

4aj # ۴, Stricter laws in Iran for environmental protection

In January 2017, parliament approved bills mandating the administration to ensure the implementation of strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments, within the framework of the *Si h National Development Plan* (2017–2021).

The law tasks the administration with monitoring waste management projects on beaches, marine environments, forests and plains. 'Green' management methods are to be introduced by the public administration and external organizations in Iran.

The law prohibits any exploitation of forests for commercial and industrial purposes after current contracts expire in 2020. The administration must allocate a budget to cover the cost of shifting from logging to importing wood products.

The law calls for setting up wastewater treatment plants and conducting water reclamation projects, as well as managing industrial and household wastewater. By 2021, at least 20% of waste is to be disposed of each year in an environmentally friendly way.

The law also stipulates that 20% of endangered wetlands must be restored

by 2021, particularly those listed under the Ramsar Convention.

Medicinal herb-farming is also to be developed over 250 000 hectares by 2021.

A comprehensive plan is to be drawn up by 2018 to cope with sand and dust storms.

Some 10% of gas-powered motorcycles are to be replaced each year with electric ones.

Source: *Tehran Times* (2017)