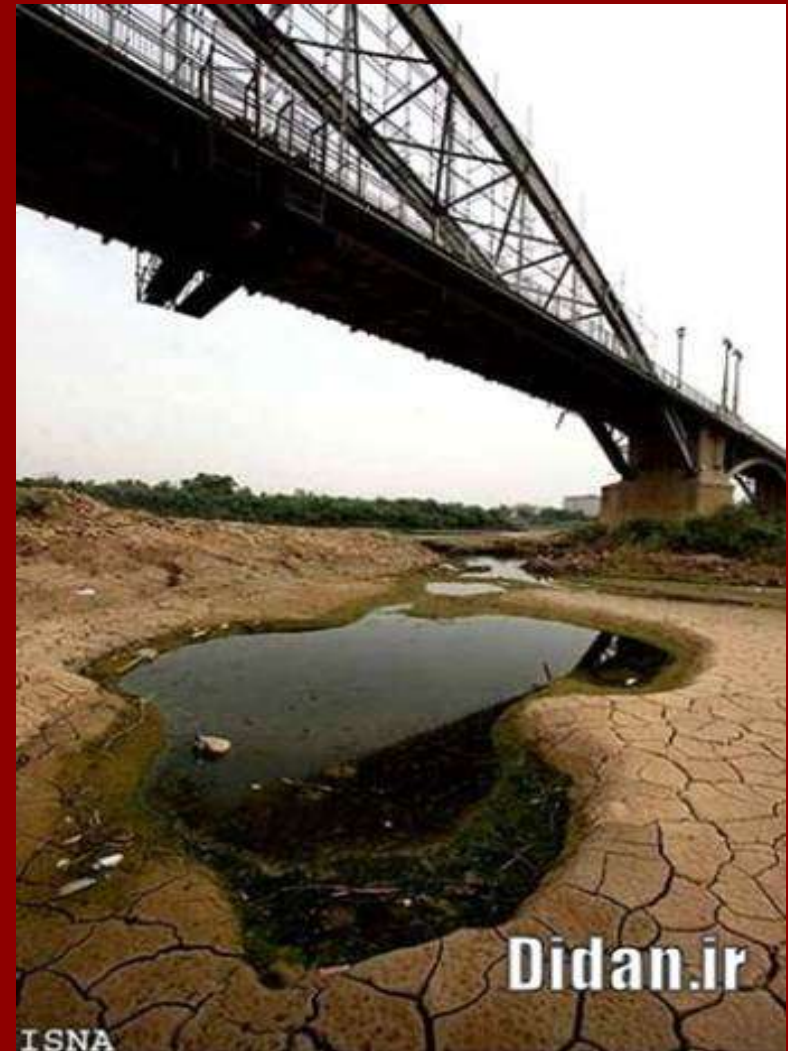
2. Floods



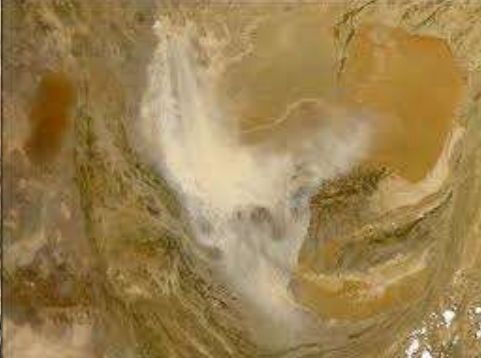
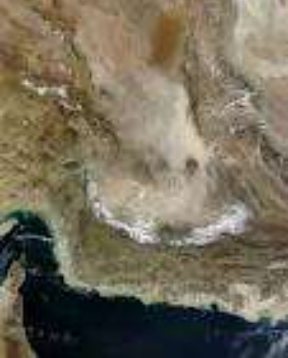
3. Severe melting of glaciers and permanent snow cover



4. Serious reduction in ground & surface water with climate change & ill-conceived dams & agricultural projects



5. Unprecedented regional dust-storms that destroy forests & rangelands



Some adaptation strategies elaborated by nomadic tribes to cope with climate change

(9 slides)

1. Inventive learning and use of crops to reduce the pressure of livestock on diminishing grazing resources



**Abolhassani Tribe in Touran Biosphere Reserve region:
pistachio, cotton, fodder barley, etc.**

2. Devising alternative/ complementary livelihoods, such as agro-silvo-pastoral activities now regularly used by some tribes as an adaptation strategy



3. Strengthening their conserved territories (ICCAs) and using their features, including buffer zones preserved for times of drought



