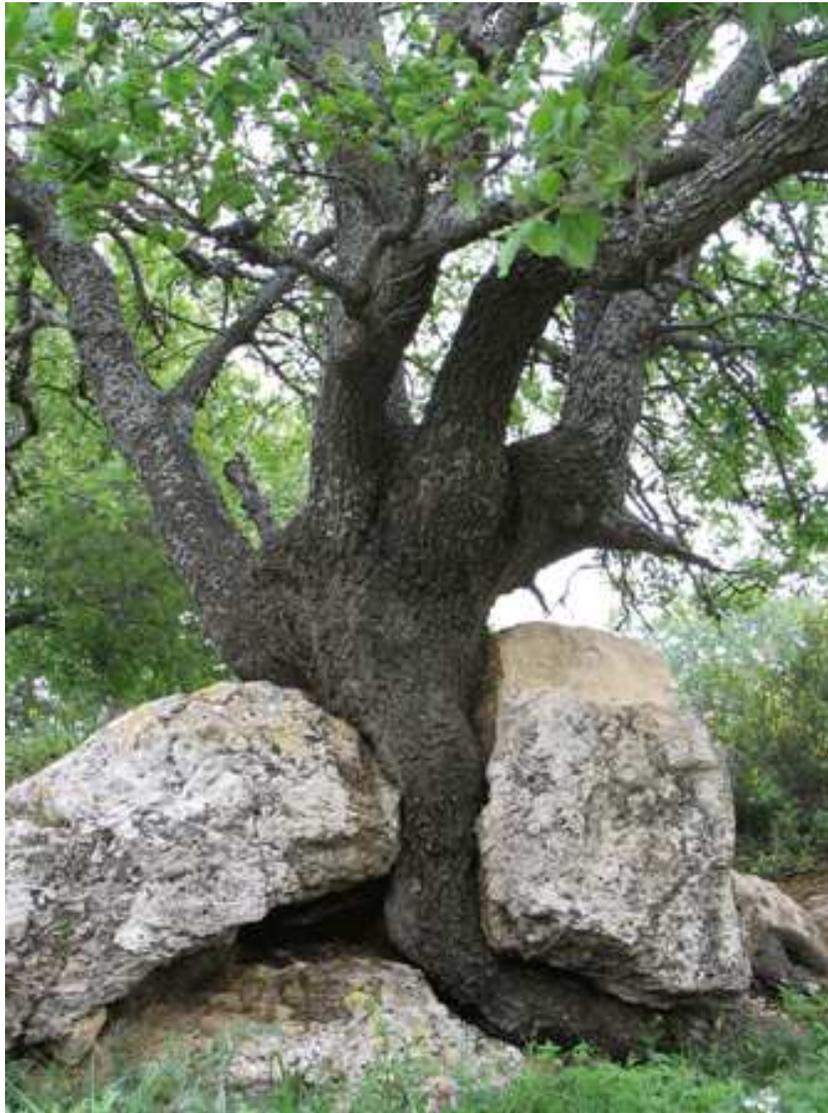


# Action Plan for Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas

---



*Quercus aegilops* the emblem tree of Jordan

(JORDAN )

Submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity [20 April,2012]

# Protected area information:

---

**PoWPA Focal Point:** (Name, contact details)

Hussein Shahin

Director, Nature Protection, Ministry of Environment

[Hussein\\_shhn@yahoo.com](mailto:Hussein_shhn@yahoo.com)

[Hussein.shahin@moenv.gov.jo](mailto:Hussein.shahin@moenv.gov.jo)

**Lead implementing agency:** (Add name of primary government agency)

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

**Multi-stakeholder committee:** (Add description)

A national committee for protected areas is suggested under the draft new nature protection by law to be responsible for PAs related issues. However, currently there is a national committee for biodiversity related issues involving parties from government, non-governmental and academic institutions.

# Description of protected area system

---

## National Targets and Vision for Protected Areas

(Insert national targets for protected areas/Target 11 of the Aichi Targets. Include rationale from protected area gap assessment, if completed, along with any additional information about the vision for the protected area system, including statements about the value of the protected area system to the country)

The area of Jordan is about 89,000 (km<sup>2</sup>), of which over 80% are semi-arid and arid areas. Due to its strategic location among three continents; Asia, Africa and Europe, Jordan treasure astonishing biological diversity, including terrestrial, wetland and marine ecosystems. The country has diverse topography, considerable climatic variations, and several habitat types. Wild plants constitute a very important component of Jordan's biological diversity. Conservation of this natural heritage is listed high on the priorities of the government. The total number of plant species recorded in Jordan exceeds 2500 species of which 100 are endemic.

