SARVIN
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Harmony in Nature, Strength in Community

2025
Annual Report



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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report highlights the main efforts and steps our team has taken in 2025 to advance our mission. While it is not possible to capture every single activity within the scope of one annual report, we hope this overview offers a clear picture of our work. To stay informed about our ongoing projects and day-to-day updates, we invite you to follow our social media channels.

SCAN ME

OUR VISION

Sarvin Wildlife Conservation envisions an Iran where wild species thrive in dynamic, restored ecosystems and coexist in harmony with empowered and informed local communities.

OUR MISSION

Sarvin Wildlife Conservation works to protect Iran's wildlife and restore degraded ecosystems through re-wilding key habitats and integrating traditional knowledge with modern science. We believe in the power of local communities to drive change and see the empowerment of rangers as key to the success of our mission.

OUR VALUES

- Traditional and Modern Knowledge Integration
- Community Collaboration
- Holistic Ecosystem Conservation
- Habitat Restoration & Re-wilding
- Ranger Empowerment
- Innovation and Adaptability



OUR TEAM

IN 2025



MORTEZA POURMIRZAI
Director



ATIE TAKTEHRANI
Conservation Research and Monitoring Manager



NAVID GHOLIKHANI
Conservationist & Board Member



MAHSA SHAHHOSSEINI
Conservationist & GIS Expert



HOSSEIN KEIGHOBADI
Ranger



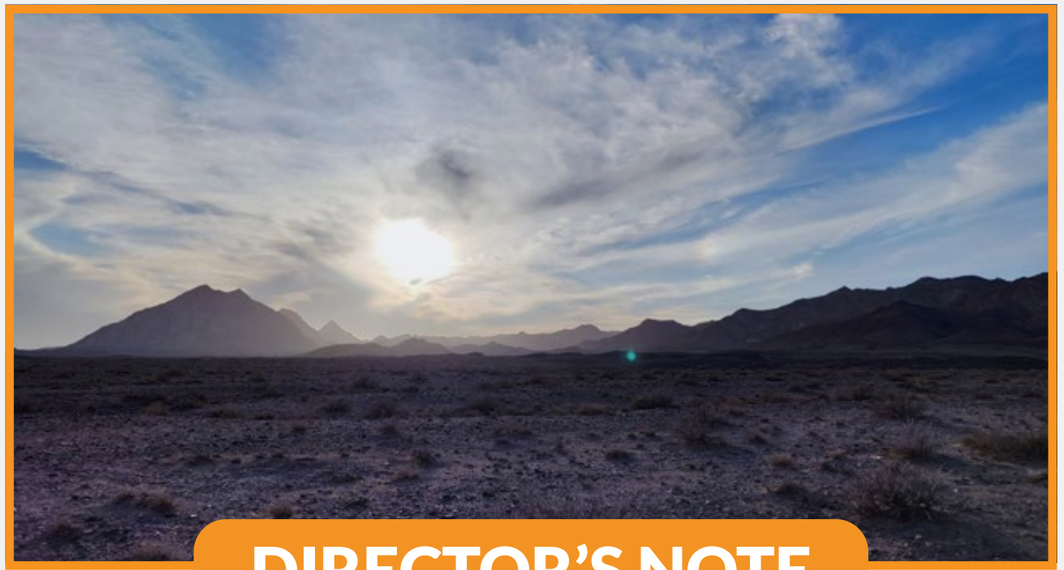
AMIN ZAHIRNEJAD
Ranger



MOHAMMAD H. KARIMI
Conservationist



ALLAHYAR SANGI
Conservationist

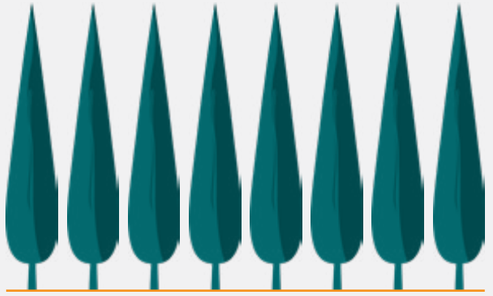


DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In September 2024, with the establishment of Sarvin Wildlife Conservation and the motto "Harmony in Nature; Strength in Community," we opened a new chapter in the effort to protect Iran's natural heritage. This new beginning, inspired by the name "Sarv" – the cypress tree, the symbol of resilience in Iranian culture – reflects our long-standing commitment to safeguarding the country's wildlife. During the first six months, despite financial and political constraints, we used all the resources at our disposal to maximize our impact on habitat conservation and support for wildlife rangers.

Every step we took over the past year was an effort to overcome challenges and create new opportunities. Looking ahead, we will continue to move forward with resilience, dialogue, and creative solutions, in line with Sarvin's mission to restore habitats and empower local communities. We believe that, with the help of our supporters, we can return Iran's nature to a more vibrant state. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all supporters, rangers, and colleagues who stood with us at the outset of this journey. This is only the beginning of much greater work to come.

Morteza Pourmirzai



THE LAUNCH OF SARVIN

