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IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF



COUNTRY PROFILE



UNITED NATIONS

INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and,
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

NOTE TO READERS

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

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LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES

Decision-Making: The Islamic Republic of Iran has a political landscape to provide challenging perspectives for civil society development. The Iranian government has placed considerable success on strengthening civil society as an essential strategy for social, political and economic progress. Under this policy, Iran's emerging civil society is being encouraged to participate in promoting national and local development. NGOs are very active in general. National productivity organization of Iran is actively implementing clean production in industries through Asian productivity organization. Civil society development and citizen participation have paved the way for the empowerment of NGOs. Through participation in many international events, Iranian NGOs are gaining recognition by international community and policy-makers. The Iranian government has adopted a more positive attitude towards the idea of involving local NGOs as partners in sustainable development. Iran is gradually opening the door of collaboration with a number of international NGOs. There is also a need for consultation involving the government, the NGOs, and the private sector. The Islamic Republic of Iran does support all industries and any enterprise to go for ISO 14000, Clean Product (CP), etc., in cooperation with international organizations.

Programmes and Projects: There is no programme concerning Agenda 21.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: Official newspapers regularly disseminate government documents. A lot of newspapers, magazines and bulletins are published. A large number of worldwide websites are available for information and publications. There are some open forum discussion in universities and mass media.

Research and Technologies: Any technology that creates better environment and brings (CP) are supported: Use less fossil fuel technologies and industries; Waste minimization and recycle, reuse technology; Energy minimization, i.e. Lamps with low watts but more lights.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Many international conferences are being held in Iran.

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**CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED
DOMESTIC POLICIES - TRADE**

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: In Islamic Republic of Iran, two programmes will be implemented by Management & planning Organization on national level as follows: The scheme of combating poverty; the subsidy targeting programme. The expected outcomes will cover most of the thematic cluster of the chapter 3 of Agenda 21.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

Decision-Making: A Council on Consumption Patterns dealing with all aspects of energy, natural resources and food consumption is in place.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Use is made of the media through National Radio and Television, newspapers, weekly and monthly magazines and other publications to create awareness of the public with regards to issues of sustainable consumption and production patterns. For example, there is a limited campaign through mass media to sensitize people toward consumption of gas, water and electricity. The Gas Company and the Ministry of Power (water and electricity) are providers and sponsors of the programmes. The purpose of the activities is limitation and optimization of consumption. The National Television broadcasts short video clips on the importance of water consumption for various groups and viewers, including children and youth. Women, who are important actors in determining consumption patterns at the family levels, are also targeted in these education programmes. Education programmes, booklets and leaflets on environmental issues pertaining to sustainable development have been developed for rural women. Rural Women's Cooperatives and Young Rural Girl's Clubs have been significantly successful in promoting these ideas and influencing behaviors and attitudes on environmental policies.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Academic centers have undertaken research projects on national consumption patterns.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - ENERGY

Decision-Making: The Department of the Environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy.

Programmes and Projects: The Department of the Environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy is implementing projects, which are related to energy as follows: Developing of renewable energies on Manjeel site in Gilan province; Energy efficiency project in Tehran; Study on replacement of oil with gas in powerplants national wide of the country; Optimization of energy consumption in residential, transport and industrial sector on national level.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - TRANSPORT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Health other sectors.

