



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**International Study Tour on  
“Rehabilitation of Forest Landscapes and Degraded Land with  
Particular attention to Saline soils and areas prone to Wind Erosion  
(RFLDL) project achievement and lessons learnt- Sustainable Land  
and Forest Management”**

**1 - 11 May 2017, Tehran, Isfahan, Yazd, South Khorasan & Kerman  
- I. R. of Iran**

**Organized by**  
Forest, Range & Watershed Management Organization (FRWO) and  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



## Introduction

Today, degradation of drylands is one of the most serious problems on natural resource management around the world. Almost all drylands are at risk of land degradation mainly because of climatic changes, increasing human population, over exploitation of land and water resources and poverty. In addition, almost half of the populations around the world who are below the poverty line are living in drylands. Hence, more than anywhere else, people living in drylands are dependent on ecosystem services. Rural Communities as one of the important and valuable guardians of sustainable management of natural resources are dramatically suffering from this phenomenon. Development scientists and environmentalist are therefore paying special attention to this issue and relative challenges to combat this tragedy.

Close relation and communication, common interests and values of people both outside and inside rural communities proofs the importance of *participatory management*. Therefore, cooperation among local people is essential and vital factor in effectiveness of infrastructure programmes particularly in the field of natural resources rehabilitation. The various experiences have proved that top level management approaches in natural resources which relied on local community participation, have positively affected to restrain environment destruction while strengthened rural livelihood. Such cooperation and interaction between local/rural communities and decision makers requires expanded collaboration.

The Rehabilitation of Forest Landscapes and Degraded Land with Particular Attention to Saline Soils and Areas Prone to Wind Erosion Project at the Forest, Range and Watershed Management Organization and the FAO in the Islamic Republic of Iran are honored to share their experiences, lessons learned and achievements on sustainable land and forest management. The Project in collaboration with technical and academic support from the FAO is holding an international consultative training workshop in both theory and practical forms on “RFLDL project achievement and lessons learnt” from 1st to 11 May 2017 in Isfahan, Yazd, Kerman & South Khorasan - I. R. of Iran.

## Objectives

The main objectives of the study tour:

- Introducing the Islamic Republic of Iran's experiences on Sustainable Land and Forest Management(SLFM)with emphasis on RFLDL Project achievements;
- Reviewing the role of native knowledge on natural resources participatory management;
- Introducing success stories/spin-off and projects on management of arid and semi-arid lands;

- The circumstances of combining native knowledge with modern technology on natural resources participatory management;
- Sharing and exchange of information and experiences with other countries on natural resources participatory management in arid and semi-arid lands;

### **Study Tour Topics**

The study tour will cover the following topics:

- Geomorphology of drylands in Iran in term of wind erosion;
- Methodology for emplacement of Hot Spots of wind erosion in Iran;
- Methodology for elaboration of "Drylands National Management Programme in Iran;
- Executive activities of participatory management of natural resources in drylands of Iran:
  - a. Participatory range management especially in arid and semi-arid lands of Iran;
  - b. Participatory watershed management especially in arid and semi-arid lands of Iran;
  - c. Surface water resources management (runoff management) in arid and semi-arid lands of Iran;
- Role and responsibilities of local communities in sustainable management of natural resources (Model of RFLDL project).

### **Venue and Date**

Duration of the study tour will be 11 days from 1 to 11 May 2017 including site visits at the fields of projects in Isfahan, Yazd, Kerman & South Khorasan

### **Contact Information**

Forest, Range & Watershed Mgt. Org., Desert Affairs Bureau (FRWO)  
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Website: [www.fao.org/iran](http://www.fao.org/iran)

## **Language**

The language of the study tour is both English and Persian with interpretation.

## **Countries & Level of Participants**

Following countries and participants are encouraged to attend this study tour:

- Representatives from countries with arid and semi-arid climate located in the Middle east, North Africa, Central Asia and Far East;
- Global experts, senior experts and managers involved in natural resources and environment management in arid and semi-arid lands, range management, watershed management, forestry, desertification and rural development;
- Experts, senior experts and managers who are dealing/supporting the international projects associated by agencies such as GEF, UNDP, FAO, IDB, WB, etc.; and
- Members of (Non-Government Organization) NGOs related with participatory management of natural resources in arid and semi-arid lands.

