
National Report to the Ninth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Islamic Republic of Iran

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1- Progress towards sustainable forest management

Implementation of previous resolutions adopted by the Forum, including the IPF/IFF proposal for action:

Describe actions or measures taken at national or international levels to carry out resolutions and decisions adopted by the Forum during 2002-2008 including the IPF/IFF proposal for action:

	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>Type of action called for IPF IFF</i>	
<u>Studies and analyses of deforestation and forest degradation</u>	27	64
- Preparation of Forest Resources Assessment of Iran	(a)	(a)
- Preparation of forest resources maps of the Caspian region, the Zagros region, Arasbarani region, the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea region and Iran- o- Touranian region	27	67
- Formulation of forestry plans for the Caspian region, the Zagros region, Arasbarani region, the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea region and Iran- o- Touranian region	(b)	28
- Formulation of Vision 2025 on natural resources management	(c)	31
- Preparation of forest cover maps of Iran for the Caspian region, the Zagros region, Arasbarani region, the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea region and Iran- o- Touranian region	(a)	31
- Study and classification of rangelands of Iran	(b)	31
- Study of arid and semi-arid regions of Iran and identification of wind erosion hot points for plantation forests	(c)	

<u>Integrated national policies and strategies for combating deforestation and forest degradation</u>	29	64
- Formulation of Vision 2025 on natural resources management	(a)	(b)
- Developing and implementing the national strategy for protection of the Caspian and Zagros forests and Arasbarani region, the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea region and Iran- o- Touranian region	29	64
- Revision of Forests and Rangelands Law	(b)	(c)
- Directives for transfer Regulations of National Lands	29	64
- Conservation and Protection of Natural Resources and Forests Reserves	(c)	(d)
- Directives of National Land Use Planning Law	30	64
- Formulation of National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and drought impacts	(b)	(f)

Combating deforestation and forest degradation

<u>Studies and analyses of deforestation and forest degradation</u>	27 (a)	64 (a)
- Preparation of Forest Resources Assessment of Iran	27 (b)	67
- Preparation of forest resources maps of the Caspian region, the Zagros region, Arasbarani region, the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea region and Iran- o- Touranian region	28 (c)	
	31 (a)	
	31 (b)	
- Formulation of forestry plans for the Caspian region, the Zagros region, Arasbarani region, the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea region and Iran- o- Touranian region	31 (c)	
- Formulation of Vision 2025 on natural resources management		
- Preparation of forest cover maps of Iran for the Caspian region, the Zagros region, Arasbarani region, the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea region and Iran- o- Touranian region		
- Study and classification of rangelands of Iran		
- Study of arid and semi-arid regions of Iran and identification of wind erosion hot points for plantation forests		

<u>Integrated national policies and strategies for combating deforestation and forest degradation</u>	29 (a)	64 (b)
	29 (b)	64 (c)
- Formulation of Vision 2025 on natural resources management	29 (c)	64 (d)
- Developing and implementing the national strategy for protection of the Caspian and Zagros forests and Arasbarani region, the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea region and Iran- o- Touranian region	30 (b)	64 (f)
- Revision of Forests and Rangelands Law		
- Directives for transfer Regulations of National Lands		
- Conservation and Protection of Natural Resources and Forests Reserves		
- Directives of National Land Use Planning Law		
- Formulation of National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and drought impacts		
<u>Capacity building, raising awareness and disseminating information</u>	30 (a)	64 (e)
- FRWO started a national program for mainstreaming social aspects in forest development schemes to control the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation through promotion of decision-making and raising the awareness of the general public and capacity-building in communities as well as formal and informal trainings.		64 (i)
<u>Financial approaches to promote sustainable forest management</u>		
- Insurance cover and credit facilities for local communities, cooperatives and private sector		
- Amendment to Financial Regulations Adjustment Law		
- Development rights		
All natural and planted forests as well as rangelands to be destroyed, cut or affected in any form for development purposes, should be compensated for by the contractor/s in terms of financial compensation or new plantation up to ten times of the value of natural resources.		
Miners active in forest areas are obliged to pay 3% of their revenue for rehabilitation of mining operation areas in addition to state taxes based on article No.25 of Mining Law ratified in 1998.		
- Forestry project facilities		
Local land users and contractors of forestry projects are entitled to receive low-interest loans from Agriculture Bank to help implement the projects.		