Sarvin Wildlife Conservation was established in September 2024 by a team of conservationists who have dedicated many years to protecting some of Iran's most vulnerable wildlife, especially the Asiatic cheetah. Drawing on our previous work in other environmental NGOs since the early 2010s – including major initiatives such as the largest camera-trap survey of the Asiatic cheetah in Iran, as well as extensive awareness-raising and education programs – we founded Sarvin to apply this experience to the protection of Iran's most valuable habitats in a more holistic way.

From restoring wildlife in Iran's deserts to rehabilitating degraded habitats, our focus is on building resilient ecosystems. By empowering local communities and wildlife rangers, we aim to secure a brighter and more sustainable future for Iran's nature.

We celebrated this new beginning in January 2025 together with our supporters and friends of the organization, where we shared Sarvin's vision and mission and outlined the future we imagine for Iran's landscapes and wildlife. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us on that day and encouraged us to embark on this new chapter, standing with us despite many challenges and strengthening our resolve to continue.





SPECIES-FOCUSED INITIATIVES

Background: “faraz”, the dominant male cheetah in Turan national park



© DoE

Participation in the monitoring of Miandasht Wildlife Refuge

In 2025, we supported camera-trap monitoring in Miandasht Wildlife Refuge in partnership with local environmental authorities. The work led to a landmark moment: new images of an Asiatic cheetah female known as Helia and her two cubs, the first confirmed cheetah presence after six years with no confirmed records in Miandasht.

With limited camera equipment available, our team helped identify priority locations and optimize camera settings to increase the chances of detection.

The resulting photographs confirmed that Helia, previously recorded in Turan Biosphere Reserve, had moved more than 130 kilometers to reach Miandasht. This movement underlines the importance of protecting habitat corridors between Turan and Miandasht and points to Miandasht's potential as a stronghold for the recovery of the Asiatic cheetah.

Building on this progress, we aim to expand cheetah monitoring in Miandasht, subject to future permits, to better understand movement patterns and inform conservation measures for this critically endangered subspecies.

Background: Installing the camera-trap that captured Helia.



Publishing guideline for standard wildlife water trough

In 2025, Sarvin took an important step for desert wildlife in Iran by publishing design guidelines for standard wildlife water troughs. Developed over three years in close collaboration with the Jajarm Department of Environment and rangers in Miandasht Wildlife Refuge, the guidelines aim to provide safe and reliable access to water for a wide range of species, from small birds to larger mammals.

The prototype water trough, named “Hayat” (Life) and tested in Miandasht over a two-year period, incorporates several key features: a design that allows easy access for animals of different sizes and reduces the risk of drowning; construction methods and materials that minimize evaporation; non-toxic materials to ensure good water quality; a cost-effective structure compared to conventional designs; and an appearance that blends into the surrounding landscape.

