





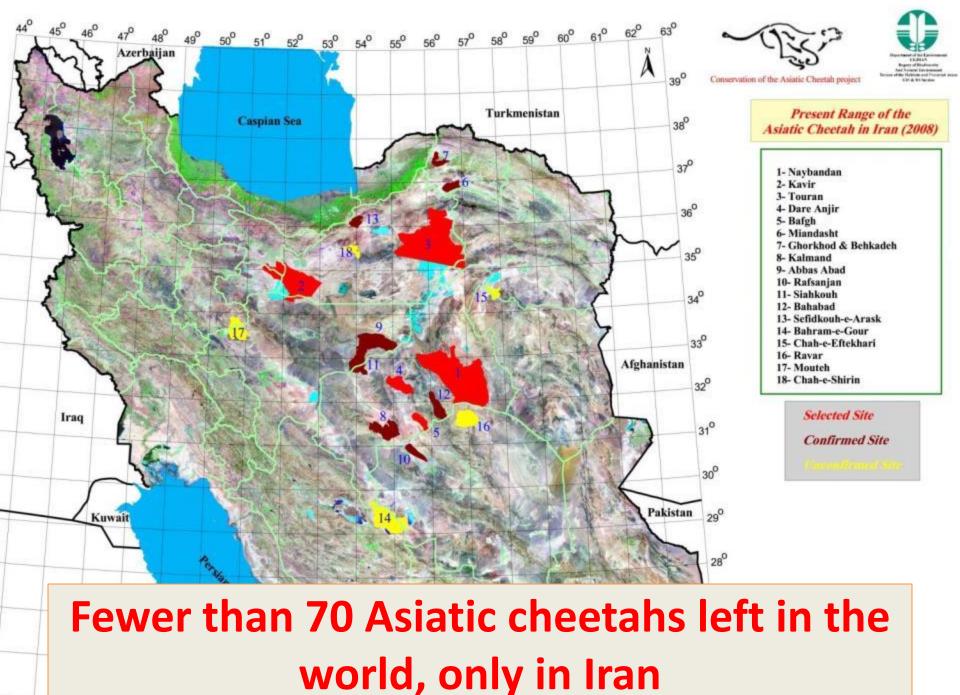




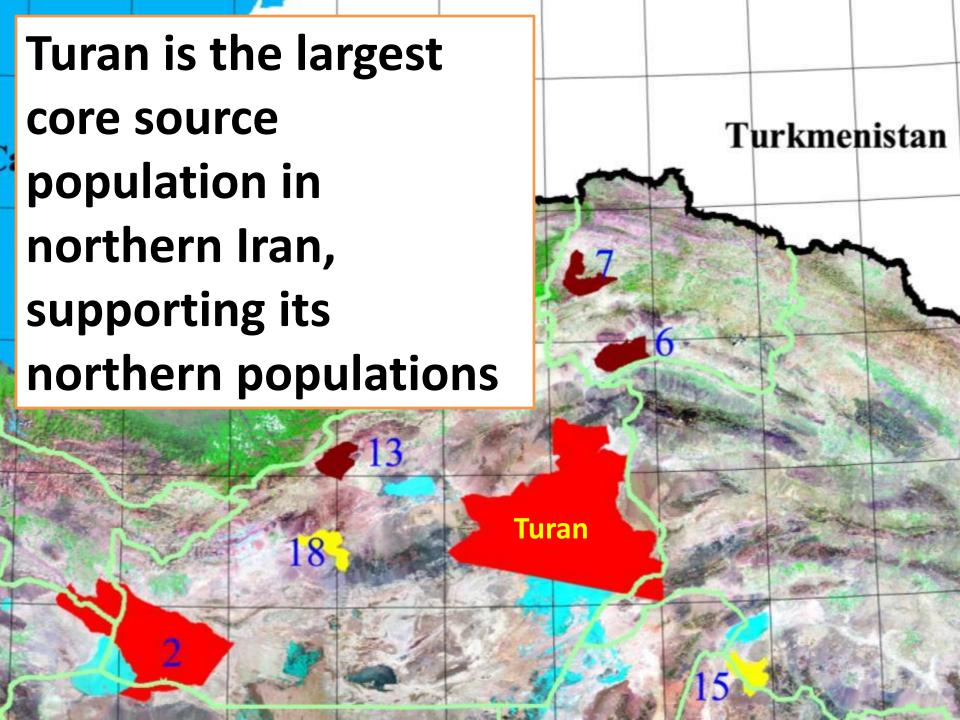
Creating a Livestock Free National Park to Safeguard the Critically Endangered Asiatic Cheetah in Northern Iran



