

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LITERATURE

El Alqamy, H and El Din, S. B., (2006), **Contemporary status and distribution of gazelle species (*Gazella dorcas* and *Gazella leptoceros*) in Egypt**, *Zoology in the Middle East* 39 pp 5-16.

Only two gazelle species are currently present in a wild state in Egypt. These are Dorcas Gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*) and Slender-horned Gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*). The latest information available about the status and distribution of these two species collected during the period 1997-2005 indicate the population size and range of both species continue to shrink at different rates. The conservation status of the two species is reviewed and a quantitative estimation for the species ranges' is provided using IUCN's Area of Occurrence and Area of Occupancy guidelines.

Matar Bani Malik, A. M., (2006), **The Role of Natural Reserves for the Protection of the Environment in the United Arab Emirates, Unpublished MBA Thesis from the Sudan University for Science and Technology.** banimalik2002@yahoo.com

The goal of this study was to shed some light on the situation of the natural reserves in the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), and to reflect on the role played by these reserves in the preservation and conservation of the environment. Specifically the study investigated to what extent these reserves contribute to environmental conservation and awareness raising among tourists and visitors. The study covered three reserves (SirBani Yas, Marwah and the center for regeneration of Arab land animals). The study depends on secondary data and primary data (Questionnaire) as source of information.

Some of the conclusions are:

- The Natural Reserves in U.A.E. contribute poorly to environmental conservation.
- Large number of plants, animals and birds has been introduced to these reserves without being accompanied by research or studies.
- There is no cooperation between the bodies in charge of these reserves and international organizations.
- Natural Reserves in U.A.E. lack technical and skilled labour.
- Natural Reserves in U.A.E. ignore the role they can play in activating and supporting National heritage and eco-tourism among tourists and the public.
- Some of the Natural Reserves in the U.A.E. lack the legal status which regulates their environmental work according to the federal law No. 24/99.

Some of the recommendations are:

- Support and promote the establishment of reserves in the U.A.E. according to the scientific and economic methods.
- Improve systems, national laws and legislation concerning the Natural reserves in U.A.E.
- Encourage cooperation and coordination between the different organisations working in the field of environmental conservation and Natural Reserves in the UAE.



De Haas van Dorsser, F.J. (2006). **Reproduction in the Arabian Leopard.** Cambridge, UK: University of Cambridge. Thesis.

The Arabian leopard is critically endangered and this project aimed to investigate the reproductive physiology of the subspecies and assess the role for reproductive technologies in its captive breeding. Half the total captive population was used for the project. Leopards demonstrated a predictable *hypothalamo-pituitary-gonadal axis* following GnRH challenge, which elicited an immediate release of LH in both sexes and a consistent rise in serum testosterone concentrations in males. Wild-caught males had significantly higher basal serum cortisol concentrations than those born in captivity, and in all cases, an ACTH challenge resulted in an unexpected rise in serum testosterone levels. Semen parameters and penile spines were described and showed individual, age- and season-related changes, which were associated with basal testosterone levels. Faecal progesterone and oestrogen concentrations were measured in females throughout the follicular cycle, during mating and for the duration of pregnancy. Females were polyoestrous and induced ovulators, with no reproductive seasonality except for a reduction in behavioural oestrus in summer. Mating induced ovulation in 60% of females and 25% of mating periods resulted in pregnancy. A new method for early, non-invasive diagnosis of pregnancy in leopards was developed by measuring urinary relaxin concentrations. Ultrasonographic examinations of the ovaries of inter-oestrous leopards showed ovarian follicles of <2mm diameter, which grew to 2-4mm in diameter following treatment with exogenous porcine FSH. Treatment with either porcine LH or human Chorionic Gonadotrophin (hCG) induced ovulation in all oestrous females, though hCG caused prolonged faecal oestrogen excretion patterns and aberrant luteal phases. Artificial insemination of females in spontaneous or gonadotrophin-induced oestrus was unsuccessful.



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