

**Persian Leopard National Conservation and
Management Action Plan in Iran**

Department of Environment of Iran

Januray 2016

Colleagues and Contributions

Administrative Unit:

Hunting and Fishing Conservation and Management General Office,
Department of Environment of Iran
General Director: Ali Teimouri

Author & Executive Director for Participatory Planning:

Arezoo Sanei

Regulatory Unit:

Coordination and Organization of Regions Affairs Office, DoE
Head of Office: Amir Hossein Dadashi

Principal DoE Coordinator and Regulatory Affairs:

Hamid Reza Asgarian

Advisor of Provincial Affairs:

Behrouz Jafari

Planning Consultants:

Hamid Hashemi, Goli Ahmadi Fard

Collaboration and Cooperation in Organizing Persian Leopard Regional Workshops, Assessment of Conservation Needs and Priorities:

- Alireza Mazinani, (Former) General Director, Hunting and Fishing Conservation and Management General Office
- Masoud Alikhani, (Former) General Director, Hunting and Fishing Conservation and Management General Office
- Hossein Mohamadi, (Former) General Director of Biodiversity and Wildlife Bureau; General Director of Alborz Provincial DoE Office
- Asghar Mohamadi Fazel, Head of University Of Environment
- Mehrdad Fathi Beiranvand, General Director of Lorestan Provincial DoE Office
- Seyed Asghar Motahari, (Former) General Director of Boushehr Provincial DoE Office, General Director of North Khorasan Provincial DoE Office
- Hossein Absalan, (Former) General Director of North Khorasan Provincial DoE Office
- Hasan Abbas Nejad, (Former) General Director of West Azarbaijan Provincial DoE Office
- Mohamad Mamashli, (Former) General Director of Golestan Provincial DoE Office
- Saeed Mahmoudi, General Director of Sistan and Balouchestan Provincial DoE Office
- Laleh Daraei, National Coordinator, GEF Small Grants Program at UNDP

ISBN: 978-600-04-4354-2

Provincial DoE Representatives, Participatory Planning Workshop - Sistan and Balouchestan province (February 7 & 8, 2015), Stakeholder Analysis and Needs Assessment Programs (2012-2015):

Province	Provincial Representative	Province	Provincial Representative
Sistan & Balouchestan	Musa Dehghan Nejad	East Azarbaijan	Mohamad Reza Masoud
Fars	Leila Julae	West Azarbaijan	Bagher Mehr Alilu
Fars	Sadegh Khosravi	Ardebil	Tamjid Parydar
Ghom	Mohamd Reza Abedi Moghadam	Esfahan	Iman Saemi
Kurdestan	Heidar Veisi	Alborz	Mohamad Javad Nik Kar
Kerman	Najmeh Fahraji	Ilam	Hasan Jahani
Kermanshah	Akbar Khalvandi	Boushehr	Mehdi Jamadi
Kohgiluyeh & Boyer Ahmad	Peivand Faramarzi	Tehran	Amir Abbas Mashhadi Ahmadi
Golestan	Mahmoud Shakiba	Chahar Mahal & Bakhtiari	Touraj Raeesi Sar-tashizi
Gilan	Ehsan Hadipour	South Khorasan	Mohamad Reza Besmeli
Lorestan	Maryam Mousivand, Ali Roshani	Razavi Khorasan	Iman Mohamadi Abiz
Mazandaran	Kuros Rabiee	North Khorasan	Eskandar Gordmardi Jafar Abadi
Markazi	Hamed Talebi	Khuzestan	Rahim Alvandi
Hormozgan	Fahimeh Gudarzi	Zanjan	Reza Ramezani
Hamedan	Mohamad Gilaneh	Semnan	Faramarz Esfandiari, Mohamad Ali Adibi
Yazd	Mehdi Teimouri		

Regulatory DoE Representatives in Participatory Planning Workshop, Sistan and Balouchestan Province (February 7 & 8, 2015):

- Seyed Mehdi Hosseini, Deputy, Hunting and Fishing Conservation and Management General Office
- Reza Farrokhi-Zadeh, Staff, Hunting and Fishing Conservation and Management General Office

Arrangements of Provincial Affairs, Persian Leopard Regional Workshops (2012-2015):
Hamid Reza Asgarian

Persian Leopard Regional Workshops Organizer:
Asian Leopard Specialist Society

Advisors for Persian Leopard Insurance Program:
Mohamad Abareshi, Reza Asadi, Hasam Motallebi

Representatives of Central DoE Specialized Units Participating in Planning Sessions, Reviews and Finalizing the Plan Sections, April 2015 – January, 2016:

