



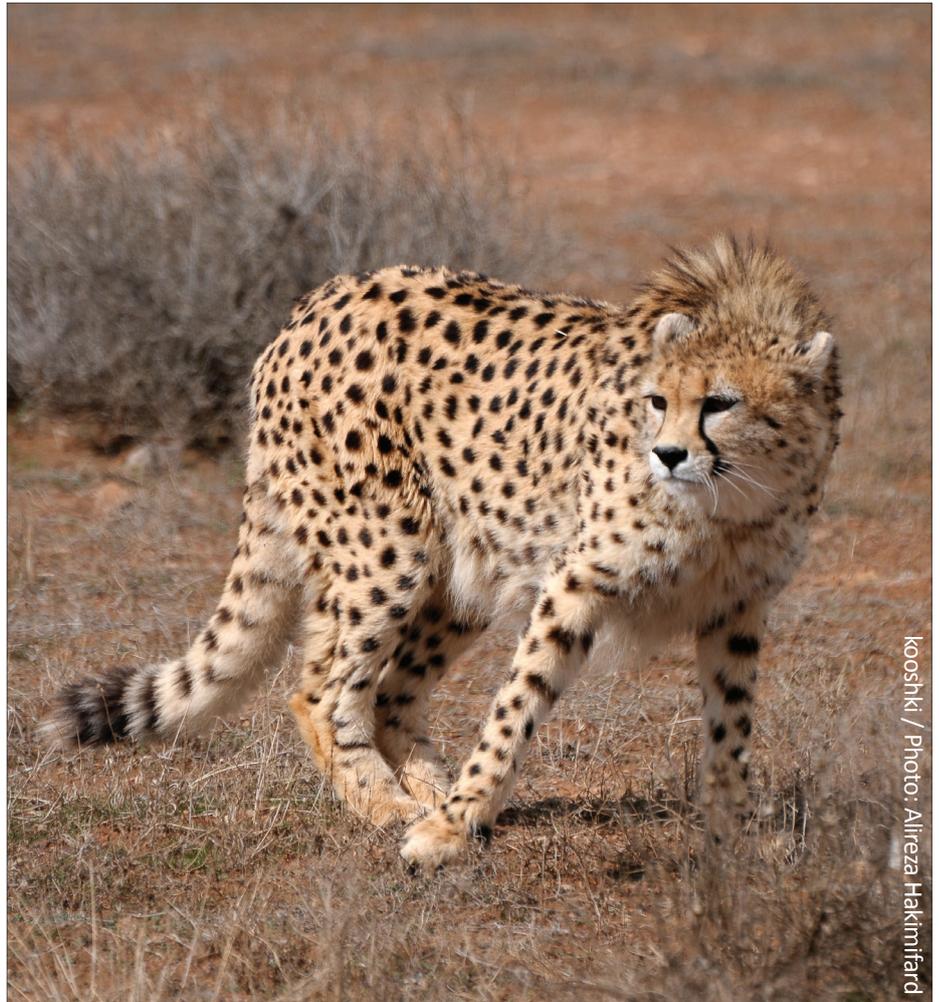
Asiatic Cheetah



News Letter Of Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah international project- Mar. & Apr. 2010

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kooshki / Photo: Alireza Hakimifard

International Participation to Develop “Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah Action Plan”

A core group of international conservationists participated in compilation of an action plan for cheetah conservation in Iran in Saanen, Switzerland. The workshop was facilitated by Drs Urs Breitenmoser, Christine Breitenmoser-Wursten and Manuela von Arx from IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group and Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) of Switzerland generously hosted the international meeting to launch the second phases

of the CACP between 28 March and 1 April 2010.

The workshops spent 4 full days to revise cheetah conservation plan in Iran and update it for the next coming 5 years, as the 2nd phase of Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah Project (CACP). Accordingly, a joint initiative was established with close participation of international organizations to promote the project in Iran.

Led by Dr Mohammad B. Sadough,

the Deputy of Natural Environment and Biodiversity of the Iranian Department of Environment (DOE), the Iranian delegation were composed of Alireza Jourabchian, Mohammad S. Farhadinia as well as Mehdi Kamyab (UNDP, Iran). Meanwhile, international conservation agencies were also represented by Dr George Schaller (WCS/Panthera), Dr Luke hunter (Panthera), Dr Stephane Ostrowski (WCS), Laurie Marker and Bruce Brewer (CCF).

