



## 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](mailto:contact@yemenileopard.org)

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

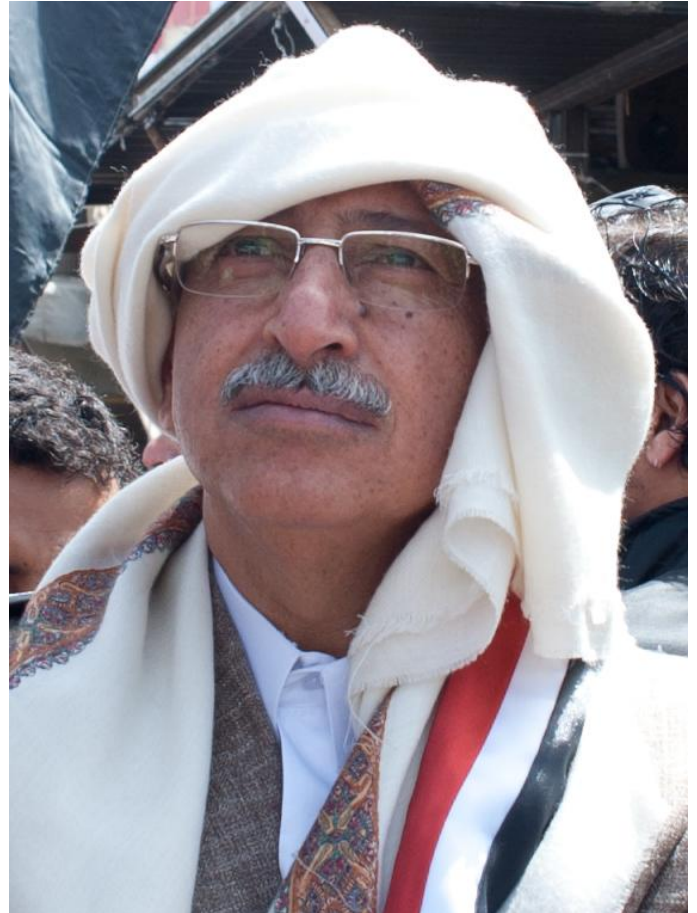
### **"Friends of the Arabian Leopard"**

*Hundreds of members around the world!*

**Update No. 16: March 31, 2011**

#### **1. Yemen's Minister of Water and Environment Resigns:**

On Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> His Excellency Abdulrahman Fadhl Al-Eryani resigned from his position as Yemen's Minister of Water & Environment in sympathy with the youth movement that is peacefully demonstrating for political change in Yemen. Minister Al-Eryani has been a staunch supporter of leopard conservation in Yemen for many years. He was a founder member of the *Yemeni Leopard Recovery Program* and co-sponsored the Yemeni Cabinet decree naming the Arabian Leopard as Yemen's National Animal on April 29, 2008. He spearheaded the transition of the YLRP to the officially registered *Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen* in November, 2009 and has been a committed member of FPALY's Board of Trustees from its beginning. As Minister, His Excellency has supported the Foundation in countless ways: writing letters and references, supporting grant applications, lobbying with other policy-makers, and otherwise backing the Foundation's activities with the full weight of his position. After five years under very trying circumstances, His Excellency deserves a respite from the pitfalls of politics, but we can expect him to continue championing two of his passions as an influential Yemeni citizen: Socotra and the Arabian Leopard. We send our eternal gratitude to the former Minister and our best wishes for the future of his choice.



**2. Oman Visit Postponed:** Due to the uncertain regional security situation, the Diwan of the Royal Court decided to postpone the visit of Engineer Salah Al-Mahthori, Khalifa Al-Harsausi, and Khaled Al-Hikmani to Yemen until further notice. This decision came at the very last moment, and although we are disappointed by the delay, we understand and respect the Diwan's decision. We look forward to hosting the Omani team when things have quieted down a bit. Meanwhile, Khaled is making good use of his time, consulting with the BBC production team for the new three-part wildlife series entitled "Wild Arabia." With Khaled's guidance the team has already captured stunning High Definition footage of a wild leopard in the Jebel Samhan Nature Reserve.

**3. Media support:** Google "Arabian Leopard" and you will come up with almost 2,000,000 hits. It can be fun wading through this ocean of information, but it can also occupy countless hours of time. Connect to the following links for some of the latest coverage of the Arabian leopard in Yemen and Oman.

