



AN OVERVIEW OF IRAN'S FORESTRY LAW AND POLICY: LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE

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HIGHLIGHTS

- The law on the nationalization of forest and pasture lands has been broken.
- The culturalization of natural resource conservation has received little consideration.
- Local community participation in forest management laws is not covered.

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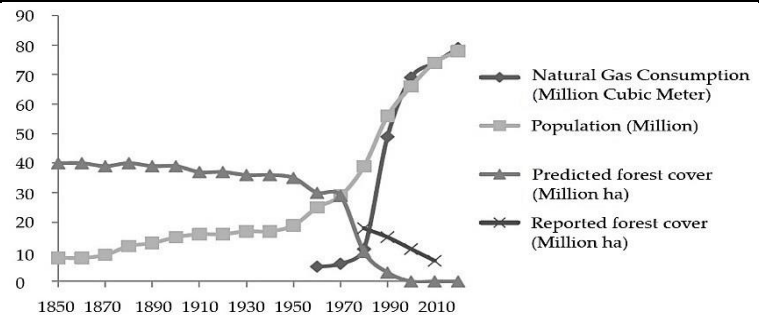
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ABSTRACT

A complete, comprehensive, and impartial review of the policies and regulations governing natural resources, particularly forest lands, in developing nations with low forest cover such as Iran is required to guarantee that the limited financial, human, and socio-political resources committed to these policies are used effectively. However, such assessments are frequently considered odd by these countries' governments and officials. The laws and regulations related to forests and pastures enacted in Iran are presented in this article by searching and examining the approvals of the National and Islamic Council, the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Administrative Council, and the Supreme Council of Urban Planning and Architecture of Iran since the nationalization of forests and pastures in 1963. The findings revealed that there are flaws in current legislation, such as a lack of attention to indigenous knowledge, local participation, and their implications on the restoration, development, and conservation of forests and pastures. There are also overlapping and conflicting rules governing natural resources and national territories.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Forests supply a wealth of products and services to society and are of global importance [1]. However, people have altered the Earth's surface through deforestation, agricultural and residential areas expansion [2]. According to the FAO's forest resource assessment, our worldwide forest resource is shrinking, but at a slower annual rate than in the past [3,4]. Decreased deforestation rates might be attributed to slower economic growth, forest scarcity, slower farmland expansion, and a decreased demand for cleared land [5], or it can be an indication that conservation efforts are working [2,6]. Among other factors influencing forest transition or reducing deforestation rate, the most pressing concern today is determining the true contribution of government policies [7], because, for many years, governments, particularly those in developing countries, have used a variety of approaches and strategies (such as stringent regulations, conservation programs, and plans) to play an important role in preserving and restoring forest lands [8]. As a result, these areas are experiencing forest transition or slower forest degradation rates. Human demands, for example, have resulted in the decrease of forest area in China during the last years. However, the extent of forest lands has expanded as a result of the execution of six significant forestry policies since 2000 [9]. When paired with incentives for people or communities, these conservation policies limited overexploitation of natural resources and halted the degradation of natural systems linked with them [10].

One of the distinguishing features of modern societies is that they are guided by rules and regulations that are purposefully written, implemented, and accepted [11]. These rules and regulations are not ad hoc or temporary instructions, but rather basic and permanent orders. Laws, regulations, and policies are frequently established and authorized by specialized procedures and rituals, such as legislative or administrative processes, through debate and consultation [12]. The scope and depth of such rules and regulations are so broad and numerous that they now embrace all elements of human existence and serve as the foundation of civic life and social, economic, and cultural relations, among other things [13].

Natural resources, such as lands, forests, and pastures, are valuable assets to any country. Forests and pastures are public property in Iran and belong to every Iranian, hence they should be managed and protected in the best interests of all [14]. In Iranian culture, forests and pastures are renewable natural resources that belong to the people and must be passed down to future generations. Forest and pastures rules govern operations in these regions in terms of management and exploitation. Government entities are normally in charge of planning and enforcing forestry and range management legislation, as well as calculating the above ground standing biomass, planning, protecting, and utilizing natural resources. Preparing and enforcing proper legislation, on the other hand, will protect forests and pastures while drafting and enforcing suitable legislation will conserve forests and pastures [11]. The results of a research at the international level by the World Bank state that the laws and regulations of the natural resources sector are generally moving in the direction of sustainable development, and the laws are oriented towards environmental protection, conservation of resources and aesthetic values [15].

