

# Biosphere Reserve of IRAN

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# Biodiversity in Iran

- ✓ Comprises a land area of 1.64 million km<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ The average altitude is over 1200 m,
- ✓ Is bordered by Turkmenistan, the Caspian sea (over 900 km of coastline), Azerbaijan, and Armenia in the north, Afghanistan and Pakistan in the east, the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman in the south, and Iraq and Turkey in the west
- ✓ The habitat supports over: 8,000 recorded species of plant (almost 2,500 are endemic), 502 species of birds, 164 mammals, 209 reptiles, 375 species of butterflies.



# Protected Areas of Iran=278



**29 National Park**



**37 National Natural Monument**



**44 Wildlife Refuge**

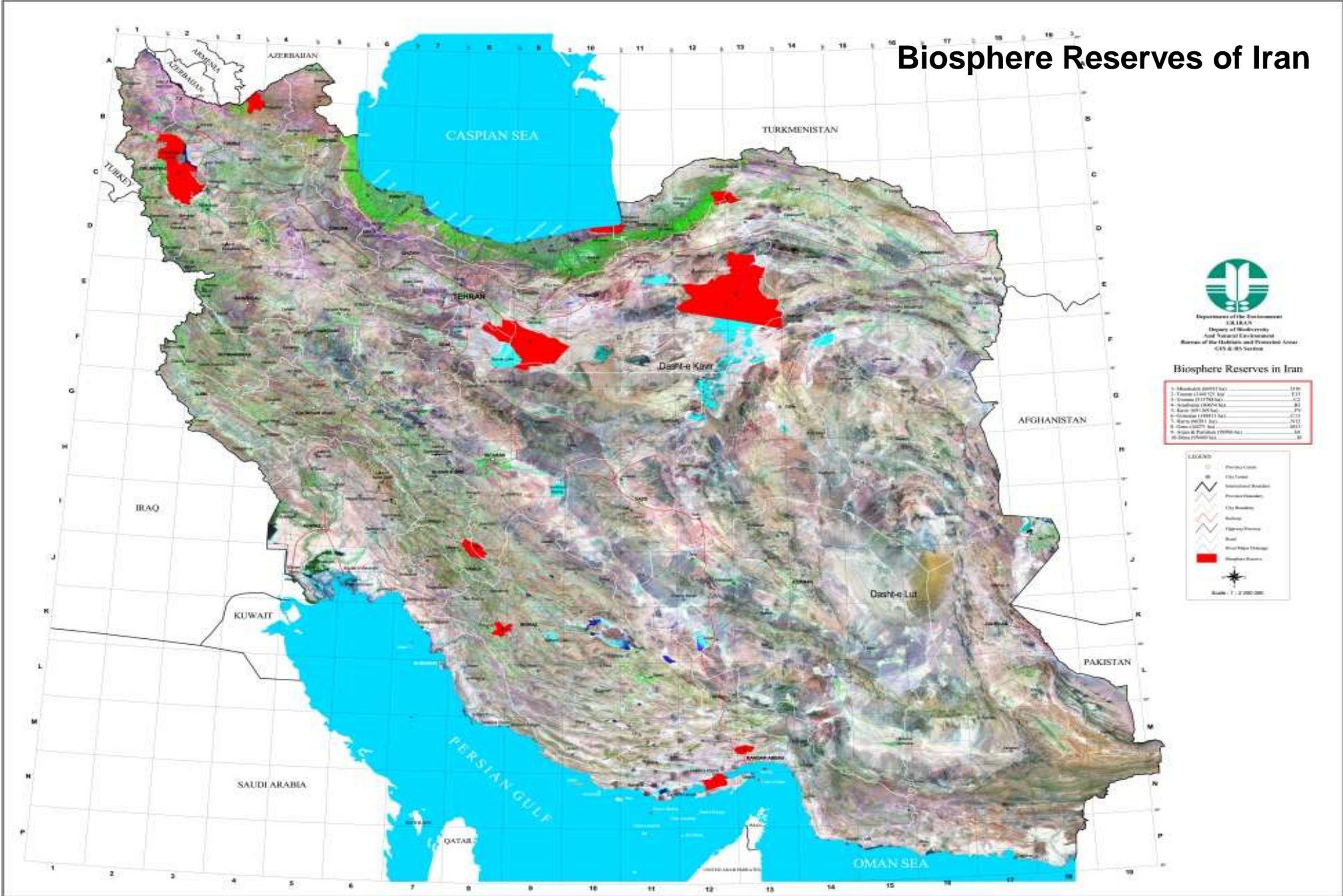


**168 Protected Area**

**24 Ramsar Site  
Wetland**

**11 Biosphere  
Reserve**

# Biosphere Reserves of Iran



# Biosphere Reserves of Iran

No	Name	Year of Designation	First Periodic Review	Second Periodic Review
1	<b>Arasbaran</b>	1976	2002	2013
2	<b>Arjan -Parishan</b>	1976	2002	2013
3	<b>Geno</b>	1976	2002	2013
4	<b>Golestan</b>	1976	2002	2013
5	<b>Harra</b>	1976	2002	2013
6	<b>Kavir</b>	1976	2002	2013
7	<b>Lake Urmia</b>	1976	2002	2013
8	<b>Miankaleh</b>	1976	2002	2013
9	<b>Touran</b>	1976	2002	2013
10	<b>Dena</b>	2010	---	---
11	<a href="#"><u>Tange Sayyad &amp; Sabz Kooh</u></a>	2014	---	---