<u>Protected areas to safeguard forests and related ecosystems</u>	46 (c)	85 (e)
-Approximately 10% of total natural forests in IRAN is defined as conserved areas by Forests, Range & Watershed Management Organization (FRWO) and its management is transferred to Department of Environment (DoE)	58 (b) (v)	85 (g)
		86
		88
-Creating and expanding protected areas in form of forests reserves in forests areas under forest management plans by Forests, Range & Watershed Management Organization (FRWO)		89

Cross-sectoral coordination of policies and programmes that affects forest conservation

- Macro policies on *Natural Resources*

- Creating a national will for reclamation of renewable natural resources and development of vegetation cover for conservation and optimum utilization and speeding up the production trend of the resources by raising awareness and precipitation of the community.
- Identification and conservation of land and water resources, as well as flora and fauna genetic reserves, enrichment of soil's nutrients and utilization based on potential of resources and encouraging new investments in the sector.
- Revision of the existing exploitation system of natural resources and elimination of factors contributing to unsustainability of resources and striving for the conservation and development of natural resources.
- Expansion of applied research and the environmental friendly technologies as well as breeding flora and fauna species, establishing data bank, promoting training courses and dissemination of information.

- Macro policies on *Water Resources*

- Establishment of an integrated water cycle management system based on the principles of sustainable development and land use planning for the watershed basins of the country.
- Boosting productivity of water use by paying due attention to economic, security and political values of water in the process of exploitation, supply, collection and consumption of water.
- Increasing water exploitation volume and minimizing natural and industrial waste of water in the country through any possible method.
- Formulation of an integrated plan for updating the infrastructures' planning scheme including construction of dams, watershed and aquifer systems and irrigation networks as well as leveling the farmlands and exploiting non conventional water, upgrading science and technologies and strengthening public participation in exploitation and consumption and water.

- Macro policies on Agriculture

Article 1: Sustainable agriculture development with emphasis on natural resources conservation and empowerment of human resources;

Article 2: Attaining food security through production from internal sources aimed at self- sufficiency in staple crops, boosting food hygiene, optimizing the consumption pattern and supporting production and export with due consideration to their relative advantages and creating new advantages(including targeted subsidy allocation towards advocacy for production and exports);

Article 3: Reorganizing agriculture structure and exploitation system with due consideration to the adjustment of exploitation units in terms of optimum technical and economic standards, especially integration of small farmlands and prevention of farmlands' disintegration and preservation of economic production unit with due attention to individuals' ownership rights, and general policies and guidelines of government and with emphasis on government's incentive package for the above mentioned policies specially for transfer of land and water resources as well as the other production factors proportionate with the types of activities and social economic and climatic conditions in the country;.

Article 4: Modernization of agriculture production system through the development of agriculture research, training and extension based on modern technology and adoption of new technologies, as well as training, development and mobilization of required human resources, development and expansion of cooperatives and other economic, social, trade and specialized associations with the participation of all groups of the society through adding competitiveness to all the activities in the sector;

Article 5: Upgrading water productivity index in agricultural products as well as scientific and optimum utilization of production inputs;

Article 6: Expansion of infrastructures, providing incentives for new investments in agriculture sector by offering maximum insurance coverage, minimizing the risk of production loss, implementing incentive policies and rationalizing agriculture profitability compared with other economic sectors;

Article 7: Organizing the production cycle and improving agricultural marketing system aimed at improving exchanges with other sectors, maximizing productivity, minimizing production costs, and economizing the cost price of the stable crops, providing for the producers' incomes and consumers' benefits as well as improving the quality of raw materials and foodstuffs;

Article 8: Allocation of targeted subsidies to agriculture sector aimed at attaining self – sufficiency, promoting the infrastructures, observing the environmental criteria, flexibility in different settings and boosting competitiveness in international market

Article 9: Enhancing the subsistence and standard of living of rural communities, farmers and nomadic tribes, sustainable development of rural areas and agricultural poles and removing poverty through development of production system and infrastructures, diversifying as well as expanding complementary and alternative economic activities especially establishment of new processing factories, rural industries and service sectors.

