Arash Ghoddousi

Geography Department, Humboldt University of Berlin
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EDUCATION

PhD in Biodiversity & Ecology   10/2012 – 09/2016

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, J.F. Blumenbach Institute of Zoology & Anthropology, Germany
Thesis title: *Prey preferences of the Persian leopard and trophic competition with human hunters in Iran*
Supervisors: M. Waltert, M. Mühlenberg & N. Balkenhol

MSc. & DIC in Conservation Science   10/2009 – 09/2010

Imperial College London, Department of Life Sciences, UK
Thesis title: *Habitat suitability modelling of brown bear Ursus arctos in Croatia and Slovenia using telemetry data*
Supervisors: N. Bunnefeld, K. Jerina, D. Huber & M. Rowcliffe

BSc. in Marine Biology   09/2002 – 02/2007

Shahid Beheshti University, Department of Biology, Iran

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Employment
Postdoctoral researcher, **Humboldt University of Berlin**   11/2016 – present
Wildlife conservationist, **Plan for the Land Society**   05/2011 – 03/2012
Administrative assistant, **Saiga Conservation Alliance**   11/2009 – 06/2010
Head of Biodiversity bureau, **Plan for the Land Society**   09/2006 – 09/2009

Expert group memberships
Member, **IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group**   2009 – present
Member, **IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group**   2016 – present
Member, **IUCN/SSC Caprinae Specialist Group**   2017 – present
Member, **IUCN/WCPA Young Professionals Group**   2014 – present

Honours and awards
Fritz-Frank-Award, *German Society for Mammalian Biology*   2017
Research Grant for Doctoral Candidates and Young Academics and Scientists, *German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)*   2012 – 2016
Co-assessor, *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*: leopard, caracal and wildcat assessment

RESEARCH & CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Principal investigator, **Protected area effectiveness in the Caucasus during socioeconomic and political shocks (PArCS)**   2019 - 2022

Project manager, **Towards adoption of systematic wildlife monitoring framework in the southern Caucasus** 2017 – 2018
Project manager, **Optimizing monitoring of the endangered Persian leopard and its prey using ranger's patrolling data** 2016 – 2018
Project manager, **Status assessment of endangered Persian leopard in its last stronghold: eastern Alborz Mountains, Iran** 2015 – 2016
Scientific director, **National ungulate monitoring techniques assessment** 2014 – 2016
Project manager, **Assessing effects of supplementary winter feeding on Alborz mouflon in Varjin Protected Area** 2012
Project collaborator, **Conservation of the Persian leopard at Golestan National Park** 2011 – 2012
National project manager, **Quantification and elimination of threats to Caspian seal** 2008 – 2009 & 2011 – 2012
Project manager, **Persian leopard conservation in Bamu National Park, southern Iran** 2008 – 2010
Field biologist, **Survey of Asiatic cheetah in Bahram'gur and Biduyeh Protected Areas, Iran** 2005 – 2007

TEACHING

Conservation Biogeography (BSc.), Humboldt University of Berlin 2017 – 2018
Field Methods in Biogeography (BSc.), Humboldt University of Berlin 2017 – 2019
Introduction to Biogeography (BSc.), Humboldt University of Berlin 2016 – 2019
Conservation Science & Practice (excursion), Humboldt University of Berlin 2018 – 2019
Assessing Wildlife for Conservation (MSc.), Georg-August-Universität Göttingen 2013

Thesis co-supervision and mentorship of 2 PhD, 4 MSc. and 4 BSc. students.

SELECTED SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

Integrating remote sensing and interview data for the identification of a leopard corridor in Alborz Mountains, Iran (2018) *5th Regional Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology Asia Section*, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Land-use practices influencing human-leopard conflicts in a human-dominated landscape (2017) In "*Human-carnivore conflict in regions undergoing land-use change*" symposium co-organized in *28th International Congress for Conservation Biology*, Cartagena, Colombia
Decline in ungulate populations of Iran's oldest national park calls for urgent actions against poaching (2016) *6th World Congress on Mountain Ungulates*, Nicosia, Cyprus
Effects of poaching deterrence around ranger stations on predator and prey abundance in steppes of northeastern Iran (2015) *10th International Conference on Behaviour, Physiology and Genetics of Wildlife*, Berlin, Germany
Persian leopard prey preference indicates importance of prey catchability in comparison to availability (2015) *89th Annual Meeting of German Society for Mammalian Biology*, Hannover, Germany (joint-winner of Young Scientist Prize)
Leopard-prey distribution in the Iranian steppes suggests response to poaching intensity (2015) *27th International Congress for Conservation Biology*, Montpellier, France