

Cheetahs left to fend for themselves on Mayamey-Abbas Abad road

Social Desk

Once a sanctuary for the magnificent Asiatic cheetah, the region nestled between Mayamey and Abbas Abad in Semnan Province now stands as a killing ground for this endangered species. Within this vast expanse of Khar Turan National Park, it is estimated that a mere 20 cats of this rare breed still roam. However, their survival hangs by a thread, as the transit road from Mayamey to Abbas Abad, stretching 50 kilometers along the southern part of the park, has become a deadly obstacle course.

Tragically, every year witnesses the loss of at least one cheetah due to fatal collisions with speeding cars. Over the past 13 years, a heart-wrenching tally of 13 cheetahs has met their untimely demise along this treacherous stretch of road, earning it the grim moniker, *Youzkoosh* (cheetah killer) Road.

Solutions to this pressing issue have been proposed, yet the will to implement them seems to falter. One such

measure is the installation of fencing, designed to prevent the cheetahs from venturing onto the road. However, a mere five kilometers, out of the total 100-kilometer stretch (both north and south roads), have been fenced so far, leaving much to be desired.

Another attempt at curbing the danger involves reducing the speed limit from 110km/hr. to 80km/hr. Despite the installation of numerous signs in the area, it appears that few drivers pay heed to these warnings. Even the introduction of eight cameras along the route has failed to yield the desired results.

In response to two collisions in the first half of this year, officials from various agencies have scrambled to compile statistics and reports, proposing solutions such as increased fencing, the installation of speed cameras and provision of high-speed internet connectivity for them, improved lighting, etc.

An eyewitness recently traveled along this treacherous path, going from Tehran to

Mashhad on Wednesday, October 18, and returning on October 21, from Mashhad to Tehran.

The eyewitness meticulously documented his or her experiences through a car camera, and uploaded the footage on an online streaming platform. The video provides comprehensive data including location, date, time, and speed, bringing forth the following findings:

Out of the claimed eight cameras installed in the area, only five were found to be active, while the remaining three remained dormant, their camera bases serving as mere reminders of their intended purpose. The fencing along this perilous route extended a mere five kilometers, falling short of the necessary protective measures.

Despite the registered speed of the eyewitness's vehicle being below the designated 80km/hr. limit, it became apparent that the majority of drivers paid little regard to this restriction. The video captures a constant stream of cars



overtaking that of the eyewitness, including trailers and trucks, emphasizing the widespread disregard for speed limits.

Curiously, certain sections of the road were marked with 90km/hr. speed signs, adding to the confusion and inconsistency of regulations.

Notably absent were police cars stationed along this dangerous stretch.

Lighting fixtures, crucial for ensuring visibility and safety, were installed along a mere two kilometers of the route. Concrete foundations hinted at intentions for further progress, but progress remained stagnant.

Contrary to the Ministry of Communications' claim of establishing high-speed internet connectivity for the cameras, the reality within



this area revealed a different story. Mobile internet connectivity was sporadic at best, often disconnected, or limited to 2G speeds.

Employing smart cameras to calculate average speeds within this range, coupled with instant SMS notifications to drivers, could serve as a proactive measure in curbing reckless behavior. Sending warning SMS alerts to drivers upon entering this danger zone could potentially save the lives of cheetahs. The cost of these

text messages could be offset by fines collected from offending vehicles on the same route.

The video footage shows that the actions taken by responsible authorities thus far have been woefully inadequate. The promises made to protect this endangered species appear to be nothing more than empty words, with little to no verification or follow-through. Regrettably, the road from Mayamey to Abbas Abad seems to have been aban-

doned to the mercy of fate, leaving the cheetahs to fend for themselves.

Unless effective measures are promptly implemented and drivers take heed of the dangers they pose, the Mayamey-Abbas Abad road will continue to serve as a merciless slaughterhouse for these irreplaceable Iranian treasures.

