

senckenberg
forschungsinstitut und naturmuseum



University of Jordan



Marine Science Station Aqaba

PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACTS



First International Congress

Documenting, Analysing and Managing Biodiversity in the Middle East

20-23 October 2008

Intercontinental Hotel, Aqaba, Jordan

DAAD

Research and conservation of the endangered Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*) in Iran

Amirhossein Khaleghi Hamidi, Plan for the Land Society, Tehran, Iran, khaleghi@plan4land.org

A. Ghoddousi, D. Ashayeri, T. Ghadirian, I. Khorozyan

Over the past 25 years, the Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*) population size has been reduced in many areas of Iran through poaching, prey reduction, habitat loss and fragmentation. This big cat is listed in the 2007 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as “Endangered”. In June 2007 we initiated research on the ecology of this flagship species in the Bamu National Park (Fars Province, southern Iran) which is marked by a relatively high leopard density, rapid habitat fragmentation, escalated poacher-warden conflicts and prey reduction. As a result of intensive camera photo-trapping in eastern Bamu (September 2007 – May 2008, 360 km², 2024 trap-nights), we obtained 72 leopard pictures. Thirtyone of them were independent, and we identified seven individual leopards: one adult male, one sub-adult male, one female with cub, two adult females and one cub. We have assessed the key problems faced by leopards and their prey and developed a plan of priority research and conservation actions to be conducted in the near future. In parallel, we are on our way to establish the game wardens’ Persian Leopard Trust to increase their motivation in sustainable long-term conservation. We have been working to increase awareness and build capacities of local people, having chosen the Persian leopard as a symbol of conservation figured throughout the educational workshops, school presentations, festivals and published materials.

Contribution to the faunistics of rotifers in some lagoons of West Azarbaijan, Iran

Esmat Khaleqsefat, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Shahid Beheshty University, Tehran, Iran, biosystematist2006@gmail.com

M. V. Reza, N. Nabat, P. R. Shahrokh

North West Iran hosts many shallow, weedy and permanent lagoons harboring a rich variety of zooplankton particularly members of phylum Rotifera. This study is an attempt to evaluate the current status of the rotifer biodiversity in some of these lagoons. Samples were collected from 15 different sites between November 2007 and May 2008. Planktonic rotifers were sampled by filtering the littoral waters through a plankton net of 30 µm, while epiphytic specimens were isolated by rinsing the collected aquatic plants and algae on the net. Some main physico-chemical factors of water such as dissolved oxygen (DO), pH, temperature, salinity and electrical conductivity (EC) were also measured. Rotifers were identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible by employing the standard keys. In total, 61 species belonging to 22 genera of 14 Eurotatorian families were identified. The majority of the species (90%) were of the subclass monogononta. The most diverse families and their descending contributions were as follow: Lecanidae (24.4%) > Brachionidae (16.5%) > Notomatidae (15%) > Lepadellidae (10.6%). Members of the order Ploima were the highest in both diversity and frequency during the period of the study.