The importance of these Medicinal Plants as a source of preventive and/or curative health value (for both people and livestock) have been recognized by local people since time immemorial. A total of 485 species of medicinal plants, which belong to 330 genera and 99 families, are reported from Jordan (Oran and Al-Eisawi, 1994). Those identified medicinal plants are herbs, shrubs and trees.

The government has adopted the national protected areas network which comprises the already declared PAs (10) and the new (6) PAs that will be established. The total area of the 16 PAs constitutes around 4% of the total terrestrial area of Jordan, and hence the target would be:

**By 2020, 4% of Jordan terrestrial area is expected to be achieved.** It would be rather difficult for Jordan to realize the Aichi target.

Regarding MPA, Jordan only has one MPA. The MPA represent around 29% of Jordan water marine area. **Hence the Aichi target of (10%) is achieved.**

## Coverage

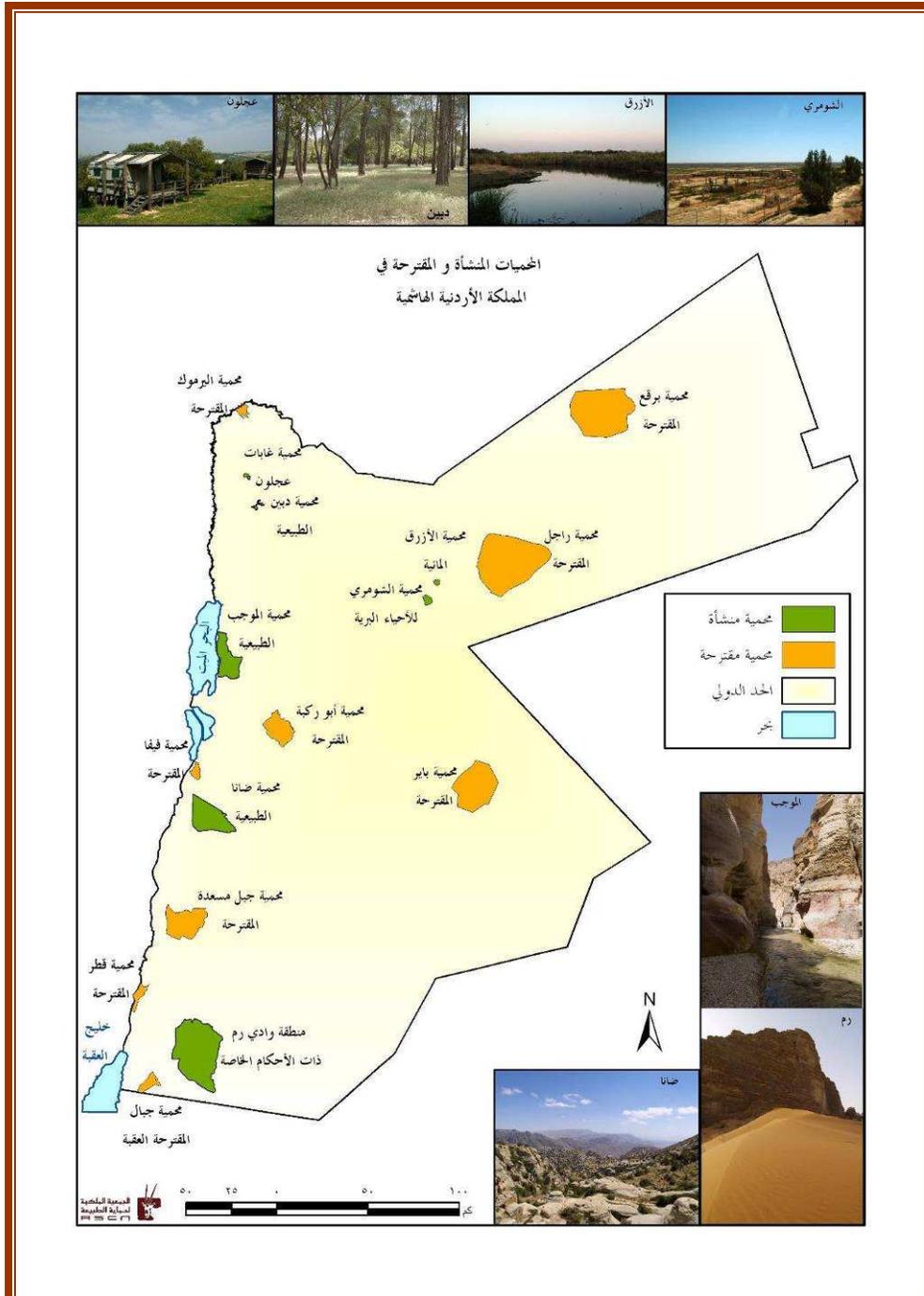
(Amount and % protected for terrestrial and marine; maps of protected area system)

