

Determination of intensity and socio-economic natural resources degradation factors in Iran territory

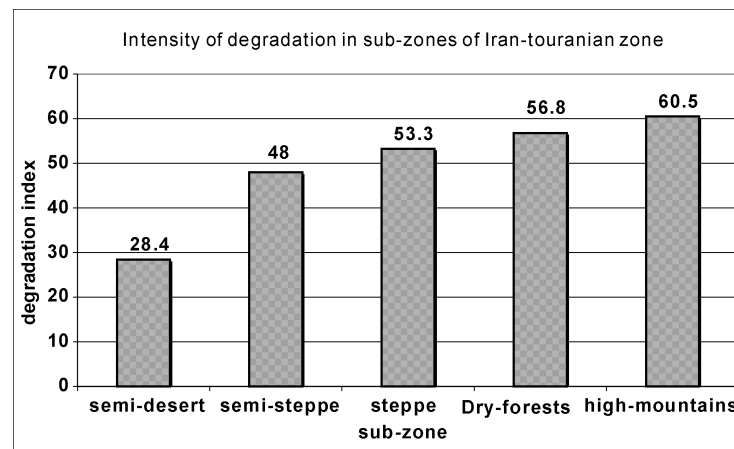
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Introduction The most important problem of natural resources of Iran is degradation ,in recent decades (N .Ansari *et al* .2007) . The objective of this research was to determine the degradation intensity and socio-economic factors that lead to this situation .

Material and methods In 11 selected provinces ,distributed in 3 main zones of Harry Pabbot's climatic zones of Iran ,131 sample areas were chosen . In these sample areas questionnaires were completed and analyzed for 487village and nomad settlements ,1847 families and 504 experts .

Results Degradation intensity showed an increasing trend ,from the semi-desert zone toward semi-steppe , steppe , dry forests and high mountains sub zones of Iran-touranian zone .



Moreover ,19 socio-economic factors were the most important and effective factors related to natural resources degradation in Iran . These factors were divided into three groups including animal and animal husbandry ,cutting and harvesting and land use changes . Stakeholders suggested animal and animal husbandry accounted for 47 .2% ,cutting and harvesting 16 .9% and land use changing 35 .9% natural resource degradation . In contrast , experts suggested 43 .3% was due to animals and animal husbandry ,24 .3% to cutting and harvesting , and 32 .4% to land use changes . Mean of these two sources indicated that the most effective group in natural resources degradation was animal and animal husbandry with 45 .9% . Cutting and harvesting group with 33 .5% was second and land use changes was third with 20 .6% is .

Conclusion The most important factor in natural resources degradation is the animal and animal husbandry group , which includes increases in livestock and herder numbers ,premature grazing ,over grazing and competition between stakeholders . So , in the natural resources policy making , animal husbandry must be the basis for decision making by the government .

References

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