

# GEF SGP/UNDP Iran: CCAs and ICCAs



## Contents

Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (CCAs & ICCAs) .....	2
CCAs and ICCAs in Iran .....	2
UNDP GEF SGP & ICCAs .....	4
IRAN CCAs and ICCAs.....	5
Dry land ICCAs .....	5
Rangeland/ Forest ICCAs .....	7
Wetland ICCAs.....	11
Marine ICCAs.....	12
Capacity Building Projects .....	16
Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran (UNINOMAD).....	18
Declaration of the First ICCA Workshop in Iran .....	20
A Six-Step Community-Driven process for ICCA Recognition .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
References .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

## Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (CCAs & ICCAs)

Over thousands of years indigenous peoples and local communities have elaborated and perfected traditional knowledge and customary systems of governance, management and conservation of nature and its resources. The history of conservation and sustainable use in many parts of the world is much older than government-managed protected areas, yet they are often neglected or not recognized in official conservation systems.

Indigenous peoples and local communities are defined by their relationship with and dependence on natural resources, including land and water resources. This long association and reliance upon local resources has resulted in the accumulation of local and traditional knowledge that contains insights, innovations and useful practices that relate to the sustainable management and development of these areas. The CBD now recognizes these communities collectively as “Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Territories and Areas” (ICCAs).

CCAs and Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) are natural and/or modified ecosystems containing significant biodiversity values, ecological services and cultural values, voluntarily conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities, both sedentary and mobile, through customary laws or other effective means. There are today thousands of CCAs and ICCAs across the world, including forests, wetlands, and landscapes, village lakes, water catchment, rivers and coastal stretches and marine areas.

Local communities and indigenous peoples make substantial contributions to global conservation efforts and sustainable development. While these communities are often the primary ‘resource stewards’ who rely on ecosystems to meet food security, livelihood and health needs, their contribution to the achievement of global conservation targets have not yet been fully recognized.

**The IUCN Protected Area Matrix – a classification system for protected areas comprising both management category and governance type**

Governance Type	A. Governance by government	B. Shared governance	C. Private governance	D. Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities
Management Category	Federal, national ministry or agency in charge	Sub-national ministry or agency in charge	Government delegated management (e.g., to an NGO)	Third-party governance
Ia. Strict Nature Reserve		Collaborative governance (various forms of pluralist influence)	Joint governance (pluralist governing body)	Conserved areas established and run by individual landowners
Ib. Wilderness Area			Conserved areas established and run by non-profit organisations (e.g., NGOs, universities)	Conserved areas established and run by indigenous peoples
II. National Park			Conserved areas established and run by non-profit organisations (e.g., NGOs, universities)	Conserved areas established and run by indigenous peoples
III. Natural Monument			Conserved areas established and run by non-profit organisations (e.g., NGOs, universities)	Conserved areas established and run by indigenous peoples
IV. Habitat/ Species Management			Conserved areas established and run by non-profit organisations (e.g., NGOs, universities)	Conserved areas established and run by indigenous peoples
V. Protected Landscape/ Seascape			Conserved areas established and run by non-profit organisations (e.g., NGOs, universities)	Conserved areas established and run by indigenous peoples
VI. Protected Area with Sustainable Use of Natural Resources			Conserved areas established and run by non-profit organisations (e.g., NGOs, universities)	Conserved areas established and run by indigenous peoples

This trend, however, is gradually changing. Awareness of the substantial role that local civil society initiatives have in conserving ecosystems is growing. Importantly, the significance of community-based action for biodiversity, ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods is captured in the Aichi 2020 targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including in Aichi Target 11 (Protected Areas, including “other effective area-based forms of conservation”), Target 14 (Ecosystem Services), and Target 18 (Traditional Knowledge).

The IUCN Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories state that protected areas of all categories can be governed (and owned) by governmental agencies, NGOs, communities, indigenous peoples, companies and private parties – either alone or in combination. The relationship between governance type and management category is shown in the IUCN Protected Area Matrix.

## CCAs and ICCAs in Iran

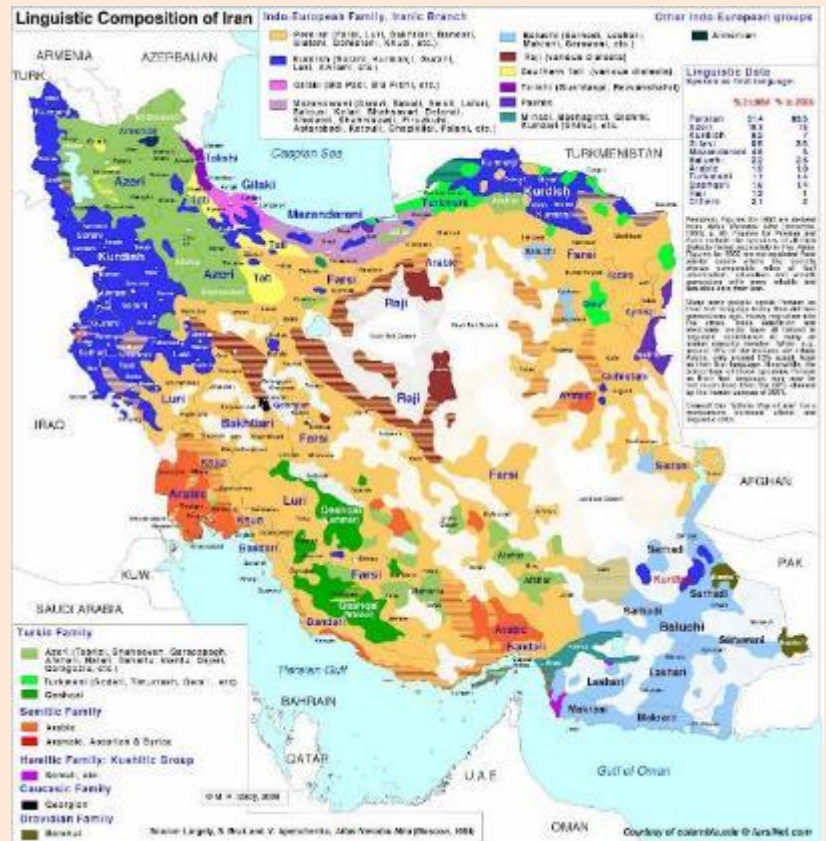
Located in the arid and semi-arid belt of earth, together with the biodiversity richness, made the aboriginal and indigenous people of Iran to conserve and sustainably use the natural resources based on the landscape and ecosystem rules. Over thousands of years indigenous peoples and local communities have elaborated and perfected traditional knowledge and customary systems of governance, management and conservation of nature and its resources. These indigenous peoples and local communities, through the strength of their social organizations, as well as by learning from nature, have developed collective production systems that have enabled them to adapt their livelihoods to complex ecological conditions.