Monitoring results show that Hayat not only meets the water needs of wildlife, but has also reduced chick mortality among birds to zero and helped species use the habitat more evenly.

Notably, observations at the trough included species such as hedgehogs, that had never been recorded at this site before. This suggests that the water trough not only provides improved access to water but also facilitates the utilization by a more diverse range of species. However, it is important to note that while this diversity may include reptiles, camera-traps cannot record them, necessitating different monitoring methods.

Its success has already inspired the construction of similar water troughs in Turan Biosphere Reserve.

The final guidelines were released in February 2025 as a practical tool for building standard water points in arid and semi-arid landscapes and are now available to conservation agencies and rangers. Designed to be adaptable to different habitat types, they represent a significant step toward improving reproduction and reducing mortality among wildlife in Iran’s dry regions.

We are grateful to our partners in Jajarm’s environmental office, the Miandasht rangers, and the provincial Department of Environment leadership for their collaboration and support. In the coming years, we hope wider adoption of these guidelines will translate into better habitat conditions, especially for smaller and more vulnerable species across the country.



Persian Document

COMMUNITY AND RANGER INITIATIVES



Hiring community rangers in Turan Biosphere Reserve

In 2025, we continued our community ranger program in Turan Biosphere Reserve, the largest remaining habitat for the Asiatic cheetah. Through this initiative, Sarvin hires and funds local community rangers who work alongside government rangers to strengthen protection on the ground.

Thanks to generous support from our donors, Darb-e Shazdeh Hotel and Nardeban Publications, the salaries of two community rangers were fully covered, allowing them to be present in the field throughout the year.

Their support helps government rangers with patrols, wildlife and habitat monitoring, repairs and maintenance, and managing scarce water resources across this vast landscape.

In a site like Turan, where staffing is limited and threats to wildlife are high, community rangers play a critical role in safeguarding the ecosystem and threatened species such as the Asiatic cheetah.

Looking ahead, we aim to secure additional funding so we can hire more community rangers and replicate this model in other key habitats. Recruitment, roles, and shifts for community rangers in Turan are defined by the park's management in coordination with the national Department of Environment, ensuring that their work directly supports official protection priorities.



Project Sponsors

Equipping rangers

Each year, we work to address equipment and skills gaps so rangers can do their jobs more safely and effectively. In 2025, we provided full gear sets for two of Sarvin's community rangers, including personal protective equipment, clothing, and field tools, enabling them to carry out patrols and monitoring duties with greater confidence.

We also helped keep a key patrol vehicle in Turan operational by supplying urgently needed spare parts, avoiding long bureaucratic delays that can ground government vehicles and interrupt protection efforts.

In a ranger station at Turan, the lack of a suitable camera had long limited the documentation and identification of individual cheetahs. With support from one of our donors, we supplied a super-zoom SX60 camera to the team.

Shortly afterwards, rangers at the post captured valuable images of a cheetah with her cub—an individual that had not been recorded by camera-traps for a long period. Field photographs like these complement camera-trap data and are essential for updating movement and identification databases, which is why we continue to prioritize practical monitoring equipment for rangers.



Captured by Hossein Ajam, this photograph confirmed a new breeding record for the area.





Supporting rangers' livelihoods and wellbeing

In addition to improving equipment and training, Sarvin is committed to supporting the livelihoods and wellbeing of rangers and their families, especially during nationally significant celebrations. In December 2024, we launched a campaign to provide special winter gift packages for 47 rangers and community partners in two key habitats for the Asiatic cheetah, as a gesture of appreciation for their year-round service. The costs were covered through generous contributions from individual donors, and through an online public fundraising campaign to ensure all packages reached rangers and their families on time. These packages aimed both to ease living costs and to send a clear message of solidarity to front-line conservation staff.