20 cheetah photos captured in the Kavir National Park

Once again Kavir National Park, 60 km south of Tehran was surprised all Iranian conservationists three months ago. Camera traps installed in the in this park captured at least 20 beautiful pictures of the cheetahs in this area. Since camera-trapping project started in Kavir National Park, the photos which captured in this time were very important in terms of diversity, the number and quality. Just during the past month, 20 photos were captured from different regions of Kavir National Park.

Thirty five camera trap installed by members of two environmental NGOs, "Plan 4 the land" and "Iranian Cheetah Society" with cooperation and monitoring of conservation of the Asiatic cheetah project office in this area. Beside cheetah, several other photos were captured from leopard, caracal, wolf, wild goats and Jebeer gazelle. In a site a camera trap which captured a cheetah



Cheetah international project says: is it photos belong to how many cheetahs are still unclear and should be investigated in the project office, but these photos did not decrease our concerns regarding the survival of cheetahs in the Kavir National Park. We remain concerned about the survival of cheetahs in this area. However, because maintaining species diversity in this area, but environmental conditions is somewhat fragile and need extra care. Kavir National Park is one of the 10 main habitats of cheetah in Iran and unfortunately is one of the areas which Iranian Oil Ministry

which placed in the opening moments of the sunrise in front the camera trap and then lying under the Haloxylon tree and lying on the ground. After the minutes this cheetah arose and sits again, search around and finally get away.

Manager of the Conservation of Asiatic

now plans to pursue oil exploration and gas storage. Due to the loss of security for cheetahs, if exploitation occurs in this area it will be caused major threats for survival of this animal in the Kavir National Park, a park which once called Serengeti of Iran.

Asiatic Cheetah on French TV

The Asiatic cheetah has been part of episode «Cheetah» produced by Channel 5 of French TV. The film crew spent a



week in Iran to shot the cheetah and its landscape in Kavir National Park and Miandasht Wildlife Refuge. Also, they got some footage of wardens' anti-poaching activities as well as Iranian NGOs public awareness efforts in the reserves. Meanwhile, they spent a while with Kushki, the male cheetah being kept in semi-captivity condition in Miandasht WR, northeastern Iran. The «Cheetah» which is an episode of «EXTINCTION» series will be released in September 2010 with duration of 50 minutes. Sumatran tiger, Orangutan, Asian elephants, polar bear, etc are other episodes of the series.

Since 2002 seven cheetahs were killed in roads in Iran

Installing 18 warning signs in Yazd and Kerman selected habitats of cheetah

Conservation of the Asiatic cheetah project installed warning signs in roads in and around cheetah habitats in Yazd and Kerman provinces. Just In the last 8 years, seven cheetahs killed in the roads while they passed. So, CACP is seeking to gradually install warning signs in roads for informing car drivers

and their awareness raising.

In coordination with the Ministry of Roads and Transportation, 12 signs in were installed in Naybandan Wildlife Refuge in Yazd province and six signs in Ravar area in Kerman province. Panels installed along the roads between Tabas and Naybandan village and also around

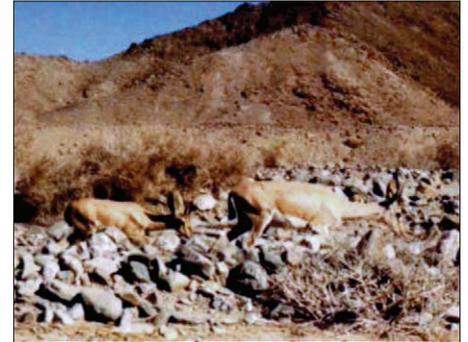
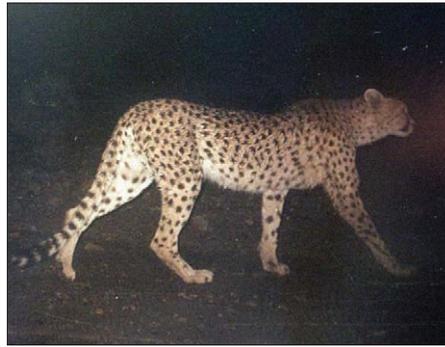
Ravar- Naybandan transit road.