Programmes and Projects: The Ministry of health and other sectors have implemented projects as follows: Sanitation of solid wastes in the country; Basic Development Needs (BDN) approach in the three provinces; The Healthy city and Healthy village project in 50 cities of the country; Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) in all over the country; To Combat smoking in the country; The outcome of the projects is in compliance with the themes of the chapter 6 of Agenda 21.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: The Iranian National Committee on Sustainable Development is the key national sustainable development coordination mechanism. Chaired by the Head of the Department of the Environment, it includes members from the President's Office, the Department of Environment, the Meteorological Organization, the Plan and Budget Organization, the Academy of Science, and Ministries of: Culture and Higher Education; Petroleum and Energy; Housing and Urbanization; Industry; Post and Telephone; Foreign Affairs; Agriculture; Health and Jihad. (Coordinating Bodies) The duties of the Committee, set out by the Department of the Environment, are as follows: Evaluation of the draft of the framework for sustainable development and suggestion of relevant proposals to the High Council of the Environment (IICE); Establishment and expansion of a Data Bank and a Centre for Documents relevant to Agenda 21, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity; Suggestion of proposals relevant to these two conventions and meetings; Planning of joint executive projects about the problems related to the conventions and to climate change, conservation and biodiversity, forests and Agenda 21, in collaboration with the other countries of the region in similar situations; Evaluation of the adopted measures in order to implement a Sustainable Development Strategy. Major Groups are involved in Sustainable Development Decision-Making:

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: The Department of the Environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Forest & rangelands Organization is implementing projects, which are related to the Climate Change as follows: Enabling the Islamic Republic of Iran to prepare its first National Communication in the country; Developing of renewable energies on Manjeel site in Gilan province; Absorbing and precipitating of carbon in Khorasan province; Energy efficiency project in Tehran; Study on replacement of oil with gas in powerplants national wide of the country; Study on global warming policies in the energy sectors on National-Regional-Global level.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Islamic Republic of Iran ratified the Convention on Climate Change on 18 July 1996. The Islamic Republic of Iran acceded to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985) and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987) on 3 October 1990 and accepted both the London Amendment (1990) and the Copenhagen Amendment (1992) on 4 August 1997.

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CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Decision-Making: The Ministries of Energy, Jihad-e-Keshavarzi (Agriculture) and Iranian Remote Sensing Center (IRSC).

Programmes and Projects: The Ministries of Energy, Jihad-e-Keshavarzi (Agriculture) and Iranian Remote Sensing Center (IRSC) have implemented projects as follows: Site selection of power plants using (GIS) on national level; Updating Topographic maps of the country; study on natural disasters in the country; study on dynamic phenomena in the country; preparing erosion map of the country; information of watershed component for decision-making in the country; watershed management in Karoon watershed and developing it in Khuzestan province

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Jihad-e-Keshavarzi(Agriculture).

Programmes and Projects: The Ministry of Jihad-e-Keshavarzi(Agriculture) has implemented the project “Sustainable management of soil and water” in Semnan province (Hablerode watershed).

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Islamic Republic of Iran ratified the Convention on Climate Change on 18 July 1996.

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CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Jihad-e-Keshavarzi (Agriculture) in collaboration with the Department of the Environment and other sectors.

Programmes and Projects: The Ministry of Jihad-e-Keshavarzi (Agriculture) in collaboration with the Department of the Environment and other sectors have implemented the following projects: Plan of livestock withdrawal from Caspian Forest in the North of Iran; Renovation of rural animal housing in the country; Honey-bee breeding in 7 provinces; Poultry breeding scheme in 5 provinces; The qualitative and quantitative development of buffalo production in 5 provinces; Qualitative development of Camel production on Arid zones in 7 provinces; Increasing goat meat and milk on semi tropical regions in southern provinces.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Decision-Making: The Islamic Republic of Iran ratified the protocol of Biosafety on 23 May 2001.

Programmes and Projects: The Department of the Environment, The Ministries of Energy, Foreign Affairs and Jihad-e- Keshavarzi (Agriculture) have implemented projects related to Biodiversity as follows: Enabling the Islamic Republic of Iran on Implementation of the Biological Diversity; Protection of wetlands in selected wetland regions of the country; Asian Leopard project in related regions of the country; Siberian Crane project in Mazandaran province; Integrated Caspian Forest management plan in the North of Iran; Increasing the protected area to 10% of Forests in the country; Caspian tree seed production and improvement center in Mazandaran province(Caspian region).

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Islamic Republic of Iran ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on 6 August 1996 and ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on 3 August 1976.