At the end of the Persian year 1403, we also distributed 50 New Year gift packages, featuring products from the Iranian brands Elite and Copa, to rangers and community rangers working in Turan and Miandasht cheetah habitats. These New Year packages offered a small but meaningful way to recognize the continuous efforts of those protecting Iran's wildlife, made possible through in-kind support from partner companies.

Looking ahead to 1404, we plan to expand these seasonal initiatives so that more ranger families can benefit from this form of practical and moral support.

Beyond direct gifts, Sarvin also works to strengthen rangers' household incomes by connecting them to ethical markets. During the year, we supported one of our local rangers—who is also a small-scale farmer—by showcasing and selling his agricultural products at a public event, using improved packaging and storytelling to highlight the link between sustainable livelihoods and conservation. We then offered these products through Sarvin's online shop, providing a more stable sales channel and helping to diversify his income. By promoting ranger-led products in this way, we aim to demonstrate how investing in rangers' livelihoods directly contributes to healthier ecosystems and more resilient communities around protected areas.



Project Sponsor

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION





One of the small dams 6 years after construction

Smarter Water Management In Miandasht

In 2025, we launched a habitat restoration project in Miandasht Wildlife Refuge focused on smarter water management for this drought-affected landscape. Building on earlier work with small dams to retain runoff for wildlife, we expanded the approach by constructing a new storage pond next to an existing well, equipped with a wind-powered pump, to capture water that would otherwise be lost and use it to irrigate rangelands under vegetation recovery plans.

Early results show improved vegetation around water points and increased use of these areas by wildlife and migratory birds, demonstrating the potential of this model for dry land restoration. In parallel, local authorities piloted community-led seeding efforts near one of the dams, helping to accelerate recovery.

We are now working with partners to explore applying learned lessons and best practices in water management to Turan National Park, where climate change and prolonged drought are putting additional pressure on habitats. Design and feasibility studies are under way, and the new storage pond in Miandasht is expected to be completed in 2026.

Project Sponsor

RNS
Reaching New Styles

Background: The new storage pond under construction

Construction of Sarvin's Habitat Restoration Hub in Turan

Habitat restoration has been at the heart of Sarvin's mission from the start, with a growing focus on Iran's drought-stressed desert ecosystems that support the last Asiatic cheetahs and their prey. Our experience showed that restoration and community partnerships will not succeed without secure water: when village water runs out, pressure on fragile rangelands intensifies or people are forced to migrate, deepening both social and ecological crises. In 2025, we launched a structured search for a site to establish a long-term Habitat Restoration Hub with water at its core, visiting villages around Golestan National Park, Miandasht Wildlife Refuge, and the Turan Biosphere Reserve and consulting national and international experts. We selected Ghale-Bala, a key buffer-zone village beside Turan, where the community had already donated land and partnered with us on local ranger initiatives.

Rather than building only an education center and research farm, we designed the Hub around Iran's traditional underground water-storage systems, such as Ab-Anbars[1] and Qanats[2], combined with modern restoration science. To ensure the architecture respects local values and cultural traditions, the Hub's building and Ab-Anbar have been designed in collaboration with Faramarz Parsi, a well-known Iranian architect and restorer of historic structures. In December 2025, we began constructing a 200,000-liter Ab-Anbar on the donated land, which will be integrated with an education and research building and surrounding plots to test practical methods for restoring degraded desert rangelands. In parallel, we are working with villagers and local authorities to repair abandoned cisterns in the wider landscape so they can again capture seasonal floods and qanat flows, securing water for both people and wildlife during extreme summers.

Anchored in Ghale-Bala, the Hub will serve as a permanent platform where farmers, herders, rangers, and scientists co-develop water-centered restoration solutions that reduce grazing pressure and rebuild vegetation and prey outside formal protected areas. Over time, it will become Sarvin's operational base for piloting scalable restoration models that can be replicated across other villages and desert landscapes critical to the survival of the Asiatic cheetah.