September 2014, Bishkek



100 Kilometers



Turan Biosphere reserve

- 14,648 km2 (the 2nd largest reserve in Iran)
- Established in 1972 (National Park in 2002)
- Annual rainfall ca. 110 mm (arid area)
- 24 game wardens



Water Management for Wildlife

- Construction artificial water resources;
- Establishing pipelines from springs to provide water in the desert;
- Supplying water in warm season using tractor.



Anti-Poaching Patrols

- Daily anti-poaching patrols;
- Arresting poachers;
- Arranging judiciary procedures for poachers.



Supplying Foliage for Ungulates



Turan is a living collection of west Asian fauna





Persian Wild Ass (Onager) (EN)







A two month cheetah cub in Turan/June 2009 (© H. Ghazinezhad)

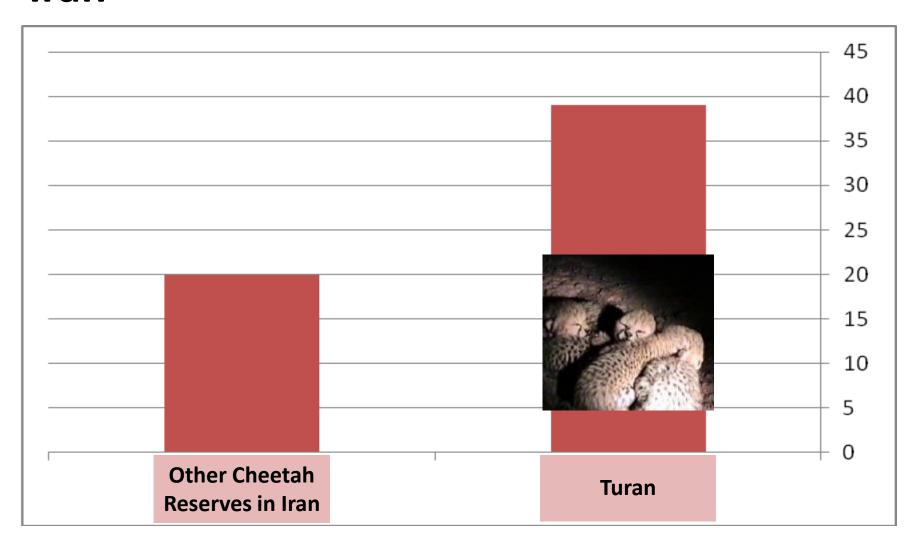
40% of Iran's Asiatic cheetahs' confirmed reproduction in 2010 occurred in Turan

