

# **Integrated Conservation of Kopet Dag Eco-region in Iran— With a view to feasibility of establishing a Biosphere Reserve/ TBC in collaboration with Turkmenistan**

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# Overview

The **Kopet Dag eco-region and mountain range** lies along the interface of two geographic zones:

- the Kara-kum Desert in Turkmenistan and
- the Iranian Plateau,

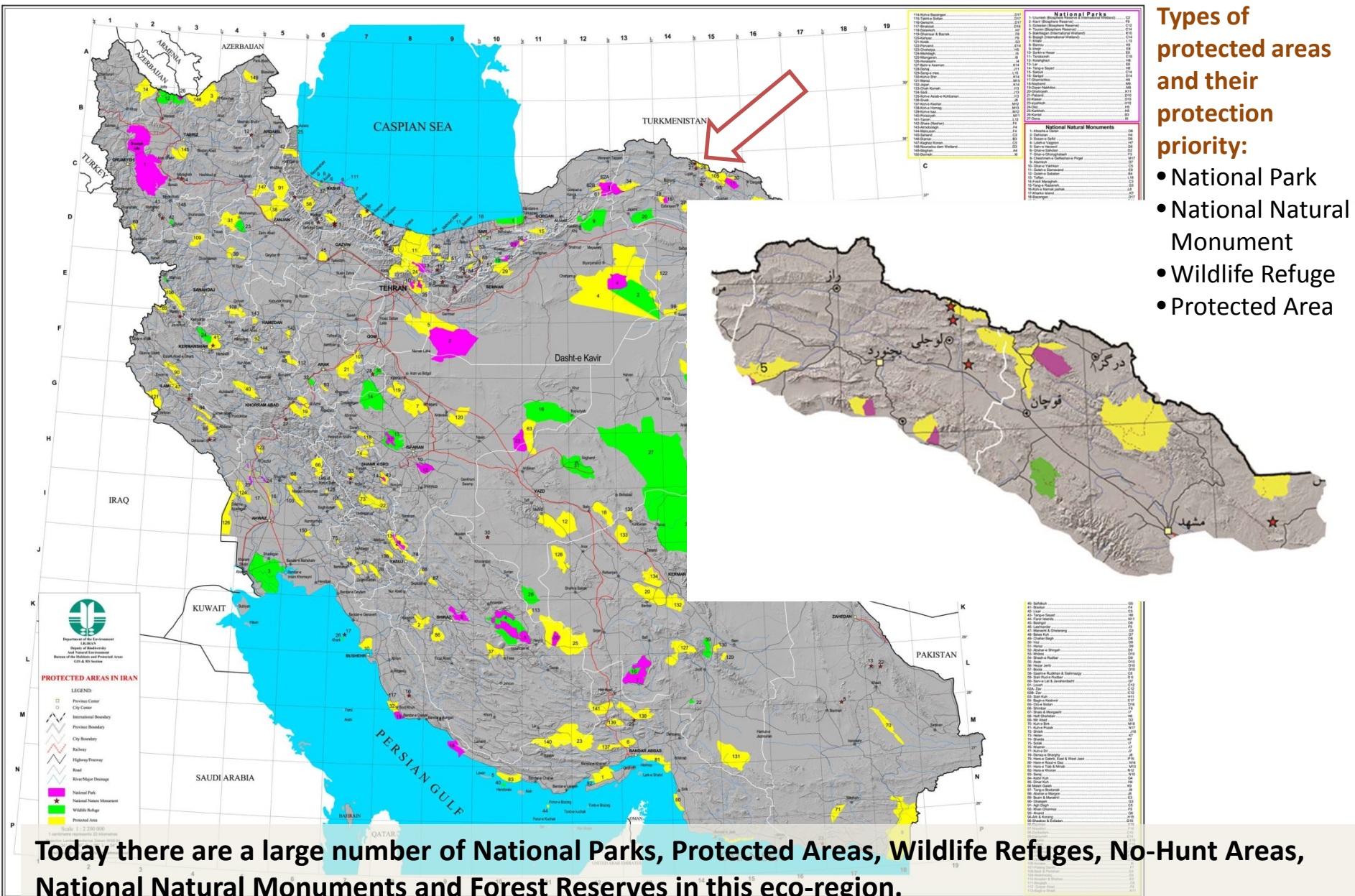
Locating essentially in the Iran-Turanian Biome.



It is a mountain range on the frontier between Turkmenistan and Iran that extends about 650 kilometres (400 mi) along the border southeast of the Caspian Sea.



