

Executive Summary:

1. This report is compiled by the jurists and environmental experts group of the Supporters of Clean Nature Institute by eyewitness observations, library studies and based on the analysis of data and focused on the recommendations on the right to development, cultural heritage and tourism, and the environment. The first universal declaration of human rights issued by Cyrus the Great is evidence of the shining history of human rights in Iran. In the contemporary era too, Iran was one of the forerunners in signing environmental, the Ramsar, cultural and natural heritage conventions, and legislation of useful and constructive domestic laws.

2. In this report the destruction of ancient artifacts and contemporary works destruction trend and the abuse of natural resources, jungles and habitats, the pollution of the Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea, drying up of Lake Urumia, and some international ponds and lagoons have been mentioned, and also legislative and executive advancements and NGOs' campaigns in this regard to resolve similar problems, and at the end the institute presents a number of recommendations for the improvement of conditions.

3. Some of the recommendations are: setting up of a comprehensive natural resources, forests, cultural heritage data bank that guarantees advancements, holding of education workshops and information dissemination, appointment of special rapporteur to investigate the inhuman effects of international sanctions.

Keywords: right to development, right of access to clean environment, the right to enjoy cultural, moral and natural heritage.

About us:

4. The Supporters of Clean Nature Institute is a nongovernmental and nonprofit institute which was founded in 2002 with the guarding of the right of mankind to environment and cultural heritage and with a stress on the righteous principle of sustainable development, conducts various educational and research projects on the aforementioned subjects.

5. The Institute has technical environmental and hygiene, cultural heritage, education and research working groups whose members are university lecturers and ordinary volunteers. These working groups hold colloquiums for the purpose of increasing participation in general decision makings of the country, with officials from the three Powers of the country and councils.

6. Participation in the 12th Session of the Human Rights Council (2009), International Conference on Climate Change (2011), and holding of multilateral sittings with the ICRC, CONGO and participation in sideline panels, are some of the important international activities of the Institute. Recommendation 65 of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights report (2010 Iran UPR) is registered in the name of the Institute.

Pivotal Recommendations:

7. Recommendations in the first round of the UPR on Iran (2010 regarding education and expansion of human rights and right to development include:

- Continuation of efforts for the promotion of human rights in the social, economic and cultural fields (Sudan).
- Continuation of the promotion and protection of rich historic and cultural heritage (Cuba)

The situation of recommendations in the past, present and satisfactory future:

8. Cyrus the Great's Cylinder (638BC), the teachings of Zoroaster, being one of the forerunners in signing conventions such as Ramsar (ponds), laws such as protection of national heritage (1930), are signs of Iran's commitment to human rights.

9. Aside from some of the challenges and obstacles, we have witnessed improvements in the legislative and executive sectors which with the removal of the international sanctions, and the sharing of existing experiences has a satisfactory future perspective.

Data Collection Method:

10. The use of eyewitness observations with nature tours, interviews with experts and library studies, and the comparison of the data with domestic and international laws with data analysis method.

Advancements:**- Historic and Cultural Monuments and Artifacts:****- Advancements in the Executive Area:**

11. Cultural Heritage Organization's obligation to protect Iranian culture, arts and civilization and strengthening cultural interaction and documentation of invisible cultural heritage, natural, traditional arts, handicrafts and the country's tourist attractions with the aim of prevention of the destruction and or their being forgotten, based on the cabinet of ministers ratification of 2012.

12. Government's efforts to register sites such as: Mount Damavand and Golestan Palace (2013), Isfahan Jaameh Mosque and Gonbad Kavous Tower (2012), Pasargad Iranian Gardens, Feen, Chehelsotoon, Eram, Shazdeh (2011), Sheikh Safee-edin Ardebili and Tabriz Bazaar (2010), the Shooshtar Waterworks (2009), Azerbaijan Churches (2008), and also the moral Nowruz and Iranian music rows heritages (2009), and Khorasan music, Shia religious performance rituals (Taaziyeh) Pahlavani rituals, and Kashan and Fars carpet weavers skills (2010), storytelling and lenj building knowledge and seafaring of the Persian Gulf (2011), and Mashhad Ardehal carpet cleaning (2012).

- Advancements in the Legislative Area:

13. The Central Bank's obligation to allocate 25 percent cheap banking facilities for the revamping of the worn out city networks according to the Support for the Revival of the Worn Out City Networks Act of 2010.

14. Iran joining the Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (2011)

- *Advancements in the NGOs Area:*

15. The Empowerment of NGOs and Observation of Citizen's Rights project, as one of the executive policies of the Ministries of Sports and Youths, and Interior according to cabinet ministers ratification (2012).