Iran, like many other countries, has innumerable ICCAs that are increasingly being understood and supported. The livelihoods of Iranian tribal communities have always depended on the conservation of nature throughout their territories. The indigenous peoples and local/traditional communities of Iran have their own traditional norms, and customary practices and unique spiritual beliefs regarding natural resources. These systems have sustained their way of life for thousands of years, but in the recent past, have been forced to face issues that threaten their very existence.

The nomadic peoples of Iran are organized into about 600 independent tribes and a hundred tribal confederacies. Iran's population consists of various ethnic groups, including Arab, Baluch, Gilak, Kurd, Lur, Persian, Turk, Turkmen and many others. The diversity of these ethnic groups gives rise to many different cultures, languages, traditions and customary systems of natural resource conservation and environmental governance. Together with the five major biomes of the country, there is indeed a very rich heritage of bio-cultural diversity, which reflects itself in the diversity of Iranian ICCAs.

The ancestral territories of indigenous nomadic tribes of Iran have been under attack since the 1920s, when the autocratic father of the Shah of Iran began sedentarisation at gunpoint. His son “nationalised” the territories by decree, and now there is massive land grabbing by both private and public sectors for refineries, factories, military bases, ecotourism and agricultural projects, large dams and roads and state-run “protected areas”.

In the last decade, Iran's more than 700 indigenous tribes have seen the revival of their councils of elders and the registration of *sanduqs* (tribal investment funds) run by the indigenous tribes themselves. The Iranian NGO CENESTA, as a member of the ‘Council of Elders of the Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran’ (UNINOMAD), with the financial support of Iran GEF/SGP helped institute a process of participatory action research to assist the tribes with analysis of their current predicament, future visions of their ICCAs, and a ‘roadmap’ for the future.





## UNDP GEF SGP & ICCAs

In recent years, following the national and international efforts for the recognition of ICCAs and the rights of indigenous peoples and traditional communities, as well as the revival and strengthening of tribal councils of Elders and the creation of their associated community investment funds and their federations and unions, conservation and livelihoods projects have brought about some hopeful results. In line with this efforts, the **UNDP-GEF-SGP**, continuing on its support initiatives for ICCAs in its fifth four-year cycle, decided to explicitly support ICCAs as a major priority area in its current fifth four-year cycle, and intends to devote a significant portion of its resources projects that strengthen nomadic ICCAs and sustainable management of their natural resources, based on indigenous knowledge and customary institution of environmental governance.

Government organizations such as the DOE and FRWO are member organizations of the 'National Steering Committee' of UNDP/GEF/SGP and have lent their support and approval to relevant GEF SGP projects focusing on ICCAs. In support of these projects there is a high level of collaboration amongst IPs/LCs, UNDP/GEF/SGP and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as well as relevant government organizations. SGP projects have focused on developing a better understanding of and support for the ICCA concept including building in components for preservation, restoration and sustainable use (livelihoods), awareness-raising, trust-building, debate, documentation, a Multi-Stakeholder Capacity Building Platform, advocacy, networking, and fostering of the recognition of ICCAs at all levels. All these have played a major role in moving forward the cause of ICCAs and establishing them as a serious phenomenon; and at times even a priority in the minds and agenda of authorities. A further by-product has been the mobilization of support from international bodies both from inside and outside the country.

Taking advantage of the increasing trend towards ICCA support and recognition in Iran and the world, SGP project proposals have been prepared by indigenous tribal communities with the help of partner NGOs during participatory workshops. Each one of them is context-tailored but they all aim at achieving ecological restorations related to natural resource management, and reclaiming good governance over tribal communities' territories. In the same movement, a recognition process driven by the communities has also been developed. This newsletter offers an overview of those inspiring initiatives.

As the first step an international study of ICCAs was carried out in four regions of North Africa, Oceania, South America and West Asia with special attention to Iran. Significantly, there are many SGP-supported projects elaborated by nomadic pastoralist and local communities in support to ICCAs in Iran. While SGP has always been the only fund resource for the community based projects as mentioned in the following sample projects.



Chodari Reza Abad (Chodari Nomads Tribe Of Reza Abad)

With Partnership of: Centre For Sustainable Development- CENESTA (Local Ngo)

**Start/ End Date:** 8/2010 to 10/2011



### Project Background

The site is outside of the Touran protected area where the area is becoming gradually degraded. This project aims at applying the indigenous knowledge of local community to revive the customary management of natural resources in their territory particularly for conserving the rangeland flora diversity, decreasing pressure on rangelands, running income and wealth generation activities to cope with climate change effects, improving management of natural resources, livelihood improvement, prevention of sand dunes and coping with desertification in the area and hopefully help to stabilize their immigration patterns.

