

Short profiles, achievements and publications of the Iranian conservationists on trial

accused of espionage without evidence presented over 600 days of temporary detention in Evin prison

September 2019

Morad Tahbaz	1
Publications in English	1
Houman Jowkar	2
Publications in English	3
Niloufar Bayani	4
Publications in English	4
Taher Ghadirian	6
Publications in English	6
Publications in Farsi	9
Amirhossein Khaleghi	10
Publications in English	11
Reports in Farsi	12
Sepideh Kashani	13
Reports in English	13
Sam Radjabi	14
Publications in English	14
Abdolreza Koupayeh	15
Work in Farsi	15

Morad Tahbaz



- Morad Tahbaz, an environmentalist and businessman, holds a degree in Liberal Arts from Colgate University and an MBA from Columbia University.
- His passion for wildlife and nature began at age 9 and he is a regular donor to many international conservation foundations such as the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Cat Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- In 2008, he co-founded the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation (PWHF) in Iran and is a member of the Board of Directors.

(PWHF no longer operates and their website is no longer maintained, but their last annual reports are available here <https://bit.ly/2lvjOjt> and this is their facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PersianWildlifeHeritage/>)

- In 2010, he founded and is the director of the Persian Wildlife Foundation in Connecticut, USA. (<http://www.persianwildlife.us/>)
- His initial focus on the conservation of Iran's biodiversity has broadened to try and find solutions to the country's broader environmental challenges.
- He held a round table on "wildlife and ecology in today's Iran: challenges and prospects" at the 10th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference in Montréal, Canada, 6-9 August 2014 (<https://bit.ly/2mdgw4s>)
- In 2015, he gave lectures on Iran's natural environment at the University of California (<https://bit.ly/2kfBVta>)
- He is accused of espionage against the Islamic Republic of Iran and carries the capital charge of Mofsed-e-filarz ("Spreading corruption on Earth").

Publications in English

Tahbaz, M. (2016). Environmental challenges in Today's Iran. *Iranian Studies*, 49(6), 943-961.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2016.1241624>

Jowkar, H., Ostrowski, S., Tahbaz, M., & Zahler, P. (2016). The conservation of biodiversity in Iran: threats, challenges and hopes. *Iranian Studies*, 49(6), 1065-1077.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2016.1241602>

Tahbaz, M. (2014): Iran's environment – a looming disaster? *The Middle East in London*, December 2013-January 2014: 22-23. <https://bit.ly/2kmH5Us>

Houman Jowkar



- Houman is a wildlife biologist and advocate of biodiversity conservation, with nearly 20 years of experience in conservation practice and research on different species and in different parts of Iran.
- Since his BSc thesis on the status of the Asiatic cheetah in Iran, he has participated in numerous monitoring, exploration and applied conservation efforts for Asiatic cheetah and Persian leopard
- Since 2012, he has been the National Project Manager of the Conservation of the Asiatic Cheetah Project (CACP), an international project established in 2001 based on a partnership between the Department of Environment of Iran and the United Nations Development Programme, aimed at saving the world's last Asiatic cheetahs in Iran. See for example <https://bit.ly/2INVvNK>
 - Final evaluation report of the project's phase II during which Houman was the Project Manager: <http://stephane.ostrowski.free.fr/pdf/1-2017-004.pdf>
- Participatory conservation efforts for sea turtles in Qeshm Island. The project was widely supported by the local communities, produced alternative livelihoods through ecotourism in the target villages, and resulted in saving hundreds of sea turtle hatchlings every year.
- Teaching of ecotourism and bird biology at different educational institutions.
- Since 2001, Houman has been a member of the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group for his work on saving Asiatic cheetahs.
- Scientific director of the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation (PWHF)

- He is married to Sepideh Kashani.
- He is accused of espionage against the Islamic Republic of Iran and carries the capital charge of Mofsed-e-filarz (“Spreading corruption on Earth”).