THE FOLLOWING ARE ESTABLISHED RESERVES:

Reserve name	Area(square km)
DANA	291
AZRAQ	12
SHUMARI	20
MUJIB	213
AJLUN	7
WADI RUM	720
DIBEEN	9
YARMOUK	20
QATAR	73
FIFA	27
AQABA MARINE PROTECTED AREA	7

PROPOSED PROTECTED AREAS

NAME OF RESERVE	AREA
BURQU	750
RAJEL	908
BAYER	461
ABU RUKBAH	189
AQABA MOUNTAINS	27
SHUBAK	77



Map of Established and proposed PAs

## Description and background

The first study on nature reserves in Jordan was carried out by (IUCN). The report of that study, also known as Clarke's Report, proposed 12 sites as potential nature reserves. To date, 8 sites of Clarke's proposal have actually been designated as nature reserves, 5 of them are completely run and managed by The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN);

these are: (Shaumari Wildlife Reserve, Azraq Wetland Reserve, Ajloun Forest Reserve, Mujib Nature Reserve, Dana Nature Reserve, and Wadi Rum Protected Area that is managed by Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), Qatar Reserve and Fifa Reserve). In addition to these terrestrial reserves, ASEZA runs the Aqaba Marine Park, which is the only marine reserve in Jordan.

Several changes have taken place in the last 20 years that followed the development of the first national protected areas network proposal. There was an urgent need to review and update this proposal in response to the demographic and environmental changes that have taken place in the country placing more pressure on some of the sites.

RSCN, in consultation with the Ministry of Environment and with assistance from (IUCN) and with a fund from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), carried out the first review of the proposed nature reserves network during 1997-2000. RSCN used international standards (IUCN Standards) to evaluate and update the list of the proposed sites. It is noteworthy to mention that the Jordanian government has included this list in its Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that was issued in 2003..

A review of the proposed nature reserves that are located in the Jordan valley was carried out in 2005, through the preparations for the “Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Jordan Rift Valley Project”. The main purpose of this review was to choose 4 of the proposed nature reserves that are located in the Jordan Rift Valley to be designated through this project.

In the 2008 report, the national nature reserves network proposed by Clarcke was reviewed based mainly on the nineties’ study, but using updated and modified evaluation criteria. The criteria used in this report were modified based on the Rift Valley Project review that took place in 2005. The following Table summarises the vegetation type in each of the established and proposed PA:

Rank	Site	Vegetation Type
1	Shaumari	Hamada
2	Azraq	Mudfalt
3	Mujib	Tropical– Steppe – Water– Saline– Mediterranean non-forest

4	Ajloun	Evergreen oak
5	Rum	Sand dune– Hammada – Acacia
6	Dana	Juniper Forest – Mediterranean non-forest – Steppe – Acacia-Sand dune
7	Dibeen	Pine Forest
8	Burqu	Hamada – Mudflat
9	Yarmouk	Deciduous Oak
10	Fifa	Saline - Tropical
11	Jabal Masuda	Acacia- Juniperous Forest-Mediterranean non-forest-Steppe
12	Qatar	Acacia- Mudflat
13	Aqaba Mountains	Acacia
14	Rajel	Hamada
15	Abu Rukbeh	Steppe- Mediterranean non-forest
16	Bayer	Hamada

## Governance types

(Summary matrix of governance types)

The management of the PAs is delegated by the Ministry of Environment to the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (RSCN), so the co-sharing type of governance is applicable to all established PAs.