# BRs Periodic Review Report

- Iran has been carried out 9 biosphere reserves periodic review in 2013.
- Establishing the Biosphere Reserve Periodic Review Expert Committee which includes managers of Biosphere Reserve, BR Coordinators, GIS expert, Head of PA management plan section, Deputy of the Habitats and Protected Areas Bureau,
- BRs Periodic Review Forms were translated to Persian and sent to the BR managers,
- BR managers/ coordinators filled in the forms through their local committee,

## BRs Periodic Review Report...

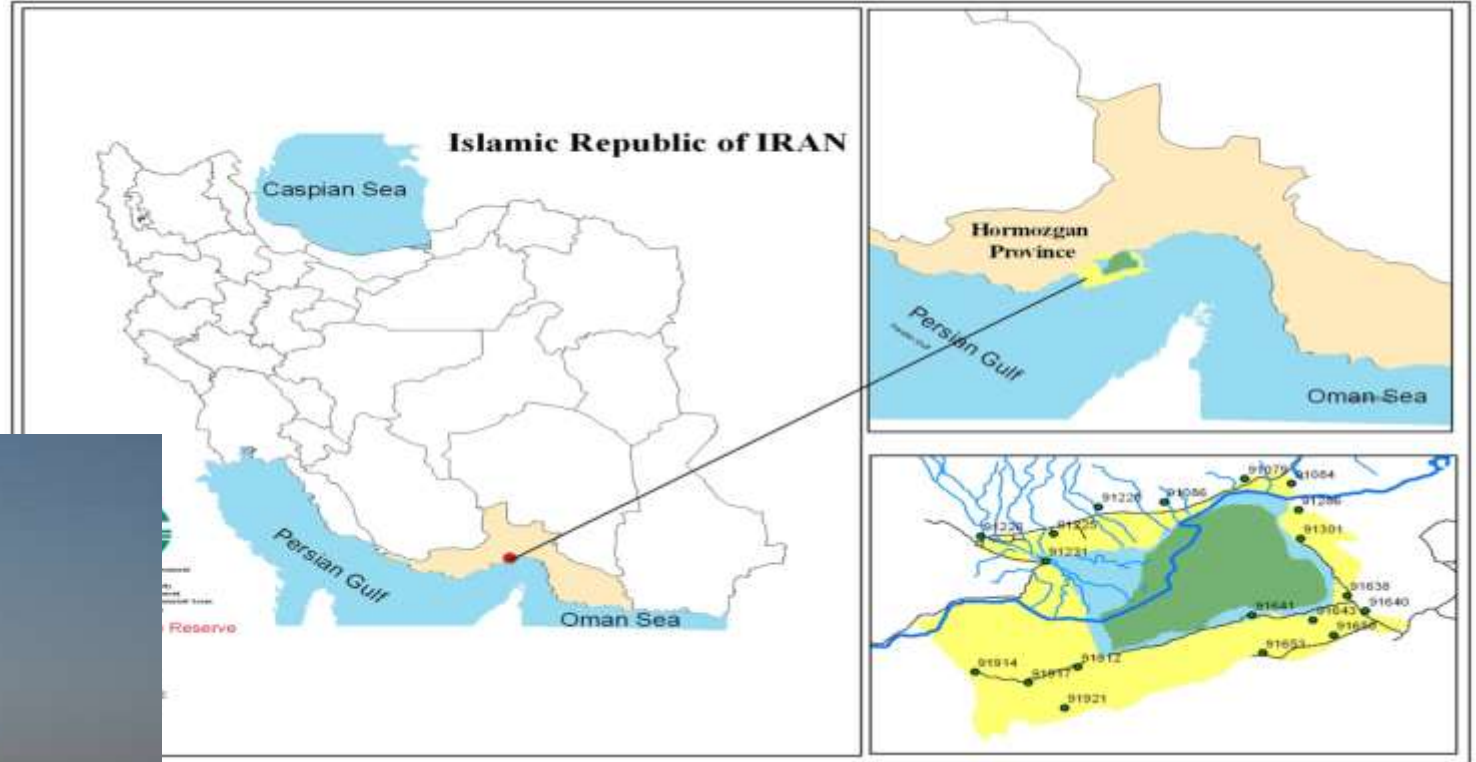
- BR managers/ coordinators presented the report in the meeting of BRPR committee,
- Completed forms sent to MAB National Committee for reviewing and final comment,
- Translated report sent to the BR managers/ coordinators and MAB national committee for last editing,
- Sending 9 BRPR reports to the MAB bureau.