Publications in English

- Cheraghi, F., Delavar, M. R., Amiraslani, F., Alavipanah, K., Gurarie, E., **Jowkar, H.**, ... & Fagan, W. F. (2019). Inter-dependent movements of Asiatic Cheetahs *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* and a Persian Leopard *Panthera pardus saxicolor* in a desert environment in Iran (Mammalia: Felidae). *Zoology in the Middle East*, 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09397140.2019.1632538>
- Khalatbari, L., Yusefi, G. H., Martínez-Freiría, F., **Jowkar, H.**, & Brito, J. C. (2018). Availability of prey and natural habitats are related with temporal dynamics in range and habitat suitability for Asiatic Cheetah. *Hystrix, the Italian Journal of Mammalogy*, 29(1), 145-151. <https://doi.org/10.4404/hystrix-00080-2018>
- Mohammadi, A., Almasieh, K., Clevenger, A. P., Fatemizadeh, F., Rezaei, A., **Jowkar, H.**, & Kaboli, M. (2018). Road expansion: A challenge to conservation of mammals, with particular emphasis on the endangered Asiatic cheetah in Iran. *Journal for nature conservation*, 43, 8-18. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2018.02.011>
- Ahmadi, M., Nezami Balouchi, B., **Jowkar, H.**, Hemami, M. R., Fadakar, D., Malakouti-Khah, S., & Ostrowski, S. (2017). Combining landscape suitability and habitat connectivity to conserve the last surviving population of cheetah in Asia. *Diversity and Distributions*, 23(6), 592-603. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ddi.12560>
- Durant, S.M., Mitchell, N., Groom, R., Pettorelli, N., Ipavec, A., Jacobson, A.P., ... **Jowkar, H.**, ... & Young-Overton, K. (2017). The global decline of cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* and what it means for conservation. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 114(3), 528-533. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1611122114>
- Farhadinia, M. S., Hunter, L. T., Jourabchian, A., Hosseini-Zavarei, F., Akbari, H., Ziaie, H., ... & **Jowkar, H.** (2017). The critically endangered Asiatic cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* in Iran: a review of recent distribution, and conservation status. *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 26(5), 1027-1046. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10531-017-1298-8>
- Khalatbari, L., **Jowkar, H.**, Yusefi, G.H., Brito, J.C., Ostrowski, S., (2017). The current status of Asiatic Cheetah in Iran. *Cat News*, 66, 10-14.
- Jowkar, H.**, Ostrowski, S., **Tahbaz, M.**, & Zahler, P. (2016). The conservation of biodiversity in Iran: threats, challenges and hopes. *Iranian Studies*, 49(6), 1065-1077. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2016.1241602>
- Charruau, P., Fernandes, C., Orozco-Terwengel, P., Peters, J., Hunter, L., Ziaie, H., Jourabchian, A., **Jowkar, H.**,... & Vercammen, P. (2011). Phylogeography, genetic structure and population divergence time of cheetahs in Africa and Asia: evidence for long-term geographic isolates. *Molecular Ecology*, 20(4), 706-724. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-294X.2010.04986.x>
- Jowkar, H.**, Ostrowski, S., & Hunter, L. (2008). Asiatic cheetah cub recovered from a poacher in Iran. *Cat News*, 48, 13. <https://bit.ly/2kM5cfd>

Weisrock, D. W., Papenfuss, T. J., Macey, J. R., Litvinchuk, S. N., Polymeni, R., Ugurtas, I. H., Zhao, E., Jowkar, H. & Larson, A. (2006). A molecular assessment of phylogenetic relationships and lineage accumulation rates within the family Salamandridae (Amphibia, Caudata). *Molecular phylogenetics and evolution*, 41(2), 368-383. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2006.05.008>

Niloufar Bayani



- Niloufar holds a BSc in Biology from McGill University in Montreal and an MSc. in Conservation Biology from Columbia University in New York, where she went on to teach after finishing her studies.
- Her focus at the time was mostly on coastal ecosystems, a summary of her MSc. thesis conducted at the Glover's Reef Atoll World Heritage area in Belize can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2mgwOJZ>.
- From May 2012 to May 2017, she worked as a project consultant for the United Nations Environment Program's Post Conflict and Disaster Management Branch in Geneva where she was a team member of the European Commission and UNEP-collaboration project (2012-2016) for Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (ECO-DDR). As an example of her work, she and colleagues from UNEP helped the Ministry of Environment of Haïti in the identification and evaluation of necessary steps after cyclone Mathieu in 2016: <https://bit.ly/2kAfP53> (in French)
- She gave some assistance to the Persian Wildlife Foundation, for example joining Morad Tahbaz at a round table on "wildlife and ecology in today's Iran: challenges and prospects" at the 10th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference in Montréal, Canada, 6-9 August 2014: <https://bit.ly/2mdgw4s>
- In summer 2017, she returned home to Tehran and started with enthusiasm to work as Programme Manager with PWHF.
- She is accused of espionage against the Islamic Republic of Iran and carries the capital charge of Mofsed-e-filarz ("Spreading corruption on Earth").