## Key threats

(Description of key threats, and maps, if available)

## Main threats to biodiversity;

- ❑ Despite its rich biodiversity, Jordan's nature is facing many threats as reflected by the national and global status of many species and their habitats. Efforts are needed on the national level in order to help in reviving the populations of threatened species.
- ❑ Many of the species appearing in the historical record are now extinct or threatened. The main factor that led to the extinction of wildlife is the deterioration of the vegetation cover in many areas of Jordan due to urbanization. The most destructive period so far witnessed was during the First World War: a railroad was built between Eneiza and Hisha Bida in Shobak, and trees were cut for train fuel. Other factors that led to the deterioration were overgrazing, decrease of rainfall and drying of grazing lands. During the Second World War, repeating rifles and vehicles were introduced to the area, depleting some wildlife animals to the point of extinction. Major threats to the natural environment of different areas still include overgrazing, woodcutting, and hunting.
- ❑ In some cases, species left their natural environments and moved to others which were unsuitable. Some of these new areas to which animals fled had weak environmental and biological capacity that could not absorb large additional numbers of the same species. This happened in the case of deer, which fled from the eastern desert to areas with very difficult accessibility. The deer were thus protected from man, but the areas could not provide habitat for large numbers of them.
- ❑ The intensive chemical pest-control of locusts and agricultural diseases by insecticides has led to increased pressure on wildlife. During the last 120 years, many native Jordanian species have been lost and became nationally extinct, including some species that were once widespread and common. Some species are now considered to be on the verge of national extinction. This is the result of many threats including destruction of natural habitats and ecosystems, introduction of invasive species, modernization of transportation and improved hunting techniques. About nine macro-mammals and at least five plants are extinct from the wild (Jordan Country Study On Biological Diversity, 1998). Further studies are likely to reveal more extinct organisms, especially invertebrates and plants.

## ❑ Challenges: **Barriers for effective implementation**

(Description of key barrier s for effective implementation)

\*Limited financial resources, limited available technical capacities, and limited civil society and local community participation are considered the most important challenges in the implementation of this target. In general, the main challenges in implementation of this target are:

\*Political unrest in the region and its complications on Jordan including changes to the population dynamics of the national community, increased demand on natural resources especially water, financial challenges, and many others.

- Deficiency in relevant laws and regulatory guidelines
- Low and weak enforcement due to limited financial and technical capacities
- Ambiguity of responsibility generated by deficiency of regulations
- Delay in releasing the national biodiversity policy
- Limited technical capacities at the institutional level
- Limited civil local community participation

# Status, priority and timeline for key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

---

## Status of key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Status of key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas	Status
• Progress on assessing <b>gaps in the protected area network</b> (1.1)	Made, needs update
• Progress in assessing <b>protected area integration</b> (1.2)	Not done
• Progress in establishing <b>transboundary protected areas</b> and <b>regional networks</b> (1.3)	No progress
• Progress in developing <b>site-level management plans</b> (1.4)	Made
• Progress in assessing <b>threats</b> and opportunities for <b>restoration</b> (1.5)	Made
• Progress in assessing <b>equitable sharing</b> of benefits (2.1)	Made
• Progress in assessing protected area <b>governance</b> (2.1)	Made
• Progress in assessing the <b>participation</b> of indigenous and local communities in key protected area decisions (2.2)	Made
• Progress in assessing the <b>policy environment</b> for establishing and managing protected areas (3.1)	In progress
• Progress in assessing the <b>values</b> of protected areas (3.1)	Made for some PAs
• Progress in assessing protected area <b>capacity</b> needs (3.2)	Made
• Progress in assessing the <b>appropriate technology</b> needs (3.3)	Made
• Progress in assessing protected area <b>sustainable finance</b> needs (3.4)	Made
• Progress in conducting <b>public awareness</b> campaigns (3.5)	Made
• Progress in developing <b>best practices and minimum standards</b> (4.1)	Made
• Progress in assessing <b>management effectiveness</b> (4.2)	Made
• Progress in establishing an <b>effective PA monitoring system</b> (4.3)	Made
• Progress in developing a <b>research program</b> for protected areas (4.4)	Made
• Progress in assessing opportunities for <b>marine</b> protection	In progress
• Progress in incorporating <b>climate change</b> aspects into protected areas	Made

Status: 0 = no work, 1 = just started, 2 = partially complete, 3 = nearly complete, 4 = complete