Promote regeneration and restoration of degraded forest areas

-Afforestation and Green Spaces Development Program

FRWO has approximately carried out some 915000 hectares of projects for conservation, reclamation and afforestation in the Caspian forests until 2008. The Natural Resources and Watershed Management Vision has also envisaged the plantation of 1.8 million hectares of new forests in arid and semi-arid regions. This program consists of several projects including afforestation and green space development, forest resource management and conservation.

-Restoration of Degraded Forests Program

This program started in 2002 and is one of the permanent programs of FRWO that had been carried out in different parts of the country under arid and semi-arid climate for reclamation of 12.3 million hectares of degraded forests throughout the country.

Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands

Strategic Plan on Watershed Management and Soil Conservation

The watershed management operation aims at conservation and utilization of land and water resources in an optimum manner in under operation and under construction dams especially in the critical basins

The watershed management activities started in 1969 under the title of "*Watershed Conservation Plan*" with a physical performance of 689 thousand hectares prior to the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Within 30 years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution totally 21.335 million hectares of land has gone under watershed management projects including:

1-Soil Erosion Control and Prevention of Sedimentation Behind Dams, 2-Land and Water Conservation and Control of Soil Productivity Reduction, 3-Control, Distribution and Utilization of Flood Water and Reduction of Flood Hazard Incidence, 4-Improvement of Water Quality and Quantity and Prevention of Water Evaporation. This strategic plan has 8 national programs as follows:

- 1-Study and implementation of watershed management activities in Karoun River,
- 2- Study and implementation of watershed management activities in Karkheh River,
- 3- Study and implementation of watershed management activities in Sefidroud River,
- 4- Study and implementation of watershed management activities in under operation dams,
- 5- Study and implementation of watershed management activities in under construction dams,
- 6-Flood control, watershed management and conservation activities in Golestan Basin,
- 7- Study and implementation of watershed management and aquifer recharge activities in basins without dams,
- 8- Study and implementation of watershed management activities in Atrak Basin.

-Strategic Plan on Desertification Control and Sand Dunes Fixation

The sand dune fixation operation started in 1959 with a project for rehabilitation of 40 ha of desertified lands around Ahvaz city to protect the city and farmlands near the city against moving sand dunes. The sand dune fixation operation continued since then in many parts of the country so that in 1968 it became a permanent plan in 8 desertified regions. It was revised in the Fourth Five Year Development Plan in 2005 and expanded to 17 desertified provinces. Based on statistics, so far about 5.8 million hectares of desertified land have been rehabilitated throughout the country.

The strategic plan on desertification control and sand dunes fixation is carried out within "*Desertification Control Program*" and "*Sand Dune Fixation Program*" that include activities such as management of plantations and wind erosion hot spots, establishment of nurseries, hand planting, sowing, seeding, irrigation, mulching, conservation and enclosures, wind break construction, seed collection, water supply, construction of water point for livestock, digging wells and run-off control.

The major benefits of this plan are the fixation of sand dunes in hot spots under wind erosion, land and water conservation, recharge of underground water tables, job creation, protection of agricultural and industrial installations, and expansion of vegetation cover and prevention of migration.