Topic	Representative	Topic	Representative
Biodiversity and Wildlife	Siamak Masoudi Zanjani, Mohamad Nosrati	Education and Public Participation	Shadi Dibaei, Majid Dekamin
Habitats and Protected Areas Affairs	Shahram Mehrpou	International Affairs and Conventions	Mohammad Ali Gorji
Hunting and Fishing Conservation and Management	Hamid Reza Asgarian	Laws and Regulations	Ein-Allah Golpir
Natural History Museum and Genetic Resources	Farahnaz Azin, Leila Ezzoddinlou, Alireza Naderi	Pardisan Nature Park	Mohsen Dadkhah Nikou
Protection and Wildlife Wardens	Reza Hasan Harati	Media	Najmeh Kamali Asl

24 January 2016

Endorsement Letter

The Persian leopard, the last survivor of the *Panthera* genus in Iran, has a special significance in maintaining the ecological health of a wide range of terrestrial habitats in Iran, which also covers almost all the provinces of the country. While the majority of the subspecies population is known to be remained in Iran, its situation in the country is important in the survival of this leopard subspecies in the Middle East, South and West Asia. However, in the recent years, the Persian leopard has faced many challenges for survival. Habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation; decrease of prey species population, hunting and using poisoned baits are among the main factors threatening the survival of this species in Iran.

Leopard is an umbrella and charismatic species with a wide distribution across the country, thus it is considered as a special managing opportunity for Iran's Department of Environment, as a trustee in charge of the wildlife conservation in the country, to cover a wide range of habitats as well as a large number of co-occurring species, more than ever. Yet, so far no specific planning is defined for long-term and targeted protection and management of the species in Iran. Therefore, the leopard such as the majority of other wildlife species was under the general conditions of wildlife conservation and management in the country.

Given the aforementioned ecological values, conservation, and management features, it is essential to define a species-oriented plan in accordance with current situation of leopard in Iran, the dominant diversity of the living conditions of the species in the country, as well as other issues affecting the conservation and management programs, opportunities, threats and the available capacity. It is a fact that the Persian leopard is a species with historical, cultural and social values and conveys precious concepts for the Iranian society.

Accordingly, current document, as the first national and official plan for the Persian leopard's conservation and management in Iran, including 460 pages of the long and short-term visions, macro and thematic strategies, goals and objectives, measures and activities, follow-up and responsible units, partners and participants in undertaking the plan, along with assessment and monitoring indicators, is endorsed.



Dr. Farhad Dabiri
Deputy of Natural Environment
Department of Environment of Iran

Executive Summary

Based on the needs assessment, as well as research programs, the required arrangements for the preparation and development of the Persian Leopard National Conservation and Management Action Plan in Iran incepted in 2012. In February 2014, a participatory planning workshop, attended by experts and representatives of provincial DOE offices and staff members of Department of Environment was held in Sistan and Baluchestan Province. During the workshop, relying on the needs assessments, necessities, conservation and research priorities, as well as the opportunities, threats and available capacities, the initial framework of the presented plan was defined both nationally and regionally (fifth region). Subsequently, the stakeholder analysis workshop and participatory planning sessions with relevant DoE units, academic and external influencing parties were held in the spring and summer 2015. All parts of the plan were approved by the specialized DoE units and relevant staff during the fall and winter 2015.

The design to implement the plan was in the form of a matrix structure, and it is managed by a committee comprising of a National Project Manager, as well as a Supervision Steering Committee. The technical committee, regional as well as headquarter offices coordinators, respectively, are the others involved in making decisions about specific issues and administrative affairs.

The topics covered in the plan include training and empowerment, public relations and media affairs, habitats and protected and non-protected areas, Pardisan Nature Park, veterinary, rescue and rehabilitation; protection and wildlife wardens, international affairs and trans-boundary habitats, Persian leopard insurance and compensation plan, genetic resources, research, monitoring and evaluation, Persian Leopard National Network with a focus on leopard and issues relevant to its prey species.

A. Sanei (Executive Director of the Asian Leopard Specialist Society) has been nominated as the Executive Director for participatory development of the current National Action Plan for conservation and management of the Persian leopard in Iran. The plan is defined in a cooperative process and concerns the maximum domestic, technical, indigenous and local capacities, as well as the earlier undertaken measures. I hope that this plan will take an effective step toward the conservation of this invaluable species by relying on the cooperation, assistance and efforts of the wide range of stakeholders, responsible units and partners.

Ali Teimouri
General Director
Hunting and Fishing Conservation and Management Office
Department of Environment

