

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

The Integrated Catchment
Assessment and Management
Centre of the Fenner School of
Environment and Society, Australian
National University

and

International Scientific Cooperation
Office, Gorgan University of
Agricultural Sciences and Natural
Resources, Gorgan, Iran

December 2008

1. Background

The Integrated Catchment Assessment and Management Centre (iCAM) is a team of researchers at the Australian National University, specialising in integrated environmental modelling and integrated assessment theory and practice. Its approach to research, while rigorous and innovative, is practical and informed by activities that are project-focused, client-driven and stakeholder-aware. The Centre has core expertise in integrated catchment assessment and management and produces decision support and other software tools. In addition to an extensive projects portfolio, the Centre has a strong under- and post-graduate teaching and supervision programme, focussed on environmental modelling and integrated assessment. The Centre is located within The Fenner School of Environment and Society in the College of Medicine, Biology and Environment of the Australian National University, with strong linkages with the Department of Mathematics of the same university.

Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (GUASNR) is one of the most important specialized universities in Iran located in Golestan Province in the north of the country. There are four faculties conducting BA, BSc, MSc, PhD programs. GUASNR has approximately 200 academic staff who perform teaching and research activities in numerous and various fields. Developing interdisciplinary research has high importance among the university's interests and policies. The existence of academics who have been educated or have experience and interest in agricultural and natural resource studies pave the way to achieve this aim.

2. Objectives

This Agreement outlines a programme of cooperation between iCAM and GUASNR, with the overall aims of:

- * Promoting research and teaching excellence in fields of common interest including watershed science and management and integrated assessment.
- * Facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise between researchers of iCAM and GUASNR and the wider academic community.
- * Fostering active cooperation between Iranian and Australian scholars committed to the study of watershed science and management and between the universities and nations to which they belong.

3. Specific programmes of cooperation and exchange of expertise

GUASNR and iCAM will over time pursue a range of cooperative programmes and joint ventures designed to promote the objectives of this memorandum. These may include:

- * Delivery of workshops and seminars by visiting scientists at both institutions.
- * Joint research projects into topics of mutual interest.
- * Joint publication of research papers and other scientific publications.
- * Developing interdisciplinary teaching programmes and similar activities.

4. Conditions

With effect from January 1, 2009, this Agreement shall extend for an initial period of five years. Extensions of the Agreement beyond five years will be possible if all parties so agree. If any party should wish to terminate the Agreement, it shall give three months advance notice to the other party.

GUASNR will guarantee to cover the financial and material needs of its personnel who participate in this agreement. There will be no financial obligation on the part of iCAM as a result of this Agreement, other than what may be volunteered and specified in writing by iCAM in association with a specific project or programme.

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Research proposals and programme plans that come under this Agreement of cooperation will be reviewed and authorised separately by the Director of iCAM and the Director of the Office of International Scientific Cooperation of GUASNR.

The following signatories as representatives of GUASNR and iCAM agree to the four sections of this memorandum. Four identical copies are in existence.

B. Dastar
..... dated *20/12/08*
Behrouz Dastar (PhD, Associate Professor)
Director, International Scientific Cooperation Office
Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

A. Sadoddi
..... dated *20/12/2008*
Amir Sadoddin (PhD, Assistant Professor)
Dean, Faculty of Rangeland and Watershed Management
Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

L. Newham
..... dated *20/12/08*
Lachlan Newham (PhD)
Research Fellow, Integrated Catchment Assessment and Management Centre
Fenner School of Environment and Society
The Australian National University

..... dated ..
Anthony Jakeman (PhD, Professor)
Director, Integrated Catchment Assessment and Management Centre
Fenner School of Environment and Society
The Australian National University