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CHAPTERS 16 AND 34: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Decision-Making:

Technologies: The Ministry of Industry has established an office of environment for the dissemination of information to various industries which it officially supervises. Industries have a tax exempt law when they employ ESTs in their systems. The plan is to promote waste minimization concepts and provide various means of encouragement toward acquisition of ISO 14000 certificates. So far the process has been slow, but it is foreseen that it will accelerate in view of the growing environment of awareness in the country and ECO-labeling requirements being postulated in the global markets for exported products. NGOs have been very active in promoting the idea of ESTs and cleaner production processes and, as a pressure group, they have been quite successful. The private sector has also moved in this direction.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Programmes and Projects:

Technologies: The Department of the Environment has also developed a Programme of Action regarding environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) for which the Ministry of Industrial and Municipal offices are responsible for implementation. The objectives of this Programme of Action are to promote research on ESTs in the area of waste management to enhance industrial cooperation and exchange of information in this area and, to enable the country to benefit from the most advanced and suitable ESTs for all areas important to Iran. ESTs are most urgently needed for the areas of industry and urban transportation. The Department of the Environment has various other programmes as well as to encourage industries in their use of ESTs. In addition, there is a National Gathering to acknowledge those industries which have promoted ESTs, and a technology exhibition and fair are underway.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Status:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Information:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Technologies: The Department of Environment has undertaken several research projects to define related policies for rivers and wetlands management, including the use and development of environmentally sound technologies. The use of ESTs also forms a part of the urban management strategy for mechanization of collecting wastewater and waste as well as industrial recycling of urban wastewater.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Financing:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Cooperation:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES.

Decision-Making: The Department of the Environment, The Ministry of Energy and other sectors.

Programmes and Projects: The Department of the Environment, The Ministry of Energy and other sectors have implemented the following projects: Regional protection of the Caspian sea in the North of Iran in collaboration with all lateral countries; Reception Facilities for balancing water on the oil ships in the persian Gulf; Study on environmental impacts of Coastal powerplants national wide; 4. Study on pollution due to oil transport in the persian Gulf.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Islamic Republic of Iran has not ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (as of April 1998).

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**CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES:
APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT,
MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES.**

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Energy is responsible for coordinating water resource management and development. At the regional level, the Regional Water and Wastewater Company carries out the coordination and management functions. The major laws governing this area include the following: the Fair Water Distribution Act (1983); the Act of the Establishment of Water and Wastewater Companies; the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (1974); the Prevention of Water Pollution Regulation (1994); Quabat and Well Excavation Regulation (1984). Water quality standards are set by the Department of the Environment, which has standard limits for all toxic and hazardous substances which are found in effluents released from different sources (industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors).

Programmes and Projects: The Department of the Environment has also developed a Programme of Action regarding environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) for which the Ministry of Industrial and Municipal offices are responsible for implementation. The objective of this Programme of Action are, inter alia, to promote research on ESTs in the area of waste management, to enhance industrial cooperation and exchange of information in this area and, to enable the country to benefit from the most advanced and suitable ESTs for all areas important to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Ministry of Energy and Interior have implemented projects which are related to freshwater. The subject of these programmes is as follows: Study on Environmental Impacts of Hydropower Dams in Amirkabir and Sefidrud dams; To separate Drinking water pipe lines from irrigation network of Municipal green places in 20 cities of the country; To prepare national report of Iran wetlands, specially for wetlands which have registered in Ramsar Convention.

Status: Domestic consumption of water in large cities is approximately two hundreds liters per capita per day; in small cities, the quantity is one hundred eighty liters. There are fifteen treatment plants operating in the country to treat waste water and about thirty units for recycling waste water. Only five percent of urban sewerage is treated.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: Information on water and agricultural sector is regularly collected by the Ministry of Agriculture; information on water and household sector is collected by the Ministry of Energy; and, on water and industrial sector by the Department of Environment Information is distributed by the Iranian Center for Statistics.