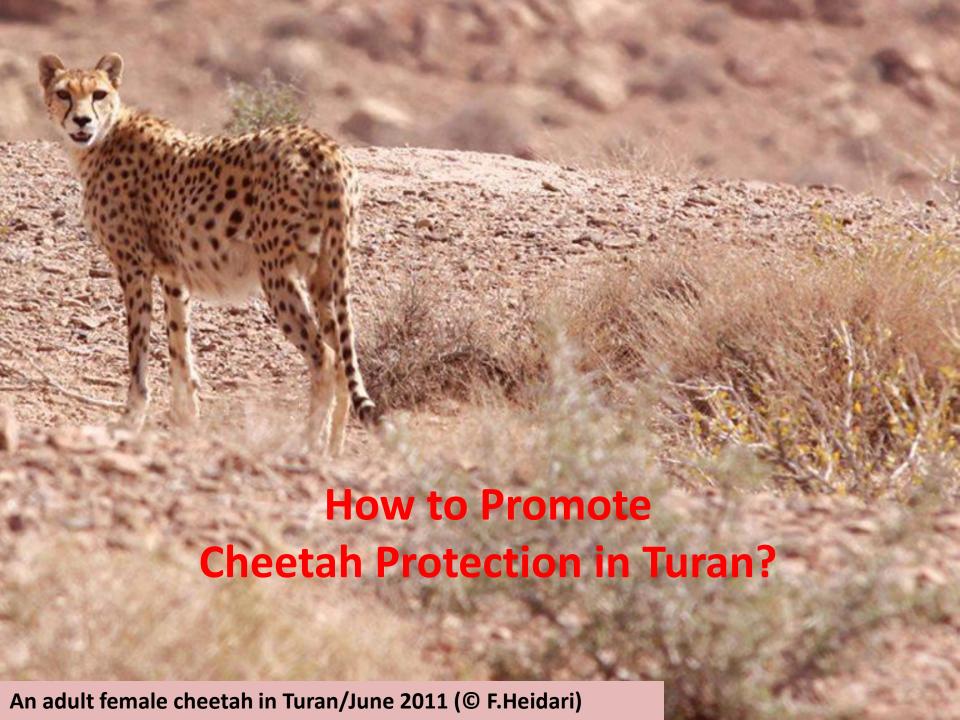


Cheetahs have high chance of raising their cubs to independence (2nd year) in Turan



During 2010, cheetah sightings in Turan was twice entire other cheetah reserves in Iran





Over 100,000 livestock graze Turan rangelands between November and April when cheetahs should give birth

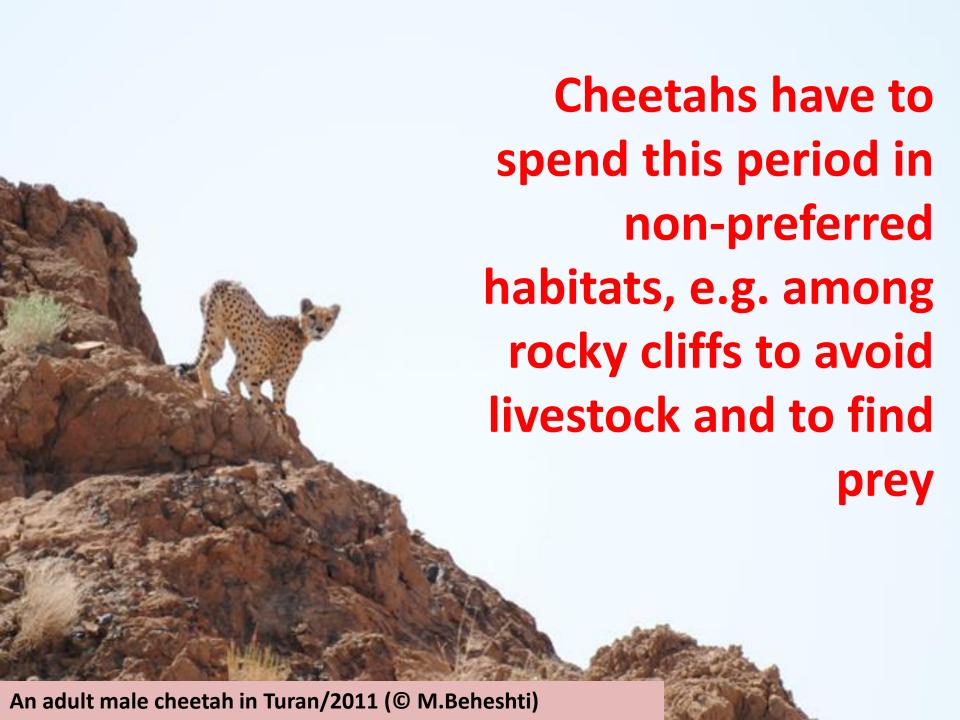




Several cheetahs have been caught/killed by people/herd dogs in recent years during their presence with their domestic animals

