

How awareness can turn poachers to wildlife lovers

Social Desk

The head of the Savadkuh Environment Department, Ebrahim Fallahi, has reported that 13 skilled hunters in Kaseliyan, a village near Savadkuh in Iran's northern Mazandaran Province, have put down their rifles and are now supporting wildlife protection efforts.

Ali Safaei, one of these hunters explained that his interest in hunting predates to his childhood, when he would poach partridge, roe deer, and pheasant as a means of earning a living. However, in 2013, something happened that caused him to reconsider his career path. Although he did not elaborate on the specifics of this incident, he stated that he had fallen into hunting so deeply that he would be gone for several days at a time and that his entire livelihood depended on killing animals.

Safaei, now 41 years old and the father of two girls, sold each pheasant for 100,000 tomans (around \$30) to make ends meet. In the end, he decided to become a wildlife advocate because of his love for animals and his desire to protect them.

This shift in attitude is part of a larger trend of increased public engagement in discussions about animal conservation in Savadkuh.

The impulsive participation of people in these discussions is seen as a positive development by Fallahi. While it remains to be seen whether these changes will lead to concrete improvements in animal conservation efforts in the region, the decision of Safaei and his fellow hunters to abandon poaching in favor of animal protection is a hopeful sign.

No to game meat

Safaei also expounded how his young daughter's questioning of his hunting



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practices prompted him to reconsider his career path and become an advocate for wildlife protection.

"She posed the question of why I would hunt these blameless creatures. Despite her tender age, her words had an odd impact on me, and I ruminated for several days," the hunter-turned-ranger said.

He explained how his daughter's refusal to eat game meat led him to reflect on the morality of hunting and the impact it was having on the local pheasant pop-

ulation. He ultimately decided to stop hunting for two years, and this period of abstinence eventually led him to become an environmentalist and wildlife advocate.

His decision caught the attention of Mostafa Arab, the then head of the Savadkuh Environment Department, who offered him a monthly income in exchange for giving up hunting permanently. Safaei accepted the offer and was provided with environmental protection gear

and was placed in charge of 18 villages in his locality. Although he no longer receives compensation for his conservation efforts, Safaei and his colleagues have established a fund and continue to work to protect wildlife in the region. He expressed gratitude for the fortuitous shift in his life trajectory and was pleased that he no longer hunts defenseless animals.

His story also highlights the importance of financial support and institutional

recognition in enabling individuals to pursue conservation efforts as a career.

Raising awareness works

Fakhroddin Ahmadi, one of the 13 skilled hunters who have pledged to protect wildlife in Kaseliyan village, shared his transformational journey as well. For him, hunting was a family affair, and he had also hunted deer, goats, and other animals for years. However, his perception changed when he was approached by a nature tour company to act as a guide.

He became aware of the beauty of nature and realized the importance of preserving it. Later, Ahmadi joined a campaign called "No to Hunting".

Ahmadi's previous job did not provide him with enough income, but a change in his attitude towards nature altered his course of action. He started working in forestry and environmental protection, then shifted to a self-employed business, and is currently involved in manufacturing wooden structures. Since then, he has lost his interest in hunting.

He admits that his initial mindset was not inclined towards nature preservation or wildlife protection. He used to poach indiscriminately. However, a change in awareness stirred within him, which led to him spearheading the Kaseliyan village environmentalist campaign.

The campaign involved advertising and educational initiatives aimed at raising awareness among the local populace about the importance of protecting wildlife and nature. Cameras were installed to monitor animal species and improve protection measures. The status quo is much better now and people have become more cognizant, cooperating instinctively in the noble act of conserving the nature.

Iran official warns against consequences of global warming



● President of Iran Meteorological Organization Sahar Tajbakhsh Mosalman
● ISNA



● The pace of global warming has significantly increased in the last hundred years due to the burning of fossil fuels.
● mohitizist.ir

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The president of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO) has raised the alarm about the consequences of global warming and climate change, saying temperatures in the country are increasing at twice the global average. "The data of the weather stations indicate that the country's average temperatures have increased at the pace of 0.4 degrees Celsius which is twice the global trend. The data also show the speed of the warming of the environment and climate change of the country is higher than the global average," Sahar Tajbakhsh Mosalman said. She added that rising temperatures cause faster evaporation of water and reduce the opportunity to restore underground water resources. The official said the pace of evaporation from lakes and reservoirs of the country in the past 50 years have had destructive impacts on available water resources. Tajbakhsh noted that rising temperatures, low rainfall, an increase

in water evaporation and droughts have occurred due to climate change, which have resulted in irreparable environmental and socio-economic consequence.

She also warned that lack of proper management of existing resources along with the ongoing trend will inflict huge costs on the country. Tajbakhsh said the pace of climate change depends on the emissions of greenhouse gases in the globe. She noted that global warming is currently at an unprecedented level.

Global warming, climate change

Global warming is the long-term warming of the planet's overall temperature. The pace of the phenomenon has significantly increased in the last hundred years due to the burning of fossil fuels.

When fossil fuels burn, they release greenhouse gases; mostly carbon dioxide (CO₂). These gases trap the Sun's heat and cause the planet's tempera-

ture to rise.

The world is now about 1.1C warmer than it was in the 19th century. The amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere has also risen by 50 percent.

To avoid the worst consequences of climate change, temperature rises must slow down. Scientists say global warming needs to be kept to 1.5C by 2100. Further global warming could turn some different regions into uninhabitable places.

Extreme temperatures can also increase the risk of wildfires. Germany and France recorded about seven times more land burnt between January and the middle of July last year, compared with the average.

Hotter temperatures also mean that previously frozen ground will melt in places like Siberia, releasing greenhouse gases trapped for centuries into the atmosphere, further worsening climate change.

Extreme rainfall also caused historic flooding last year; as seen in China, Pakistan and Nigeria

Iran educational system should become more efficient

Social Desk

Inclusive and high-quality education is considered as the backbone of educational systems in the modern world. Providing proper education from early school years can play an influential role in boosting the capabilities of students and enabling them to make remarkable progress in their working career in the future. Hence, educational content and concepts are of great importance.

Iran provides free of charge education for all walks of life from the elementary level. But the content of text books has been a contentious issue because they have remained unchanged for many years. Experts believe that some materials of text books are not appropriate to the needs of students and they should be updated and overhauled to enhance efficiency.

Mehdi Fathi, a teacher and education expert, has touched upon the necessity to changing educational content. "Updating educational content alone is not enough. Our educational system belongs to the last decades, and this system should undergo fundamental changes from basic levels," he said. Hojatollah Bonyadi, an education researcher, also weighed in on the issue.



● ISNA

"The main priority of developed industrial countries in education pertains to teaching life skills so that a person can participate in social activities by relying on his/her knowledge."

Bonyadi noted that the educational system should distance itself from pushing students to memorize text book contents and instead focus on self-reliance, job generation and entrepreneurship.

He said schools focus on parrot fashion learning and neglect real needs and skills that students should develop. "Educational content has failed to provide appropriate job skills. The high number of jobless people with higher education indicates that the educational planning does not match with the country's

real needs," Bonyadi said. Educational planning has been defined as the application of rational, systematic analysis to the process of educational development with the aim of making education more effective and efficient in responding to the needs and goals of students and society. Educational planning also paves the way for identification of areas where improvements need to be made to provide students with the best possible education. Besides, flexibility is another crucial aspect of educational planning. By creating a plan, educational planners improve flexibility in the classroom. This means that teachers can make changes to the way they teach based on the needs of their students.