Publications in English

Co-editor of and contributor to a special issue of Iranian Studies on "Environment and Culture" (2016): <https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2016.1241563>

UNEP. (2016). River Partners: Applying Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in the Lukaya Basin, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

("Prepared by the Eco-DRR Project Team for DRC: **Niloufar Bayani**, Céline Jacmain, Marisol Estrella and Hassan Partow", available under <https://bit.ly/2mi2l8Y>)

UNEP. (2016). Coastal Partners: Applying ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) through a ridge-to-reef approach in Port Salut, Haiti.

("Prepared by the Eco-DRR Project Team for Haiti: **Niloufar Bayani**, Marisol Estrella, Maximilien Pardo, Dario Noel, Peleg Charles, Jean Elie Thys, Paul Judex Edourzin, Adrienne Stork, Antonio Perera", available under <https://bit.ly/2kslQiO>)

UNEP. (2016). Mountain Partners: Applying Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) for sustainable and resilient development planning in the Koh-e Baba Mountains, Afghanistan.

(Prepared by the Eco-DRR Project Team for Afghanistan: **Niloufar Bayani**, Andrew Scanlon, Marisol Estrella, Alec Knuerr, Najeeb Azad, Mohammad Sakhi Hassany, Kelly Franklin", available under <https://bit.ly/2kYz0Wf>)

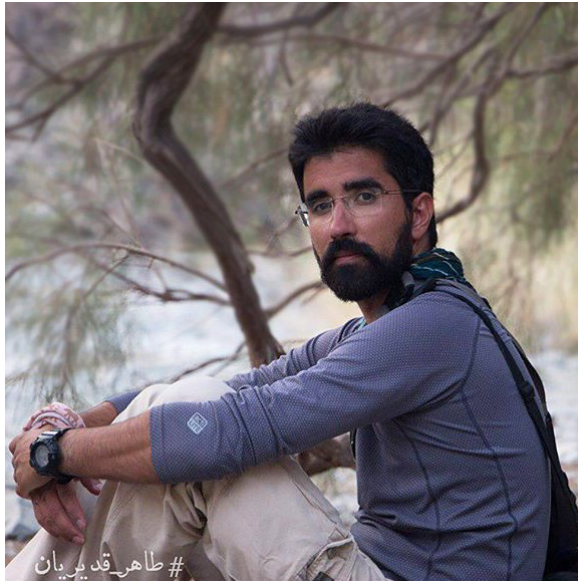
Bayani, N. (2016). Ecology and environmental challenges of the Persian Gulf. *Iranian Studies*, 49(6), 1047-1063. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2016.1241569>

Bayani, N., & Barthélemy, Y. (2016). Integrating Ecosystems in Risk Assessments: Lessons from Applying InVEST Models in Data-Deficient Countries. In *Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation in Practice* (pp. 227-254). Springer, Cham. <https://bit.ly/2mgwo6n>

Bayani, N. (2015): Case study 4 Integrating ecosystems in analysing exposure to coastal hazards. In: Promoting ecosystems for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation: Opportunities for integration. UNEP discussion paper. <https://bit.ly/2lWtHXh>

Bayani, N., Bone, E., McClennen, C., & Paris, C. (2012). Effects of changing coral cover on reef fish recruitment in the Caribbean. Poster presented at the Student Conference on Conservation Science, New York, USA, 10-12 OCTOBER 2012. (Abstract at <https://bit.ly/2lRMy5V>)

Taher Ghadirian



- Taher is a wildlife biologist by training and has been active in conservation projects in Iran since 2005. He has been instrumental in research and conservation efforts on a range of species from Asiatic black bears, Persian leopards and Asiatic cheetahs to migratory birds and rodents. A main focus of his work has been on human-carnivore conflict reduction outside protected areas in southern Iran
- In recent years, he has been promoting the establishment of community-based reserves in central and southern Iran, a concept that has been rarely implemented in the country. His work resulted in high levels of community engagement and establishment of a number of these reserves in the country, targeted at safeguarding the last habitats of the threatened Asiatic black bear or Laristan wild sheep.
- In 2009, he was awarded the UNESCO MAB Young Scientist Award for his work on conservation of mangrove forest bird species in Hara Biosphere Reserve by involving local communities and controlling invasive species.
- Co-author of The Atlas of Mammals of Iran
- Co-founder and managing editor of Pazan Quarterly Journal, Iran's first mammalogy journal
- Mammals and human-wildlife conflict consultant for the FRWO/UNDP/GEF Caspian Hyrcanian Forests Project
- Co-assessor of the status of sand cat for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016
- Member of the IUCN Pallas's cat working group since 2012
- Taher is a member of the IUCN/SSC Bear and Cat Specialist Groups for his work on Asiatic black bears, Asiatic cheetahs, and Persian leopards among others.
- Field expert at PWHF
- He is accused of espionage against the Islamic Republic of Iran and carries the capital charge of Mofsed-e-filarz ("Spreading corruption on Earth").