# Main Challenges and Problems on preparing the BRs Periodic Review Report

- Language Barriers,
- Difficulties to understand the main purpose of some questions in the BRPR form,
- Lack of expertise for writing the report/documentation,
- Financial problem,
- Insufficient support from the BR managers and managers in national level,
- Need to support from the MAB secretariate,
- Need to harmonize between the national and BRs zoning, and management plan system.



# Harra Biosphere Reserve



- ✿ Mangrove forests are specific ecosystems in Harra B.R (*Avicennia marina*)









Geno is located at the end of the Zagros mountain chains.

The Special topographic and climatic condition of Geno have led to establishment of mountainous Irano-Touranian plant communities in the Khaligo- Omani extended.

The existence of 360 plant species of different floristic regions in such a relatively limited area is indicative of its unique characteristics







✿ The region covering the extent of two lakes (Arjan & Parishan) and their surrounding plain and mountainous areas

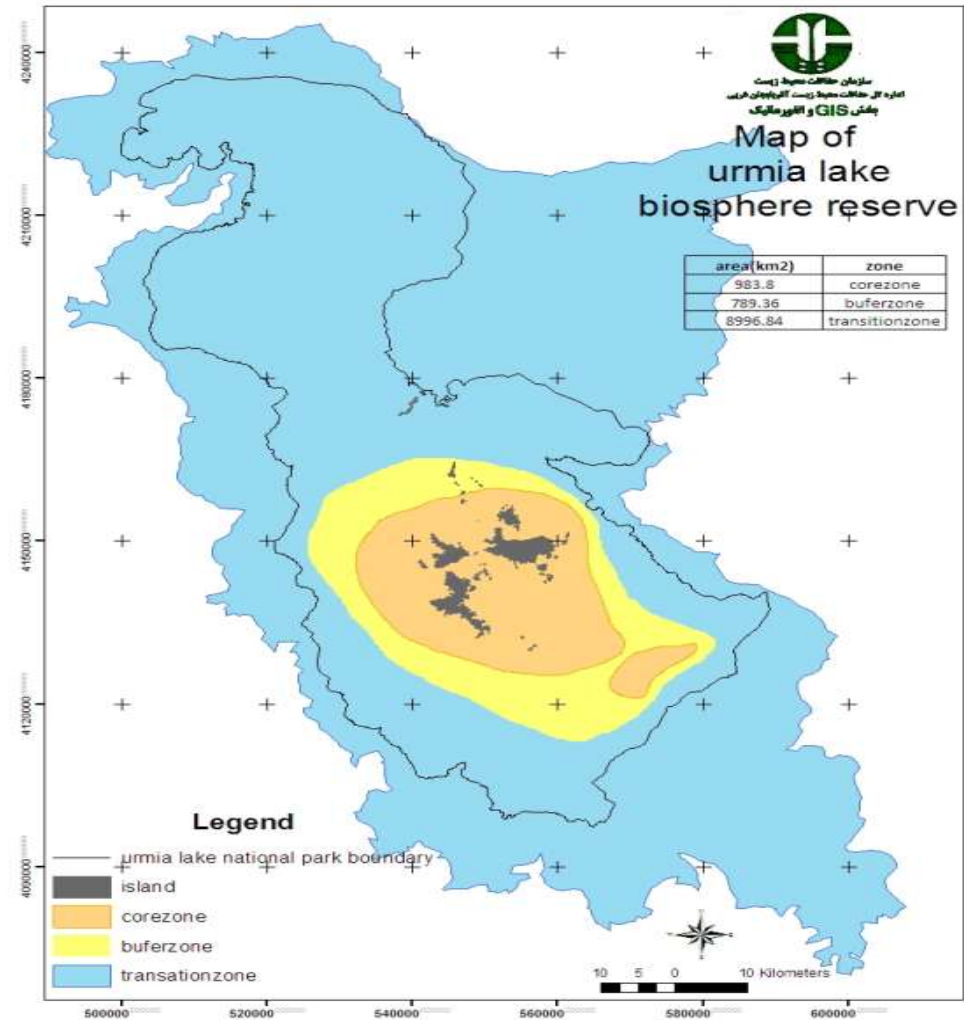
✿ also 393 plant species have been identified in the region