(Insert notes as appropriate)

### Action 1: (Describe action)

- **Improve PAs management Effectiveness**

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Update and complete Gap Assessment of PAs	2015	MOE and RSCN	100,000
Assessment of PAs integration	2014	MOE and RSCN	10,000
Prepare and update management plans of PAs	2012-2016	MOE and RSCN	300,000
Continue assessing threats and opportunities for restoration	2014	MOE and RSCN	20,000
Conduct and update management effectiveness Assessment every five years	2015	MOE and RSCN	10,000
Continue research programs on PAs	2012-2020	MOE and RSCN	1000,000
Continue Assessing and introducing technologies	2014	MOE and RSCN	10,000
Develop mechanisms for documenting lessons learnt	2012-2020	MOE and RSCN	10,000
Conduct studies on climate change and incorporate with PAs	2012-2014	MOE and RSCN	150,000
Establish an M&E system for PAs	2013	MOE and RSCN	20,000

## Action 2: (Describe action)

- **Improve policy environment for establishment and managing the PAs**

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Assess the <b>policy environment</b> for establishing and managing protected areas	2016	MOE and RSCN	30,000
Hold national workshops to discuss outputs	2016	MOE and RSCN	10,000
Conduct an assessment on values of PAs	2016	MOE and RSCN	25,000
Assess MPA establishment	2013	MOE and ASEZA	10,000
Conduct a study on sustainable financing of PAs	2014	MOE and RSCN	15,000

## Action 3: (Describe action)

- **Improve public awareness**

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Conduct public awareness campaigns on PoWPA	2012-2020	MOE and RSCN	10,000
Conduct public awareness on values of PAs	2013	MOE and RSCN	5,000

# Key assessment results

---

## **Ecological gap assessment** (summary findings of 2008 gap assessment)

In the last few decades, the world has begun to recognize the benefits of nature reserves to both humans and wildlife. In addition to guarding the country's natural heritage, nature reserves can also bring countless economic benefits for both the local communities around them as well as the economy of the country in general.

This report presents the national nature reserves network based on the cumulative knowledge and the results of continued research that has taken place since the seventies. The first study on nature reserves in Jordan was carried out by the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The report of this study, also known as Clarke's Report, proposed 12 sites as potential nature reserves. To date, 6 sites of Clarke's proposal have actually been designated as nature reserves, 5 of them are completely run and managed by The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN); these are: (Shaumari Wildlife Reserve, Azraq Wetland Reserve, Ajloun Forest Reserve, Mujib Nature Reserve, Dana Nature Reserve, and Wadi Rum Protected Area that is managed by Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA). In addition to these terrestrial reserves, ASEZA runs the Aqaba Marine Park, which is the only marine reserve in Jordan.

Several changes have taken place in the last 20 years that followed the development of the first national protected areas network proposal. There was an urgent need to review and update this proposal in response to the demographic and environmental changes that have taken place in the country placing more pressure on some of the sites.

RSCN, in consultation with the General Corporation for Environment Protection (GCEP) –The Ministry of Environment now- and with assistance from the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and with a fund from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), carried out the first review of the proposed nature reserves network during 1997-2000. RSCN used international standards (IUCN Standards) to evaluate and update the list of the proposed sites. It is noteworthy to mention that the Jordanian government has included this list in its Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that was issued in 2003. Dibeen Forest Reserve was designated in 2004 with a medium sized (GEF) grant based on this proposal.

A review of the proposed nature reserves that are located in the Jordan valley was carried out in 2005, through the preparations for the “Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Jordan Rift Valley Project”. The main purpose of this review was to choose 4 of the proposed nature reserves that are located in the Jordan Rift Valley to be designated through this project.

In this report, the national nature reserves network proposed by Clarcke will be reviewed based mainly on the nineties’ study, but using updated and modified evaluation criteria. The criteria used in this report were modified based on the Rift Valley Project review that took place in 2005.

The review includes 6 major steps:

- 1- Re-evaluation of the nature reserves network proposed by Clarcke to see how well it represents Jordan’s natural habitats.
- 2- Identification of the habitats that were not represented in Clarcke’s proposal.
- 3- Suggestion of a new updated protected areas network that well represents Jordan’s natural habitats.
- 4- Development of new criteria in order to evaluate the new proposed sites.
- 5- Carrying out baseline surveys in the proposed sites in order to gather adequate information that can be used to evaluate each site according to the evaluation criteria.
- 6- Evaluation of the proposed sites using the new criteria in order to develop an updated network of nature reserves ranked according to the priority of establishment.

