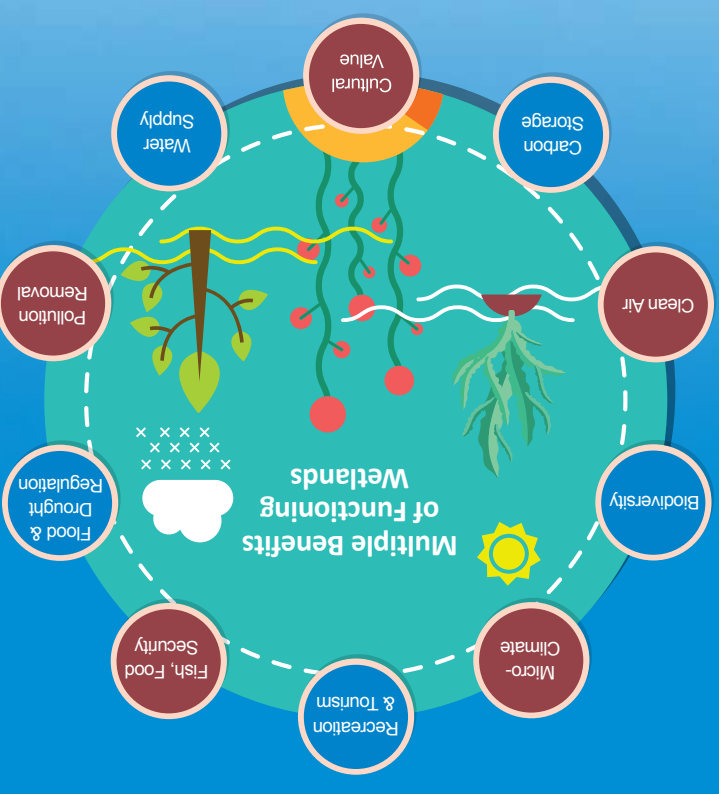
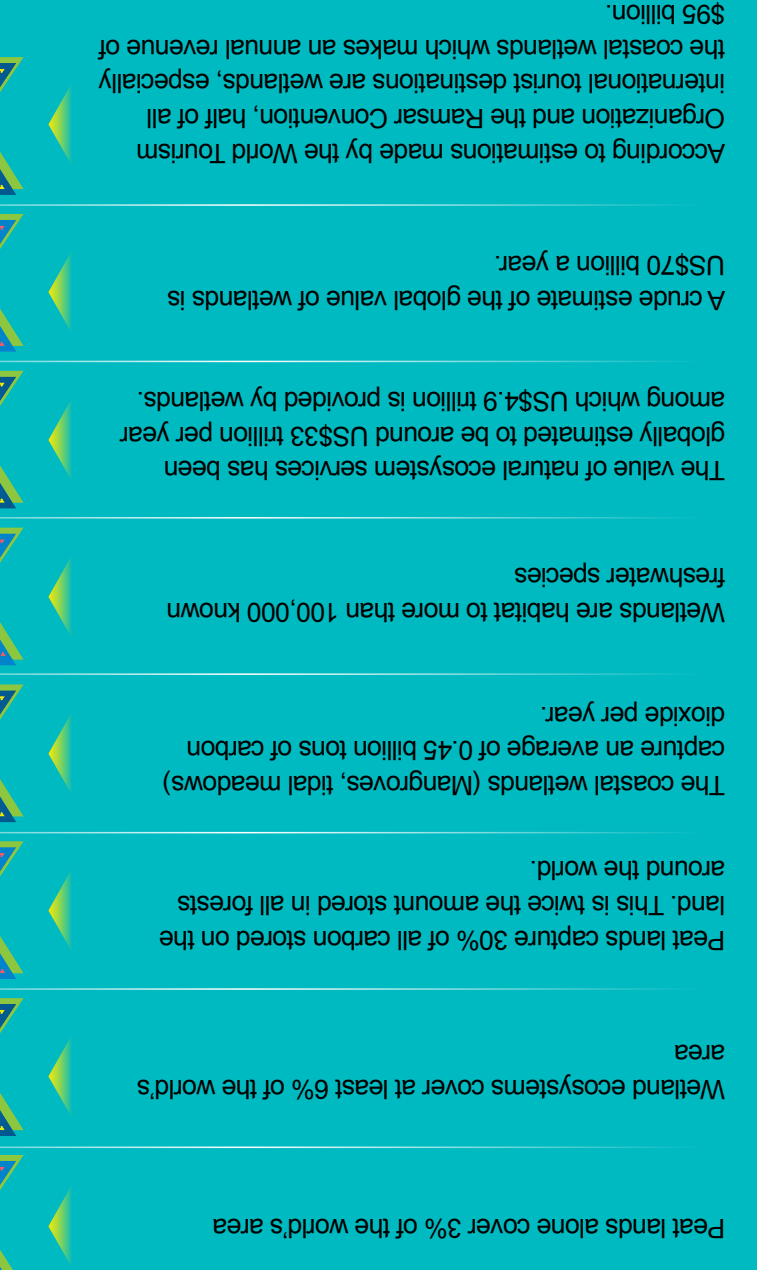