Research and Technologies: The Department of Environment has undertaken several research projects to define relative policies for rivers and wetlands management, including the use and development of environmentally sound technologies ESTs. The use of ESTs also forms a part of the urban management strategy for mechanization of collecting wastewater and waste as well as industrial recycling or urban wastewater.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Ramsar Convention entered into force in the Islamic Republic of Iran on 21 December 1995.

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**CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS,
INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN
TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS.**

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Health.

Programmes and Projects: The Ministry of Health has implemented the project “Chemical Safety” in the country since 1999. The expected outcomes would cover the thematic clusters of chapters 19- 21 of Agenda 21.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTERS 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES

Decision-Making:

Hazardous Wastes: The Department of Environment has approved policies on hazardous waste management in accordance with the Basel Convention.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Programmes and Projects:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior and other sectors have implemented the project "Sanitation disposal of wastes in the country", specially in 40 cities of the country.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Status:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Information:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Financing:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Cooperation:

Hazardous Wastes: The Islamic Republic of Iran has ratified the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal on 4 April 1993.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

CHAPTERS 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

Women: Cooperation: The Islamic Republic of Iran has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (as of April 1998).

Children and Youth: No information available.

Indigenous People: No information available.

Non-governmental Organizations: Programmes and Projects: NGO's are very active. The Department of the Environment & the Ministry of Interior have implemented the project "Development and Progression of NGO's" at national level. Status: There are 328 NGO's in the country.

Local Authorities: No information available.

Workers and Trade Unions: No information available.

Business and Industry: No information available.

Scientific and Technological Community: No information available.

Farmers: No information available.

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CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Decision-Making: Environmental taxes, levies and charges have been introduced. The polluter-must-pay principle is in place for waste water pollution in industries. Fines protecting fish, trees and different forms of wildlife are also in force. The Environmental Impact Assessment laws imply that any industrial activity or investment must be preceded by an EIA. The Budget Law of 1998 also stipulates that projects of foreign investments be accompanied by an EIA. In the Second Development Plan (1995-1999), policies have been introduced to omit gradually unsustainable subsidies. There is consideration for low-income people. The implementation of these policies will take longer than had been thought.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Supreme Council is the body responsible for addressing all issues related to science for sustainable development. Science is integrated into decision-making through the membership of seven academic tutors in the National Committee for Sustainable Development who participate as representatives of ministries. Science, though is not the foundation of decision-making. The Annual Seminar on Housing Development policies provides an opportunity for the scientific community, government and private sector to exchange views.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: The Scientific Research Council of the country gathers academics, experts, and members of the government on research projects in different fields. The Department of the Environment and NGOs hold seminars and workshops with the same functions.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Decision-Making: The Department of the Environment has recently established a new deputy in educational and planning affairs. Education on sustainable development is reported to this office. There is a National Plan for the Protection of the Environment and a National Strategy for Sustainable Development. Both include separate actions on education and public awareness. The National Plan involves strategies and actions to be taken as well as specific targets for national education on sustainable development and protection of the environment. Public education schemes involving all levels of workers, managers, teachers, physicians, health workers and NGOs have been adopted.

Programmes and Projects: Education programmes, booklets and leaflets on environmental issues pertaining to sustainable development have been developed for rural women. Rural Women's Cooperatives and Young Rural Girls' Clubs have been significantly successful in promoting these ideas and influencing behaviour and attitudes on environmental policies.

Status: Pursuant to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, all individuals can attend school up to higher education free of charge. According to recent ratification, education for students in the age of elementary school and adults up to forty years is compulsory. Environment and sustainable development issues have been included directly and indirectly in curricula and different levels of formal education, but they need to be extended. Elementary enrollment rates for girls and boys between the ages of six and ten are more than ninety-six percent. Technical and vocational education strategies have been undertaken to ensure a skilled work force.

Information: Reports on education and awareness-raising are prepared by the Supreme Council on Environment and in the context of activities defined in international conventions.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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**CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR
CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

No information available.

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CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN System.

