

THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME



**AN OVERVIEW OF
ONGOING PROJECTS IN I.R.IRAN**



SGP

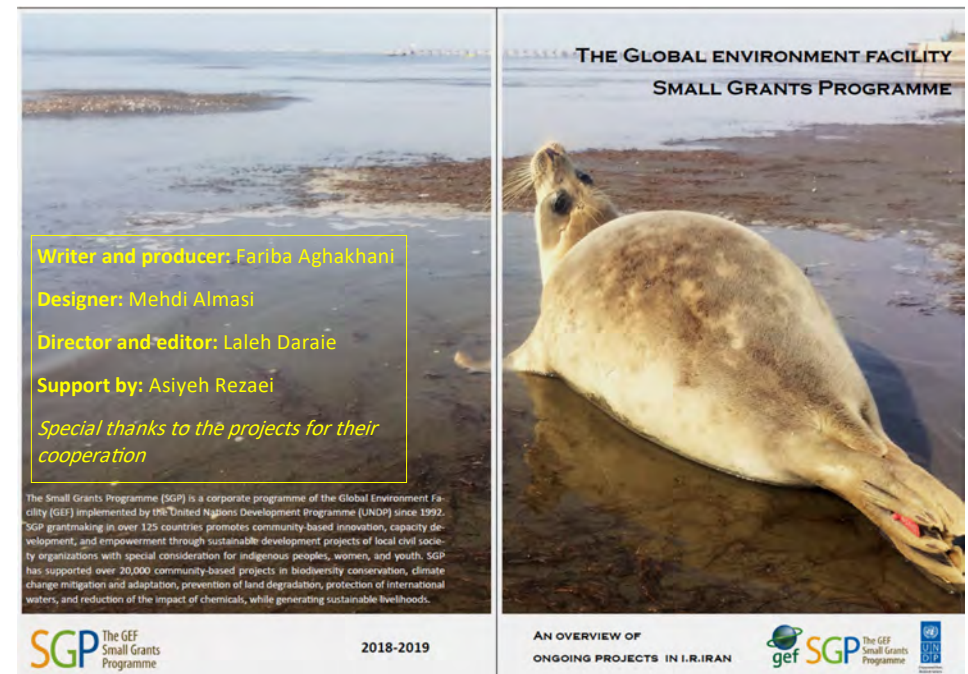
The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

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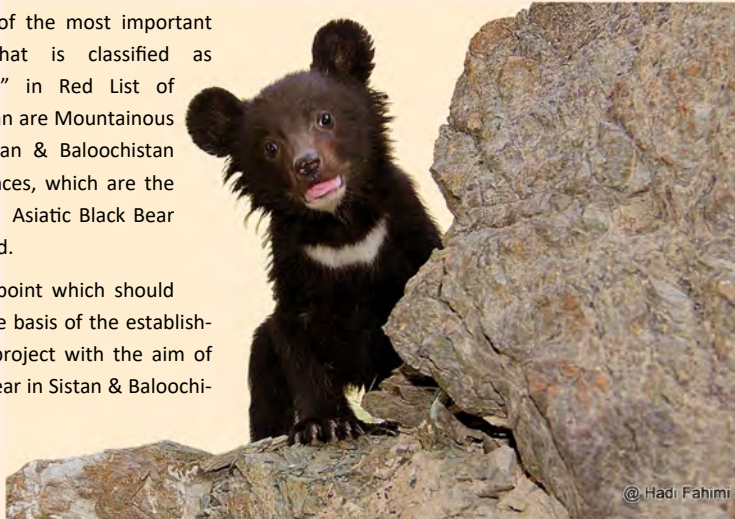
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BLACK BEAR, THE BEAR WITH A WHITE NECKLACE

Asiatic Black Bear which is known as "Baloochi bear" in Iran, is one of the most important ecological species that is classified as "Critically Endangered" in Red List of IUCN. Its Habitats in Iran are Mountainous Areas of Kerman, Sistan & Baloochistan and Hormozgan provinces, which are the most western area of Asiatic Black Bear distribution in the world.

The most important point which should be regarded is that, the basis of the establishing this participatory project with the aim of conserving the black bear in Sistan & Baloochistan, is the result of previous studies and procedural projects, especially those pro-



jects which were accomplished by financial supports of SGP. Also the output of research projects led to formation of the basic idea of collaborative conservation through using the local handicrafts potential.

Following the academic research titled "Identifying the Ecological Status of Asiatic Black Bear in Kerman Province, Dehbakri region" accomplished as master degree final paper by Mr. Hadi Fahim as Baer Specialist Group member of IUCN and manger of most of Asiatic Black Bear Projects as the professional expert in this filed and by considering valuable results as the first academic ecological study of this species in Iran, Jihad-Daneshgahi research institute of Yazd university suggested to run the same project for identifying ABB habitats in Siatan & Baloochistan.

The results of that research that shows the increasing trend of Human-bear conflicts in the region was the main reason to plan such conservative projects. Also the main challenge for management this conflict was "money" for those people who have injured in bear attack. This reason and negative attitude of local communities because of bear Damage to their livestock and gardens was main reason to kill the bear. So providing financial support to compensation such damage and injuries was base goal in the project. But what makes this idea different is planning to identify and implementation local processes and apply indigenous knowledge about handicrafts and bring them as local financial support to solve conflict challenges by considering the main plant in the region (*Nannorrhops ritchiana*) as common point between local communities and Baloochi

Black Bear come to these habitats for feeding from fruits and people come to gather the leaves for handicrafts. This was hotspot of conflict that we tried to change it to hotspot point to solve the problem by introduction of ABB to local communities specially those who are direct stakeholders and let's work together for participatory planning to manage human-bear conflicts in the region. And the main result was finding local NGO, Baloochbaf, in collaboration with "Borderless wildlife conservation Society" as the executive sector for the project.

Introducing the black bear to local communities settled within or around the black bear habitats, especially those areas with dominant vegetation type by *Nannorrhops ritchiana* in the range of Nikshahr in Sistan and Blaoochistan province as hotspot conflicts points and pilot to run the project.

