



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: ylrp@yemenileopard.org

"Working to ensure an expanding population of wild Arabian leopards in Yemen"

"Friends of the Arabian Leopard"

109 members in 12 countries and still growing!

Update No. 2: January 18, 2010

Dear Friends of the Arabian Leopard,

It is my pleasure to send you our second update. As you will see, the foundation continues to grow from strength to strength thanks to the committed involvement of our Board of Trustees. If you have received this update from a friend, and would like to become a member of the newsgroup, please write me at ylrp@yemenileopard.org

Thank you,

David

1) Board of Trustees meeting held on January 7th: Not many organizations can boast of 100% participation by its board, but we can. All five members of the foundation's Board of Trustees toughed out a 3 hour meeting at my home on Thursday, January 7 during which we hammered out a number of important resolutions. The strength of the foundation is a direct result of the strength of its board and it is a privilege working with such a dedicated and professional group.



Front Row: Dr. Amal Al-Kebji, Dr. Masaa Al-Jumaily, Dr. Abdul Karim Nasher, **Middle Row:** His Excellency Minister Abdulrahman Fadhl Al-Eryani, Mr. David Stanton, **Back Row:** Mr. Adnan Jumman

2) Updates now in Arabic: To better serve our members, more than 30% of whom are native speakers of Arabic, the update is now produced in bilingual format thanks to board member Dr. Abdul Karim Nasher.

3) Yemen's National Animal makes the cover of Yemen Today: The January issue of *Yemen Today* features a cover story about the foundation and our battle to prevent the extinction of Arabian leopards in Yemen. If you are unable to obtain a hard copy of this magazine, check out Yemen Today's website at www.Yemen-Today.com



The "Leopard Issue" of Yemen Today is currently for sale at newsstands all around Yemen.

4) Sana'a Zoo Visit: On Monday, December 28 I paid an unofficial visit to Sana'a Zoo to introduce the Animal Health Manager Dr. Mohamed Saad and General Curator Dr. Azhar Abbas of the Al Ain Wildlife Park and Resort to Sana'a Zoo Engineer, Mr. Azhar and zoo director Dr. Al-Hindi. While it must be stressed that this was an unofficial visit, Dr. Abbas stated that he and Dr. Saad were impressed with the efforts at Sana'a Zoo and will report to the Al Ain administration in the hopes of developing a future dialog between the two institutions.

5) Taiz Zoo Visit: On Wednesday, December 29th Dr. Abdul Karim Nasher paid an unofficial visit to Taiz Zoo where he found the leopard breeding program in full swing. Dr. Nasher was given a tour of the leopard section by carnivore curator Mr. Mohamed Al-Shawafi whose innovative approach to leopard husbandry with limited resources has resulted in the phenomenal breeding success for which Taiz Zoo is becoming famous. Dr. Nasher toured the leopard facility where 19 adult and 5 juvenile leopards are kept in 'spacious enclosures.' Half of the leopards are male and half are female. Only 2 of the leopards at Taiz Zoo are wild-caught individuals with the other individuals having been bred by Mr. Al-Shawafi and his staff. If you are interested in reading Dr. Nasher's report of the visit, please write and I will send you a pdf (142 KB).

6) Jebel Milhan Rapid Assessment: From December 30 to January 3, Gerhard Lichtenthaler and I undertook a "rapid assessment" of the Jebel Milhan area due to intriguing reports of Arabian leopards there. While we found no compelling evidence that there are still leopards in Milhan, the evidence that we did find gives us reason to hope and cause to undertake future, more comprehensive visits to the area. If you are interested in reading my report of this survey, please write and I will send you a pdf (987 KB).

7) Meeting with Manuel Schwarz: On January 6 I met with Mr. Manuel Schwarz, a freelance PR consultant, who prepared an excellent presentation and offered many concrete suggestions as to how the foundation can more effectively raise the profile and relevance of Yemen's National Animal. Pending future discussion with the Board of Trustees it is expected that we will be able to translate some of Mr. Schwarz's suggestions into concrete action.

8) Ways in which you can help the foundation: All of the suggestions from the first update are still potentially very useful. Because the foundation's GPS is faulty, the rapid assessment on Milhan was completed without this essential piece of equipment. I am receiving reports of leopards in Yemen every week. Given that one of our chief projects for 2010 is to start constructing a census map of the country, all reports are potentially useful. Please encourage your Yemeni friends to step forward and volunteer any information that they may have on historical and/or contemporary leopard sightings or locations.

"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