# Protected Areas in Kopet Dag Eco-region



**Today there are a large number of National Parks, Protected Areas, Wildlife Refuges, No-Hunt Areas, National Natural Monuments and Forest Reserves in this eco-region.**

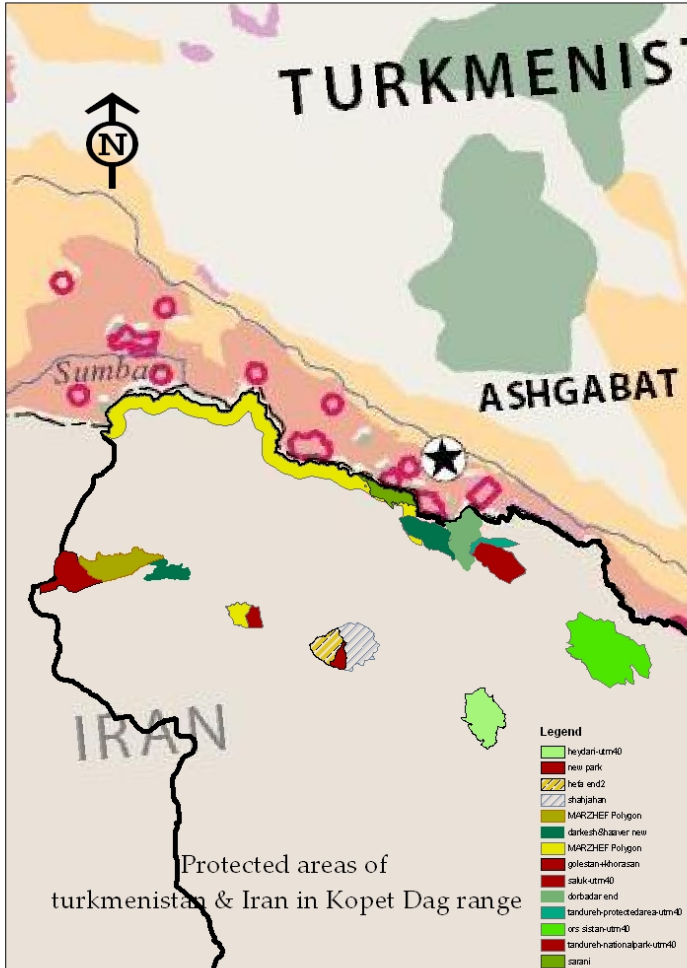
# The Iranian Protected Areas located in Kopet Dag Eco-region

PAs	Type of Management
Golul Sarani	Protected area (former national park)
Tandoure	National park & Protected area
Sarigol	National park & protected area
Salouk	National park & protected area
Ghorkhod	Protected area
Gharchegheh	Protected area
Dorbadam	Protected area
Ors e Sistan	Protected area
Ors e Sarani	National Natural Monument
Misino	Boundary No-hunt Area
Darkesh & Haver	Forest Reserve
Chahar Bid	No-hunt Area
Sanobar e Nazarali	National Natural Monument
Sarv e Gharehbagh	National Natural Monument
Golestan	National Park & Biosphere Reserve
Takht Iran	No-hunt Area
Baghi	No-hunt Area



Currently, just about 5% of the eco-region's intact habitat is protected within two protected areas in Turkmenistan .

Protected areas of Turkmenistan, designated for the protection of biodiversity and include 8 **nature reserves** and 13 **sanctuaries**, more than 4% of the country's territory.



Nature Reserves	Description
Kopet Dag	Kopetdag mountains: woodlands
Sunt-Hasar Dag	Kopetdag mountains: woodlands and grasslands

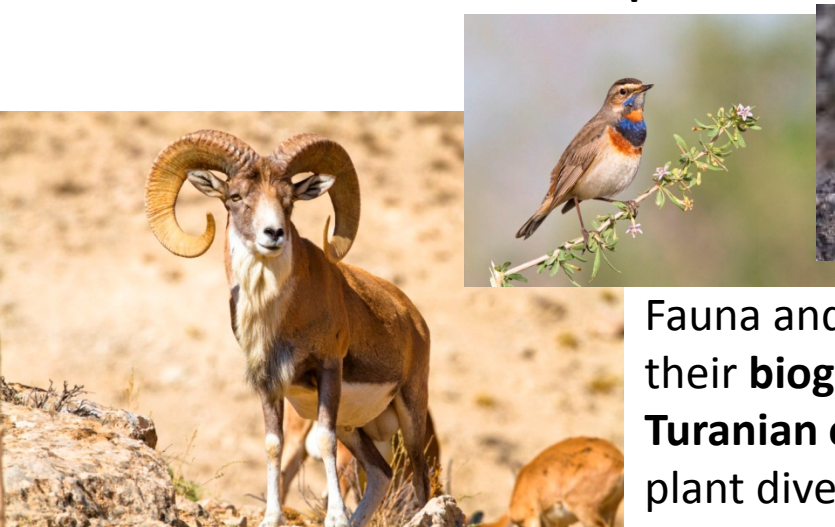
# Biodiversity Significance of Kopet Dagh

