



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"

181 members around the world!

Update No. 8: July 18, 2010

Dear Friends of the Arabian Leopard,

Fuad Siniora, Lebanon's former Prime Minister is reputed to have said, "All successful projects are run by crazy people!" Unfortunately, even crazy people eventually have health issues, and at the time of writing I am in the US on medical leave. Although this will inevitably lead to a temporary dip in the foundation's activities we won't lose our focus, vision, or determination and it won't be long before we are back up to full steam.

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

David

1. TOTAL E&P Yemen continues its support of the foundation: We are delighted to have the continuing support of TEPY and very grateful for the free translations of our updates that the TEPY team provides.

TOTAL E&P YEMEN ↔ **توتال يمن للاستكشاف والإنتاج**

2. Five Cameras now in the field: One of the biggest challenges that we face is successfully deploying trail cameras. While there are multiple areas where these cameras should be used, local cooperation is essential to success and this is often difficult to obtain mainly because this type of research has never been done in Yemen before. Nevertheless, following our workshop in Mahwit we have found the inhabitants at Jebel Milhan to be unusually supportive of our mission. In addition to Hans Schmidt's two cameras at Jebel Milhan which are monitored by Mr. Nasser Ahmed Qassim, we have two more on the opposite side of the mountain in the Bahash area. We have also deployed another camera to the northwest of Mukulla under the watchful eye of Mr. Awadh Ahmed Saeed Al-Akbary. The foundation is very grateful to Mr. Yousuf Mohageb, director of Arabian Ecotours for all of his hard work in overseeing the placement of our cameras. The first wildlife images thus far obtained are from Milhan where Nasser captured these candid photos of Hamadryas Baboons (**Please note:** the camera date is one month early). With persistence and enough cameras we hope to be able to document the existence of Arabian leopards at Milhan and in other locations.



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

3. Foundation Team all set for Oman Training: Everything is on target for our November 1 – 7 training mission to Jebel Samhan Nature Reserve in Oman. The skills gained by our team will be essential to the success of future survey work and we are deeply indebted to our Omani colleagues for organizing the training. Team members include the Foundation's Executive Director and the following carefully selected individuals:

A) Mr. Yousuf Mohageb: Owner and director of Arabian Ecotours. Yousuf has extensive field experience and has demonstrated an unusually high level of initiative and dedication to the conservation of Arabian Leopards in Yemen. Yousuf brings energy, vision, and determination to this mission.

B) Engineer Omer Baeshen: Cites Unit Director, Environmental Protection Authority, Sana'a. Omer has participated in leopard field research previously and is our point person at the EPA. Omer is one of several key human links between the foundation and the Government of Yemen.

C) Mr. Awad Ahmed Saeed Al-Akbari: Awad has international conservation experience and is our point person in Hadhramawt. Awad continues to show an unusually high level of personal initiative and dedication to the cause of Arabian leopard conservation.

D) Dr. Mohamed Al-Doais: Mohamed is a gifted ecologist with extensive GIS experience. In addition to his pioneering work on *Cyphostemma digitatum*, Mohamed has written an excellent proposal that utilizes GIS to predict leopard distribution in Yemen which we are currently revising for submission to a potential donor.

E) Ms. Malini Pittet: Malini is a graduate student at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology at the University of Kent who will be helping us with our camera-trap surveys between September and December. Malini has extensive experience in conducting such surveys and her father develops trail cameras and other applications of technology in conservation at the Centre for Electronics Design and Technology (CEDT), of the Indian Institute of Science, in Bangalore.

F) Ibrahim Al-Wada'i: Ibrahim's father, Hussein, is one of two reformed leopard trappers from Wada'a. It is expected that Ibrahim's participation in this training will result in a strong message being sent to the communities in Wada'a that it is in their best interest to conserve the leopards in their area. It is also hoped that Ibrahim will be able to utilize the skills gained in Oman to help us with our surveys in Amran.

G) Nasser Ahmed Qassim: Nasser is currently operating two trail cameras in Mahwit. We hope that this training will enhance Nasser's field research skills and send a message to the communities in Milhan to continue supporting our efforts there.

4. Ways in which our supporters help the Foundation: Since our formation last November the Foundation's network of individuals, agencies, corporations, and organizations continues to expand steadily. Assistance has come from many quarters and in many forms and we would like to thank our many friends and supporters including the following partial list:

A) Cash donations both large and small – Numerous anonymous individuals and corporations such as NATCO, National Matches and Tobacco Corporation, and TOTAL E&P Yemen.

B) Courier transportation of trail cameras from the US and Germany to Sana'a – The Griffin Group

C) Donation of Artwork for sale and promotion – Judy Roberts and Marijcke Jongbloed.

D) Transportation of Donated Artwork from the United Arab Emirates to Sana'a – Enrica Cola

E) Money Transfer from France to Sana'a – Virginie Oghittu-Raquet

F) Translation of the Foundation's updates – TOTAL E&P Yemen

G) Publicity – British Yemeni Language Institute, Wildlife Middle East News

H) Production of Awareness materials – Showlaq Enterprises (Fuchs Lubricants)

I) Provision of Awareness materials (e.g. *Strategy for the Conservation of the Leopard in the Arabian Peninsula*) – Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife (Sharjah)

J) Awareness raising (e.g. Shamlan "leopard labels") – Arwa Mineral Water Company

K) Provision of Conservation Grants – IDEA WILD, Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

L) Deployment of Trail Cameras – Yousuf Mohageb and Arabian Ecotours

M) Private Leopard Survey in Support of the Foundation's Mission – Hans Joachim Schmidt

"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

