

# Poverty eradication through biodiversity & territorial rights-- indigenous nomadic tribes of Iran rising to the occasion



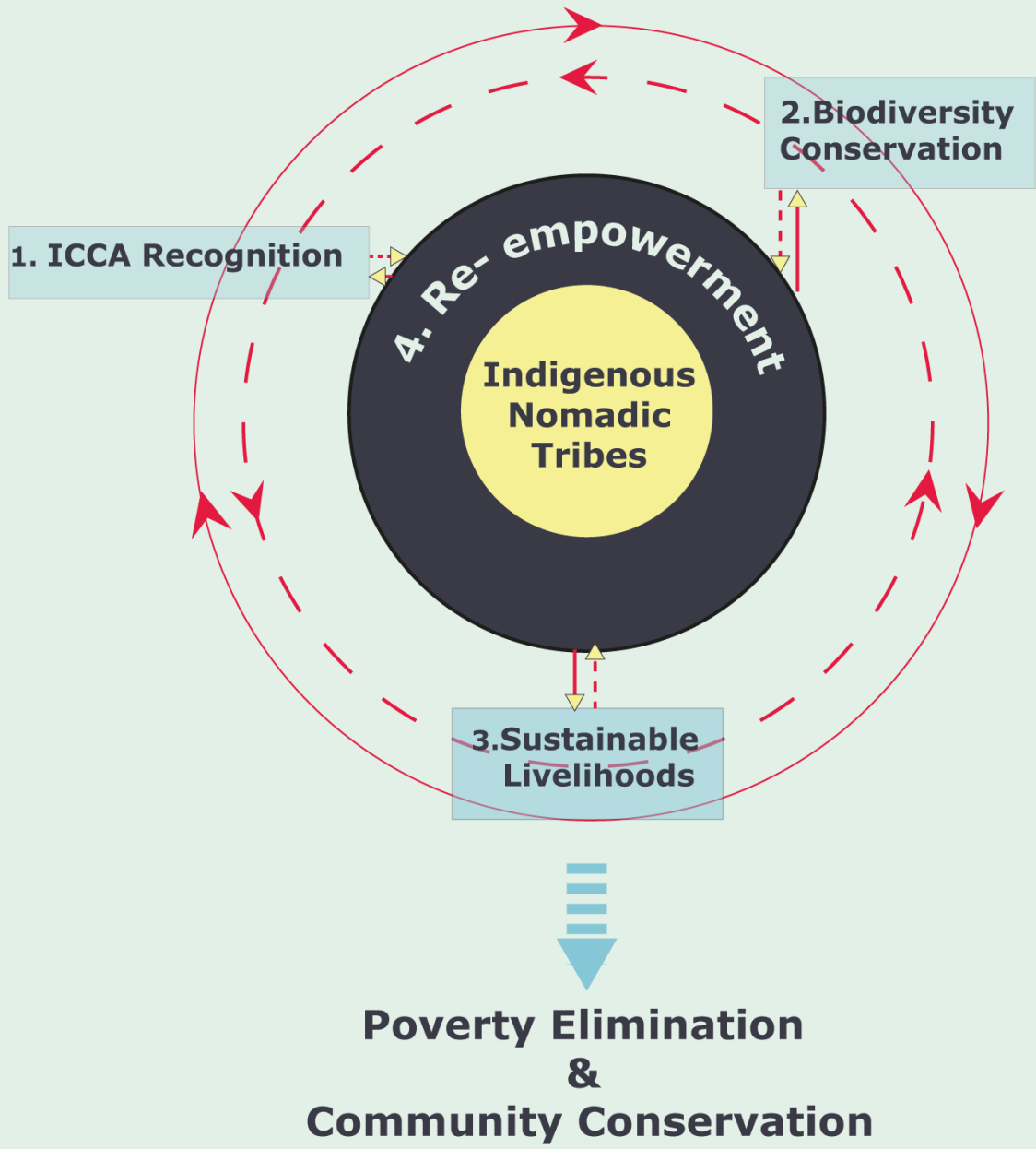
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President, ICCA Consortium  
Chair, CENESTA

