https://kayhanlife.com/society/environment/tehran-abstains-on-un-resolution-on-the-right-to-a-clean-environment/

It is a general consensus among Environmental/conservation activists in Iran, including government and non-government entities, that, the country is facing an unprecedented environmental crisis. The country is facing declining water resources, rapid deforestation, desertification, overgrazing of grassland, and urban pollution, which is affecting the health and quality of life of millions living in major cities in the country.

What make us more worried is that the state and its various bodies/ clients in Iran are part of the problem not the solution when it comes in dealing with the country environmental crisis. As it is explained in further details in , the state (in and different forms (Parliament members, Judiciary, the government, appointees by the supreme leader and their extended family members)

What we understand from academic books in politics, …. and as the experience of democratically run countries demonstrate, governance means exercising political, economic and administrative power to run the affairs of the country at all levels. Good governance has characteristics such as public participation, law-oriented, sufficient transparency, government accountability, wise decision-making and visionary outlook, and ultimately, it will lead to a proper and excellent relationship between the government and the people. When people feel that the country belongs to them and that they are the main owners of their own resources, they will use the resources in a more favourable way (conservative manner) and consider the future. Having a sense of social belonging also makes people feel that they have enough power to solve the problems of their society

In case of Islamic Republic of Iran, however, none of the above is currently in place/present/ in Iran. As we witness during every general election in Iran, the gap between ordinary people and the state widens. In fact, a new political reality/entity has entered into daily life of ordinary Iranians over the past twenty odd years and its impact and influence on their life continues to grow/increase as year passes. The new political reality/entity is … Within this entity another one was born/created which is the most powerful decision making apparatus in the country and does not response to any There is no accountability and no transparency It is called Baytt-e Rahabari (which is translated as which is translated as House of (Supreme) Leader.

 However, Iran scored lower than Saudi Arabia in the 2021 [Democracy Index](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy_Index).[[1]](#footnote-1)

There are well ample/abundant cases confirming/indicating that individuals or groups with decision making power (those with influence in policy making apparatus) and those with link to the state have been causing serious, and sometimes, irreversible damages to the natural biodiversity and wildlife in the country. Individuals with link, usually family link, to those in power /key positions, posts in government or /state/ have found free hand

We believe that Iran, similar to any other country, has the right to pursue research and development under the Non-Pro (NPT). We also believe the country has the right to promote its defence capability to protect people against any foreign threat. Having said that, the two above stated issues do not give carte blanche to policy makers and decision makers in Iran to undermine

The country’s [waterways are withering away](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/drought-climate-change-turn-iran-sistan-and-baluchestan-into-dust-bowl), in no small part because neither conservationists nor campaigners dare voice their concerns about the environment for fear of retribution.

wildlife conservation.

Amid a brutal eight-year war with Saddam Hussein’s Iraq, which devastated the biodiverse-rich border and led to the conscription of park rangers, conservationism slipped so far off the agenda that although the DoE survived the revolution, its first post-war head was told to shut it down.

A new and aggressive surge in development followed. Scores of dams were built on almost every river. Thousands of miles of highways were laid through almost every habitat. Unsurprisingly, there was little space for environmentalists in the new Iran. Even now, experts say the consequences of that period affect the conservation community.

With the natural landscape increasingly fragmented by development, protests over environmental issues began to proliferate, fueling furious security responses. In one instance in 2011, police [arrested hundreds](https://www.hrw.org/news/2011/09/10/iran-allow-peaceful-protests-over-lakes-destruction)of demonstrators as they campaigned for a reversal of the development policies that they said had destroyed [Iran’s biggest lake](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/why-giant-green-lake-turned-blood-red-iran-algae). “Lake Urmia is dying, and parliament ordered its death,” one protest slogan went.

There might be worse to come. Intensifying climate stresses, degraded soils, and rampant water mismanagement resulting in shortages have fueled rural unrest, which has focused the attention of security forces on environmental groups they’d previously ignored.