Providing Financial Support to reduce the negative attitude of the local communities towards black bear by considering increasing number of people who injured by bear attack



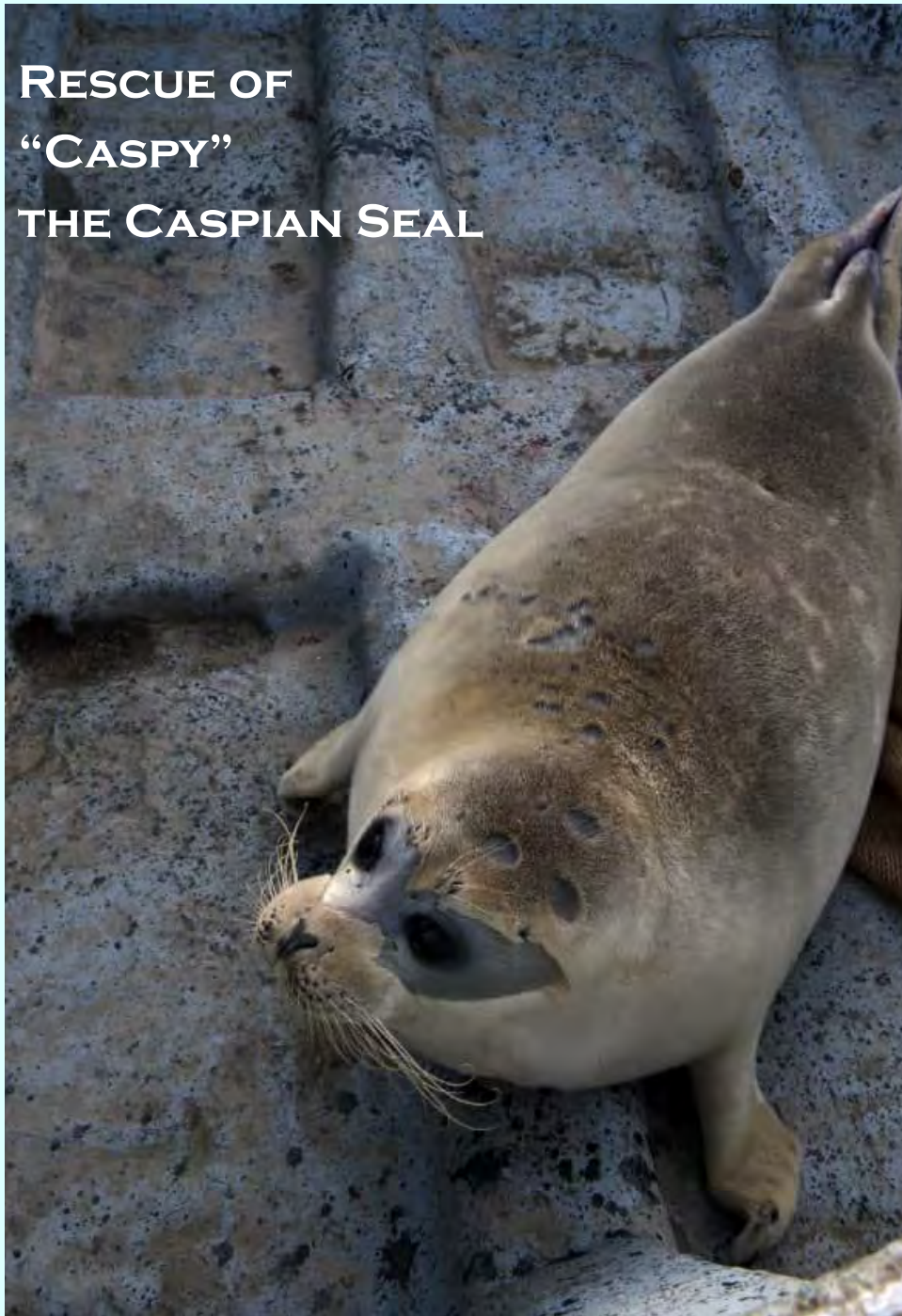
This project in its framework, tried to compensate the financial damages by using the local potentials which was very effective in changing the negative perception in the region. Factually, one of the most valuable results of this project was creating the friendly link and peace making in the local communities around or in habitat of black bear in the province which was leading to sustainable conservation.

The objectives of the project was the same as below:

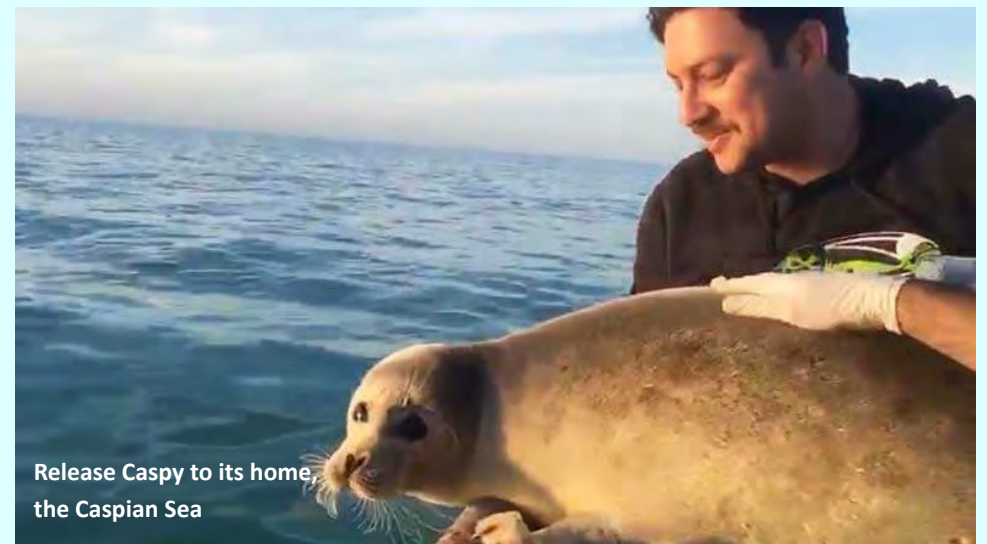
Guarantee the sustainability of financial support and Black Bear conservation by relying on local knowledge and handicraft potential that makes them independent from financial resources outside the region and reduce uncertainty of sustainability of the project.

Regeneration of local handicrafts (basket weaving) with emphasis on *Nannorrhops ritchiana* as a common point plant between human and bear.

RESCUE OF "CASPY" THE CASPIAN SEAL



Caspy at the Relief Center



Release Caspy to its home,
the Caspian Sea

[illegible]



Awareness raising workshops for fishermen, since they are the most important group which can help protect and avoid damage to these critical species. 150 fishermen from each of the three provinces participated in the workshops.