CBD Poverty & Biodiversity Expert Group  
Madras, December, 2013



UNINOMAD Iran

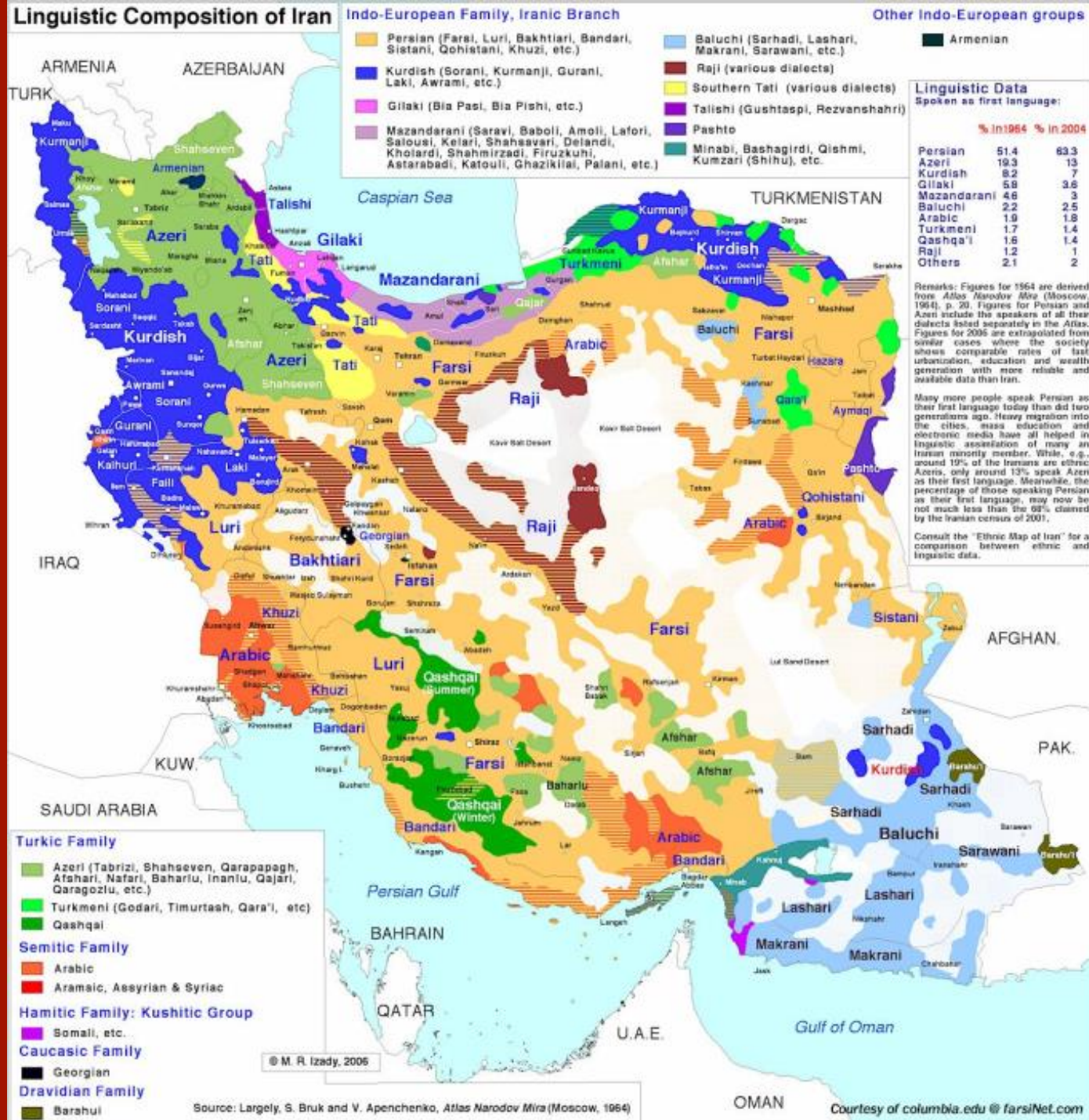
Cenesta



# Indigenous Nomads of Iran

- ❖ We are some 700 tribes of indigenous nomadic pastoralists covering most of the national territory;
- ❖ Up to 2 million people (just over 2% of the population) producing about 25% of animal products of the country;
- ❖ Great ethnic & linguistic diversity;
- ❖ Some 12,000 years of history;
- ❖ We practice seasonal migration to protect nature;
- ❖ Concept of territory as nature, livelihood, identity & survival;
- ❖ Customary institutions and tribal structures for management of natural resources and sustainable living;
- ❖ Great indigenous knowledge of environment including climate.

# Ethno-linguistic diversity





# Sample of various ICCAs in Iran



Inverted Tulips Plain  
in west of Iran



Summering  
Grounds in high  
lands of the forests



Wetland, in  
Qashqei Territory



Zagrous Region,  
Oak forests



ICCA in Desert



ICCA in Forests



ICCA in Costal Areas



seasonal migration in tribal territories  
between summering & wintering grounds





Nomadic past  
adapted  
to clima



**...Climatic changes are now taking place  
on a scale, severity and frequency  
beyond living memory!**



# Some adaptation strategies elaborated by nomadic tribes to cope with climate change

(9 slides)

Inventive learning  
and use of crops  
to reduce the  
pressure of  
livestock on  
diminishing  
grazing  
resources



Abolhassani Tribe in Touran Biosphere Reserve region:  
pistachio, cotton, fodder barley, etc.

Using indigenous knowledge for monitoring and assessing the carrying capacity of destination rangelands before the season of migration (e.g., Bahmaie tribe)



Taking marketing decisions such as selling off animals before the season of migration based on community-based early warning systems



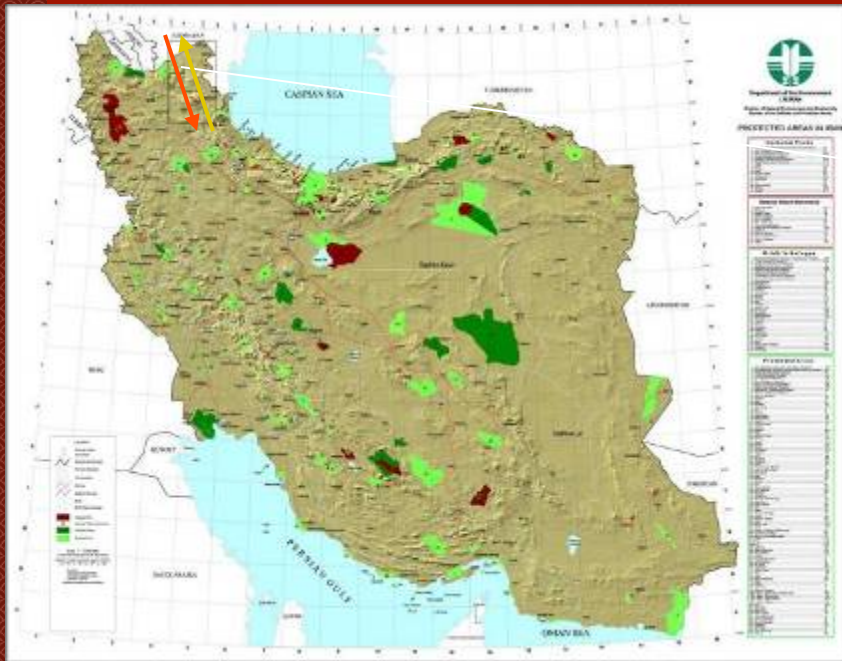
Changing livestock breeds to more drought resistant ones, and bringing back the indigenous breeds when conditions improve (Sangsari, Fars)





