

IMAN EBRAHIMI

CONSERVATION LEADER | CONSERVATION PSYCHOLOGIST

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Iranian conservation leader and conservation psychologist with over ten years of experience in NGO leadership, research and environmental policy. I use behavioural evidence to design and assess conservation interventions, mentor emerging leaders and strengthen the organisations that sustain conservation.

EDUCATION

Master's Degree in Mental Health

Iran University of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Behavior & Mental Health Sciences | Tehran | Sep 2016–Feb 2020 | GPA: 18.15/20

Thesis: Bird-watching and Mental Health: Investigating the Effects, Identifying Personality Variables and Restrictive Factors. Research involving 85 adults, including psychological and personality assessments and six-month follow-up. Thesis grade: 17.96/20.

Bachelor's Degree in Counseling and Guidance

University of Tehran, Faculty of Psychology and Education | Tehran | 2012–2016 | GPA: 16.92/20

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Deputy Director

AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society | Apr 2025–Present

- Contribute to organisational strategy, conservation project management, research direction, national policy engagement and institutional partnerships.
- Train new team members and mentor emerging project managers in conservation planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Develop and coordinate internship and master's thesis engagement programmes, structuring entry routes for students and early-career conservationists.
- Mentor local AvayeBoom representatives and project teams working with community stakeholders, supporting local participation and the transfer of responsibilities.
- Support the transition from founder-led executive management towards wider responsibility for projects, decisions and partnerships.

Founder & Chief Executive Officer

AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society | Apr 2015–Mar 2025

- Founded AvayeBoom at the age of 21 and led its development from a small bird-conservation initiative into an NGO working across multiple Iranian provinces.
- Built its organisational structure, teams, volunteer network and partnerships. AvayeBoom now has 310+ members and volunteers; its education and engagement programmes have reached 4,200+ people.
- Led organisational planning, fundraising, staff and volunteer management, and the design and supervision of conservation projects. Its documented portfolio includes 18 projects.
- Developed long-term cooperation with Iran's Department of Environment through commissioned fieldwork, joint monitoring, research and conservation policy.

Manager, Homa Environmental Grant

Iran | Jan 2025–Present

- Manage a conservation funding programme covering programme design, proposal assessment, expert review, grant allocation, mentoring and monitoring.
- Work with conservation teams to develop proposals and support funded project delivery and evaluation.
- Managed the first funding cycle: 56 proposals received, six shortlisted and three principal grants selected.

NATIONAL POLICY & INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

National Waterbird Hunting Regulation | 2025. Led AvayeBoom's technical contribution to revising the regulation. Coordinated expert, NGO and hunting-stakeholder consultation and submitted evidence-based recommendations to the Department of Environment. Recommendations were accepted and incorporated into the updated regulation adopted in 2025.

National Bird Conservation Guidelines | 2025–Present. Coordinate AvayeBoom's work with the Department of Environment on three national guidelines: releasing rehabilitated birds (officially issued); filming birds and using drones (developed, nearing formal issuance); and birdwatching in Department of Environment-managed areas (under institutional review).

Passerine Trapping Permit Reform | 2026. Led evidence gathering, policy recommendations and institutional engagement. AvayeBoom's work contributed to the governmental decision to suspend issuance of passerine trapping permits for five years.

SELECTED CONSERVATION PROJECTS

The following projects represent a selection of my conservation work.

Arjan Wetland Flagship Species and Community Conservation Programme

Fars Province | 2020–Present | Project Lead & Lead Researcher

- Developed a ten-criteria framework combining ecological, social and cultural factors to select a locally meaningful flagship species.
- Led research and community engagement selecting the Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), locally known as Anghut.
- Coordinated activities with residents, schools, volunteers, NGOs and authorities, connecting the species with local identity through education, birdwatching, murals and signage.
- Evaluated social and ecological changes. Annual counts rose from 312 (2023) to 1,326 (2026); the increase cannot be attributed to the programme alone. Published the flagship-selection research in 2024.

Sorkhroud and Fereydunkenar Migratory Waterbird Conservation

Mazandaran Province | Sep 2026–Present | Project Manager

- Manage a newly initiated project addressing hunting pressure on migratory waterbirds and conflicts involving local livelihoods and conservation.
- Lead development of research on hunting practices, attitudes and behaviour, with planned stakeholder engagement, conflict-reduction activities and birdwatching-based livelihood opportunities.
- Develop plans for local cooperation mechanisms to support conservation beyond the initial intervention.

Gavkhouni Wetland Participatory Biodiversity Platform

Isfahan Province | 2021–2023 | Project Manager

- Managed a collaborative biodiversity and environmental education platform involving local communities, NGOs, rangers, authorities and conservation experts.
- Integrated scientific information and local knowledge; supported gradual transfer of platform management to local stakeholders, with AvayeBoom moving into a supporting role.

Shidvar Island Breeding Seabird Conservation

Persian Gulf | 2020–2023 | Project Lead

- Led activities addressing introduced feral cats threatening breeding seabirds, in cooperation with the Department of Environment.
- Coordinated field monitoring, stakeholder engagement and predator removal; led research documenting changes in White-cheeked Tern clutch-size distribution following removal (published 2026).

