



Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen

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"Working to ensure a sustainably managed wild population of Arabian Leopards living in harmony with local communities in Yemen"

"Friends of the Arabian Leopard"

175 members around the world!

Update No. 7: June 18, 2010

Dear Friends of the Arabian Leopard,

As Dr. Richard Hornby of the Abu Dhabi chapter of the Emirates Natural History Group wrote last October, "I think you have huge problems ahead but I really admire the way you are going about it and I wish you every possible success." In the seven months that have elapsed since the foundation's formation, we have experienced setbacks, but I hope that you will agree after reading our seventh update that progress is steady and consistent.

Thank you for your interest and support,

David

1. Board of Trustees Back up to Full Strength:



HE Dr. Abdul Karim Ali Al-Iryani



Mr. Haitham Mohsen Alaini

The foundation is pleased to announce the addition of two strong leaders to its Board of Trustees. His Excellency, Dr. Abdul Karim Ali Al-Iryani, former Prime Minister and Special Advisor to the President, and Mr. Haitham Mohsen Alaini, founder and president of the Griffin Group have added their wisdom and clout to the foundation's Board of Trustees. Dr. Al-Iryani is a staunch supporter of environmental causes who is best known for his vigorous and effective advocacy of conservation measures on Socotra. Mr. Alaini single-handedly initiated the conservation of Arabian leopards in Yemen more than 10 years ago and is deeply committed to helping the foundation achieve its mission. With two such well-respected and influential members on the board we feel confident that the foundation's message will be heard more loudly and clearly by Yemeni policymakers. As a temporary measure, the foundation's Executive Director will round out the board's membership, but we are intent on adding to the already powerful team that guides the foundation's strategy and activities.

2. DICE Graduate Student to Volunteer:



Malini with Spectacled Caiman in the Peruvian Amazon

The foundation is looking forward to hosting intern/trainer Malini Pittet next autumn. Malini is a graduate student at the Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology (DICE) at the University of Kent from where she holds an Honors degree in Biodiversity Conservation and Management. She has extensive field experience with trail cameras and other wildlife monitoring techniques, having organized the installation of multi-camera arrays in the Peruvian Amazon, at Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala, and at Bandipur National Park in Karnataka. Malini is also experienced in tracking wild boars in Switzerland through radio telemetry. Malini's father, André Pittet, develops trail cameras and other applications of technology for conservation at the Centre for Electronics Design and Technology (CEDT) of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. We expect to learn a lot from Malini during her three-month stay.



TOTAL E&P YEMEN Supports the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen

3. Shamlan's Leopard Label Goes National: Production of more than 6,000,000 bottles of specially labeled water was completed towards the end of May, and leopard labels are now in stores all over the country. We would like to thank Engineer Jameel Saeed Morshed and Mr. Maged Hassan Ali for their renewed support of the foundation's mission.



Various stages in the production of more than 6,000,000 specially labeled bottles of nationally distributed Shamlan mineral water.

4. More than 100 attend the Opening Ceremony of a Leopard Workshop in Mahwit: Mr. Mohamed Shamsan, Director General for Environmental Policies and Programs at the Ministry of Water & Environment took the lead with Mr. Abdu Al-Shathamy, General Manager of the Mahwit Branch of the EPA, in organizing an awareness-raising activity in Mahwit on June 7th. Opening speeches were given by Dr. Ali Zaikam, Vice Governor and Head of the Local Council in Mahwit, Mr. Ahmed Shamlan, Deputy Governor, and by His Excellency, Minister of Water & Environment Abdulrahman Al-Eryani. The opening ceremony was followed by two presentations: 1) David Stanton, Executive Director of the Foundation, spoke about "Protecting Arabian Leopards at Jebel Milhan in Mahwit," and 2) Engineer Omer Baeshen, Cites Unit Director of the EPA, spoke about "The Importance of Enforcing Laws on Wildlife Conservation." We would like to thank Mr. Adnan Al-Saqqaf of Showlaq Enterprises (Agents for Fuchs lubricants in Yemen) for sponsoring the awareness materials (brochures, booklets, stand posters, etc.) that we distributed during the workshop. Participants were attentive and lively discussions ensued.



Left to Right: Mr. Ahmed Shamlan, HE Abdulrahman Al-Eryani, Dr. Ali Zaikam, Mr. Abdu Al-Shathamy



Attendees at the opening ceremony of the "leopard workshop" in Mahwit

5. Oman Training on track for November 1 - 7: Mr. Khalifa Al-Jahwari, Senior Specialist for Nature Conservation at the Office for Conservation of the Environment, Sultanate of Oman, has informed us that our training mission to Oman is officially scheduled for November 1-7. Visas for our team of eight are currently being processed. More information on this training, including details of the team members will be published in the eighth update on July 18th. Stay tuned!

6. Another anonymous donation: Foundation support comes from a variety of sources including private donations. We were therefore gratified by an anonymous €200 donation that was channeled through the Friends of the Arabian Leopard network, thus avoiding the capital eroding charges that wire and other money transfer methods entail. Thank you very much to our European friend.

7. Judy Roberts' New Website Now Online: To browse the artwork of Dubai artist and Foundation supporter Judy Roberts, please log on to www.2Rgalleries.com 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