# Shahsevan Tribal Confederacy

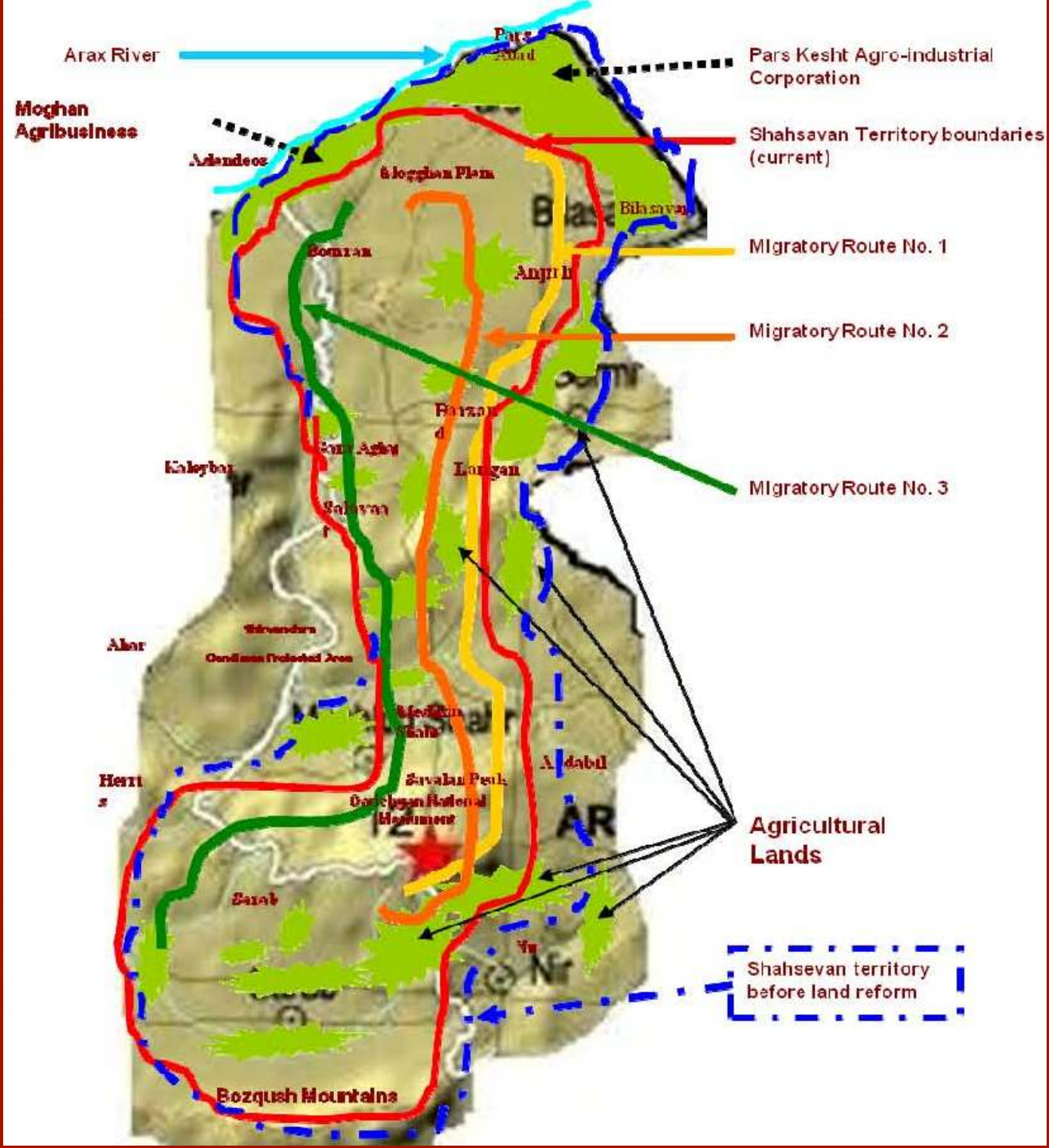
The tribal territories of the Shahsevan Confederation of Nomadic Pastoralists, made up of 32 tribes. This area is in the Iranian (southern) Azerbaijan– part of the Caucasus Eco-region (Northwest Iran: Ardebil and East Azerbaijan provinces). The total area of this tribal territory amounts is to some 876,000 ha (8,760 km<sup>2</sup>).



Geographic location of the Shahsevan territories: including migration paths

And

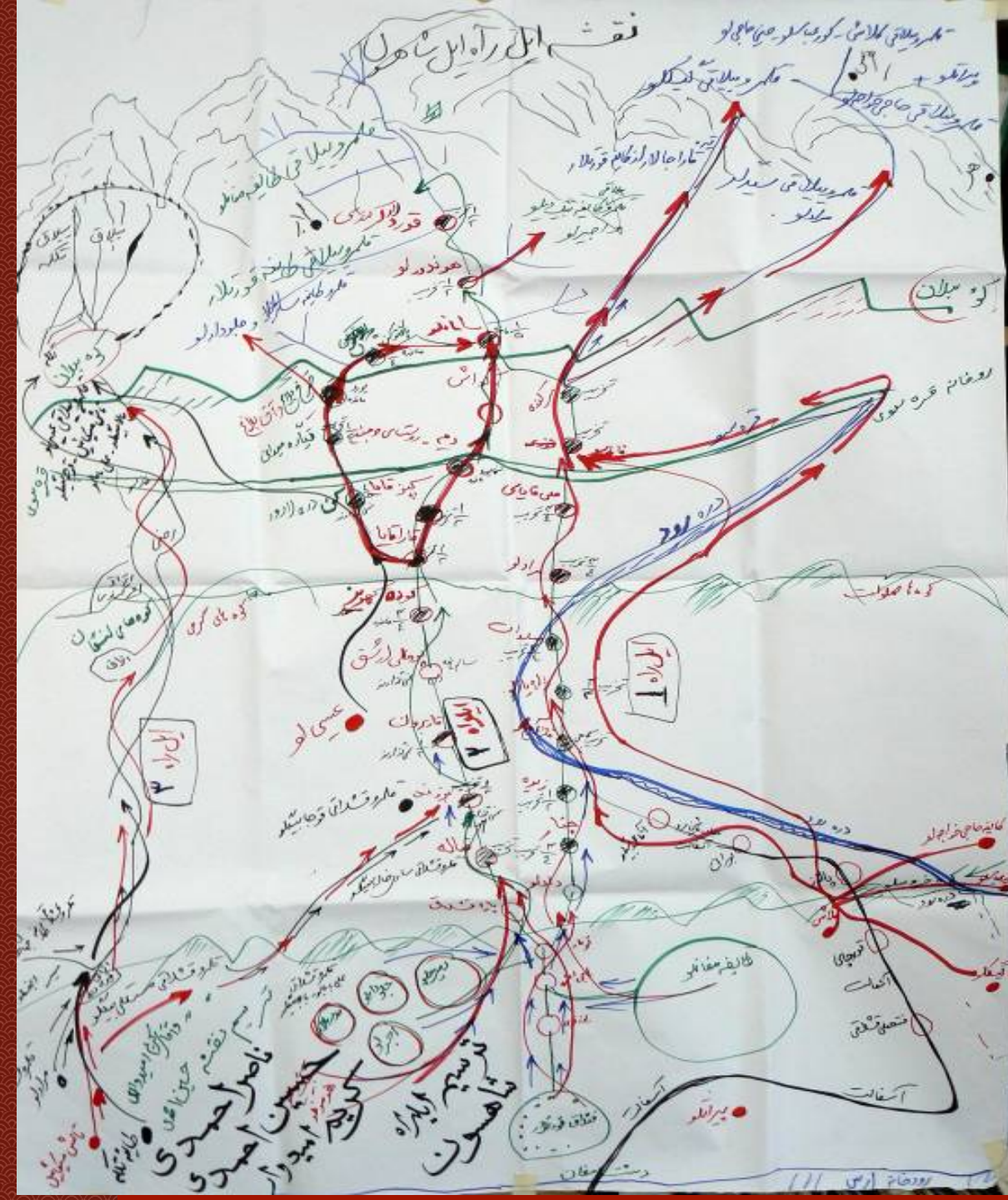
Schematic representation of invasion of community rights over natural resources in indigenous nomadic customary territories