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Natural resource laws of Iran were created at various points in time and under various situations. Some laws were enacted under typical legislative and parliamentary settings, while others were enacted in response to political and social events, as well as unique circumstances such as the time of the 1979 Iranian revolution [16]. Islamic principles, foundational laws, technical concepts, management regulations, policy formulations, conventions and traditions, social culture, and international standards serve as the legal foundations for Iran's natural resources sector [17]. According to Article 45 of the Iranian Constitution, the government owns forests and pastures [18].

Following years of deforestation, the Forests Nationalization Law (FNL), which was passed in 1963, brought about a significant transformation in the Iran's natural resource management and legal structure, which is still in place today. The main goal of the law is to conserve natural resources and achieve sustainable management of forests. In addition to frequent monitoring by forest offices at the county level, this strategy has resulted in the implementation of several laws, regulations, and preservation strategies in Iran's forests. In terms of legislative history, there were key legislations adopted by the Iran's National Council prior to the FNL (January 17, 1963). Among these, the following are worth mentioning:

- The Law on the Formation of States, as well as the Instructions to Governors (December 1907): concerning the conservation and management of the state's forests and pastures;
- Regulations of the Real Estate and Document Registration Law (March 17, 1932) and the Government Property Registration Law (January 7, 1943): concerning the granting of ownership certificates for government properties and public forests;
- Law on Forests (January 7, 1943): concerning the protection, exploitation, and administration of public and private forests, as well as the criminality of forests degradation and tree cutting;
- Law establishing farms, pastures, state and government properties in Iran (1948): concerning pastures and forests property and ownership, as well as the administration and exploitation of state forests;
- Amendment to the statute governing document and real estate registration (January 23, 1959): in terms of property boundary renewal from woodland and pasture land;
- The Iran's legal bill of forests and pastures (July 14, 1959): concerning preservation, maintenance, restoration, and exploitation, as well as management, afforestation, and forest development.

The Cabinet of Ministers has also approved important letters prior to the nationalization of forests and pastures, including the separation of industrial forests from non-industrial forests (May 21, 1932), the law related to management, exploitation, protection, and conservation, changing the use of forests and forecasting violations and punishments (December 30, 1943), and the land reform law (1960).

This study is concerned with the identification, collection, and examination of the laws, policies, and regulations adopted by the Iran's National and Islamic Councils, as well as their corresponding executive rules, that exist in the sphere of forests and pastures following their nationalization in 1963. Because the examination and critique of laws and regulations in the field of

natural resources has been done in a restricted and limited fashion, this research is for those who work in the socioeconomic and legal sectors of the forest and pasture fields, and it can give relevant indicators and criteria.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Iran is one of the nations with limited forest cover, having an area of about 164 million acres in Central Asia. The majority of Iran is hilly, with a central plateau containing steppes, semi-steppes, and saline deserts [19]. Iran's forests are classified by ecologists and botanists into five vegetation zones [20] (**Figure 1**): i) the Hyrcanian (Caspian) Forests, which comprises the Iran's northern green belt, ii) Irano-Turanian Forests, which are mostly distributed over the Iran's center, iii) the Zagros Forests of western Iran, which consists primarily of sparse coppice oak forests, iv) the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman Region forests, which is spread out along the southern shore, and v) the Arasbaran biosphere reserve, in the Caucasus Iranian highlands, which holds several rare plant species. The Iranian Hyrcanian forest is the main source supplying the industry by timber production, whereas the rest of the forests, are not harvested due to low growth rates and vulnerability.