4. Managing migration: re-arranging dates, duration and itinerary of migration



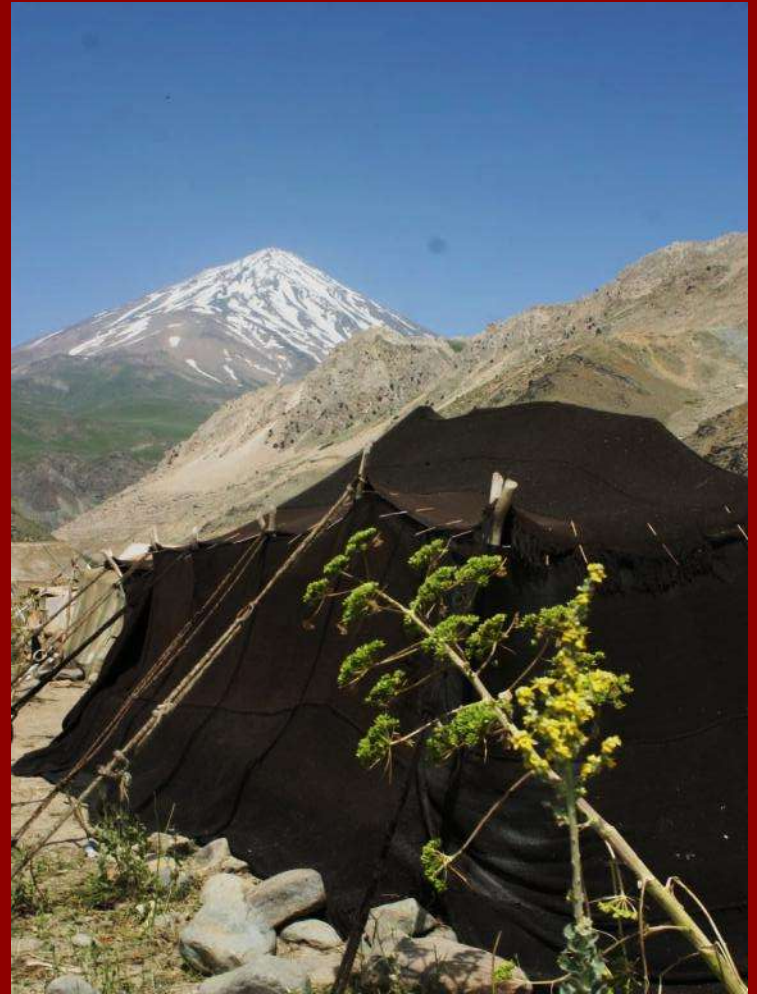
5. Reviving ancestral techniques of early warning systems



6. Using indigenous knowledge for monitoring and assessing the carrying capacity of destination rangelands before the season of migration (e.g., Bahmaie tribe)



7. Taking marketing decisions such as selling off animals before the season of migration based on community-based early warning systems





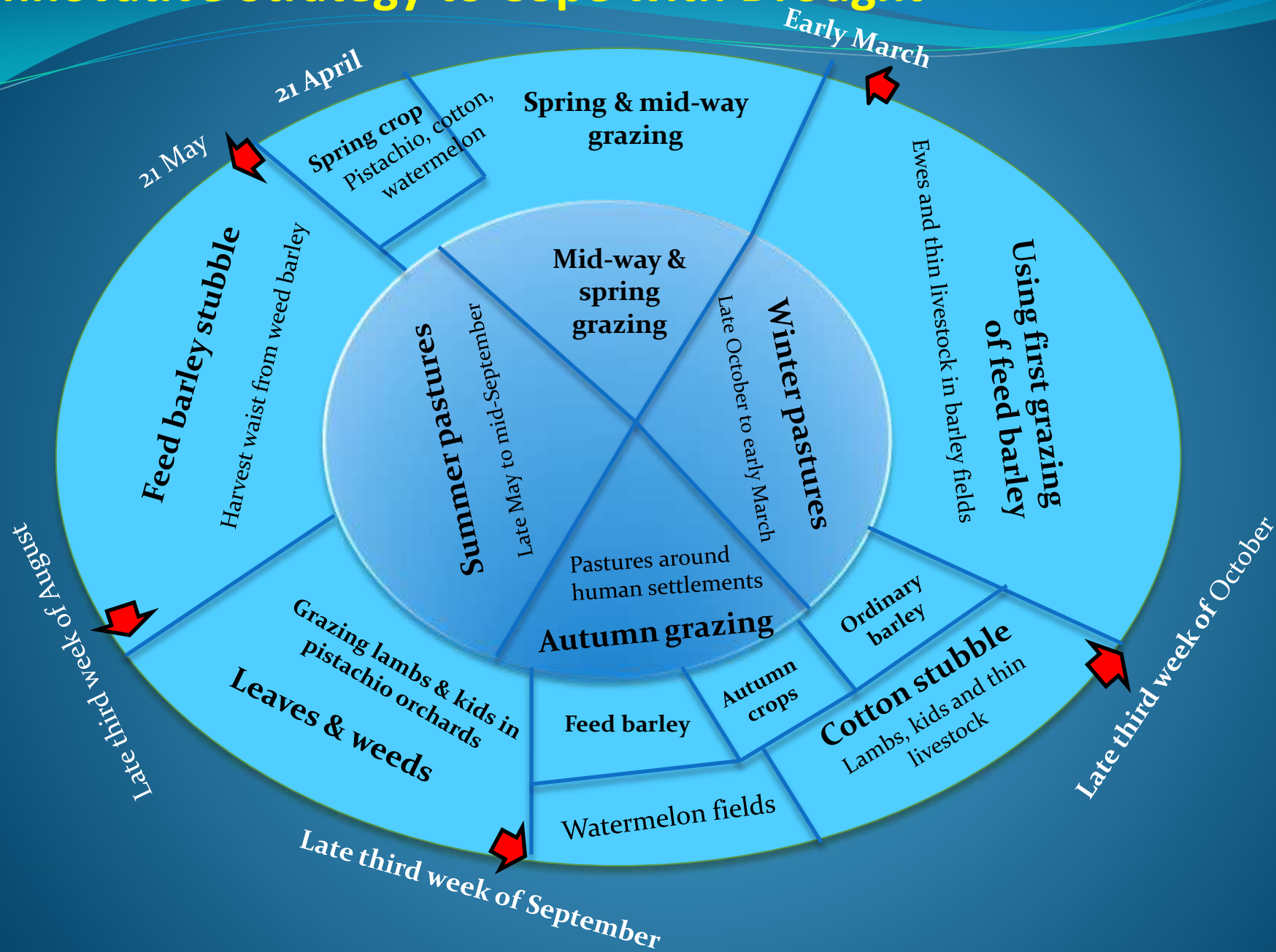
8. Changing livestock breeds to more drought resistant ones, and bringing back the indigenous breeds when conditions improve (Sangsari, Fars)



