

Iran: 95% Of Lake Urmia Has Dried Up

My issue is still about the intentional drying of Lake Urmia by the Republic of Iran. Lake Urmia in north western Iran it was the largest saltwater lake in the world. In 1978, UNESCO registered Lake Urmia and its ecosystem among the world's natural and protected monuments.

So The Urmia Lake is located between West Azerbaijan and East Azerbaijan in Iran

Today the live of Some 14 million Azerbaijanis form the at-risk population in the immediate vicinity of Lake Urmia with large populations in Tabriz and Urmia.

The construction of 40 dams on 21 rivers feeding Lake Urmia has played an important role in the drying up of the once flourishing lake. The Republic Islamic of Iran have planned the death of the lake by indiscriminately building numerous dams and deep wells, creating a bypass road on the lake, and polluting it with industrial wastes.

The Director General of Crisis Management of West Azarbaijan Province, said recently that 95% of the water in Lake Urmia had dried up and said that this was unprecedented in the last two decades and that the height of this lake has decreased by an average of 40 cm every year.

According to Issa Kalantari, the director of the environmental protection organization and the director of lake restoration, the drying up of Urmia Lake is 18 percent caused by drought and 82 percent by humans, and it is due to the lack of water management in Iran.

In the last years, there has been no shortage of superficial statements of concern, national and provincial plans, speeches and promises, etc., to solve the Lake Urmia crisis, but none of them were implemented. What is certain is that this beautiful lake is not far from certain death. The drying up of Lake Urmia, in addition to having been a full-scale environmental disaster, has also led to a human, social and economic crisis because it has destroyed livestock, agriculture, and tourism in the surrounding provinces.

Interestingly, the fossils of 47 species of living organisms have been recorded in the area of Lake Urmia so far. This means that this part of Azerbaijan in Iran has always been an important point for the migration of birds and animals. Lake Urmia is home to a crustacean named Artemia, a food source for many migratory birds, especially flamingos. Urmia Artemia has a beautiful pink color; feeding on it makes flamingos have pink feathers. With all its unique features, Lake Urmia is facing destruction due to the greed and the negligence of the authorities, and this historical lake is drying up and turning into dry salt lands at a very fast rate.

A society that does not support and preserve its natural resources and ecosystem is doomed to prepare itself for self-destruction. Human life sustainability is in close connection with nature and all its resources, and any damage or major deterrence to nature will inevitably be a blow to human life. The Islamic Republic of Iran caused destruction due to lack of management, the country has been deprived of many of its human potential and natural resources. Contrary to some views, the issue of the ecosystem is not secondary and lateral but fundamental and essential, and the current destruction of natural resources in Iran is irreparable. Based on their ideological, political, and economic visions, Iran's authorities have shown that they are against the preservation of the environment.

There is a huge void of modern water supply networks and modern management methods in today's Iran and what is implemented is disastrous. In Iran, the productive, industrial and urban use of water is abnormal, and the management of water resources is illogical, politicized, inappropriate, and unwise, which will inevitably worsen the ecological crisis of water to the point of no return. Many experts believe that the main cause of this crisis has been and is government policies and government institutions. In many countries, the proper management of natural resources has largely contained the crisis caused by natural factors.