-Strategic Plan on Reclamation, Development and Utilization of Rangelands

This strategic plan started in 1963 parallel to the operation of a project on establishment of rangeland reclamation stations with due consideration to the growing population of land user pastoralists and their livestock as well as technological advances, and was carried out as an independent plan within a number of projects under the title of "Range Management and Fodder Production Program", "Range Management Implementation Program", and "Range Capacity Management Program". This strategic plan is included in the Fourth Five Year Development Plan in 2005 is being carried out within the projects of "Rangelands Sustainable Management" at national level and "Reclamation and Improvement of Rangelands" at provincial level and comprises of activities such as formulation, execution and monitoring of range management plans, grazing permit control, hoeing-sowing, seed and seedling production, control of range by-products exploitation, enclosures, water supply, construction of water point for livestock, water harvesting and conversion of low yield rain fed cereal farms to pastures. Based on latest statistics, there are about 124 million livestock across the country, which by calculating their dependence rate to rangelands, it become known that some 83 million AUs currently graze over rangelands. It also reveals that the rangelands are being exploited 2.2 times more than their grazing capacity and that the rangelands meet the subsistence of 900 thousands rural and pastoralist households. In response to this situation, FRWO has formulated and implemented 6 thousands range management plans in an area of 15 million hectares of rangelands throughout the country within the Fourth Five Year Development Plan by issuing 330 thousands grazing permits up to the end of 2008.

Promotion of natural and planted forests

-National Program on Conservation and Development of the Caspian Forests

FRWO has approximately carried out some 426000 hectares of new plantations in the Caspian region after the victory of the Revolution till 2008. The Natural Resources and Watershed Management Vision has envisaged the rehabilitation of 400000 hectares of degraded forests as well as plantation of 200 000 hectares of new forests by 2025. This program has four projects as follows:

- 1- Conservation and Protection of the Caspian Forests
- 2- Development and Reclamation of the Caspian Forests
- 3- Production and Procurement of Forests Seedlings
- 4- Formulation and Revision of Forestry Programs

-National Programs on Conservation and Development of the Arasbaran, Zagros and Southern Forests

This program started in the Third Five- Year Development Plan. The forests in these regions were degraded due to excessive logging, soil infertility and over- grazing. The main activities under this program are as follows:

Reclamation and regeneration activities (including fencing, seeding and seedling) reduction of degradation factors (including forest fires and illegal cuttings) and formulation of multipurpose forestry plans. The Natural Resources and Watershed Management Vision has envisaged the rehabilitation of 1.4 million hectares of degraded forests as well as plantation of 8.3 million hectares of new forests in these regions.

Forest health and productivity

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| -Enhancement of Forests and Rangelands Conservation Level | 50 (a) |
| | 50 (b) |
| This participatory plan started in 2005 with the objectives including: Conservation of Forests and Rangelands, Conservation of Plant Genetic diversity, Control of Plant Pests and Diseases | 50 (e) |
| Development of Vegetation Cover, Prohibition and Control of illegal Cutting of Forests. | 27 (c) |
| | 50 (c)-(d) |

-Forest Guard

Forest Guard was established in 2005 based on the Article 179 of the Third Five-Year Development Plan, stipulated in Article 129 of the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan, and is mandated to safeguard natural resources and protect all moveable and immovable properties in natural resources including forest resources in the framework of general policies of FRWO , provide surveillance and regular patrol and take any preventive measures to safeguard natural resources, fight and control any types of fires in natural resources and forests, control logging operation based on permits issued by the natural Resources Administrations in provinces and take legal action against any illicit exploitation, inspect and control any cargos transiting in forest and range roads and take legal action against any illicit trafficking by confiscating the smuggled goods, and carry out regular inspection to wood mills and factories,

Maintaining forest cover

-National Program on Wood Culture Development with Fast-Growing Species 28 (a) 121 (a)

This program started under the title of TOBA Program in cooperation with Horticulture Department of the Ministry of Agriculture in 1997 for wood production with fast-growing species. However, it was revised in the beginning of the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan and was renamed as Wood Culture Development in 2005 aimed at the expansion of wood production by private sector and within three years it has developed 48 thousands hectares in form of wood culture farms. The main goals of this program are the conservation of forests, reduction of soil erosion, production of wood and land and water conservation

58 (b) (i) 122 (a)
122 (b)
122 (d)

-National Program on Conservation and Development of the Caspian Forests

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-National Programs on Conservation and Development of the Arasbaran, Zagros and Southern Forests

This program started in the Third Five- Year Development Plan. The forests in these regions were degraded due to excessive logging, soil infertility and over- grazing. The main activities under this program are as follows:

Reclamation and regeneration activities (including fencing, seeding and seedling) reduction of degradation factors (including forest fires and illegal cuttings) and formulation of multi purpose forestry plans.