Few Iranians expect these conditions to let up any time soon. Everything from Tehran’s water quality to major river levels is effectively a state secret, dashing the hopes of independent water experts who might be able to alleviate the country’s deepening environmental crises.

As one of the richest biodiversity hotspots in the region, Iran’s unique species are disappearing in a hurry, according to BirdLife International. Many of its prized birds, such as Armenian gulls and [Siberian cranes](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/feb/25/one-million-birds-killed-illegally-iran-wetland-wildlife-site#:~:text=A%20million%20wild%20birds%20a,unless%20urgent%20action%20is%20taken.), are struggling due to habitat loss and illegal hunting—as are its Caspian seals, Persian fallow deer, and Persian leopards. [Iran’s Asiatic cheetahs, the last cheetahs](https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2012/10/25/finding-the-last-cheetahs-of-iran/) outside of Africa, are down to a few dozen animals.

Examples of such

It is only from time to time that one can hear the official admission to the extent of damage and destruction to the wild life and natural habitat when

Equally important, this is well understood among ordinary people that, when the news outlets affiliate with the state/establishment, one officials complaints about the irregularities and damage to the national habitat and wildlife the goal is only part of bipartisan rivalry and personal grudge against other factions and groups

~~What is However, what those activists and organisations in Iran cannot say or do not dare to say, for the fear of persecution,~~

Hashemi Rafsanjani the term National Security was invented to challenge and to silence those raising the problems with environment

Giving licence to Chinese Trawlers

Friday Prayer Imam appointed by the supreme leader is a share holder to the wood factory in Northern province of

The individuals serving the state currently or in the past

Villas in Lavasan, Villas in middle of jungle/forest,

Digging and removing fertile soils9

In fact, the country has a non-functioning judiciary system. The judiciary is simply ignoring In fact, the judiciary actively pursue and punish those who below the whistle on

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Amendments regarding the transfer of government economic enterprises to the non-governmental sector in the form of principles 43 and 44 of the Constitution, revision and reengineering of the structure of the Environmental Protection Organization with the aim of strengthening its governance functions and delegating affairs to the non-governmental sector such as NGOs and environmental cooperatives have been proposed.

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In recent years, in the form of approved laws, executive bodies have been required to comply with environmental considerations. Measures have been taken in this regard, but it does not seem to be sufficient in order to realize the existing plans, and it is necessary to put more effective measures in this regard, especially by emphasizing the role of the government regarding the units under its ownership as a source of pollution. . For this reason, the role of the government in Iran's existing environmental challenges is the subject of this research. In the above framework, the relative share of government agencies in environmental pollution has been discussed and it has been observed that in the total of industrial, agricultural, domestic, commercial and public activities, transportation and power plants, the contribution of government units in the production of pollution is significant.

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The government's track record in protecting the environment is weak. It can be said that all governments have failed in environmental protection and the importance of sustainable development and environmental assessment in projects. Governments are no different in facing the environment. The reason why in Hashemi, Khatami or Mir Hossein Mousavi's government, we have dealt with these issues related to the environment less is that there was no media and no social networks at that time, and basically there was no public knowledge of the environment. The sensitivities had not increased and the destructions had not yet shown themselves. Karun was of good quality at that time, there were Bakhtegans, cows were alive and Hamon was full of water, the forests had not all started to be destroyed, the pollution had not reached this level, and the pollen had not overflowed. The managers thought that the capacity of the country would allow this to happen and the issue of climate change had not been taken seriously yet.

The confrontation between the government's executive and structural body with the body of experts and civil environmental activists that is now showing itself is the product of the boredom and ignorance of the managers who are active in the management of institutions related to environmental issues. Well, in this situation, how should other institutions be expected to endure environmental civil actions? There is no tolerance to hear the dissenting voice anymore. High pressures and continuous meetings and exhaustion of managers and political and security conflicts and of course the pressure of sanctions and economic problems have caused excuses for neglecting the environment and even dealing with environmental organizations and activists in this area, but unfortunately What is being lost in the middle of this confrontation is vital resources and biodiversity and public sensitivity in this land.