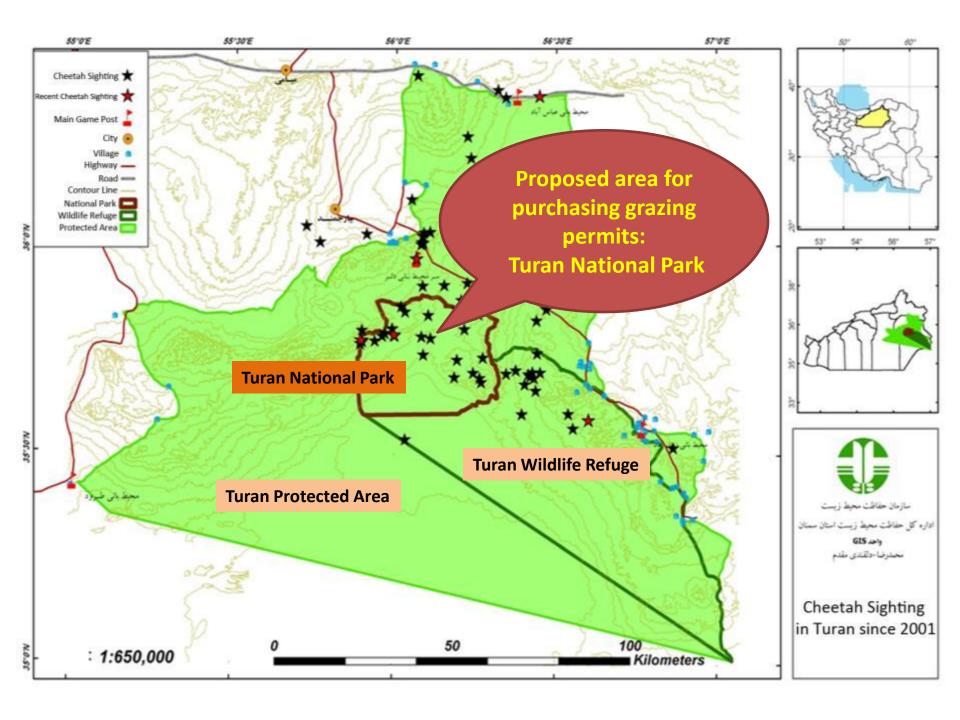
Also, overgrazing threat cheetah's prey with limited food resources and make them go to higher elevations because their habitat is occupied by livestock

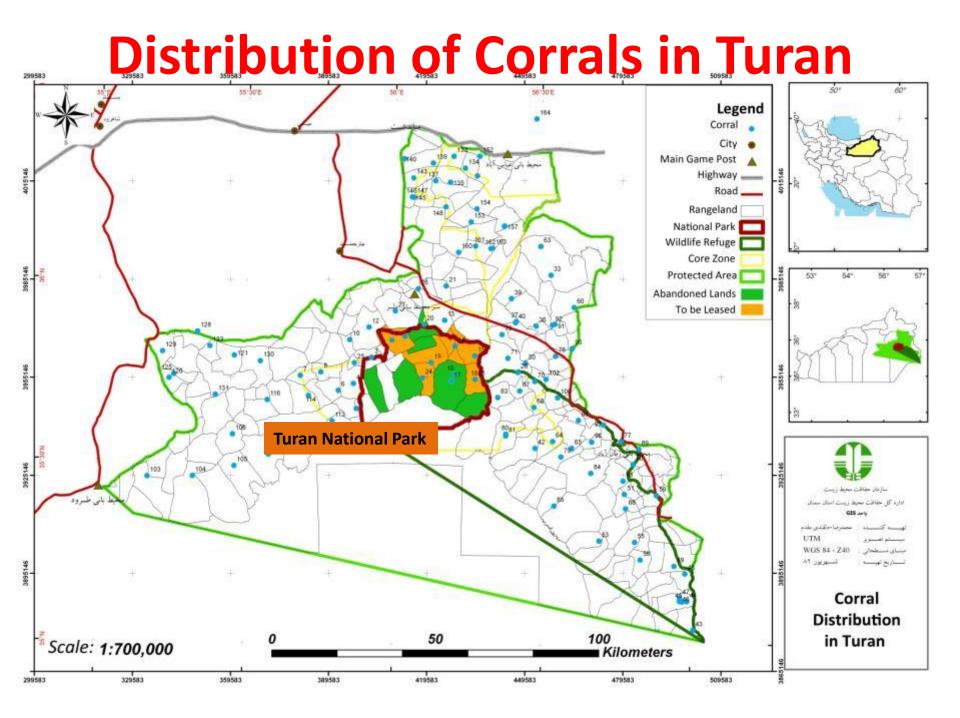




Solution: Purchasing 6 grazing permits to create a "real National Park" without livestock, safe for both cheetahs and their preys