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## Traditional Farming in Desert Low Spots (Chaleh Sonbak) for Preventing Land Degradation in Aran and Bidgol in Kashan- Phase 1, 2 and 3

### Desert ICCA

**Area Of Work:** Land Degradation

### Project Number:

IRA-OP3-2-07-13A (80 A)

IRA-OP3-2-07-13 B (80 B)

IRA-OP3-2-07-13 C (80 C)

**Project location:** Bidgol - Kashan (Lat.: 34.055997; Long.: 51.514893)

**Grantee:** Chaleh Sonbak Community Farmers

Abbas Hojatti Tabar and Gholamreza Mehdizadeh

Bidgoli - Legal representatives of local fund of development and rehabilitation of traditional dry-farming in Chaleh Sonbak desert (Local CBO)

**Start/ End Date:** 9/2007 to 12/2009

### Project Background

Indigenous knowledge of local farmers of Chaleh Sonbak who farm in the desert low spots of Aran and Bidgol is also a desertification act as it prevents the movement of desert sand by the yearly meticulous work done in spring of each year for cleaning the low spots for preparing the farming lots. This method of farming in the desert low spots has been affordable realized by access to localized trapped high ground water table. For generations the seasonal farming has generated income for the traditional local farmers who reside in Aran and Bidgol which not long ago were two neighboring villages near Kashan. Nowadays the older farmers who traditionally commuted to the desert with mules for transportation to and from Aran and Bidgol are faced with two growing cities, hence the use of mules seem to become more cumbersome as the old barns now found themselves in the middle of the two cities and the urban environment can no longer tolerate them. The area is divided into defined plots of desert land and has official ownership by individual farmers which collectively run this area with the new generation abandoning the practice and many of the plots are left to wind erosion. The collective management system was called Dashtbani System which is now remembered and through meetings with the farmers it was decided to try to document the ongoing activities and to revitalize the management system for keeping the local practice alive.

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## Rangeland/ Forest ICCAs

### Reviving ICCAs and Customary Management of Natural Resources in Inverted Tulips Plain – Summering Grounds of the Bakhtiari tribal Confederacy

#### Rangeland ICCA

**Area Of Work:** Biodiversity

**Project Number:** IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y3/09/09A (133A)

**Project location:** Chaharmahalobakhtiari-Kohrang  
(Lat./Long.: 32.343692-50.778809)

**Grantee:** Moassese Ashayer Kouchro Eil Bakhtiari (Local CBO)

**Start/ End Date:** 12/2009 to 12/2013



#### Project Background

This ICCA is not only valuable for grazing, but also for the economic value of some of the wild plants that can be found there abundantly (e.g. wild celery, inverted tulips, etc.). Due to over-extraction of these wild rangelands by outsiders, a project was launched in the tribal territory of Bakhtiari tribal confederacy with the aim of restoring the habitats of endangered wild plants of economic importance, including mountain celery, wild leeks and garlic and the attractive inverted tulips in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Province by applying their customary laws and indigenous knowledge. The FRWO (Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Organization) had also decided to support these community efforts by guaranteeing the territorial integrity of this part of the ICCAs, and the consolidation of tribal control and governance rights over the entire territory.

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### Restoration and management of ICCAs through conservation of biodiversity in the territory of Taklé tribe, Shahsevan confederacy

#### Rangeland ICCA

**Area Of Work:** Biodiversity

Climate Change Mitigation

Land Degradation

**Project Number:**

IRA/SGP/OP5/STAR/BD/12/25(164)

**Project location:**

**Grantee:** Sandoghe Shoraye Maieshat Paydar  
Tayefe Takle, Shahsavan Tribal Confederacy

**Start/ End Date:** 7/2012 to 10/2015



#### Project Background

Taklé is one of the 32 tribes of the Shahsevan tribal confederacy in Iranian Azerbaijan which according to some unconsidered laws and actions,

several parts of their ancestral tribal territory are being allocated to outsiders and government or private projects that resulted in degradation of nature and its resources. One specific consequence of this degradation was disastrous floods which destroyed the main riverbed and the rainbow trout which is the main native fish species, the main food source of brown bear and one of the main source of livelihood for the indigenous community. The project aims to conserve and restore the Taklé ICCA and improve sustainable livelihoods in their ancestral territory. This will entail the restoration and rehabilitation of key elements of the ecosystem including rainbow trout, brown bear, Bactrian camel, as well as important endangered medicinal plants and rangeland species such as an indigenous variety of camomile.

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## Planning and implementing Community Based Ecotourism by focusing on territorial integrity of Heybatlu sub-tribe of Shish Bayli Tribe of Qashqai tribal confederacy

### Rangeland ICCA

**Area Of Work:** Biodiversity

Climate Change Mitigation

Land Degradation

**Project Number:**

IRA/SGP/OP5/STAR/BD/12/23(162)

**Project location:**

**Grantee:** SANDOGHE MAIESHAT PAYDAR TIREH

HEYBATLOU, Qashqaei Tribal Confederacy

**Start/ End Date:** 7/2012 to 4/2014



### Project Background

As part of the SGP global initiative on ICCAs, the Heybatlu sub-tribe has prepared a project on Community-Based Ecotourism by focusing on the integrity of the sub-tribe's entire territory including the summering grounds, migratory routes and way stations, and wintering grounds, all in the Zagros Range.

The project will demonstrate a real example of nomadic pastoralist lifestyle and their importance and experiences in conservation of nature and its biodiversity as well as their social and cultural values to visitors. This model improves the livelihood of the community and promotes the culture of natural resources conservation and the recognition of ICCAs in Heybatlu sub-tribe's territory in the Zagros range which leads to the integrity of their entire territory.

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## ICCA and Rangeland restoration to achieve sustainable livelihoods through traditional management of water resources and alternative forage production in the customary territory of Qurt sub-tribe of Qashqai tribal confederacy

### Rangeland ICCA

**Area Of Work:** Biodiversity

Climate Change Mitigation

Land Degradation

**Project Number:** IRA/SGP/OP5/STAR/LD/12/24(163)

**Project location:**

**Grantee:** SANDOGHE SHORAYE MAIESHAT PAYDAR TIREH

QURT, Qashqaei Tribal confederacy

**Start/ End Date:** 7/2012 to 10/2015



### Project Background

Climate change and successive droughts during past years have degraded and dried off the pastures in some parts of Qurt sub-tribe territory in Southwest Iran. Consequently they confront shortage of forage for livestock and to find new resources of food, they have to change the migration time. Considering the water shortage in this area, traditional water management through Qanat dredging in summering grounds and

earth dam construction in wintering resorts to produce livestock forage in the nearby plain fields are the solutions which are suggested by the council of elders. This project, along with the restoration of water resources and forage production will provide sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation through migration time management which will result in the pastures restoration and growing the livestock breeding.  
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## Improving the condition of Sabz Kouh protected area through community participation and environment awareness-raising for Char Tagh and Chah Gah Villages