## **Registration**

### **Registration will begin from 27 February to 18 March 2017.**

Interested participants shall submit:

- An updated CV;
- A copy of the passport(with at least 6 months validity as of beginning study tour);
- As well as any success story, presentation, or short report on similar projects/activities from the respective country.

to the contact person (Ms. Mahshid Ebrahimi : [Ebrahimimahshid64@gmail.com](mailto:Ebrahimimahshid64@gmail.com))  
by 18 March 2017.

Twelve (12) eligible participants will be selected by a Technical Committee based on the relevance of the experiences to the said subjects and be notified within 4 days from closing date (18 March 2017) in order to enable participants to make preparation for their travel to Iran.

Participants shall have health and accident insurance coverage.

## Costs and Logistical Arrangements

### 1. Costs

- Accommodations, meals, domestic transportation will be arranged and costs will be paid by the Iranian study tour Organizers.
- International air-ticket from/to participants' countries shall be arranged and paid by participants or the sponsor of participants.

### 2. Study tour Locations

- Kashan
- Isfahan
- Yazd
- Birjand
- Kerman
- Tehran

### 3. Travel

- Visa Arrangements:
  - FRWO will apply for entry visa for the participants. Participants are required to collect their visas from Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in their home countries prior to arrival in Iran. To facilitate participants' arrival, an invitation letter will be submitted to the participants by the Ministry of Jihad Agriculture (FRWO).
- Flight Reconfirmations:
  - Onward ticket reconfirmation should be done at least 72 hours prior to departure.
  - If you are making changes in your travel plans (flight schedule, updating, etc.), please let FRWO concerned unit know ASAP. They need at least 7 working days to effect the change.
  - If you plan to stay in Iran after the course for official reasons, please have your travel authorization amended by the requesting office.
- Hotel:
  - Tehran: Parsian Evin Hotel
  - Isfahan: Ali-Qapu Parsian Hotel
  - Yazd: DAD Hotel
  - Birjand: Jahangardi Hotel
  - BAM: New Arg Hotel of Bam

- Kerman: Parsian Hotel
- Transportation from Airport to Hotel

Participants shall submit their finalized travel itineraries to the Organizer / contact person (Ms. Mahshid Ebrahimi: [Ebrahimimahshid64@gmail.com](mailto:Ebrahimimahshid64@gmail.com))

- In order to arrange transportation from Tehran International Imam Khomeini Airport (IKA) to the Hotel in Tehran. However, in case a traveller missed the arrangement, Airport Taxis at IKA are available to take participant(s) to the Hotel in Tehran.

### **Certification of Attendance**

At the end of the study tour, participants will be awarded a certificate attesting their participation in the study tour.

**Thank you. Enjoy your stay in Iran**

**International study tour on  
“RFLDL project achievement and lessons learnt- sustainable land and forest  
management 1- 11 May 2017, Tehran, Isfahan, Yazd, Kerman & South Khorasan  
I. R. of Iran (Tentative)**

<b>Monday 1 May 2017: Arrival to Iran</b>
● Afternoon : Check-in at Parsian Evin Hotel

<b>Tuesday 2 May 2017: Day1</b>
07:30 – 11:00 Travel to Kashan by Road
11:00 – 13:00 Site Visit to combat desertification projects of Aran & Bidgol
13:00-14:30 Lunch at Matin Abad Tourism camp
14:30-18:00 Travel to Isfahan and check in at Ali-Qapu Parsian Hotel

<b>Wednesday 3 May 2017: Day2</b>
14:00 – 17:30 Travel to Ardakan by road
17:30 – 18:00 Site visit to combat to desertification projects of Ardakan
18:00 – 18:30 Travel to Yazd by Road and check in at Dad hotel

<b>Thursday 4 May 2017: Day3</b>
07:30 – 09:00 Travel to Bafq by Road
09:00 – 12:00 Site visit to combat desertification projects
12:00 – 14:30 Travel to Yazd by Road and accommodation in Dad Hotel

