

# Annex II

## Decisions

### DECISION

By the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the creation of the Hirkan National Park of the Republic of Azerbaijan

### DECISION

By the Head of Lenkaran City Executive Authority of the Republic of Azerbaijan

### DECISION

By the Head of Executive Authority of Astara District of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Decision : 30 COM 8B.24

Nominations of Properties to the World Heritage List (Hirkan Forests of Azerbaijan)

Decision : 43 COM 8B.4

Hyrcanian Forests (Islamic Republic of Iran)

### DECISION

#### **By the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

on the creation of the Hirkan National Park  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

With a view to expanding a network of specially protected nature areas of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the conservation of endangered species of flora and fauna and development of ecotourism and having regard to items 8 and 21 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Specially Protected Nature Areas and Monuments we take the decision:

1. To create the Hirkan National Park in an area of 21435 hectares pertaining to administrative territories of the Lenkaran and Astara districts as shown in the attached map.
2. For the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan to deal with issues arising out of this Decision.
3. This Decision takes force from the date of signing.

Ilham Aliyev  
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
Baku, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2004  
No.81

**DECISION**  
**By the Head of Lenkaran City Executive**  
**Authority of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

No.197

26 November 2003

WITH A VIEW TO THE CREATION (PROMULGATION) OF THE HIRKAN  
NATIONAL PARK

WE TAKE THE DECISION:

Having regard to the application of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning the creation of Hirkan National Park and pursuant to the directive No.17/3608-10 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 11 July 2002 we take the decision:

1. To allocate for the creation of the National Park a total of 3204,0 hectares land area made up of 2582,0 hectares from the Hirkan State Nature Reserve and 622,0 hectares from the Lenkaran Forest Protection and Rehabilitation Institution.
2. To approve a land allocation plan reflecting the allocated land areas.
3. To request the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan to endorse this Decision.

EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

HEAD OF LENKARAN CITY  
ZEYNAL NAGDALIYEV

**DECISION**  
**by the Head of Executive Authority of Astara**  
**District of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

No.179

27 November 2003

WITH A VIEW TO THE CREATION (PROMULGATION) OF THE HIRKAN  
NATIONAL PARK

WE TAKE THE DECISION:

Having regard to the application of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning the creation of Hirkan National Park and pursuant to the directive No.17/3608-10 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 11 July 2002 we take the decision:

1. To allocate for the creation of the National Park a total of 18231,0 hectares land area made up of 322,0 hectares from the Hirkan State Nature Reserve and 17909,0 hectares from the Astara Forest Protection and Rehabilitation Institution.
2. To approve a land allocation plan reflecting the allocated land areas.
3. To request the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan to endorse this Decision.

O.M.ABBASOV

**Decision : 30 COM 8B.24**  
**Nominations of Properties to the World Heritage List (Hirkan Forests of Azerbaijan)**  
**The World Heritage Committee,**

1. Having examined Documents WHC-06/30.COM/8B and WHC-06/30.COM/INF.8B.2,

2. Defers examination of the nomination of the Hirkan Forests of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan, to the World Heritage List on the basis of natural criterion (iv), to allow the State Party to consider options for renominating the property as part of a transnational serial property with other Hirkanian forest areas in Iran;

1. Recommends that the State Party also consider the following issues relating to the integrity of the nominated property:

a) Options for expanding the boundaries of the property to include additional forest areas of high conservation value;

b) Formally establishing the buffer zone for the property;

c) Ensuring adequate resources for the implementation of the management plan, including for patrolling;

d) Effectively addressing threats to the property, including the removal of illegal settlements and the management of grazing.

**Decision : 43 COM 8B.4**  
**Hyrcanian Forests (Islamic Republic of Iran)**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/19/43.COM/8B and WHC/19/43.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 8B.24** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),

3. Inscribes the **Hyrcanian Forests, Islamic Republic of Iran**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (ix)**;

4. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

The Hyrcanian Forests form a green arc of forest, separated from the Caucasus to the west and from semi-desert areas to the east: a unique forested massif that extends from south-eastern Azerbaijan eastwards to the Golestan Province, in Iran. The Hyrcanian Forests World Heritage property is situated in Iran, within the Caspian Hyrcanian mixed forests ecoregion. It stretches 850 km along the southern coast of the Caspian Sea and covers around 7 % of the remaining Hyrcanian forests in Iran.