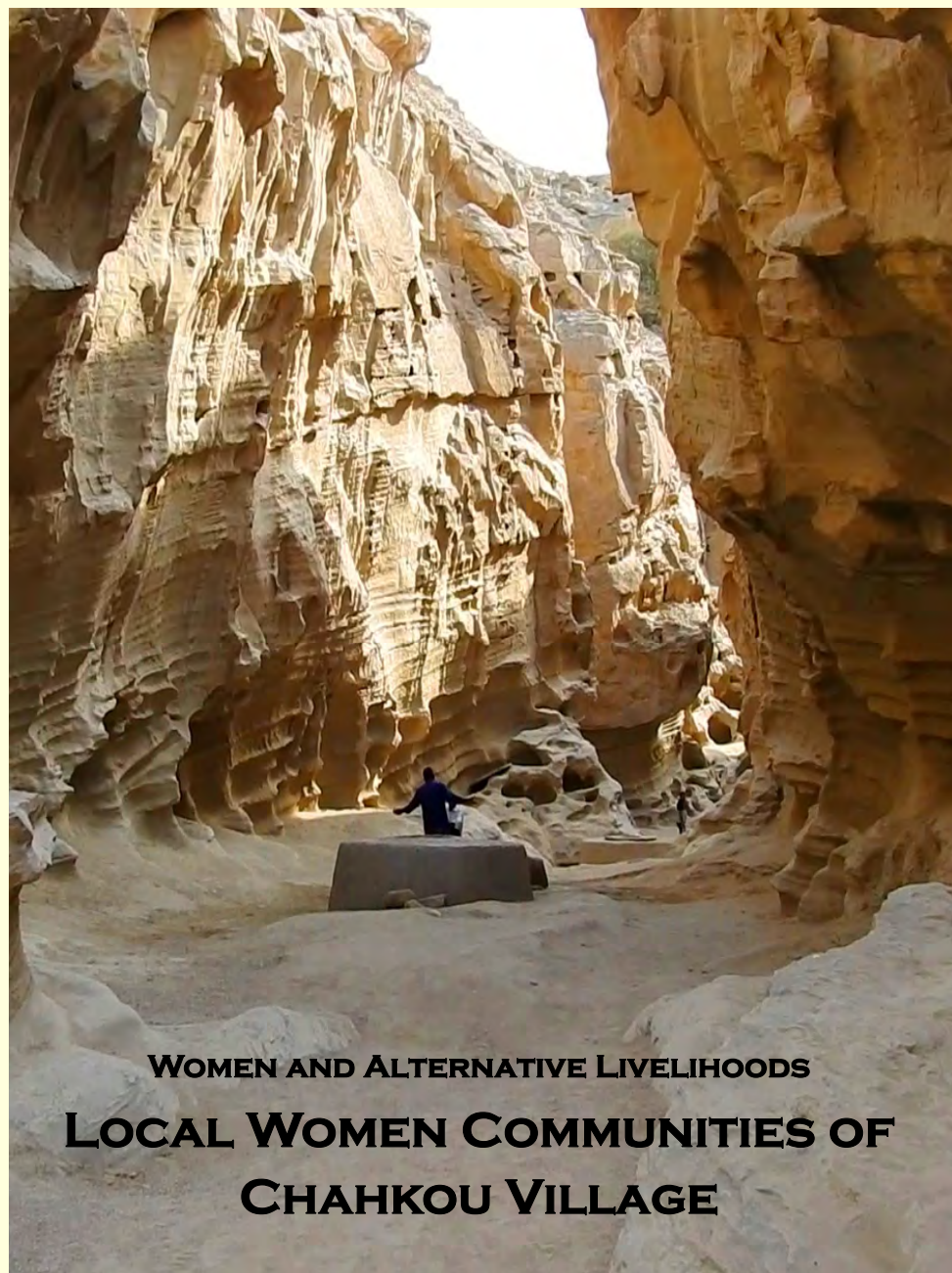
Bags produced by the local women of Gomishan Village



The training workshops for local women in Gomishan Village, Golestan Province



The educational workshops for school students through books and posters published by the project . More than 300 students have participated in these workshops which were held in schools of Gilan Province