# Uromia Biosphere Reserve

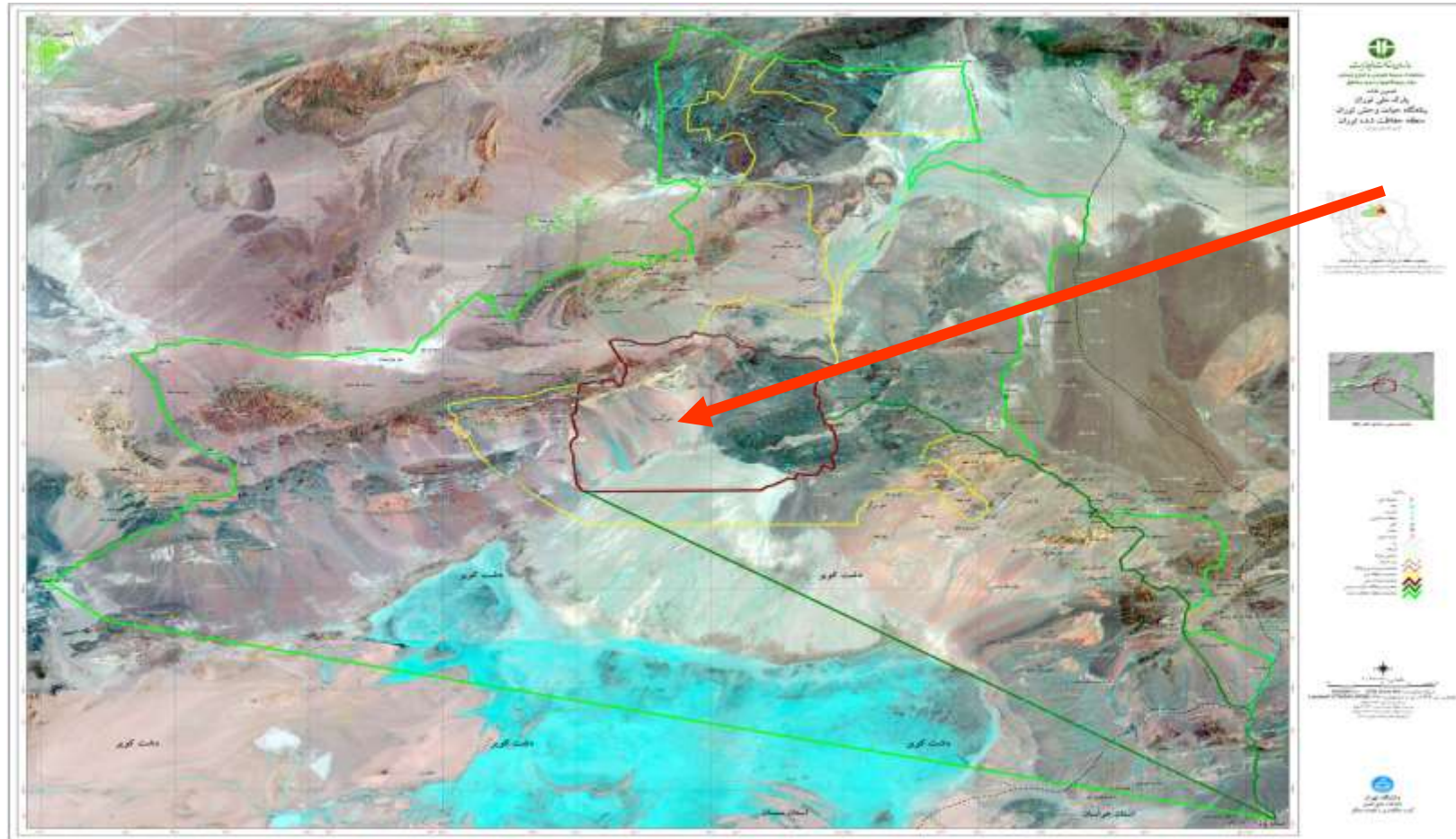


☀ Uromia lake which is one of the most important habitats for migratory water birds (such as Flamingo, white pelican and shelduck), is the largest national park of Iran with 102 major and minor islands

☀ Due to high salinity (around 200 g/lit), only Artemia and green-blue algae can survive in the lake