### Rangeland ICCA

**Area Of Work:** Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation

### Project Number:

IRA/SGP/OP5/STAR/CC/12/07(146)

**Project location:** Sabz Kouh

**Grantee:** Association of Young Conservationists (Daumoon)

**Start/ End Date:** 5/2012 to 9/2014



### Project Background

Considering critical condition of Sabz Kouh protected area environment due to overexploitation of plant coverage and cutting and burning trees to produce coal, project team aims to decrease the threats through:

- Awareness-Raising and sensitization of local community by holding participatory meetings and workshops
- Identifying local species and present situation of species in project territories
- Collecting seeds and saplings of local plants and replanting the area using collected seeds and saplings
- Encouraging women and youth to participate in conservation and rehabilitation activities
- Attracting local men, game guards and authorities to take effective actions to organize plant picking and stop plant cutting and burning
- Providing training to local communities including men, women, youth, game guards ... on how to collect and replant the local species
- Collecting traditional knowledge of custom territories and territory management through participatory meetings with elderlies and traditional guards

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## Pilot project of tribal conservation of pastureland/forest in Qashqai territories and enhancing the women productions role through culture based livelihood work

### Rangeland/Forest ICCA

**Area of Work:** Land Degradation

**Project Number:** IRA/SGP/OP5/Y2/STAR/LD/13/10 (176)

**Project location:**

**Grantee:** ACTIVE MEMBERS of the QASHQAI TRIBE

**Start/ End Date:** 1/2014 to 12/2015





### Project Background

After forests and rangelands had been nationalized and the Nomads' ownership of worthy natural sources, which was an ancient and highly efficient system of management that had evolved over thousands of years, was dismissed. As a result the speed and range of destruction increased annually. Now, due to the conversion of vast grasslands, forests and rangelands to low product farms, the suitable land for livestock farming and nomadic migrations is minimized quickly.

In the past two decades, villagers and urban groups plowed forests and even slope mountains in order to use them as farming lands. It is not avail to cultivate on steep slopes, but based on new rules of ownership, this kind of agriculture is not sustainable.

Each year due to the destruction of the nature, the extension of appropriate nomadic and migration areas reduce. According to this situation migrants' tribal population is decreasing rapidly. At this moment we are in danger of destruction of nomadic and tribal migration life style. By forced migration and settlement to the city outskirts, the vast knowledge of the tribes are disappearing and the nomadic women are losing their historical production role that they have had. They may be last migrations in last families that are taking place in Bonkouh.

The project activities include:

Part 1- Revitalization of pastureland and forest in a tribal territory as a pilot site for demonstration.

Part 2- Empowering the tribal women to gain back some of their production role and building on promoting the livelihoods.

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## Traditional Forest Management in Haverh-Khol Village (Kurdistan Province)

### Forest ICCA

**Area Of Work:** Biodiversity

**Project Number:** IRA-G52-2002-018 (IRA98G52)

**Project location:** Havarekhol, Baneh, Kordestan

(Lat/Long:35.9488100-46.0107420)

**Grantee:** Association of Young Conservationists (Daumoon)

**Start/ End Date:** 4/2003 to 3/2007



### Project Background

This project aims to compile and introduce the traditional forest management as a method for Sustainable Forest Management and modify it according to national and international goals and forest sustainability criteria. Hence, a kind of "participatory forestry plan " based on the local knowledge will be prepared with the involvement of the local NGO and community. Then it will be legally registered as "Modified Traditional Forest Co-Management System" with the High Council of Forest, Rangeland and Soil. To this end the team will survey and categorize the forest stands, compile the local knowledge on traditional forestry, appraise income generating avenues from the Modified Traditional Forest Co-Management System. Other activities include awareness raising, capacity building and documentation of the project process. Finally, CDs, booklets and videos on the lessons learned will be prepared to disseminate the best practices which will be shared through two workshops in Tehran and the project site.

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## Wetland ICCAs

### Protection of Char Tang-e Kushk-e Zar Wetland as an ICCA with the participation of indigenous community (Kuhi subtribe of Shish Bayli Tribe, Qashqai Tribal Confederacy) in Eghlid Township, Fars Province, Zagros Region

#### Wetland ICCA

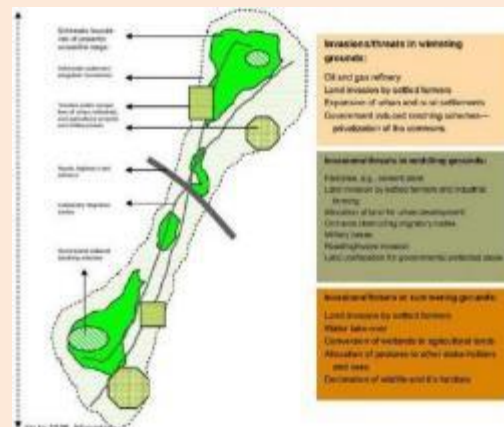
**Area Of Work:** Biodiversity

**Project Number:** IRA-G52-2004-041(IRA98G52)

**Project location:** Tange-e Kushk-e zar, Eghlid, Fars (Lat/Long:30.813494-52.342987)

**Grantee:** Community Investment Fund of the Council For Sustainable Livelihoods of Kuhi Sub-Tribe (CIF-CSL) with the technical assistance of Centre for Sustainable Development

**Start/ End Date:** 1/2005 to 9/2009



#### Project Background

Kushk-e Zar wetland and its surrounding rangelands are located in the summering grounds of the Kuhi sub-tribe and have been under the protection of them for several centuries. The rich biodiversity of this wetland is under severe threat due to allocation of its surrounding rangelands and the wetland itself to agricultural fields. By recognition of the wetland as an ICCA and capacity building in the community, the sustainability of the project could also be assured through Practicing Customary laws for the protection and sustainable use of the wetland, coupled with customary range management system in the associated rangelands.

Kushk-e Zar is the first wetland in Iran that the department of the environment has recognised as an ICCA acknowledging continuing governance by the indigenous community.

