

# Dr. Arezoo Sanei

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Keywords: Leopard Research, Conservation, and Management Programs; Carnivore Species-Specific Research and Conservation Programs; Ecological Modeling; Space Ecology; Habitat Studies; Wildlife Action Planning; Strategic Planning; Human-Carnivore Conflict; Awareness Raising; Educational Programs; Innovative Modeling; Design and Implementation of National and Regional Wildlife Schemes; Persian Leopard; Malaysian Leopard.



## Profile

I am a senior wildlife expert who has dedicated over two decades of my life to conducting pioneering and innovative programs for researching, designing, and implementing conservation and management schemes, strategic and national action planning, awareness raising, research supervision, and lecturing. I have also been involved in conservation efforts, project direction, design, and execution of management programs specifically focused on the leopard (*Panthera pardus*), with particular attention to the Persian leopard in Iran.

At this stage of my career, I am passionate about conducting new research programs on the behavioral ecology of large carnivores in different habitats and environments. As a personal aspiration, I am also highly interested in enhancing my skills and knowledge in carnivore rehabilitation programs. This will enable me to oversee the establishment and development of the necessary facilities in other regions, including my home country.

## Education

Degree	Doctor of Philosophy, Wildlife Management and Ecology
University	Universiti Putra Malaysia
Thesis Title	Modeling Regional Cumulative Effects of Land Use and Land Cover Variations in Relation to Persistence of the Persian Leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus saxicolor</i> ) in Iran
Year of Graduation	2018

Degree	Master of Science, Wildlife Management
University	Universiti Putra Malaysia
Thesis Title	Population Size and Occupancy Status of the Leoaprd ( <i>Panthera Pardus</i> L.) in a Secondary Forest of Ayer Hitam Reserve, Malaysia
Year of Graduation	2010

Degree	Bachelor, Natural Resources Management Engineering
University	Azad University of Tehran
Thesis Title	Assessment of the Persian Leopard Status in Iran
Year of Graduation	2004

## Languages

- Persian (Native or bilingual proficiency)
- English (Full professional proficiency)
- Bahasa Malaysia (Limited working proficiency)
- Spanish (Elementary proficiency)

## Courses and Qualifications

- Environmental law and regulations: Iranian Network of Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations, Iran, 2004
- Sampling programs, biological sciences, wildlife management and techniques: Department of Environment of Iran, WCS, UNDP, Iran, 2006
- 2005-2006 | Volunteer in Asiatic Cheetah Project, Department of Environment of Iran and UNDP, Tehran, Iran
- 2006 (1 Month) | Volunteer program at Cheetah Conservation Fund, Otjiwarongo, Namibia
- International training courses for cheetah conservation biology at Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia, 2008
- Trapping and Research Programs focusing on Lion, Cheetah, Leopard (Field Visits and Knowledge Sharing): Botswana Predator Conservation Trust, Botswana, 2008
- Species occurrence and occupancy modeling by Darryl Mackenzie: WCS, University of Malaya, 2009
- Scientific writing, ethics and legal issues in journal publication: UPM, Malaysia, 2009
- Species Distribution Modeling (SDM) by Dr. Jane Elith: WCS, University of Malaya, 2012
- LaTeX document preparation system: The Institute for Mathematical Research, UPM, Malaysia, 2016

- Mediation Training Course: Iranian Leading Facilitator Institute, Iran, 2020

## Scholarships and Awards

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- Active Involvement of Local Communities to Establish the Persian Leopard Monitoring Scheme in Iran, Platinum Award (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> level), Issued by Facilitation Impact Awards (FIA), October 2021
- Years of Research and Awareness Raising Activities for the Persian Leopard in Iran, Dr. Taghi Ebtekar 2016 Award, Issued by Center for Peace and Environment, March 2016
- Developing the Innovative "Persian Leopard National Insurance Program", Certificate Issued by the Department of Environment of Iran and MA Insurance Company, July 2016
- Book Authorship - Research and Innovation, Award Issued by the Iranian Youth International Festival, January 2010
- Research Poster: Award Issued by PRPI Research Poster Exhibition, Jan 2010
- Special Graduate Research Allowance Scheme (SGRA) under the grant for the Malaysian leopard project, Research Management Centre, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 2007-2010
- Research grant, People's Trust for Endangered Species, 2011- 2012
- Research grant (equipment for the project), Idea Wild (2011)
- Research grant, East Azarbaijan provincial DoE office (2012-2013)
- Research grant, The GEF Small Grant Program, UNDP (2012-2014)
- Research grant, The GEF Small Grant Program, UNDP (2014-2017)
- Research grant, Dashtestan Cement Industries Co. with supervision of the Boushehr Provincial DoE office (2015-2016)
- Research grant, The GEF Small Grant Program, UNDP (2018-2021)