Natural Resources and Forests and Protected Regions:

- *Advancements in the Executive Area:*

16. Suspension of the legislation on the handing over of 120 hectares of forests in the Lakan Gilanakeh region and also the Revival of the Protection of the Environment Supreme Council (2013)

17. Enforcement of the reforming of energy production and consumption patterns, and also increase in the share of low carbon energy sources in the energy basket of the country towards the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions, increase in production and promotion of the use of new and renewable energies, prevention and combating the harmful consequences of climate change, based on the Executive Guidelines of the Convention on Climate Change and Additional Protocols (2012)

- *Advancements in the NGOs Area:*

18. Some of the effective social movements of NGOs and the cooperation of the government in moving forward with objectives are:

- Holding of colloquium sittings of some NGOs, regarding the threats to the violation of Jajrood protected region, Vashtan and Yaspari Pastures and issuing of statements on the internet and the press.

- Increase in the issuing of permits for registration of NGOs and holding of empowerment workshops.

- Solidarity of some NGOs in criticising the parliament's draft legislation on the Founding, Activities and Monitoring of NGOs and the removal of this draft from the parliament's working agenda (2011)

- Setting up of the NGOs Fraction in the parliament and also the environmental committee in Tehran City Council.

- *Advancements in the Judiciary Area:*

19. Recommendation to the Judiciary for the setting up of an international court to investigate environmental crimes.

- *Advancements in the Legislative Area:*

20. Government's obligation to use renewable energy sources that include, wind and solar energies, and establishment of regional municipal services centres with the aim of easing commuting, reduction of the use of fuel and air pollutants, and adding lesson on energy management in schools, according to the Amendment of the Energy Consumption Patern Act of 2011.

21. The government's obligation to protect nationalised resources and improvement of the quality indicators and protective variables of pastures and forests, and the use of

nongovernmental sector's ability and investments to revive and expand tree planting and forest parks according to the Increase of Natural Resources Benefits Act of 2010.

22. Environmental Protection Organization's obligation towards the reduction of air pollution to international standards with priority given to the identification of the sources of the emission of particles and their control and reduction of greenhouse gases emissions according to the Fifth Development Plan Act of 2011.

Animal Species:

- Advancements in the Executive Area:

23. The necessity to assess the environmental effects of big production, services and construction projects and getting a confirmation in the projects not being destructive to the wildlife sanctuary by the Environmental Protection Organization before the implementation of projects according to the cabinet of ministers ratification of 2011.

- Advancements in the Legislative Area:

24. Government's obligation to prevent uncontrolled hunting and destruction of the diversity of species with the cooperation of relevant authorities in the armed forces and restrictions on the hunting gun permits and review of the conditions for issuing the said permits, and proportionalizing the number of hunting guns with the taking of acceptable number from the wildlife upon the determination of the Environmental Protection Organization and collection of illegal weapons till March 2017 according to the Fifth Development Plan Act of 2011.

- Improvement in the NGOs Area:

25. NGOs reaction towards the uncontrolled killing of animals on the internet and press, and recommendation for the legislation of a comprehensive law on the protection of animals by the parliament.

The Persian Gulf:

- Advancements in the Legislative Area:

26. The necessity for the Environmental Protection Organization to prepare, implement and monitor environmental standards required in the Persian Gulf, Sea of Oman and the Caspian Sea, and also the requirement of ships entering Iranian waters to insure against pollution of waters with oil according to the Protection of Seas and Shipping Rivers from Oil Pollution Act of 2010.

The Caspian Sea:

- Advancements in the Executive Area:

27. Government's obligation to free the coastal boundaries of the Caspian Sea to 60 metres from the point of tide, and lack of the possibility to acquire private property according to cabinet of ministers ratification of 2010

- Advancements in the Executive Area:

28. Ships captains avoiding of polluting the sea and reporting cases to competent officials according to the Amendment of Maritime Act (2012)

29. Government's obligation to prevent pollution of the seas and regional cooperation in the fight against oil pollution accidents according to the Convention on Framework of Protection of the Marine Life Protection of Caspian Sea Additional Protocol (2012)

Urumia Lake:

- Advancements in the Executive Area:

30. Setting up a special working group to save Urumia Lake in the first meeting of the new government's cabinet of ministers.