This review resulted in updating the proposed nature reserves network that reflects, along with the currently established reserves, Jordan’s spectrum of natural habitats. The final network of established and proposed nature reserves (ranked according to the priority of establishment) included the PA listed in Table above.

The report also includes a summary of the legal framework of the nature reserves in Jordan, and it finally presents several recommendations that mainly focus on validating and enhancing the legal framework of the nature reserves in Jordan in order to complete the designation of the non-established protected areas.

The recommendations include:

- To modify the national reserves network based on the results of the review as mentioned before.
- To obtain the support and approval of the Jordanian government of the national nature reserve’s network, and its integration with other national policies and legislations.
- To work with concerned parties to issue legislation that ensures the protection of nature reserves and surrounding buffer zones.
- To issue legislations that ensures the conservation of other ecologically important areas like “Important Bird Areas” and areas of both cultural and ecological importance.

- To seek continuity among nature reserves to create safe wildlife corridors.
- To build the national capacity in fields related to conservation.
- To work with other NGOs to raise the public awareness especially of nature reserves and their benefits.
- To prepare an action plan in order to complete the designation of the proposed sites.
- To provide the financial funds necessary to complete the designation of the proposed sites.
- To develop a monitoring and evaluation strategy in order to ensure that nature reserves will achieve their objectives.

## **Management effectiveness assessment** (summary findings of 2009 report )

Jordan has a national network of protected areas that consists of 16 terrestrial sites and one marine site with a total of 17 sites. To date, eight protected areas were formally established in the country; six of these PAs fall under the direct management of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) and two PAs fall under the direct management of Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZA), these are, respectively: Dana Biosphere Reserve, Mujib Nature Reserve, Azraq Wetland Reserve, Shaumari Wildlife Reserve, Ajloun Forest Reserve, Dibeen Forest Reserve, Wadi Rum Protected Area and Aqaba Marine Park.

After years of protected areas management, it was essential to conduct an evaluation for the management effectiveness of the established PAs; this evaluation was a joint effort between the staff of the s Section at RSCN and ASEZA, including PA managers, rangers and technical staff, in addition to the RSCN Head Quarter team and IUCN-WAME PA specialist.

The evaluation aimed at providing a detailed description of Jordan's current effectiveness in managing PAs, and presenting a set of clear recommendations on how to improve RSCN's and ASEZA's capacity to manage these PAs. The management effectiveness Tracking Tool (TT) that was developed by The International Union for the Conservation of nature (IUCN) was used in this evaluation. The TT elements consist of context, planning, inputs, process, outputs and outcomes. This report presents the detailed analysis of the TT elements and highlights the key management issues for each protected area.

Results of the analysis of TT elements show that the overall TT scores of the PAs ranged between 56 and 83. Azraq had the highest score; 83, followed by Dana and Ajloun, 79. The lowest score (56) was recorded in Shaumari. This indicates an acceptable level of management effectiveness for all sites, with none of the sites actually scoring lower than 56 over 93. This obviously reflects the level of efforts dedicated to conservation and management schemes applied by PA managers of the eight sites. The lowest score was in Shaumari Wildlife Reserve reflects the lower level of resources and programs allocated to this PA including equipment and maintenance status, visitor facilities, research and inventory, budget and its management, local communities involvement, degree of economic benefits directed to local communities and the absence of management planning. The highest score in Azraq Wetland Reserve is due to the optimum staff number and personnel management, the availability of resources, inventory and research, the presence of a workplan and management

plan, good PA design and enforcement activities, the excellent education and awareness program and the PA legal status. Furthermore, there is a comprehensive and integrated socioeconomic program that has a direct benefit to the targeted local communities.

By reviewing the results TT elements analysis, some key management considerations and issues were emerged during the interviews with the PAs' site teams; the report has summarized these considerations and issues and addressed and document for each PA.