Two NSC members during a site visit to Pishgam Local Women Organization



Pishgam Local Women Organization of East Chahkou

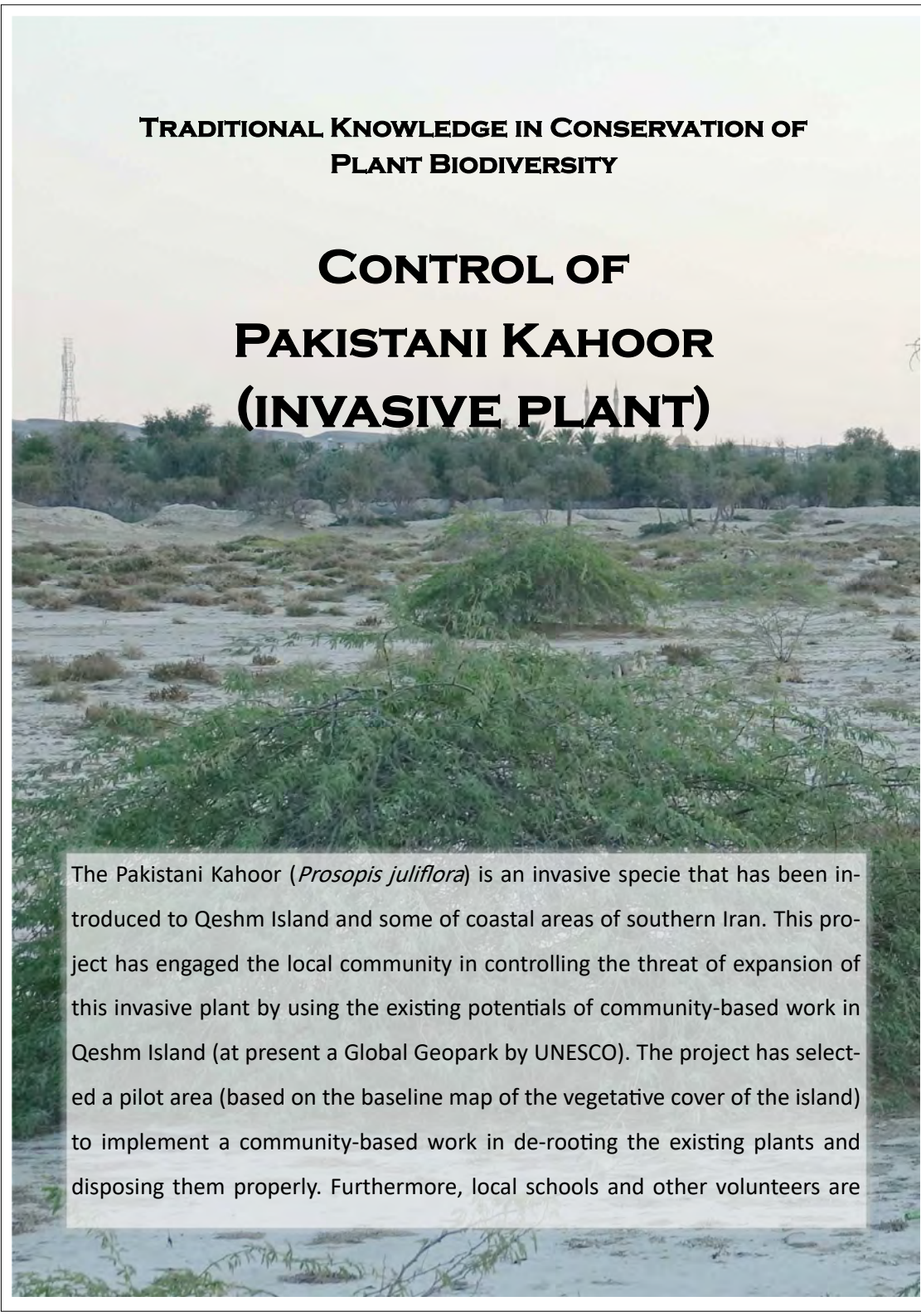


ToT Workshops in western part of Qeshm Island by Toseye Yaran Mehr in a framework of GEF SGP project and support of Qeshm Geo Park and Qeshm QFA Environmental Bureau

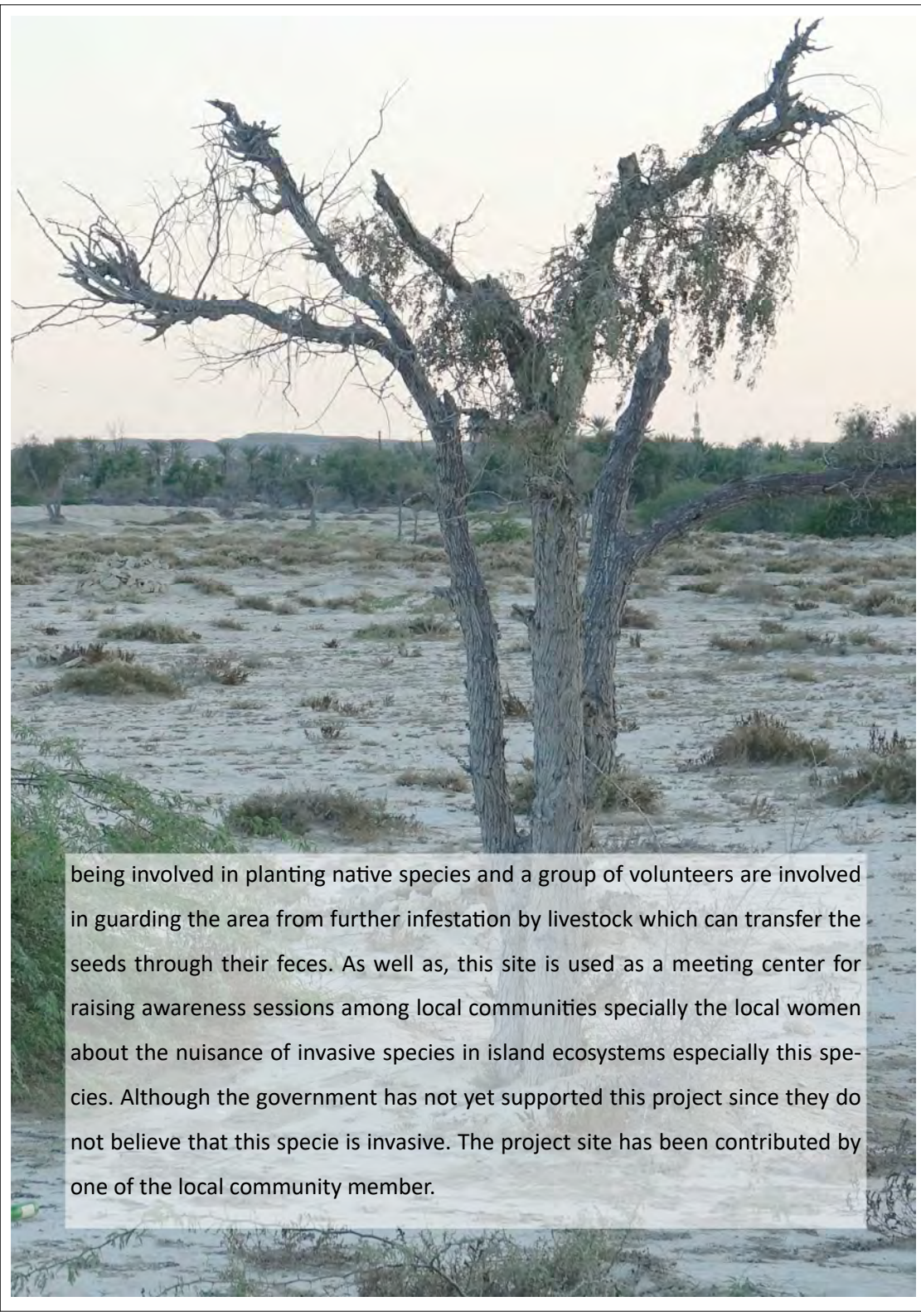


TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN CONSERVATION OF PLANT BIODIVERSITY

CONTROL OF PAKISTANI KAHOR (INVASIVE PLANT)



The Pakistani Kahoor (*Prosopis juliflora*) is an invasive species that has been introduced to Qeshm Island and some of coastal areas of southern Iran. This project has engaged the local community in controlling the threat of expansion of this invasive plant by using the existing potentials of community-based work in Qeshm Island (at present a Global Geopark by UNESCO). The project has selected a pilot area (based on the baseline map of the vegetative cover of the island) to implement a community-based work in de-rooting the existing plants and disposing them properly. Furthermore, local schools and other volunteers are



being involved in planting native species and a group of volunteers are involved in guarding the area from further infestation by livestock which can transfer the seeds through their feces. As well as, this site is used as a meeting center for raising awareness sessions among local communities specially the local women about the nuisance of invasive species in island ecosystems especially this species. Although the government has not yet supported this project since they do not believe that this species is invasive. The project site has been contributed by one of the local community member.