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## PARTICIPATORY CONSERVATION OF KANIBORAZAN WETLAND AND ITS BIODIVERSITY THROUGH EMPOWERMENT OF GHAREH DAGH AND KHOR KHOREH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

#### Wetland ICCA

**Area Of Work:** Biodiversity

**Project Number:**

IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/13A (122A)

IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/13B (122B)

IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/13C (122C)

**Project location:** Mahabad – Kourdestan (Lat/Long: 36.766905-45.722351)



**Grantee:**

Kanoon Pazouhesh Va Hefazet Az Tabiat Paydar Mohitban  
 Taavoni Hefze Mohite Zist Mahabad (Mahabad Local Cooperative)  
 Jamal Mohammadi, Mostafa Bahmani and Saeid Mohammadzadeh, Legal Representatives of Khor Khoreh Local Community (Local CBO)

**Start/ End Date:** 3/2010 to 6/2012

**Project Background**

The planning grant “Developing a proposal on participation of CSOs in Kaniborazan Wetland Conservation No. IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/09/PG02 (PG21)” was approved for developing a base line and a proposal. Several sessions were held with the local NGO, CBO’s the heads of villages and the village councils. During these sessions problems were identified and two local groups; Khor Khoreh Village Local Community (Local CBO) and Taavoni Hefze Mohite Zist Mahabad (Mahabad Local Cooperative) (Local NGO) were interested to get involved in the project implementation.

Therefore the project was implemented by 3 groups and in three parts A, B and C.

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## Marine ICCAs

### Pilot Project for Rehabilitation of Marine Resources of the Persian Gulf in Salakh Region (Qeshm Island)

**Marine ICCA**

**Area Of Work:** International Waters

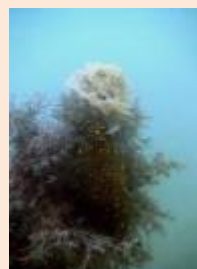
**Project Number:** IRA-G52-2001-005 (IRA98G52)

**Project location:** Salakh village in Qeshm (Lat./Long.: 26.631419; 55.568848)

**Grantee:** Salakh Community Organization – Council of Salakh Village

**Partnership:** Qeshm Free Area and Research Institute of Shilat

**Start/ End Date:** 3/2002 to 1/2007

**Project Background**

This is a pilot project in Qeshm Island for the rehabilitation of the natural marine resources through an indigenous method of artificial reefing. Initial studies will be carried out to combine the indigenous and scientific knowledge based on which environment friendly materials will be constructed for artificial reefing. Once the process of artificial reefing is completed the designated area will be secured and guarded by the local fishermen. A management plan for sustainable fishing will be drawn by the locals and fishing cooperatives. The locals will also be engaged in facing threats to the natural resources. The entire process and lessons learned will be filmed and documented in Farsi and English in addition to the educational brochures. Finally, a workshop will be held in Tehran and Qeshm for the dissemination of best practices.

[https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com\\_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=5298&Itemid=205](https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=5298&Itemid=205)

### Future replication and expansion of SGP Artificial Reef Pyramids through enhanced

## communication material of the IRA-G52-2001-005 project

### Marine ICCA

**Area Of Work:** International Waters

**Project Number:** IRA/05/07(55th)

**Project location:**

Qeshm (Lat./Long.: 26.9777280-56.1676030);

Nikshahr Sistan (Lat./Long.: 29.4083380-60.8972170);

Yakhkesh Behshahr (Lat./Long.: 36.636395-53.585815);

Fereydonkenar (Lat./Long.: 36.6496170-52.4432370)

**Grantee:** Salakh Fishery Co-operative in partnership with a team of Environmental Experts

**Start/ End Date:** 9/2005 to 4/2009

### Project Background

The catalyst for initiating the artificial reef pyramid project for rehabilitating the marine resources (IRA-G52-2001-005) was the deep concerns of the local fishermen in Salakh Village with the problem of depleting fish stocks, which they believed was the result of a long drought as consequence of climate change, the excess fishing (e.g. industrial fishing and trawling) as well as the unsustainable practices that have damaged coral reefs, the vital habitat for fish to nest and breed. Since December 2003, SGP has been backing a project in Salakh village in the southwest of the island to build artificial reefs in an effort to boost fish stocks. The goal of this project was to design reefs that could be built and deployed by the fishermen themselves, using their own capabilities. While the artificial reefs designed by the fisheries authorities (Shilat – Iran Fisheries Organization) were far too expensive and heavy to handle, needing ships to deploy them, the local community and the consultant brought in by SGP were able to design a 100-kilogram cement reef that is compatible with local capabilities and technologies available at the site. The simple pyramid designs meant fishermen could build them on their own, transfer them in their pick up trucks, load them on their dhows with the winches available at the wharf and deploy them in the water using the cranes on their dhows.

Two other project were initiated to further the success of this project with an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) in collaboration with the Khorramshahr University of Marine Science and Technology, IRA/05/08 (56th) and a documentation of this project for future expansion and replication, IRA/05/07(55th).

The success of the SGP Artificial Reef Project; IRA-G52-2001-005, is its innovative technology that has combined scientific studies with the local knowledge and hence the design of the model is in consideration of the local capability and availability of local resources.

There have been many requests from other local communities, official agencies such as the Iranian Fisheries Organization as well as international programs such as IUCN and other SGP countries for any sort of documentation on “How” the Artificial Reef Pyramids produced in this project were built, submerged and maintained by the fishermen community of Salakh.

[https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com\\_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=9287&Itemid=205](https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=9287&Itemid=205)



## Environmental Impact Assessment of SGP Artificial Reef Pyramids for future replication and expansion IRA-G52-2001-005 Project

### Marine ICCA

**Area Of Work:** International Waters

**Project Number:** IRA/05/08 (56th)

**Project location:**

Qeshm (26.9777280-56.1676030)

Nikshahr Sistan (29.4083380-60.8972170)

Yakhkesh Behshahr (36.636395-53.585815)

Fereydonkenar (36.6496170-52.4432370)

**Grantee:** Salakh Community Organization – Council of Salakh Village

**Start/ End Date:** 10/2005 to 8/2009

### Project Background

The success of the SGP Artificial Reef Project; IRA-G52-2001-005, is that the innovative technology has combined scientific studies with the local knowledge and hence the design of the model is in consideration of the local capability and availability of local resources. However, as agreed in the NSC meeting dated 12 July 2005, an Environmental Impact Assessment is required before a replication strategy is established. To this end the Salakh Local Community is asking an expert team headed by Dr. Vahid Yavari from an independent scientific entity, Khorramshahr



University of Science and Technology, to conduct an EIA on the artificial reefs produced and submerged in the SGP project. The results of this study will be posted on the project website for public access.