Asian Houbara Power-Line Collision Mitigation

Abbas Abad Wildlife Refuge | 2019–2020 | Project Manager & Research Lead

- Managed installation of 450 spiral diverters along seven kilometres of high-risk power lines.
- Coordinated pre- and post-intervention monitoring: nine collisions recorded at baseline and none during post-intervention monitoring. Led associated research (published 2024).

Bee-eater–Beekeeper Conflict Mitigation

Isfahan and Fars Provinces | 2021–2023 | Project Lead

- Led an educational intervention involving 78 beekeepers, combining ecological information with practical conflict-reduction recommendations.
- At approximately one-year follow-up, 42 of 57 respondents (73.7%) reported reduced conflict; outcomes were self-reported, without an untreated control group.

Provincial Waterbird Monitoring Programmes

Isfahan, Fars, Hormozgan and Mazandaran | 2017–2026 | Project Manager / Field Expert

- Managed and contributed to provincial waterbird censuses with Departments of Environment, coordinating teams, volunteers, monitoring and technical reporting.
- The 2026 Mazandaran programme surveyed 36 sites over ten days and recorded 54,889 waterbirds of 112 species; helped train volunteers and government personnel in census methods.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Ebrahimi, I., Ranjbaran, A., Ghasemi, M., Kazemi, F., Eskandari, F., & Goudarzi, F. (2026). Rapid shift in clutch size distribution of White-cheeked Terns *Sterna repressa* following feral cat removal on Shidvar Island, Persian Gulf. *Conservation Evidence*, 23, 20–25. [DOI](#)
2. Ebrahimi, I., Kazemi, F., Tamimzadeh, S., Kazemi-Najafabadi, M., Sheikholeslami, N., & Najafi, S. (2026). Potential short-stopping of migratory waterbirds in the Caspian region: A climate-driven scenario based on the expanding Volga Delta. *Wetlands Ecology and Management*, 34, Article 48. [DOI](#)
3. Ebrahimi, I., Kazemi, F., & Agha Ebrahimi, M. A. (2026). Birdwatching vs. nature walks: A randomized trial to compare mental health outcomes in Iran. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, 31(5), 599–614. [DOI](#)
4. Shokri, S., Hemami, M.-R., Ebrahimi, I., Ghasemi, M., Kazemi, F., Ghoudarzi, F., Pourmanafi, S., & Ahmadi, M. (2026). The effect of landscape metrics on the abundance and species richness of shorebirds in Hormozgan Province. *Iranian Journal of Applied Ecology*, 14(3), 85–100. [DOI](#)
5. Ebrahimi, I., Kazemi, F., & Agha Ebrahimi, M. A. (2025). Personality traits influence birdwatching interest: A 6-month study in Iran. *Ecopsychology*, 17(2), 108–118. [DOI](#)
6. Ebrahimi, I., Dai, R., Kazemi, F., & Seifi, A. (2024). Selecting a flagship species for Arjan International Wetland in Iran. *Journal of Wildlife and Biodiversity*, 8(4), 364–383. [DOI](#)
7. Ebrahimi, I., Kazemi, F., & Agha Ebrahimi, M. A. (2024). Effectiveness of spiral diverters in preventing Asian Houbara power line collisions in Abbas Abad Wildlife Refuge, Iran. *ECOPERSIA*, 12(4), 405–412. [DOI](#)

BOOK

Ebrahimi, I. (2020). *Bird Migration and Migratory Birds of Iran* [in Persian]. Naghsh-e Mana Publications, Isfahan. First published Azar 1399 (November–December 2020). ISBN: 978-600-5956-95-5.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 2025 | Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award, Young Wetland Champion. Convention on Wetlands; associated Evian Special Prize.
- 2025 | IUCN World Conservation Congress Changemaker. One of 15 selected from 1,500+ applicants.
- 2023 | Mehregan Science Award, Commended Book. Recognition for Bird Migration and Migratory Birds of Iran.
- 2022 | EE 30 Under 30. North American Association for Environmental Education.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & SERVICE

- Convention on Wetlands: Voice for Wetlands (2025–2028).
- BirdLife International: Middle East Technical Group Member (2025–Present).
- IUCN Species Survival Commission: Bird Red List Authority and Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group (2023–Present).
- IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and Commission on Education and Communication: Commission Member (2022–Present).
- IUCN World Heritage: Confidential Desk Reviewer (Jan–May 2026).
- Iranian Environmental NGO Network: Member (2018–Present).

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 2026 | Red List Global and Regional Assessor – IUCN.
- 2024 | Birds and Power Lines – IUCN; Global Mentorship Program for Conservation Leaders – CoalitionWILD.
- 2023 | Monitoring and Evaluation for Wildlife Conservation – WildTeam UK; Animal Behaviour in Conservation – Wageningen University & Research.
- 2019 | Ecology: Ecosystem Dynamics and Conservation – American Museum of Natural History.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WRITING

2026 | [Current Conservation: After the Lion, a Bird](#) – Arjan's flagship species and relational restoration.

2026 | [Mongabay](#) – Strait of Hormuz conservation and regional cooperation.

2026 | [Conservation Asia \(SCB\), Kathmandu](#) – Human–bird interactions for conservation behaviour change.

2025 | [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) – Birds, people and conservation leadership.

2021 | [TEDxEsfahan](#) – Birdwatching, mental health and bird conservation.

2020 | [CreativeMornings/Isfahan](#) – Nature tourism and its effects on wildlife.

LANGUAGES

Persian: Native | English: IELTS Academic, Overall Band 7.0 (2026)