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CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

This issue has been covered under the heading **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: The Office of the President, the Department of the Environment, Management & Planning Organization are responsible for decision-making in this area. Information management is also delegated to the state authority.

Programmes and Projects: The Five-year-development programme is addressing the flow and management of information for decision-making in Iran. A programme of indicators for sustainable development is in the process of being developed. Main projects aimed at improving the current design of the national information network include: Establishing new libraries & to expand the existing ones; Instituting environmental documentary centers & data bank through the country; Publishing Environmental Journals and books; Organizing short & long term environmental complementary courses; Other measures taken include: Establishing networks between national committee and sub-committee-to receive information on a regular basis and to use data collection techniques. Using GIS & specialized information, models & other techniques. Establishing a powerful environmental data bank center, web sites & access to Internet in every sectors. Strengthening electronic networking capabilities.

Status: Scientists, the private sector and NGOs contribute to the collection, assessment, management and dissemination of information and data for decision making for sustainable development. The private sector provides information and gives proper guidelines for progress in all fields of activities (industry, agriculture, public health, etc.) and organizes cooperation for capacity building in local levels. Local and national authorities coordinate between the private and public concerning commercial data source. Major groups have been consulted in the development of information systems and indicators, particularly in relation to environmental, social, development and demographic indicators or evaluation models, for example: impact/pressure; state/condition of environment; and; response measures. Harmonization and standardization of data on sustainable development at national and international levels are also in process. A databank on sustainable development is established and is being expanded with an Internet access. There is a national website for sustainable development and on the state of environment. The private sector and scientists have the most urgent needs for improved access to information. The issue areas of sustainable development that require the most immediate attention are: Consumption patterns; Combating poverty; Optimising human, nature, economic aspect; Optimising exploitation of natural resources and their management.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Capacity-building efforts include: strengthening of national mechanisms for providing guidelines and regulations, educating/training managers and personnel at all levels on information, providing access to accurate, up-to-date information while integrating personnel at different levels of decision-making. Measures taken to enhance public awareness and promote an environmental culture include: providing information to management authorities, students, public and enterprises and making them aware of major problems through mass media (radio, TV, films), lectures, personal interviews, conferences guide books, dissemination of posters and bulletins. There are environmental education and training programmes in different areas from strengthening institutional capacity, formulating and implementing regulations for EIA projects, workshops for updating experts, staff in addition to other infrastructure activities.

Research and Technologies: There are no new technologies or schemes to improve methods of data collection about sustainable development. Designing of such techniques as geographic information systems, expert systems, models, etc. for continuous and accurate data storage, management and assessment, are in the process of being developed in Iran. The technologies Iran would require most to further enhance its national information system are: to develop environmental data bank center; to develop World Websites; and, to improve Internet access in every sectors.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: There is no cooperation between Iran and other countries in gathering and sharing information on sustainable development.

CHAPTER: INDUSTRY

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Industry has established an office of environment for the dissemination of information to various industries that it officially supervises. The plan is to promote waste minimization concepts and provide various means of encouragement toward acquisition of IS) 14000 certificates. So far the process has been slow but it is foreseen that it will accelerate in view of the growing environment for awareness in the country and ECO-labeling requirements being postulated in the global markets for exported products. National laws and regulations for Protection of the Environment, the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act are all relevant to industry. In addition, the National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Environment (1998) includes sub-committees on Air Pollution, Water Pollution, Waste Management, Noise Pollution and Biodiversity. Industries have a tax exempt law for when they employ ESTs in their systems. Strategies for Long-Term and Short-Term Policies, quantifiable targets and time schedules are also a part of the Plan. The Programme of Action that has been developed from this Strategy calls for the establishment of a clear-cut environmental policy for private and government sectors and to bring the economy and environment together. Each industry is given a three-month grace period before being held accountable for implementation of the new policies. The Department of the Environment is encouraging Green Industries and the relevant ministries are drawing up national strategies for green industries.