[https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com\\_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=9289&Itemid=205](https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=9289&Itemid=205)

## Onshore Preservation of Hawksbill Turtle Eggs through Community Participation

**Marine ICCA**

**Area Of Work:** Biodiversity

**Project Number:** IRA-G52-2003, 2004 & 2007-024 (IRA98G52)

**Project location:** Shibderaz, Qeshm (Lat./Long. : 26.631419;55.568848)

**Grantee:** Shibderaz Local Community

**Start/ End Date:** 3/2003 to 5/2009



### Project Background

Shibderaz Village is in the centrally-located southern coastline of Qeshm Island which is currently the only stretch used in the entire island by Hawksbill Turtles for nesting and laying eggs. The coastline, therefore, represents an important and strategic Hawksbill hotspot. In 2002, the Bureau of Environment, Qeshm Free Zone Area (QFA), received reports of Hawksbill Turtles laying eggs near Shieb-deraz Village, Qeshm Island. Immediately the Bureau of Environment of QFA mobilized and deployed the help of the villagers as well as the Village Council to find out that this area is a major site. The locals were engaged in collecting and protecting the eggs. It is reported that about 10,000 eggs were collected and 4001 baby turtles were saved to return to their natural habitat into the Persian Gulf.

In 2003 with the support of UNDP-GEF/Small Grants Programme, the project group (the locals, the village council and the technical experts) expanded past activities to preserve the sea turtle eggs and coastal shorelines. The SGP project aimed to protect the eggs of the critically endangered Hawksbill Turtles and the related coastline stretch in the Qeshm Island, Shiebderaz village area through the empowerment of the local community and their active participation.

Hawksbill Turtles are critically endangered species. Out of a spectrum of typical threats, three were identified as the most prominent under the particular circumstances faced by the Hawksbill. These are natural predation of turtle eggs by an indigenous breed of island fox, development activities on the coastline, and collection of eggs by local villagers and other visitors from the island (due to traditional beliefs on the medicinal properties of turtle eggs as well as due to poverty of the collector, who would then sell on the eggs). The nesting season usually takes place in the months of March-May and from the juncture when the eggs are laid, it takes 60 days for the hatching to occur. About 70% of the egg-laying is concentrated in a 2 Km stretch of coastline immediately adjacent to Shibderaz village.

The project involves reconnaissance of 15 Km coastline by the project team in order to pinpoint egg-laying turtles. The reconnaissance takes place at a specific interval in the evening when the tidal waters are high (i.e. between 20:00 to 02:00 am). Once, such turtles are identified, the team then waits in the background for the turtle to complete burrowing and egg laying without disturbance. After the entire process, which could typically take up to 2 hours, the team moves in to measure the dimensions of the burrow and formation of egg pile, then collect and transfer the eggs to a secured location in the Shibderaz village for safe-keeping under the sand until such time that the turtles hatch. Once the eggs are collected the team also takes the liberty to record the necessary physical data about the turtle.

[https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com\\_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=6182&Itemid=205](https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=6182&Itemid=205)

## Aquaculture of Pearl by the Local Community of Berkeh Khalaf Village, Qeshm Island (Pearls of Persian Gulf)

**Marine ICCA****Area Of Work:** Biodiversity**Project Number:** IRA-G52-2003-031**Project location:** Berkeh Khalaf village, Qeshm (Lat./Long.: 26.9115614;56.1360000)**Grantee:** Berkeh Khalaf Community Group in Partnership with a team of Env. Experts**Start/ End Date:** 12/2003 to 12/2007**Project Background**

A study performed in 1998 showed that three main species of oyster *Pinctada radiata*, *Pinctada margaritifera* (Black Lip), and *Pinctada pteria* are native to the southern coasts of Qeshm Island.

Under the supervision of Mr. Mohammed Sharif Ranjbar, a marine biologist, the Community Organization of the Berkeh Khalaf Village Fishermen set up a pilot oyster farm in Qeshm in August 2001, and for the following two years the group gathered oysters for the farm and began cultivating them. They also studied their adaptability to the farm environment and interactions with other sea species.

Following this initial stage, some of the pearl oysters were ready for a procedure known as grafting or seeding, during which a bead or nucleus is implanted in the oyster causing it to produce a pearl many months later. After grafting, it usually takes 18-24 months for the oysters to produce pearls. In nature, oysters only produce pearls randomly, and beautiful, symmetric pearls are very difficult to find. Three local women were trained to apply this surgical procedure on 40 oysters, using very basic equipment. In this initial attempt 19 oysters survived the procedure and 4 produced pearls from which 1 was almost completely round. During this stage the Community Group of Berkeh Khalaf Fishermen requested the support and partnership of GEF/SGP for their community driven pearl oyster culturing project.

[https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com\\_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=6643&Itemid=205](https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=6643&Itemid=205)

**QESHM CLUSTER PEARL AQUACULTURE****Marine ICCA****Area Of Work:** Biodiversity**Project Number:** IRA-OP3-2-06-04 (71)**Project location:** Qeshm (Lat./Long.: 26.963367-56.248627)

**Grantee:** Aqil Eidizadeh, Mohammad Sharif Ranjbar And Seyed Mohammad Hashem Dakhteh of Legal Representatives Fishermen of Berkeh Khalaf (The Local CBO) in Partnership with Team of Environmental Experts

**Start/ End Date:** 2/2009 to 2/2011**Project Background**

A project was previously implemented in Berkeh Khalaf "AQUACULTURE OF PEARLS BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY OF BERKEH KHALAF VILLAGE, QESHM ISLAND (PEARLS OF PERSIAN GULF) No. IRA-G52-2003- 031(IRA98G52)". This new project is the continuation of the above project in two pearl farms, Berkeh Khalaf Village and Larak or Hengam Island which are in the vicinity of Qeshm Island.