Wetland habitats are one of the most important natural ecosystems on the earth that have long played a substantial role in development of the surrounding societies. Various benefits of wetlands place them among the most valuable ecosystems of the world in case of biodiversity and cultural conservation. Climate diversity along with topographic and geological specific conditions in the country has led to formation of diverse wetlands, from Mangrove Forests and coral reefs to vast salty lakes in central parts as well as the lowland marshes of the Caspian Sea.

"Saving Wetlands: for People, for Nature"

Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project



Date - signing location	Number of Contracting Parties	Number of Ramsar Sites registered in Ramsar Convention (2023) until April 2017	The areas of Ramsar Sites registered in Ramsar Convention (until April 2017)	Number of internationally important wetlands in Iran	The number of Iranian wetlands registered in Ramsar Convention	The areas of Iranian wetlands registered in Ramsar Convention
1971 - Ramsar city, Iran	169	218,550,855 hectares	84 wetland	35 wetland under 24 titles	1486138 hectares	

In 1971, for the purpose of protecting wetlands valuable ecosystems, Ramsar Convention - the oldest international treaty with the subject of world nature conservation - was endorsed in Ramsar City of Iran. By emphasizing on the wetlands' role in supplying the needs of human societies, the convention has set wetland biodiversity conservation as its main objective. Since the beginning Iran has played the main role in formation of Ramsar Convention and by the time the convention officially came into force in 1975, Iran was one of the first 7 countries, who joined the Convention as a contracting party.