# Touran Biosphere Reserve

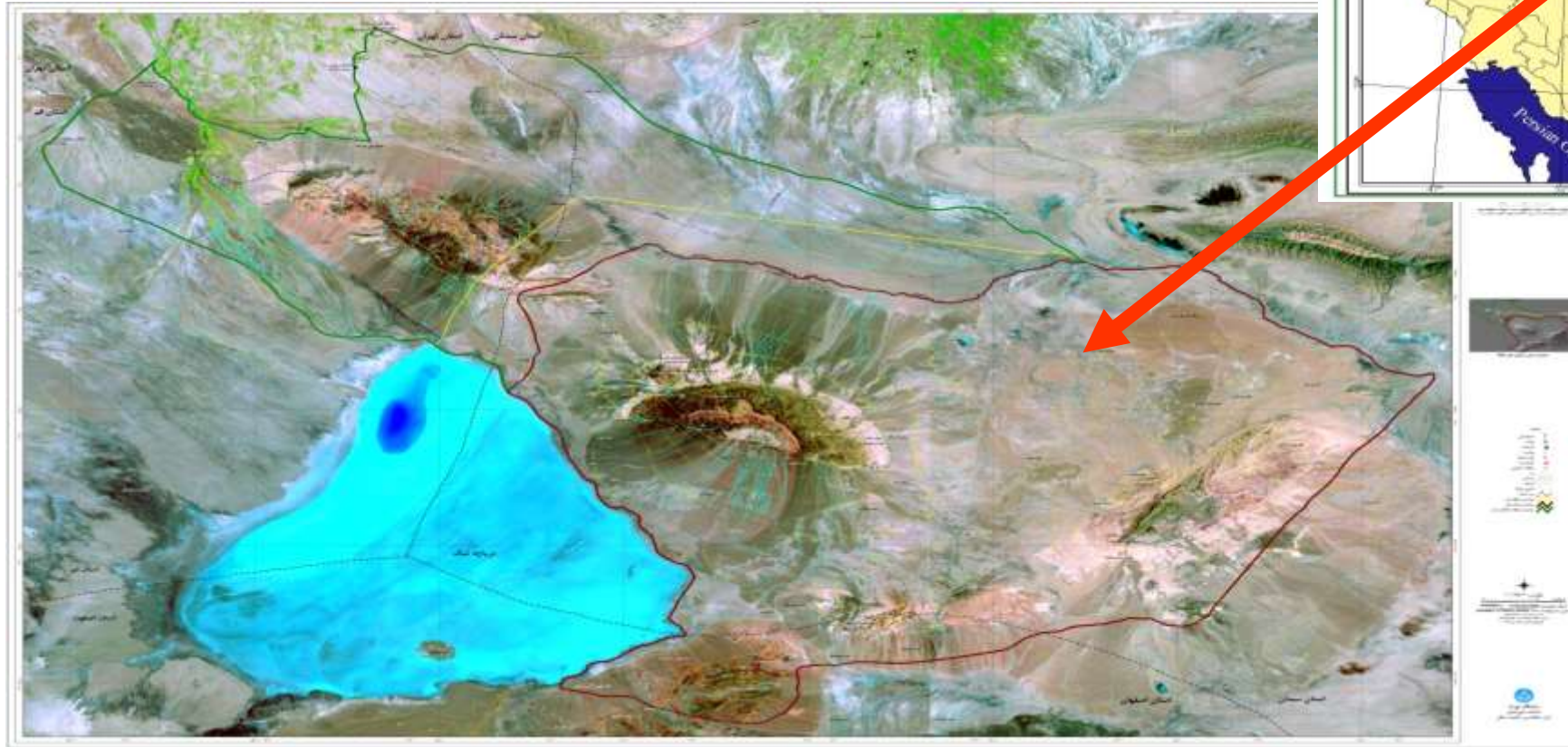


- ☀ The desert-kavir area was designated protected area in 1972 and due to its specific characteristics, some part of the region were later allocated for wildlife refuges and national park
- ☀ 654 plant and 250 animal species have been identified. among them 63 plant species are endemic
- ☀ High biodiversity of the region accompanied by the desert nature and specific natural sceneries have resulted in an invaluable complex for education, research and tourism as well as a great genetic treasure





# Kavir Biosphere Reserve





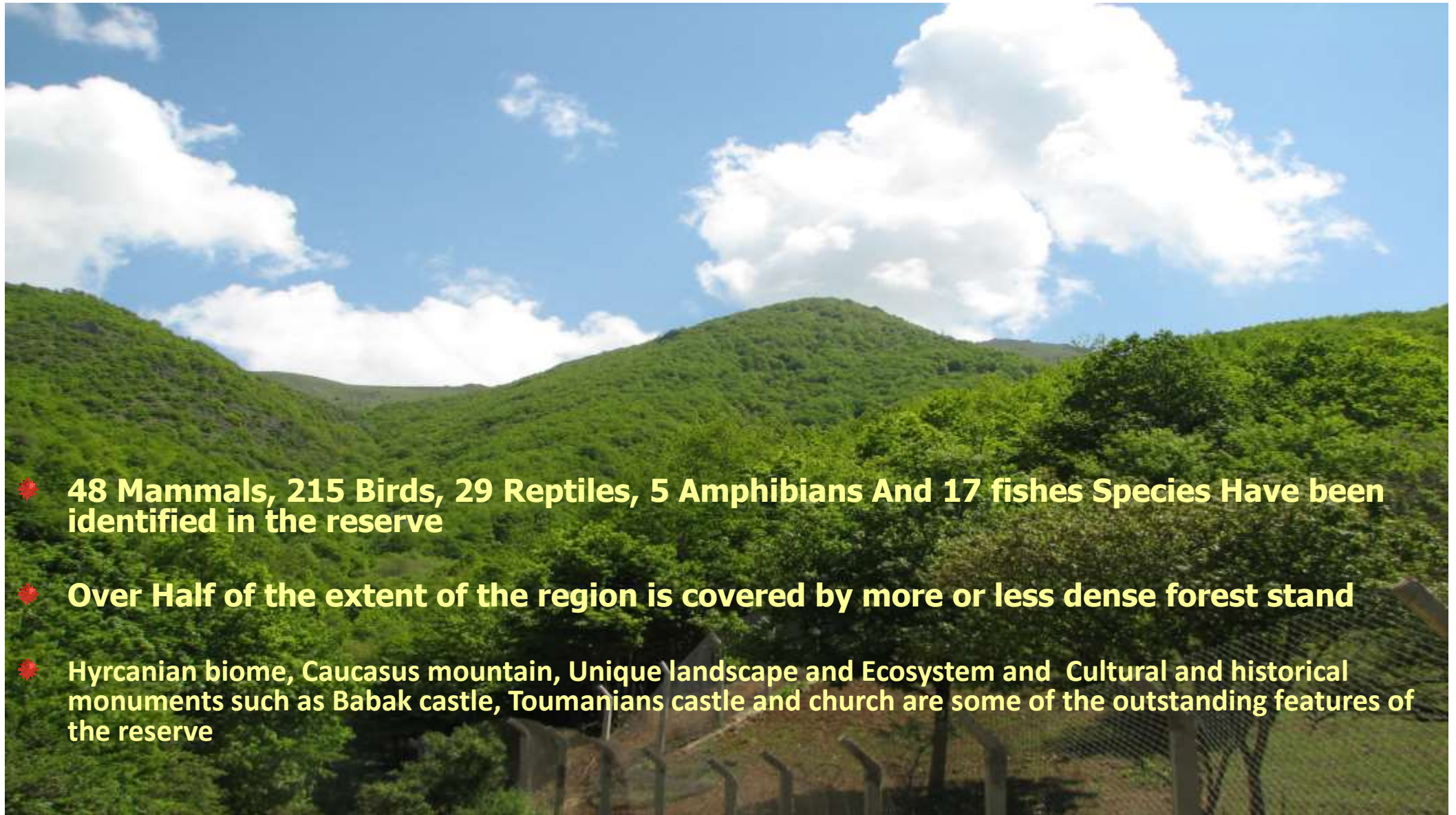
- ✿ Presence of steppe, wetland, kavir and salt land ecosystems has resulted in diverse vegetation sites and animal habitats
- ✿ 200 animal and 359 plant species have been identified in the region. Among them 30 species are endemic
- ✿ Reach biodiversity, unique landscape, the salt lake, cultural and historical monuments such as Qaleh-deir caravanserai, nahr-e sangi (stone ditch) and Rah-e sangfarsh (Paved path) have made possible scientific research and tourism activities in the region



