



In the Name of God

Implementation of the Convention
on Combating Desertification in I.R.
Iran

Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Iran is located in: South West of Asia
- **Land area** : 1.65 million square kilometer
 - **Agriculture Lands** : % 11.2
 - **Forest** : % 8.75
 - **Rangelands** : % 53.7
 - **Deserts** : % 20.8
- **The population** : around 70.5 millions
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The Hircanian region



MEHR



Zagross region



Zagross region



Persian Gulf and Oman Sea Region
(Saharo-Sindian)



Mangrove Forests





Desertification in Iran

-Nearly 100 million hectares (70 percent) of the lands are subject to desertification as following:

A: 5 million hectares by water erosion

B: 20 million hectares by wind erosion

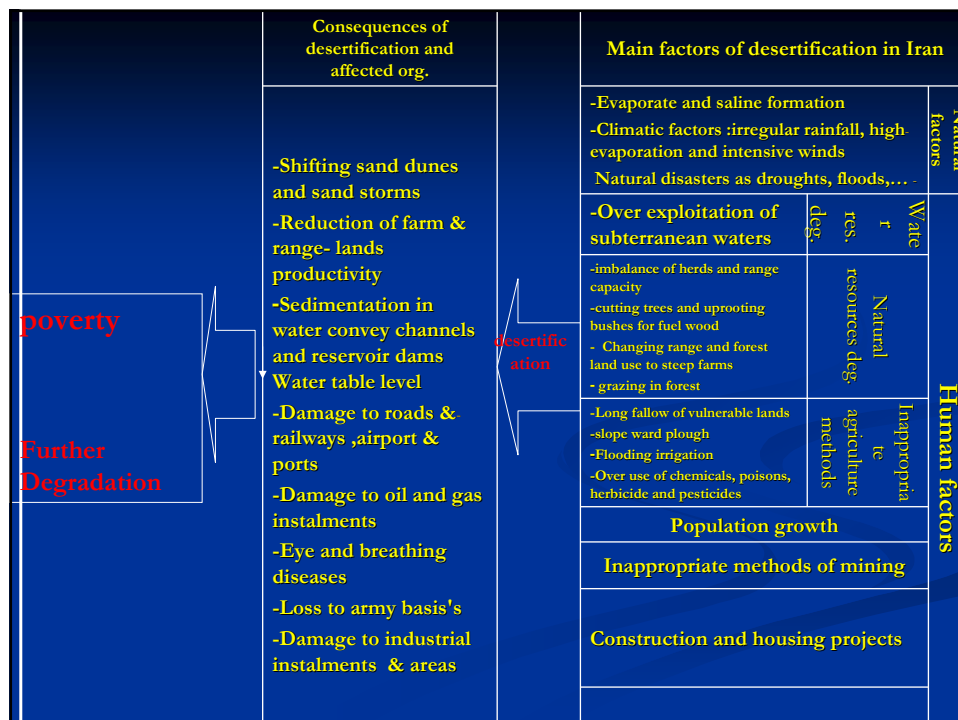
C: 5 million hectares by salinization and physical degradation

6.4 million hectares of the lands subjected to wind erosion are hot points including:

A: 2.1 million hectares intensive erosion

B: 2.2 million hectares moderate erosion

C: 2.1 million hectares slight erosion



The NAP of Iran

- Iran's official activities to combat desertification go back to more than 6 decades.
- Iran joined to the UNCCD in 1995
- The NAP preparation

The most important activities undertaken to prepare & implement the NAP

- 1- Setting up of National Committee to Combat (NCCD) desertification
- 2- Determination of macro-policies & strategies to combat desertification
- 3-Merging Construction Jihad & Agriculture ministries
- 4- Merging Forest & Range org. & Watershed management org.
- 5-Specifying Forest, Rangelands & Watershed Management Org. as the National Coordination Body (NCB)
- 6- Mainstreaming policies of the NAP in 3rd & 4th 5 yearly development plans
- 7- Large extension of public awareness (cultural) activities and capacity building in all levels
- 8- Setting up National Network of NGOs active in combating desertification

- 10- preparation of documents of *National Strategy & Action Plan on Drought Preparedness Management and Mitigation* in Agriculture min. by cooperation of FAO
- 11- Preparation and implementation of participatory projects along with local communities and relating executive organizations
- 12- preparation and adoption of official chart and TOR of NCCD, EC, NCB, FP and the Secretariat
- 13- Formulation of strategic research plan of agriculture sector including drought
- 14- Formulation of national plans for:
 - Desert control
 - Balancing herds & rangelands capacity
 - Rejection of herds from Hyrcanian forests
 - Protection of Zagros forests and ...
- 15- Implementation of several international projects as pilot of the NAP by cooperation of UNDP, GEF, GM, FAO, ...
- 16- Setting up and strengthening of national measurement networks on meteorology, hydrology, water pollution, wind and water sediments
- 17- Identification of benchmarks and indicators of desertification in Iran
- 18- Revising and updating the Act of Natural Resources Management

outputs of some activities to combat desertification:

- Increase of water use efficiency in agriculture from 33 to 40 percent.
- Decrease of population growth rate from 2.5 to 1.6 percent
- Extension of use of sustainable resources of energy like wind and solar systems
- Control of floods through increasing the capacity of reservoir dams from 24 to more than 32 billion cubic meter
- Control of excessive water consumption by installation of counters on agriculture wells and 57000 prevention of digging inadmissible wells
- Increase of access of villagers and nomads to oil & gas
- Increase of insurance agriculture products (animal husbandry, herds keeping, aquaculture and rangelands) to 3.9 times from 2000-2004

Challenges

- Capacity building and knowledge sharing
- Partnership agreements with donor countries
- Lack of enough (internal and external) funding for SLM
- Lack of appropriate mechanism for coordinating Environmental conventions (global, national)
- Position of NCCD institution
- Socio-Economic causes of desertification
- The secretariat still need to be more supported and well-staffed and more capacity building activities are needed

- Vacancy of some relevant institutions like ministry of Economy and Commerce and also some parliamentary representatives in combination of NCCD is felt
- Lack of provincial coordination bodies of the NAP implementation process in provincial and local levels







