

National Strategy and Action Plan on Drought Preparedness, Management and Mitigation in the Agricultural Sector to be published: Following the sizable loss of livestock and agricultural land during floods and droughts in 2000 and 2001, a National Strategy and Action Plan on Drought Preparedness, Mitigation, and Management in the Agriculture Sector has been prepared under FAO's Technical Cooperation project in cooperation with the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Iran Meteorological Organization of the Ministry of Road and Transportation, and the Ministry of Interior. The document was finalized in 2007 and is now ready for publishing. For more information, please contact Ms Firouzeh Radmehr: firouzeh-radmehr@fao.org

Workshop on the Legal Framework of Humanitarian Assistance in Tehran, 18-20 November 2007

UNOCHA, with cooperation from the Center for Graduate International Studies (CGIS) of Tehran University, is organizing a workshop on the "Legal Framework for Humanitarian Assistance" in Tehran on 18 – 20 November 2007. The workshop will focus on: 1) Responsibility of the Government; 2) Principles governing humanitarian assistance; 3) Recovery and reconstruction; and 4) Acquaintance with and utilization of international mechanisms and arrangements for disaster management. Participants will be from Georgia, Armenia and the Member Countries of ECO. The workshop will try to look in depth to the legal developments of humanitarian assistance since 1990, performance of the recipient and donor countries and also international organizations and NGOs at the time of disasters with emphasis on case studies. For further information, please contact Ms Negin Tahvildari: tahvildari@un.org

Cross-project/agency initiative on Local Participation and Natural Resources Management: A workshop will be held by UNDP's Environment Unit on 25 November 2007 with the participation of the Small Grants Programme (SGP) and the following projects: "Conservation of Iranian Wetlands", "Carbon Sequestration in the Rangelands of Hosseinabad", "Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah", "Conservation of Biodiversity in the Central Zagros Conservation Landscape" (GEF/UNDP & DoE), "Siberian Crane Wetland Project" (GEF/UNEP & DoE), and a selection of projects from the SGP (GEF/UNDP). Project participants are mainly selected from provincial project offices and active local NGOs at the project sites. The workshop aims to reach to a common understanding of local participation methods and techniques and to create a community of practice for local participation and environmental management between selected projects and agencies. For more information, please contact Ms Leylanaz Shajii: leylanaz.shajii@undp.org

Credentials from the UNDP Bangkok Regional Office for Iran's development of the World Standard Disaster Database System DesInventar: The impressive collection of data from different archives over a one-year period, including information on approximately 10,500 disaster related events in Iran, has received significant credentials from UNDP's regional center in Bangkok, Thailand. The data has been inserted into the recently finalized internet software DesInventar (undp.desinventar.net), and is now available for all parts involved in Iranian Disaster Management efforts. The data has been collected by volunteers from Tehran University under the supervision of the UNDP consultant. The intention of

DesInventar is to provide more accurate information on the trends of the natural disasters. It contributes significantly to future disaster management planning and proctoring allocation of resources for reducing disaster risks. For more information, please contact Dr. Victoria Kianpour: victoria.kianpour@undp.org

Calculating internal greenhouse gas emissions and finding ways for reduction: Following the example of several other UN offices around the world, UNDP Iran has taken an internal initiative to estimate the carbon footprinting of its country office. Taking into account the total amount of greenhouse gases generated by the office's activities through measuring relevant emissions in 2006, the research will serve as a baseline that will be subject to mitigation and possibly offset in the future. The initiative involves two steps – first, the calculation of the greenhouse gas emissions related to the office's activities, second, the identification and selection of different carbon mitigation options to reduce the amount of emissions that the office is responsible for. For more information, please contact Mr. Mehdi Kamyab: mehdi.kamyab@undp.org

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