<http://www.wildlifeextra.com/go/news/yemen-leopard.html>

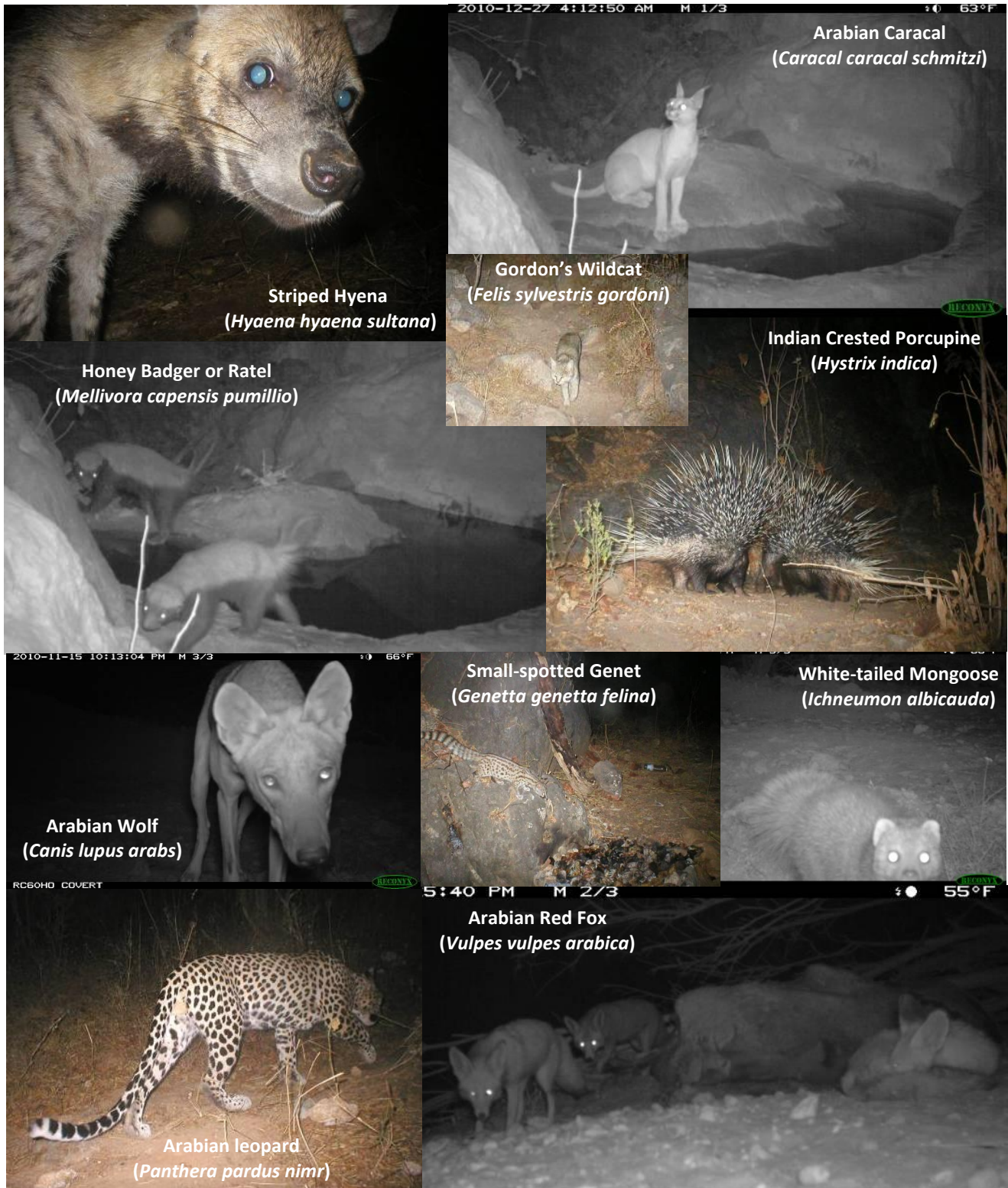
<http://www.wanderlust.co.uk/magazine/news/leopard-captured-on-camera-in-yemen-for-first-time>

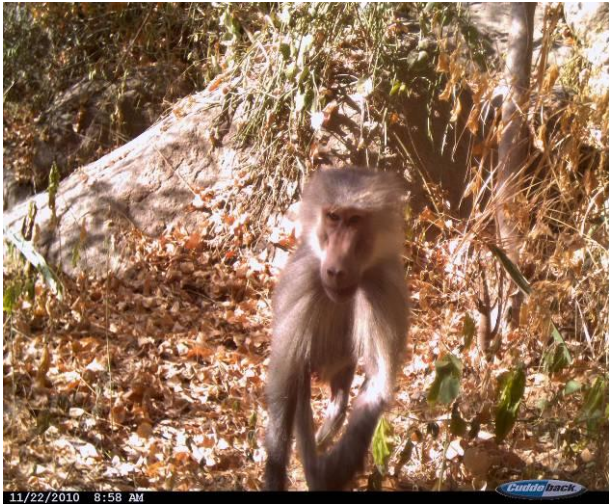
<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/environment/offbeat-track-to-conservation-in-arabian-peninsula-1.778173>



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

**4. More Results from Hawf:** In spite of Yemen's troubled times, Waleed and Murad continue to do excellent work in Hawf. This gallery shows all nine carnivore species photographed so far and one of our favorite of the more than 80 porcupine photographs obtained. The hyena, genet, wildcat, porcupines and leopard were all captured with trail cameras designed by Dr. Andre Pittet at the Centre for Electronics Design and Technology (CEDT) at the Indian Institute of Science (IIS) in Bangalore. All others were obtained with Reconyx RC60HO equipment using covert infrared flash.