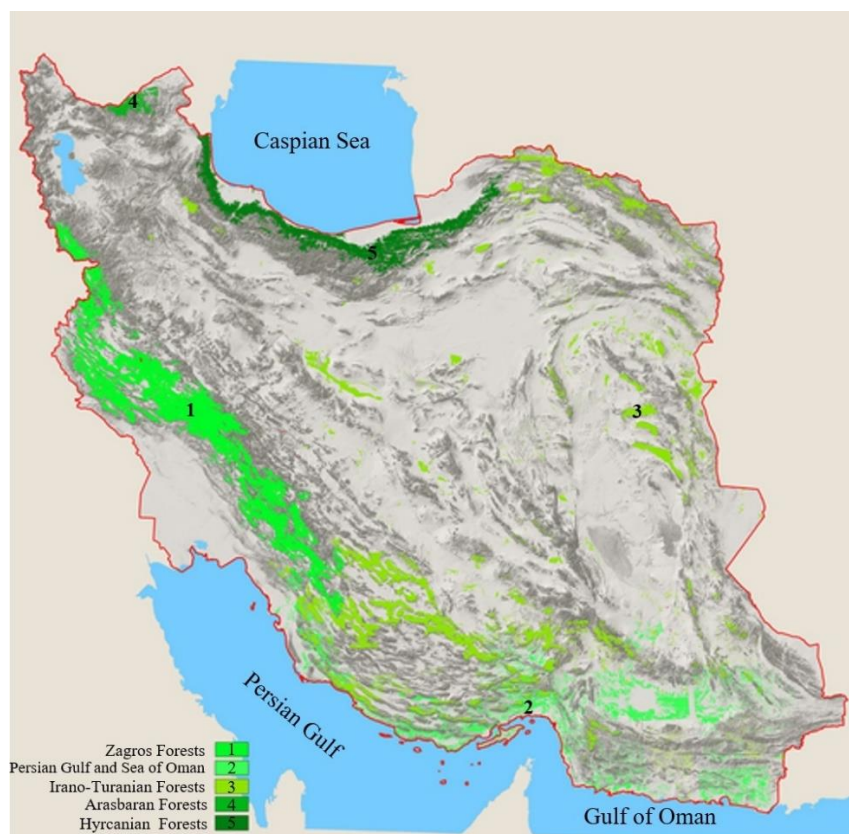


Figure 1. Iran's forest classification map based on ecological parameters. Source: www.frw.ir

Meanwhile, Iran's natural resources (particularly its forests and rangelands) have been subjected to a variety of interventions. According to Global Forest Watch estimates, Iran's forest cover in 2010 was 0.85% of its total area (1.37 Mha). In addition, between 2015 and 2020, around 12,000 ha of the country's forests were destroyed per year [21]. Deforestation has undoubtedly

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occurred in Iran for many years [22]. Even under the most hopeful scenario, estimates have shown that if oil had not been discovered and employed as an energy source in Iran, Iran may have lost all of its forests by the year 2000 (Figure 2). The discovery of oil in Iran in May 1908 was the most major socioeconomic event that influenced rates of urbanization and deforestation. Although oil has given a protective buffer for forests, preventing logging and procurement of firewood and fuelwood, it has also resulted in urbanization and the start of certain unwelcome development projects, which have damaged the forests [23]. Even during periods of heavy deforestation, the yearly rate of reduction of forest areas in Iran has been lower than the overall rate (1850-1980) (Table 1). It is clear that deforestation has coincided with huge and amazing demographic and socioeconomic changes.

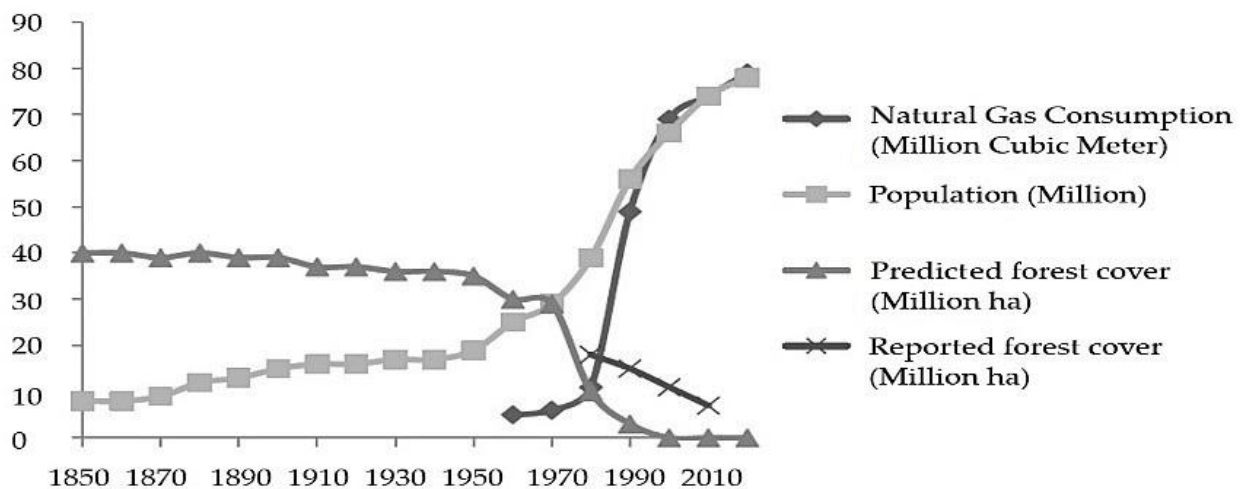


Figure 2. The reciprocal impact of population growth and forest cover loss in Iran between 1850 and 2010. Source: [14]

