



· **Foundation for Endangered Wildlife (Yemen)** ·
· **Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen** ·
"Working to ensure a sustainably managed wild population of Arabian Leopards
Living in harmony with local communities in Yemen"
Update No. 38: February 23, 2014

1. Resuming the Issuing of FEW/FPALY's monthly Newsletter:

FEW/FPALY welcomes its fans and followers everywhere with the resumption of its monthly newsletter. Along with the end of the National Dialogue Conference in Yemen, FEW/FPALY emphasizes its main objectives: the significance of the protection of endangered wildlife in the country, and promoting the coexistence between humans and endangered species. In an effort to achieve these objectives, FEW/FPALY has targeted new areas in the country while strongly believing that the Arab Spring will play a key role in contributing to the success of the foundation's efforts because of the values and principles that have been gained which include coexistence and peace not only among humans, but also between humans and their surroundings. FEW will release the news and activities for the disconnection period in this issue and the coming few issues.

2. New Member of the Board of Trustees and Board Meeting held:

FEW/FPALY has recently welcomed the newest member of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Ahmed Abdulkader Shaya, General Manager of Yemen General Oil & Gas Corporation. Mr. Shaya has contributed in collecting more than \$7,000 in donations to FEW/FPALY. On May 24, 2013, a board meeting was held in the presence of Dr. Abdulkarim Al Eryani, Mr. Abdulrahman Al Eryani, Mr. David Stanton, Mr. Ahmed Shaya, Mr. Marco Livadiotti and Dr. Mohamed Al-Duais. Also in attendance were our active volunteer, Mr. Mohammed Shaya. Several crucial matters were discussed during the meeting, including the launching of the bilingual awareness-raising book, "Vanishing Spots," ways of obtaining stable sources of core funding, and most importantly, the resignation of Mr. David Stanton, founder and former Executive Director of FEW/FPALY and handing the management of the organization over to Dr. Mohammed Al-Duais.



3. Halting African Wildlife Smuggling to Yemen in Collaboration with other Organizations:

For the first time, FEW/FPALY has collaborated with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and other agencies in halting the smuggling of African wildlife to the Tehamah District, Hodeidah Governorate. The confiscated animals included Cheetahs, African gazelles, and hyenas. However, FEW/FPALY and its partner organizations are facing many difficulties in moving and taking care of the confiscated animals due to the shortage of resources. As a result, FEW/FPALY is trying to further involve the EPA in Sana'a, Yemen's CITES officer, and other organizations to collaborate with local and international powers in the fight to stop wild animal smuggling, one of the main reasons for the decline of endangered species. The African gazelles and hyenas were transferred to Ibb Zoo, while the cheetahs "disappeared" and were presumably re-smuggled as their market value in Gulf States is enormous.

4. Welcoming a New Member to the Team:

FEW/FPALY is pleased to announce the significant addition of Mr. Maisara Al-Roiny to the team as secretary. Maisara will be in charge of handling a variety of essential duties for the foundation. He will be responsible for facilitating communication, maintaining the database of the foundation, supporting the foundation's meetings, and assisting in logistical duties. He will also be handling some Human Resources tasks such as liaising with local authorities and tracking employees' leave days. In addition to that, Maisara will be performing some other administrative duties such as preparing contracts, handling invoices and expenditures, supporting staff travel, handling



correspondence, and filing and tracking paperwork with local and international parties. Additionally, preparing the foundation's monthly newsletter will be one of his key responsibilities. Initially, as with other Yemenis, Maisara was not very interested in wildlife and conservation. However, since joining the team he has become more and more interested. "For me, I like to work with nature and to facilitate others' work. My interest in wildlife and conservation has grown considerably, and I got the chance to learn more about the significance of the foundation's efforts and how important they are to our community." We are looking for great contributions from Maisara.

5. The establishment of intensive work in Ibb governorate "*Building Advocacy and Developing a Management Plan for the 'High Mountains of Ibb Protected Areas,'*" financed by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF):

On 25th January 2013, Mr. Pierre Carret, Grant Director for the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot in the CEPF confirmed to FEW Director Dr. Mohammed Al-Duais that FEW's project was accepted for funding. The project proposal was developed with seven components and re-submitted to the CEPF after review by the CEPF secretariat. The project was initiated on 1st October 2013. The launching ceremony of the project was held in the cultural center in Ibb on 12th November 2013 with formal and public attendance. Among the attendees were H.E. Mr. Abdulrahman Al Eryani (Former Minister of Water and Environment), H.E. Amin Al-Warafi (consultant of the Yemeni President for Environment and Nature