The property is a serial site with 15 component parts shared across three Provinces (Gilan, Mazandaran and Golestan) and represents examples of the various stages and features of Hyrcanian forest ecosystems. Most of the ecological characteristics which characterize the Caspian Hyrcanian mixed forests are represented in the property. A considerable part of the property is in inaccessible steep terrain. The property contains exceptional and ancient broad-leaved forests which were formerly much more extensive however, retreated during periods of glaciation and later expanded under milder climatic conditions. Due to this isolation, the property hosts many relict, endangered, and regionally and locally endemic species of flora, contributing to the high ecological value of the property and the Hyrcanian region in general.

**Criterion (ix):** The property represents a remarkable series of sites conserving the natural forest ecosystems of the Hyrcanian Region. Its component parts contain exceptional broad-leaved forests with a history dating back 25 - 50 million years ago, when such forests covered most parts of the Northern Temperate region. These huge ancient forest areas retreated during Quaternary glaciations and later, during milder climate periods, expanded again from these refugia. The property covers most environmental features and ecological values of the Hyrcanian region and represents the most important and key environmental processes illustrating the genesis of those forests, including succession, evolution and speciation.

The floristic biodiversity of the Hyrcanian region is remarkable at the global level with over 3,200 vascular plants documented. Due to its isolation, the property hosts many relict, endangered, and regionally and locally endemic plant species, contributing to the ecological significance of the property, and the Hyrcanian region in general. Approximately 280 taxa are endemic and sub-endemic for the Hyrcanian region and about 500 plant species are Iranian endemics.

The ecosystems of the property support populations of many forest birds and mammals of the Hyrcanian region which are significant on national, regional and global scales. To date, 180 species of birds typical of broadleaved temperate forests have been recorded in the Hyrcanian region including Steppe Eagle, European Turtle Dove, Eastern Imperial Eagle, European Roller, Semicollared Flycatcher and Caspian Tit. Some 58 mammal species have been recorded across the region, including the iconic Persian Leopard and the threatened Wild Goat.

### **Integrity**

The component parts of the property are functionally linked through the shared evolutionary history of the Caspian Hyrcanian mixed forest ecoregion and most have good ecological connectivity through the almost continuous forest belt in the whole Hyrcanian forest region. Khoshk-e-Daran, is the only component that is isolated, however it still benefits from a high level of intactness and contributes to the overall value of the series. Each component part contributes distinctively to

the property's Outstanding Universal Value and the components together sustain the long-term viability of the key species and ecosystems represented across the Hyrcanian region, as well as the evolutionary processes which continue to shape these forests over time.

Several component parts have suffered in the past from lack of legal protection, and continue to be negatively impacted to some extent by seasonal grazing and wood collection. The sustainable management of these uses is a critical issue for the long-term preservation of the site's integrity and it will require strong ongoing attention by the State Party.

### **Protection and management requirements**

All component parts of the property are state owned and strictly protected by national legislation. In the case of protected areas through the Nature Conservation Law and for areas outside of the protected areas by Iran's Heritage Law. It will be important to align the boundaries of the existing protected areas to those of the property following inscription on the World Heritage List so as to harmonize and streamline the management and protection regime across the site as a whole.

The management of the property's components is under the responsibility of three national agencies, the Iranian Forests, Range, Watershed and Management Organization (FRWO), Department of Environment (DoE) and the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO). A National Steering Committee is in place to ensure coordination across the series as a whole. This mechanism will need to be maintained in order to guarantee comprehensive management of the site into the future, based on a common vision and supported by adequate funding. Each component part has a management plan however, a "Master Management Plan" for the whole property is also a long term requirement. The national and component specific plans should be maintained, developed and updated regularly together by the responsible management institutions, in cooperation with ministries, universities and NGOs.

Public access and use of the area is legally regulated and logging, grazing, hunting and most other uses that may potentially impact the property are strictly prohibited within all component parts. Vehicle access and other uses and activities that may potentially impact the property are also either forbidden or strictly regulated. However, enforcement of access and use regulations is not always effective and requires strengthening. Particular attention is required to maintain and enhance where possible, ecological connectivity between components and to ensure effective regulation of seasonal grazing and wood collection.