Table 1. Iran's annual rate of deforestation. Source: [24]

| Period | Total deforestation (m^3ha^{-1}) | Average yearly decline (m^3ha^{-1}) | Average population (million) |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1850-1980 | 24.29 | 0.19 (0.78%) | 14.35 |
| 1980-2000 | 4.00 | 0.20 (1.25%) | 54.41 |
| 2000-2010 | 2.67 | 0.72 (1.59%) | 70.11 |

Forest, pastures are renewable natural resources have been included in most of the Iran's laws and regulations. The laws and regulations concerning forests and pastures presented in this study were compiled by searching and reviewing the approvals of Iran's National and Islamic Councils, Council of Ministers, Supreme Administrative Council, and Supreme Council of Urban Planning and Architecture from the date of FNL (1963).

The FNL resulted in significant changes to the legal and managerial norms governing these two land uses, and private ownership of forests and pastures was abolished and replaced by state ownership. As a result, the laws and regulations enacted after 1963 are examined in this study. The laws were gathered and examined via the Research Center of the Islamic Council's website (www.rc.majlis.ir), official media, and legal literature (Laws and Regulations Portal of Islamic Republic of Iran, www.qavanin.ir), and the content of the rules and regulations governing forests and pastures, as well as other sectors, was reviewed.

3. RESULTS

On January 7, 1943, the first forest legislation was passed in Iran. This 18-article law charged the Ministry of Agriculture with the protection and establishment of forests, as well as the control over their utilization. This required private forest owners to comply with the Ministry's demands. According to the requirements of this law, one of the most prominent elements in forest degradation at the time was cutting down trees for the purpose of producing firewood and charcoal and transforming the forest into agricultural land.

Before and after Iran's 1979 revolution, the two primary legislative bodies of Iran were the National and Islamic Councils. The legislation passed by the National and Islamic Councils concerns forests and pastures in terms of land nationalization, protection, exploitation, land transfer, and forest and pasture restoration. **Table 2** provides an overview of the most important legislation passed by the parliaments and Cabinet of Ministers concerning forests and pastures.

By enacting the Iran's FNL in 1963 and the executive rules of the aforementioned law in 1964, the Council of Ministers achieved a milestone in the sphere of legal issues and administration of the country's natural resources. According to this letter of consent, all of the country's forests, pastures, coppice forests, and forested lands are designated public property and become the property of the government. The Iranian Forestry Organization was charged with the conservation, restoration, and development of the aforementioned resources, as well as with their utilization. In practice, the execution of this resolution replaced ineffective management of government entities in order to maintain and protect these resources.

The legislation for the conservation and utilization of forests and pastures, which is regarded as the most significant natural resource law, was passed in 1967. Following the establishment of the Ministry of Natural Resources in the same year, highly successful actions were made to support the conservation, restoration, development, and utilization of the country's forests and grasslands. Many of the rules and regulations, as well as the country's basic attitudes in the field of natural resource management (including the establishment of the Forest Guard, Natural Resources Research Institute, Rangelands Construction Fund, and so on), are among the most significant achievements that have persisted since the foundation of this ministry until the end of 1971, when its dissolution was declared. In reality, the most blooming time of relevance to the country's natural resources in the government's organizational structure should be assigned to this brief period. However, during this time, policies were implemented that would provide the foundation of the difficulties that would arise in the years following the loss of the forests.

The approval of the law on the manner of transfer and revival of lands by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government in 1979 and 1980, as well as the approval of amending of this law and its subsequent amendments, had a significant impact on land use and the facilitation of natural resource transfer areas. In addition to a new description of the type of lands, it detailed the technique of assigning and dividing it without respect for the policy of good land utilization and determining the optimal use of the property.