Social and cultural aspects of forests

<i>The role of women in sustainable forest management</i>	56 (m)
	56 (n)
Government is promoting the role of women through:	66
- Involvement of women in national forest programmes, and their enhanced role in sustainable forest management.	
- Development of NGOs and CBOs by women mandated in sustainable forest management.	
- Establishment of Women's Affairs Bureau in the ministry to help provide an enabling environment for women participation in agriculture and natural resources activities.	
Enhanced role of indigenous and local communities in sustainable forest management	17 (a) 56 (f)
	17 (f) 66
-Development of programs for sustainable forest management by local communities and increased government funding to sustainable forest management projects initiated by local communities and providing capacity-building and extension programs to receive their wider participation.	29 (c) 115 (d)
	77 (f) 121 (b)
	131 (b)
<u>Scientific forest related knowledge</u>	
Functional interaction between science and policy	96 (c)
-FRWO is improving the linkages between scientific research and policy processes by submitting draft bills to the Parliament based on the guidance from all the interested parties.	98 (b)
Setting the research priorities and addressing the knowledge gaps	46 (g)
	50(b)
-FRWO has set research needs and priorities in collaboration with universities and research centres to address knowledge gaps, and promote and direct research efforts in support of SFM.	94 (a) (i)
	96 (a)
	94 (d)

Monitoring, assessment and reporting, and concepts, terminology and definitions

Collection and dissemination of national information on forests	46 (b)	17 (a)
-Establishment of a national forest resource assessment system for collection aerial and satellite images and preparation of different types of maps used for management of forests.	89 (b)	17 (b)
- Establishment of a national environmental monitoring system as a part of a national information system for collection and dissemination of information among relevant sectors.		
-Forest Exploitation Monitoring Program		
<p>This program monitors the exploitation and wood cutting operation in the Caspian forests region, and aims to help decrease wood harvest from the Caspian forests on the basis of environmental approaches. The Caspian forest is the only forest that is licensed for wood harvest in Iran. However, the figures had always shown a declining trend in the past four Five-Year Development Plans. Based on the statistics, the mean annual wood harvest in the First Five-Year Development Plan (1989-1994) was about 1.7 million cubic meters compared with the figure 0.94 million cubic meters recorded in 2008.</p>		
Improved and streamlined international reporting and information systems on forests	78 (a)-(c)	18
	89 (d)-(e)	19 (a)
-Forest Resources Assessment of Iran: reporting and information systems to assist in the collection, verification, synthesis, interpretation and dissemination of information on progress in sustainable forest management (SFM).	89 (g)	30 (d)
	115 (e)	142 (c)
Concepts, terminology and definitions	58 (a)	89
-Formulation of a set of definitions of key terms used in forest resource assessment and criteria and indicators of SFM, including for low forest cover, planted forests and categories of protected areas.	89 (f)	122 (a)
	115 (d)	

Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management

Develop, test and implement criteria and indicators at national, sub national and operational levels 17 (d) 17 (d)

89 (a)

-Develop, field test and promote the use of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management at national level and criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management at the Near East by the collaboration of FAO 115 (a)-(c)

Promote the use of criteria and indicators at regional and global levels 115 (d)

-Development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management at the Near East by the collaboration of FAO

2. Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the Forest Instrument and towards the achievement of the four Global Objectives on Forest.