9. Managing glaciers and snowfields by covering them with plant debris and tapping into melting glaciers by piping the water for livestock watering points



Innovative Strategy to Cope with Drought



Examples of territories/ ICCAs in Iran



**Kurdish ICCA:
Zagros Oak
forests**



**Inverted Tulips Plain:
Bakhtiari tribal territory**



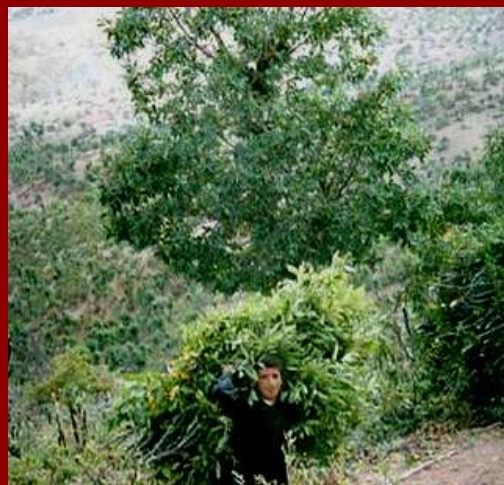
**Tribal summering
grounds: highland
forests**



**Wetland in Qashqai
Territory**



Camel ICCA in Desert



Caspian Forest ICCA



**bird sanctuary ICCA
(cum rice paddies)**

Response to the situation: Federating and organising—regaining ancestral territories & community conservation based sustainable livelihoods













- ◆ Indigenous tribes are reorganising themselves according to *customary governance structures*
- ◆ They are registering their authentic tribal organisations and re-claiming the governance of their *ancestral territories*
- ◆ They are claiming *appropriate recognition*, starting with *self-recognition*, of their *territory-based ICCAS*.
- ◆ They have now formed UNINOMAD and UNICAMEL (*national federations*)
- ◆ As a result, they are better listened to and are *influencing national policy* and the *reclaiming of their rights*
- ◆ Ojala... They will also be able to respond to climate changes!



Map of the 9 territory-based ICCA groupings included in the Action

Legend

-  Qashqa'i Tribal Confederacy
-  Bakhtiari Tribal Confederacy
-  Kurdish, Laki and Luri Tribes
-  Shahsevan Tribal Confederacy
-  Talesh and Galesh Tribes
-  Kormanj and Turkmen Tribes
-  Central Desert Periphery Tribes
-  Baluch Tribes
-  Marine and Coastal Indigenous Communities
-  Province Boundaries