Kopet Dag is a **biogeographic region** with a **significant distribution pattern of flora and fauna** which **defies the political boundaries of nations**.

This eco-region is comprised of **mountainous shrub-like Mediterranean xeric woodlands, juniper woodlands, and riparian forests**.

Many of the endangered species are the primary focus for conservation in this hotspot, include **leopard**, Caspian snow-cock, wild sheep, bezoar (bearded) goat, hyena, Indian porcupine, and a number of other rare species of mammals, birds, snakes, and lizards.

This mountain range is the center of origin of many of the **ancestors of domesticated plant and animal species**.



Fauna and flora of Kopet Dag expresses the mixed character of their **biogeographic connections with Mediterranean and Turanian elements**. The Kopet Dag flora is especially rich in plant diversity, of which **332 species** are endemic.



# Cultural diversity

The **Kormanj (Kurdish)** and **Tukmen tribes** are among the main IPs of this region. The **lifestyle of many of the peoples of this Eco-region** shows strong and unique ties with the elements of the natural systems including for food, water, medicinal plants and spiritual communion.






# Threats

This region is facing **unsustainable infrastructure development and tourism, heavy logging and overgrazing** by **outsiders**. when these activities occur in the upper watersheds and rangelands, they cause **soil erosion and mud floods**, destroying ecosystems and habitats.

The weakening of customary laws and governance systems of the tribes have resulted in increased **poaching** and degradation of **bio-cultural diversity**.







We believe the **Biosphere Reserve model**, through the approaches of **TBC** and respecting a **diversity of governance regimes** for conservation (including sustainable use of its natural resources) would be a good model to follow.

**Restoring community management** and **engaging the various stakeholder groups** in this work and **promoting peace and cooperation** may be necessary conditions for the sustainability of the **bio-cultural diversity**.

**Inspiring solutions**

# National and International Commitments

This work will pay special attention to the Program of Work on Protected Areas (**POWPA**) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the new **Matrix of Protected Areas of IUCN** which includes the two dimensions of Categories of Protected Areas (by management objective) and Governance Types, especially Types B and D (co-management/ shared governance, and governance by indigenous peoples and local communities/ ICCAs, respectively).



Protected areas



By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well **connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures**, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.



**The IUCN Protected Area Matrix – a classification system for protected areas comprising both management category and governance type**

