

Ilam Drylands

March 2016



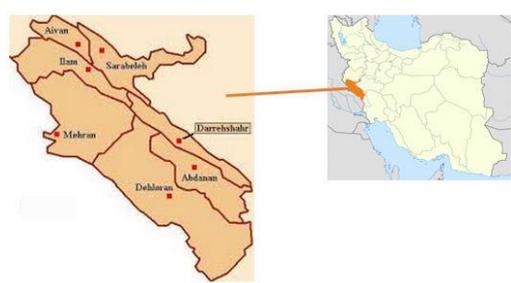
Agency	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	
Project Title	Ilam Drylands	
Project Objective	To improve the status of forests, rangelands and agro-ecosystems of the Dowayrej Watershed in Ilam Province. This will be done by sustainably managing natural resources through participatory watershed level planning and implementation frameworks. The project will also promote livelihoods in arid and semi-arid forest landscapes.	
Thematic area	Environment	
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local communities • Women • Youth • Government agencies led by the Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Organisation 	
Project Budget		US\$ 10,700,000
Funding required		US\$ 2,600,000
Estimated Project Duration	Five years	
Relevance to SDGs	5, 15	

Project Description

More than 70% of the total natural vegetative cover of Iran, including rangelands and forests, are located in fragile arid and semi-arid areas. Iran is extremely vulnerable to land degradation. Land degradation is manifested in reduced productive capacity of soils. It is caused by a decline in the quantity and quality of surface and ground water and a decline in the area and quality of natural biomass. This is, in turn, exacerbated by recurring and extreme droughts, frequent and severe floods,

Dryland forests are an important sink for atmospheric carbon. They also mitigate climatic disaster risks. Dryland forests and natural vegetation protect the soil against wind and water erosion, maintain groundwater resources, and provide a habitat for a wide variety of floral and faunal species, many of which are endemic to Iran. Due to limited biological resources and fragile ecological conditions in drylands, the role of forests and vegetation in preserving soil and water is critical to ensure food security, biological diversity and economic and ecological security of local communities.

Map of Proposed Project Location



Ilam Province in Western Iran will be the focus of this project.

The direct causes for land degradation in the Ilam province include unsustainable agricultural practices, overgrazing, conversion of rangelands to croplands and increased farming in the under-canopy of forested areas. This results in the gradual abandonment of such farmlands as viability is lost due to intensified use. Deforestation in the area is attributed to uncontrolled logging for fuel wood, prolonged droughts, increasing

frequent forest fires, uncontrolled pests and diseases, and conversion of forest areas into residential or agricultural lands. These have combined to contribute to a reduction in scale and quality of dryland forest resources and intensified soil erosion.

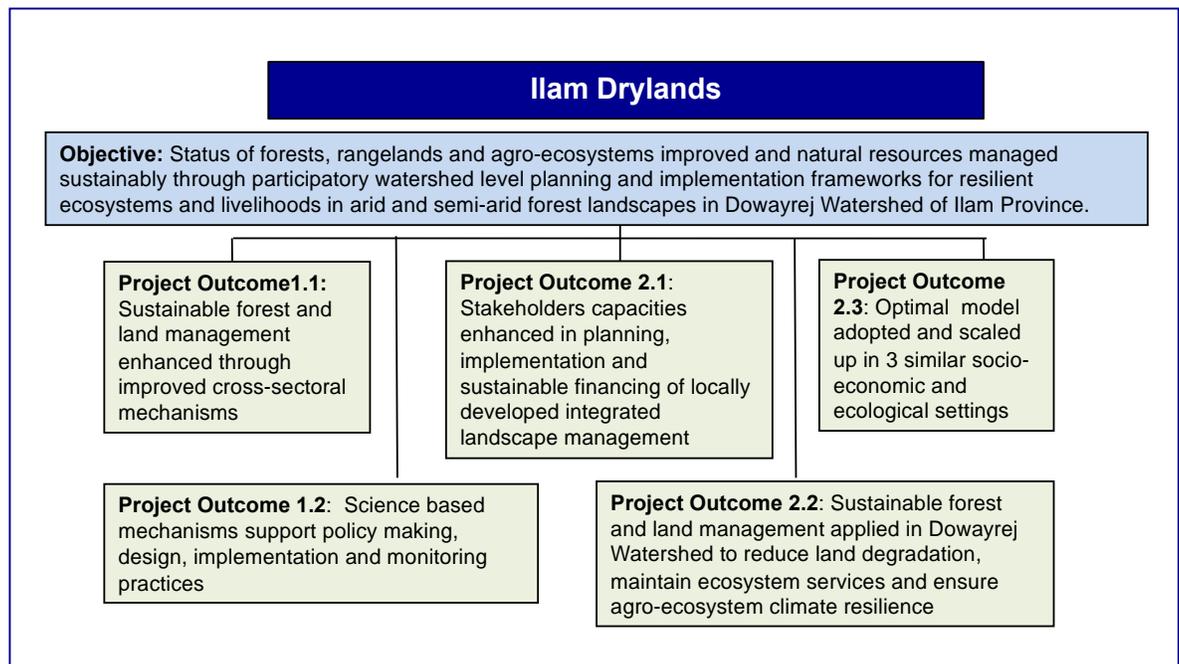


Dawayrej Basin, Ilam Province.

The project is planned to be implemented over 350,000 hectares in the Ilam province in the south west of Iran in the Dawayrej watershed.

The project will put in place an integrated and participatory landscape level planning and management framework for natural resources management. It aims to alleviate land degradation problems and ensure the continuous flow of ecosystem services. It will enhance climate resilience of agro-ecosystems in arid and semi-arid areas in the Dawarej basin. It will do this through establishing enabling frameworks at national and local levels to support implementation and up-scaling of sustainable land and forest management practices.

Proposed Project Outcomes



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