Project Partner

عمارت خورشید
مهندسان مشاور معماری، مرمت و شهرسازی
Architecture, Restoration & Urban Design

[1] Ab-Anbar: A traditional underground, roofed water cistern used in Iran to collect and store water while keeping it cool and protected from evaporation.
[2] Qanat: An ancient Persian underground channel system that gently carries groundwater from aquifers to the surface over long distances, providing reliable water in arid landscapes.

Background: AI-generated visual concept illustrating the future Habitat Restoration Hub building and surrounding research fields.

Community-led habitat restoration in Turan National Park

During the recent drought, vegetation cover in Turan National Park declined sharply, reducing forage availability for key ungulate species such as chinkara, mouflon, and onagers. In response, the park director initiated a habitat restoration effort using water from one of the park's key springs to reseed several hectares of degraded land around the spring. These lands historically belonged to nearby villages such as Ghale-Bala, but had not been cultivated for many years because they lie deep inside the national park. Through dialogue with local landowners, the director secured their voluntary agreement to set the fields aside for wildlife forage rather than agriculture.

To make this idea operational, the park requested logistical support from Sarvin under our Habitat Restoration Program. We covered the implementation costs so that the reseeding effort could proceed quickly and in line with current best practices for restoring degraded rangelands in arid ecosystems. We believe that initiatives designed and led by park staff and rangers, and implemented in genuine partnership with local communities, have the greatest chance of long-term success and ownership.

We were therefore proud to stand alongside the park director in bringing this pilot project to life.

Early field reports and photographs suggest that the restored plots are now being used by at least 100 wild ungulates, including mouflon, Chinkara and Persian onagers, which are taking advantage of the more secure grazing opportunities within the core of the national park. By creating safe, high-quality forage areas in the heart of Turan, this initiative not only supports wildlife through the current drought, but also demonstrates how collaborative habitat restoration can strengthen both ecosystem resilience and relationships with local communities.





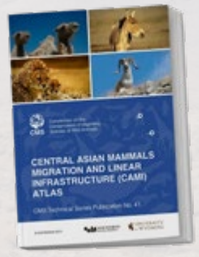


Background: Ghalebala in sunset

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

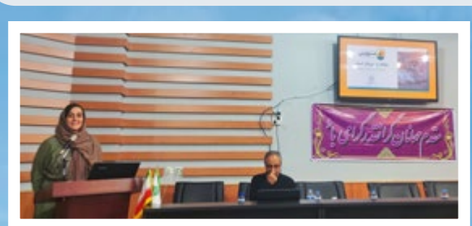
Contributing to the Second Edition of the CAMI Atlas

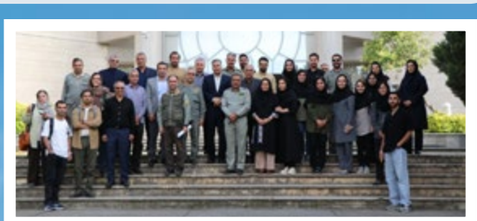
In 2025, Sarvin contributed updated data on Asiatic cheetah habitat to the Second Edition of the Central Asian Mammals Migration and Linear Infrastructure (CAMI) Atlas, produced through an international collaboration.
The new cheetah layer incorporates recent information and refined analyses, and highlights how rapidly suitable habitat and safe movement corridors are being lost for this critically endangered subspecies.
With fewer than 30 individuals now confirmed in Iran, the Asiatic cheetah depends on large, connected desert landscapes to survive. However, expanding linear infrastructure—particularly major highways such as the Tehran–Mashhad road cutting a key corridor between the Turan Biosphere Reserve and Miandasht Wildlife Refuge—has created deadly conflict zones; at least 14 cheetahs were killed in vehicle collisions between 2005 and 2016 on Iran's roads. By feeding Sarvin's field knowledge into the CAMI Atlas, we are helping ensure that cheetah habitat and mortality hotspots are visible to planners and decision-makers, and that tools for integrating wildlife conservation, mitigation measures, and community- and ranger-led stewardship are available when new infrastructure is designed or upgraded.



