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

The Hircanian region
Zagross region

Zagross region
Persian Gulf and Oman Sea Region
(Saharo-Sindian)

Mangrove Forests
The Hircanian region
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

Main factors of desertification in Iran

- Over exploitation of subterranean waters
- Evaporate and saline formation
- Climatic factors: irregular rainfall, high evaporation and intensive winds
- Natural disasters as droughts, floods...
- Over use of chemicals, poisons, herbicide and pesticides
- Inappropriate methods of mining
- Population growth
- Inappropriate methods of agriculture
- Shifting sand dunes and sand storms
- Loss to army basis's
- Long fallow of vulnerable lands
- Damage to roads & railways, airports & ports
- Change range and forest land use to steep farms
- Grazing on farms
- Cutting trees and uprooting bushes for fuel wood
- Changing range and forest land use to steep farms
- Grazing on farms
- Reducing of farm & range lands productivity
- Sedimentation in water convey channels and reservoir dams
- Water table level
- Damage to oil and gas instalments & areas
- Eye and breathing diseases
- Loss to army basis's
- Damage to industrial instalments & areas

Consequences of desertification and affected org.

Further Degradation

Poverty
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, aquiculture 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
'Thank you for your attentions