Publications in English

Soofi, M., Ghoddousi, A., Zeppenfeld, T., Shokri, S., Soufi, M., Egli, L., Jafari, A., Ahmadpour, M., Qashqaei, A. **Ghadirian, T.** & Filla, M. (2019). Assessing the relationship between illegal hunting of

ungulates, wild prey occurrence and livestock depredation rate by large carnivores. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 56(2), 365-374. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.13266>

Soofi, M., Ghoddousi, A., Zeppenfeld, T., Shokri, S., Soufi, M., Jafari, A., Ahmadpour, M., Qashqaei, A.T., Egli, L., **Ghadirian, T.** & Chahartaghi, N. R. (2018). Livestock grazing in protected areas and its effects on large mammals in the Hyrcanian forest, Iran. *Biological Conservation*, 217, 377-382. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2017.11.020>

Ghadirian, T., Qashqaei, A. T., Soofi, M., Abolghasemi, H., & Ghoddousi, A. (2017). Diet of Asiatic black bear in its westernmost distribution range, southern Iran. *Ursus*, 28(1), 15-20. <https://doi.org/10.2192/URSU-D-16-00003.1>

Ghadirian, T., Akbari, H., Besmeli, M. R., Ghoddousi, A., **Hamidi, A. K.**, & Dehkordi, M. E. (2016). Sand cat in Iran-present status, distribution and conservation challenges. *Cat News Special Issue*, 10, 56-59. <http://www.catsg.org/index.php?id=629>

Ghoddousi, A., **Kh. Hamidi, A.**, **Ghadirian, T.**, & Bani Asadi, S. (2016). The status of wildcat in Iran - a crossroad of subspecies. *Cat News Special Issue*, (10), 60-63. <http://www.catsg.org/index.php?id=629>

Sliwa, A., **Ghadirian, T.**, Appel, A., Banfield, L., Sher Shah, M. & Wacher, T. 2016. *Felis margarita*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2016: e.T8541A50651884. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-2.RLTS.T8541A50651884.en>. Downloaded on 23/09/2019.

Tohidifar, M., Moser, M., Zehzad, B., & **Ghadirian, T.** (2016). Biodiversity of the Hyrcanian Forests. Synthesis report for the FRWO/ UNDP/GEF Caspian Hyrcanian Forests Project. <https://bit.ly/2IW3kkf>

Ohdachi, S. D., Kinoshita, G., Oda, S. I., Motokawa, M., Jogahara, T., Arai, S., ...**Ghadirian, T.**,... & Zu Min, M. (2016). Intraspecific phylogeny of the house shrews, *Suncus murinus*-*S. montanus* species complex, based on the mitochondrial cytochrome b gene. *Mammal study*, 41(4), 229-238. <https://doi.org/10.3106/041.041.0408>

Khayat, A. S., Otaghvar, Y. T., Tavakolimehr, S., **Ghadirian, T.**, & Pishvaei, H. (2015). Asiatic Black Bear Conservation Taught in Bashagard Schools, Iran. *International Bear News*, 24(3), 14-15. <https://bit.ly/2kA0D7I>

Ghadirian, T., & Pishvaei, H. (2014). Status of Asiatic black bear in westernmost global distribution, Hormozgan Province, Southern Iran. Poster presented at the 23rd International Conference on Bear Research and Management, Thessaloniki, Greece, October 2014. <https://bit.ly/2IW2Ryv>

Ghadirian, T., Sedaghati Khayat, A., Talebi Otaghvar, Y., Ghoddousi, A., Pishvaei, H., Riazifar, A., Goudarzi, F., & Ghasemi, M. (2014). Strategic Conservation Planning for Asiatic Black Bears in Iran Based on IUCN Guidelines. *International Bear News* 23(1): 8-11. <https://bit.ly/2mE8zFH>

Kh. Hamidi, A., Ghoddousi, A., Soufi, M., **Ghadirian, T.**, **Jowkar, H.**, & Ashayeri, Sh. (2014). Camera trap study of Persian leopard in Golestan National Park, Iran. *Cat News*, 60, 12-14. <http://www.catsg.org/index.php?id=592>

Khakisahne, S., Alizadeh, S. A., Kaboli, M., Noori, Z., & **Ghadirian, T.** (2013). Habitat modeling for Afghan Pika (*Ochotona rufescens*) in Iran from a climatic perspective. *Journal of Natural Environment (Iranian Journal of Natural Resources)* 66(2): 169-180. <https://bit.ly/2lOoJfq>