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Table 2. Laws approved by the Iran's National and Islamic Councils and Cabinet of Ministers in relation to forests and pastures from the date of their nationalization

| Title of the law | Approval date | Subject of law |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Forests nationalization law | 17/01/1963 | Nationalization of wooded lands by the government, including pastures, woods, and forested lands |
| Fishing and hunting law | 06/06/1967 | Preservation and maintaining of meadows and woods |
| Conservation and exploitation of forests and pastures law | 16/08/1967 | Preservation, restoration, alteration, development, and exploitation, as well as associated crimes and punishments |
| Water and its nationalization law | 18/07/1968 | Allowing the Ministry of Water and Electricity to transfer unforested pastures and barren lands in order to carry out building projects |
| Amendment to the conservation and exploitation of forests and pastures law | 09/04/1969 | The subject of grazing plans, forest exploitation, and authorization to assign and alter the land use of forests and pastures into other land uses |
| Revising some provisions of the conservation and exploitation of forests and pastures law | 08/06/1970 | Permission to modify the usage of national lands |
| Iranian Physical Education Organization establishment law | 13/06/1971 | Allowing the transfer of pastures for a change in usage |
| Preservation and expansion of green space and the preventing arbitrary tree cutting law | 02/08/1973 | Forest and pasture conservation |
| Urban land law executive regulations | 20/06/1982 | Allocation of forests and pastures |
| The Islamic Republic of Iran's five-year legislation for economic, social, and cultural growth | Since 1989 | Forest and pasture exploitation, protection, livestock and pasture balance, livestock exit from the forest, supply of feed and fuel for forest residents, pasture and national lands assignment, ban of forest wood exploitation, and valuation of natural resources in national accounts |
| Protection of natural resources and forest reserves law | 07/03/1993 | In relation to the nationalization of forests |
| Islamic Penal Code | 22/05/1996 | Punishment for people who destroy forests and pastures |
| The third economic, social, and cultural development program's law | 15/07/2001 | Protection of natural resources |
| Comprehensive Hyrcanian Forest Protection Program | 15/09/2003 | Preservation, maintenance and development of forests |
| Water investment law | 13/12/2004 | Allocation of forests and pastures |
| The fourth economic, social, and cultural development program's law | 01/06/2005 | Allocation of forests and pastures |
| Nomads' Organizational Regulations | 09/06/2005 | Allocation of forests and pastures |
| Law to abolish some impediments to industrial production and investment | 08/12/2008 | Allocation of national lands for industrial and mining development |
| Increasing agriculture and natural resources productivity | 14/07/2010 | Cadastre preparation, government ownership of national lands, assignment of the right to utilize these lands to persons, and ban on definitive transfer of ownership of national, state, and barren lands |
| Increasing agriculture and natural resources productivity | 11/08/2013 | Calculating the financial value of damages to forests and pastures |
| Forest monitoring, preservation, exploitation, and management optimization program | 18/12/2013 | Forest conservation |
| Executive policies to address the dust problem | 26/06/2016 | Wind erosion protection of soil resources, forest development, and pasture restoration |
| Forest rest or national forest breathing plan | 12/01/2017 | Prohibition of any wood exploitation from Hyrcanian forests |
| Conservation and exploitation of forests and pastures law | 05/11/2017 | An increase in crimes involving natural vegetation destruction |

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The Islamic Council increased forest species conservation in 1992 by passing the law "*Preservation and protection of the natural resources and forest reserves*", which included three articles and seven remarks. The Islamic Council adopted the statute "*Collecting some of the government's income and utilizing it in specific instances*" in 1994, and authorized the definitive sale and transfer of nationalized or state lands, as well as their restoration.

By amending the legislation on forest and pasture conservation and exploitation in Iran on September 29, 1994, the Expediency Council mandated the Ministry of Agriculture to clear the forest lands of the northern plains and the unforested national pastures within three years, which were changed to other land uses without obtaining legal permission until the end of 1987, handed over or sold in exchange for a rent or a fixed price. In effect, the ratification of this law rendered all unlawful occupations and encroachments legal, and a seal of approval was placed on the occupations and destructions, which created the basis for new occupations of natural resource areas with the purpose of land ownership. However, due to the magnitude of the problem and the existence of a significant number of cases in the executive branch, as well as the fact that implementation of this legislation was not achievable within three years, the aforementioned amendment law was extended in 2000 for another three years. The Ministry of Agriculture was then required to determine the assignment of the files generated till the end of 2001 by the end of 2003. Despite the law's priority, the Ministry of Agriculture (the country's Organization of Forests, Ranges, and Watersheds) was unable to complete this issue by the end of 2002 due to the volume and scope of the problem. Finally, by proposing and passing a provision of Note 20 of the 2004 budget legislation for the entire country, the law's execution was prolonged until the end of this year.