# Participatory hand-drawn map of Shahsevan rangeland by local community members

Despite much destruction of the migratory routes, traditional forms of migration are still practiced, albeit with difficulties





Traditional seasonal migration with lambs and ewes  
*(Courtesy Jalal Sepehri)*



Traditional migration and loading of camels  
(Courtesy Jalal Sepehri)



Loading of livestock and carrying them by means of motorized vehicles

*(Courtesy Abbas Didari)*



Destruction of migratory routes forces pastoralists to use motor vehicles for transporting their cattle  
(*Courtesy Abbas Didari*)





Construction of factories in Nomadic wintering ground  
(Courtesy Jalal Sepehri)



shorn wool in the middle men's market  
(Courtesy Abbas Didari)





Livestock market during the autumn migration  
(Courtesy Jalal Sepehri)



# Bakhtiari Tribal Confederacy

Half way rangelands and summering ground (dedicated ICCA) on Farokh Vand Tribe (Labd Bala Region, Bazoft, Iran)



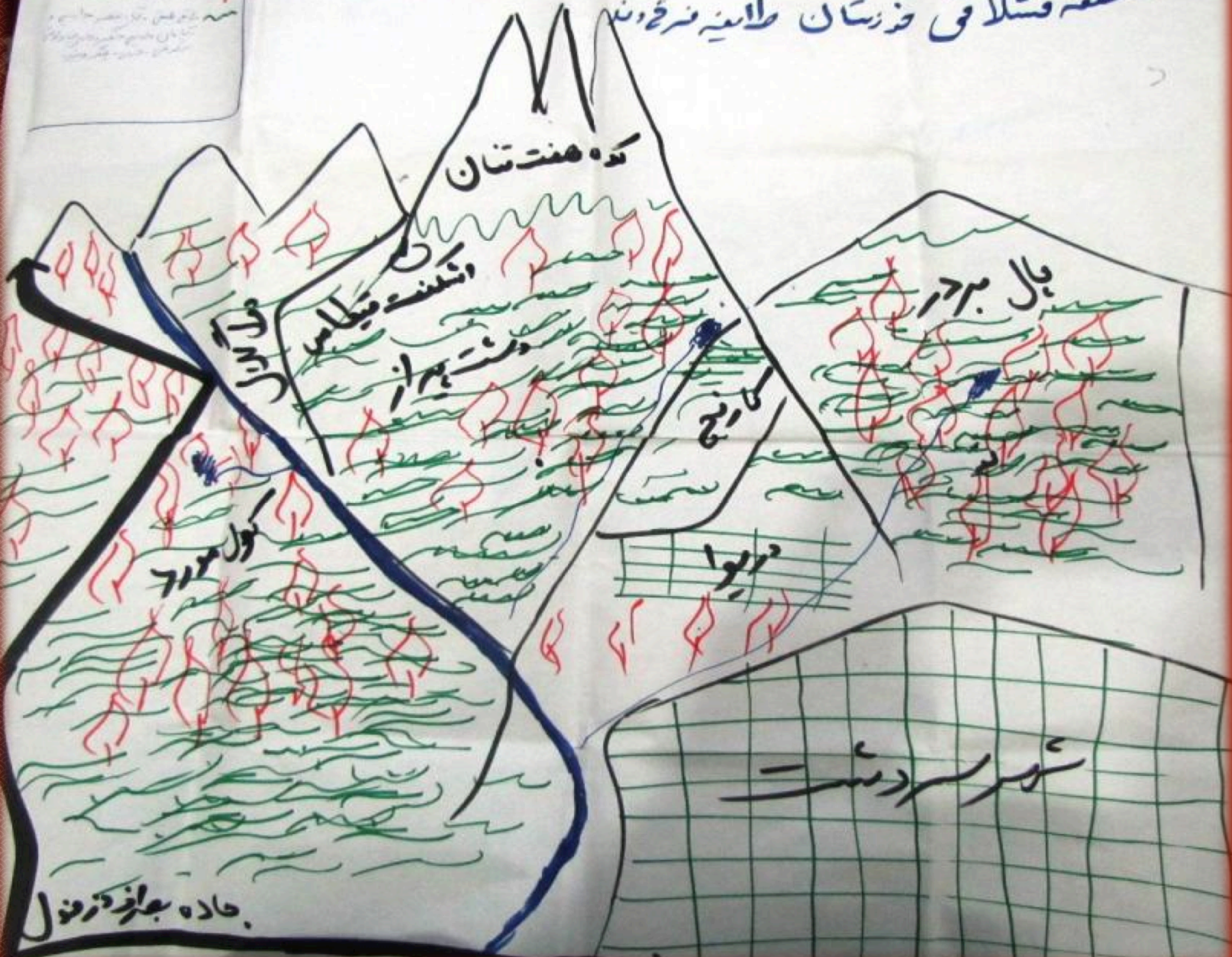
منطقه بیلابنی طایفه فرخ وند استان اصفهان



Summering Ground of Farokh Vand Tribe (Isfahan Province)

Wintering Ground of Farokh Vand  
Tribe (Khuzistan Province)

منطقه قشلاقی خوزستان ولایت فرخوند



کوه هفت تان  
کوه هفت کوه  
کوه هفت کوه  
کوه هفت کوه  
کوه هفت کوه

جاده جازدر فول



# Qashqai Tribal Confederacy









# Participatory Sketch Map of Kushk-e-Zar Wetland (Territory of Kuhi Sub-tribe)



# Participatory Sketch Map of Migration Routes and Territory (Kuhi Sub-tribe, Summering, Wintering and Middle Grounds)





**Mapping customary boundaries with participation of the wetland committee (with help of a GIS expert from Natural Resource Bureau of Eqlid using a GPS device)**