Programmes and Projects: The Department of the Environment has various other programmes to encourage industries in their use of ESTs. In addition, there is a National Gathering to acknowledge those industries which have promoted ESTs. A technology exhibition and fare are underway. The Ministry of Industry and mining has performed projects as follows: Pilot plan of Cleaner Production in an industrial Unit and an industrial estates of Tehran province; Quality and quantity Identification of industrial wastes in Gilan province; Quality and quantity Identification of industrial pollutants in Isfahan province; Conducting Industries in to establishment EMS; Constructing wastewater collecting system and treatment plants in industrial estates of the country.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The number of Green Consulting Engineers is growing.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Decision-Making: Iran started activities to prepare a plan to ensure a long-term development with the support of national and international expertise and to prepare a plan in compliance with government policies and strategies as well as with the Third Five-Year Development Plan. In this plan, the point of view of other international and regional bodies have been taken into consideration, e.g. UN, ESCAP, UNDP, UNEP and WTO. To achieve the mentioned goals, improving reconstruction research groups along with awareness and education of concerned bodies including organization of project were necessary. The Iran Touring and Tourism Organization (ITTO) as a Governmental Tourism Administration (GTA) has progressed in this field and is intending to continue in order to submit the projected plan. In order to have the sustainable development plan, the following steps had to be taken initially: carry out a thorough study about the past activities concerning the master plans as the reference (the master plan prepared in 1972 included some other regional plans); reconstruct ITTO research center and setting up the study groups according to the requirement for the plan; set up the advisory committee comprising experts from universities, ITTO experts and responsible persons from the related organizations; carry out an awareness campaign in order to attain the same level of understanding in the provinces; and, divide the process into three steps: Short Term (Action Plan), Medium Term and Long Term. The Short-Term Plan highlights obstacles for Tourism Development and reports defined problems to the related bodies, e.g. Tourism High Council, Parliament and Executive Organizations or Ministries. The Medium-Term Plan prepares the plan in accordance with the policies and strategies of the government in the third five-year development plan. The Long-Term Plan coordinates with the related organizations according to the terms of reference as well as the international recommendation for sustainable development nationally and internationally, e.g. Foreign Ministry, Budget and Planning Organization, Environment Protection Organization, Interior Ministry, Air Transport Authorities (including Railroad and Sea), WTO, UNDP, etc.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The following activities are being carried out in accordance with the above-mentioned strategies: a revision committee started its activities in order to revise the master plan prepared in 1972; the managerial model of the plan for the national and regional level has been prepared; a request for an advisory mission from WTO was made for the mentioned purpose; the programme of work has been prepared for the study groups which should then be in contact with the related organization nationally and internationally; the statistical bureau is being set up to meet the statistical needs of study groups; the study groups are being arranged in a matrix model; the project manager is being proposed to head the Iran Tourism High Council (First Vice-president); the necessary liaison is being carried out with UNDP office in Tehran, WTO Asia-Pacific Representative, the Foreign Ministry and Budget and Planning Organization in order to prepare the final document including terms of reference of the Plan; a short-term plan is being prepared as an action plan; medium-term plans are being prepared in accordance with the Third Five-Year Plan of the country; A CPM is being prepared for the revision of past master plan; an ECO-Tourism study group is being established, especially with the justification of Iran's variety of natural attractions as new potential for tourism development (the announcement of UN for the year 2002 as the year for Eco-Tourism and Mountains); a Global Code of Ethics study group is being set up in Iran (Iran has been appointed as the representative of South Asia in the WTO Global Code of Ethics Committee); and, the Silk Road Project office, including the study group as well as appointment of national project manager with a special attention in the plan, is being organized. Finally, it should be stated that the process started with a good potential and, even though it is not a long time, the activities have taken place but the progress has been quite satisfactory. The first phase of the medium-term plan has been completed hoping to end within the next three months. The long-term plan or rather the sustainable plan is to be finished by the beginning of year 2000 if WTO and UNDP have completed cooperation in all related aspects.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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