## Working Experience Summary

- Field Researcher, Research Design, Project Leader, Project Assistant and Lecturer, Execution of Research Projects, National Status Assessments, National Action Planning, 2002 to Present.
- Research Consultant and Supervision, 2010 to present.
- Reviewer for Scientific Publications, Upon Invitation, 2012 to Present.
- Strategic Supervision for the Execution of the Persian Leopard National Action Plan in Iran, Department of Environment, May 2019 - Oct 2020, Iran.
- Founder and Executive Director, Asian Leopard Specialist Society, from September 2010.
- Founder and Director, Persian Leopard Online Portal (A Persian Leopard National Network and Data Recording Online Platform <[www.Persian-Leopard.com](http://www.Persian-Leopard.com)>), Iran, from 2012.

- Founder, Organizer and Lecturer, Persian Leopard Regional Workshops, Iran, from 2012.
- Founder and Director, Habitat Restoration Program <[www.PersianLeopard-Habitat.com](http://www.PersianLeopard-Habitat.com)>, from 2022.

## Projects

- **Date:** 2018 – 2021  
**Position:** Program leader, project design, monitoring scheme design, lecturer  
**Title:** Establishment of the Leopard National Monitoring Scheme in accordance with the Persian Leopard National Action Plan in Iran  
**Organization and contributors:** Asian Leopard Specialist Society, Department of Environment, GEF Small Grant Program at UNDP, Department of Environment and Sustainable Development at Municipality of Tehran
- **Date:** May 2019 - Oct 2020  
**Position:** Program Leader  
**Title:** Strategic supervision for the execution of the Persian Leopard National Action Plan in Iran  
**Organization and contributors:** Asian Leopard Specialist Society, Department of Environment (Deputy of Natural Environment)
- **Date:** 2012 – 2016  
**Position:** Program leader  
**Title:** Participatory development of the Persian Leopard National Action Plan in Iran  
**Organization and contributors:** Department of Environment of Iran, Asian Leopard Specialist Society
- **Date:** 2016  
**Position:** Developing program scheme and national implementation structure, conducting the first phase of the program  
**Title:** Innovative Persian leopard national insurance scheme  
**Organization:** Department of Environment of Iran
- **Date:** 2015- 2016  
**Position:** Program Leader  
**Title:** Development of innovative Persian leopard participatory monitoring scheme in Boushehr province (pilot program)  
**Organization and contributors:** Asian Leopard Specialist Society, Boushehr provincial DoE office, funded by Dashtestan Cement Industries Co.

- **Date:** 2014 – 2017  
**Position:** Program Leader, project design, lecturer  
**Title:** Empowerment of Persian leopard national network for participatory conservation of Persian leopard  
**Organization and contributors:** Asian Leopard Specialist Society, Department of Environment, The GEF Small Grant Program, UNDP; DoE provincial offices of Alborz, Lorestan, Sistan and Balouchestan, North Khorasan provinces
- **Date:** 2007-2011  
**Position:** Program leader, research design, data collection, mapping and analysis  
**Title:** Status assessment of the Persian leopard in Iran (2<sup>nd</sup> countrywide assessment)  
**Organization and contributors:** Asian Leopard Specialist Society, Department of Environment
- **Date:** 2012 – 2014  
**Position:** Leader of the project, project design, lecturer  
**Title:** Formation of an active network between technical experts and local activists in selected leopard habitats for establishing priorities for participatory conservation of Persian leopard  
**Organization and contributors:** Asian Leopard Specialist Society, Department of Environment, The GEF Small Grant Program, UNDP; DoE provincial offices of West Azarbaijan, Boushehr, Golestan and North Khorasan provinces.
- **Date:** November 2012  
**Position:** Founder and director  
**Title:** Establishment of the Persian leopard online database recording system <[www.Persian-leopard.com](http://www.Persian-leopard.com)>  
**Organization and contributors:** Asian Leopard Specialist Society, GEF Small Grant Program, UNDP.
- **Date:** December 2012 - January 2013  
**Position:** Founder, director, lecturer  
**Title:** Persian Leopard Regional Workshops on research design, distribution modelling, MAXENT software and knowledge development in community based programs (with the main focus on the Persian leopard)  
**Organization and contributors:** Asian Leopard Specialist Society, Department of Environment and GEF Small Grant Program, DoE provincial offices of West Azarbaijan, Boushehr, Golestan and North Khorasan provinces.
- **Date:** April 2012- April 2013  
**Position:** Leader of the project  
**Title:** Primary study of the Persian leopard potential habitats and corridors in East Azerbaijan province, North West of Iran.  
**Organization and contributors:** Asian Leopard Specialist Society, Department of Environment, East Azarbaijan provincial DoE office.