Camera Trap Results in Dare Anjir

Following 4 images of cheetahs taken by camera traps during 2008, 3 new images were captured in 2009 in Dare Anjir Wildlife Refuge, central Iran. Spot pattern indicated that 2009 images belonged to 1 individual, an adult female which was captured in two different locations with aerial distance of up-to 30 kilometers. She was first photo-trapped in September in her summer coat, then again in December which shows her fluffy winter coat.

Previously, more than 30 images of cheetahs were taken in the area (2001-2007); however, the new images are the first records of this individual in Dare Anjir. Interestingly, the animal has passed railway which is between two camera locations. The animal seems adult and with respect to usual pictures of females in



companion of 1 to 4 cubs in this area, it raises a question why the animal has no cub in companion. Other than the

cheetah, wild sheep and a few images of Jebeer gazelle have been shot in the same locations.

Reporters and journalist journey to Myandasht Wildlife Refuge

In March 2010 the secretariat in conservation of Asiatic cheetah project (CACP), in order to familiarize newspaper reporters and journalists with Asiatic Cheetah hold a special tour. Therefore, 24 reporters and journalists were invited by CACP to visit Myandasht Wildlife Refuge in Northern Khorasan province. In this two- days trip they visited the only cheetah in captivity in Iran named Kooshki; and also they were be familiar with conservation measures of this endangered species. During the trip a lot of information about the habitats of cheetah in Iran was given to reporters to encouraging them to write more about this charismatic cat. The trip was exciting for the journalists so after two weeks from the day they were gone, more than 38 reports of cheetah were released in the newspapers and news agencies. Also they distributed



six visual reports from cheetah in TV. Since the importance role of the media on public awareness, CACP decided to continue these short tours for journalists and reporters.

Gazelles poached in Miandasht

A gazelle poacher was arrested in Miandasht Wildlife Refuge during an anti-poaching operation by the area's wardens. While patrolling northern area, the wardens spotted two motorbikes with 3 poached gazelles. Chasing the poachers, they released

the gazelles in the area; however, they were identified later following coordination with judiciary authorities, but not still arrested as they run away. The gazelles were shot, then their throat was cut by the poachers. The goitered (or Persian) gazelle is the only wild ungulate in Miandasht which is the main prey of the Asiatic cheetahs in the area. According to the

last annual censuses by the Iranian Department of Environment (DOE), no more than 300 gazelles area left in the area which despite of serious anti-poaching efforts by the area's wardens and livestock control measures, they are still susceptible to the poachers, often en route to marginal farmlands where they head during night to feed on fresh plants.

Site Visit by UNDP of Asiatic Cheetah Habitat in Yazd

At the same time that a workshop on the “Empowerment of Local Game Wardens in Asiatic cheetah habitats” was being held, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) paid a site visit to the Yazd Wildlife Refuge on March 15th.

The workshop was held with the presence of game wardens from 6 major Iranian cheetah habitats in the historical village of Kharanagh. Present there were Ms. Consuelo Vidal, the resident UNDP representative in Iran, Ms. Elzira Sagynbaeva, the Executive Deputy of the UNDP, Ms. Mitra Behnam, the Manager of UNDP Public Relations, and Mr. Mehdi Kamyab, the Group Head of the UNDP branch of Iran.

At the end of the workshop, Ms. Vidal made a visit to the protected



areas of Bafq Protected Area and Dare Anjir Wildlife Refuge. Ms. Vidal was content at the presence of women in the protection planning efforts of the cheetah. She stated, “I am so happy that I am among the hardworking game wardens of the Asiatic cheetah habitat because they have put forth a lot of effort in protecting this vanishing species.” Ms. Vidal confirmed that, “Local people can play an important role in the protection of the cheetah,

and therefore economic development is a necessity.” She then went on to talk about the importance of specifying the amount of people who share their habitats with the cheetah and possible conflicts that may exist in the area.

She continued to promote the importance that the presence of game wardens has had not only in protecting the Iranian cheetah, but also in getting more people to think about environmental and wildlife issues.



Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah
international project



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An Asiatic Cheetah in KAVIR National Park - IRAN. This Photo Was Taken by Camera Trap on January 2010