In addition to the foregoing, Article 108 of the Iran's Third Five-Year Development Plan Law has two clauses: in the 1st clause, authority was granted to transfer substantial amounts of national territory in order to utilize the specialized forces of entrepreneurs in the water and agriculture sectors. Furthermore, under 2nd clause, it is possible to transfer national lands to nomads, traditional users, and ranchers in order to liberate natural resources and ensure proper management.

Various conservation plans were developed and implemented in the following years in order to remove obstacles and problems in Iran's forest management programs, with the goal of providing a comprehensive program that includes all social, economic, natural, and environmental aspects of the forest areas, including forest sustainability. Various multinational initiatives, including the following, have also been implemented in Iran:

- The Carbon Sequestration Project (CSP), which was launched for the first time in 2004 with the cooperation of Iran's Forestry, Rangeland and Watershed management Organization, Civil service of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF);
- MENARID Institutional Strengthening and Coherence for Integrated Natural Resources Management which was launched for the first time in 2010 with the cooperation of Iran's Forestry, Rangeland and Watershed management Organization, Civil service of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF);

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- Rehabilitation of Forest Landscapes and Degraded Land with Particular Attention to Saline Soils and Areas Prone to Wind Erosion Project (RFLDL) which was implemented since 2011;
- Sustainable management of water and soil resources which was implemented since 2016.

Furthermore, with the participation of Iran's government agencies and local communities, many conservation policies have been established, including the *TOUBA* plan, the *SIYANAT* (preservation) policy, the National Green Movement Strategy (including trees planting programs), and the Forest Rest plan or National Forest Breathing project. The preservation and Forest Rest policies are being undertaken as part of these programs.

The *SIYANAT* plan was implemented in 2003 in Zagros and Arasbaran forests as a multi-purpose and participative preservation and development forestry policy. The aims of this strategy were avoiding damage, preserving forest stands and habitat, increasing the status of protected forests, and improving forest residents' lives. This plan's ultimate purpose was to setup a sustainable development.

Reviewing the last few decades of Hyrcanian forest policies and management practices, it is clear that various legislation, planning and strategies have been used. The first stage involved stopping clear-cutting on a large scale in restoration regions, the second involved converting even-aged stands to uneven-aged stands, and the third involved spot-cutting in a handful of selected locations. Although all these management strategies were aimed at reducing the harvesting pressure on Hyrcanian forests, the common thread among all these strategies is that these forests were commercially used until 2016. In this context, the Iranian Parliament approved the Forest Rest plan or National Forest Breathing project in 2016, based on which any exploitation and all commercial and industrial wood harvesting in Hyrcanian Forests of Iran was banned to improve their cover, resilience, and productivity. Due to this conservation plan, none of the harvesting contracts have been renewed, which has resulted in significant adjustments to management procedures.

4. DISCUSSION

The FNL, passed by the Council of Ministers in 1963, marked a significant shift in Iran's management and legal structure for renewable natural resource lands, transferring ownership of forest and pasture lands to the government, with the exception of properties. Furthermore, the 50th article of the constitution recognizes environmental conservation as a public obligation and underlines the prohibition of environmentally detrimental actions [25]. The most important regulation in the subject of forests and pastures, enacted in 1967, is the law on conservation and exploitation of forests and pastures, which outlined the legal and management framework of natural resources in the Iran [26]. According to the findings, regulations governing the transfer of forests and pastures received the most approvals following their nationalization in 1962. The majority of legislative emphasis has clearly been focused on transferring national lands for building and service development, as well as modifying the usage of forests and pastures.

Forests and pastures have been specifically legislated in Iranian laws and regulations, and the legislator has taken into account various issues such as the restoration and creation of forests and

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pastures, their exploitation and development, and the transfer of land to meet the basic needs of society in the agricultural, industrial, and commercial sectors, as well as other needs of society.