Outreach And Engagement

In 2024, Sarvin expanded its outreach to better connect science, policy, and public awareness on Asiatic cheetah conservation and degraded habitats in Iran. At the invitation of Gorgan University, we joined a specialist seminar with senior government officials and park managers to present an updated status review and a practical roadmap to avoid cheetah extinction, helping decision makers and students understand key threats and priority actions.
To support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), we produced short Persian-language videos and social media content that adapted international materials and showcased local examples of ecosystem restoration, habitat rehabilitation, and holistic conservation. Sarvin staff also contributed to a specialized webinar hosted by the University of Tehran's scientific association, sharing holistic conservation principles and field experience with students and early-career conservationists.
In parallel, we engaged national media through interviews and opinion pieces on the cheetah's critical status and the wider crisis in Iran's arid ecosystems. By combining university seminars, webinars, digital content, and media outreach, we helped strengthen both high-level and public understanding of the urgency of cheetah conservation and the central role of ecosystem restoration in securing its future.





“Rescue the Asiatic Cheetah”: A Web Game for Education

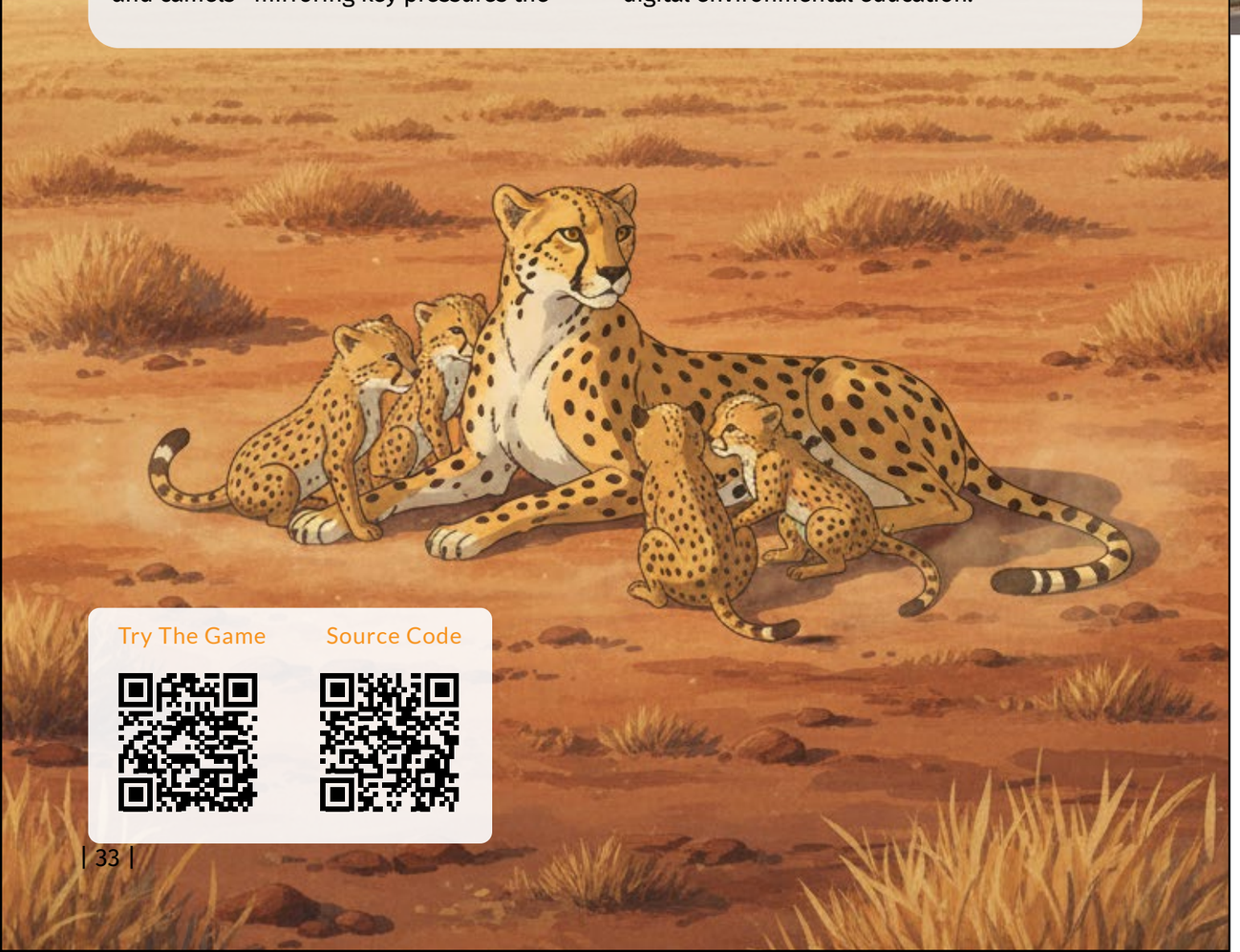
On 31 August, Iran’s National Cheetah Day, Sarvin launched Rescue the Asiatic Cheetah, an interactive web-based educational game designed to engage new audiences in cheetah conservation.

