



Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen

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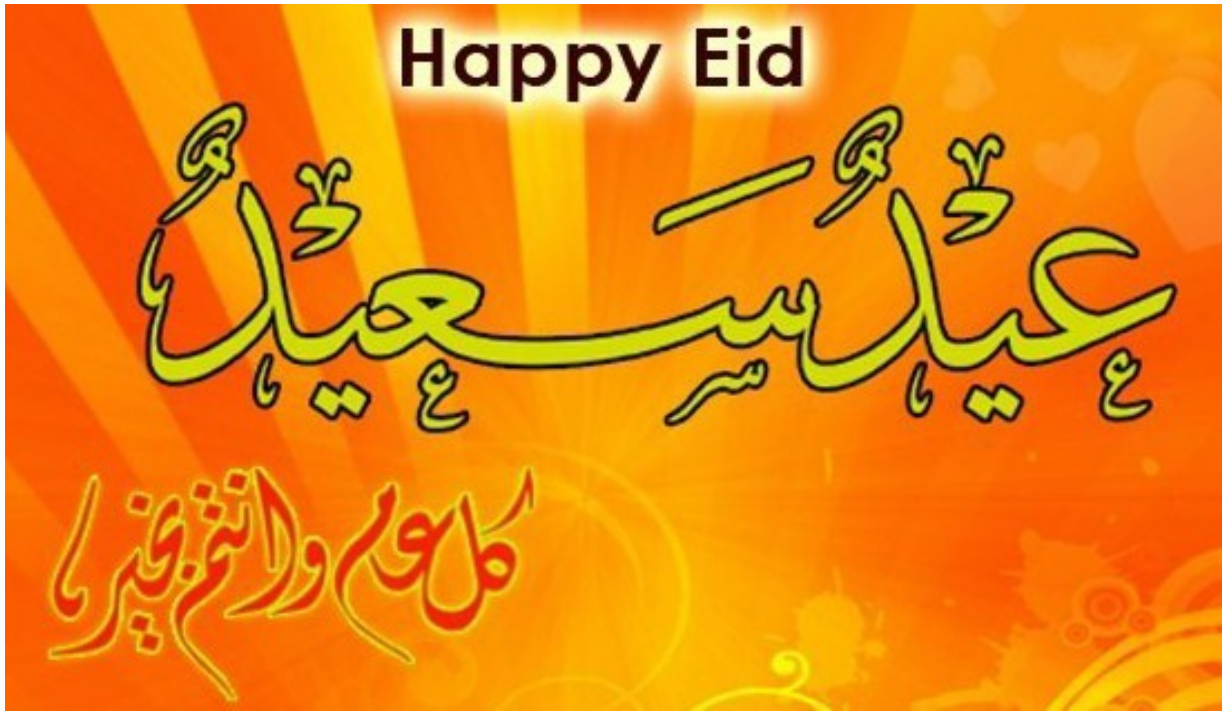
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"Working to ensure a sustainably managed wild population of Arabian Leopards living in harmony with local communities in Yemen"

"Friends of the Arabian Leopard"

Hundreds of members around the world!

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1. *Eid Sa'id wa kullu 'am wa antum bi khayran* (Happy 'Eid' and may you all be well throughout the New Year):

We at the *Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen* wish all of our friends and supporters, and indeed all people, a very happy holiday and happy, peaceful, and prosperous lives spent living in harmony with all of the many creatures great and small with which we "share" our only possible home.

2. **"Crowdfunding" Appeal Launched on Kickstarter:** As we continue to explore novel solutions to our funding challenges, we have launched our first crowdfunding bid on the website Kickstarter. Crowdfunding is a web-based mechanism designed to help innovators raise support for their projects. Please explore "Nightwatch - Catching Arabian Leopards with Camera Traps" via the following link and help us if you can:

<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/2001600289/nightwatch-catching-arabian-leopards-with-camera-t?ref=email>