YOUTH: THE FUTURE ENVIRONMENTALISTS

The Rude-Shur and Rude-Shirin wetlands in southern Iran (Minab area) have been registered as internationally important wetlands (Ramsar Site). In recent years, these rivers have been facing low water debits. The communities living downstream and near the coast are gradually losing their aquatic and terrestrial natural resources, which has undermined their livelihoods. Some of the threats other than the low water levels are, overfishing, pollution, unplanned and mismanaged development projects, as well as tourism.

The project “ Participatory conservation of marine and coastal wetlands in Shur and Shirin rivers of Minab by strengthening livelihoods that are in harmony with nature of Tiab and Kargan villages- IRA/SGP/OP5/Y7/CORE/IW/2018(199)” which started in 2018 aims to work on Mangrove forest, raise awareness and build capacity of the local community in conservation and sustainable use of wetland resources based on their indigenous knowledge and know-how.



Participatory Mangrove Cultivation



Boat ride and bird-watching in
Tiab Seaport

To provide sustainable livelihoods and to preserve both the natural and cultural heritage of the target area with participation of local community members from Tiab and Kargan villages.



Promotion of local handicraft (needle work) as an alternative livelihood, Tiab Seaport



Multi-stakeholder participation



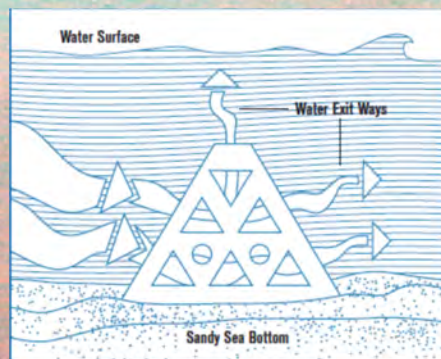
Certificate of Local Guide Training

SEASCAPE

CORAL ECOSYSTEMS

Fisheries is one of the main livelihoods of coastal communities of Qeshm Island and southern areas of Iran, and degradation of marine resources, as a result of for example pollution and overfishing, affects marine resources and local livelihoods. In Salakh Village, which is a fisheries hotspot, local communities had an innovative way of restoring their marine resources by dumping objects into the sea. This idea was used in a previous SGP project for restoration of coral reefs which was documented for the experiences from SGP: protection international waters. GEF Assembly Of 2010. The project combined traditional and scientific knowledge which resulted in building “pyramid shape” structures that were inserted into the sea. After monitoring, it was proved to be successful in building artificial reefs and sustaining fisheries at local levels. The advantage of this technique was that it used local materials (reinforced concrete) and local know-how and human resources. The present project builds on experiences of the previous project and aims to transfer

this knowledge and know-how to other coastal communities in Qeshm Island and the mainland. Therefore, the local community of Salakh Village in collaboration with other partners, are holding training workshops and producing knowledge materials on the need for conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.



Designed by Dr. Laghaei with inputs from local community



THE SEA THAT IS OUR HOME

In collaboration with Community Conserved Area in Suza Village, as important fishery Qeshm Island in Persian Gulf, this project helps with the awareness raising about the important soft corals in the vicinity which is being damaged due to fishing activities in the area. The main coral locations are marked with GPS and a sea map from the coral site is under preparation to share with the local fishery community for better participatory conservation. A documentary is produced from the sea fan coral and soft coral bed which has

been identified through the work of this group for the first time for helping with the recognition of this important and rare site. This documentary has signed-up in an international wildlife conservation film festival in 2019.

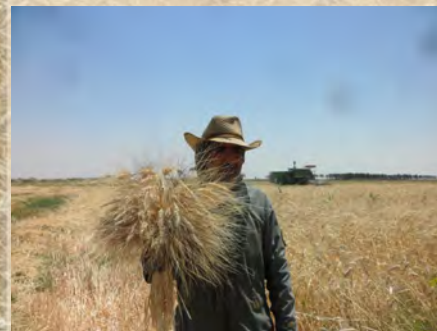
Also, as part of the marine cluster, this project will link with other SGP projects in the area for strengthening the network of marine projects and their participatory conservation.



GREEN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

With Climate Change, winters are warmer and springs are colder, periods of drought are longer, and more unpredictable. However, there is a deep local knowledge among farmers in Iran that is helping for building resilience against these changes. This project is based on

tions gradually increases and farmers gradually collect best seeds and establish their own Seed Bank which is being shared among a network of farmers in 24 provinces.



the experiences of the previous GEF/SGP/UNDP project through which farmers are more capacitated to identify endemic seeds and land races (namely wheat and barley) and use them in their cultivations. In fact the frequency of genotypes with adaptation to local condi-



ASIATIC LEOPARD,

POWER OF NATURE

The Persian Leopard project is the third project supported by the GEF SGP/UNDP conducted since 2011 to specifically address the Persian Leopard in Iran. Achievements in the previous projects became a significant step to develop the current project.

This project aims a major topic specified in the Persian Leopard National Action Plan in

tion which is directly related to the species.

To conduct this project, monitoring objectives have been developed together with the relative techniques to be used in each monitoring site.

The project primarily selected a network of reference areas in various provinces across the leopard range using probability sampling techniques to ensure the suitability of



Photo by: Asian Leopard Specialist Society

relation to establishment of the leopard national monitoring scheme for the first time in the country. In the Leopard Action Plan, “monitoring” has been addressed in several ways including 4 different levels of reference areas. Among them, two levels are to monitor the habitat and the popula-

the collected data for the relative analysis. However, this monitoring program with collaboration of the local communities does not only provide the data to monitor the leopard status for a long term, but also develop a conservation level across the selected non-Protected sites. This fact is al-



A monitoring reference area in Lorestan province (Photo: A. Sanei)



ready assessed in our earlier pilot program in Dashtestan County of southern Iran verifying that conducting monitoring activities by the help of trained members from local people significantly reduce poaching and illegal activities that negatively affect leopard and prey species in the area. Thus,

the project achievements, an innovative financial mechanism was also included. To build up this new mechanism, surveys were conducted in settlement areas around and inside the leopard habitats in Sabzevar Township of northeastern Iran.