Players take on the role of a mother cheetah guiding her four cubs to independence over an accelerated 18-month period, collecting food and water while avoiding threats such as illegal traders, herding dogs, busy roads, and camels—mirroring key pressures the species faces in the wild.

At the end of each round, players receive short messages and achievement summaries that explain real-world challenges and encourage support for conservation efforts.

Within the first days after launch, hundreds of users had already played the game multiple times, demonstrating the potential of simple digital tools to raise awareness about one of the world’s rarest big cats.

Sarvin released the game’s source code for free on Github so that other conservation groups can adapt the concept for their own endangered species and landscapes, further scaling the impact of this experiment in digital environmental education.



Try The Game

Source Code

Looking Ahead To 2026

IN 2026, WE WILL CONTINUE OUR WORK WITH A FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES.



Supporting rangers and their families

We will continue hiring community rangers and develop new measures to strengthen the livelihoods and wellbeing of rangers’ families.

Restoring sensitive habitats

Through better water management, vegetation recovery, and related measures, we aim to restore the cheetah habitats where we work and create the conditions for the return and growth of priority species populations

Sustainable funding

We will work to secure more stable and diversified funding for our projects so we can increase the number of rangers on the ground and keep key conservation initiatives moving forward

Protecting satellite habitats around Turan

We will strengthen protection in the satellite habitats surrounding Turan so that these areas function as restored, high-quality range for Asiatic cheetahs and their prey species.

KEY CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED



CHALLENGES IN 2025

Establishing Sarvin and continuing wildlife conservation work in Iran's challenging context was a major step for us in 2025. After many years in conservation, we chose to stay and carry this work forward under a new name and identity, inspired by the endurance of the cypress. Setting up a new organizational structure, defining roles, and keeping existing projects running without interruption brought a number of challenges, the most significant of which were:

1 International sanctions

Over recent years, international collaboration has become increasingly limited, often reduced to occasional technical exchanges rather than broader partnerships. This trend intensified over the past year, making it even harder to build and sustain international projects. In response, we placed greater emphasis on mobilizing and strengthening domestic capacities.

2 Administrative and political constraints

Iran's state-led system for wildlife management leaves limited room for non-profit organizations to play an active role. Administrative procedures and security-related restrictions, throughout the year, significantly reduced our ability to implement planned activities.

3 Financial and operational resources

In a difficult economic climate, starting from scratch without core funding, office space, or basic equipment was a significant challenge. Covering operating costs and program expenses required sustained extra effort. With the support of our early donors, we were able to secure part of the resources needed to keep our work moving forward.