Urban areas are facing a range of environmental health challenges including **contamination of air, water and soil**. Sprawling urban areas contribute to traffic congestion, with associated air pollution, noise and long commuting times affecting public health and productivity across the world.

Individual environmentalists living in Iran,

To identify or to know the environmental challenges Iran is facing depends on where you live, inside the country or outside the country. Those who live on both sides of the border would argue that Iran is facing number of environmental challenges. Climate change is the big environmental problem that humanity will face over the next decade, but it isn't the only one. There are other challenges such as water shortages, loss of biodiversity, waste management and urban pollution.

However, the state and its are another element that seriously threatening the environment.

In discussing each environmental challenges, we identify how the state has failed to fulfil its responsibility and in fact contributes to worsening the situation.

**~~Materials for Home Page~~**

~~https://www.iberdrola.com/sustainability/most-important-environmental-issues~~

~~environmental challenges we have ahead of us, set out in the~~[~~UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,~~](https://www.iberdrola.com/sustainability/committed-sustainable-development-goals/what-is-agenda-2030)~~are many. This global plan of action adopted in 2015 puts forward specific measures to achieve~~**~~a world that is fairer, more prosperous and more respectful of the environment~~**~~within ten years.~~

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILITY

The [growth of cities](https://www.iberdrola.com/environment/megacities-urban-area), which will need to accommodate around 5 billion people by 2030, will be another of the decade's big environmental challenges. The [metropolises of the future](https://www.iberdrola.com/social-commitment/new-urban-agenda) will need to be compact, safe, inclusive, ecological and energy efficient, with more [green spaces](https://www.iberdrola.com/environment/urban-park), more environmentally friendly buildings and [more sustainable methods of transport](https://www.iberdrola.com/innovation/electric-bikes) which put the needs of pedestrians above those of traffic.

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POLLUTION PROBLEMS AND THEIR EFFECT ON HEALTH

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 90% of humanity breathes polluted air, so is calling for a reduction in air pollution to cut rates of respiratory illnesses, thus preventing seven million deaths a year. Contaminated water also causes major health problems and five million deaths a year according to Oxfam Intermón. The UN advocates eliminating dumping, minimising the use of chemicals and treating more wastewater, among other measures.

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Human ecological footprint

Ecological footprint means the effect or burden imposed by humans or humans on the planet. For example, the ecological footprint of a city means the burden imposed by that city on the environment, to meet needs such as raw materials, water and energy. As the human footprint increases from the amount of renewable biological capacity, it goes towards unsustainability. In fact, humans are putting pressure on the earth both by consuming resources and by polluting the earth with waste materials, which has been increasing drastically in recent decades.

In order to preserve the environment, compliance with the four principles of minimizing the consumption of non-renewable natural resources, sustainable consumption of renewable natural resources, controlling the production of pollution and waste to the extent of local and global absorption capacity and providing the basic human and social needs and providing a suitable environment for future generations are mandatory. Is.

Ecological foot print

* Environmental impact of agriculture (Environmental impact of irrigation and Environmental impact of pesticides)
* Environmental impact of the energy industry
* Environmental impact of fishing
* Environmental impact of mining
* Environmental impact of city expansion

1. ["Democracy Index 2021: the China challenge"](https://pages.eiu.com/rs/753-RIQ-438/images/eiu-democracy-index-2021.pdf?mkt_tok=NzUzLVJJUS00MzgAAAGDWhBlxfqM9cMZEewC0HoBG0xhm9PFkxb-_IqDsjlxRZgDssKgB0pHGt7yS48UFv94hU4ZW0C_jXaFfmK_5TbL23wtQarQv22nFbg8ZTnHQrrcPg) (PDF). *Economist Intelligence Unit*. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)