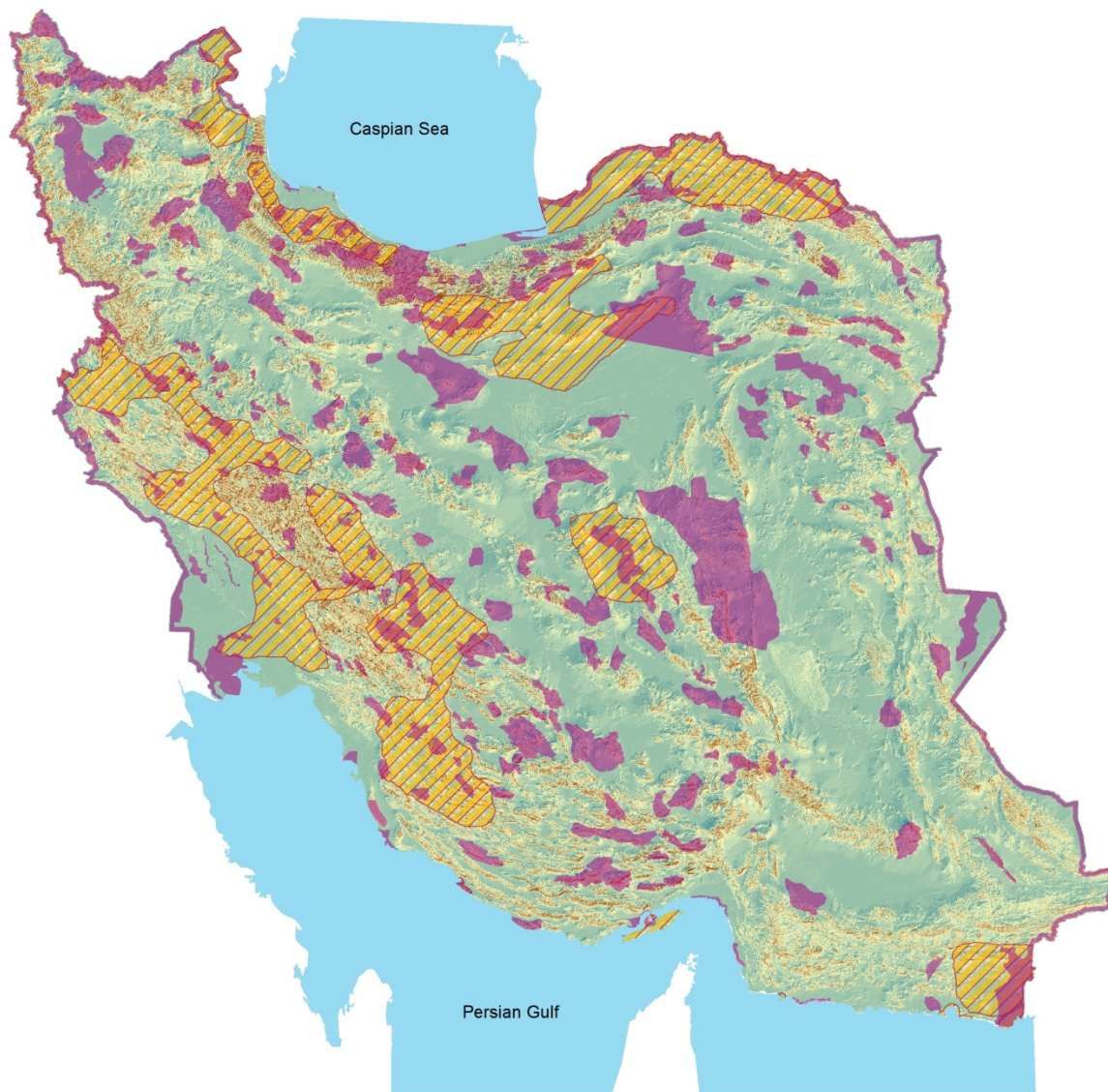
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# CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas – PoWPA

## Goals of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

- Progress in establishing and strengthening national and regional systems of protected areas (1.1)
- Progress in integrating protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function (1.2)
- Progress in establishing and strengthening regional networks, transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries (1.3)
- Progress in substantially improving site-based protected area planning and management (1.4)
- Progress in preventing and mitigating the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas (1.5)
- Progress in promoting equity and benefit-sharing (2.1)
- Progress in assessing and implementing diverse protected area governance types (2.1)
- Progress in enhancing and securing involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders (2.2)
- Progress in providing an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for protected areas (3.1)
- Progress in assessing the contribution of protected areas to local and national economies (3.1)
- Progress in building capacity for the planning, establishment and management of protected areas (3.2)
- Progress in developing, applying and transferring appropriate technologies for protected areas (3.3)
- Progress in ensuring financial sustainability of protected areas and national and regional systems of protected areas (3.4)
- Progress in strengthening communication, education and public awareness (3.5)
- Progress in developing and adopting minimum standards and best practices for national and regional protected area systems (4.1)
- Progress in evaluating and improving the effectiveness of protected areas management (4.2)
- Progress in assessing and monitoring protected area status and trends (4.3)
- Progress in ensuring that scientific knowledge contributes to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and protected area systems (4.4)
- Progress in marine protected areas