- Advancements in the NGOs Area:

31. Increase in the number of NGOs that want to save Urumia Lake

Ponds:

- Advancements in the Executive Area:

32. Determination of the Zarivar Pond and Kousalan and Shahoo regions as Wildlife Sanctuaries and Protected Areas according to cabinet of ministers ratification of 2009

- Advancements in the Legislative Area:

33. Prohibition of any type of new industrial and mining operations from internal ponds and obligation of the municipalities of towns in the vicinity of internal ponds towards management of town wastes and the recycling of their waste by using new technologies with priorities towards organic methods according to article 193 Fifth Development Plan Act of 2011.

Challenges and Difficulties:

- Historic and Cultural Monuments and Artifacts Challenges:

34. The destruction of some priceless cultural heritages due to not enough monitoring of those at the helm of the country's national heritages such as:

- The Nabashte Nam Stone of Persian Gulf in Khark.
- The stone carvings of Shahpour I of the Sasanid dynasty in Kazeroon and Noorabad
- The stone carvings of Darius the Great of the Achaemenid dynasty in Takht-e-Jamshid (Persepolis) due to rain and extreme damp
- The Palace of Cyrus the Great in Borazjan
- The biggest ancient and historic stone lions with the construction of the Gatvand dam
- The ancient site of Shoosh
- The dereliction of Tehran's old buildings

35. Government not doing enough to protect world heritage monuments that are under threat.

Choghazanbil, Nagsh-e-Jahan Square, Gonbad Soltanieh, Takht-e-Soleiman, Shooshtar waterworks, Gonbad-e-Ghaboos

36. Government's indifference towards the international registration of some of the richest moral works of Iran such as Ashighlar music, the art of Iranian carpet weaving, the Iranian tar (stringed instrument) in the name of Republic of Azerbaijan.

37. Cultural heritage crimes being pardonable within the Iranian laws.

- *Animal Species Challenges:*

38. Government's disregard towards abusive actions and failure to take effective action in this regard:

- unbalanced hunting and the destruction of the habitat of some Iranian animal species.

- *Natural Resources, Jungles and Protected Areas Challenges:*

39. Government not doing enough and ignoring abusive actions and failure to take effective action (some natural resources, felling of trees, and also careless forest fires in Gilan and Mazandaran forests, and rare species and also abuse of some protected regions such as Jaszrood, Golool and Sarani and also handing over the island of Ashoorzadeh)

- *Persian Gulf Challenges:*

40. The existence of 2 thousand kilometres of eroded oil pipelines in the depths of the Persian Gulf and the potential for the occurrence of an environmental disaster such as the Gulf of Mexico, in the event no actions is taken to revamp them and also pollution from oil tankers traffic.

- *Caspian Sea Challenges:*

41. Government's failure to take effective measures regarding pollution as a result of resources located on dry land and drilling the seabed.

- *Lake Urumia Challenges:*

42. The drying up of over 75 percent of Lake Urumia due to allocation of 90% the region's water resources to farming, excessive evaporation of water due to hot climates and illegal extraction of underground water and increase in the number of dams.

43. The transformation of the balanced climate of the region to hot climates with salt winds and transformation of the environment and the forced migration of 3 million people in Urumia and the destruction of farmlands in the event of a complete drying up of Lake Urumia.

- *Ponds Challenges:*

44. drying up and salination of some important ponds such as Hoorolazim, Jazmoorian, Hamoon, Gavkhani and etc.

45. Changes in the ecosystem of the region and threat to migrating birds and water and land species and sandstorms, dust and salt in the air due to the drying up of some of the country's ponds because of drought, construction of dams in the upper parts of rivers and or installation of industries and transferring of creek sources.

- *Recommendations:*

46. In the event of the removal of vacuums in the laws, reduction of governments' fear of NGOs and letting NGOs handle matters, the following solutions can be accomplished in a four year period:

- Formation of NGOs national council and a regional sub-committee for constructive mutual cooperation and acceptance of the right of NGOs to complain to international courts.
- Holding of radio and TV debates with relevant authorities and NGOs.
- Setting up of an information dissemination base on natural resources, jungles, migrating wildlife species, natural and cultural heritage with latest developments and advancements
- Creation of the necessary basis for the allocation of a specific annual budget for teaching the Third Generation of Human Rights with the partnership of NGOs.
- Support for making films and television series with a focal point on the Third Generation of Human Rights.
- Including lesson subjects on development in teaching programmes of schools and universities.
- Appointment of a special rapporteur to investigate the inhuman effects of sanctions.
- The one voicing of all NGOs for the removal of inhuman sanctions whose ultimate sufferers are nations on one hand, and improvement of the international community's demand levels by adopting management and tension avoiding policies by Iranian executive managers, for the purpose of the advancement of the MDG and the recognition of each other's inherent rights in various economic, social and political spheres and peaceful technologies with sustainable development.