Hand spinning (Photo: A. Sanei)

the program add a conservation level indirectly to the available protected areas which is based on the collaboration of the local communities.

To develop this scheme with active participation of local communities and to sustain

Carpet/Kilim/Jajim weaving is a main activity of much of local communities across Iran that has a long history in their life style. Yet, due to the lack of market, local people are losing interest to produce these historical handicrafts. Such as many

more regions across the country, while there is lack of documentations addressing this type of handicrafts, the patterns and symbols are inherited from one generation to the next. Supporting indigenous people to save and restore their historical knowledge about mentally weaving as well

as other traditional skills in producing various types of carpet and in particular the Kilim, the project is establishing a local-based mechanism to support the trained local members for a long term monitoring in each established reference area.



Carpet Weaving (Photo: A. Sanei)

AN ONGOING STORY OF

THREE RELATED PROJECTS ON HEALTH, AIR POLLUTION AND URBAN AND RURAL WASTE

Iran, a country with a population of over 81 million people, consumes over 100 million liters of mineral diesel daily! A country, whose residents living in mega cities are severely suffering from air pollution; a tragedy ending the lives of over 30 individuals every single day as far as the official statistics are concerned! Respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, impaired brain development in children, and tens of other diseases and disorders are among the disastrous consequences of growing utilization of fossil fuels such as diesel in Iran!

Having said that, the question would be what to do? This was in fact the question we, the Extension Group of Environmentalists (EGE) were asked in the year 2012 at the SGP/GEF/UNDP Office in Tehran after presenting the above data and stats. That question and the following responses were the stepping-stone of the tireless efforts initiated under the support umbrella of SGP/GEF/UNDP, aimed at offering multi-aspect solutions and their imple-

mentation:

Creating public awareness regarding the huge amounts of fossil fuels consumed in the country, their devastative consequences, and the vital necessity to move towards zero-carbon economy.

Introduction and promotion of eco-friendly energy alternatives to mineral diesel; i.e., biodiesel produced from waste cooking oil (WCO).

Technology development and innovation to convert WCO into biodiesel: design and fabrication of user-friendly highly efficient reactors.

Creating commitment among different walks of life including policy-makers and authorities regarding the importance of replacing mineral diesel with its renewable, environmentally-friendly alternative, i.e., WCO biodiesel.

And the other side of this story, WCO: a waste stream generated at a considerable rate of 1.5 million kg daily in Iran and its destiny is tied with numerous health and environmental concerns. More specifically, due to the presence of trans fatty acids in these oils, recycling these wastes back into food and feed industries has posed serious health concerns including gastrointestinal cancers while their use in toiletries such as soaps has increased the risk of

skin disorders including skin cancers. Moreover, the disposal of these waste oils into the environment has led to the contamination of soil and (underground) water resources endangering the existing biodiversity. Taking all into consideration, producing biodiesel from WCOs is undoubtedly a promising solution to effectively respond to these multi-aspect problems.



Chapter 1: Project going live!

Project IRA/SGP/OP5/Y2/STAR/CC/12/04 (170): "Establishment of the Regional Site for Practical Training of Sustainable Management of Waste Cooking Oil for the Production of Biodiesel as a Model in Megacities". Through the very first stages of the project, different from related domains realized the importance of the project and the social and health benefits it could bring about and got themselves aligned with the roles pre-defined by project managers, i.e., EGE and the sponsor, i.e., SGP/GEF/UNDP. Those players included media (Danesh and Javan National Radio Channels), Universities and Research Institutions (University of Teh-



ran, Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST), etc.), Scientific and Academic Societies (Iranian Biofuel Society (IBS)), and Private Sector (Bist Chain Fast Food Restaurants, Hani Restaurants, Sepahan Bargh Afsahn Co., etc.).

Within the framework of this project, tens of workshops were organized and held and more than 100 radio programs as well as several TV programs were prepared and broadcast. It is estimated that through the course of this project, over 100,000 individuals were directly or indirectly exposed to the trainings of the project and obtained the awareness originally intended, maybe beyond the expectations of the project managers and sponsor.



Chapter 2: Pursuing objectives!

Pursuing the objectives of the above-mentioned project and along with extension, educational, and media activities, efforts were also focused on open innovations and technology creation. In line with that, the first generation of localized restaurant-scale reactors for the produc-

tion of WCO biodiesel named BD-Pro© was designed, fabricated, and patented. These reactors were placed in a Training Site officially inaugurated in the College of Science, University of Tehran, and were used in the organized workshops and training programs.



Chapter 3: There is no limit to innovation and enhancing efficiency!

Having that in mind, our engineers and experts in EGE designed and fabricated the second generation of localized restaurant-scale reactors for the production of WCO biodiesel named BD-Expert©.

These reactors are completely automatic and are fabricated in different working capacities ranging from 60 to 200 L per day. In fact, BD-Expert© reactors made possible biodiesel production by unskilled individuals for the first time in Iran.



Chapter 4: Creating infrastructures!

Now that technology was available and awareness was created; the need for infrastructures and policy-making would be felt more than ever! Frequently asked question from EGE experts included; Are there national biodiesel standards? If ones would like to produce WCO biodiesel, how they should obtain necessary permits? Who is in charge of biofuels related affairs in the country including biodiesel? And so on.

In response to these questions and concerns, we took extra miles went way beyond words and effectively contributed to the preparation and establishment of national biodiesel standard (National Stand-

ard No.: 20067) at the Iranian National Standards Organization (INSO). We also worked with the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade to establish the necessary codes required for obtaining permits to produce various types of biofuels including biodiesel. Establishment of Iranian Biofuel Society (IBS) in the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology and the Biofuels Committee in the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, etc. are among the other efforts put into paving the way for replacing fossil fuels with their eco-friendly alternatives such as biodiesel.



Photo: Zahra Mahdizadeh

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Chapter 5: Putting science into practice to improve lives!