**Kuhi elders examining the maps obtained from Natural Resource Bureau**



Urbanization encroaching on rangelands in migratory routes



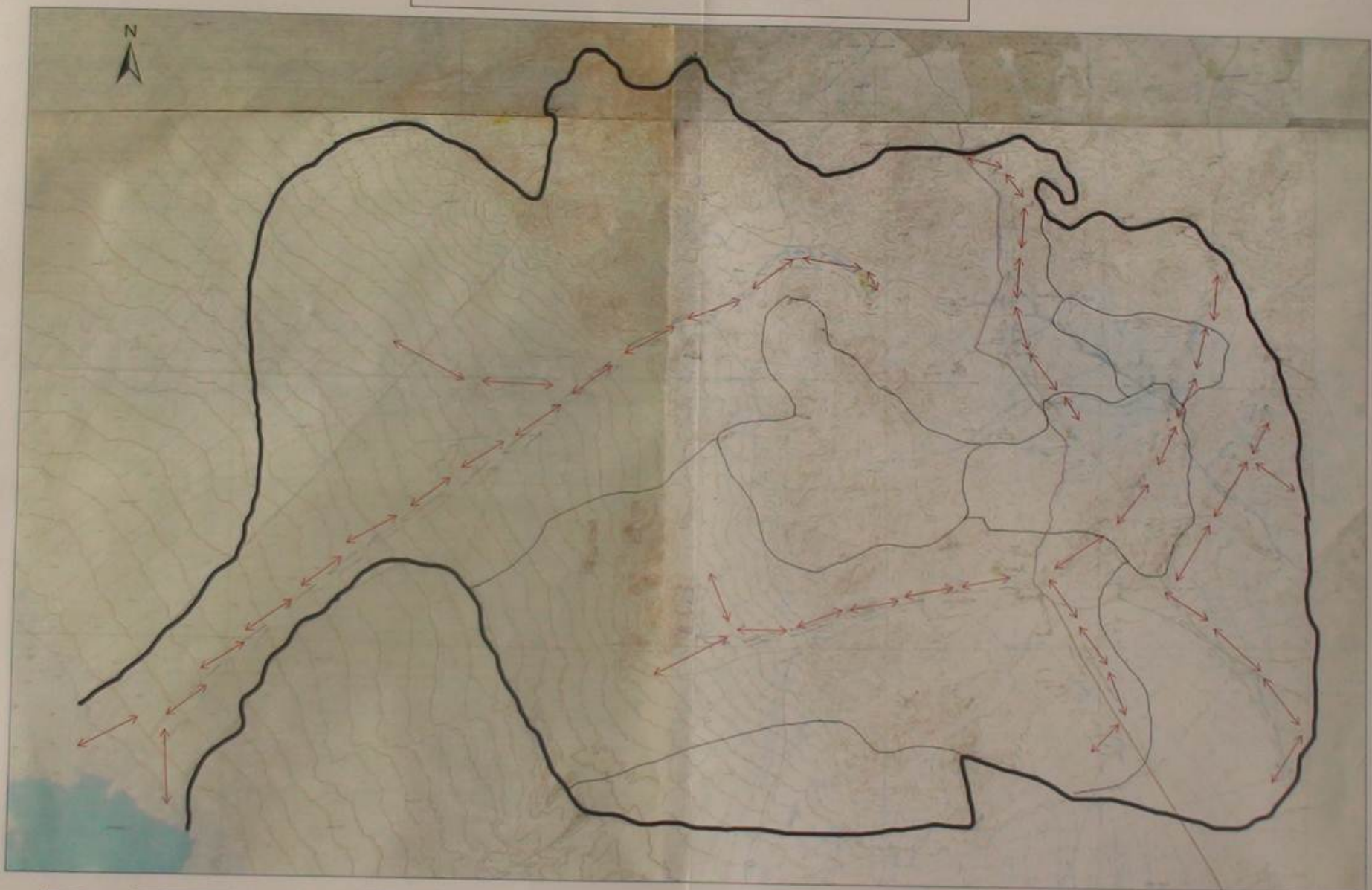
**Presentation and discussion with a board of experts at DoE Fars for recognition of the Kusheh- Zar wetland as an ICCA**






# Abolhasani Tribal Confederacy



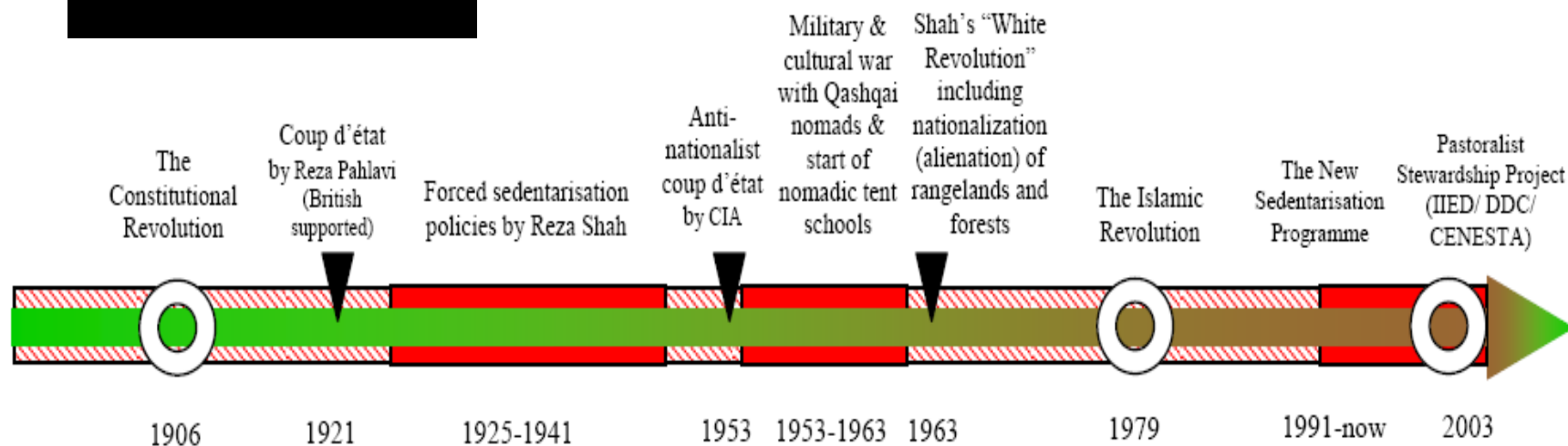
نقشه شماتیک محدوده قلمرو و ایل راه ایل ابوالحسنی



