



Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen

P.O. Box 7069

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Tel: +967 733916928

Fax: +967 - 1 - 370193

Email: contact@yemenileopard.org

"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!

Update No. 25: December 31, 2011

1. Foundation Facebook Page Continues to Grow in Popularity: Long-term volunteer Rasha Skybey has contributed a great deal to the *Foundation's* success over the years; she has conducted research for the *Foundation's* website and wrote the preliminary draft of the successful *Rufford Small Grants Fund* application for the *Jebel Milhan Leopard and Caracal Survey* (see below). Rasha, a self-confessed "Facebook addict," launched the official *Foundation* Facebook page in November and continually updates it with new photos and news. If you have not yet "liked" the page, please click on: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Foundation-for-the-Protection-of-the-Arabian-Leopard-in-Yemen/171154712978798?ref=tn_tnmn and join the growing number of fans. Support the *Foundation* by tweeting and sharing the Facebook link with the people in your social networks. Thank you!

Rasha in Australia
with an Eastern Quoll



William lecturing fellow students at BISJ on the conservation of Arabian leopards

2. William Bezodis, a Man With a Mission: On October 20th the *Foundation* received the following email from Saudi Arabia: "I am William Bezodis (age 11) a student at the British International School of Jeddah. I heard about your project from [Long-term *Friend of the Arabian Leopard*] Mrs. Saunders and would really like to help you save the leopards. Last year I helped raise over a thousand pounds Sterling for endangered gorillas in the Democratic Republic of Congo. I feel even more strongly about these leopards as they are closer to home and we need to do something to help them soon." William's initiative culminated in an assembly at BISJ on November 26 and a fund-raising drive that he organized which raised a superb SAR 4,300. William has stated that he hopes that the money will be used to replace some of the *Foundation's* trail cameras that have become irreparably broken in the past year. The *Foundation* will be delighted to oblige this preference.

3. Lawdar Director General Meets With the *Foundation*: In the seven weeks since the *Foundation* first learned of a disturbing video that was posted on YouTube, we have been in regular contact with Lawdar DG Mr. Ahmed Ali Al-Qufaish. On December 26th Mr. Al-Qufaish met with *Foundation* representatives David Stanton and Yousuf Mohageb in order to discuss the future of leopard conservation in his district. The *Foundation* requested from the DG an opportunity to carry out a leopard workshop in Lawdar, to examine the area where two leopards are said to have been caught and four or five killed in the past ten years, and to undertake a trail camera survey there. In response to the request Mr. Al-Qufaish stated, "We will do everything we can to make your mission easy." When asked if he had been contacted by anyone from the Yemen government following the uproar created by the video, the Director General stated, "Not yet."



Mr. Ahmed Ali Al-Qufaish (on right), Director General of Lawdar pledges his cooperation in fostering Arabian leopard conservation in Lawdar, Abyan. Yousuf Mohageb interprets.

4. MALI Provides the *Foundation* with Two Scholarships: Friends come in all shapes and sizes and the *Foundation* is lucky to have Modern American Language Institute (MALI) founder and CEO Mazen Luqman as a friend. Mr.



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Luqman provided scholarships for *Foundation* employee Murad Mohammed Abdullah Naji and volunteer Khaled Abdullah Abdu Taher to study English at MALI. A good command of English is essential for our workers to pursue higher education abroad and the *Foundation* is extremely grateful to Mr. Luqman for providing Murad and Khaled with the opportunity to further their careers as conservationists. Classes start on January 1st.



Murad Mohammed Abdullah Naji, seen here resting in Kedjweel, *Hawf Protected Area*, will soon be studying English at MALI. Khaled Abdullah Abdu Taher practicing his English with a resident of the *Hawf Protected Area*

5. Two Years of Translation, TEPY Team Continues to Bring You Foundation Updates in Arabic: While the *Foundation* is widely recognized for its vision and determination, an apparent paradox of its operations must have occurred to many people; the *Foundation* has an English 'face' in a country where Arabic is the national language. In fact, almost all of the *Foundation's* conservation work is conducted in Arabic but grant applications, the website, and most reportage of the *Foundation's* activities are published in English. A notable exception to this trend is the monthly newsletter which continues to be translated into Arabic as a courtesy of *Total E & P Yemen (TEPY)*. The *Foundation* is delighted with this enduring partnership and appreciates the professionalism of the two translators that *TEPY* has charged with translating its newsletters. The agreement commenced with Update No. 7 (June 2010) and continued through No. 18 (May 2011) with Mr. Basheer Shuaibi translating. *TEPY* management seconded Mr. Shuaibi to other work and the task of translation subsequently fell to Mr. Ahmed Musleh stating with the 20th Update last July. Mr. Musleh has even translated issues of the newsletter that predate the agreement between *TEPY* and the *Foundation* so that virtually all 25 editions of the *Foundation's* newsletters are now available for download in Arabic and English. Basheer and Ahmed both maintain a deep, personal interest in and commitment to the preservation of Yemen's National Animal. It is for this and other reasons that, as the *Foundation* enters the third year of its existence, it is particularly proud to continue its long-standing partnership with *TEPY*.



Basheer Shuaibi (left) translated Updates No.7 – 18 between June 2010 to May 2011. Basheer's colleague Ahmed Musleh continues to translate the *Foundation's* monthly updates and has even translated issues that predate the original agreement between *Total E&P Yemen (TEPY)* and the *Foundation*.

توتال يمن للاستكشاف والإنتاج



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6. Jebel Milhan Leopard and Caracal Survey Takes a Big Leap Forward: The *Foundation's* interest in Jebel Milhan dates back to October 2009 when it received a tantalizing report that: "A German nature photographer was going to make a film about Arabian leopards in Yemen." Through diligent sleuthing we found out that the person in question was Hans Joachim Schmidt of Hamburg, Germany and that he was seeking a partner to help him re-launch a trail camera survey on Jebel Milhan, Mahwit. The *Foundation* subsequently applied for grants from the *Rufford Small Grants Fund* and the *Panthera Foundation* to support research and conservation work on Jebel Milhan. Both applications were successful and after having obtained all the necessary equipment, the *Foundation* sent veteran researcher and trainer Murad Mohammed (see item 4 above) to Milhan to further train Nasser Alswat for two weeks in the deployment of trail cameras, GPS use, and correct procedures for recording and reporting data. With Hans's three cameras the *Foundation* now has nine trail cameras deployed at scattered locations in the *Jebel Milhan Protected Area* and hopes to prove once and for all that residents' claims of the continuing existence of Arabian leopards on Jebel Milhan are true. Below are the eight species of mammals photographed at Jebel Milhan since Nasser's training began on December 1st.



Bushnell 12-16-2011 01:21:30
A big male Hamadryas Baboon (NB: time 12 hrs fast)



DoerrBolyGuard 23.12.2011 21:35:53
Striped Hyenas appear to be common at Jebel Milhan



DoerrBolyGuard 20.12.2011 21:33:47
Indian Crested Porcupines appear to thrive at Jebel Milhan



Bushnell 12-23-2011 11:52:25
Arabian Caracals have been photographed in four locations



Bushnell 12-06-2011 19:02:47
Arabian Red Fox



Bushnell 12-06-2011 18:35:18
White-tailed Mongoose



Canon 01-08-2011 12:57:18
Cape Hare



Bushnell 12-05-2011 10:04:08
Small-spotted Genet

"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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