- **Date:** October 2011- September 2012  
**Position:** Leader of the project  
**Title:** Leopard distribution in north-eastern Iran in relation to escalating human pressures and prey resources  
**Organization and contributors:** Asian Leopard Specialist Society, People's Trust for Endangered Species.
- **Date:** June 2011 – December 2011  
**Position:** Team leader, study design and implementation, analysis and reporting  
**Title:** Status assessment of the Persian leopard and jungle cat in Iran for the road map of cats of Iran  
**Organization:** Department of Environment of Iran
- **Date:** 2007- 2010  
**Position:** Research design, field surveys, data analysis and reporting  
**Title:** Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) population size and occupancy modelling in a secondary forest of Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve  
**Organization and contributors:** Research Management Centre, Universiti Putra Malaysia; Faculty of Forestry, UPM.
- **Date:** November 2004 - September 2005  
**Position:** Leader of the project  
**Title:** Mouse disinfestations in region one of Dist.7 of Tehran, project-phase 1  
**Organization:** Social and cultural deputy office of Municipality (Dist.7 of Tehran)
- **Date:** September 2003 - August 2005  
**Position:** Lecturer  
**Title:** Workshops on (1) biodiversity, (2) natural resources, (3) urban green area and (4) study of the necessities of control of mouse population in Tehran  
**Organization:** House of young citizens affiliated by Municipality (District 7, Tehran)
- **Date:** August 2002 - October 2006  
**Position:** Leader of the project, study design, surveys, reporting  
**Title:** Assessment of the Persian leopard status in Iran (1<sup>st</sup> countrywide assessment)  
**Organization:** Funded by BehshahrKar Co.

## Publications

- **Books:**

Sanei, A. (2020). Research and Management Practices for Conservation of the Persian



Leopard in Iran. Springer, Cham. isbn: 978-3-030-28003-1.

Sanei, A., Hermidas, Sh. (2017). An Introduction to the Research Tools: A Guide for the Members of the Persian Leopard Online Portal (in Persian). Asian Leopard Specialist Society, Tehran. isbn: 978-600-04-9108-6.

Sanei, A. (2007). Assessment of the Persian Leopard Status in Iran. Sepehr Publication Center, Tehran. isbn: 978-964-6123-74-8.

▪ **Legal Documents:**

Sanei, A. (2016). Persian Leopard National Conservation and Management Action Plan in Iran. Department of Environment, Tehran. isbn: 978 - 600 - 04 - 4354 – 2.

▪ **Technical Reports:**

Sanei, A. (2021). Establishment of the Leopard National Monitoring Scheme in accordance with the Persian Leopard National Action Plan in Iran. Asian Leopard Specialist Society, Final Report submitted to GEF/SGP/UNDP.

Sanei, A. (2016). A Pilot Program for Participatory Monitoring and Conservation of the Persian leopard in Dashtestan County, Bushehr province (Annual Report). Report submitted to Bushehr DoE General Office. (In Persian).

Sanei, A., Masoud, M.R. (2014). A Report to the Persian Leopard Status and Conservation in the Iranian Part of the Caucasus Eco-Region (Report No. ALSS/2014/Cau/7-1). Prepared for the Caucasus Leopard Expert's Workshop, Georgia.

Sanei, A. (2013). Formation of an Active Network between Technical Experts and Local Activists in Leopard Habitats for Establishing Priorities for Participatory Conservation of Persian Leopard. Report Submitted to SGP/GEF/UNDP.