Reviewing the laws, reveals that the number of rules and regulations linked to forests and pastures is too conventional in terms of amount and frequency when compared to the number of laws in other sectors. They overlap and interfere with one other at the same time, resulting in ambiguity. Among those overlaps and interferences is the first stage of the Land Reforms Law with the FNL (1963) and the conservation and exploitation of forests and pastures Law (1967) concerning the recognition and acquisition of an area as barren and state lands on the one hand and the recognition and acquisition of the same land as national land on the other. Tom Pakdel Janyar and Maleki [27] demonstrated that the extent of national lands converted to agricultural land is shrinking year by year, indicating interference in exclusions and expropriation of public resources.

The Cabinet of Ministers enhanced the offences linked to the destruction of vegetation on November 5, 2017, which was the subject of the law on the conservation and exploitation of forests and pastures. However, the offences and punishments for destroying forest and rangelands have not been updated and have lost their deterrent effect. For instance, the "Article 690 of the Islamic Penal Code" has lowered the sentence provided in "Article 55 of the Law on the conservation and exploitation of forests and pastures (1967)". On the other hand, the punishment established in this law article lacks the requisite of proportionality in terms of severity with the area of national lands taken. Izadikhah and Gorjifard [28] evaluated the efficacy of natural resource legislation in protecting environmental rights. They stated that the law on the conservation and exploitation of forests and pastures (1967), as the most essential legislation of forests and pastures to ensure natural resources, has resorted to some promises of legal executions, and even criminal ones. It appears to be unable to adapt to existing environmental demands in many circumstances, because of the limited number of penalties.

By diving into the legislation, it is obvious that the mutual legal and social status of other people groups, including tourists and mountaineers, with pastoralists and local inhabitants lacks defined norms and regulations. The legislator has not resolved on the question of culturalization, preservation and restoration, protection and development of forests and pastures in the legislation. Moreover, indigenous knowledge and traditional ecological knowledge, as well as its consequences for the development, restoration, and conservation of natural resource lands, are not addressed in the legislation. In property judgements, rules for individuals, and other sectors, public rights and the conservation of forest lands and pastures are prioritized as vital resources. Babaei Mehr [29] also highlights a lack of attention to biodiversity, forest inhabitants' rights, and public interests in forests and pastures legislations. In reality, centralized government forest management may not be the ideal option, especially given Iran's forest property laws and the lack of local people's participation in decision-making and utilization of indigenous knowledge in forest management plans.

Laws relating to the transfer of forest and pasture lands have received the most approvals since the nationalization of forests and pastures in 1963, and it is apparent that the transfer of forest and pasture lands for development and land use change has received the greatest attention. By reviewing the issues approved in other departments' laws in relation to forests and pastures, it is clear that the special laws of forests and pastures have undergone parallel measures, the laws of forests and pastures have been distorted, and in some cases, the nationalization of forest and pasture lands has been violated.

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Examining the implementation regulations of the forest and rangeland issue reveals that the majority of approvals (by the Cabinet) following the nationalization of forests and rangelands are related to the assignment of these lands for construction works, agriculture, services, and housing, with less emphasis placed on the local's participation and preservation of these resources. Conservation projects (such as *SIYANAT*, forest rest plan etc.), on the other hand, were not only ineffective, but they also contributed significantly to the widespread forests loss by ignoring local ownership and a lack of motivation for collaborative effort in forest conservation [7,30,31].

5. CONCLUSIONS

This study addressed the key laws and regulations of Iran in the sphere of forests and pastures, presenting the management and legal policy for these two land uses in a systematic manner. This data is useful for professionals from organizations involved in these two land uses. Furthermore, this research serves the demands of natural resource and law professionals in social and legal studies and investigations, and it demonstrates the legal position and judicial protection of forests and pastures. In this study, the difficulties of current laws linked to forests and pastures have been mentioned by collecting and evaluating the several laws and regulations, which may be used as a basis for the authorities to remedy the problems and weaknesses of the laws. Following is an overview of the rules and regulations governing forests and pastures:

- 1) These two land uses have been specifically legislated, and the legislator has taken them into account in the rules of other industries such as mining and road building;
- 2) Property judgements, regulations affecting persons, and other sectors prioritize public rights and the protection of forests and pastures as essential resources;
- 3) In certain circumstances, with the ratification of subsequent legislation, the law on the nationalization of forest and pasture lands has been broken;
- 4) The culturalization of natural resource conservation has received little consideration in the authorized legislation;
- 5) The application of indigenous community solutions in natural resource management has not been included.