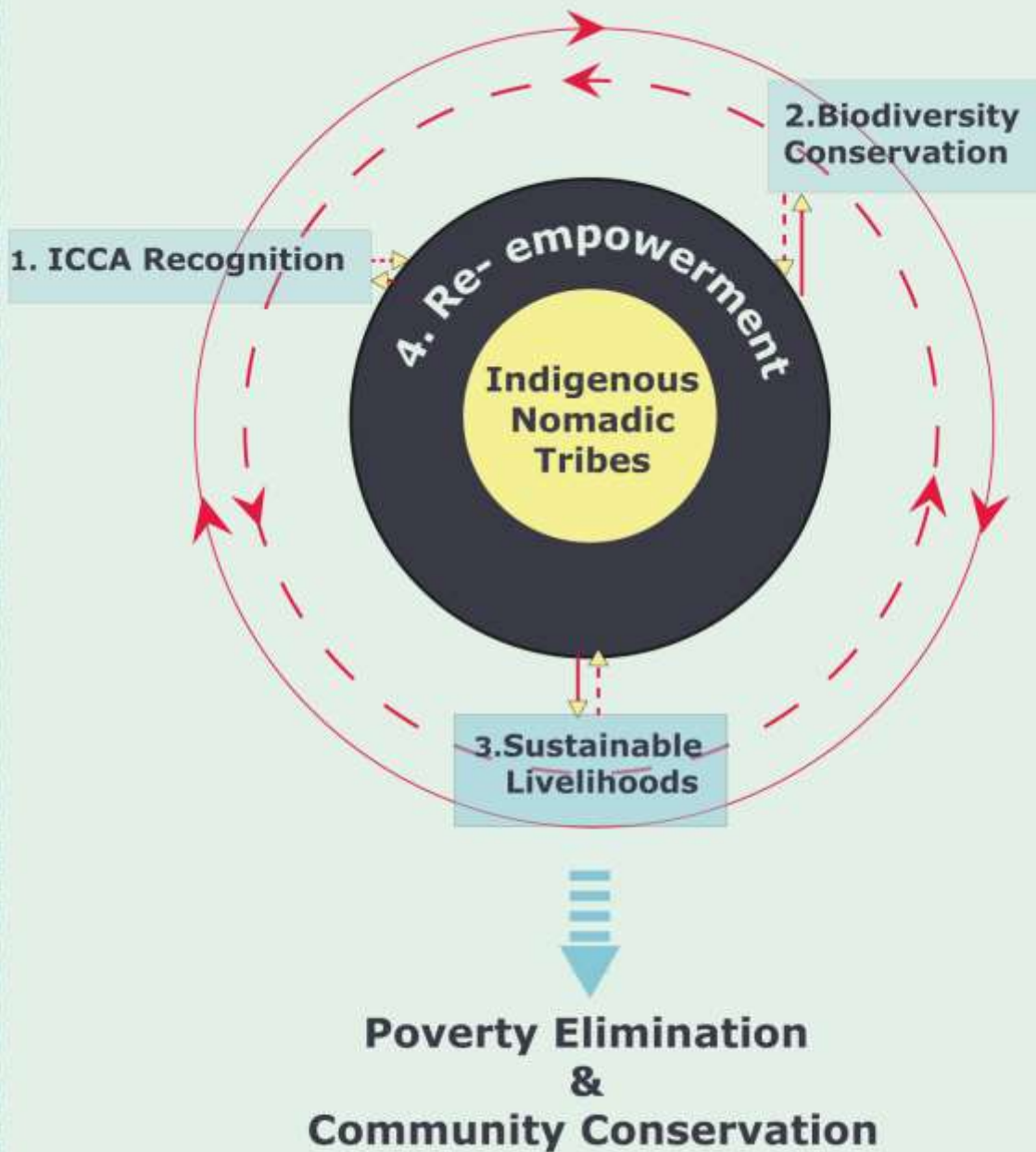


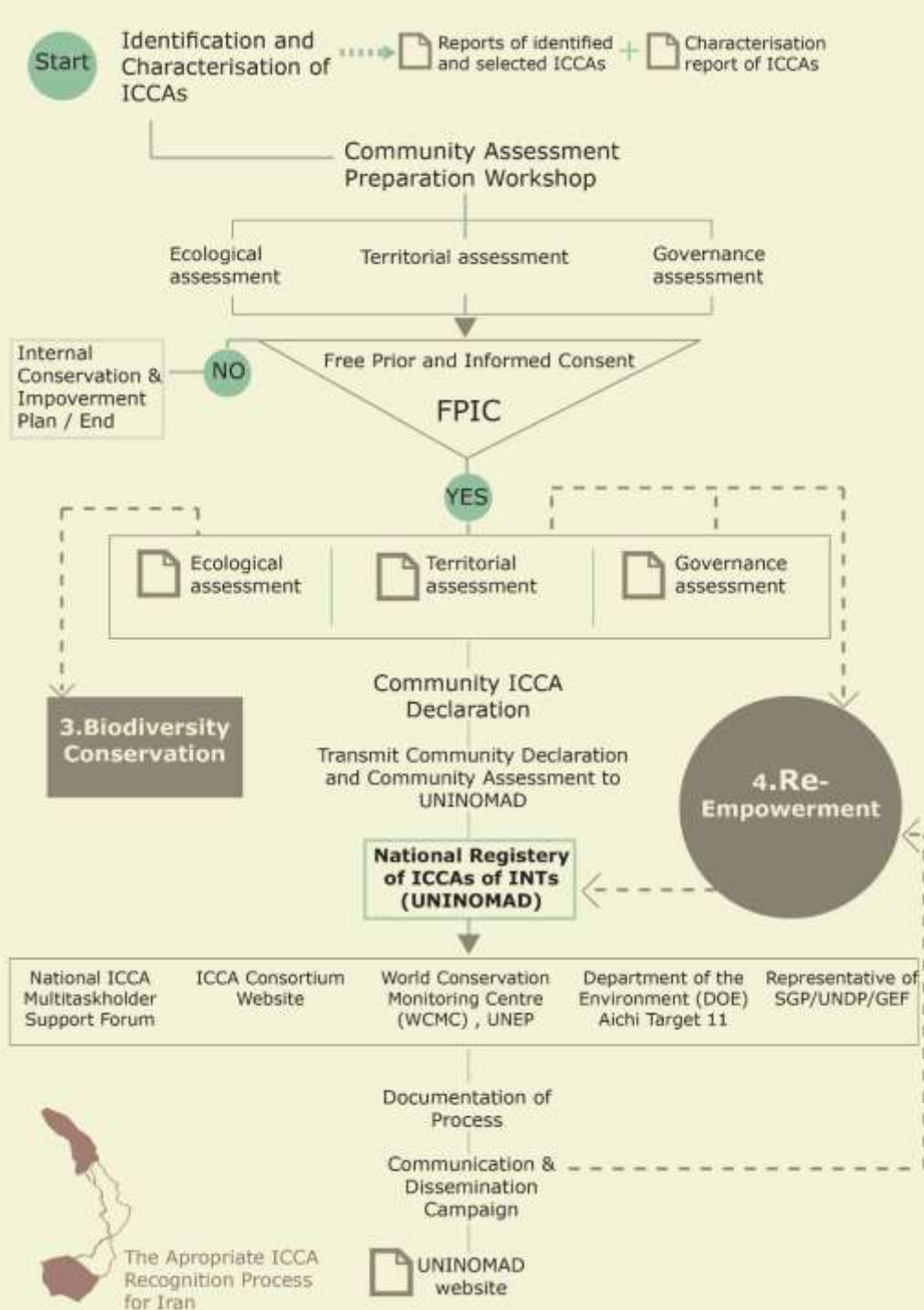
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0 100 200 400 600
Kilometers