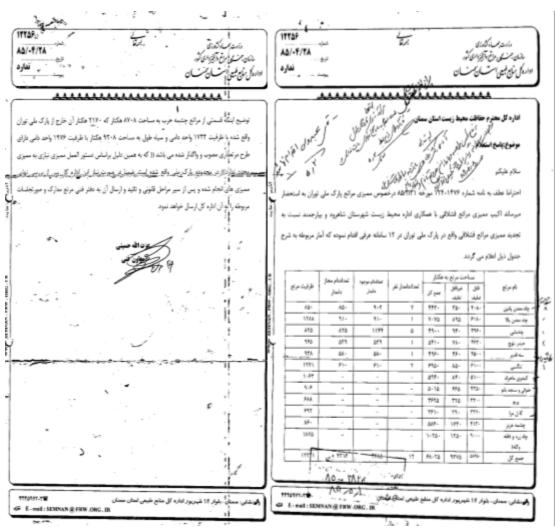




List of herders in Turan National Park

All social communes in Turan, their area, owners and number of sheep allowed to graze are known by Semnan DoE.

Letter from Semnan FRWMO to Semnan DoE in 2006



Nomads are land owner or permit owner?

- Land ownership belongs to the government.
- Nomads have grazing permit for their livestock since many years ago, before establishing of national park in 2002.

What is the process?

- Buying grazing permits of 6 remain herders in national park.
- Offering alternative pasture outside the Turan biosphere reserve and paying them for building new corals in new pastures.

An agreement between DoE (buyer) and local herder in Miandasht Wildlife Refuge for Cession of According to this properties (2010)

agreement which has been signed in Document Registration Organisation, the herder's ownership has been purchased and also he agreed that he has no claim about his property anymore. This is to indicate similar successful cases in Iran.



Why nomads should accept this offer?

- Current pastures are next to the desert and there isn't good vegetation coverage.
- New pastures have better vegetation coverage, better water resources, better access to roads and less conflict with carnivores.

This change is a win-win process for local poeple and wildlife.

Minute of meeting between DoE and grazing permit owners in Turan (August 2012)

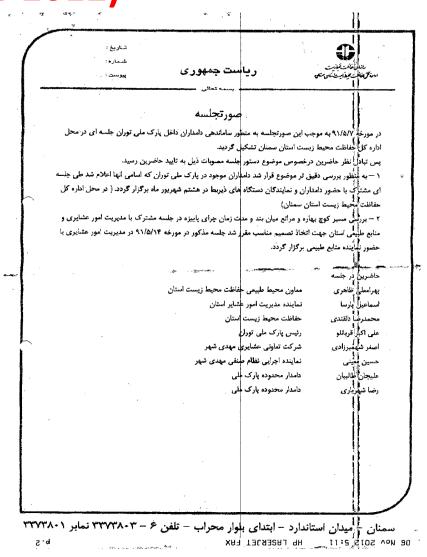
All herders agreed and signed that they prefer to leave Turan with respect to problems including high expenses they have to afford for migration, if alternative is provided such as alternative rangelands or their rights are bought.





Meeting between main stakeholders to regulate livestock grazing in Turan Biosphere Reserve (September 2012)

In a meeting attended by Department of Environment (DoE), Forest, Range & Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO), **Nomads Organization and** local herders representatives , regulatory issues were agreed for Turan rangelands.



Steering committee

 An steering committee have been organized containing NGOs, Department of Environment (DoE), Forest, Range & Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO), Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah Project (CACP), UNDP, Nomads Organization and local herders representatives, for doing the best and preventing of problems.

Is this a sustainable change?

Yes

 Because based on laws and regulations nobody have been allowed to get new grazing permit in the national parks.

Are we changing nomad's lifestyle?

No

- Because we won't buy their livestock, we'll buy grazing permits and offer them alternative pastures.
- They are not living and migrating with their livestock now. They are living and working in cities, specially Mehdishahr and they have another jobs.

Thank you for your attention