5. Takes note of the potential for this property to also meet criterion (x), and recommends the State Party to undertake significant further work to complete species inventories and confirm species composition and population

conservation status within each of the components, and to consider submitting a re-nomination of the property if the further studies confirm the relevant values are sufficient to meet criterion (x);

6. Requests the State Party to align the boundaries of the existing protected areas to those of the World Heritage property in the near future in order to harmonize and streamline the management and protection regime across the site as a whole;
7. Also requests the State Party to adopt fully the Master Management Plan for the property as a whole by 2022, and to assure adequate funding is provided, and that comprehensive and detailed measures are in place to:
  1. Foster collaborative and participatory approaches to managing the property which respect rights, traditional practices and customs,
  2. Work collaboratively with local people to sustainably regulate grazing activities and seasonal/permanent settlements within all component parts, and minimize discernible negative impacts from grazing within the buffer zones,
  3. Develop a comprehensive plan on sustainable tourism for the property as a whole, especially in the Golestan National Park, including options to improve access as a means to develop ecologically sustainable tourism,
  4. Rationalize the forest road access system within all components to strictly limit vehicular access to site management activities, research and emergency responses;
8. Further requests the State Party to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), consistent with the guidance of the IUCN Advice Note on World Heritage Environmental Assessment, on the proposed upgrading of the existing road in the Golestan National Park with a view to replacing the existing highway, and to provide a copy of this EIA for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on completion, and prior to any decision to proceed with road upgrading;
9. Encourages the States Parties of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan to consider options for further serial and transboundary extension of the property to include other areas in Azerbaijan of internationally significant conservation value, taking into account Decision **30 COM 8B.24**.

# Annex III

## Relevant articles in major regulations<sup>1</sup> and policy documents

- 1 - The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- 2 - The Act on the Conservation and Optimization of the Environment
- 3 - The Act of Joining Iran to Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)
- 4 - The Supreme Council of Environment
- 5 - National Macro-Policies on Environment (Endorsed by the Supreme Leader)

### 1 - The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

#### **Article 45**

Public wealth and property, such as uncultivated or abandoned land, mineral deposits, seas, lakes, rivers and other public waterways, mountains, valleys, forests, marshlands, natural forests, pastures located out of any legally determined boundaries, legacies without heirs, property of undetermined ownership and public property recovered from appropriators, shall be at the disposal of the Islamic government for it to make use of in accordance with public interest. Detailed procedures for using each of the foregoing items will be determined by law.

#### **Article 50**

The conservation of the environment, in which the present as well as the future generations have a right to for social existence, is regarded as a public duty in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Economic and other activities that inevitably pollute the environment or cause irreparable damage to it are therefore forbidden.

### 2 - The Act on the Conservation and Optimization of the Environment

**Article 1:** Conservation, improvement, and optimization of the environment and prohibition of any kind of pollution and any action that disrupts the equilibrium and the balance of the environment, as well as all matters related to wildlife and aquatic species residing in internal water bodies are defined as the tasks of the Iranian Department of Environment. The Department of Environment, hereinafter referred to as the DoE, is under the direct supervision of the President, being ascribed the status of a legal person with independent financial standing. It is also supervised by the Supreme Council for Environmental Protection.



**Article 3:** In addition to the tasks entrusted upon and the authority assigned to the Supreme Council for Environmental Protection in the Act of Hunting and Fishing, the following are also considered as the responsibilities of the said council:

A. Classification of parts of the natural landscape as national park, national natural heritage, wildlife refuge, and protected area, and specifying the exact limits of the abovementioned zones.

B. Issuing any kind of permission for exploration and exploitation of minerals in the areas specified as national park, national natural heritage, wildlife refuge, and protected area.

**Article 6:** In addition to the tasks and authorities declared in the Act of Hunting and Fishing for the Supreme Council for Hunting and Supervision on Fishing, the following tasks and responsibilities are also assigned to the DoE:

A. Conduct scientific and economic research on conservation, improvement, and optimization of the environment and prevention of pollution and disruption of environmental balance. Such research could cover the following topics:

1. Ways to protect ecologic equilibrium (conserving environmental relations)

2. Changes that different structures and constructions can bring about in the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of soil and climate that would transform them. For example, changes in and devastation of river channels, degradation of forests and pastures, changes in the ecology of seas, disruption in the natural drainage of water bodies and the destruction of wetlands.