4 Building a new organizational identity

Building a new organizational identity also brought its own set of challenges. Although our team has spent many years working in research, education, and biodiversity conservation in Iran, Sarvin is a new name that needed to earn recognition and trust in a crowded and complex landscape.

LESSONS LEARNED

Resilience and adaptability

Inspired by the symbolism of the cypress, we focused on staying resilient under pressure and looking for creative solutions. Launching our website and social media channels, and holding an official opening event in January 2025, helped establish Sarvin's identity and presence.

Shifting to ecosystem-based conservation

We moved beyond a purely species-focused lens and centered our mission on restoring cheetah habitats and working closely with local communities and rangers. This shift, still relatively new in Iran's conservation landscape, translated into prioritizing habitat restoration over single-species projects.

Communications and brand building

By investing in storytelling and digital outreach, and drawing on the support of our extended network, our Instagram channel reached around 9,000 followers within its first two days. Influencer support and consistent updates have been key to increasing visibility and keeping our community engaged.

Dialogue with policymakers

We also began raising issues such as habitat restoration in meetings with government counterparts to help inform broader policy discussions, even though meaningful change in this space remains a long-term and challenging process.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None of our work this year would have been possible without the commitment of our supporters, partners, and friends. We are grateful that they stood with Sarvin throughout 2025 and helped advance our mission.

Corporate Donors

Major Individual Donors

Lili Zamanian, Nigel Hughes, Amirtharaj Christy Williams, Michael Sandys-Wunsch & Simone Eckhardt

Individual Supporters

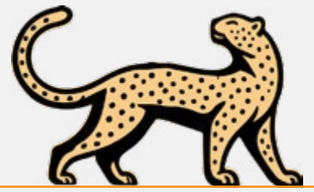
Sadra Moghadam, Hamid Samadzadeh, Aida Abhari, Livvy Cropper, Anshuman Chandra, Yvonne Chin, Sarah Bradbury, Bayanne Cosultancy, Negin Valizadegan, Leila Hojjat, Amir Khaboushani, Sanam Akhavi, Shirin Ahmadi, Nahid Gholikhani, Mehdi Ahmadi, Simin Taban, Naeim Jabbari, Vahid Babaei Nejad, Ali Gholami, Alireza Sohrabi, and the MedTrip team.

Friends Of Sarvin Whose Support Was Essential To Our Progress

Faramarz Parsi, Saman Golriz, Mohammad Farhadinia, Negin Samadzadeh, Maryam Shahbazi, Hamidreza Rezaie, Afshin Danekar, Amir Parsa Neshat, Mohammad Darvish, Babak Sarhangpour, Mostafa Hamidian, Farank Askari, Amir Mohajerani, Reza Mohajerani, Amir Hossein Farzaneh, Melika Asadzadeh, the Basefat family, Hossein Moghiseh, Ali Mazhar, Arash Moharrami, Mahsa Mahdizadeh, Nour Iman Mashayekhi, Yashar Jafari, Farzad Kafaee

Government Partners

Shina Ansari, Hamid Zohrabi, Jila Aghaei, Reza Shekariyan, Saeed Yousefpour, Ahmad Safarzadeh, Majid Ajami, Ahmad Radman, and all the rangers working in Turan and Miandasht.





GET INVOLVED

Around the world, people are standing with Sarvin to protect Iran's most threatened wildlife and habitats. From the central deserts of the Asiatic cheetah to the forests and mountains that shelter leopards, bears, and wolves, your support helps us restore ecosystems and strengthen the communities and rangers who defend them.

If you would like to support our work, you can make a secure online donation or contribute via PayPal or cryptocurrency using the options linked below. Every contribution, of any size, directly powers field projects, community partnerships, and long-term habitat restoration across Iran.

DONATE NOW!



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