



**Original Article**

**Report of Problems and Difficulties and Solutions to Empower Local Communities of Preservation Plan (A Case Study: Nilang Conventional Territory)**

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**ABSTRACT**

A purpose of Zagros forests preservation plan is to reduce degradation factors through empowering woodman beneficiaries and underdevelopment of rural forested areas which appear as scattered agronomies inside and in forest margins, trees cutting for power supply, trees cutting for hay supply or making coal in forested regions. Therefore, natural resources experts believe that, by creation or improvement of sustainable occupation and increasing economic power of woodman families, current trend of degradation would be controlled and degradation factors would decrease by conducting rural youth population toward the jobs with lower dependence to forest. So, this plan with purpose of preservation, restoration and principled operation of natural resources and in order to study as participatory evaluation was carried out that, the results of this plan were suggested as a number of multi-stage solutions for implementation.

**Introduction**

In order to achieve the objectives of preservation plan and Zagros forests development, and in order to reduce natural resources degradation factors through empowering woodman beneficiaries with considering that, the most important factor of forest degradation are exclusion, poverty and unemployment and in a word is underdevelopment of villages in forested regions which appear as scattered agronomies inside and in forest margins, trees cutting for power supply, trees cutting for hay supply or making coal in forested regions, and since rural population is increasing but lands and production sources are limited and people are forced to use nature indiscriminately for providing livelihoods. Therefore, natural resources experts believe that, by creation or improvement of sustainable occupation and increasing economic power of woodman families, current trend of degradation would be controlled and degradation factors

would decrease by conducting rural youth population toward the jobs with lower dependence to forest and actually, to meet the economic and social needs is a basic going ahead toward natural resources preservation that, of course it needs huge funds to rural development and cooperation of all governmental organizations in the region but, department of natural resources and watershed management of Kermanshah province proceeded to form expert groups from forests, ranges, protection, watershed management, promotion and public relations as much the fund of this plan is capable, and within four meeting referred to Nilang village and discussed about problems and solutions in the form of participatory committee with people and beneficiaries, and finally their opinions were analyzed in expert committee of department of natural resources and watershed management in five meetings in some which

the general manager was present, and ultimately a combination of expert and beneficiary's opinions were pluralized and announced as suggested plan of empowering beneficiaries of mentioned villages. The purpose of this plan is to identify and perform the projects which will lead to empower villages considering understanding and cultural, economic and social attitude about various natural resources subjects and finally, preservation and restoration and principled operation of natural resources.

## Materials and Methods

### Site description

In order to study this plan, firstly a meeting was held with experts of protection, operation, forest, rangeland, watershed management and technical committee departments in the main department then; it was decided to hold some participatory meetings with mentioned experts and villagers. After collecting villagers' opinions, the experts of main department had numeral participatory discussions and analyzed villagers' opinions. After that, they accomplished a field visit of mentioned regions in order to suggest the project that ultimately, a combination of expert opinions and villagers was purled and suggested.

### Characteristics of Nilang conventional territory

Nilang conventional territory with an area equal with 1951.26 ha is located in political range of Gahvareh county which is a subsidiary of Dalahoo city in Kermanshah province. Its geographical situation includes 34 19 35.77 to 34 19 07.84 of northern latitude, and 46 23 14.03 to 46 27 33.28 of eastern longitude. Considering elevation from sea level it should be said that, minimum elevation is 1470 m and maximum elevation is 1912 m and has a population of 354 people and annual mean precipitation of 625.70 mm.

## Results and Discussion

### Evaluating problems and difficulties which were explained by villagers

- 1- The problems of rangeland (livestock)
  - 1-1- Water shortage for rangeland (1200 sheep and goats)
  - 1-2- Lack of awareness about pasture planting
  - 1-3- Lack of awareness about modern cattle
  - 1-4- Lack of awareness about native laying poultry fosterage
  - 1-5- Lack of milk collection facilities
  - 1-6- Lack of milk processing operation facilities

### Presented solutions by villagers about rangeland

- Temporary water supply to gardens
- Training and promoting range and range management
- Loans and banking facilities
- Springs restoration

### 2- Problems about derivative products and medicinal plants

- 2-1- Marketing problems and sale of derivative products
- 2-2- Lack of awareness about planting and harvesting of derivative products and medicinal plants

### Presented solutions by villagers about derivative products

- To resolve marketing problem
- Training about planting, maintenance and harvesting of medicinal plants

### 3- Problems about gardening

- 3-1- Irrigation water shortage for gardens (200 ha)
- 3-2- Lack of awareness about modern gardening (apple, grape)
- 3-3- Lack of awareness about processing horticultural products (grape) into raisins
- 3-4- Problems about marketing and sale of horticultural products

### Presented solutions by villagers about gardening problems

- Irrigation water supply
- To form training and promotion classes
- To resolve the issues about sale of goods

### 4- Problems about crafts

- 4-1- Lack of awareness about how to produce crafts (carpet weaving, sewing, etc.)
- 4-2- Problems about sale of crafts products

### Presented solutions by villagers about crafts

- To form carpet weaving, sewing, etc. training classes
- To resolve problems about sale of craft products

### The recommendations which were considered by experts are as below:

- 1- It is proper to produce participatory management programs in presence of local leaders of watershed residents.
- 2- To perform training classes for watershed residents to upgrade their awareness level in accurate use of sources also, to hold justification meetings in order to mental preparedness and cognitive levels of people to participate in programs.
- 3- To assess the region requirements through residents participation to produce executive plans
- 4- Group work to analyze the region problems and codifying short time and middle time and longtime objectives.
- 5- To prevent and fighting with land degradation with an emphasize on use of native knowledge of local communities through:

- To reform land utilization and a serious attention to increase productivity of production factors and sources in water and agriculture section
- To prevent soil erosion and basic sources degradation and development of watershed management activities particularly in upstream and steep slopes
- To protect the sources which have not been degraded and preservation of fertile agricultural soils
- To codify and performing integrated water resources management plans in watershed to create and upgrading harmony between water resources development plans,

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watershed management in upstream of irrigation and drainage network in downstream regions.

6- Skills survey of industrial and medicinal plants with the region with regard to climate and topographic conditions.

7- To visit medicinal plants by villagers and expert observers and talking to successful performers of industrial and medicinal plants projects in neighbor provinces to promote medicinal plants culture and trust to projects above.

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