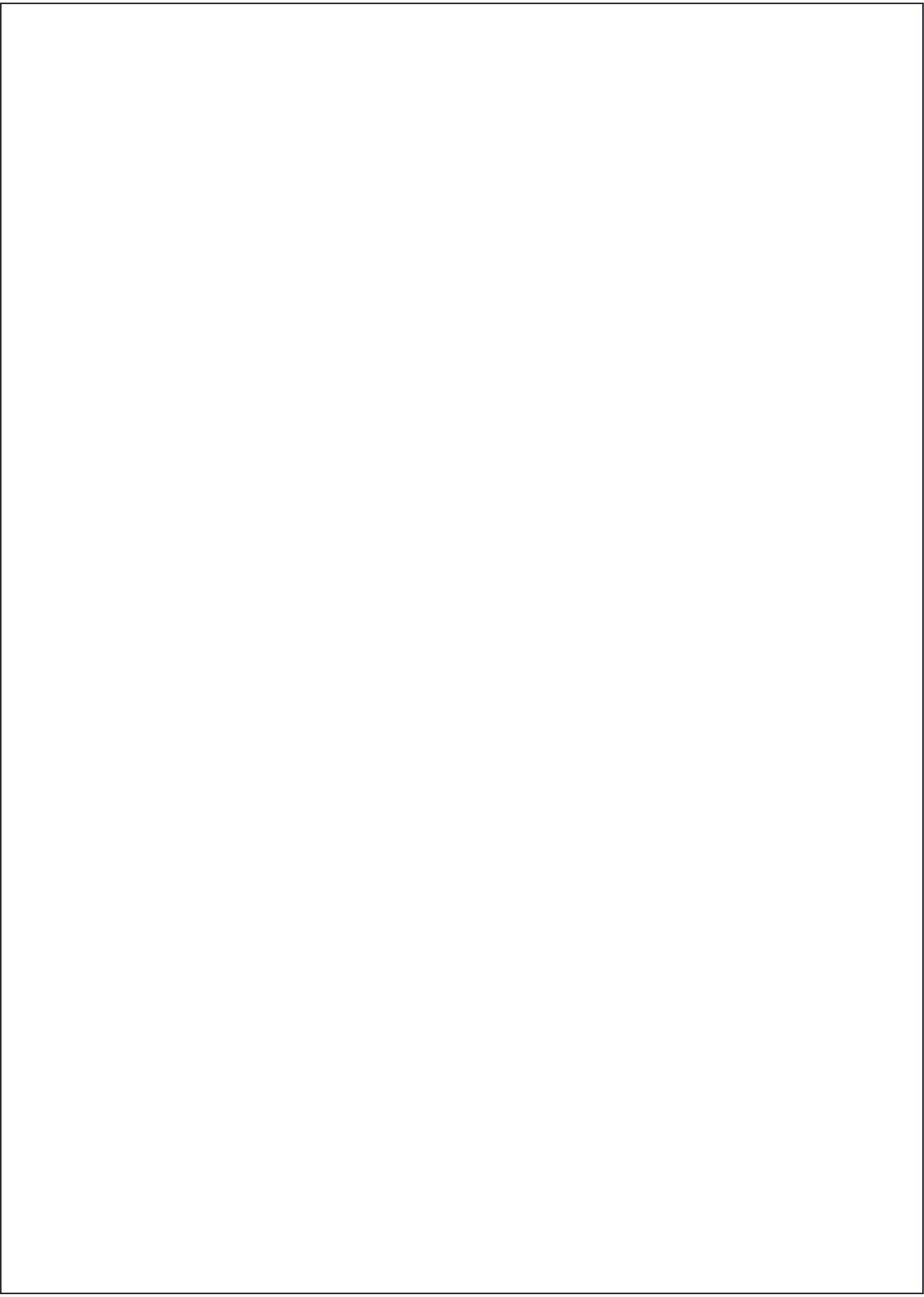




State of the Environment - Iran
(2005/06)





سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست
Department of the Environment
I.R. IRAN



UNEP



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State of the Environment Iran 2005/06

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Foreword

Department of the Environment

Education and Planning is the division within Iran's DoE responsible for the State of Environment reporting and has recently published its first report on this subject. We are pleased that the second SoE report for Iran is prepared within the framework of a valuable joint venture between the Department of Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with Shahid Beheshti University. This is a reflection of the excellent and ever-expanding cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNEP.

