



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”

164 members around the world!

Update No. 5: April 18, 2010

Dear Friends of the Arabian Leopard,

Progress, no matter how slow, is still progress. Although we continue to move in the right direction, it may be years before we will have achieved the foundation’s mission. Nevertheless, we have to keep trying, because if we don’t do it, I’m afraid that nobody else will.

With best wishes and many thanks for your interest and support,

David

1. Arwa Mineral Water Co. designs new label to raise awareness about Arabian leopards in Yemen: In August 2008, the Arwa Mineral Water Co. distributed 5,000,000 bottles of their award-winning Shamlan water with labels beseeching the public to, “Take pride in and protect our national animal in Yemen, the Arabian leopard.” (See below left)



Following discussions with Arwa General Manager Mr. Jameel Morshed and Ms. Jennifer Rabener of the German Embassy on the 21st of March, Arwa informed us that the company will distribute at least 6,000,000 bottles with a new label design (above right). Photos for both labels were provided by Dr. Jane Edmonds Budd of the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife.

2. IDEA WILD provides trail cameras for leopard monitoring project at Jebel Bura’ Protected Area:



Mr. Sean Kelly, Project Director of IDEA WILD (www.ideawild.org), recently informed the foundation that our application for assistance has been approved. Since 1991, IDEA WILD has donated equipment to more than 2,500 conservation projects in 82 countries - Yemen is the 83rd!

Because IDEA WILD is not able to ship the equipment internationally we asked for assistance from the *Friends of the Arabian Leopard* and within 36 hours received six offers. Thank you very much to all who stepped forward and especially to Haitham Alaini, president of The Griffin Group (www.griffin-ltd.com), for assisting the foundation by providing door to door transportation for the four Bushnell Trophy Cam trail cameras that IDEA WILD donated for a leopard survey at Jebel Bura’ Protected Area. At the conclusion of the Jebel Bura’ study, these cameras will be redeployed in another study area.



3. Spent Toner Cartridges help support the foundation: In this post-recession climate of “donor fatigue” caused by so many important and worthy causes competing for support, the foundation is constantly seeking innovative means of financing its operations. Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Virginie Oghittu-Raquet, an Environmental Engineer who currently works for Total EP Yemen (TEPY), TEPY has donated its first 100 spent toner cartridges to the foundation to help cover our costs. In keeping with TEPY’s vigorous environmental policies, the Head of Environment Mr. Arafat Al-Khashby, with strong support from the TEPY Health, Safety, Environment and Sustainable Development Manager, has ascertained that the cartridges will be recycled in an environmentally friendly manner by InkTech, the company that purchases the spent cartridges. Other users of laser printers are welcome to donate their spent cartridges to the foundation as well.

4. Volunteers strengthen the foundation while building character: There are many ways to spend one’s ‘gap’ year but the foundation is fortunate that two recent graduates from Sana’a International School will spend part of their volunteering for the foundation. Fadhil Abdulrahman Al-Eryani (left) and cousin Sammi Abdulghani Aryani recently



started volunteering five days each week to help the foundation achieve its mission. Thank you Sammi and Fadhil!

5. Donations received: We are grateful to have received a generous donation of \$500.00 this month from a friend in Canada who prefers to remain anonymous. Also, Mr. Hans-Joachim Schmidt of Hamburg has transferred €200.00 to the foundation’s account with which to support his privately initiated trail camera study at Jebel Milhan. While this study is entirely a product of Mr. Schmidt’s initiative, the foundation facilitates it by acting as a conduit for resources to his researcher, Mr. Nasser Ahmed Qassem. Reports of livestock depredation at Milhan are supported by eye-witness accounts of leopard presence although we have not yet been able to confirm the reports with photographic evidence.

6. Yemen Today magazine publishes “Yemen’s National Animal: Myth, Monster, or Merely Misunderstood?” To read the article, paste the following link in your browser. www.yemen-today.com/go/special_reports/4095.html

7. Training in Oman: Here’s the good news...the team of five Yemeni and one foreign researcher who are to be trained in Arabian Leopard field research methodology at Jebel Samhan Nature Reserve in Oman, has been expanded to include two more Yemenis. The bad news is that the timing of the training has been pushed back until November/December 2010. This training, which is being partially supported by a grant from the Abu Dhabi chapter of the Emirates Natural History Group, is an essential step in developing local capacity for leopard research. We are grateful to the ENHG for its support and to our Omani colleagues at the Office for the Conservation of the Environment, Diwan of the Royal Court, Dr. Andrew Spalton and Mr. Khalifa Al-Jahwari, for doing everything in their power to make the training possible.

“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