

# Natural Environment in Iran - Overview

## Iran's Natural Environment

Iran is a diverse country in terms of natural landscapes, ecosystems, and climate zones. The geography of Iran includes deserts, mountains, forests, and coastal regions, each supporting unique flora and fauna. This document covers key aspects of Iran's natural environment, highlighting the various ecosystems, climatic conditions, and conservation challenges.

### 1. Geographical Location:

- Iran is located in the Middle East, bordered by the Caspian Sea to the north and the Persian Gulf to the south.
- Its landscape includes mountain ranges, such as the Zagros and Alborz mountains, as well as large desert areas.

### 2. Climate Zones:

- Iran experiences a wide range of climates, from arid and semi-arid conditions in central deserts to humid and temperate climates along the Caspian Sea coast.

### 3. Biodiversity:

- Iran is home to a diverse range of plant and animal species, including the Persian leopard, Caspian seals, and a variety of migratory birds.

This document aims to provide insights into Iran's natural environment for educational and research purposes.

# Iran's Forests and Mountain Ecosystems

## Forests and Mountain Ecosystems in Iran

### 1. Caspian Hyrcanian Mixed Forests:

- Located along the Caspian Sea coast, these ancient forests are known for their rich biodiversity.
- They contain species such as beech, oak, and elm trees, as well as diverse animal life.

### 2. Zagros Mountains:

- The Zagros mountain range spans from northwest to southeast Iran, providing a habitat for wild goats, brown bears, and many bird species.
- This region is significant for its biodiversity, including many plant species found only in Iran.

### 3. Alborz Mountains:

- These mountains include the highest peak in Iran, Mount Damavand.
- They support alpine vegetation and unique animal species adapted to high altitudes.

Forests and mountainous areas are important for biodiversity conservation in Iran, offering a range of habitats and supporting several endangered species.

# Deserts and Coastal Ecosystems of Iran

## Deserts and Coastal Ecosystems in Iran

### 1. Central Deserts (Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut):

- The Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut are Iran's two largest deserts, characterized by extreme arid conditions.
- These deserts support hardy plant species and animals adapted to harsh conditions, like camels, gazelles, and sand cats.

### 2. Coastal Ecosystems:

- Iran's coastlines along the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea feature marine and coastal biodiversity.
- The Persian Gulf is rich in coral reefs, mangroves, and fish species, whereas the Caspian Sea supports species like the Caspian seal and sturgeons.

### 3. Environmental Challenges:

- Desertification, habitat loss, and climate change pose serious challenges to Iran's natural environment.
- Efforts are underway to combat these issues through national conservation programs and international cooperation.