Towards the fulfillment of its duties and obligations, the Department of the Environment is determined to promote its underlying philosophy, which requires accurate scientific information for any decision made on the protection of the environment. To this purpose, it has initiated an integrated statistical system for the environment, which some of its components have already been put into practice.

This report is the result of efforts by the DoE in collaboration with several government ministries and other organizations whose activities lie in various fields such as energy, petroleum, roads and transportation, ports and shipping, agriculture and industry. Such cross-sectoral collaboration in itself reflects an important procedural aspect of sustainable development and the obligation of governments to operate in a more collaborative manner. The activities of the above-mentioned ministries and organizations have considerable impacts on the environment through their utilization of both renewable and non-renewable resources. We would like to thank these institutions for extending their support and providing the necessary data for this endeavor.

This report aims to assist the decision-makers involved in economic planning and development programming as well as the researchers and interested students in the field of environmental studies, through the accurate depiction of the national environment and its current status and trend. Moreover, the subsequent adverse consequences, impacts and the required mitigation measures are identified.

This study could have not been prepared without the continuous support and encouragement of UNEP. Our sincere thanks also goes to the chair and editor-in-chief of this report, Dr. Mohammad Zokaei, Dean of Faculty of Mathematical Sciences of Shahid Beheshti University and his research team who have prepared this report.

Division of Education and Planning
DoE

Foreword

Chair and Editor-in-Chief

The first official SoE-report for the Islamic Republic of Iran was prepared and published in Persian in August 2004, using experiences from other countries the recommendations of international agencies (UNEP and UNDP) and was welcomed by both the executive and scientific authorities of Iran.

In order to enable it to prepare this report on a continuous basis, Iran's DoE decided to build improved national capacity in association with UNEP. To fulfill this purpose, a 3-day workshop was organized in Tehran from 5-7 March 2005 by the Division of Education and Planning, Department of the Environment (DoE) and UNEP's Regional Office in Asia and Pacific Office in cooperation with Shahid Beheshti University (SBU).

Participants of this workshop were experts from DoE, UNEP and universities as well as the representatives of the ministries in charge and a tentative outline for a national Integrated environment assessment report of I. R. Iran was prepared by them. The report identifies key environmental issues for I.R. Iran, including Air, Land, Inland Waters, Coastal Waters, Biodiversity, Natural Disasters and Human Settlement. It reviews their status and recommends measures to prevent or minimize their negative impacts. These issues were analyzed by various experts, including national officials, scientists, academics, and DoE experts. The Persian version of this was published as the Second SoE-report in September 2005. This English report is a brief version of the Persian one which was prepared, taking into consideration UNEP's recommendations and collaboration.

I hope this report will provide a sound basis for decision-making by the various levels of government and by the public and private sectors in relation to environmental issues. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Masoumeh Ebtekar, ex-Vice President and Head of DoE, the Offices of the Research Deputy and of the Deputy for Education and Planning of SBU and DoE for their fruitful collaboration. I would also like to greatly acknowledge the contribution of UNEP and team in Bangkok, Thailand for supporting the preparation of this report. In addition, special thanks to Mr. Mohammad Mehdi Rostami for his help in translating the text into English and to Dr. Janet Blake, Environmental Sciences Research Institute (SBU), for editing the English text and writing the executive summary and the concluding chapter. I extend my thanks to the Deputies of the DoE and the Ministries of Energy, Petroleum, Jihad-Agriculture and Housing, Tehran Municipality and the Statistical Centre of Iran, all of which were involved in preparing data and statistics needed for this report. Further, I would like to thank my colleagues at SUB and graduate students of Statistics Department (SBU) who reviewed this report and provided valuable inputs for shaping in its present form.

Mohammad Zokaei, Ph.D

Chair and Editor-in-Chief

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December 2007

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