- Ghadirian, T.**, Qashqaei, A. T., Ghoddousi, A., Soufi, M., & Khayat, A. S. (2012). Diet and status assessment of Asiatic black bear in Hormozgan Province, Southern Iran. In *International Conference on Bear Research and Management* (Vol. 21, p. 43). <https://bit.ly/2kJRXM4>
- Ghadirian, T.**, Mohamadi, S., Ashrafzadeh, M. R., Najafabadi, M. S., Shahi, T., & **Khaleghi Hamidi, A. H.** (2011). Distribution and taxonomic status of the eastern spiny mouse (*Acomys dimidiatus*) (Rodentia: Muridae) in Iran. *Acta Zoologica Lituanica*, 21(3), 244-249. <https://doi.org/10.2478/v10043-011-0028-9>
- Ghadirian, T.**, Ghoddousi, A., Soufi, M., Qashqaei, A. T., & Ghasemi, M. (2011). Conservation needs for the Asiatic black bear at its westernmost extent: Hormozgan Province, Southern Iran. *International Bear News*, 20(3), 13-14. <https://bit.ly/2mGTT8U>
- Faizolah, K., Yusefi, Gh.H., Jamshidi, M., **Ghadirian, T.**, Hamzehpour, M., Fahimi, H., Qashqaei, A.T., Chalani, M., Soofi, M., & Goljani, R. (2011). The Central Zagros Mammalian Fauna. Poster made in association with the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Central Zagros Landscape Conservation Zone/UNDP/GEF, January 2011. (Abstract here <https://bit.ly/2IOPAbE>)
- Ghadirian, T.**, Karami, M. & Hemami, M.R. (2010). Estimation of black rat nest density and assessing related factors in nest selection in mangrove forests of Hara biosphere reserve (Hormozgan province). *Journal of Environmental Science and Technology* 14(4):649-657. (Abstract in English here: <https://bit.ly/2kN91Rx>)
- Ghoddousi, A., **Kh. Hamidi, A.**, **Ghadirian, T.**, Ashayeri, D., & Khorozyan, I. (2010). The status of the endangered Persian leopard *Panthera pardus saxicolor* in Bamou National Park, Iran. *Oryx*, 44(4), 551-557. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605310000827>
- Kh. Hamidi, A.**, Ghoddousi, A., & **Ghadirian, T.** (2010). A flagship species based conservation program in the Middle East: Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*) conservation in Bamou National Park, Southern Iran. *24th International Congress for Conservation Biology: Conservation for a Changing Planet*. Edmonton, Canada, July 2010. (accessible through Google Scholar)
- Ashrafzadeh, M. R., Karami, M., Darvish, J., Shahi, T., & **Ghadirian, T.** (2010). A study of intraspecies variations of Baluchistan Gerbil, *Gerbillus Nanus* Blanford, 1875 (Rodentia: Muridae) in Hormozgan Province, Iran. *Journal of Taxonomy and Biosystematics* 2(3): 11-24. <https://bit.ly/2mirFBd>
- Ghoddousi, A., **Ghadirian, T.**, & Fahimi, H. (2009). Status of caracal in Bahram'gur protected area, Iran. *Cat News*, 50, 10-13. <http://www.catsg.org/index.php?id=185>
- Ghoddousi, A., **Hamidi, A. K.**, **Ghadirian, T.**, Ashayeri, D., & Qashqaei, A. T. (2008). Persian Leopard Project in Iran. *Wildlife Middle East* 3(3): 4. <https://bit.ly/2kxb4wR>
- Ghoddousi, A., **Kh. Hamidi, A.**, **Ghadirian, T.**, Ashayeri, D., Moshiri, H., & Khorozyan, I. (2008). The status of the Persian leopard in Bamou National Park, Iran. *Cat News* 49, 10-13. <https://bit.ly/2meEts9>
- Kh. Hamidi, A.**, Ghoddousi, A., Ashayeri, D., **Ghadirian, T.**, & Khorozyan, I. (2008). Research and conservation of the endangered Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*) in Iran. *1st International Congress Documenting, Analyzing and Managing Biodiversity in the Middle East*, Aqaba, Jordan, October 2008. (<https://bit.ly/2m4wBJF>)
- Ghoddousi, A., **Hamidi, A. K.**, **Ghadirian, T.**, Ashayeri, D., Hamzehpour, M., Moshiri, H., ... & Julayi, L. (2008). Territorial marking by the Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor* Pocock, 1927) in

Bamu National Park, Iran. *Zoology in the Middle East*, 44(1), 101-103.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09397140.2008.10638293>