[https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com\\_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=10381&Itemid=205](https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=10381&Itemid=205)

## PROMOTING THE INDIGENOUS ARCHITECTURAL AND USE OF THE CLIMATE FRIENDLY CONCEPTS IN NEW DEVELOPMENT IN 3 CITIES IN THE COASTAL PERSIAN GULF AREA

**Marine ICCA****Area Of Work:** Climate Change Mitigation**Project Number:** IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y3/10/12 (136)**Project location:** Laft Village - Qeshm

(Lat/Long:26.900640-55.770035)

**Grantee:** Moassese Farhangi Pajouheshhaye Memariye Khaneh Va Shahr (The “Local NGO”) and Shabnam Sadat Esmaili And Ali Asgharzadeh, The Legal Representatives In Collaboration With Laft Village Council**Start/ End Date:** 9/2010 to 5/2011**Project Background**

In 2009 accompanied by an NSC member, during a site visit and project formulation tour from Shiraz to the south of the country partially along the hot Persian Gulf area, the rate of demolition of native environment and climatic friendly wind tower architecture and replacement with new box like buildings partially influenced by 3 to 4 story buildings in Dubai but without any consideration for climatic conditions requiring severe air conditioning. This was observed in one coastal city after another.

Also, after an earthquake in Qeshm Island in 2007 and the casualties related to wind towers, very few wind towers have been built.

[https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com\\_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=15889&Itemid=205](https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=15889&Itemid=205)

## NETWORK OF SELECTED RURAL MUNICIPALITY (VILLAGE DEHYARI's) OF HOURMOZGAN AND BUSHEHR PROVINCES ALONG THE PERSIAN GULF COAST ON TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE

**Marine ICCA****Area Of Work:** Climate Change Mitigation**Project Number:** IRA/SGP/OP5/STAR/CC/12/10(149)**Project location:** Hourmouzan and Bushehr Provinces**Grantee:** MOASSESE NAGHSHE OLGHOYE SARZAMIN**Start/ End Date:** 5/2012 to 3/2013**Project Background**

During the recent years, constructions and attitude of local people living on Qeshm island villages has been changed. Traditional knowledge of using natural resources as construction material and local architecture is now almost gone and new houses and building now depend on non-renewable energies for heating/cooling purposes. Considering the climate on the island, thirty six percent of household charges go to electricity bill mostly because of using air conditioning utilities and electricity consumption is considerably higher than average. As one of the reasons which lead to this high electricity consumption is the fact that proceeding to 2005-2008 earthquakes, constructions on Qeshm island do not follow the traditional architecture and are based on the assumptions which are not localized to the island's climate. This project aims to revitalize the traditional architecture localized to local characteristics of Qeshm including energy efficiency issues in designing new built houses.

[https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com\\_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=17809&Itemid=205](https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=17809&Itemid=205)

## Capacity Building Projects

### Understanding and Promoting Community Conserved Areas (Ccas) for Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Iran and Beyond

**ICCAs****Area Of Work:** Multifocal Area**Project Number:** IRA-OP3-2-07-17(88)**Project location:** Eghlid**Grantee:** Cenesta**Start/ End Date:** 10/2007 to 4/2010**Project Background**

This project covers more than one country and the outputs are contributing to SGP GEF 4 Matrix on CCAs.

Five regional reviews of CCAs are presently being funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The present proposal to the GEF SGP aims at extending these reviews to three additional regions: West/Central Asia, North Africa and South Pacific.

Together with the initial five regions (Mesoamerica, East Himalaya, Southwest China, East Africa and the Arctic region), the overall analysis and development of policy recommendations will contribute to a significant assessment of the status of CCAs throughout the world.

The initiative comprises closely interrelated activities at the local, national, regional and international levels aiming at improved CCA-related practice and policy.

This is part of a larger and more long-term programme on CCAs that CEESP and partners are carrying out, involving

(a) Regional reviews and documentation,

(b) National and local field based activities to support CCAs and demonstrate their benefits, and

(c) Distillation and dissemination of lessons learnt from these experiences, including guidance to countries for further development of legal, policy, and programmatic measures on CCAs.

This project aims at generating knowledge and promoting supportive policy on Community Conserved Areas—the oldest and possibly least understood form of biodiversity governance around the globe.

This will undoubtedly contribute to “catalyzing widespread adoption of comprehensive ecosystem management interventions that integrate ecological, economic and social goals to achieve multiple and cross-cutting local, national and global benefits”.

[https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com\\_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=11805&Itemid=205](https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=11805&Itemid=205)

**Planning Grant for Tribal Funds Proposal Writing Workshop****ICCAs****Area Of Work:** Climate Change Mitigation**Project Number:** IRA/SGP/OP5/STAR/CC/12/PG02(PG34)**Project location:** Shebidzar, Eghlid, Fars Province**Grantee:** CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT- CENESTA (LOCAL NGO)**Start/ End Date:** 5/2012 to 7/2012**Project Background**

This participatory training session on project writing sponsored by UNDP/GEF/SGP for indigenous nomadic tribes which was held in conjunction with the Second Workshop on Community Biodiversity Registers/ Community Bio-cultural Diversity Protocols, held in Shebidzar which is a part of the summering grounds on 15 September 2010. The Session was geared to making use of the fact that SGP is emphasizing ICCAs and intends to devote a significant portion of its resources to projects that strengthen nomadic ICCAs and sustainable management of their natural resources, based on indigenous knowledge and customary institutions of environmental governance.