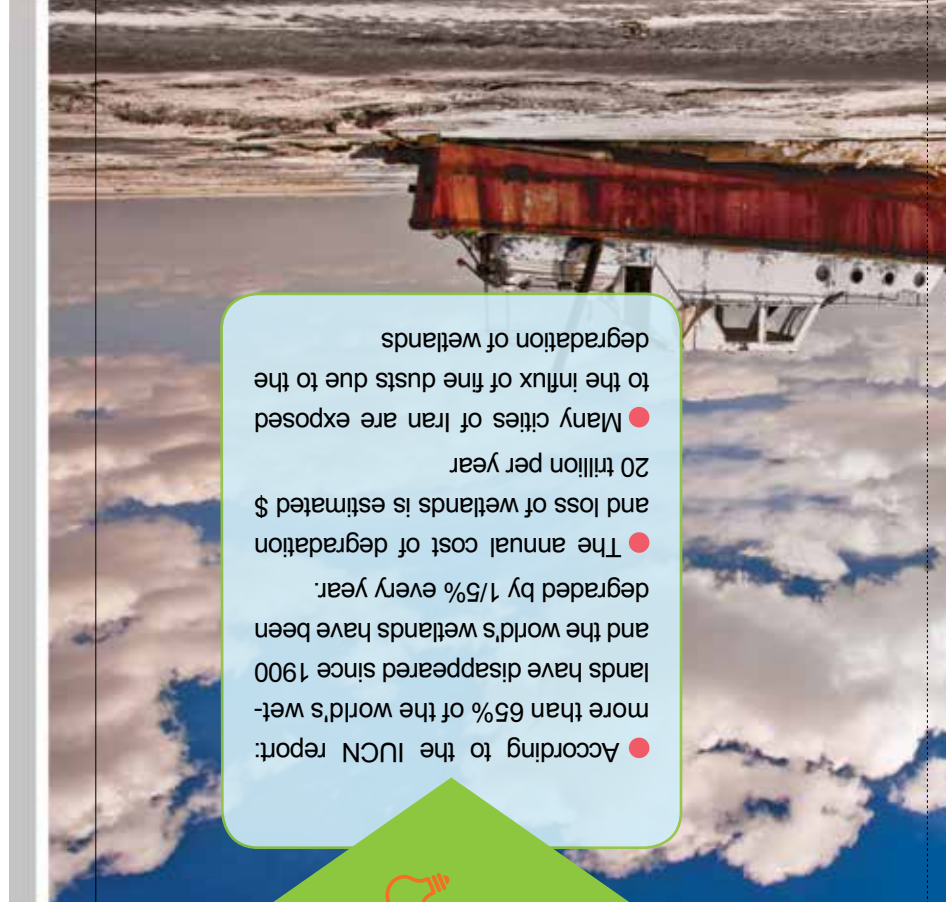
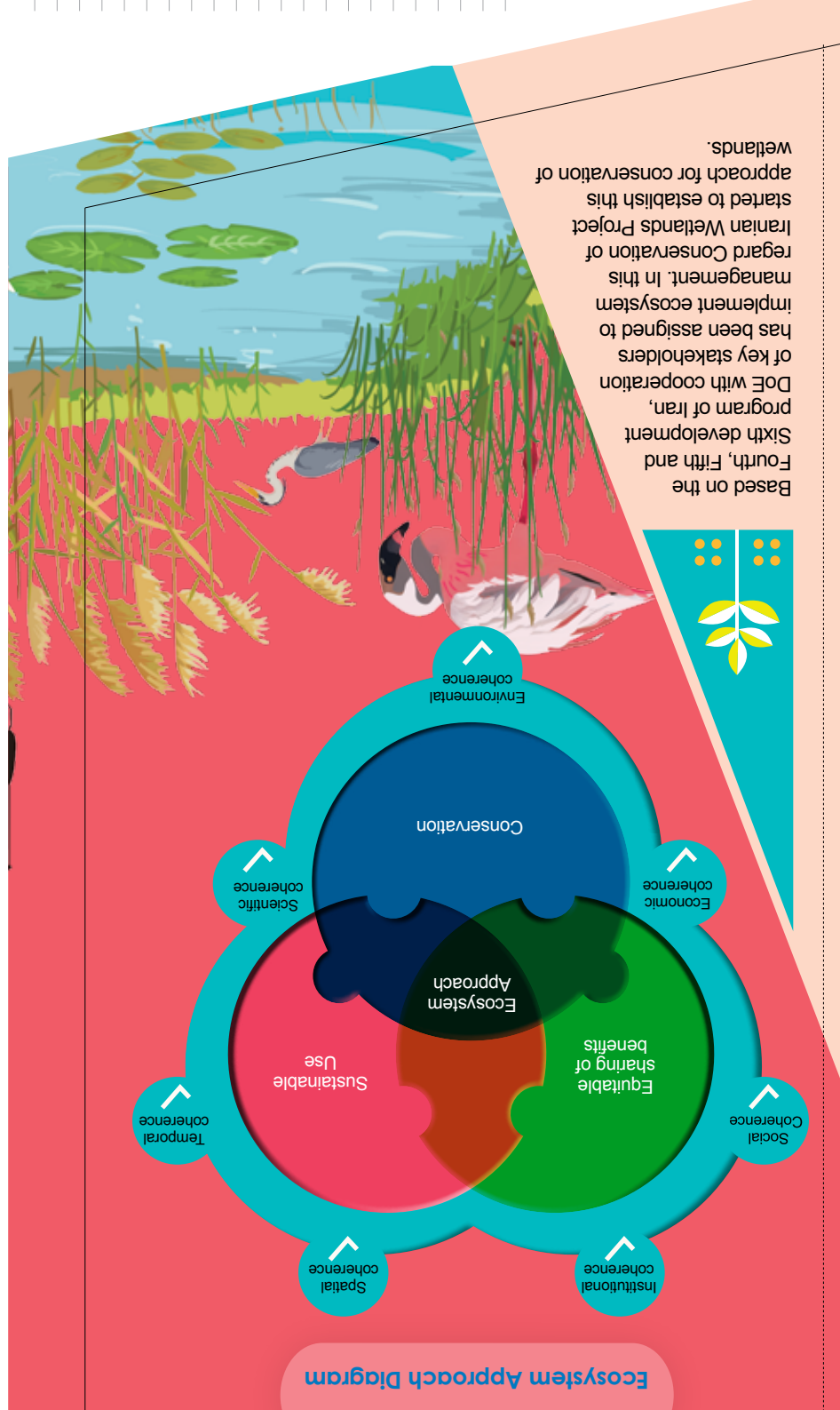
Iran, the Origin of Ramsar Convention

Ramsar Convention - the oldest international treaty with the subject of world nature conservation



Solutions for Wetlands conservation; Ecosystem Approach

During the last half a century, the first conservation approaches were based on nature and environment protection with absolute bans on alteration or utilization. Because of not considering the human as a component of ecosystem, it then encountered various obstacles. In new conservation approaches such as ecosystem approach particularly focuses on the role of human and his livelihood in the ecosystem, by taking into account the impacts of development and the relationship between various components beyond the apparent boundaries of ecosystems.