Cenesta
Centre for Sustainable Development

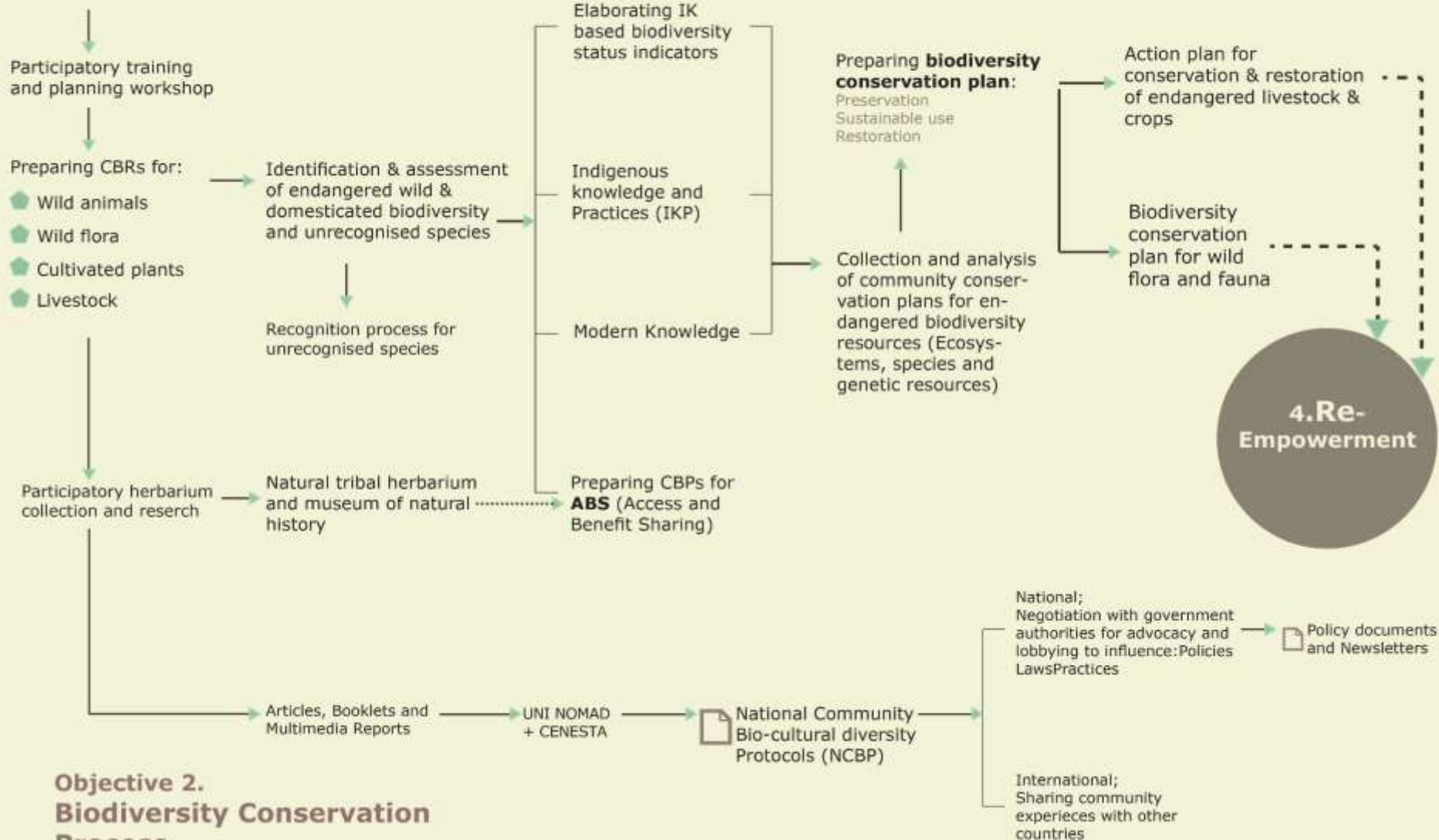
UNINOMAD.org



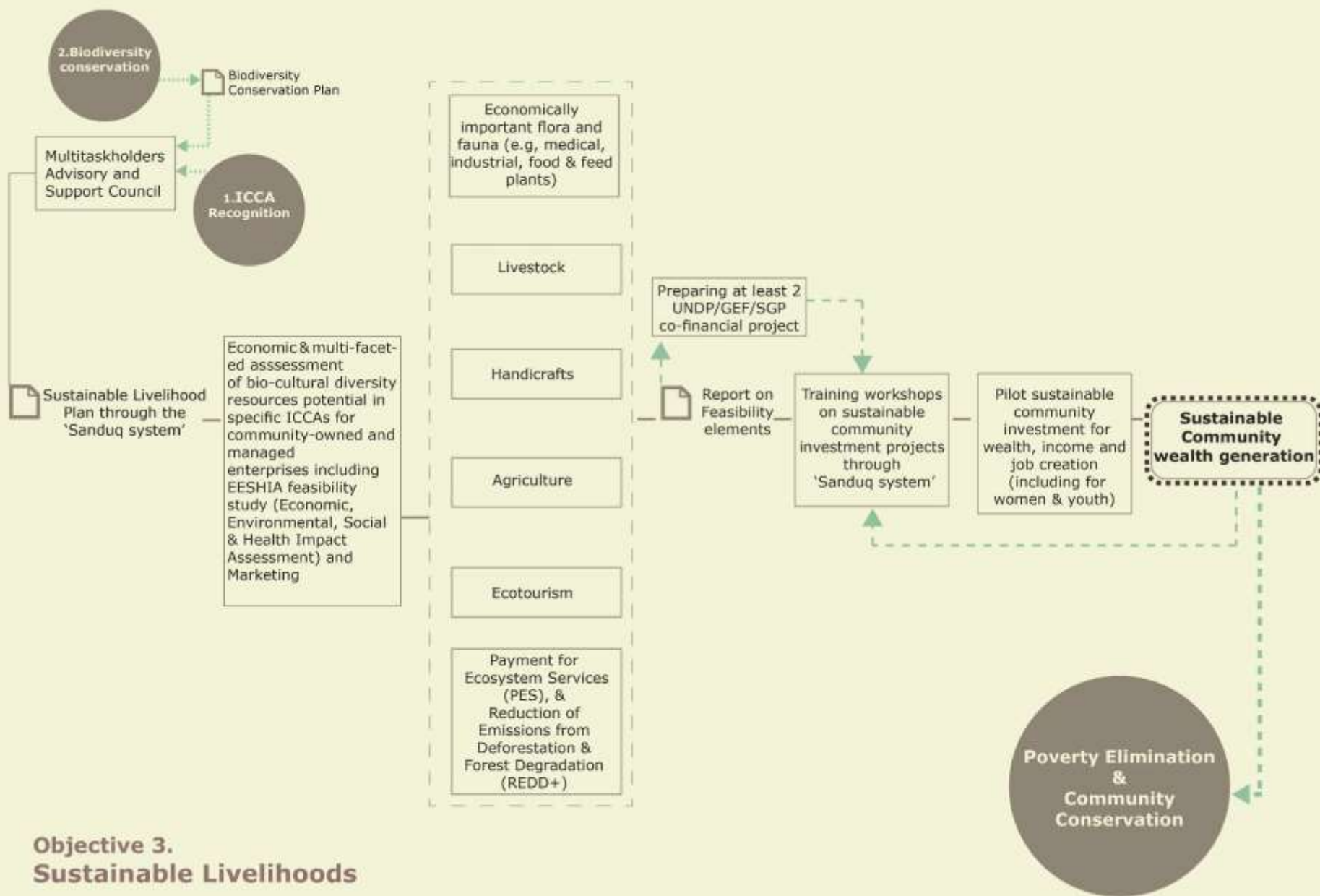


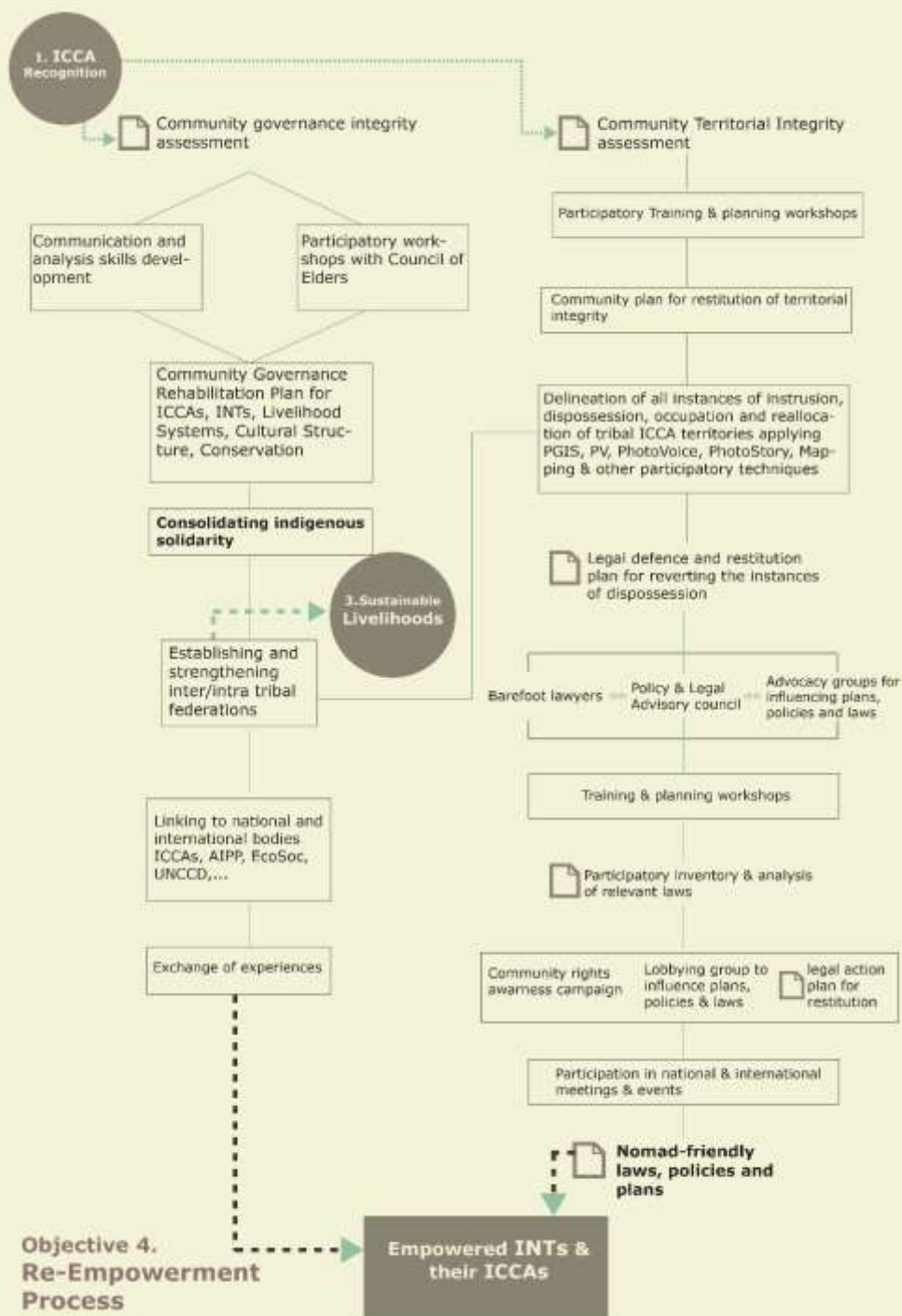