**This is an edited version of an article originally published by Asriran on October 28, 2023.*

First Announcement

N.I.S.O.C
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140021

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

| Items | Material Description | Quantity |
|-------|---|----------|
| 01 | CASING 5-1/2 IN. API GRADE CRA-110 SUPER, "VAM TOP" THREAD, RANGE 3 (MAX. LENGTH 40.5 FT), 26 PPF | 2,000LE |
| 02 | COUPLING, CASING, 5-1/2 IN. API GRADE CRA-110 SUPER, 13% CR, UNS41426 SEAMLESS, ALL WEIGHTS VAM TOP | 30 NO |

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 212,584/47 EURO or 84,669,630,325 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via:
www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab.
ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN
PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644
Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

PUBLIC RELATIONS
www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://iets.mporg.ir> 1593171

Second Announcement

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for:

EC-3305

Tabriz Petrochemical Company intends to procure the amount of 31,000 kg of EC-3305 it needs for the Polystyrene Production Plant.

In order to receive tender documents, interested suppliers should send their request to the following email within 7 days after the second printing of the advertisement.

Email: Mr.ghorbani@tpco.ir **Phone No.:** +98-21-88737355

| Tender | No | Quantity |
|---------|-------------|----------|
| EC-3305 | PVS-0241038 | 31000 KG |

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)

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Long-term plan for cheetahs in captivity is to release them in the wild

Social Desk

Azar and Turan, Asiatic cheetah cubs, cannot be released into the wild, announced the deputy of natural environment of Iran's Department of the Environment (DoE).

"Iran, the cheetah, is in good health and has no issues. We are waiting for her natural fertility cycle to occur," said Hassan Akbari, according to ISNA.

Akbari also mentioned that the cheetahs in captivity would be used for breeding, and the next generation of cheetahs born in captivity will be reintroduced into the wild.

The project of cheetah reproduction in captivity reached a new phase with the transfer of three cheetah cubs, Delbar, Kushki, and Iran, to Turan Wildlife Refuge. Also, in March 2021, an 11-year-old male cheetah named Firouz, from the refuge, was brought, in and was meant to mate with Iran, a female cheetah, in a captive environment located at the Turan site. The mating was successful, resulting in the birth of three cheetah cubs in the spring of 2022. Unfortunately, all three cubs died. Last year, two cheetah cubs joined the group of captive ones. These cubs, later named Azar and Turan, were discovered by a shepherd in Khar Turan National Park, their hometown, on December 3, 2022.

"Only cheetahs that have grown up in the wild have the necessary skills to survive in that environment. Instead, efforts are focused on ensuring the safety of the habitats around Turan, increasing prey populations, and improving habitat conditions," he said. Although there are habitats outside the protected area of Turan Wildlife Refuge, such as those in the north and east, they cannot be managed since they are not part of the designated regions.

Measures have been initiated to establish cooperative protection in the east of the refuge, where the private sector assists the DoE in protection and the reproduction of prey species. The priority for reproduction and population growth includes deer, ram, and sheep. The goal is to enrich the southeastern plains of Turan and Laghari plains (west of Bardas-



kan City in Khorasan Razavi Province) with deer, and the heights of certain villages with rams and sheep.

"The private sector is expected to provide assistance in this endeavor. A memorandum of understanding has already been signed to facilitate the proliferation of prey species," Akbari said.

The official further mentioned that preliminary measures have been taken in North Turan region to establish cooperation between the provinces of Semnan and North Khorasan.

"By utilizing the capacities of the governorates, and with the support of the private sector and voluntary protection, the aim is to protect the intermediate area between Turan Wildlife Refuge, Miandasht, and Khoshyeylaq protected areas."

He emphasized the importance of strengthening protection in this intermediate area, as most of the observations made this year were outside the Turan range.

"It is crucial to multiply prey populations and reinforce protection measures in this region," Akbari said. "Turan itself is a natural habitat where, if adequately protected, prey populations will naturally increase. However, due to limited time, efforts are being made to increase prey through reproduction, or release and transfer, ensuring the security of the cheetahs in their habitat."

Akbari finally addressed the issue of reproduction in captivity and the release of Azar and Turan into the wild. "While the immediate focus is not on reproduction in captivity, the long-term plan involves transferring cheetahs to semi-wild conditions and promoting the naturalization of future generations born in captivity," he said.