



Department of the Environment
I.R.IRAN

Foreword

In The Name of Creator of Beauty

Praise to God for the showers of his boundless mercy that gave life to the dormant earth and his generosity that laid down the foundation for growth in the cradle of earth. People of Iran, the land of shining sun and running waters, although geographically located in dry areas of the world, have always perceived a deep connection between nature and their spiritual needs. Four sacred elements of Air, Water, Earth and Fire were highly respected in Iranian old traditions and polluting the first three were considered a great sin. For such aware and deeply conscious people, the mission of environmental conservation, encompassing the development of nature and wildlife conservation awareness, looks more inevitable than ever before.

Variety of mammals with different genetic, morphologic and ecologic adaptations are observed in the vast expanse of the country and its diverse habitats. Genetic diversity among groups like wild sheep is so high that despite of several research their taxonomy is still in dispute.

This book is the result of hard work by both young and experienced wildlife biologists who searched diverse habitats of the country for mammals and recorded their presence, sometimes taking beautiful pictures, where there were no records before. Recordings of rare species as Pallas's Cat, Asiatic Black Bear and Blandford's Fox bear is witness to their unceasing efforts. Studies that were performed to prepare The Atlas of Mammals of Iran is undoubtedly one of the most successful research on mammals of Iran in recent decades. I sincerely acknowledge these efforts and hope that it would lead to more research that is needed for wildlife and especially mammal conservation in our beloved country.

Masoumeh Ebtekar

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The Atlas of Mammals of Iran

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