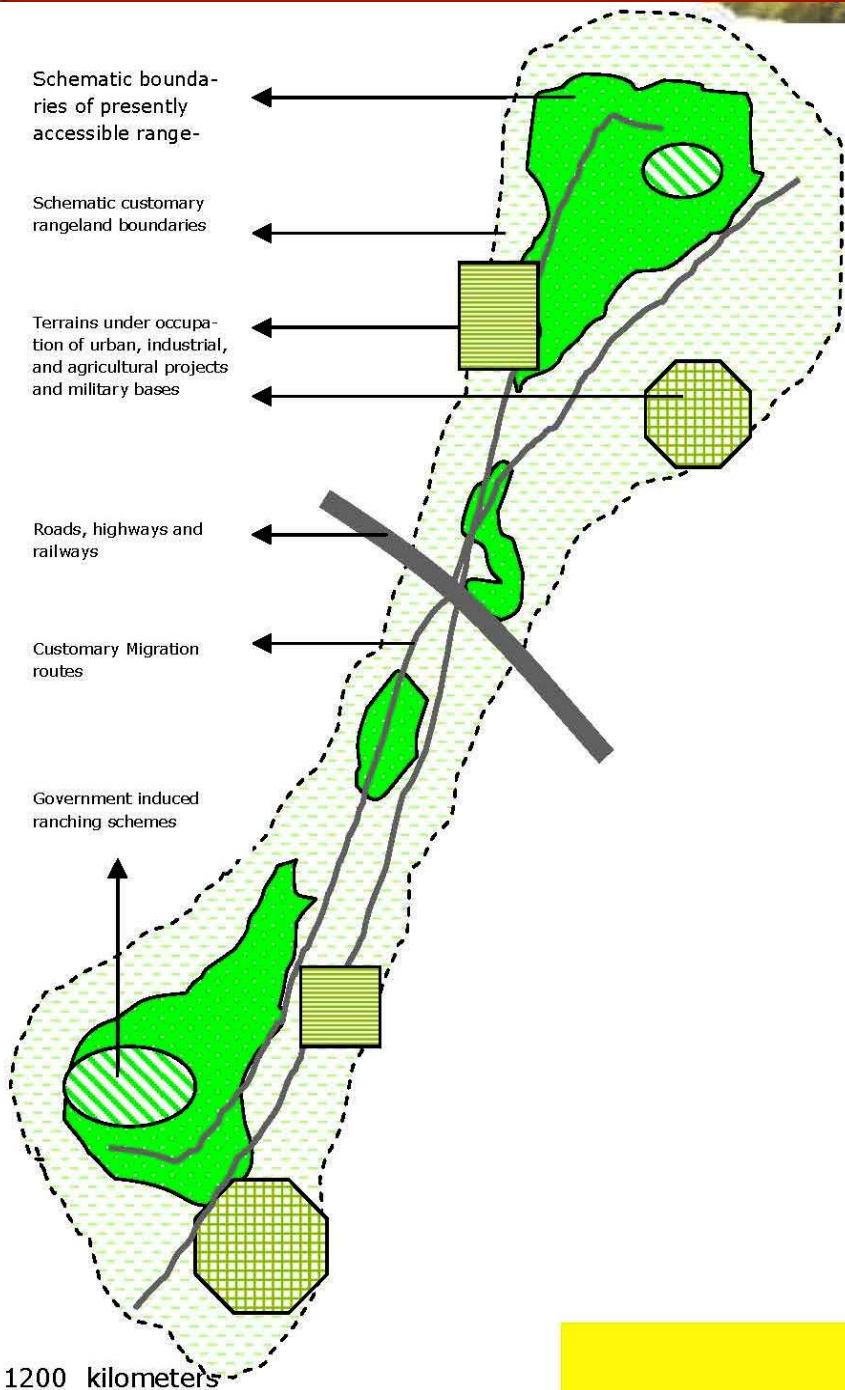
-  محدوده قلمرو
-  محدوده سامان عرف
-  ایل راه

# Changes in governance in the past century

The ancestral territories of indigenous nomadic tribes of Iran have been under attack since the 1920s, when the autocratic father of the Shah of Iran began sedentarisation at gunpoint. His son “nationalised” the territories by decree, and now there is massive land grabbing by both private and public sectors for refineries, factories, military bases, ecotourism and agricultural projects, large dams and roads and state-run “protected areas” ....



*Historic events in Iran affecting nomadic indigenous territories*



**Invasions/threats in wintering grounds:**

- Oil and gas refinery
- Land invasion by settled farmers
- Expansion of urban and rural settlements
- Government induced ranching schemes—privatization of the commons

**Invasions/threats in middling grounds:**

- Factories, e.g., cement plant
- Land invasion by settled farmers and industrial farming
- Allocation of land for urban development
- Orchards obstructing migratory routes
- Military bases
- Road/highways invasion
- Land confiscation for governmental protected areas

**Invasions/threats in summering grounds:**

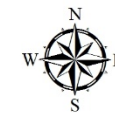
- Land invasion by settled farmers
- Water take-over
- Conversion of wetlands to agricultural lands
- Allocation of pastures to other stake-holders and uses
- Decimation of wildlife and it's habitats



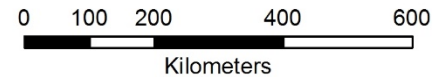
# Map of the 9 territory-based ICCA groupings included in the Action

## Legend

-  Qashqa'i Tribal Confederacy
-  Bakhtiari Tribal Confederacy
-  Kurdish, Laki and Luri Tribes
-  Shahsevan Tribal Confederacy
-  Talesh and Galesh Tribes
-  Kormanj and Turkmen Tribes
-  Central Desert Periphery Tribes
-  Baluch Tribes
-  Marine and Coastal Indigenous Communities
-  Province Boundaries