3. Use of toxins or materials that are harmful to the environment.

4. Guidelines to prevent the creation and spread of harmful sounds and hence noise pollution in the environment.

5. Nature conservation in terms of manifestations of natural and aesthetic values.

B. Recommend methods and devise rules to avoid air and soil pollution, facilitate waste disposal, whether industrial or domestic, and in general eliminate any factors affecting the environment.

C. Adopt appropriate measures to improve and optimize the environment in view of national realities and public rights.

D. Formulate and implement educational and training programmes for public awareness raising on environmental conservation and sensitize public opinion.

E. Set up natural history zoo and museums.

F. Consider and legally announce any kind of temporary, spatial, temporal, typical, methodical, and/or quantitative limitations to or bans on Hunting and Fishing, in accordance with Article 4 of the Act of Hunting and Fishing.

G. Collaborate with similar national and international organizations to promote environmental conservation.

**Article 7:** In case of any dispute(s) arising between collaborating organisations or any disagreement between parallel projects the case shall be referred to the relevant collaborating ministries or institutions by the DoE. Should the dispute continue, any decision by the President of the IR of Iran will settle the case.

**Article 8:** Any attempt to hunt, fish, breed, reproduce, keep, buy or sell wild animals and their (body) organs and to illegally use the areas mentioned under paragraph 1 of Article 3 of the Act on the Conservation and Optimization of the Environment should be undertaken with prior legal consent of the DoE. This Article is approved of by the Supreme Council for Environmental Protection.

**Article 9:** Undertaking any action that might cause environmental pollution is strictly forbidden. Environmental pollution refers to the spread of external substances, particles, etc. in water, air and soil to the extent of transforming the physical, chemical, and/or biological quality of the above mentioned in a manner that would be harmful to man, all other living creatures and even buildings (including monuments of outstanding value, i.e. heritage).

**Article 10:** Regulations on the prevention of pollution or destruction of the environment and restricting the creation and spread of harmful sounds into the environment as well as the rules on criteria setting and measuring pollution, already stated under Article 9 of this Act, and other relevant rulings, including the limitations on the conservation, improvement, and optimization of the environment are approved of by the various commissions of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, comprising the Commissions on Agriculture, Natural Resources, Rural Development, Health and Hygiene, and the Legal Affairs Commission of the parliament.

**Article 15:** Those of the DoE personnel who are entrusted with the task of identifying and handing in for prosecution of perpetrators of environmental crimes and have relevant education thereof considering their prime mission as representatives of the Judiciary at the DoE, are considered as the persons in charge of implementing and supervising the proper implementation of the Act on Hunting and Fishing.

**Article 16:** The entire lands of the components that are located within the territories referred to in the classifications mentioned under paragraph 1 of Article 3 are government-owned. All wetlands, belonging to the Government, are under the full authorization of the DoE and the DoE is legally in charge of monitoring the activities of all entities permitted to use the wetlands (with the exception of Anzali wetland).

Islamic Criminal Code on Destruction of Natural Property (1996)

Islamic Penal Code of the Islamic Republic of Iran-Book 5, Ta'zir and Deterrent Penalties

**Article 690:** according to this law, everyone by subject including foundation, alteration, making walls, modifying the distance areas, border evanescence, terracing, making canals, digging wells, cutting trees and cultivation, and so on, has perpetrated occupying the farmlands either cultivated or fallow, nationalized forests and pastures,

mountains, orchards, water resources, springs, natural streams, national parks, agricultural, ranching, farming and industrial facilities, bare lands, and other lands and properties belonging to government or its subordinates or to municipalities and consecrates, as well as the lands, properties, consecrates, confined lands, and remained tierce consecrates dedicated for public uses or every legal or right person by histrionics has shown themselves or others rightful and beneficiary to occupy the above features or without permission from the Iranian Department of Environment or relevant departments has committed the action of degrading the environment and natural resources or hostile violations, interference and disruption in the rights, shall be sentenced and punished from one month to one year of jail. The court shall restore, in case, the estate to the former conditions in the hostile violations and interference and disruption in the rights.

**Note 1:** the criminal investigation of the mentioned crimes is accomplished out of queue order of cases and the attorney shall cease the actions of the violent by writing minutes.