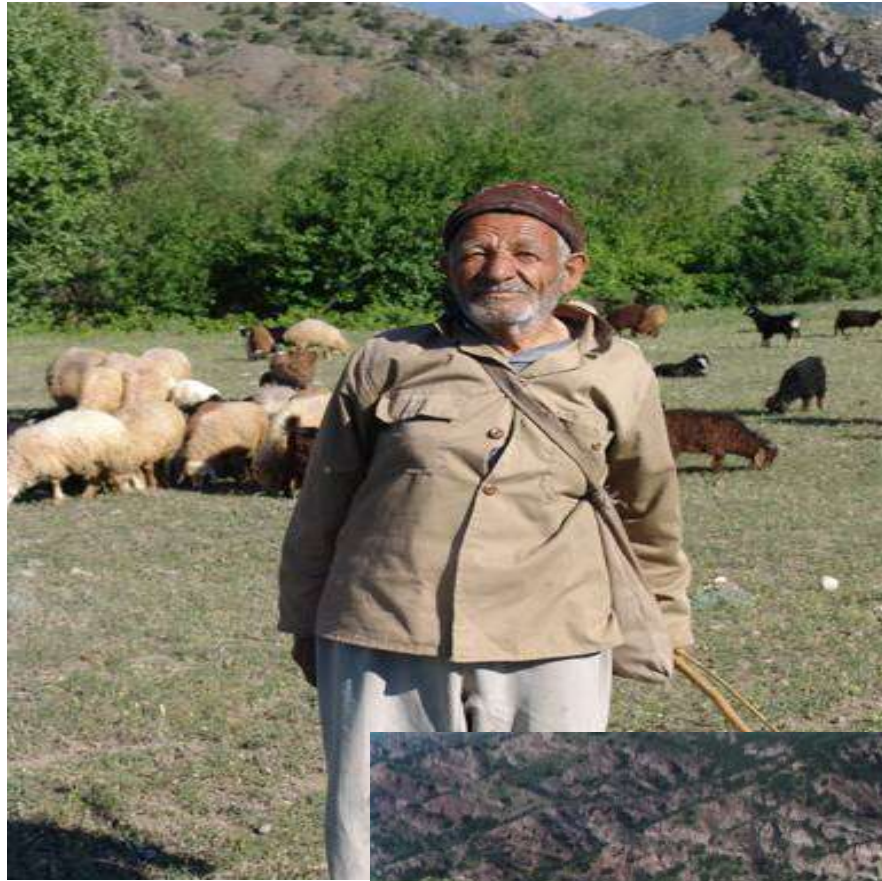


# *Arasbaran biosphere reserve*





- ❁ **48 Mammals, 215 Birds, 29 Reptiles, 5 Amphibians And 17 fishes Species Have been identified in the reserve**
- ❁ **Over Half of the extent of the region is covered by more or less dense forest stand**
- ❁ **Hyrcanian biome, Caucasus mountain, Unique landscape and Ecosystem and Cultural and historical monuments such as Babak castle, Toumanians castle and church are some of the outstanding features of the reserve**