Abdoli, A., **Ghadirian, T.**, **Khaleghi Hamidi, A.**, Mostafavi, H., Moshiri, H., Pour'salem, S., & Ghoddousi, A. (2008). First evidence of Persian leopard from Khaeez area, southern Iran. *Cat News*, 48, 17.
<https://bit.ly/2kKjL32>

Chalani, M., Ghoddousi, A., **Ghadirian, T.**, & Goljani, R. (2008). First Pallas's Cat Photo-trapped in Khojir National Park, Iran. *Cat News*, 49(7). <http://www.catsg.org/index.php?id=184>

Ghadirian, T. & Etezadifar, F. (2008). Breeding of spoonbill in mangrove forests of Hara biosphere reserve-Qeshm Island-Iran-2008. *International Spoonbill Working Group Newsletter* 6: 13-17.
<https://bit.ly/2IUohMq>

Ghadirian, T., Qashqaei, A., & Dadras, M. (2007). Notes on feeding and breeding habits of the purple sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica* (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) in Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan, Southern Iran. *Podoces*, 2(2), 122-126. <https://bit.ly/2kJwQti>

Publications in Farsi

بررسی وضعیت پستانداران در جنگل‌های هیرکانی.

Ghadirian, T. & Raeesi Chahartaghi, N. (2016). Reviewing the status of mammals in Hyrcanian forests. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.36585.49763. (<https://bit.ly/2kBAplx>)

بررسی ویژگی‌های رفتاری خرس سیاه آسیایی (*Ursus thibetanus* Cuvier, 1823) در شهرستان بشاگرد به وسیله پایش لانه‌ها توسط دوربین تله‌ای.

Pishvaei, H. & **Ghadirian, T.** (2014). Assessing behavioral characteristics of Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus* Cuvier, 1823), in Bashagard region by monitoring dens using camera traps. (<https://bit.ly/2mf0181>)

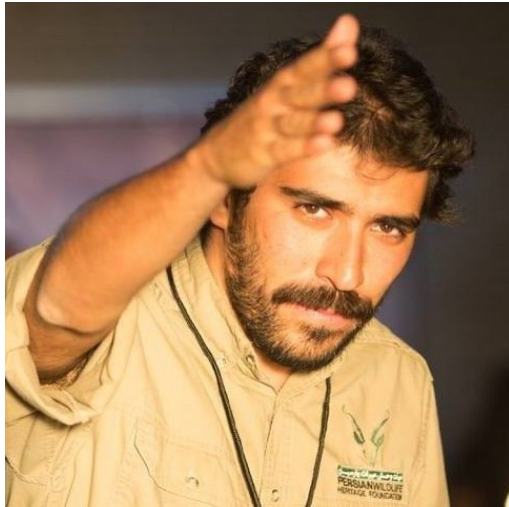
برآورد تراکم لانه‌ها و عوامل موثر بر لانه‌گزینی موش سیاه (*Rattus rattus*) در جنگل‌های مانگرو ذخیره‌گاه زیست کره حرا

Ghadirian, T., Karami, M. & Hemami, M.R. (2010). Estimation of black rat nest density and assessing related factors in nest selection in mangrove forests of Hara biosphere reserve (Hormozgan province). *Journal of Environmental Science and Technology* 14(4):649-657. <https://bit.ly/2kN91Rx>

بررسی حداقل اندازه جمعیت یوزپلنگ آسیایی (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) با استفاده از دوربین‌های تله‌ای در پارک ملی کویر

Ghadirian, T., Dehkordi, M.E., **Kh. Hamidi, A.**, & Moqanaki, E. (2010). Final Report on the Determination of the Minimum Asiatic Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) Population in Kavir National Park using Camera Traps. (<https://bit.ly/2llczVo>)

Amirhossein Khaleghi



- Amirhossein (Amirhossein Khaleghi Hamidi) dropped his initial career in software engineering to pursue his passion for wildlife and studied Environmental Sciences Engineering and Natural Resources (B.Sc.). Since 2007, he has been working in many different conservation projects in Iran, mostly on large mammals. He has been involved in research and conservation efforts on Persian leopards in a number of Iranian national parks as well as in Iraq and on Asiatic cheetahs including in collaboration with the Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah Project, mostly focusing on Touran National Park since 2009.
- His and colleague's project on Persian leopard conservation was selected as the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group's project of the month March 2008 (<https://bit.ly/2kWkePL>, <https://bit.ly/2msZfED>)
- He has been striving to better connect local communities to conservation, a concept that has been vastly missing in Iran so far. These efforts resulted in collaborations between local communities, national parks, and conservation projects, particularly by providing alternative livelihoods for local poachers around Golestan National Park.