International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) (1974) Iran joined as a member to the union in 1974. The goal of the join was to conserve the integrity and biodiversity and to guarantee wise and rational use of the natural resources as well as to ensure that any kind of use of the resources is ecologically sustainable and consistent with scientific, educational, cultural, social, economic, and legal values and dimensions.

### **3 - The Act of Joining Iran to Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)**

Single article: The Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage was approved in the 17th meeting of the public conference of UNESCO in November 16th, 1972. The law containing a single article and the context of the convention were passed in Iran's House of Representatives (Iranian Parliament) in December 1974.

### **4 - The Supreme Council of Environment**

This council is the country's highest decision-making body on environmental matters. The President is the head of the council and the members are: Head of Department of Environment, Ministers of Agriculture Jihad, Industry, Mines and Commerce, Ways and Urban Development, Health and Medical Education, Head of Management and Planning Organization; and four authorities recommended by the Head of the Environment Department. The Council has the responsibility for approval and notification of policy implementation, designing a goal accomplishments mechanism, improving the structure and related processes, coordination and coherence in policies, programs and supervision of the implementation of national action plans for achieving the approved document, using the capabilities of the Department of Environment and other relevant institutions and facilities in the country. All of the institutions are obliged to implement action plans adopted by the Supreme Council of Environment.

## **5 - National Macro-Policies on Environment (Endorsed by the Supreme Leader)**

The new environment strategies have been based on the Supreme Leader General's Environmental Policies which include a 15-point plan. These strategies contain the need to create integrated national environment management and systems, managing climate change and environment threats such as desertification, especially dust pollution and drought. These policies also call for continuous monitoring and control of sources and agents of various environmental pollutants, including adverse changes in the climate, expansion of a green economy (which stresses the need for developing low-carbon industry, using clean energy, promoting healthful and organic agricultural products and providing better waste management, development of public transportation systems using electricity and other energy sources that do not rely on fossil fuels, especially in larger cities), supporting eco-friendly investments by granting tax breaks and eliminating some fees. These policies require the authorities to strengthen environmental diplomacy, creating and strengthening regional institutions to confront pollution as well as bilateral, multilateral, regional and international partnerships and targeted cooperation in the environmental field, also the need to criminalize destruction of the environment and for penalties to deter polluters by requiring them to pay for damages, solving the issue of "land-grabbing", protecting Iran's groundwater and broader education in water use, the need for investing in scientific environmental research and for public and cultural awareness campaigns about protecting the environment and the compilation of a comprehensive atlas on the Iranian ecosystems. Policies have been addressed to the President, Parliament and Head of Judiciary, and these serve as guidelines and initiatives for the three branches of Iran's government.

1- Comprehensive, harmonious and systematic vital resources management (including air, water, soil and environmental variation) based on the power and stability of the living habitat, especially through increasing legal capacities and capabilities as well as a suitable structure along with people's partnership approach;

2- Establishing a national integrated environment system;

3- Modifying environmental conditions in order to provide society with a healthy environment and observing inter-generational justice and rights;

4- Preventing diffusion of forbidden pollutants and considering environmental destruction as a crime and influential preventative punishment of those using polluting agents and destructors of the environment and obliging them to compensate for damages;

5- Progressive monitoring and control of the resources and pollutant factors in the air, water, soil, sound pollution, destructive waves and rays, unsuitable climatic changes and the necessity of observing the environmental standards and indexes in the rules and regulations, development plans and land mobilization;

6- Preparing Iran's living habitat atlas and protecting, revitalizing, renovating and developing recyclable natural resources (like seas, lakes, rivers, dam reservoirs,

lagoons, underground water tables, forests, soil, pastures and ecosystem variations, especially wildlife) and legal limitations on the exploitation of these resources suitable with their ecologic power (tolerable capacity and renovation capability) as per the stability criteria and indexes, management of sensitive and valuable ecosystems (including national parks and national natural places) and protection and upgrading of genetic resources up to international standard levels;

7- Management of climatic changes and confronting bio-environmental threats such as desert reclamation, removal of dust especially aerosols, drought and microbe transmitters, radioactive substances, foresight development and realizing newly recognized environmental phenomena and managing them;

8- Developing the green economy, focusing on:

8-1- Low-carbon industry, using clean energy, healthy and organic agricultural products, waste matters and sewerage management by enjoying the advantages of economic, social, natural and environmental capacities and capabilities;