2-1- Implementation of the Forest Instrument along the following 13 thematic clusters:

Thematic Clusters	Indicate major developments, opportunities and challenges in relation to the themes	NLBI Element
* Strengthening political commitment to sustainable forest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government's decision on environmental assessment requirement prior to the implementation of development projects. - Formulation and implementation of Vision 2020 on Natural Resources Management. - General policies on Natural Resources and Watershed Management. - Policies of the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan on Natural Resources and Watershed Management. 	6a, 6c, 6d, 6k, 6l, 7a, 7c

<p>* Financing sustainable forest management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government resources allocated for sustainable forests management in forest sector and other sectors such as energy, water, environment etc. - Credit facilities made available by banking system for SFM. - International resources from bilateral and multilateral cooperation. 	<p>6h, 6i, 6m, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e</p>
<p>* Capacity – building and technology transfer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of formal and informal trainings for forestry staff. - Expansion of formal courses offered by universities on forestry. - Expansion of ICT, Internet and social networks. - Development of early warning systems for drought, forest fires etc. 	<p>6e, 6s, 6v, 7f, 7i, 7j, 7k, 7l, 7m</p>
<p>* Stakeholder participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of NGOs and CBO's network. - Expansion of consultancy companies in the field of forestry. - Cross-sectoral cooperation and synergy among line ministries. - Participation of local communities in the implementation of projects and PRA. 	<p>6h, 6m, 6v, 6w, 6x, 6y, 7k</p>
<p>* Enhanced international cooperation</p>	<p>Iran is a member to all international conventions and UN-related specialized organizations and is responsive to the international processes regarding the environmental issues and sustainable natural resources management. National legislations comply precisely with this concept and are supported by a great number of new enactments in the past two decades. There are also several new international projects in recent years as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rehabilitation of Forest Landscapes and Degraded Land with Particular Attention to Saline Soils and Areas Prone to Wind Erosion (SFLM). 	<p>7i, 7n, 7q, 7r, 7s</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutional Strengthening and Coherence for Integrated Natural Resources Management (MENARID). - Sustainable Management of Land & Water Recourses (SMLWR), phases 1 & 2. - Carbon Sequestration in the Desertified Rangelands of Hossein Abad, phases 1 & 2. 	
* Forest law enforcement and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Guard was established in 2005 based on the Article 179 of the Third Five-Year Development Plan, stipulated in Article 129 of the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan, and is mandated to safeguard natural resources and protect all moveable and immovable properties in natural resources including forest resources in the framework of general policies of FRWO , provide surveillance and regular patrol and take any preventive measures to safeguard natural resources, fight and control any types of fires in natural resources and forests, control logging operation based on permits issued by the natural Resources Administrations in provinces and take legal action against any illicit exploitation, inspect and control any cargos transiting in forest and range roads and take legal action against any illicit trafficking by confiscating the smuggled goods, and carry out regular inspection to wood mills and factories. - Revision of institutional structure of forest and rangeland sector by merger of watershed management activities into the sector and formation of Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization. - Coordination with law enforcement police, judiciary and courts for forests protection. 	6n, 7h, 7i, 7j
* International trade in forest products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Export of non-wood forest products is permitted under the licenses issued by FRWO. - Import of timber is authorized and licensed by FRWO aimed at the reduction of pressure to natural forests. - Import of wood-based products such as MDF, wood panels, pulp and paper is free based on general policies of FRWO. 	6j, 6x, 7g, 7h, 7i,7j

* Protection of forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Guard was established in 2005 based on the Article 179 of the Third Five-Year Development Plan, stipulated in Article 129 of the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan, and is mandated to safeguard natural resources and protect all moveable and immovable properties in natural resources including forest resources in the framework of general policies of FRWO , provide surveillance and regular patrol and take any preventive measures to safeguard natural resources, control logging operation based on permits issued by the natural Resources Administrations in provinces and take legal action against any illicit exploitation. - Amending laws and regulations pertaining to forestry including the revision of Forests and Rangelands Law. - Coordination with law enforcement police, judiciary and courts to fight illegal cuttings and protect forests. 	6o, 6p, 6q
* Science and research	- Conducting joint research projects with universities and research centers based on the priorities of SFM.	6r, 6s, 7n, 7o, 7p
* Public awareness and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revising the syllabus of courses at different levels by accommodating the notion of SFM and SLM in the books of primary, secondary and high schools. - Producing documentaries, brochures, publicities etc to promote public awareness. - Organizing conferences, meetings, formal and informal trainings and extension courses for stakeholders. 	6t, 6u, 6v, 7j
* Private sector and industry		6e, 6h, 6i, 6m, 6w, 6x, 7a, 7f, 7k, 7m

