



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 an expanding population of wild Arabian leopards in Yemen"

"Friends of the Arabian Leopard"

151 members around the world!

Update No. 4: March 18, 2010

Dear Friends of the Arabian Leopard,

In spite of another busy month there is surprisingly little to report though many things are pending: "Vanishing Spots," the training at Jebel Samhan Nature Reserve, grant applications under review, funding appeals and public awareness initiatives in the works, etc. Wheels are turning, but it would be premature to divulge the details. However, you can look forward to a 'bumper issue' in April. Stay tuned!...David

1) Field Visit to Hajjah: On Thursday, February 25th a team from the foundation visited Hajjah with the intention of installing two trail cameras. Though we found enticing evidence of leopard presence in the area we did not achieve the mission's objective for two reasons: 1) We did not visit a site that was obviously currently occupied by leopards, and 2) once we saw the situation on the ground, we decided that there was no way that we could guarantee the equipment's safety. Although trail camera research is routine in many parts of the world, our judgment was that we need to develop a foolproof protocol with a "top-down" approach to ensure the security of our equipment.



The Habitat



Left to Right: Dr. Abdul Karim Nasher, Mr. Mohamed Da'gain, Mr. Ibrahim Shamakh, Dr. Masaa Al-Jumaily, Ms. Sharon Beatty, Mr. Yousuf Mohageb

Right: We saw an adult and a juvenile Cape Rock Hyrax (*Procapra capensis jayakari*) in the circled cavity, and three adults further down the wadi. Hyraxes are one of the Arabian leopard's preferred prey items. Leopards will also eat Indian Crested Porcupines (*Hystrix indica*) of which there was much evidence in the form of scats and quills.



Left: One of two "leopard dens" we examined. A hyrax skull and carnivore scats in the "den" were the only evidence that we found of possible leopard presence. This cave *could* be used by leopards on an irregular basis but as with the other site we visited, we saw no conclusive evidence that either site had recently been occupied by leopards.

2) Judy Roberts Donates Arabian Leopard Prints: Dubai artist Judy Roberts has very generously donated 14 copies of her limited edition Arabian leopard prints on heavy art stock to assist the foundation’s fund-raising efforts.



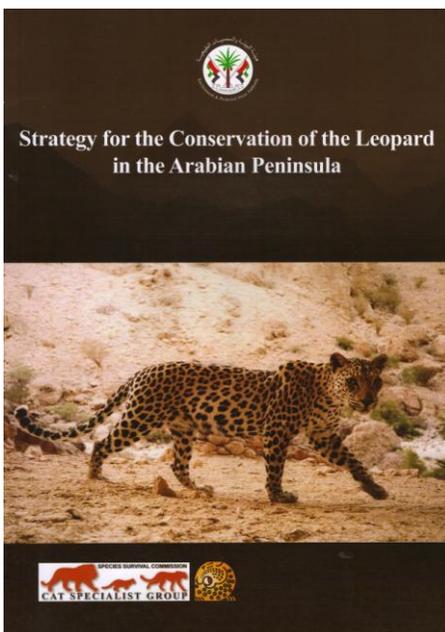
“Leopard Full Length” – 23” High X 43” Long



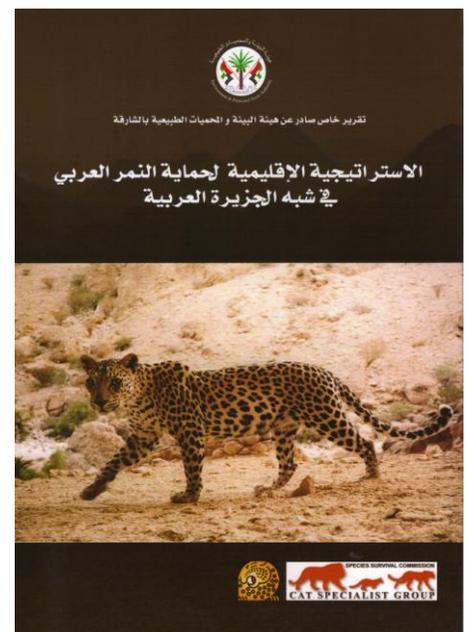
“Leopard Facing” – 14” High X 23” Long

Two copies of the large “Leopard Full Length” and eight copies of the smaller “Leopard Facing” are being offered for sale by silent auction. If you would like to make a bid please submit it by email to contact@yemenileopard.org no later than April 7, 2010. The top ten bids will automatically win the respective prints. Unsold prints will be offered for sale at a future fund-raising event that is in preparation. Judy’s artwork can be viewed at <http://www.judyroberts.artspan.com> Thank you, Judy for this generous contribution, and thank you to Ms. Enrica Cola for arranging transportation for Judy’s artwork from Dubai to Sana’a.

3) Digital Version of the Strategy for the Conservation of the Leopard in the Arabian Peninsula Now Available:



Strategy for the Conservation of the Leopard in the Arabian Peninsula is the culmination of more than 10 years of work by the Environment and Protected Areas Authority – Sharjah and the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife (BCEAW) under the patronage of His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan Al-Qassimi, Ruler of Sharjah. Direction has been provided by the IUCN Species Survival Commission Cat Specialist Group. If you would like to receive a PDF of the strategy in either Arabic or English please send your request to the BCEAW at breeding@epaa-shj.gov.ae



4) Anonymous contributions: While the Foundation actively seeks corporate sponsorship and devotes a lot of effort to submitting research grant applications to conservation donors, we don’t charge membership fees or badger our friends for support. In light of this non-aggressive approach to fund-raising, it is especially gratifying to have received €350 from two anonymous private donors who value the effort we are making. €350 is sufficient to keep two trail cameras in the field for about six weeks and these donations will be utilized for this purpose once we are confident that we have developed a ‘water-tight’ approach to camera-trap surveys in Yemen. Thank you!

“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