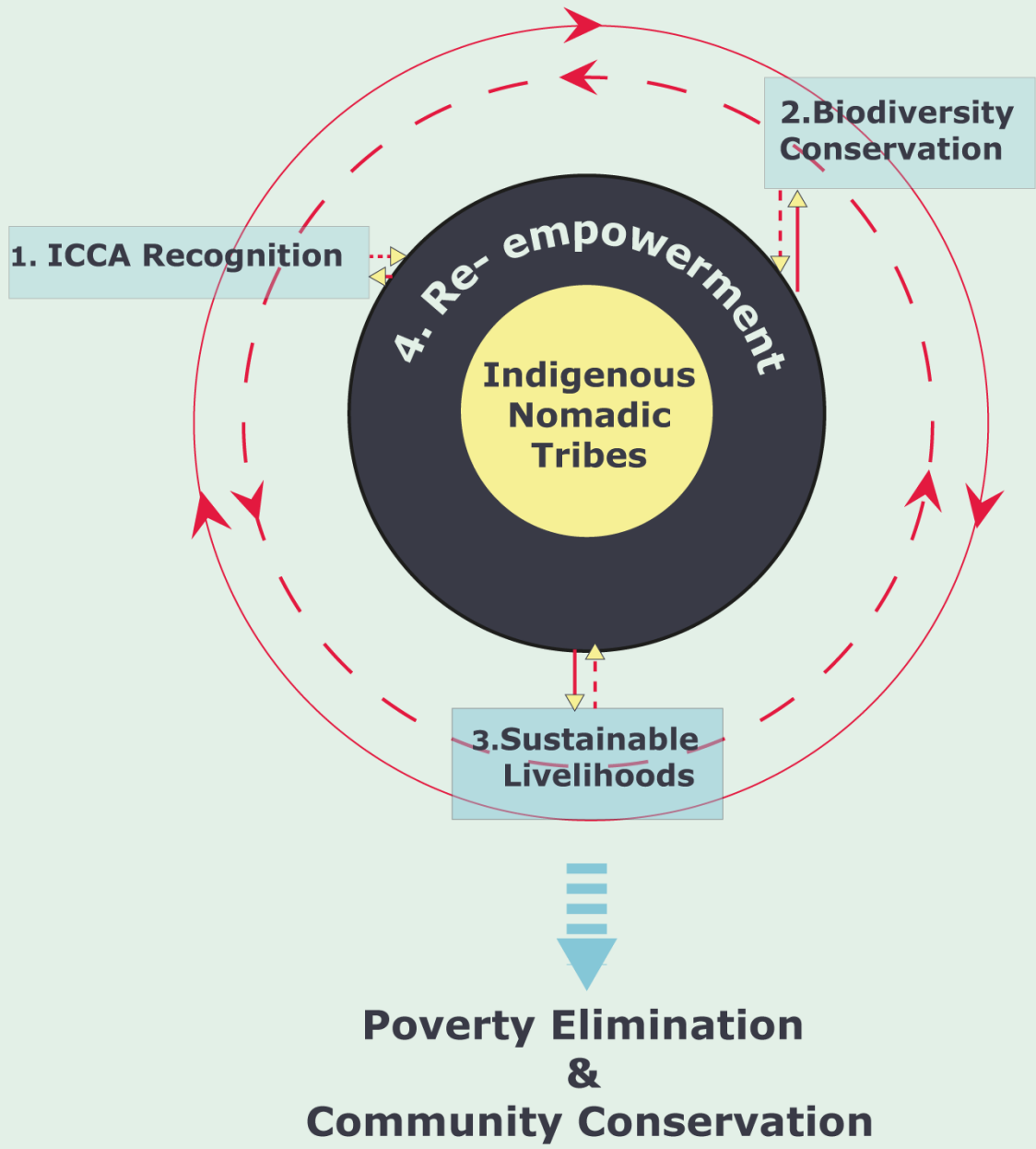


Scale: 1:10,000,000



**Cenesta**  
Centre for Sustainable Development

**UNINOMAD**.iran



Start

Identification and Characterisation of ICCAs



Reports of identified and selected ICCAs



Characterisation report of ICCAs

Community Assessment Preparation Workshop

Ecological assessment

Territorial assessment

Governance assessment

Internal Conservation & Improvement Plan / End

NO

Free Prior and Informed Consent

FPIC

YES



Ecological assessment



Territorial assessment



Governance assessment

3. Biodiversity Conservation

Community ICCA Declaration

Transmit Community Declaration and Community Assessment to UNINOMAD

National Registry of ICCAs of INTs (UNINOMAD)

4. Re-Empowerment

- National ICCA Multitaskholder Support Forum
- ICCA Consortium Website
- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), UNEP
- Department of the Environment (DOE) Aichi Target 11
- Representative of SGP/UNDP/GEF

Documentation of Process

Communication & Dissemination Campaign



The Appropriate ICCA Recognition Process for Iran



UNINOMAD website



Start

### Ecological assessment

Participatory training and planning workshop

- Preparing CBRs for:
- Wild animals
  - Wild flora
  - Cultivated plants
  - Livestock

Identification & assessment of endangered wild & domesticated biodiversity and unrecognised species

Recognition process for unrecognised species

Participatory herbarium collection and research

Natural tribal herbarium and museum of natural history

Elaborating IK based biodiversity status indicators

Indigenous knowledge and Practices (IKP)

Modern Knowledge

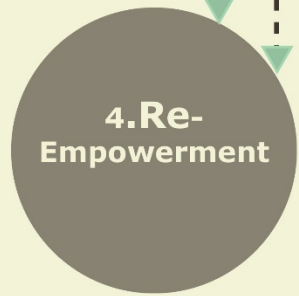
Preparing CBPs for **ABS** (Access and Benefit Sharing)

Preparing **biodiversity conservation plan:**  
Preservation  
Sustainable use  
Restoration

Collection and analysis of community conservation plans for endangered biodiversity resources (Ecosystems, species and genetic resources)