The true value of innovation, education, and extension is to change the as-usual destructive to subtly beneficial behaviors with effectively productive and constructive counterparts. Hence, more than ever, it would be felt necessary to create social impacts in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This milestone was reached through the guidance and invaluable experience-sharing by SGP/GEF/UNDP and the

laboration with the experts of the Environmental Management Office, the BD-Expert© reactor would be hosted by the locals during their big ceremonies and wed-



dings and while everyone’s having fun celebrating, youngsters would convert the WCO generated during cooking into WCO biodiesel. “Killing two birds with one stone”, they would produce some biofuel for the cars and would prevent the disposal of the oily wastes into the unique ecosystem of the island.

presence of the above-mentioned national players. In an move sponsored by the Qeshm Island Environmental Management Office, a unit of BD-Expert© was delivered to Qeshm local communities and they were given necessary trainings. Since then, in col-

laboration with the experts of the Environmental Management Office, the BD-Expert© reactor would be hosted by the locals during their big ceremonies and wed-

MOU was signed between the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, Tehran Bus Company, and a private company to run a pilot project throughout Tehran mega city. In this national project, 20 buses of the Tehran bus fleet were powered by var-

ious blends of WCO biodiesel (B2 to B15) over a period of 2 months. To date, over 60,000 L of WCO biodiesel has been produced and used leading to the mitigation of 160,000 kg of carbon dioxide greenhouse gas.

Chapter 6: Sustainable production!

The project “Establishment of a 400 L/day Pilot Biorefinery for sustainable management of waste cooking oil for biodiesel production in order to be used in public transport fleet as a model in mega cities” was initiated in the year 2018. This was to ensure a sustainable production/supply of WCO biodiesel to meet the minimum requirements of Tehran bus fleet for WCO biodiesel and the continuation of the posi-

tive impacts achieved in the domains of the environment and public health. MOU with University of Tehran to host the 400 L/day Biodiesel Biorefinery and its establishment and operation on one hand and witnessing the blossom of almost a decade long endeavors have more than ever kept us motivated for future efforts to further contribute to the protection of the environment and improvement of public health.



PERMACULTURE

The Network of Promoting Students of Permaculture (NPSP), is a group of university students active in sustainable agriculture and Permaculture. The students were able to implement sustainable agriculture in pilot site (Permaculture Garden) located in the Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Branch of Tehran. They have also documented the processes and the different stages of Permaculture in form of video clips, posters and brochures. NPSP has also conducted several training workshops where the documentations have been shared among the participants. The workshops include, Introducing the Permaculture, Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry-land Farming Technics and Climate Smart Agriculture Methods, publish brochures on Keyhole Garden, Clay pot irrigation system, create a seed bank (gather and share

the seeds) and share knowledge in media and web.

Based on their experience and the valuable documentations developed by this group, the project "Knowledge sharing for promotion of Permaculture agriculture through documentation and network forming between stakeholders and strengthen the conversation among them-IRA/SGP/OP5/Y8/CORE/CB/2018(222)" was approved in order to promote climate smart agriculture, permaculture and low carbon footprint farming to different stakeholders like farmers, NGOs, local communities, academies, media, governmental and private sectors. Also this project will be a good platform for knowledge sharing of Permaculture through documentaries, books, brochures, newsletters and form a network between local farmers.

The group participated in the 18th International Exhibition of Environment of Iran in February 2019.

NPSP has also published a journal which was selected as one of the best Journals in the 2nd Student Journals Festival of Azad University in 2018. In this journal the Sirangoli Wetland Project which



is another GEF SGP project has been mentioned since this project was awarded the United Nations Equator Prize.

At the 2015 Paris Climate Conference also known as COP21 – the Umbrella Group of Naghadeh NGOs from Iran was awarded the United Nations Equator Prize. This prize is the flagship programme of the Equator Initiative. This international award recognizes outstanding community efforts to reduce poverty, protect nature and strengthen resilience in the face of climate change. The Equator Prize, which aims to recognize collective action, commended the innovative and collaborative approach taken by the seven community NGOs connected to Naghadeh. These community initiatives cooperated to restore and conserve satellite wetlands surrounding Lake Urmia. The effort succeeded in restoring over 1,600 hectares of valuable wetland areas. This was the first time an organization from Iran had received this prestigious award and was awarded among 1,400 communities considered from all over the world.



Permaculture Garden on Azad University, Tehran



Mr. Sirous Entekhabi and Ms. Manizheh Hajighasemi from Umbrella Group of Naghadeh NGOs receiving the Equator Prize from Ms. Helen Clark, Former UNDP Administrator (right) and Mr. Magdy Martinez-Soliman, UN Assistant Secretary General, Assistant Administrator & Director of the Bureau for Policy & Programme Support (left)

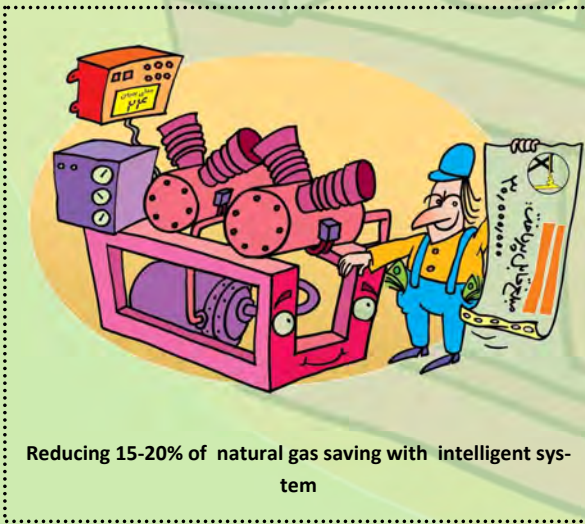
ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Zistyar Energy, by building capacity to monitor the operation of heating systems (including in the UN common in Tehran has developed a tool to help customers to achieve energy savings through automation as well as developing a community of practice from servicemen since 2007.

Achievements of the GEF SGP supported projects:

Improvement of technical knowledge related to the implementation of solutions for improving the energy efficiency of HVAC.

Effective attendance at the review ses-



sions of section 19 of the National Building Regulations and providing experiences and technical suggestions for amending or

ENERGY SAVING

completing regulations in the Mechanical Building Section.

Promotion measures to raise awareness among school students with energy optimization discussions in the form of distributing more than one million cartoons related to building energy optimization in 4,000 school classes.

Cooperation with the country's vocational education and training organization and development of a standard of training for job skills for installation of intelligent control systems for heating engine engineers.

Cooperation with Iran's Technical and Vocational Training Organization and the development of a standard of training for job skills for the installation of intelligent control systems for central cooling systems.

