

· **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”

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I am proud that NTMC is the leading sponsor of the *Foundation for Endangered Wildlife (Yemen)*, this country’s most active and effective conservation organization.

- Sheikh Tawfik Saleh Abdullah Saleh, Executive Chairman



1. **Ramadhan Kareem:** July 20th marked the start of the holy month of Ramadhan. We at FEW send our friends, and indeed all people around the world, our very best wishes for lives spent peacefully and in harmony with each other and with all of the many life forms with which we share the planet. As we continue to fight on behalf of Yemen’s endangered wildlife including its National Animal, we acknowledge the many difficulties that so many humans have to contend with on a daily basis. It is in the spirit of sacrifice embodied by the holiest month of the Islamic calendar that we beseech our political leaders to use their wisdom and power for the greatest good of all present and future generations.

2. FEW Represented by Yousuf Mohageb at Regional Workshop on *Strategic Communication as a Support to Mainstreaming of Migratory Soaring Birds*: On July 2 – 5, FEW veteran Yousuf Mohageb (center, back) participated



Photo © Migratory Soaring Birds Project

in an important workshop hosted by *BirdLife International* In Amman, Jordan (see next article). The workshop, held in preparation to the *Mainstreaming Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds (MSB) into Key Productive Sectors along the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway Project*, equipped participants to undertake situational analyses of sectors that negatively impact the survival of migratory soaring birds. After participating in the workshop, Yousuf wrote, “I am really privileged to have participated in this workshop thanks to those who invited me. I have learned a lot on how to communicate in a professional way and how to mainstream the different sectors affecting the Regional Flyways.” (Source: <http://www.birdlife.org/migratorysoaringbirds/?p=519#more-519>)

3. FEW Wins Contract to Partner with *BirdLife International* for Sector Analysis of the Migratory Soaring Birds (MSB) Project: The Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway is the second most important migration route in the world for migratory soaring birds such as raptors, storks, cranes, and pelicans. More than 1.5 million soaring birds of at least 37 species including the critically endangered Northern Bald Ibis regularly use this route to migrate between breeding grounds in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and wintering areas in Africa. These birds face inherently perilous journeys during migration and contend with numerous hazards along the way; thousands are killed annually.



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The GEF-funded *Mainstreaming Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds (MSB) into Key Productive Sectors along the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway* project, which is being implemented by UNDP and executed by *BirdLife International* seeks to mainstream the conservation of MSBs through strategic communication with stakeholders in five sectors that have been identified as key sources of mortality among MSBs: agriculture, energy, waste management, hunting, and tourism. To execute the project, *BirdLife* has engaged the governments of 11 countries (Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine Authority, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen), and ten NGOs in nine countries on the flyway. FEW is pleased to have been selected by *BirdLife* to be its Yemen partner for phase one of the project. Yousuf Mohageb will undertake the situational analyses with reports on each of the five productive sectors due at the end of October. It should be noted that while FEW will be a “project partner” in this endeavor, this is not to be confused with FEW’s status as a “*BirdLife* Partner.” *BirdLife International* operates through a global network of more than 100 national ‘Partners,’ ‘Partner Designates,’ ‘Affiliates,’ and ‘Aspiring Affiliates.’ The current *BirdLife* Affiliate in Yemen is FEW friend and ally, the *Yemen Society for the Protection of Wildlife* (YSPW). FEW’s selection as project partner for this activity does, however, reflect the growing confidence in the conservation world of our capacity to undertake useful and important work.



4. No Response from Shabwa Governor Dr. Ali Al-Ahmadi: Until this time the Governor of Shabwa has neglected to respond to a letter in Arabic requesting that he intervene in the case of the ‘Shabwa leopard.’ Dated June 30th and sent on July 1st through Dr. Al-Ahmadi’s secretary, the English translation is as follows:

“Dear Excellency,

It has come to our attention that one of your citizens, Sheikh Bin Naji is in possession of a badly injured Arabian leopard (See picture on page 2). We believe that Sheikh Bin Naji is unaware that he is contributing to the extinction of one of the rarest animals on Earth. The Arabian leopard is more than 16 times rarer than the Giant Panda and 32 times rarer than the Indian Tiger. Many people in Yemen and in foreign countries are aware of Bin Naji’s leopard and strongly believe that it should be rescued so that it can recover from its injuries and be bred in captivity to help her species survive into the future. I therefore strongly urge you to instruct Sheikh Bin Naji to release the leopard to the qualified conservationists at the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife in Sharjah. As the Executive Director of the *Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen*, I am ready to assist you in this mission in any way possible. I look forward to your positive reply to this request.”

Signed – David B. Stanton, Executive Director

While Governor Al-Ahmadi certainly has many serious and pressing issues to attend to, we continue to urge him to act responsibly in the case of the Shabwa leopard.

“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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