

## Latifi's Mountain Viper (*Montivipera latifii*) Conservation in Lar National Park

*Montivipera latifii* is a small venomous snake which its global distribution restricted to confined area in the central Alborz Mountains of Iran. Latifi's Viper listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species because of over-collection for using the venom in medical production in Iran. The species is also affected by habitat destruction mainly because of herd overgrazing. There is scant information about its biology and ecology, it makes difficult to prepare an appropriate conservation plan to ensure survival of Latifi's Viper.



Latifi's Viper in Lar national park

*Montivipera latifii* Conservation program in Lar National Park as a joint work between Pars Herpetologists Institute (PHI) from Iran and Zoological and botanical garden Plzen from Czech Republic has started in April 2015 and it is expected to continue until 2019.

The main goals of this project include:

- Determination of Latifi's Viper suitable habitats in Lar National Park
- To identify main habitat and population threats
- Educate nomads, ranchers, rangers and tourists to increase public awareness towards Latifi's Viper conservation in Lar National Park

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Barbod explains the importance of Latifi's Viper to rangers in Lar national park

The project team members include:

### **Leading team:**

Barbod Safaei, MSc of Biodiversity, herpetologist, chairman of Pars Herpetologists Institute

Jan Dohnal, staff member of Pilsen zoo

Hanyeh Ghaffari, PhD of Environment, herpetologist, Director of Pars Herpetologists Institute

### **Team members:**

Mahtab Yazdanian, MSc of Biodiversity, herpetologist, member of Pars Herpetologists Institute

Meysam Mashayekhi, MSc of Biodiversity, member of Pars Herpetologists Institute

Hadi Fahimi, MSc of Biodiversity, herpetologist, PHI member of managing board

Alireza Shahrhiri, member of Pars Herpetologists Institute

Parham Beihaghi, member of Pars Herpetologists Institute

Soheil Sami, member of Pars Herpetologists Institute

Mehdi Nabian, movie maker

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Taking photo of Latifi's Viper in natural habitat



Counting Latifi's Viper scales

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Recording Latifi's Viper weight



Communicate to locals in Lar national park