

FINDING THE BEST MODEL FOR *GAZELLA SUBGUTTUROSA* DISTRIBUTION IN BAMOU NATIONAL PARK USING ECOLOGICAL NICHE FACTOR ANALYSIS

Hadi Radnezhad¹, Amin Jamalimanesh², Iman Amouian², Minoo Moshtaghi^{3*}

1-Member of Department of Environmental Science, faculty of agriculture and natural resource, Islamic Azad University Esfahan (khorasgan) branch, Esfahan.

2- Environmental Science, faculty of agriculture and natural resource, Islamic Azad University Esfahan (khorasgan) branch, Esfahan.

3-Young Researchers and Elite Club, Khorasgan (Isfahan) Branch, Islamic Azad University, Iran
[*m_moshtaghi@yahoo.com](mailto:m_moshtaghi@yahoo.com)

INTRODUCTION

The Knowledge about the species distribution is critical to the management of wildlife habitats (Andren, 1994). So, direct survey of wildlife and exact determination of their distribution in large scale is costly, time-consuming and even impossible in some cases. On the other hand, as time-related changes in landscape structure alter the combination and frequency of species (Anderson and Gutzwiller, 1994), the application of species distribution prediction models seems essential. Differences between the various recommended models to predict species distribution stem from their use of statistical algorithms and required data about the presence/absence of species. The current study sought to model *Gazella subgutturosa* distribution in Bamou National Park (Iran) by using ENFA.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to do so, first, the variables which contributed to *G. subgutturosa* habitat preference in the studied area (including altitude, slope, direction, distance from villages, water resources, watering places, vegetation type, and land use) were listed based on the comments of environment experts.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results show that the most important threatened factor for *Gazella Subgutturosa* is predators with 100% marginality and 63% S1, the impact factor of which is 0.534; in addition, the effective mean of Boyse index is geometric one with 0.943 ± 0.023 . another factor is oil line that is lead to separation between two part of *Gazella Subgutturosa* habitat.

Key words: *Gazella Subgutturosa*, Distribution, Ecological niche factor analysis

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