We would greatly appreciate it if you would share this link with your network and encourage your friends, family, and acquaintances to join you in supporting our work. As an additional incentive California wildlife photographer and Foundation Friend Sebastian Kennerknecht is offering a 40% discount on his stunning wildlife photographs to anyone who donates \$50 or more to our project. Sebastian, who polished the Kickstarter video for us, sends the following instructions: "Once you have donated \$50 or more to the project you will receive 40% off any product from my site www.pumapix.com. To receive your discount first forward me a copy of your donation receipt. Next, add the product(s) featured under the 'Portfolio' tab that you want to purchase to your cart. Once you have finished shopping, click on the 'View Cart' feature located in the top right-hand corner of the page. Confirm your product selection and click the 'Check Out' button. Finally, type in your shipping information and click 'Send Order'. You can choose to pay with Paypal (if you select this option I will automatically refund 40% of your total order amount via Paypal). Otherwise, you can send a check for the order amount minus 40% (American banks only, please!) to: Sebastian Kennerknecht, 1815 Katrina Court, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. Alternatively, you can write to me at cbassk@yahoo.com and we can handle the whole transaction via email. Thank you for your support."



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3. Foundation participates in CEPF profiling process for Yemen portion of the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot: The Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot (EAM) is an area comprising more than 1,000,000 km² of scattered localities that share common ecological characteristics. Portions of the hotspot are located in 16



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countries in eastern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Many fragments of Arabia’s Western Highlands are encompassed by this ecologically important region which is scheduled for strategic investment by The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the coming years. CEPF was founded in 2000 and is “a joint initiative of l’Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Conservation International (CI), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. As one of the founders, Conservation International administers the global program through a CEPF Secretariat, based in Virginia, USA.” CEPF is an important facility because it channels funding through civil society (NGOs) rather than governments and because investments are disbursed after a complex and exhaustive profiling process that ensures that funding achieves the maximum benefit for endangered biodiversity. The profiling process for the EAM is being led by BirdLife International and focuses on identifying Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) within the hotspot. It was a distinct honor for the Foundation to have been invited to co-represent Yemen during a two-day profiling workshop for Arabia hosted by the BirdLife Middle East Regional Office in Jordan on July 28 and 29. Also contributing to the profiling process was Yemen’s pre-eminent plant ecologist Dr. Abdul Wali Al-Khulaidi. Mr. Ibrahim Al-Khader and Mr. Sharif Jbour of BirdLife Middle East organized the meetings which were also attended by Dr. Zuhair Amr from the Department of Zoology at the Jordan University of Science and Technology. Mr. Richard Grimmett of the BirdLife Secretariat chaired the meetings, and the process was facilitated by Dr. Olivier Langrande of Conservation International and Dr. Pierre Carret of CEPF. Although Saudi Arabia cannot qualify for funding under present regulations, Mr. Mohammed Sulayem and Mr. Mohammed Al-Salamah of the Saudi Wildlife Authority raised a number of pertinent issues and otherwise contributed a great deal to the proceedings. The final profile with inputs from all 16 relevant countries is due to be published within the coming few months. Unfortunately, although critically endangered with extinction, the Arabian Leopard cannot be used to justify funding from CEPF as it is not technically a full “species.” Nevertheless, all agreed that Yemen’s charismatic National Animal is an ideal flagship with which to leverage additional conservation investment in the relevant KBAs. In spite of the grueling schedule, participants enjoyed several chances to relax including two fruitless searches for the endemic Dead Sea Sparrow, a jaunt to the Mujib Protected Area and, of course, a therapeutic float in the hypersaline waters of the Dead Sea.

4. Foundation ‘On track’ in spite of Challenges: Due to the current political and military impasse imposed upon Yemen by the main players, many multinationals and foreign missions are maintaining a discreet distance from the country. Unfettered by politics or hidden agendas, the Foundation continues to soldier on in its march to achieve its mission. On August 23rd we imported 18 new camera traps, 3 GPSs, a new laptop, and other essential equipment purchased with grants that we received from Panthera, the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, and the Rufford Small Grants Foundation. The projects funded by these donors, including the second training mission to Oman (supported by the Abu Dhabi Chapter of the Emirates Natural History Group), will commence on September 6th following the Fid al Fitr celebrations.



“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



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