Sanei, A., Masoud, M.R. (2013). Mapping the Persian Leopard Habitat Connectivity in Caucasus Ecoregion – East Azerbaijan Province, Iran. Report Submitted to the East Azerbaijan Provincial DoE Office. 82 pp. (In Persian).

Sanei, A., Jafari, B., Gordmardi, E., Absalan, H., Fasihi, F. (2012). Leopard Distribution in Northeastern Iran in Relation to Escalating Human Pressures and Prey Resources. Asian Leopard Specialist Society, Tehran, Iran. Report No.: ALSS/PTES/7115.

Sanei, A. (2010). Countrywide Persian Leopard Studies Progress Report (Phase 1: 2002-2006). Asian Leopard Specialist Society, Tehran, Rep. No.: 07/07/02/110/BEH.

Sanei, A., Zakaria, M. (2009). Malaysian Leopard Project Progress Report. Report Submitted to Research Management Center, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

▪ **Journal Articles, Book Chapters, Conference Papers**

Sanei, A., Teimouri, A., Asadi Ahmad Abad, R., Saeida, Sh., Taheri, S. (2020). An Innovative National Insurance Model to Mitigate the Livestock–Leopard Conflicts in Iran *In: Research and Management Practices for Conservation of the Persian Leopard in Iran*. Edited by: Arezoo Sanei. Springer, Cham, isbn: 978-3-030-28003-1.

Sanei, A., Teimouri, A., Ahmadi Fard, G., Asgarian, H.R., Alikhani, M. (2020). Introduction to the Persian Leopard National Conservation and Management Action Plan in Iran *In: Research and Management Practices for Conservation of the Persian Leopard in Iran*. Edited by: Arezoo Sanei. Springer, Cham, isbn: 978-3-030-28003-1.

Sanei, A., Masoud, M.R., Mohamadi, H. (2020). An Overview to the Persian Leopard Trans-boundary Habitats in the Iranian Sector of the Caucasus Ecoregion *In: Research and Management Practices for Conservation of the Persian Leopard in Iran*. Edited by: Arezoo Sanei. Springer, Cham, isbn: 978-3-030-28003-1.

Sanei, A., Zakaria, M., Mohamad Kasim, M.R., Mohd, A. (2020). An Innovative Approach for Modeling Cumulative Effect of Variations in the Land Use/Land Cover Factors on Regional Persistence of the Persian Leopard *In: Research and Management Practices for Conservation of the Persian Leopard in Iran*. Edited by: Arezoo Sanei. Springer, Cham, isbn: 978-3-030-28003-1.

Sanei, A., Zakaria, M., Mohamadi, H., Masoud M.R., Jafaari, B., Delshab, H., Gordmardi, E., Jamadi, M., Darvishi, Kh., Poursalem, S. (2020). Ground Validation of the Persian Leopard MaxEnt Potential Distribution Models: An Evaluation to Three Threshold Rules *In: Research and Management Practices for Conservation of the Persian Leopard in Iran*. Edited by: Arezoo Sanei. Springer, Cham, isbn: 978-3-030-28003-1.

Sanei, A., Zakaria, M., Daraei, L., Besmeli, M.R., Esfandiari, F., Veisi, H., Absalan, H., Fasihi, F. (2020). Countrywide Distribution Modelling of the Persian Leopard Potential Habitats on a Regional Basis in Iran *In: Research and Management Practices for Conservation of the Persian Leopard in Iran*. Edited by: Arezoo Sanei. Springer, Cham, isbn: 978-3-030-28003-1.

Sanei, A., (2020). Novel Regional Classification of Natural and Socioeconomic Characteristics for the Persian Leopard Research and Conservation Programs *In: Research and Management Practices for Conservation of the Persian Leopard in Iran*. Edited by: Arezoo Sanei. Springer, Cham, isbn: 978-3-030-28003-1.

Sanei, A., Mohamadi, H., Hermidas, Sh., Asgarian, H.R. (2020). A King for the Mountainous Landscapes: An Overview to the Cultural Significance and Conservation



Requirements of the Persian Leopard in Iran *In: Research and Management Practices for Conservation of the Persian Leopard in Iran*. Edited by: Arezoo Sanei. Springer, Cham, isbn: 978-3-030-28003-1.

Sanei, A. (2020). General Overview to the Research Programs in Part I *In: Research and Management Practices for Conservation of the Persian Leopard in Iran*. Edited by: Arezoo Sanei. Springer, Cham, isbn: 978-3-030-28003-1.

