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Biosphere Expeditions



Biosphere expedition and Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DDCR) organized in January for the first time an expedition to the Dubai Desert Conservation which is covering almost 5% of the emirate of Dubai. In the hard of the reservation Al Maha desert resort is located but this was not the base camp for the international team of scientist.

Biosphere Expeditions is an international non-profit wildlife volunteer organization, founded in 1999, that runs conservation expeditions aka conservation holidays for environmental volunteers all across the globe. After joining the group for one day, I can say, that even if this expedition was close to a metropolis in the region, it was much more a proper expedition than a holiday. You should not expect sun benches and 5star accommodation in the basecamp, this was a privilege for guest of Al Maha resort a view kilometers away. The idea of the expedition is to provide normal individuals the access to remote location and to work with scientist

on a project basis, to raise awareness of endangered species. The cause of preservation and conservation is the core and heart of every expedition. If you are looking for holidays of a different kind and want to learn a lot than you should join one of the expeditions of Biosphere. If you are ready for an adventure and want to do something good, visit <http://www.biosphere-expeditions.org>

The Emirates desert expedition was aimed to support the work of the Dubai Desert Conservation in counting the population of Oryx as well as recording their location, size of the herd and the health condition of the animals. Furthermore the group set traps to catch rare samples of the local 'Gordons Wildcat'. The wildcat is very similar to domestic cats which is a huge problem because the domestic cats enter into the territories of the wildcat and get in competition for food with them. They are also so close related, that the species pair with each other which generates so call hybrids, half domestic cat half wildcat. The aim of the team is to capture pure wildcats to take DNA samples, measure them and mark them, to be able to preserve pure Gordon's Wildcats for the future. Only one pure wildcat was captured during the week long expedition and realese back to the reservation. Captured domestic cats were released outside the reservation. The full expedition diary can be found on the website of Biosphere as well as further information.



OutdoorUAE is supporting activities of Biosphere expedition and encourage people to join them on their cause. We also hope that some of you will join the next Emirates desert expedition.