

Report of the activities on the occasion of the International Mountain Day in 2008 in Iran

A) Tehran

1- A live TV program on Channel 4 was broadcast in a series of programs allocated to environmental issues. In the interview, mayor of District One of Tehran Municipality (North of Tehran, at the foothills of Alborz Mountains) and an expert talked about the importance of mountains and the International Mountain Day.

2- A few daily newspapers had special articles on this occasion and considered 11 Dec. from different aspects.

3- MEPS in collaboration with Tehran Municipality, District One Organized a half day gathering with about 300 participants from Tehran on 21 December. The gathering lasted more than 6 hours; the program included opening, presentations, a panel and declaration. Among the high ranking officials who addressed the audience at the opening ceremony was Mr. Shahid Najam, FAO representative in I.R. Iran. A message from the mayor of Tehran, Dr.Ghalibaf to the gathering was also read to the participants by his advisor for the environmental issues.

Presentations included Alborz Mountains; Opportunities and Threats and the Common Responsibility of all Stakeholders for Conservation of Alborz. Another important presentation was done by the National Coordinator of Zagros Project which is a large-scale GEF Project in Iran.

The Theme of the panel, who was attended by both experts and officials, was “Who is responsible for Conservation of Alborz”.

At the end of the gathering a declaration was read and approved by the participants, among the items of the declaration are the follow-up of Alborz conservation and rehabilitation schemes in the coming year.

4- Alpine Club of Iran organized a gathering in collaboration with a few mountaineering groups in Tehran on the eve of 11 Dec.

B) Other parts of Iran

1- Kermanshah:

A two-day Seminar was organized by an NGO called “Society for Conservation of Mountain Environment” on the occasion of the International Mountain Day. The program included presentations, workshops concerning conservation of Bissotun Range, north of Kermanshah, and visiting the site of a SGP/GEF Project that the NGO has executed for management of the area which is under pressure due to mass tourism and mountaineering.

2- Isfahan:

A local NGO organized a field visit and a workshop in KolahGhazi National Park near Isfahan on 10 Dec. for its members and climbers. After a few presentations mainly focused on the importance of mountain areas and the IMD, the participants joined for a symbolical

clean-up. On 12, the NGO invited concerned people for a session to give speeches on the occasion of IMD.

3- Chaloos:

The local NGO, a branch of MEPS in the Caspian sea area organized a gathering on 11 Dec. in collaboration with the mountaineering council and mountaineers. The speakers talked about the fragility of mountain ecosystems and the theme of IMD in 2008.

4- Kurdistan:

The mountaineers of Sannadaj and Divandareh organized an ascent to one of the neighboring heights and celebrated IMD.

5- Kerman:

Fifty participants attended a session on 11 Dec. where the organizers stressed on the importance of mountains on the occasion of IMD. In the weekend a clean-up program was arranged in the nearby mountains in collaboration with Kerman municipality.

6- Kelardasht:

A full-day program was organized by a local NGO involved with the conservation of Mt. Alamkooch, the second highest mountain range in Iran comprised with about 40 peaks above 4000 meter and the famous vertical 450 meter wall. Kelardasht region with Roodbarak village at the foot of Alamkooch massif is located in Mazandaran province and the NGO has been established by the active local mountaineers of the area a few years ago.