# Miankaleh Biosphere Reserve



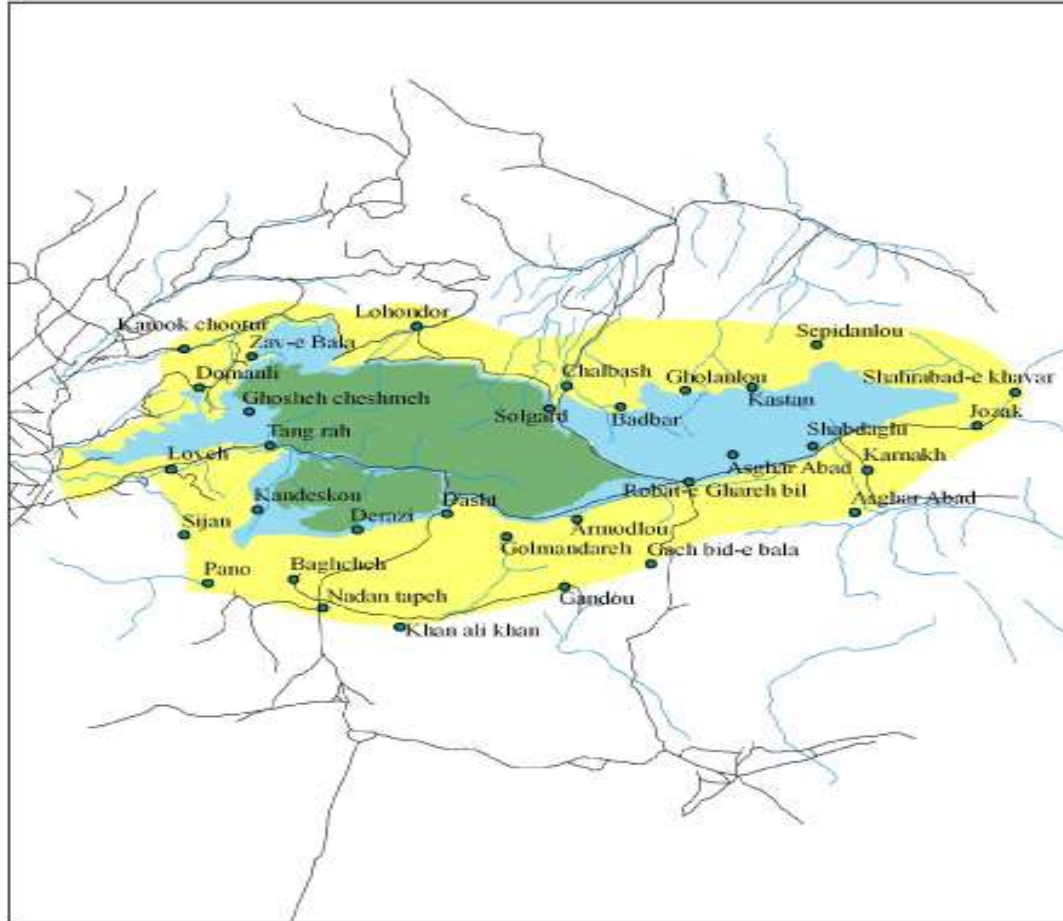


- ❁ Miankaleh consists of two unique ecosystem; Miankaleh- Gorgan bay wetland and Miankaleh peninsula
- ❁ The presence of coastal sandy lands, wetlands, ponds, forest lagoon and sand dunes adjacent to each is unique feature of the area

- High biodiversity, nestling of valuable native and migratory birds, untouched landscape, proximity to population center have enabled tourist attraction






# Golestan Biosphere Reserve



Department of the Environment  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Deputy of Biodiversity  
and Natural Environment  
Bureau of the Biosphere and Protected Area  
GIS & RS Section

## Golestan Biosphere Reserve

-  Buffer Zone(Protected Area) 75446 ha
-  Core Zone(Protected Area) 72965 ha
-  Transition Zone 212884 ha