Da Silva, L.G., Kawanishi, K., Henschel, P., Kittle, A., Sanei A., Reebin, A., *et al.* (2017). Mapping black panthers: Macroecological modeling of melanism in leopards (*Panthera pardus*). *PLoS ONE* 12(4): e0170378.

Sanei, A., Mousavi, M., Kiabi, B.H., Masoud, M.R., Gord Mardi, E., Mohamadi, H., Shakiba, M., Baran Zehi, A., Teimouri, M., Raeesi, T. (2016). Status Assessment of the Persian Leopard in Iran. *Cat News Special Issue* 10: 43-50.

Sanei, A., Mousavi, M., Rabiee, K., Khosravi, M.S., Julaei, L., Gudarzi, F., Jaafari, B., Chalani, M. (2016). Distribution, Characteristics and Conservation of the Jungle Cat in Iran. *Cat News Special Issue* 10: 51-55.

Sanei, A., Gordmardi, E., Jafari, B., Absalan, H., Zakaria, M. (2013). Persian leopard distribution in relation to human pressures and prey resources in North Khorasan province, Iran *In: International forestry graduate students' conference*. Edited by: F. S. Lai, R. Halis, S.N. Abu Bakar, S. Ramachandran, C. L. Puan. 58-61. University Putra Malaysia: Malaysia.

Sanei, A., Mousavi, M., Mousivand, M., Zakaria, M. (2012). Assessment of the Persian leopard Mortality Rate in Iran *In: Proceedings of UMT 11th International Annual Symposium on Sustainability Science and Management*. B. Arifin, S. N. Afifah Jaafar, S. M. Zain S. Hasan, A. Hassan, H. M. E. Armanto, Ch. Tse Seng, W. Z. Wan Sembok, Sh. Md Sheriff, S. Noordin Mokhtar, F. I. Abdul Wahab, H. Mohd Yusof, A. Mat. Arshad (Eds.). Universiti Malaysia Terengganu: Malaysia.

Sanei A., Hermidas Sh., Zakaria M. (2011). Prey Composition in the Persian leopard Distribution Range in Iran. *Asia Life Sciences Supplement* 7: 29-40.

Sanei, A., Zakaria, M. (2011). Distribution Pattern of the Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor* Pocock 1927) in Iran. *Asia Life Sciences Supplement* 7: 1-12.

Sanei, A., Zakaria, M. (2011). Survival of the Persian Leopard in Iran: Primary Threats and Human-Leopard Conflicts. *Asia Life Sciences Supplement* 7: 41-49.

Sanei, A., Zakaria, M. (2011). Impacts of Human Disturbances on the Habitat Use by the Malayan Leopard in a Fragmented Secondary Forest, Malaysia. *Asia Life Sciences Supplement* 7: 55-67.

Sanei, A., Zakaria, M. (2011). Occupancy Status of Leopard Prey Species in a

Disturbed Fragmented Forest in Selangor, Malaysia. *Asia Life Sciences Supplement* 7: 13-27.

Sanei, A., Zakaria, M., Yusof, E., Roslan, M. (2011). Estimation of Leopard Population Size in a Secondary Forest within Malaysia's Capital Agglomeration Using Unsupervised Classification of Pugmarks. *Tropical Ecology* 52 (2): 209-217.

Zakaria, M., Sanei, A. (2011). Conservation and management prospects of the Persian and Malayan leopards. *Asia Life Sciences Supplement* 7: 1-5.

Sanei, A., Zakaria, M. (2010). Possible First Jungle Cat Record from Malaysia. *Cat News* 54: 13-14.

Sanei, A., Zakaria, M. (2009). Primary Threats to Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*) in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Pp: 491-495. In: *Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Annual Symposium on Sustainability Science and Management*. Asyraf, Hj. Ab.R. (Eds.). Universiti Malaysia Terengganu: Malaysia.

Sanei, A., Zakaria, M. (2008). Distribution of *Panthera pardus* in Iran in Relation to its Habitat and Climate Type. P. 54. Abstract in: *3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Symposium on Environment and Natural Resources*. Saiful, A.A., Norhayati, A., Shuhaimi, M.O., Ahmad, A.K. and Zulfahmi, A.R. (Eds.). Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia: Malaysia.