His negotiations with livestock herders in Touran National Park, home to one of the last viable Asiatic cheetah populations, resulted in arrangements for relocation of their livestock corrals to the outside of protected areas, providing a safer habitat for the cheetah's wild prey populations. To raise money to purchase the grazing rights from these herders, he had been one of two initiators of the Yuz ta Abad ("Cheetah Forever") campaign (<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/416427/National-campaign-seeking-help-to-safeguard-Asiatic-Cheetah>). Between its start in August 2017 and Amirhossein's detention in January 2018, the campaign had raised over 120 thousand Euros of private donations from fellow Iranians. The outcome of his negotiations and efforts were realized after his arrest and from July 2018, in agreement with the herders, all livestock was relocated from Touran National Park. (Article in Mehr News, in Farsi: <https://bit.ly/2LjKBQv>)

- Since 2013, he has been a member of the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group for his excellent work on saving Asiatic cheetahs and Persian leopards.
- He is also a member of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication and of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

- He cooperated with Nature Iraq NGO towards increased protection of leopard habitat corridors in Iraq and in negotiations towards the establishment of a Peace Park between Iran and Iraq
- He was recently working as freelance conservationist while at the same time studying for a MSc. degree in Environmental Sciences at Islamic Azad University, Tehran.
- He is charged with espionage.

Publications in English

Ghoddousi, A., Soofi, M., **Kh. Hamidi, A.**, Ashayeri, Sh., Egli, L., Ghoddousi, S., Speicher, J., Khorozyan, I., Kiabi, B., & Waltert, M. (2019). The decline of ungulate populations in Iranian protected areas calls for urgent action against poaching. *Oryx* 53(1):151-158. (Published online in 2017)

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Ghoddousi, A., Soofi, M., **Kh. Hamidi, A.**, Lumetsberger, T., Egli, L., Ashayeri, Sh., Khorozyan, I., Kiabi, B. & Waltert, M. (2017). When pork is not on the menu: assessing trophic competition between large carnivores and poachers. *Biological Conservation*, 209, 223-229. DOI: 10.1016/j.biocon.2017.02.032 (<https://bit.ly/2kln5f6>)

Khorozyan, I., Soofi, M., Soufi, M., **Kh. Hamidi, A.**, Ghoddousi, A., & Waltert, M. (2017). Effects of shepherds and dogs on livestock depredation by leopards (*Panthera pardus*) in north-eastern Iran. *PeerJ*, 5, e3049. <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.3049>

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Ghoddousi, A., **Kh. Hamidi, A.**, Soofi, M., Khorozyan, I., Kiabi, B. H., & Waltert, M. (2016). Effects of ranger stations on predator and prey distribution and abundance in an Iranian steppe landscape. *Animal Conservation*, 19(3), 273-280. DOI: 10.1111/acv.12240 (<https://bit.ly/2k7pDmy>)

Ghoddousi, A., Soofi, M., **Kh. Hamidi, A.**, Lumetsberger, T., Egli, L., Khorozyan, I., Kiabi, B., & Waltert, M. (2016). Assessing the role of livestock in big cat prey choice using spatiotemporal availability patterns. *PLoS ONE*, 11(4), e0153439. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0153439 (<https://bit.ly/2kgjqF8>)

Khorozyan, I., Soofi, M., Ghoddousi, A., **Kh. Hamidi, A.** & Waltert, M. (2015). The relationship between climate, diseases of domestic animals and human-carnivore conflicts. *Basic and Applied Ecology*, 16(8), 703-713. DOI: 10.1016/j.baae.2015.07.001 (<https://bit.ly/2lc3P9R>)

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Ghoddousi, A., **Kh. Hamidi, A.**, **Ghadirian, T.**, Ashayeri, D., & Khorozyan, I. (2010). The status of the endangered Persian leopard *Panthera pardus saxicolor* in Bamu National Park, Iran. *Oryx*, 44(4), 551-557. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605310000827>

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Abdoli, A., **Ghadirian, T.**, **Khaleghi Hamidi, A.**, Mostafavi, H., Moshiri, H., Pour'salem, S., & Ghoddousi, A. (2008). First evidence of Persian leopard from Khaeez area, southern Iran. *Cat News*, 48, 17. <http://www.catsg.org/index.php?id=183>

Reports in Farsi

بررسی حداقل اندازه جمعیت یوزپلنگ آسیایی (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) با استفاده از دوربین های تله ای در پارک ملی کویر
Ghadirian, T., Dehkordi, M.E., **Kh. Hamidi, A.**, & Moqanaki, E. (2010). Final Report on the Determination of the Minimum Asiatic Cheetah Population in Kavir National Park using Camera Traps. (<https://bit.ly/2llczVo>)