Preparation and presentation of numerous articles at scientific seminars and conferences with the aim of improving the technical knowledge of engineers and students in general with high efficiency central

cooling systems. Among these papers, a paper entitled "The Scientific Comparison of Energy Consumption and Environmental Considerations for Absorption and Con-



Cooling/Heating intelligent system

densation Chillers" can be mentioned.

Establishment of Consortium to implement Energy Efficiency Projects in Buildings to Identify Challenges of Energy Services Projects in Iran with the support of the Presidential Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

The execution of the ESCO pilot project at the Tehran Big Power Distribution Company under the supervision of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and

the Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran.

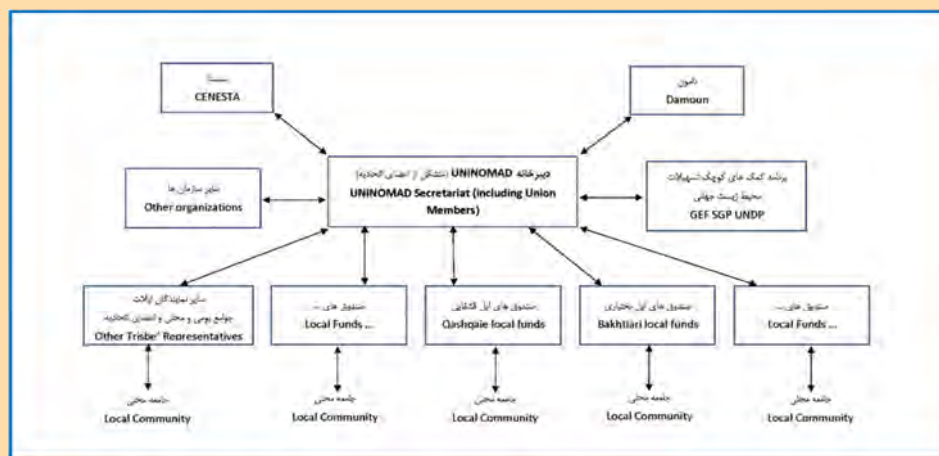
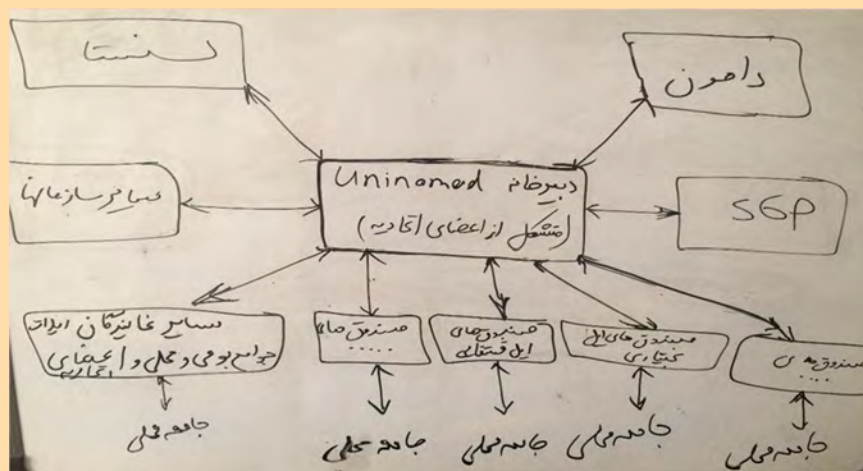
Organizing educational seminars on the development of community awareness on energy management for environmental authorities and deputies of urban services in 22 areas of Tehran in co-operation with the Environment and Sustainable Development Office of Tehran Municipality

Implementation of 10 Pilot Energy Optimization Projects in the Heating Facilities of Residential Buildings in Tehran, in the form of an ESCO Contract, and Review the Challenges and Problems and Barriers to Implementing Such a Projects.

COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREAS (CCA/ICCA)

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PAST

The preliminary session of Planning Strategic Support to Community Conserved Areas on 17 January 2018. In this session the Nomadic Working Group who were also old members of UNINOMAD, Nomadic Working members of UNINOMAD had developed a



Horizontal Communication Model for UNINOMAD based on lessons learned from the past

communication model (as shown below) for participation of all the UNINOMAD and Tribal members in which all the stakeholders will be engaged and none of the groups would be excluded. The Secretariat should consist of nomadic representatives and the material held in Cenesta should be transferred to this nomadic secretariat. Following the discussions and suggestions in this session the below model was completed which was named the Horizontal Communication Model.

In this Horizontal Communication Model, the secretariat's email information including username and password will be available to all the members of the Union, representatives of local communities, and Union funds. Therefore, this will result in the transparency, capacity building and ownership and will also ease the provision of information and documentation of the independent nature of the union. Other organizations and institutions such as Cenesta, Damoun and etc., for communication with the Union, should send the request email or letter to the secretariat to provide all the affairs through the Secretariat. Since all members, representatives, funds have access to the secretariat, they can easily inform their communities.

This template has been used in the "Nomadic Working Group" and has been successful.



In memory of our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Mohammad Taghi Farvar.

Dr. Mohammad Taghi Farvar will be missed, and his passing away has been a great loss to community work in Iran and to people he inspired. As Chairman of the Board of Centre for Sustainable Development (CENESTA) and an active member of GEF SGP projects he will be remembered for his contributions towards the recognition of the local communities policy making for conservation of environment. He helped to found and served as main advocate for UNINOMAD and UNICAMEL—associations of pastoral local community peoples from certain regions of Iran.

In 2008, he co-founded the ICCA Consortium, an international association working toward the appropriate recognition of and support to the territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (also known as ICCAs—territories of life). He served as President of the ICCA Consortium for three consecutive terms.

(1942-2018)



In memory of our dear friend and colleague, Mr. Hadi Fahimi.

His dedication towards conservation of the wildlife was exceptional and worked tirelessly for the betterment of society. He was an exceptional human being who devoted himself wholeheartedly as a conservationist.

Hadi and the teams involvement in GEF SGP projects was an assurance for its success.

He passed away in a tragic plane crash on 18 February 2018 in Zagros Mountains

His beautiful soul will shine forever and ever.

(1980-2018)



The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 1992. SGP grantmaking in over 125 countries promotes community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment through sustainable development projects of local civil society organizations with special consideration for indigenous peoples, women, and youth. SGP has supported over 20,000 community-based projects in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, prevention of land degradation, protection of international waters, and reduction of the impact of chemicals, while generating sustainable livelihoods.