## Map of Iran's official protected areas and some ICCAs

### Legend

-  Protected Areas
-  Preliminary ICCA Territories

**Scale: 1:10,000,000**

0 75 150 300 450 600



Kilometers



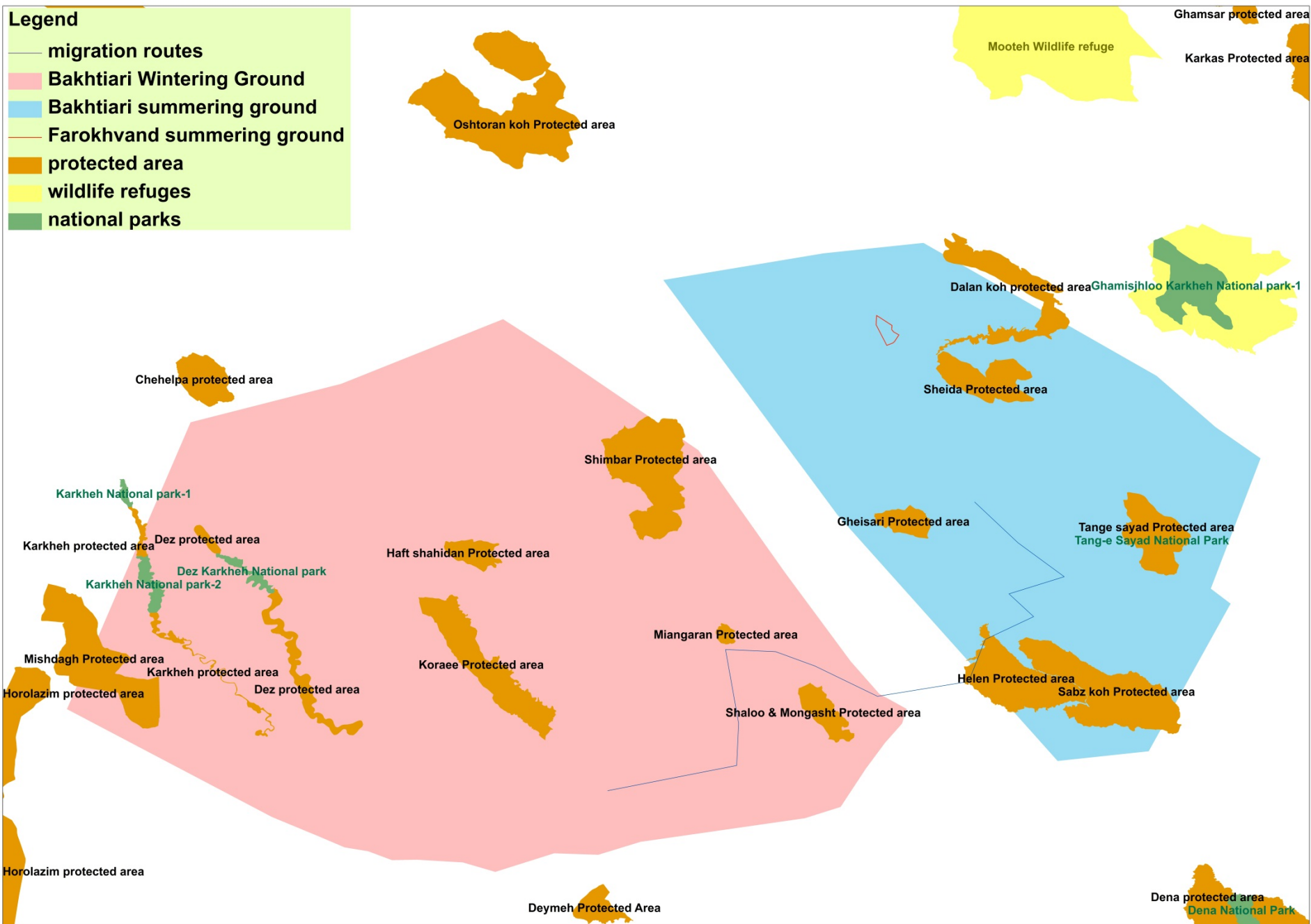
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**UNINOMAD** Iran

## Legend

- migration routes
- Bakhtiari Wintering Ground
- Bakhtiari summering ground
- Farokhvand summering ground
- protected area
- wildlife refuges
- national parks





In this action-oriented proposal the first set of activities will be **to examine a mosaic of functions and types of governance and management objectives** for the various habitats and ecosystems of the Kopet Dag eco-region.



In the final stage and also during the implementation of this plan, **discussions/ negotiations will begin with the competent authorities of the two countries**, both on an informal and formal level, as needed.

## The approach

This will be applied especially to:

- (1) **identifying and filling the conservation gaps including conservation corridors of connectivity, and**
- (2) **engaging indigenous people and local communities** in the governance of a variety of protected areas.



# Conclusions and recommendation

- Fulfillment of **international obligations** (Aichi Targets, IUCN Matrix, PoWPA, NBSAP) through Biosphere Reserve and TBC or peace parks
- Expansion of PAs through **integration with ICCAs** (Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas)
- Promotion of **conservation of nature** and its biological diversity through Biosphere Reserve and TBC,
- Strengthening of **regional cooperation**;
- Assuring **survival of endangered species** (flora and fauna) through consolidation of their habitats including **secure corridors of migration**.







The ICCA  
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Thank you for your kind attention...