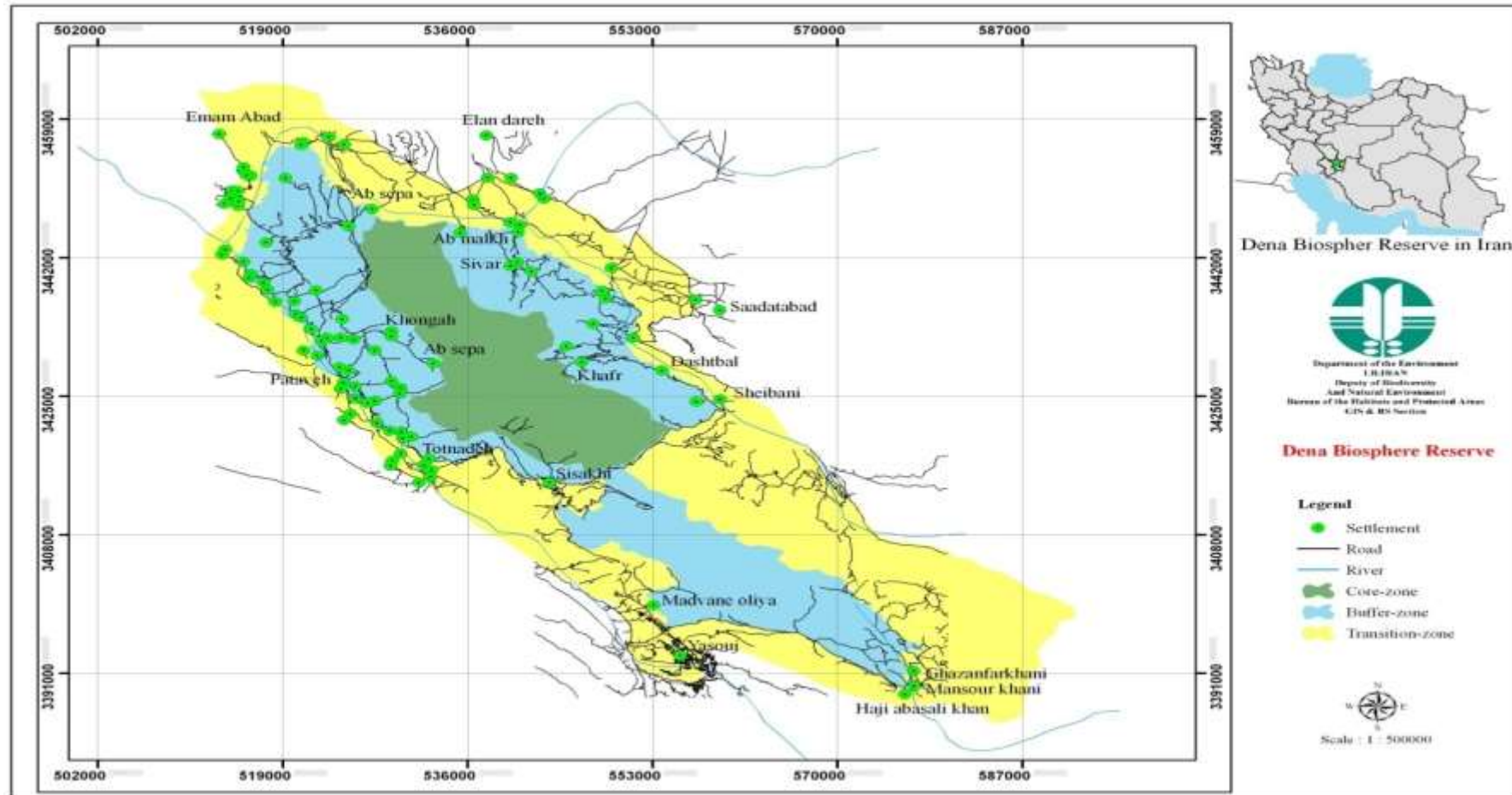


- ✿ Golestan became the first national park of Iran in 1967, and located at the eastern end of the Hyrcanian forests
- ✿ The region is mountainous with altitudes ranging from 450-2411 m above sea level
- ✿ Tiger and cheetah are two of the extinct species of the reserve
- ✿ Exceptionally high biodiversity (more than 1400 plant species), beautiful sceneries, frequent water supplies and proper access road have given rise to the development of educational, research and tourist activities in the reserve





# Dena Biosphere Reserve



Dena served as one of the world's earliest cultural hearths habitats for both plant and livestock domestication since as of 10,000 years ago. Till now the vast majority of people live in practice a nomadic lifestyle.



# Main Threats of Biosphere Reserves

- Unsustainable development activities in Buffer and Transition Zones,
- Forest logging by local communities for fuel consumption and domestic livestock,
- Illegal hunting and fishing,
- Insufficient knowledge of local community on environmental values,
- Disturbance of unorganized tourism,
- Land conversion to agriculture, human settlement, ect.

# Main Challenges for managing of Biosphere Reserves

## 1- Lack of Legal Framework

Many countries legal system, recognizes National Protected Areas, but not Biosphere Reserves, as legal entities and thus imposes purely conservation-oriented on protected areas.

Biosphere Reserves frequently has overlap with such protected areas and consequently are governed by the relevant national laws which sometimes may not be compatible with the BR program objectives.

So in many cases, this leads to prohibition of economic activities like grazing or fishing in BR. which is depriving the local community of its livelihood and development needs.

## **2- Monitoring**

Monitoring in biosphere reserves is often only a small part of the overall set of monitoring activities taking place in the countries. Indeed, many countries has different monitoring plans and programmes in place but not for B.Rs. In this areas only monitoring of biological information is insufficient.

Social, political and cultural information and qualitative data help provide a more complete understanding of what is happening at a B.R.

## **3-Zoning System**

In many cases, due to lack of legal entities of Biosphere Reserve in the national Environmental legislation, zoning system in this areas are the same as other protected areas in the country.

*Thank you for  
your attention*