**5. Results from Jebel Milhan:** Virtually all terrestrial mammal records emanating from Yemen these days result from the Foundation’s research. With more than 2,000 wildlife images archived from the Hawf Leopard Survey we are starting to get some interesting results from Jebel Milhan where Nasser Aswot is operating three trail cameras supplied by Hans Schmidt of Hamburg, Germany. Recent photographic records from Milhan include Caracal, Arabian Red Fox, Striped Hyena, White-tailed Mongoose, and Hamadryas Baboon. Nasser, by programming one of the cameras for video mode, has obtained 140 ten-second clips of baboons and other wildlife. With patience and a bit of luck we expect him to eventually come up with the holy grail of trail camera research: the Arabian leopard. **NB: The date on the baboon image is incorrect.**

**6. SEETF:** A Foundation proposal to the South South Experience Exchange Trust Fund for a capacity-building exercise with South African National Parks, the South African National Biodiversity Institute, and the Government of Yemen was recently approved for funding. When the dust settles from the current political uncertainty in Yemen we will start implementing this crucial project.



**7. Vanishing Spots Illustrations Complete:** Yemeni Artist and Foundation Board member Adnan Jumman has been working overtime and completed all 20 illustrations for the *Vanishing Spots* book project. Adnan’s paintings illustrate Carolyn Han’s compelling story brilliantly and have been instrumental in attracting the interest of a major Yemeni publisher who is putting the full weight of his industriousness behind the project.



Two of Adnan’s 20 illustrations for Carolyn Han’s story *Vanishing Spots*. *Vanishing Spots* follows a family of leopards from early ‘cubhood’ through the various tragedies that befall it until the family’s ultimate disintegration. It accurately portrays real threats that have caused the decline of the Arabian leopard and will be distributed to Yemeni children to inspire them to preserve their National Animal.



**8. Foundation Supporters:** The Foundation owes its effectiveness to its supporters, a broad, heterogeneous coalition of individual backers, conservation donors, corporate sponsors, and friends. The former includes concerned citizens of Europe, North America, and Yemen who have donated amounts ranging from a few Yemeni rials up to £500 in support of our program. We maintain direct contact with all donors to ensure their confidence that their contributions have not been taken for granted or used gratuitously. All donors are members of the Foundation team and as such have a role in determining how their donations are used, even though most choose to remain anonymous and trust us to spend their contributions effectively. Other individuals have shown their support by donating artwork and other materials, acting as couriers to Yemen, and making money transfers that have permitted us to conserve scarce funds by eliminating bank charges.

**Conservation donors include:**



**The Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund** – this Abu Dhabi-based conservation fund generously supports the *Hawf Leopard Survey*, enabling us to have obtained more than 2,000 wildlife images (and counting) of 50+ species, including nine carnivores, and the first Arabian leopard images from Yemen.

**Idea Wild** – this American NGO purchased four trail cameras for Foundation use in leopard surveys.

**The Abu Dhabi chapter of the Emirates Natural History Group** – this society of conservation-minded people backed the Oman training mission in November, 2010 enabling us to train five Yemenis in leopard research.

**IBB Governor HE Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hejri** – In supporting the *Ibb Leopard Survey* Governor Al-Hejri disbursed the first government support of a Foundation activity since the *Mahwit Workshop* of June 7, 2010.

**Hans Joachim Schmidt** – Hans privately funds the *Jebel Milhan Leopard Survey* which is coordinated by the Foundation. As a result of this collaboration, the Yemeni Cabinet decreed the *Jebel Milhan Protected Area* on November 24, 2010. Hans's commitment to the conservation of Arabian leopards proves our motto.

**Corporate Sponsors:** If private individuals make up the heart and soul of the Foundation, and Conservation donors the muscle, corporate sponsors are our backbone. Without the contributions of the National Tobacco and Matches Company, Total E&P Yemen, the Griffin Group, Murjan Travel, and Al-Rehab Engineering we could not exist. It is as simple as that.



**Friends:** The Foundation has literally hundreds of friends...too many to name individually. However, two deserve particular mention for their unwavering support since our inception. These are the editorial staff at Wildlife Middle East News and the management of the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife in Sharjah. To these and all of our many friends we extend our gratitude for your continuing encouragement.

[www.wmenews.com](http://www.wmenews.com)

[www.breedingcentresharjah.com](http://www.breedingcentresharjah.com)



Wildlife Middle East



**“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**



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