8-2- Modifying the production pattern in different economic and social sectors and optimizing water, food and energy consumption models especially promoting fuels friendly to the environment;

8-3- Developing green and non-fossil public transportation, such as electric transportation, and making public transportation more popular particularly in the major cities;

9- Balancing and keeping the quality of subsurface water through watershed management, water table management, management of reducing factors of exploitation of subsurface water and evaporation and controlling pollutants;

10- Establishing an environmental auditing system in Iran, considering environmental values and costs (destruction, pollution and revitalization) in the national accounts;

11- Supporting and encouraging investments and compatible technologies within the environment by means of suitable tools such as green tax and duties;

12- Compiling the environment morality charter and promoting and characterizing an environmental mindset and morality based on Iranian-Islamic constructive values and patterns;

13- Optimizing scientific studies and research and exploiting environmental innovative technologies and domestic experiences concerning maintenance of the balance of living habitats and preventing environmental pollution and destruction;

14- Developing the level of society's environmental awareness, knowledge and insight and empowering religious principles and learning social partnership, especially admonishing fellow believers to do right and to avoid sin for the protection of the environment at all society levels and groups;

15- Reinforcing environmental diplomacy by:

15-1- Taking measures to make and reinforce regional organizations in order to confront dust and water pollution;

15-2- Developing the appropriateness and attracting partnership and mutual, multiple, regional, international and influential targeted cooperation concerning the environment;

15-3- Influential application of the international opportunities and incentives towards a low-carbon economy and facilitating the transfer and development of the relevant technologies and innovations.

# Annex IV

## Summary report of actions taken after the inscription of the Hyrcanian Forests

In 2019, the Islamic Republic of Iran had the ancient Hyrcanian Forests successfully inscribed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO. This serial property encompasses 15 component parts including: Golestan (01, 02), Abr (03, 04), Jahan Nama (05), Boola (06), Alimestan (07), Vaz (08, 09), Kojoor (10), Chahar- Bagh (11), Khoshk-e Daran (12), Siahroud-e Roudbar (13), Gasht-Roudkhan (14), Lisar (15). Iran's Hyrcanian Forests inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List under criteria (ix), ref. 1584.

After inscription, I.R of Iran has taken steps to promote protection and management measures in the Hyrcanian World Heritage property. Summary of the actions is as follow:

- **Establishment of the World Natural Heritage Steering committee of Iran**

This committee is the highest decision-making authority regarding management and protection of the Iran's Hyrcanian Forests sites consisting of the highest relevant officials of Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts (MCTH), Department of Environment (DoE) and the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO). Meetings of this committee are held every two months and acts, monitor and direct relevant decisions to promote protection, management, introduction and education about the outstanding universal values (OUV) of the Hyrcanian Forests.

- **Integrated designation of all the Iran's Hyrcanian World Heritage Sites at national level**

Before being inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List, all 15 inscribed sites of the Hyrcanian property were under protection and management of two separate governmental entities, Department of Environment (DoE) and the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO). With the approval of the World Natural Heritage Steering committee of Iran, all of these sites designated as the integrate natural heritage in the national natural heritage list of Iran and were under comprehensive management and protection of the World Natural Heritage Steering committee.

- **Comprehensive plan for management and protection of the Hyrcanian's World Heritage Sites**

This plan is a comprehensive and executive plan aimed at protection of the Outstanding Universal Values (OUV) and Integrity of the Iran's Hyrcanian property. This plan is being prepared in cooperation with Iranian Universities, relevant specialist and scientific institutes, and executive entities, with 40% progress, so far.

Comprehensive plan for management and protection of the Hyrcanian's World Heritage Sites will be approved by Iran's World Natural Heritage Steering committee after compilation and approval of relevant scientific and executive authorities.

- **Periodic report**

Data collection and compilation of periodic report on the status of the Hyrcanian's world heritage sites have been done by the national Base of the Hyrcanian Forests. About 50% of the report including: world heritage property data, boundaries, threats and attributes of outstanding universal value (OUV), have been completed and uploaded in the website. The remaining part of the report including Protection and Management of the Property, Financial and Human Resources, Scientific Studies and Research Projects, Education, Information and Awareness Building, Visitor Management, Monitoring, Identification of Priority Management Needs, is prepared as a preliminary draft and will be uploaded in the website after approval of the National Steering Committee of the Hyrcanian Forests.