The project activities are:

- Participatory training session on project writing for indigenous nomadic tribes in Shibidzar (which is a part of the summering grounds) in Eghlid, Fars Province
- Develop proposals for each tribal communities

[https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com\\_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=17830&Itemid=205](https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=17830&Itemid=205)

## Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran (UNINOMAD)

An Iranian Indigenous people's Federation, and a member of the ICCA Consortium

One of the concrete measures they took was the establishment of a community investment fund (sandug) governed by the councils of elders of each re-organised nomadic tribe. These councils and their funds, once established, were formally registered as legal entities in the name of their respective tribes. The first benefit was that the government now had to recognise each tribal division by its own customary name. Given the existence of about 104 tribal confederacies and 600 independent tribes in Iran it is very important for these marginalized communities to have a unified voice at the national level.



The overall goal of UNINOMAD is biodiversity conservation in their territory-based ICCAs and achieving sustainable livelihoods to access environmental, economic, financial, social and cultural sustainability within the habitats and territories of local and indigenous communities across the country.

According to the statutes of this national federation the areas of activity envisioned by UNINOMAD are:



1. Conservation and sustainable use of nature (including: rangelands, forests, watershed basins, water resources, wetlands, wildlife and protected areas) and community management by nomads over these resources their territories, considered by them as tribal conserved territories (Qorukh in Turkish or Qoroq in Persian) applies to the entire territory of the nomads as well as to areas of special interest within them including conserved wetlands, sacred sites and forests or particular areas that are provisionally declared special Qorukhs that are kept off limits for all or certain animals during all or part of the grazing season. The word Qorukh comes from the Turkish word

Qorumak which means protecting an area and is our local word for ICCAs;

2. Defending legal and customary rights of nomads over the management of rangelands within their territories (summering and wintering grounds, migratory routes and mid-way stations;

3. Conserving the wildlife habitats, bio-cultural diversity and indigenous genetic resources in nomadic territory-based ICCAs;
4. Preserving, revitalising and strengthening the local knowledge of elders in tribal communities and prevent the loss of their experience (including: ethno-botany, ethno-medicine, range-management, agriculture, conservation of biodiversity in flora and fauna of the territories);
5. To establish a united and unique legal identity at the national level to represent the common interests of the nomads and to relate to government agencies as a collective and not as a series of individuals.
6. To revive their customary social structure which include tribal confederacies, tribes, subtribes, clans and nomadic camps;
7. To struggle for the recognition of customary laws in conflict resolution and natural resource use systems;
8. To elicit local, national and international organisations for support of legal, policy and structural sustainability;
9. Respect, promotion and restoration of the ecological integrity of ICCAs including all or part of the territories of indigenous communities;
10. Promoting interaction and convergence among indigenous communities and policymakers on issues of interest to nomadic tribes;
11. Support for the formation and proliferation of funds for the councils of nomadic tribes;
12. Increasing income and wealth of the federation and its members through various means including investment and economic cooperation in:
  - Sustainable agriculture and livestock breeding;
  - Rendering traditional nomadic life economical on local, national and international levels;
  - Promotion of tribal handicrafts;
  - Investment in and promotion of the role of cultural activities in the lives of indigenous communities;
  - Investment in and the establishing of community and collective ecotourism activities.
  - Investment in the promotion and marketing of livestock products as organic and natural foods and tissues;
  - Employment generation, especially for young people to reduce urban migration;
13. Promotion of community-controlled appropriate service and welfare projects such as education, health, service to vulnerable people and renewable energy supply among local and indigenous communities and the promotion of the status of women and children.



The members of UNINOMAD are organised tribal confederacies independent tribes whose councils of elders assign representatives to form the central Council Of Elders of the Union. The Council of Elders of UNINOMAD currently come from the following independent tribes and tribal confederacies:



- Shahsevan tribal confederacy
- Abolhassani tribal confederacy
- Bakhtiari tribal confederacy
- Qashqai tribal confederacy
- Abarsej tribal confederacy
- Sangsari tribal confederacy
- Turud tribe
- Chodari tribe
- Cenesta.

In addition, UNINOMAD has a grand tribal gathering in which the representative elders of all the tribal confederacies and independent tribes can participate.

The councils have shown that with the regular and effective participation of their representatives in meetings, conferences and workshops at the local, national, regional and international levels, they are able to contribute to sustainable natural resource management through their own effective and strong institutions and enjoy the support and services that other stakeholders benefit from regularly.

### **Declaration of the First ICCA Workshop in GEF SGP UNDP Iran**

We the participants in the multi stakeholder workshop on “Indigenous and Community-Conserved Areas (ICCAs)” held on 8-9 July 2008 at the GEF/ SGP in the United Nations Development Programme in Tehran, Iran, representing concerned traditional and indigenous communities, civil society organisations, government agencies and academics, draw attention to the following workshop results and recommendations:

#### **WE RECOGNISE** that:

- 1- There are many examples of ICCAs in all the various biomes of Iran—territories and areas conserved excellently for thousands of years by their respective peoples and communities through their own indigenous knowledge and customary laws, rules and institutions;
- 2- These ICCAs have an important role in the conservation of nature, be it coastal, mountain, desert, forest, rangeland, wetland and marine environments, and in the livelihoods of their respective communities and peoples;
- 3- ICCAs have been under threat since about 50 years ago due to internal and external pressures, especially the nationalisation of natural resources resulting in interference by outside actors in their governance. Nonetheless they still cover a large part of the country. Biodiversity resources are usually better conserved in ICCAs than in other areas.

#### As a result, **WE RECOMMEND** that:

- 1- ICCAs should be officially recognized in the context of the customary laws governing them, as per the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- 2- The governance systems of ICCAs should be included in decision-making over natural resources as the key right-holders in any case where there is a need for any change, using the principles of free prior and informed consent;
- 3- Sense of ownership of ICCAs need to be enhanced in a better regulatory framework, primarily through restoration of rights and security of tenure for the communities that have conserved and used them sustainably, and preserving and promoting the relevant indigenous knowledge and customary institutions;
- 4- Networks of ICCAs should be formed at local, regional and national levels;
- 5- Role of ICCAs as contributors to local livelihoods and the national economy should be recognised and enhanced;
- 6- ICCAs should be able to sustain their livelihoods and gain additional income (through community owned ecotourism, medicinal plants, handicrafts, etc.);
- 7- Indigenous knowledge needs to be better understood, recognised and applied (respecting the intellectual property rights of ICCAs).