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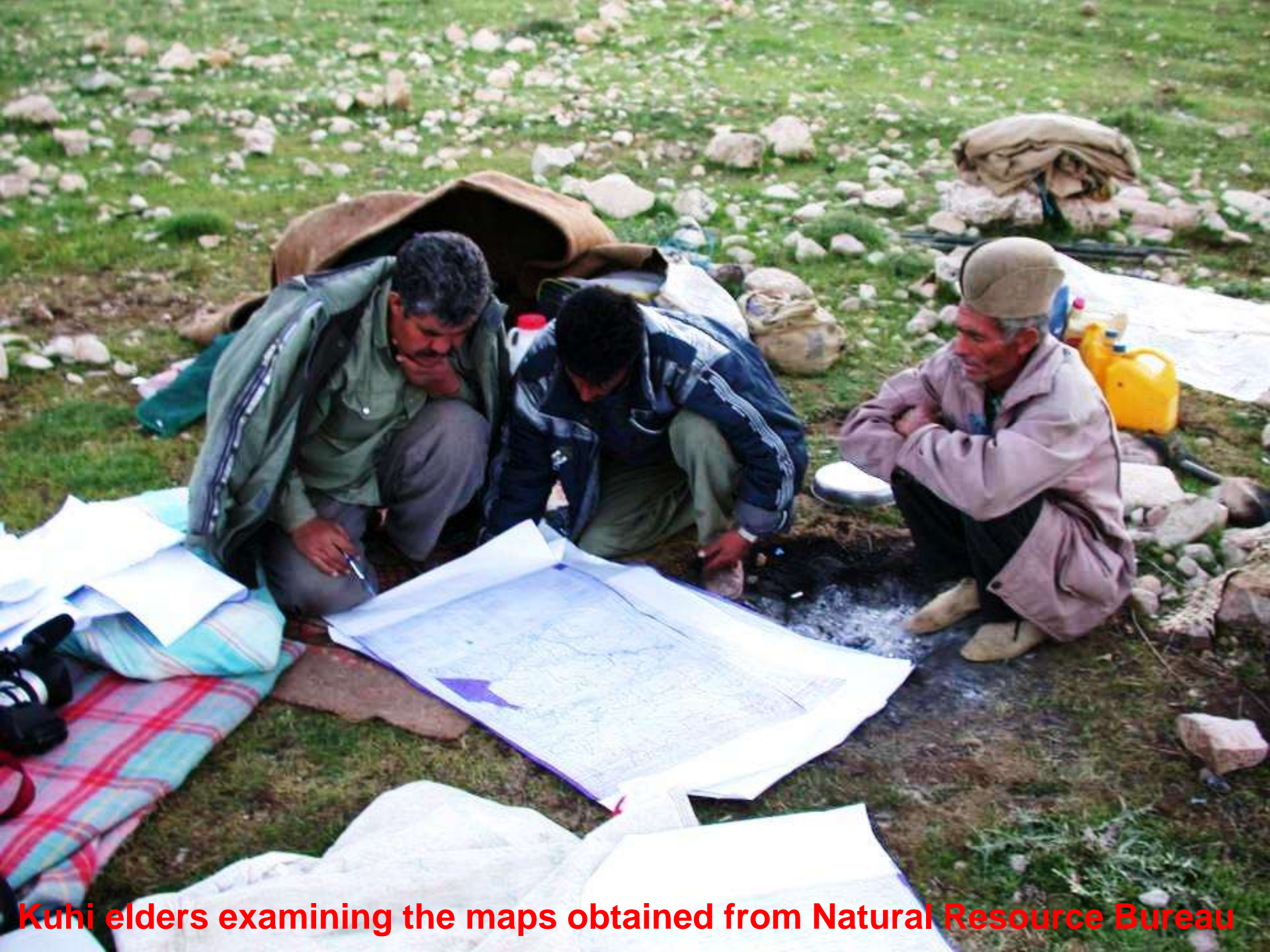
Ecological assessment



Objective 2. Biodiversity Conservation Process







Kuhi elders examining the maps obtained from Natural Resource Bureau

Delineating ancestral territories to restore customary governance systems





Many thanks for your patience and sustained attention !



...and please contact us:

www.ICCAconsortium.org