- Threats to Iranian Wetlands**
- Wetland degradation has had unpleasant impacts on human being and biodiversity including dust influx, climate change, loss of sustainable water resources and peoples' livelihood.
1. Unsustainable development in the wetlands basin
 2. Mismanagement of water resources
 3. Competition of wetlands and other land uses on abstraction of water resources
 4. Land conversion in wetland basin
 5. Discharge of domestic, industrial and agriculture waste water into wetlands
 6. High sedimentation load of runoff to wetlands
 7. Consecutive droughts and drought risk mismanagement
 8. Unintegrated approaches in wetlands management
 9. Loss of native species by the entrance of invasive species

According to the IUCN report: more than 65% of the world's wetlands have disappeared since 1900 and the world's wetlands have been degraded by 1/5% every year.

- The annual cost of degradation and loss of wetlands is estimated \$ 20 trillion per year
- Many cities of Iran are exposed to the influx of fine dusts due to the degradation of wetlands

Based on the Sixth development Fourth, Fifth and Doc with cooperation of key stakeholders has been assigned to implement ecosystem management. In this regard Wetlands Project started to establish this approach for conservation of wetlands.



Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project "Saving Wetlands: for People, for Nature"

CIWP is a joint initiative between GEF, UNDP and the Iranian government (led by the Department of Environment), which was initiated in 2005. CIWP aim is to systematically remove or substantially mitigate the threats to sustain Iran's wetland ecosystems. CIWP has started the implementation of the activities in three important wetlands of the country as demonstration sites and is making an effort to disseminate the achieved experiences to the other wetlands of the country by presenting a managerial system and providing legal tools for implementation of the system.



Since the launch of Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP), CIWP has sought to address the root causes of the damage to Iran's wetlands by applying the Convention on Biological Diversity's Ecosystem Approach at three levels:

At local (site) level: by engaging and empowering local communities in the management of wetlands, and by building the capacity of the local offices of the DOE and other stakeholders to manage the threats to wetland itself

At basin level: by engaging provincial stakeholders in the integrated management of wetlands to address externally-arising threats, and by raising public awareness.

At national level: by building the capacity of national DoE for the integrated management of Iran's wetland protected areas, and by mainstreaming wetland conservation measures into other sectoral ministries.

2015-2019 strategy

2015-2019 strategy was developed by CIWP with cooperation of key stakeholders to determine the way forward. The strategy builds on successful experiences to achieve even greater impact and stronger partnerships. It up-scales existing approaches and adds new ones, with the aim of reversing the current trend in wetland loss and degradation. CIWP's Goal for this period is:

"The condition of Iran's wetland ecosystems is improving as measured by area, livelihoods and biodiversity"

The specific Objective is:

"Government, communities and the public value Iran's wetlands for their contribution to sustainable development, and are implementing concerted actions to conserve and restore them".

The 7 proposed projects (concept notes) have been designed for implementation of the 2015-2019 strategy:

Project concept Note 1: Capacity development for local communities near major wetlands to shift from non-sustainable agriculture to sustainable livelihoods, through an "Eco-villages" approach

Project concept Note 2: A joint capacity-building program with the Ministry of Energy concerning wetland-friendly/sustainable water infrastructure design and management, including demonstration activities to secure the required water flow for one sample wetland.

Project concept Note 3: Assessment of the impacts of wetland degradation on air pollution in Iran by dust particles, and the development of feasible mitigation methods through integrated/better wetland management

Project concept Note 4: A national awareness raising campaign on wetland conservation, socio economic benefits of wetlands and better water management

Project concept Note 5: Introduction and demonstration of business plans for wetland protected areas to support more effective wetland management

Project concept Note 6: Assessment and valuation of wetland ecosystem services and identification of feasible Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes to secure innovative financing for sustainable wetland management

Project concept Note 7: Conservation of Iran's 24 Ramsar sites: vulnerability assessment and targeted action programme