- **Allocation of the governmental budget for promote protection and management of the Hyrcanian's property base on the document of the Hyrcanian's World Heritage dossier**

In cooperation with Iran's World Natural Heritage Steering committee, the programs for improve management and protection of the Hyrcanian's Sites are on the agenda. Establishment of a national Base and five local Bases, increase of the protection guards, equipping of the firefighting system, and other actions related to the protection and management of the property have been/ or are being carried out according to the budget consideration.

- **Prevent the implementation of the projects contrary with the protection of the Hyrcanian's property OUV**

The implementation of two development projects was legally prevented in the coordination with the World Natural Heritage Steering committee, because according to the opinions of relevant experts were likely to violate the outstanding universal values and integrity of the Hyrcanian's Property.

#### Consideration

Due to the US imposing severe economic sanctions on I.R of Iran and the economic problems caused by the Corona virus outbreak, a significant portion of the budget sources for protection programs are disrupted. Despite planning to fulfill Iran's obligations, the conditions of quarantine, curfew and telecommuting of employees, have caused time changes in the implementation of these programs.

It is worth noting that with the outbreak of Corona Virus and the consequent reduction in intercity travel, the damage caused by the presence of mass tourism to the property has been reduced. This has had a great impact on reducing waste in the surrounding areas of the components. For investigation of the impacts, a study was conducted in the inscribed site by Ministry of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts. The results of this study show that by reducing the number of tourists on inscribed sites,



environmental problems caused by garbage and waste have been significantly reduced.

<b>Iran's obligation to UNESCO Organization</b>	
<b>Blocking the Asian Highway and replacing it with another route that crosses the site's northern boundary and out of buffer zone, with environmental impact assessment</b>	With the decrease in traffic due to the outbreak of Corona Virus (decrease in traffic in the public transport fleet by 90% and personal travel by 26% compared to last year), the threats of crossing this road through the buffer zone of Golestan site, which includes wildlife death Road accidents, garbage dumping and roadside fires have decreased. At present, the rerouting of this road has been approved by the government board and its alternative road is Kalaleh, Golidagh, Ashkhaneh (Bojnourd). Measures to change the road of Golestan will enter the operational phase from the beginning of next year, and the necessary budget for changing the route in the initial phase is estimated at 60 billion Rials.
<b>Remove and organization of livestock</b>	According to the data collected from the General Departments of Natural Resources and the Jihad Agricultural Organization of the provinces, there are livestock husbandry within the sites of Boola (06), Alimestan (07), Vaz (08, 09), Kojoor (10), Siahroud-e Roudbar (13), Gasht Rudkhan (14), and Lisar (15). According to statistics, the presence of livestock in the sites of Gilan province is more than other sites. The initial phase of the remove of livestock from these sites, has begun by determining the boundaries of the world heritage site and the buffer zones for the villagers and local people, by ?????. At present, this project has entered the implementation phase by allocating a budget of 1500 million Rials to determining of the boundary of Siahrou-ed Rudbar (13), Gasht Rudkhan (14) and Lisar (15) site and installation of site introduction boards and educational boards in Gilan province. In the second phase, ranchers are allocated a budget to move out of world heritage sites to the buffer zones and then out of buffer. The next step is establishing rural cooperatives, conduct scientific research for the production of industrial fodder, that the initial studies of which have been carried out, and with the allocation of funds, it will enter the implementation phase.
<b>Management of garbage and waste</b>	According to the studies, the most waste problem is related to Golestan (01, 02) and Siahruod-e Roudbar (13) due to the presence of tourists and the rural population around the site. The primary goal of waste management is to reduce its production at source. By changing the route of the road, the problem of waste production in Golestan site will be completely solved. To manage waste at other sites, plans are being made to hold training workshops in the villages with the cooperation of NGOs, environmental and natural resources experts, and coordination with governorates for the regular disposal of waste from rural areas and its recycling.

<b>Preparing sustainable management of tourism for all the sites</b>	<p>The Sustainable Tourism Management Plan is a subset of the Hyrcanian Comprehensive Forest Management Plan, which is being prepared by allocating the necessary budget and coordination of relevant organizations and institutions by the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Institute based on paragraph B of Article 100 of the Sixth Development Plan Law.</p>