<b>Friday 5 May 2017: Day4</b>
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07:30 – 14:00 Travel to Birjand by Road and check in at Jahangardi Hotel
<b>Saturday 6 May 2017: Day5</b>
07:30 – 09:00 Travel to Sarayan by Road and
09:00 – 17:00 site visit to project RFLDL project activities and achievements
17:00-18:30 Travel to Birjand by Road and accommodation in Jahangardi Hotel
<b>Sunday 7 May 2017: Day6</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>07:30 – 14:00 Travel to Kerman (Bam) by Road and check in at New Arg Hotel of Bam</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 8 May 2017: Day 7</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>07:30 – 8:30 Travel to Rigan by Road</li> <li>8:30- 17:00 Site visit to RFLDL Projects activities and achievements in Rigan</li> <li>17:00-20:30 Travel to Kerman and check in at Parsian Hotel</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 9 May 2017: Day 8</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14:00- 16:00 Flying back to Tehran</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 10 May 2017 : Day 9</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wrap up meeting</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 11 May 2017: Day 10</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Departure</li> </ul>

## **About RFLDL**

### ***Rehabilitation of Forest land and Degraded lands project***

#### ***Context***

Rehabilitation of Forest Landscapes and Degraded Land Project (RFLDL) is a collaborative effort of Iranian Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO), Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) which supports the efforts of the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran to mainstream environmentally sustainable development approaches through preparation and running community-based and integrated land and forest management (SLFM) initiatives. This Project, ongoing since mid Aug 2011 in two pilot sites of Rigan and Sarayan, has been designed towards restoration and enhancement of goods and services delivered by the ecosystems as improvement of capacity of degraded lands and forest landscapes in an

arid and semi-arid area to be resulted in generation of sustainable livelihoods, further food security and biodiversity as well as desertification control. The unique specification of the Project is that it has simultaneously addressed national priorities and local needs. Thus, the project demonstrated a mechanism by which ground realities are reflected in the national policies and the national policies be successfully observed at local level. In other words, local communities get deeply involved in measures and goods and services delivered from the ecosystem are used as a key tool to improve the livelihood of local communities.

### **Project Area**

Since Nov 2011, RFLDLP has been piloting various integrated resource management activities in the two watersheds of Kerman and South Khorsan Provinces. The project sites of Rigan (Kerman Province) and Sarayan (South Khorasan Province) are large landscapes, encompassing uplands (mountains, forests and ranges) and plains or lowlands with rangelands, agricultural lands and forests both planted and natural. The project areas are characterized by arid and semi-arid ecosystems, with limited water resources, particularly in the lowlands. In particular, the Regan site is prone to wind erosion where as Sarayan has been affected by increasing soil and water salinity problems. The main sources of income for local people are related to agricultural practices in the lowland areas and livestock husbandry in the uplands.

Initially, the Cunarnai sub watershed of Ab Barik watershed in Rigan, Kerman and Hamboo sub-watershed of Sarayan watersheds, South Khorsan provinces have been selected as pilot sites to demonstrate effective participatory and integrated sustainable land and forest management (SLFM) practices. The criteria such as upstream – downstream relationship, severity of wind erosion in Rigan and level of water salinity problem in Sarayan, socio economic conditions of the villages, willingness of the villagers, suggestions of local authorities, conditions of ecosystems – such as forests, range and desert etc have been considered while selecting the sub watersheds. The successful activities of the pilot sub watersheds would be later on replicated in other areas.

### **FAO Practice area**

This project is under the technical support of the FAO but it also has a large element of poverty alleviation, capacity development and women. As such it is also in line with Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1, MDG3, MDG7 and MDG8.

### **Partners**

National Implementing Partner: Desert Affairs Bureau of the Forest, Range and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO) of Ministry of Jihad Agriculture, FAO, Global Environment Facilities



**Related links**

For more information please refer to the Project Webpage at

[WWW.RFLDL.ir](http://WWW.RFLDL.ir)

**PASSPORT SPECIFICATION FOR VISA**

**International Study Tour on  
“RFLDL project achievement and lessons learnt-Barriers to  
sustainable land and forest management 1- 11 May 2017, Tehran,  
Isfahan, Yazd, South Khorasan & Kerman - I. R. of Iran**

Name	
Middle Name	
Family Name	
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	
Father s Name	
Grandfather s Name (Arab Nationals/ Arab Origin)	
Present Nationality	
Previous Nationality	
Passport No	
Date & Place of Issue	
Expiry Date	
Name of Organization/ Institute you work in	
Occupation	
Place visa to be issued	
Duration of stay in Iran	
Cities you may visit in Iran	

RFLDL project achievement and lessons learnt- sustainable land and forest management

Date of your last travel to Iran and its purpose	10
Your Office Address and Tel No	
Home Address and Tel No	

E-mail: [international@frw.org.ir](mailto:international@frw.org.ir)