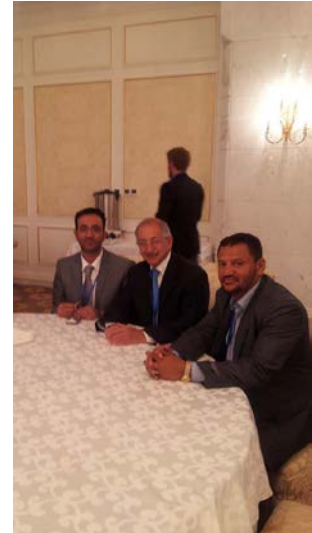
View of the fascinating mountains of Ibb governorate

Conservation), Mr. Ibrahim Khader (Head of the Birdlife International office in the Middle East), Mr. Sharif Jabour (CEPF-Regional Implementation Team Projects Officer for Yemen), Dr. Abdulaziz Ashuaiiby (Chairman of Ibb university), the head of the executive council of Ibb governorate, and many members of the executive council of the governorate and academics. The main topic of the ceremony was the

change to a more sustainable approach to biodiversity conservation in the high mountains of Ibb. Part of the launch ceremony was broadcast on national television, and uploaded to the Ibb Nature YouTube channel: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gu_5hz3qpJs
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MB4mVUm4RnE>

6. FEW in the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan:

In October, executive director Dr. Mohammed Al-Duais represented FEW as part of a three-person delegation from Yemen to the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The objective of the Forum was to discuss urgent actions and a new global strategy to address conservation of the endangered snow leopard and its habitat in the critical ecosystems of Central Asia. The other two members of the delegation were Mr. Naji Al-Nehmi (Representative of the Environmental Protection Authority, Administrator of Ibb branch) and HE Abdulrahman Al-Eryani who led the team in the gathering headed by Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev. Dr. Al Duais summarized the situation of the Arabian Leopard in the Arabian peninsula, and the need for sustained efforts to ensure the recovery of a viable Arabian Leopard population which is on the verge of extinction. FEW hopes to emulate Kyrgyzstan's successful snow leopard protection planning for the Arabian leopard and its landscape.



7. FEW in the 12th Annual Meeting of the Friends of Socotra, at Mendel University, Czech Republic:

FEW executive director Dr. Mohammed Al-Duais, represented FEW in the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Socotra, which was held in September 13–15, 2013 at Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic. Dr. Al-Duais presented a research proposal from his previous experience in the mainland:

"Vegetation analysis of the communities harboring *Cyphostemma digitatum* in Yemen as a model for community-analysis in *Dracena cinnabari* ecosystem in Socotra" and explained how this approach could be extended to the rarest ecosystem on earth. Socotra Island is a part of Yemen that has been declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is home to more than 900 rare plant species, around a third of which are endemic.



8. FEW Executive Director Dr. Mohammed Al-Duais Conducts Three Months' Summer Research at Fredric Schiller University, Germany:

The purpose of the visit was to investigate plant phytosociology and phytochemical evaluation for some medicinal plants from Yemen, including *Cissus rotundifolia*, *Pulicaria jaubertii* and *Mentha longifolia*. In addition to developing a phytosociology paper for the communities that harbor these species, the

antioxidant capacity, vitamin contents and carotenoid content were evaluated for these medicinal plants. There are high expectations to continue this collaboration on the experimental investigation of medicinal plants from Yemen of biological interest to Yemenis and their German colleagues at Fredric Schiller University.

9. **Launching the PIP project in Wadi Shares:**

Riaz Ingar and Sarah Oakley from Canada devised a unique way of celebrating their wedding by requesting donations to the Plant It Project (PIP) in lieu of more traditional wedding gifts. PIP helps the people of Yemen by planting food and income-generating trees and animal fodder to help alleviate hunger in areas where the foundation conducts its wildlife research and conservation activities. Murad Mohammed and Mohamed Al-Qudami from the FEW/FPALY, and members of the local community, started planting these trees



in several villages in Wadi Shares. In each of the villages FEW members gave presentations about PIP and the leopard survey. In a unique collaboration with the US-based NGO Save Yemen Flora and Fauna (SYFF), this project has already seen tangible results as the avocado, fig, and elephant grass that the two organizations planted with Riaz and Sarah's donations continue to thrive.

10. **Fauna surveys continue in different parts of Yemen:**

Wildlife surveys continue in different parts of Yemen including: Jebel Milhan, Mahwit; Bura'a, Hodeidah; Wadi Sharis, Hajjah, and various locations in Ibb governorate, by well-trained young Yemeni conservationists. Many important species have been recorded for the first time by camera traps. Surges of some species have been observed due to the decimation of top predators, which is quite alarming considering the significant resulting ecosystem disturbance. More results from the field will be posted in the coming issues.



Opentia invasion caused mainly by baboon outbreak in Milhan

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead