
RSCN

Sponsorship Menu



“ The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) is an independent, national organization devoted to the conservation of Jordan's natural heritage. Under the patronage of His Majesty the late King Hussein, who was in place as Honorary President, the RSCN was founded in 1966 and was given the responsibility by Jordan's government to care for and protect the biodiversity of the Hashemite Kingdom. The RSCN is one of the few voluntary organizations in the Middle East to be granted such a public service mandate and, as a result of its pioneering conservation work, the RSCN has achieved international recognition.

The RSCN's } Mission Statement }

“ The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature aims to create, manage and advocate for a national network of protected areas to conserve Jordan's biodiversity and support local community development, while promoting wider public support and action for the protection of the natural environment within Jordan and neighboring countries.”

The RSCN accomplishes its role in managing Jordan's natural resources and protecting the country's biodiversity by:

- Establishing and managing protected areas to safeguard Jordan's most important habitats and ecosystems.
- Running captive breeding programs to save endangered species from extinction.
- Conducting research to provide a scientific basis for conservation programs.
- Enforcing governmental laws to protect wildlife and control illegal hunting.
- Raising awareness on environmental issues, with a focus on school students by targeting students and organizing.
- Supporting the socio-economic development of rural communities by creating job opportunities through eco-tourism, craft production, and other nature-based businesses.
- Providing training and capacity building for environmental practitioners and other institutions throughout Jordan and the Middle East.
- Encouraging public participation in RSCN's nature activities through membership, events, and activities.
- Promoting public action for environmental protection by endorsing campaigns and activities.

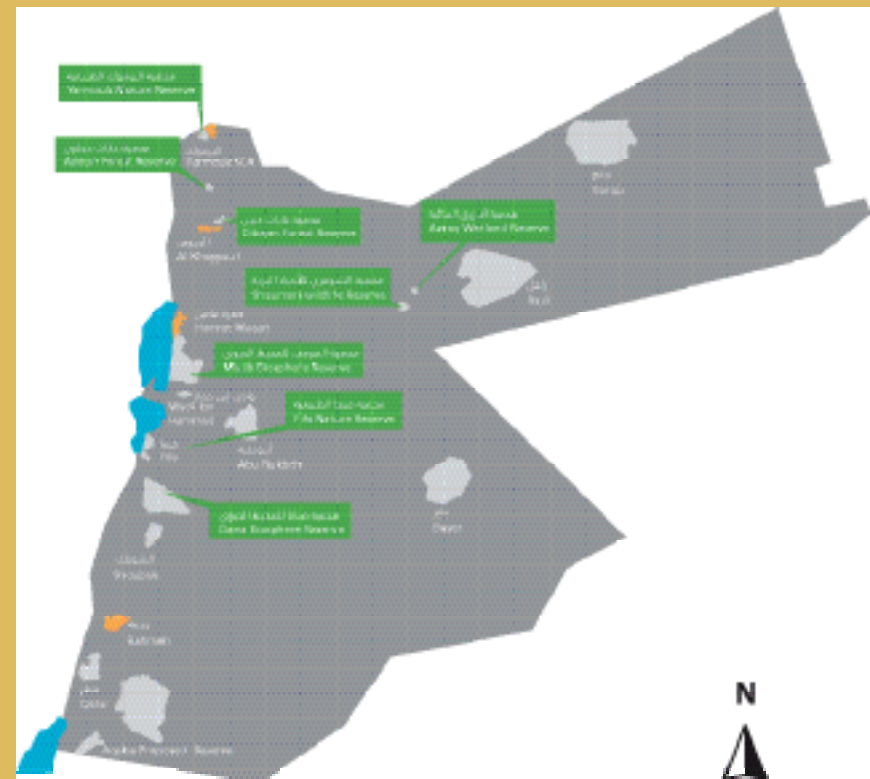
The policies and practices of the RSCN are shaped and guided by an elected Board of Directors, made up of 11 members. Responsibility for day-to-day work is assigned to a team composed around 300 staff and lead by the General Director.

Helping Nature Helping People

“Helping Nature...Helping People” is the RSCN's official slogan. It reflects the RSCN's belief that nature conservation and economic development go hand in-hand. It also demonstrates our belief that Jordan's natural environment and different habitats can provide the basis for an alternative economy led by members of disadvantaged rural communities, who currently have few opportunities to improve their income. Within its reserves and their surrounding areas, the RSCN has contributed to create alternative economies by developing eco-tourism and other nature-based businesses, which generate additional income and social benefits for some of Jordan's main poverty pockets. By providing tangible advantages, such self-sustaining businesses not only demonstrate that nature conservation is viable in the “real world” but they also create alternative and more benign uses of land. Consequently, the RSCN strives to gradually build-up popular support - among the privileged and the underprivileged - for both the concept and practice of nature conservation.

The RSCN

Has established and still managing the following reserved areas.

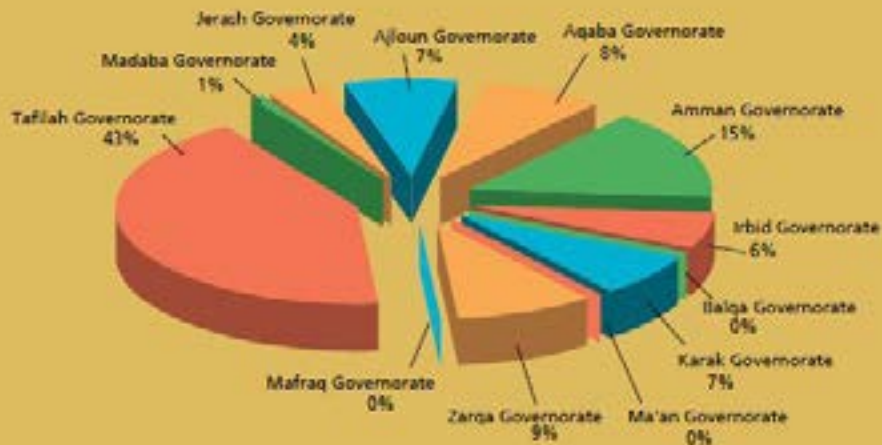


Local Benefits:

1. The RSCN provides the local native communities with more than (350) job opportunities in eight governorates across the Kingdom associated with health insurance, social security, and provident funds.
2. The RSCN boosts the local economy of the communities around its reserves by dealing with local suppliers and service providers for food and beverage, raw materials, transportation, cultural tourism, traditional activities, and the like. This currently helps more than 500 families, with support expecting to reach (1,000) and more families after the opening of newly developed projects.
3. The RSCN's reserves provide rangeland for local herders to graze their livestock. The estimated value generated from local communities grazing in these nature reserves is over one million dinars (JD).
4. The RSCN provides capacity building for the reserves' staff through specialized capacity building programs.
5. The RSCN helps local communities in establishing cooperatives and community groups, also facilitates raising funds for the community initiatives.
6. The RSCN offers the Ministry of Education and local schools also to promote fund raising for the dynamism community. In addition to suitable venues to implement their outdoors educational programs.

National Benefits:

1. The RSCN has helped to increase Jordan's national income. The total cumulative income generated from the organization's nature reserves in the Kingdom during 2016 exceeded (2,274,896) JOD.
2. Nature reserves have become an important pillar of Jordan's national tourism development strategy due to the eco-tourism industry that the RSCN has initiated in the country. In 2016, more than (141,847) visitors visited nature reserves managed by the RSCN.
3. The RSCN's reserves have played a vital role in bringing funds from an array of donors and international entities, which have helped in the development of our reserves' programs and infrastructure. Most importantly, this created no cost for the Jordanian government's treasury.



The Distribution of Nature Reserve Benefits on the Kingdom's Governorates

The RSCN's Socio-Economic Benefits:



In addition to the RSCN's main role of conserving Jordan's natural heritage and biodiversity, the organization provides a range of socio-economic benefits, from national to local levels, for the communities surrounding the RSCN's reserves up to the national economy level.

RSCN Sponsorship Menu

As the nation's nature and wildlife is for everybody to enjoy, the RSCN has decided to widen the umbrella of its nature conservancy responsibility. This sponsorship menu offers one the opportunity to participate in our national mission to protect Jordan's natural environment, while supporting the disadvantaged local communities of those rural areas that reside in and around the RSCN's nature reserves.

What is unique about the "sponsorship opportunities the RSCN" is offering?

- The RSCN offers sponsors multiple benefits, such as tax deduction as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) donations, media exposure, and many more special opportunities.
- The RSCN gives sponsors a chance to go beyond Amman's borders to expand their good will to the whole Hashemite Kingdom, from the northernmost to the southernmost points of the country, Sponsors can give to the RSCN's different nature reserves and affect their surrounding local native communities, thus reaching business CSR targets successfully.
- Getting involved with the RSCN shifts sponsor's activities from "transactions" to "partnerships" as our organization offers the opportunity to engage sponsors corporate staff as volunteers in executing the sponsored project. This raises sponsor's sense of partnership and project ownership.
- The RSCN extends sponsors the chance to, not only support nature conservation in Jordan, but also to support underprivileged native communities surrounding our nature reserves.
- The RSCN grants sponsors worthy media coverage and exposure through press releases in local press, television channels, and radio stations, as well as via the RSCN's Website, newsletters, and announcements, which are distributed to more than (16,000) subscribers. Promotion is also done via RSCN's social media platforms, which boast over (40,000) followers.

It's simple and easy. All that you have to do is:

1. Pick the category that matches your budget and expected benefits.
2. Explore the projects included in that category.
3. Indicate your desired project(s) in the commitment form at the end of the menu, and send us back the completed form.



Nature Conservation Programs

Development of Seheila Rangers Station in Mujib Biosphere Reserve

“ Al-Seheila Station is one of Mujib’s conservation and surveillance stations; it is located in Madaba to the west of Theban and near Al Mathloutha village. Al-Seheila Station is located at the center of the reserve, in an elevated area overlooking a large part of the reserve. Al-Seheila Center is situated at a key entry point to the Qaseeb, Al-Hidan, Al-Malaqi, Eastern Al-Ryashi and Aynat areas.

The RSCN established Al-Seheila Station with the aim of mitigating various threats to the reserve such as illegal hunting, overgrazing and random tourism and residential construction and farming. The Station consists of one room, a lounge, a bathroom and a kitchen and in need of general maintenance and some basic supplies to support its continued implementation of monitoring and protection activities in the reserve and its surrounding areas.



Creation of Environmental Police Station in Mujib Biosphere Reserve

“ The Royal Department for Environmental Protection, also known as the “Royal Rangers” provides key support to the RSCN through its follow-up of various environmental issues, including issues related to Jordan’s nature reserves.

The RSCN is working in partnership with the Royal Rangers to establish a special police Station in the lower western part of Mujib Reserve on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea. The planned station will specialize in environmental issues related to the reserves and will help to implement monitoring, protection and inspection programs within the reserve and its surrounding areas.

The RSCN seeks to fund the cost of situating this station in a caravan containing two rooms, a bathroom and kitchen. it will be located far from water and electricity networks, the station also needs to be equipped with a solar power unit, water tank and some basic supplies.

Conservation Program of the Azraq Wetland Habitats Through Control of Reeds

“ The reed cutting in Azraq wetland is an essential management tool to avoid over accumulation of the reeds and to conserve the main characteristic habitat of these wetlands.

Usually, reed cutting is done by hand, however, it can be accomplished by simple machines and tools, hence it is important to provide the Azraq Wetland Reserve with reed cutting tools and specialized long boots for water habitats in order for the reed cutting to proceed continuously.



Conservation Program of the Azraq Wetland Habitats

“ The RSCN uses a reverse pumping of water system in the Azraq Wetland Reserve to recreate the characteristic habitats of original wetlands, which are home to thousands of plants and animals species, including the endemic Sarhani fish.

The RSCN is planning to renew the pipeline network in order to guarantee effective distribution of water to the important wetland habitats.

Developing the Management of Water Buffalo at the Azraq Wetland Reserve

“ The Azraq Wetland Reserve uses water buffalos as a management tool to create the characteristic habitat of the wetlands. The RSCN has been managing the buffaloes for several years and the results of the monitoring program indicate that these buffaloes have contributed to the wetland habitat's restoration program.

The RSCN plans to expand the current water buffalo barn to be able to keep the newborn calves, and also to help in controlling the buffaloes' movement in the wetlands and prevent them from approaching birds' nests.



Implement firefighting plan at Azraq Wetland Reserve

“ Over the past few years Azraq Wetland Reserve has suffered repeatedly from incidents of fire, destroying much of the remaining natural habitats in the reserve comprising of reeds and Sadge (Typha), which are very important places for nesting and breeding birds. Firefighting is therefore an essential component of the reserve's management plans.

The RSCN plans to use heavy machinery to create pathways within the reserve to facilitate the entry of fire extinguishing equipment in the event of fire.

Security Improvements at Azraq Wetland Reserve

“ The Azraq Wetland Reserve, one of RSCN's oldest reserves, was established in 1978 to preserve the precious Azraq Oasis. The oasis has been a habitat for migrating birds and many different types of animals for several centuries. In 1994 the RSCN initiated efforts to save the oasis, and with international support, the Society was able to restore several bodies of water and construct a network of observation paths for visitors. Renovations have led to the return of many birds and other wildlife to Azraq and made the oasis a prime destination for eco-tourism.

The fence enclosure surrounding the Azraq reserve was built in 1980. Considering the age of the fence, corrosion and the ease with which the reserve can be broken into, the RSCN seeks to repair corroded parts of the fence as well as conduct general maintenance on the whole structure. This process will include the installation of new iron corners in order to improve security and stability.



Conservation program of the Fifa Nature Habitats

“ The Fifa Nature Reserve lies at an elevation of 420 meters below sea level and thus contains two important plant categories: local and tropical.

One of the major conservation issues in Fifa Nature Reserve is local planting of Acacia trees, which contribute heavily to the deterioration of endemic vegetation for a number of reasons. Acacias have roots up to 60 meters long, which absorb large quantities of groundwater and starve surrounding plants. These trees are extremely hardy and can endure difficult climactic conditions, outlasting endemic plant species by starving them of water and sunlight. Acacias force the surrounding plant life to spread to other areas, and their presence has a very negative impact on the local community of Arak trees.

As part of its conservation efforts, RSCN seeks to remove the Acacia trees from Fifa Nature Reserve and replace them with the indigenous Arak trees. This process will result in a number of environmental and economic benefits for the area.

Managing the Water System at Fifa Nature Reserve

“ The RSCN seeks to revisit and complete plans to revive the reserve’s natural habitats and reclaim bodies of water for conservation. This applies especially in the Ain Bin Thaker region, due to its historical and environmental importance as well as its ecological diversity. This work includes a study on the local fish to determine which species are indigenous and which are invading, as well as to determine the primary threats to this fish community. A major objective of this project is to preserve the water system with as few losses as possible. They may arise a need for water redistribution, cleaning, purification of water sources and removal of fire debris and rotted plant life.



Boundaries Demarcation to define the borders of Fifa Nature Reserve

“ Fifa Nature Reserve is located in the southwestern part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It is 140 km south of Amman and its western border is the international border between Jordan and the West Bank. Fifa was declared a nature reserve in the year 2011. The protected area extends 26 square kilometers from Al-Summar area in the north to Wadi Khanzeera in the south, and is under the administration of the Jordan Valley in the southern Karak Governorate. The lowest point of the reserve is 420 m below sea level. Fifa Nature Reserve is home to two important species, salt and tropical plants.

The RSCN is looking to raise awareness of the environmental importance of the reserve and reduce threats and negative impact to its biodiversity by installing boundaries that marks on the ground to define the borders of the reserve, and to install concrete signs measuring a meter high, half a meter wide for a distance of 12 km in length.

Renovation of the Area Surrounding the Yarmouk Forest Reserve

“ Every year, the Yarmouk Forest Reserve attracts a large number of local and international visitors who come to enjoy the reserve and familiarize themselves with the environment and nature of the area. Yarmouk is famous for its deciduous oak forests and fresh water undergrowth.

Preliminary surveys found that 59 species of plants grow in the area, the most important of which may be the deciduous oak, one of Jordan's national trees.

While the Yarmouk Forest Reserve administrative building was constructed on reserve land, the building and the surrounding trees are often damaged by encroaching herds of domestic livestock. In addition to the threat posed by errant grazers, the area is also contaminated by weekend and holiday trespassers who leave waste on the building site.



Conservation Program Development in Yarmouk Forest Reserve

“ The Yarmouk Forest Reserve is located in the Northwestern region of the Hashemite Kingdom on the border of the Golan Heights. The reserve spans over 20 square kilometers of land and is made up of two topographical components: mountains and valleys. The mountains are covered with deciduous oak forests and reach elevations up to 500 meters above sea level, and the valleys that fall between them descend toward the Yarmouk River. These small to medium valleys, with the exception of the Shag Al-Bared valley, all contain seasonal runoff.

In recent years, this reserve has been threatened by a number of hazards, further most fire. In order to mitigate such threats, the RSCN plans to build three observation towers in the reserve, allowing the safety team to identify dangerous places in the reserve and make announcements about fires as quickly as possible. As most areas of the reserve are mountainous and difficult to access, these towers will serve as stable points from which 80% of the reserve's area can be observed. The tower locations will be selected from established safety sites.

Drawing Borders for the Yarmouk Forest Reserve

“ The Yarmouk Forest Reserve faces a number of problems, the most important the most important is the attacks by local livestock herders and loggers on the trees of the Yarmouk's forests, not to mention the high volume of regular visitors to the reserve. Due to high traffic in the spring and summer, it has become necessary to draw borders around the reserve in order to clarify its lands and limits from all sides. This will help to limit the constant questions and allegations by aggressors toward the reserve's natural resources. Furthermore, placing signs to increase visitors' awareness will help protect the privacy of the reserve and prevent damage to its facilities.



Rangeland Survey of the Ajloun and Dibeen Forest Reserves

“ Ajloun and Dibeen represent forest reserves that are dominated by the Mediterranean type of forests. The rangeland of these two reserves are in decline each year due to natural causes and human practices - such as, livestock over grazing - as well as because of the area's accessibility by the local community and lacking levels of supervision. There is, however, no detailed assessment for the amount of grazing that occurs or its impact on these two reserves.

There is a need to conduct rangeland studies in both the Ajloun Forest Renew equipment, and reporting. These rangeland studies will increase RSCN's understanding of the main causes of the rangelands' decline, thus ensuring a well-studied conservation plan to be drawn up accordingly. A comprehensive use of both reserves.

Evaluating the Status of Hunting Species in Jordan

“ Since its start in the 1970s, the RSCN has been active in defining the species selected on local hunting lists. However, for a long time these hunting lists have remained unchanged with no updates, despite the declining number of species and disappearance of others.

Accordingly, and taking the RSCN's staff observations in the field into consideration and groups of hunters who have been in communication with the RSCN, a field study became a must to re-evaluate all listed species in various regions of the Kingdom, and recommendations will be made to sustain the practice of hunting by proposing species that are not under threat and which may not be currently listed, re-mapping the hunting areas according to the distribution and intensity of species, or making suggestions for breeding of some hunter-targeted species.



Wetlands Water Treatment System at Aqaba Birds Observatory

“ The Aqaba Birds Observatory uses available open water surfaces at the Aqaba Water Treatment Station as rest areas for migratory birds on the main migration route between Africa and Northern Europe and East Asia. These pools of treated open water are used by various kinds of birds landing at the Station for nourishment and as a rest area.

The Observatory is looking to assign a unit specialized in wetland water treatment systems to improve the quality of the water bodies in the Observatory for several purposes: to improve habitat quality, rehabilitation of the forest, and create places for educational programs and local community activities which require better treated water than the existing quality.

Management of Aqaba Birds Observatory Forest

“ The Aqaba Birds Observatory, managed by the RSCN, includes a forest that covers an area of around 100,000 square meters and which is an important habitat used by migratory birds when flying over the region during migration seasons.

The native ecosystem plays a protective role to these migratory birds, and to enable this role the RSCN aims to replace some harmful non-native invasive trees with authentic plant types found in the native ecosystem to preserve the natural pattern and reduce the spread of invasive species. This aims to preserve the future of the ecosystem and to serve the overall objective of the Observatory which is to attract migrating birds. The project aims to install irrigation systems to support the new plants as well as to develop green spaces to invest in as parks and picnic areas for use by the local community. This project will be implemented over three years in order to maintain the site's vegetation and ensure the sustainability of the forest.



Developing Internet Communication within Reserves



Most of the RSCN's reserves are located in remote areas, which still require effective mechanisms of communication. Specialists have defined the need for additional bands of Internet to cover the different operating units at each site. A new band is essential to provide the RSCN's different locations with stable Internet connections for better communication.

Uniforms for Law Enforcement Rangers



Based on its authority under the Hunting and Forestry Conservation Law to implement a number of security services, the RSCN has been granted a law enforcement capacity concerned with the control and application of all laws relating to agriculture and biodiversity.

The RSCN seeks to finance the purchase of uniforms for members of its rangers, to enable citizens or partners to identify them by their uniform when in the field. The uniform shall be selected carefully to suit the nature of the field work involved, such as long distance walking in hot or cold conditions, and in terms of color, quality and design.





Socioeconomic Programs and Local Community Development

Improving Silk Printing Equipment in the Azraq Wetland Reserve

“ The Azraq Wetland Reserve includes several handicraft workshops that manufacture a wide range of products which are inspired by the surrounding environment. While the hand printing workshop is considered one of the pioneering projects within the reserve ; it is in continual need of equipment updates and improvements in order to increase productive power and improve the quality of its products. These improvements will lead to increased demand for products in the local market.

The silkscreen printing project aims to improve product quality by purchasing a drying oven which will improve the strength and endurance of printed products and allow them to be used multiple times.



Purchasing an Air Compression Machine used for Ostrich Egg Engraving

“ RSCN’s Azraq Ostrich Egg Dotting is one of the first socioeconomic projects launched back in 1999, it is one of the best selling projects producing a range of appealing designs. Currently the workshop uses two techniques in customizing the unfertilized ostrich eggs; dotting and engraving. The air compression machine used for engraving the ostrich eggs is outdated and inefficient. Purchase of a new one would increase production capacity and minimize production time, allowing RSCN to reduce production costs and increase profit which would be re-invested in RSCN’s socioeconomic development program.

Technical Training on Ceramics Production

“ Surveys indicate that the Mujib Biosphere Reserve contains over 300 species of plants, 10 species of carnivores, and numerous species of resident and migratory birds. The richest vegetation is found on the wadi’s floor where palm trees, wild fig trees, tamarix trees, and beautiful oleander shrubs grow, in addition to the lush reed bed that flourishes along the river.

The Mujib Biosphere Reserve is characterized by its extensive area, which supports the presence of different carnivorous species. However, knowledge on these species is outdated and must be updated to assist in the evaluation of the level of conservation work needed onsite. Therefore, a Study of Carnivores shall be conducted in Mujib, requiring equipment, field work, and reporting.



Technical Training on Mosaic Production

“ We are looking to fund the creation of a Mosaic Workshop at our socioeconomic development complex situated at Fagou/Kerak. We currently employ 10 local community women who have been trained on silver production and sandblasting. Due to popular demand on the ancient old mosaic products at RSCN's Nature Shops, it would be a great addition to empower our employees with a new skill and offer this on demand Jordanian product.

Launching a Branded Retail Store “Nature Shop” at a Strategic Location

“ Launching a new Nature Shop at a strategic location such as a high end mall in Jordan will allow RSCN to target a new segment to market and sell RSCN's Wild Jordan Crafts, increasing sales and benefits for local community producers.



Handicrafts Catalog Printing & Distribution

“ Local community women working at RSCN’s socioeconomic projects currently produce 1000 approximately different handicraft products ranging from edibles to traditional home accessories inspired by the local flora and fauna of Jordan. RSCN requires printing and distributing a handicrafts products’ catalog to market and sell handicrafts products to potential clients.

Advertising Campaign to Promote Wild Jordan Crafts

“ RSCN aspires to being able to launch an advertising campaign to better market, and sell handicrafts produced at local community socioeconomic projects; stemming from RSCN’s belief in the necessity of increasing benefits going back to the community generated from the increase in sales of their traditional handicrafts.





Tourism Sites Development

Developing Visitor Facilities at Azraq Lodge

“ Through the development of eco-tourism in protected areas, the RSCN aims to local communities. This helps to encourage greater community support toward protected areas and discourage activities that threaten nature, such contribute to nature conservation programs. Located not far from Azraq Wetland Reserve, Azraq Lodge receives visitors throughout the year. The Azraq Lodge needs to build a secure warehouse to store some of the materials and tools used in its eco-tourism operations, such as maintaining bicycles and storing mattresses, extra beds and many other items.



Eco-tourism Development in the Eastern Desert

“ Wadi Dahek is located in the eastern desert adjacent to Azraq. Due to its magnificent landscape, the area attracts campers, who also enjoy star-gazing and exploring the landscape.

The RSCN is preparing programs for Azraq visitors to explore the Dahek area and camp therein, as a complementary experience to the other attractions in the area. This program will provide visitors the opportunity to stay longer in the Azraq area and generate more financial benefits for the local community, as well as the national economy.

The RSCN needs to purchase essential tools and equipment for the Dahek mobile camp, which will be operated by the Azraq lodge.

Improving the Visitor's Experience at the Aqaba Birds Observatory

“ The RSCN manages the Aqaba Bird Observatory which is an important part of the wetlands that are situated along flyways of birds migrating from Northern Europe and Asia to Africa through the Rift Valley. The Observatory attracts large numbers of migratory water birds, birds of prey and passerines, especially during spring and autumn.

The Aqaba Bird Observatory covers a wide area of about 500 dunums that encompasses critical habitats to attract birds, as well as forked tourist trails that link these habitats. In order to regulate the movement of visitors in these trails, we aim to provide directional signs on tourist trails and provide places for bird-watching in some areas that attract large numbers of birds. This will allow tourists to be able to roam inside the Observatory by following the signs for safe paths and enjoy the bird-watching services at key controlled spots.



Enhancing the Adventure Tourism at the Mujib Biosphere Reserve

“ The Mujib Biosphere Reserve is known for its adventurous water trails and activities that attract tourist from all over the world. Visitors enter the canyon trails via a small reception complex, which contains a waiting area, bathrooms, a small office, and a store. This complex was built in 2003 as a pioneering venture to develop tourism in Mujib and as a conservation and socio-economic tool.

In the light of the increased number of visitors to the Mujib canyon, and in order to maintain a high level of visitor's enjoyment, as well as maintain an acceptable level of safety, the RSCN seeks the support to better equip the Mujib Biosphere Reserve with essential equipment, such as life jackets, ropes, helmets, stretchers, and the like.

Developing the Mujib River Eco-tourism Facilities

“ With its spectacular gorge and waterfalls, the Mujib River Canyon has become one of the most well-known eco and adventure tourism sites in Jordan. In 2010, it attracted over 25,000 visitors - both International and Jordanian - and generated 80,000 JOD in revenue for the Mujib Nature Reserve, as well as 35 jobs for local people. In total, tourism contributed approximately 70% of the running costs of the whole Mujib Reserve, an area of some 220 kilometers-squared.

As a result of Mujib's popularity, the Visitor Reception Complex no longer has the capacity to cope with either the existing volume of tourists, or likely future demands. The RSCN is looking to modify and expand this complex at the base of the Mujib Canyon to enable it to accommodate current and future tourist use and provide a better and safer visitor experience. This will involve the construction of new bathrooms, changing rooms, a cafeteria, a safety equipment storage room, and a visitor's information area. By revitalising the complex in this way, it will enable the RSCN to generate more conservation and community benefits from tourism at Mujib.



Enhancing Safety Procedures and Equipment in Mujib's Biosphere Reserve Water Trails

“ The Tourism Unit at Mujib Biosphere Reserve is one of the key units responsible for raising environmental awareness and the concept of ecotourism among the reserves' visitors. The reserve is visited by a large number of visitors estimated at 20,000 annually.

The reserve receives individuals and organized groups of visitors looking for leisure and adventure through the reserve's tourism programs, which include hikes to waterfalls and mountain climbing. Trained tour guides equipped with safety and climbing gear escort visitors along the tourist routes and provide information on the reserve and its waterways.

The RSCN continues to implement general safety standards for visitors by providing them with life vests, ropes and first aid. The RSCN also seeks to provide visitors with helmets to enhance the general safety procedures through the water trails.

Improving Visitor Facilities at Mujib Biosphere Reserve

“ At 410 meters below sea level, the Mujib Biosphere Reserve is the lowest nature reserve on Earth. Its rugged and spectacular mountains border the Dead Sea coast and are dissected by several river-filled canyons; some are seasonal while others are permanent. Mujib is one of the key valleys flowing through a rose colored rock canyon (Siq) which extends to the Dead Sea coast at 410 meters below sea level, attracting adventure lovers for hiking, swimming, climbing and waterfall abseiling activities.

The unique diversity along the passage of Wadi Mujib makes it the most adventurous site in Jordan. Its popularity has had a major impact on introducing Jordanians to the nature reserves and raising awareness of the importance of conservation for the enjoyment of all.

To reach these water trails, one must cross the 150m long iron bridge from the visitor center at the reserve's tourism unit which leads to the Siq.

The RSCN is urgently seeking to finance the general maintenance and painting works of this bridge, as it is the key entry and exit point to and from other water trails.



The Wild Weekly Weekends

“ Visiting the reserves was made easier by Wild Jordan’s Wild Weekly Weekends. This program enables Jordanians and tourists to visit the RSCN’s reserves on regular basis. The idea behind the organized trips is to open new channels for Jordanians to visit the nature reserves and learn more about their biodiversity, while encouraging domestic tourism as all income generated from these trips go to support the local communities that live in and around the reserves. These excursions also help protect Jordan’s environment for future generations.

The current program is simple and requires development; the RSCN hopes to secure funding to develop the Weekly Weekends program through intensive marketing using effective new methods.

Development of Eco-tourism in the Dibeen Forest Reserve

“ The Dibeen Forest Reserve receives thousands of visitors during the weekends of the spring and summer seasons as it is one of the few natural forests in north Jordan that has the basic facilities and infrastructure. The large number of visitors to the park is threatening the natural Aleppo pine forest, which represents the furthest boundaries of such forest in the southern hemisphere.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop an alternative picnic site outside of the Dibeen Forest Reserve, which would minimize the impact on the natural eco-system within the protected area. The new picnic site would be developed in partnership with local community representatives in order to create viable financial and marketing opportunities for their products, activities, and awareness programs.



Updating the Information Hall in Dana Biosphere Reserve Visitors Center

“ Since its establishment, the RSCN has been aware of the importance of including educational and environmental awareness programs in its nature reserves. For this reason, the RSCN has designed a number of environmental education programs that aim to raise general awareness about environmental issues and their importance. The RSCN has also launched several specialized awareness programs that target the local populations living around each nature reserve.

The RSCN established the information hall in Dana Biosphere Reserve in 1995. This room serves as an illustrative source of information about the important cultural, social and environmental landmarks inside the reserve.

Renovation of Al-Rumana Tower Area of Dana Biosphere Reserve

“ The Al-Rumana Tower region is one of the most important areas for the local communities and it is the only area for the people of the Al -Baseera region in particular.

In an effort to raise awareness, RSCN is training the reserve team and teaching them how to cooperate with each category of people who come to Dana, be visitors or local residents. The tower is important because it presents precise, quality information about the reserve and the surrounding areas as well as the policies of the RSCN. The exhibit encourages both visitors and local inhabitants to support conservation projects in the reserves so that each member of society becomes a protector of nature.



Updating Information in the Azraq Reserve Visitors Center

“ In 2000, the RSCN opened the information hall in the Azraq Visitors Center to serve as a resource to teach visitors about the various cultural, societal and environmental landmarks in the Azraq region. In addition to displaying information about the history of the Azraq region and the various groups of animals that are indigenous to the area, the room also notify visitors about the problem of locals pumping and draining water from the oasis basin. The hall also keeps visitors up to date about the environmental rehabilitation project and the restoration of the basin that is home to the only type of vertebral fish in the oasis: the Sarhani fish.

The RSCN seeks to renovate the information hall and update the information found therein because the room has not been changed since its establishment.



Researches

Nature Conservation Research & Survey Activities

“ Surveys indicate that the Mujib Biosphere Reserve contains over 300 species of plants, 10 species of carnivores, and numerous species of resident and migratory birds. The richest vegetation is found on the wadi's floor where palm trees, wild fig trees, tamarix trees, and beautiful oleander shrubs grow, in addition to the lush reed bed that flourishes along the river.

The Mujib Biosphere Reserve is characterized by its extensive area, which supports the presence of different carnivorous species. However, knowledge on these species is outdated and must be updated to assist in the evaluation of the level of conservation work needed onsite. Therefore, a Study of Carnivores shall be conducted in Mujib, requiring equipment, field work, and reporting.

Improving Rangeland in Shumari Wildlife Reserve

“ The Shumari Wildlife Reserve is quite unique as it is home to numerous communities of rare wild animals. Shumari protects and breeds many endangered species including the Ibex, the Arabian Oryx and the Arabian Gazelle. The reserve also protects a number of predatory species such as wolves, foxes, hyenas and jackals, in addition to various rare and endangered species of reptiles and amphibians that are extremely important to the local eco-system. Last but not least, the reserve is home to a number of desert rodents that are the primary food source for a number of bird and reptile species in the region.

The RSCN seeks to renovate the Rangeland of the Shumari Wildlife Reserve by encouraging the growth of vegetation cover and improving on existing water-harvesting projects. Because the region receives only enough seasonal rainfall to nourish the pastures' most basic needs, temperature increases and the following drying up of streams have led to a search for new methods of water-harvesting and water distribution in Shumari.



Study of the Dieback of the Juniper Tree at the Dana Biosphere Reserve

“ The Dana Biosphere Reserve is the only reserve in Jordan that includes the three different bio-geographical zones of the kingdom: Mediterranean, Irano-Turanian and Sudanian penetration. As such, it is the most diverse nature reserve in the country in terms of habitats and species, hosting several vegetation types, including the Phoenician juniper, evergreen oak, sand dunes, acacia, and rocky sudanian, among others. This reserve is also home to the southern most remaining forest community of Cypress Cupressus sempervirens.

The juniper tree is facing high threats in Jordan due to human activities and natural causes represented mainly by drought. The country's juniper species are thus undergoing an extreme dieback phenomenon, with populations declining each year. The RSCN aims to conduct a specialized research of the juniper species in Dana Biosphere Reserve, requiring fieldwork, new equipment, and reporting. This study will attempt to understand the causes behind the juniper dieback phenomenon in order to be able to decrease the threats and conserve the juniper species regionally.

Studying the Ibex in Mujib Biosphere Reserve

“ The RSCN began a study of the Ibex Mountain Goat in 1995, when increasing populations prompted the RSCN to conduct research on where this endangered species can be found in addition to studies of their habitats and appropriate breeding environments.

Because the Ibex is such an influential species in Mujib Biosphere Reserve, the RSCN seeks to begin a study on the Ibex population within the site. This study will be completed using satellite tracking systems, as it is meant to help researchers understand the movement patterns and behaviors of Ibex communities. This study will consider both biotic and abiotic indices in order to aid in the protection of the species and the reduction of threats against it.



Launching the Jordan Journal of Natural History



As an addition to its research department, the RSCN established a center for the observation of ecological diversity in the Hashemite Kingdom. One of this center's major responsibilities is issuing a scientific journal dealing with ecological diversity in Jordan and the neighboring Arab countries. This project will help to enrich the body of ecological information in the region and publish it in a manner that is at once scientifically accurate and high in quality.

To this end, a scientific journal is currently being prepared for the press under the title of Jordan Journal of Natural History. To acknowledge and celebrate the launch of this publication, the RSCN will organize a formal ceremony and invite the nine magazine contributors. The ceremony, resembling a scientific conference, will entertain attendees who specialize in relevant fields and will include paper presentations and talks by conservation experts.

Developing the Enforcement at the Azraq Wetland Reserve



Illegal hunting and encroachments on the boundaries of the Azraq Wetland Reserve can represent a serious threat to the habitats and to the species living in the reserve. The RSCN uses motorcycles to patrol the wetland's borders and adjacent important habitat areas.

The reserve currently possesses only one motorcycle, however, it is not enough to cover a total area of 75 kilometers-squared (the reserve, in addition to the adjacent large mud flat area). The RSCN needs a second motorcycle to support the wetland patrol program and ensure its success.

Jordan Journal of Natural History





Nature Reserve's Environmental Games

“ The RSCN is planning to develop environmental games to be used in all of their nature reserves, as games are an effective tool for raising visitor's awareness of biodiversity conservation. The environmental games target students ages from (6-16 years old) when visiting the RSCN reserves. These games offer students the chance to learn through playing, exploring, and entertainment. When visiting the nature reserves, students will learn basic environmental concepts, acquire conservation skills, and adopt environmentally-friendly attitudes. Since the Nature Reserves' Educational Program was established in 2004, many environmental games have been produced to add value to this program. Currently, the program needs to be updated and new environmental games must be developed and/or reproduced, as some games require maintenance.



Grassroot Support

World Wetlands Day

“ As a member of the Ramsar Convention since 1977, the RSCN annually organizes lectures, awareness campaigns, and outreach activities in celebration of World Wetlands Day. The purpose of these activities is to increase public awareness on the importance of wetlands and the Azraq wetlands in particular - on both a local and global level, especially in terms of its importance to migratory birds and to the Sarhani fish - Jordan's only endemic species, and further to inspire their support for the protection of this unique and threatened habitat.

Earth Hour

“ Earth Hour is an event led by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The RSCN annually organizes an Earth Hour in conjunction with the international Earth Hour campaign, which is a community based environmental campaign that inspires and empowers communities from every corner of the globe for the betterment of the planet, joining hundreds of millions of people across 135 countries switch off for an hour. The event includes switch off lights in Wild Jordan Center and the surrounding streets and neighborhood, candlelit march starts from Wild Jordan Center, pledges from participants, and other engaging activities.



Clean Up the World Campaign

“ The RSCN annually organizes a clean-up event in conjunction with the International Clean Up the World campaign, which is a community based environmental campaign that inspires and empowers communities from every corner of the globe to clean up, fix up, and conserve their environment. Usually, the RSCN conducts this clean-up campaign in the Dibeen Forest Reserve, as littering is considered one of the reserve’s main problems as the Dibeen Forest Reserve is a popular picnic destination. Around 300 to 500 people from different community segments participate yearly in this campaign to contribute to its success.



The RSCN’s Members Events

“ The RSCN is a membership organization; the number of members and friends in 2012 exceeded 15,000. The RSCN is planning to organize a series of member’s events that include: receptions, quiz nights, and other gatherings. The objective of these events is to share the RSCN’s conservation strategies and achievements, and to develop new ways for members to become engaged in the RSCN’s activities.



Education Activities in the Azraq Wetland Reserve

“ The RSCN has pioneered the process of bringing critical water issues into the national curriculum for Jordanian schools. It was able to cast an official and highly effective partnership with the Ministry of Education to professionally review the curriculum and to introduce water conservation concepts into lesson programs for all age groups.

It is essential to complement the curriculum program with extracurricular activities targeting schools of the Azraq Wetland Reserve's local communities. The wetland education program includes the following components:

- To develop a biodiversity guide to raise awareness of local school students regarding the Azraq wetland's species of fauna and flora.
- To design new eco-games to be implemented as part of the reserve's educational program.
- To buy tools and materials needed for the reserve's eco-educational bag (hydro kit).
- To buy binoculars and birds guidebooks for students to be able to implement the reserve's students' bird watching program onsite.



Jordan Trust Fund

Strengthening Jordan's Fund for Nature

“ Recognizing the need to push ahead as quickly as possible with further designations in response to the enormous development pressure evident throughout the Kingdom, the RSCN is poised to establish an additional 3 protected areas over the next 3 years.

With the establishment of these 3 new protected areas, the land area under the RSCN's management will more than double — growing from 1,000 kilometers-squared to 2,160 kilometers-squared. Consequently, recurrent management costs will escalate. The estimated increase in the annual financial burden for the RSCN is approximately 1,400,000 JOD. While the organization will strive to offset these costs through an expansion of eco-tourism and private sector concessions, there will remain a significant shortfall that must be met by the RSCN's own resources.

For this reason, the RSCN wishes to strengthen its existing Endowment Fund to enable it to cope with its expanding protected area portfolio and maintain its dynamic socio-economic development program.

Wild Recon Film Screening

“ Wild Recon is one of the wildest shows on Animal Planet. It follows the adventures of animal explorer Donald Schultz, who is taken on dangerous missions that could yield life-changing scientific discoveries. The RSCN hosted the Wild Recon group in Jordan and facilitated the filming of Jordan's wildlife, specifically its animals. In order to share this unique experience with the public nature and wildlife lovers in particular the RSCN aims to screen this film in a public theater, followed by a discussion with our researchers to give an exciting “behind the scenes” account of the filming.