* Indigenous and local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local land users of forestry projects are entitled to receive low-interest loans from banks to help implement the projects. - Expansion of NGOs and CBO's network. - Indigenous people are entitled to exploit non-wood forest products for their daily needs free of charge. 	6f, 6h, 6s, 6v, 6y, 7k
* Monitoring assessment and reporting	<p>-Forest Exploitation Monitoring Program</p> <p>This program monitors the exploitation and wood cutting operation in the Caspian forests region, and aims to help decrease wood harvest from the Caspian forests on the basis of environmental approaches. The Caspian forest is the only forest that is licensed for wood harvest in Iran. However, the figures had always shown a declining trend in the past four Five-Year Development Plans. Based on the statistics, the mean annual wood harvest in the First Five-Year Development Plan (1989-1994) was about 1.7 million cubic meters compared with the figure 0.94 million cubic meters recorded in 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a national forest resource assessment system for collection aerial and satellite images and preparation of different types of maps used for management of forests. - Establishment of a national environmental monitoring system as a part of a national information system for collection and dissemination of information among relevant sectors. 	6b, 6g, 8, 9

2-2- The Global Objectives on Forests

Global Objective 1:

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation

Iran has controlled the loss of forest cover through a series of measures within the 3rd and 4th development programs including revising and improving existing laws and institutional structure of forest and rangeland organization, reducing logging to a half, withdrawal of scattered livestock from forests, revising forest management plans, replacing fissile fuels for fuel wood in villages and remote areas, developing plantation forests, afforestation, reforestation and restoration of degraded forests , formulating new forestry programs with emphasis on landscape protection and conservation of unique ecosystems, re-organizing forest guard, raising the awareness of the general public and capacity-building in communities as well as offering formal and informal trainings, expanding insurance cover

and credit facilities for forestry projects carried out by local communities and cooperatives, restoring degraded forests, introducing sustainable harvest level to support conservation, expanding cross-sectoral cooperation among line ministries and enhancing the role of people in forestry activities through participatory processes.

Global Objective 2:

Enhance forest – based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people

Iran has supported the enhancement of forest benefits to local communities and cooperatives aimed at improving the subsistence and livelihood of forest dependent people as an important pillar for forest conservation. In this direction, special priority is given to recruiting local people in forest management plans carried out by public and private sectors aiming to improve their subsistence. The government has also granted low interest credit facilities for forestry projects carried out by local communities to support the livelihood of forest dependent people.

Global Objective 3:

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

Iran has an extensive national program for conservation of forests considering the unique types of forests that exists in its territory. Iran is pursuing the goal of increasing the area of protected areas to 10% of the total forest areas. Approximately 8% of total natural forests in IRAN are defined as conserved areas by Forests, Range & Watershed Management Organization (FRWO) and its management is transferred to Department of Environment (DoE). Besides, FRWO is creating and expanding protected areas in form of forest reserves within forest areas under forest management plans.

Global Objective 4:

Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management

Iran has been diversifying the financial resources required for the implementation of sustainable forest management. In addition to huge government resources allocated to forestry programs which are increasing annually, the government is allocating credit facilities through banking system as additional financial resources to projects carried out by forest dependent people, cooperatives, companies and private entities and encourages new investments in the sector by relaxing regulations and providing incentives to private sector. At international level, Iran is cooperating with the majority of international specialized agencies and Rio Conventions as well as donor countries in the fields of environment, natural resources and watershed management, thus making use of the resources available as additional financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.