

Summary of Iran's Updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans:

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the key instrument in translating the CBD into national biodiversity actions. The role of NBSAPs was reinforced in 2010 by the adoption of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets at the Tenth Meeting of Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP 10). The Iran's updated NBSAPs consider of being the key instrument for translating the Aichi targets into national action plans, comprising national specific targets, mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, legal and institutional preparedness and allocation of adequate financial resources.

The revising of NBSAPs in Iran includes a number of chain steps, such as:

- Assessment of Biodiversity;
- Identification and engagement of primary and secondary stakeholders;
- Development of strategies and action plans;
- Implementation of activities;
- Comprehensive monitoring and evaluation; and
- Report based on actual finding.

In Iran as everywhere else it is crucial for the well functioning of ecosystems that provide us with enormous products and services that we all need for our productive life, to be conserved with sound system management. Moreover, the natural ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity also form an important part of our shared heritage, and contribute to our cultural, spiritual, social and mental wellbeing. Hence, the protection of our unique natural heritage is important for ecological, economical, social, cultural, recreational and aesthetic reasons and for protecting the unique indigenous biodiversity many areas need active management to control threats.

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

National Biodiversity Strategic Goal A:

Address the underlying causes of biodiversity by:

- Mainstreaming biodiversity values into national and local development planning processes;
- Incorporating biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems;
- Promoting awareness and participation to conserve biodiversity and use it sustainably;
- Reducing conflict potentials among all relevant sectors and in accountable manner for biodiversity conservation;
- Eliminating harmful subsidies; and
- Harvesting natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

National Biodiversity Strategic Goal B:

Preventing the loss of high biodiversity-value habitats by:

- Reducing the rate of ecosystem degradation and fragmentation;
- Applying ecosystem-based approaches;
- Managing biodiversity conservation sustainably;
- Reducing pollution levels to the point not detrimental to biodiversity and ecosystem functioning;
- Identifying and establishing pathways to prevent invasive alien species; and

- Maintaining vulnerable ecosystems from climate change and ocean acidifications.

National Biodiversity Strategic Goal C

Promoting protected areas by:

- Well-connecting system into wider landscape and seascape;
- Updating rules and regulations related to biodiversity and wildlife conservation;
- Preventing the extinction of known threatened species; and
- Minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding the genetic diversity

National Biodiversity Strategic Goal D:

Safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystem services by:

- Taking into account the needs of indigenous and local communities;
- Identifying and resolving conflict over natural resources;
- Reducing conflict arising from human activities to wildlife;
- Contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to combating desertification; and
- The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in force, operational and consistent with national legislation.

National Biodiversity Strategic Goal E

Adopting NBSAPs as policy instrument by:

- Implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- Respecting indigenous and local communities traditional knowledge, innovations and practices in the implementation of the convention with the full and effective participation at all relevant levels;
- Improving values of biodiversity; and
- Mobilizing the financial resources for effective implementation of the strategic plan.

Policy Recommendations for Effective Actions:

- Develop effective institutional arrangement for effective policy management;
- Develop effective law enforcement for biodiversity conservation;
- Develop mechanisms for natural resources and biodiversity conflict resolution;
- Improve the quality of habitats and protected areas;
- Develop comprehensive research on sustainable biodiversity management;
- Promote local community's capacity in conducting sustainable and equitable biodiversity management; and
- Establish operational Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)

Operational Strategies in Biodiversity Management:

- Actively manage biodiversity values at priority sites;
- Actively restore key native ecosystems with high biodiversity values;
- Actively advocate biodiversity mainstreaming through capacity building, stakeholder engagement and full community participation;
- Actively develop support system program for the protection and sound management of indigenous biodiversity;
- Actively provide policy advice on the management of biodiversity; and
- Develop consistent communication of key biodiversity message across sectors

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