Sepideh Kashani



- Sepideh (Sepideh Kashani Doust) holds a M.Sc. in Environmental Planning from Azad University and she has been the backbone for operation in PWHF for over ten years. She has been involved in the NGO's general administration and in coordinating projects. Therefore, many achievements by PWHF in research, conservation impact, community work, education and awareness raising are based on her indispensable contribution, even though she is not credited for them in public reports or papers. These are two larger projects under her lead:
- The project "Conservation of the natural values of Hengam Island" for the conservation of bottlenose dolphins in the Persian Gulf. It was financed by the Small Grants Programme, a programme of the Global Environment Facility implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP/GEF/SGP) and it was conducted with the help of the Office for Environment of Qeshm Free Zone Organization. In order to reduce pressure on bottlenose dolphins caused by unorganized tourism activities, the PWHF and Gomash Qeshm, a local NGO, held several workshops with boat drivers in five villages, teaching best dolphin watching practices. Educational material and the dolphin watching protocol were provided, after summarizing past experiences.
- The project "National Ungulates Monitoring Techniques Assessment Project (NUMP)", a project aimed to set standards for ungulate population survey methods in Iran. Amirhossein and Taher were also members of this project. The mid-term project report can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2kzNnjL>.
- She is married to Houman Jowkar.
- She is charged with espionage.

Reports in English

Sepideh Kashani, Amirhossein Khaleghi, Taher Ghadirian, Hamed Abolghassemi, Mahmood Soofi, Arash Ghoddousi, Lukas Egli (2015). Standard-setting for Ungulate Population Survey Methods in Iran. *Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation Newsletter* 5(10): 2.

(PWHF's website is no longer maintained, but the newsletter is available here: <https://bit.ly/2mtSa6H>)

Sam Radjabi



- Sam (Sam Radjabi Tabriz) holds a M.Sc. in Ecology from the University of Victoria, New Zealand. His father, Parviz Radjabi was a famous Iranian historian and author. Sam worked with PWHF from its beginnings, but left the NGO a few years ago to work for the Department of Environment (DoE) in an Iranian-Japanese cooperation project towards improving coastal management along the Persian Gulf. He is a field biologist and ecotourism specialist and has translated many books.
- As part of his work with the DoE and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, he was one of ~90 participants of the “Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development and the Sustainable Development Goals: sharing and developing workable solutions” Workshop co-hosted by the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the International Institute for Environment and Development and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on 11th December 2016 in Mexico.
- Since 2015, he has been a member of the NBSAP Forum, a global partnership aiming to support the revision and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), where he assisted in the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan submitted for Zambia in 2015. (<https://bit.ly/2kKqPN0>)
- He was a keynote speaker at the Workshop: “Literature and Tourism” at the Symposium «Environment Alpine Regions» - Cultural, botanical, ethnological and touristic aspects of alpine life in Austria and in Iran, organized by the Austrian Cultural Forum and Shahid Beheshti University, 22 October 2017, Tehran, Iran. (<https://bit.ly/2kYbjx5>)
- He is charged with co-operating with hostile states against the Islamic Republic and gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security.

Publications in English

Sam Radjabi Tabriz (2010). Heteroblasty in mataī, a quantitative analysis. Poster presented at the New Zealand Ecological Society Conference, 22-25 November 2010, Dunedin. <https://bit.ly/2m3bbN5>

Abdolreza Koupayeh



- Abdolreza (Abu) was born in Shiraz and grew up in Sirjan, in the south of Iran. He then studied and worked in Kerman, Isfahan, Tehran, Asaluyeh and Bandar Abbas. He studied electronic and telecommunication engineering, but despite being accepted for continuing his master, he decided to follow his dreams. Since then, Abu has been travelling inside and outside Iran including on foot and by bicycle. During these trips, he fell in love with nature.
- He tries his best to contribute to the protection of nature and wildlife with photography and through his website <http://www.deepbreath.ir> (in restoration) and facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/deepbreath.ir/>.
- Apart from generously letting PWHF staff stay at his place in Bandar Abbas, he also contributed to one of the field trips of the Laristan Wild Sheep Conservation Project and took pictures and videos.
- He is charged with espionage.

Work in Farsi

سایت اینترنتی عبدالرضا کوهپایه (در حال ترمیم): <http://www.deepbreath.ir>

اصول طبیعت گردی پاک. از عبدالرضا کوهپایه

Principles for eco-friendly living (no trace) by Abdolreza Koupayeh: <https://bit.ly/2lvvJds>