



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Man and  
the Biosphere  
Programme



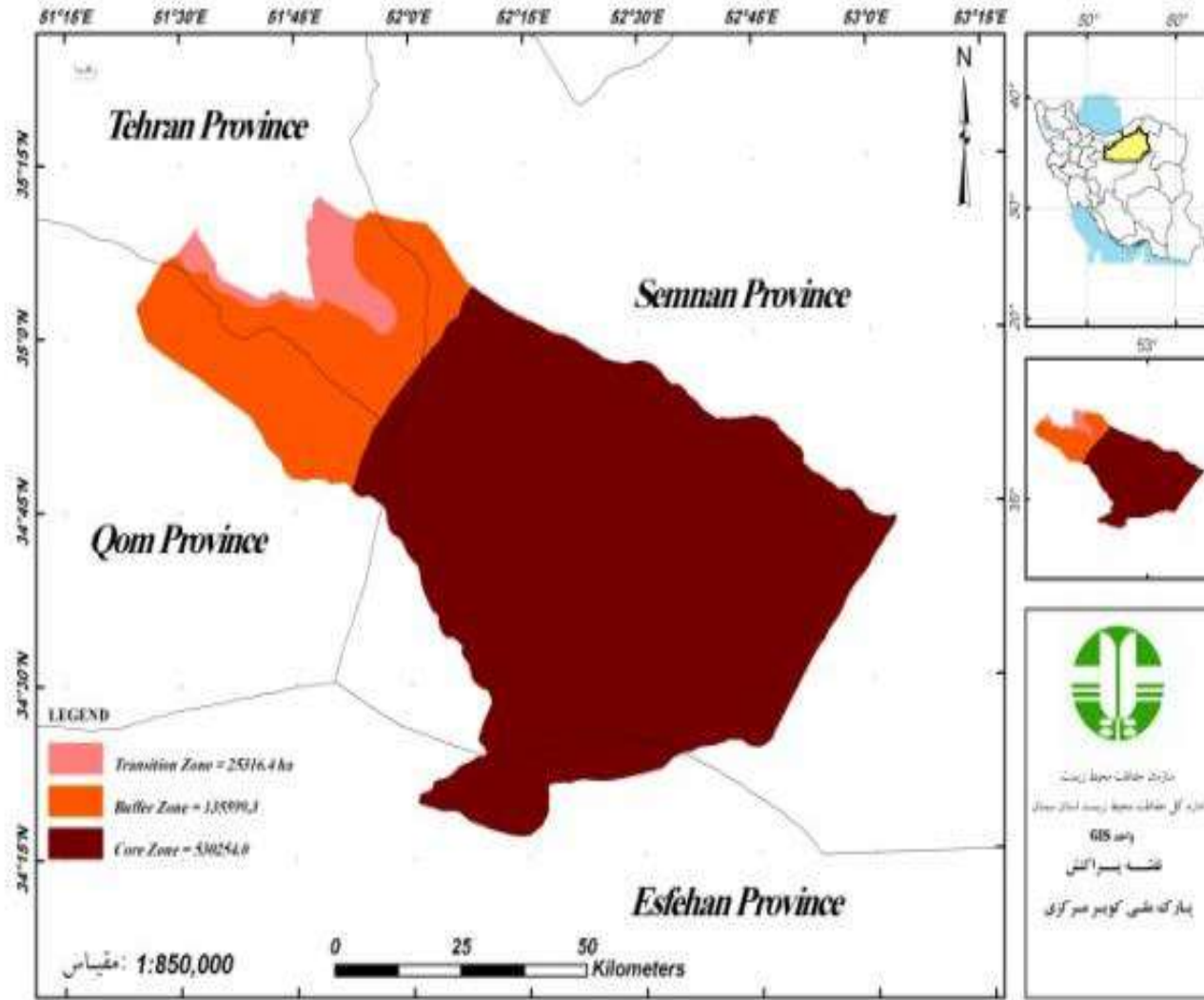
# Kavir Biosphere Reserve



Asghar M. FAZEL  
Saeid MAHMOUDI  
Mehrasa MEHRDADI

Department of Environment, Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
15 March 2016

# Zonation Map



## General features

- **Area:** 700,000 ha
- **Topography:** mostly plains, some short mountains
- Central plateau of Iran, 50 km from the capital, Tehran.
- One of the biggest salt lakes of Iran, home to many migratory birds



## Flora and fauna

- **Flora:** 302 species
- **Fauna:** 72 species
- **Precipitation:** 146 mm/year
- **Mid temperature:** 17.1 c
- **Average annual evaporation:** 2600 mm
- **Annually 2900 hours of direct sunlight**



## Local communities

- A total population of 35,000 in 187 villages
- Seasonal nomads of 1,500 visit the reserve
- Main occupation: livestock breeding, handicrafts, small scale agriculture



## major degradation factors

- Overgrazing (early or late grazing);
- Over harvesting medicinal plants;
- Hunting and trapping of wildlife.

Growing prospect:  
ECO-TOURISM



## Eco – tourism: pros and cons

### Pros:

- Huge potential for eco-tourism
- Ease of access (close to Tehran)
- Cultural attractions
- Converting local hunters and poachers to eco-tour guides
- Income generation (including for local communities)



## Eco – tourism: pros and cons

### Cons:

- Tourism pressure beyond the carrying capacity of the BR
- Boosting water use and waste production
- Alteration of local traditions and ecological behavior of the wildlife
- Introducing invasive species (pets, ...)
- Ecosystem Destruction





## Responses by NGOs

- regular trainings for the local communities
- Involving local communities in management of the site, (employ as game guard, eco-tour guide)
- Active participation in environmental exhibitions to raise awareness
- Putting into force measures approved by the local and provincial management committees of reserves;
- Training local communities to protect the **Asiatic Cheetah** from **5** in 1980s to **50+** in 2014





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Man and  
the Biosphere  
Programme



# THANK YOU!



4<sup>to</sup>

LIMA-PERÚ  
14-17  
marzo 2016

ndial  
le