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Local people perspectives about effects on degradation of Mangrove forests
– case study: Nayband National Marine Park, Iran

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Key words: Mangrove forests, Nayband Park, Local utilization, Local people's participation.

Abstract: Nowadays, with regard to sustainability, there is increasing recognition that meaningful local participation is essential for the success of development programs focusing on natural resources such as forest, rangeland, soil or water. But in a real participative development process, performance is ensured by the identification of each partner's needs, commitment to a common set of goals and means and a set procedure. Reconciling possible disagreement could help with compliance to the contract. Participants do not necessarily agree on all matters. But with respect to those considered important by all concerned to fulfill common needs and with regard to the recognition of local people's needs, the aim of our research was to inspect and determine the factors of local people's success in participative development of mangrove forests. Mangrove forests are a main local natural resource utilized by local people in several forms, in the Nayband National Marine Park (south of Iran). Therefore recognition of views of local people about the best procedures of their participation in mangrove's development projects or programs is essential. The research follows a descriptive methodology (survey research). After a first participative visit to explore the research situation (Nayband National Marine Park) and a literature review, a semi-structured questionnaire has been designed and its Cronbach Alpha determined at 82% (questionnaire's reliability). Also field observation data and discussions were noted. After data coding and reduction processing was done using SPSS software. Based on this research, it is suggested:

Paying attention to the former and existing Participative Structure of local people;

Paying attention to rural livelihood activities such as agriculture and animal husbandry and their effects on mangroves;

Considering the education and extension needs of local people and trying to meet their needs;
Reinforcing institutional relationships with Islamic councils as creditable and participation attractive institutions;

Considering how to continue with rural people participation;

Reinforcing governmental organizations' contribution with rural people and organizations;

Working for a positive attitude of local people to mangrove forests development.

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