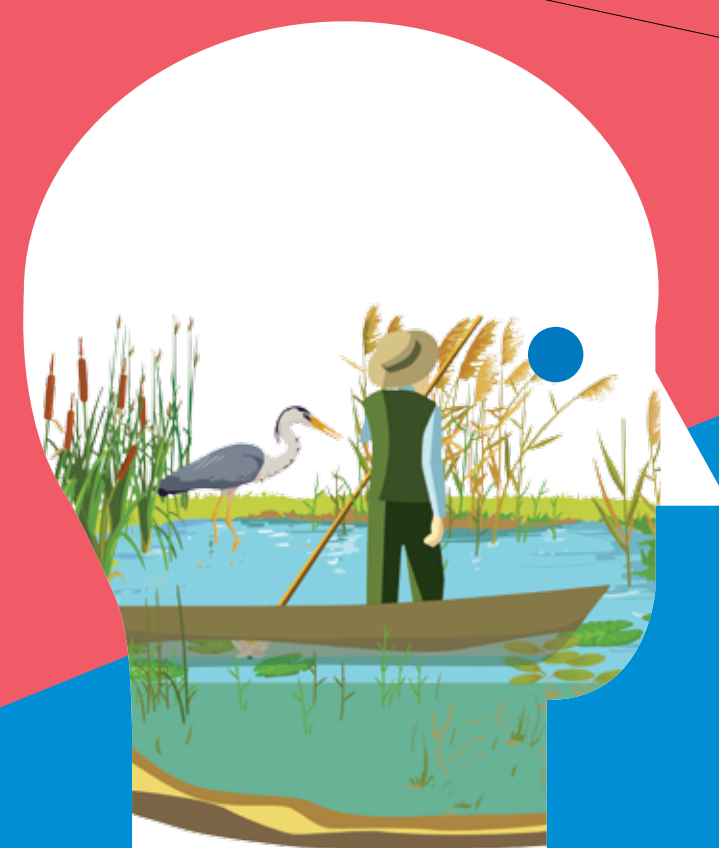


"Contribution to Restoration of Lake Urmia via Local Community Participation in Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation"

53800

"Contribution to Restoration of Lake Urmia via Local Community Participation in Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation" project is supported by the Government of Japan, under "Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project" addressing Lake Urmia Integrated management plan strategic objectives.

The main goals of the project includes water/chemical saving and provision of LU water right. The project covering 53800 hectares of 75 villages in Lake Urmia Basin provides appropriate situation for participation of local communities, NGOs and Local Governmental Organizations.



Key Achievements of CIWP 2005-2015



Managed and Secured more than USD 5.6 million of investment from international sources, and USD 10 million from the Government for the conservation of Iranian wetlands

15,600,000

Successfully introduced integrated and participatory ecosystem-based approaches for conservation of Iran's wetlands

Development and implementation of Integrated Management Plan for 12 wetlands in the country including:

- Lake Urmia, Parishan Wetland, Shadegan Wetland, Gharegheshlagh Wetland, Qurigol Wetland, Helle Wetland, Alagol Almagol and Ajigol Wetland, Choghakhor Wetland, Harray e Minab, Harmoun Wetlands, Mighan Wetland and Zarivar Wetland.

Training and capacity building of more than 500 individuals from DoE staff and 4000 individuals from related organizations at National, provincial and local level

30% water saving and 40% saving of chemical inputs (chemical pesticides and herbicides) through introduction of sustainable agriculture new methods and techniques (instead of traditional methods) to farmers at farm level

Technical support to determine and provide wetlands water requirement and boundary marking of 15 important wetlands in the country

More than 50 titles of technical tools, guidelines and publications were developed and disseminated in order to provide technical support for establishment of wetlands conservation and management systems

Provide technical support on introduction of the Parliament Bill on "Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable use of wetlands"

Submission of the bylaw of wetland conservation and management from the Cabinet to all governmental organization Development of National Wetland Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NWC/SAP)

Modelling local communities' and NGOs' participation through cooperation with more than 30 national and local NGOs to address management and conservation of the wetlands in the country

Raised awareness on the need to conserve wetlands and their values and functions through:

- 2000 More than 2000 news stories and articles published on newspapers, magazines and websites
- 200 Participation in more than 200 TV and Radio programs
- 50 Holding more than 50 festivals and local ceremonies

Modelling the mitigation of natural disasters impacts on wetlands through development of innovative Drought Risk Management planning for Lake Urmia

Support the livelihoods and resilience of local communities in wetland areas by promoting sustainable wetland management and introduction of alternative livelihood models

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