Action plan for conservation & restoration of endangered livestock & crops

Biodiversity conservation plan for wild flora and fauna



Articles, Booklets and Multimedia Reports

UNI NOMAD + CENESTA

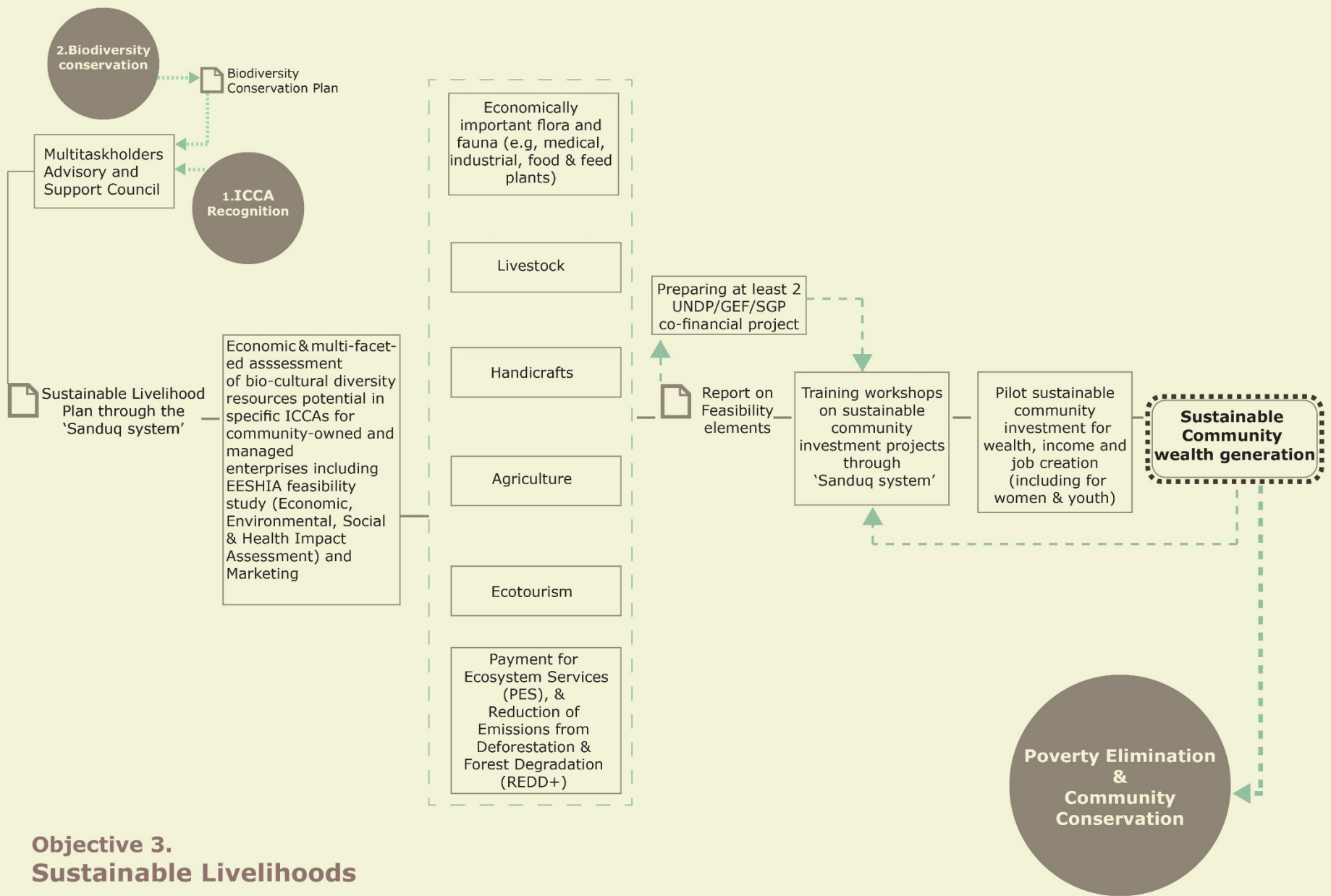
National Community Bio-cultural diversity Protocols (NCBP)

National; Negotiation with government authorities for advocacy and lobbying to influence: Policies Laws Practices

Policy documents and Newsletters

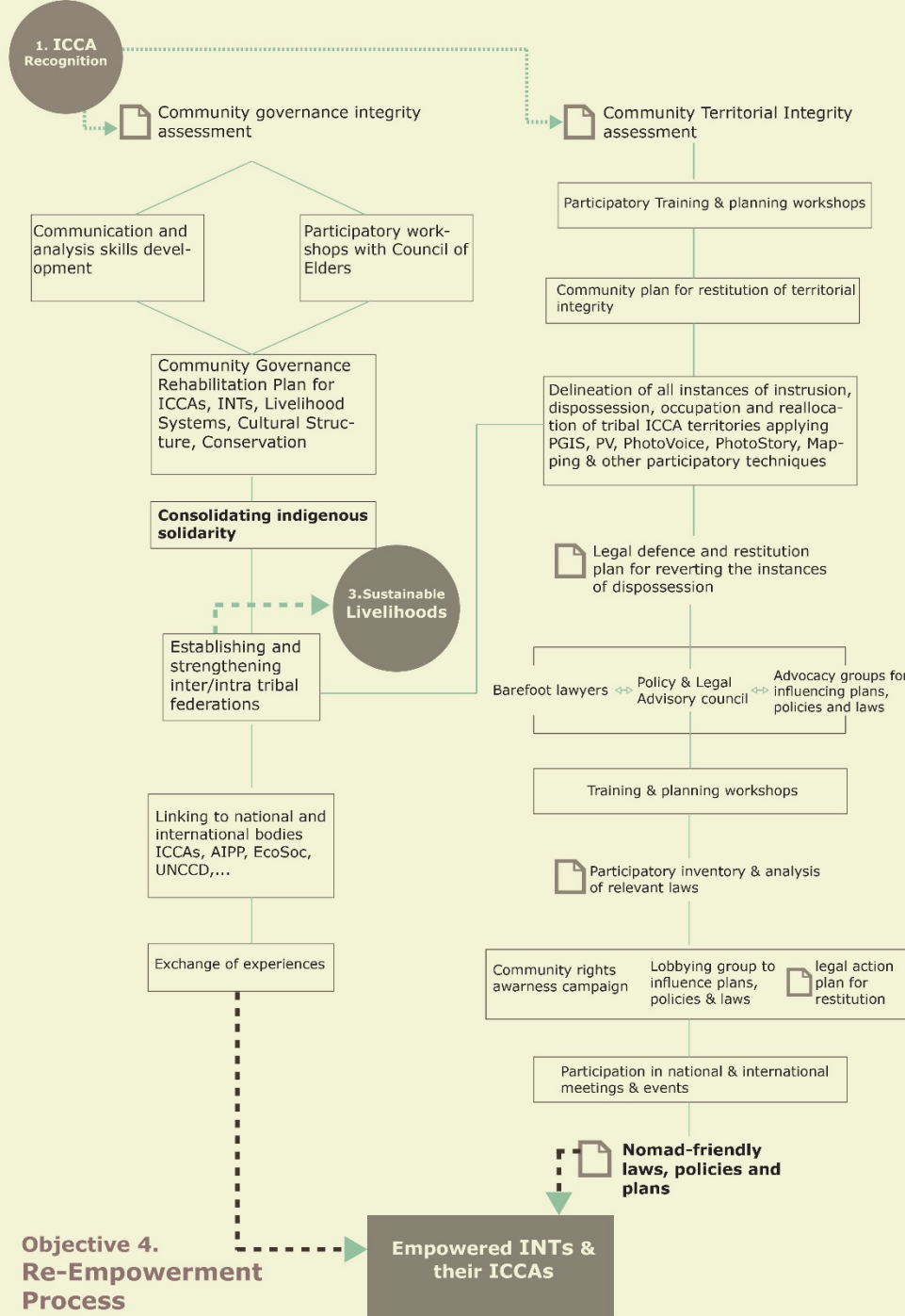
International; Sharing community experiences with other countries

## Objective 2. Biodiversity Conservation Process



**Objective 3.  
Sustainable Livelihoods**





# Delineating ancestral territories to restore customary governance systems







# Many thanks for your patience and sustained attention !



**NATURAL JUSTICE**



**SACRED NATURAL SITES**



**TAFO MIHAAVO**



...and please contact us:



# [www.ICCAconsortium.org](http://www.ICCAconsortium.org)

**The ICCA Consortium**



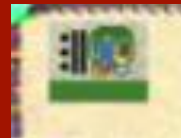
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**ICCA Network Nepal**



**KEREIMBAS**