According to the situations described, it is advised that the laws and regulations in the forest and pasture sectors, as well as the laws of other sectors connected to forests and pastures, be reviewed and examined, and then the faults and weaknesses remedied.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declares no conflict of interest.

EXTENDED ABSTRACT – REZUMAT EXTINS

Titlu în română: O sinteză a politicii și legislației forestiere iraniene

Introducere: În prezent, este imposibil de atins dezvoltarea sustenabilă fără a acorda atenția cuvenită resurselor naturale și de mediu. Resursele naturale ale Iranului sunt limitate în timp ce procesul de regenerare al acestora este lent sau chiar inexistent. Ca atare, după mai mulți ani în care s-au pierdut importante suprafețe de pădure, guvernul iranian a încercat oprirea acestui trend prin intermediul mai multor acte normative. Scopul acestui studiu a fost de a identifica, consolida și analiza actele normative implementate de către Consiliul Islamic și Consiliul Național al Iranului, specifice sectorului forestier după naționalizarea acestuia din 1963.

Materiale și metode: Studiul a folosit informații disponibile în surse media oficiale, literatura de profil, precum și din documentele Centrului de Cercetare al Consiliului Islamic al Iranului, cu privire la regulile și legile forestiere aprobate de Consiliul Islamic, Consiliul de Miniștri, Consiliul Suprem de Administrare și Consiliul Suprem pentru Planificare Urbană și Arhitectură.

Rezultate și discuții: Din punct de vedere istoric, printre cele mai importante elemente care au contribuit la pierderea de suprafețe forestiere în Iran au fost utilizarea lemnului pentru încălzire și producția de mangal, precum și conversia pădurilor în terenuri agricole. Ca rezultat, prima lege forestieră din Iran a fost introdusă în 7 ianuarie 1943. La momentul respectiv, Ministerul Agriculturii avea în portofoliu managementul și dezvoltarea forestieră, precum și exploatarea forestieră. Legea în cauză a obligat proprietarii de păduri să urmeze instrucțiunile Ministerului Agriculturii. Aprobarea Legii Naționalizării Pădurilor în 1963 a reprezentat un punct de cotitură în legislația, preocupările de profil și managementul forestier din Iran. În conformitate cu această lege - prima lege codificată pentru păduri din Iran - toate terenurile forestiere intră în proprietatea statului iar atribuțiile legate de mentenanță, restaurare, dezvoltare și exploatare sunt plasate în sfera Organizației pentru Păduri. Cea mai importantă lege cu privire la resursele naturale a intrat în efect în 1968, prin aprobarea legii conservării și utilizării pădurilor și pășunilor. După implementarea acestei legi, a fost întemeiat Ministerul Resurselor Naturale care a jucat un rol important în organizarea pădurilor și pășunilor Iranului în scopul conservării, restaurării, dezvoltării și exploatării. Pentru o mai bună protecție a pădurilor din Iran, s-au implementat mai multe politici de conservare. Cu toate acestea, ele nu au fost fezabile și au fost implementate incomplet datorită unor deficiențe cum ar fi dezechilibrele între programe și bugete. În ciuda naționalizării pădurilor, mai multe studii au indicat faptul că suprafețele acoperite de păduri sunt în declin.

Concluzii: Datorită discrepanțelor în procesele legislative, ecosistemele forestiere ale Iranului sunt supuse, an de an, riscului de dispariție. Legile și politicile de conservare ale Iranului au fost ineficiente datorită unor varii motive, cum ar fi implementarea neadecvată, lipsa fondurilor, lipsa participării comunităților locale în managementul pădurilor, șomajul și lipsa unor tehnologii forestiere moderne. Neimplementarea legislației proprietății, transferul unor terenuri naționale, lipsa de angajament al entităților guvernamentale și non-guvernamentale contribuie la starea actuală a pădurilor din Iran. De exemplu, un număr de circa 50 de organizații și entități din Iran determină, dezvoltă și implementează varii politici și planuri de mediu fără consultarea altor părți relevante. Ca atare, conflictele instituționale se manifestă în plus față de disputele individuale legate de proprietate, înrăutățind starea de fapt. În viitor sunt necesare decizii adecvate din partea celor care se ocupă cu managementul resurselor naturale pentru a se trata corect problemele existente și a se preveni degradarea pădurilor. Modificări substanțiale vor fi necesare în particular la nivelul politicilor și legislației de profil.

Cuvinte cheie: politică de conservare, management forestier, politică forestieră, sinteză.

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