At the level of each TT element, in general; the elements of the context are positively influencing the goals of conservation and management of each PA. The highest scores were recorded in Azraq and Dibeen, followed by Rum and Ajloun, while the lowest score was recorded in Mujib. The context of the PAs is considered to be appropriate since all PAs are legally gazetted. The existed PA regulations and information are sufficient to manage the protected areas. The staff at all sites has acceptable capacity and resources to enforce the protected area legislations and regulations. The boundaries of each PA are known by the management authority and the local residents and it is appropriately demarcated. However, PA staff should have not a mandate from the national law to control inappropriate land use activities around the PA boundary.

The analysis of planning showed that the elements of planning are positively influencing the management of the protected areas. The highest scores were recorded in Azraq, Mujib and Ajloun, while the lowest score was recorded in Shaumari Wildlife Reserve. All the evaluated PAs have clear objectives and are managed to meet these objectives with the exception of Shaumari since the PA's objectives have expired and no firm objectives have been developed. Some of the PAs designs need to be reviewed to consider new areas of ecological importance, and most PAs have zoning schemes but it lacks the buffer zone category. The management plans of the PAs' were whether existed, under preparation, expired or not existed as the case in Shaumari. Furthermore; PA managers prepare their own annual work plans and this is considered an important factor that aids and facilitates the implementation of management activities in each site. In general, there is some sort of monitoring and evaluation systems in the evaluated PAs. However, the implementation of these systems is not appropriate and regular as well as the results of M&E are not systematically incorporated in adaptive management processes.

The elements of inputs are considered to be positively influencing the management effectiveness of the protected areas; but some critical elements could be improved such as the current budget and the staff training. The highest scores were recorded in Dibeen, Mujib and Azraq, while the lowest score was recorded in Shaumari. There are regular biological and ecological research programs and activities in most of the

protected areas. The staff numbers in most of the evaluated PAs are adequate for the management needs of the protected areas; however, in Aqaba, Rum and Ajloun PAs, the staff numbers are below the optimum level for critical management activities. Furthermore; the level of staff training could be improved, to accomplish the management objectives of each site, especially among the new staff. All of these mentioned factors are strongly related to the amount of the budget allocated for each site. Generally, the current budget in most of the evaluated PAs is acceptable and secured but could be improved to meet the full management needs. Programs and activities that depend on external funding may consequently face a delay in their implementation as the case in Shaumari, Aqaba and Rum PAs.

The elements of process are considered positively influencing the management of the protected areas. Critical elements, such as the involvement of the local community in the protected area management decisions, should be improved in order to increase the effectiveness of PAs management. The highest scores were recorded in Ajloun, Azraq and Dana while the lowest score was recorded in Shaumari. The results indicate that the requirements for active management of the critical ecosystems and species are being substantially or fully addressed. It is worth mentioning that the requirements for active management of cultural values are not addressed. It has a limited research work in most PAs. Therefore, no conservation plans are being prepared for the cultural sites inside the PAs as the case in Rum and Dana s. In PAs with forested lands, it is important to address the need for improving the fire management planning. The personnel management is considered a positive element that would increase the effectiveness of the protected areas management, since it aids the achievement of major management objectives. However, many issues were addressed by RSCN PA managers during the evaluation such as the lack of incentives, the variation in the salary scale among some functional units and the unclarity in the delegation levels among the PA managers and HQ management. There is a clear link between PA budget allocations and PA management priorities; however, there is some overlapping in responsibility between the accountants of PAs management and RSCN HQ. Regarding PAs equipment, the essential equipment and facilities are in place for most protected areas management. However, the quantity and quality of equipment and facilities require improvement in all sites, especially in Shaumari. The maintenance of these equipment are appropriately maintained but could be improved to overcome the existing gaps, such as the maintenance of buildings, tourism facilities, electricity and vehicles. In general, there is a planned and effective education and awareness program in the PAs and it is fully linked with the objectives and the needs of the PA except in Dana. Each PA has an environmental education officer responsible for developing the education program in close cooperation with RSCN HQ team. For the relationship with state and commercial neighbors, there is a lack of formal mechanism for regular communication and collaboration between PA managers and state and commercial neighbors of PAs.

There are no institutionalized mechanisms for the participation of local communities in PAs decision making process. For tourism management, most protected areas has appropriate cooperation with tourism operators but could be improved to enhance visitors' experience and maintain the PA value.

The elements of outputs are considered positively influencing the management of the protected areas. The highest scores were recorded in Dana, Azraq, Ajloun, Rum and Dibein while the lowest score was recorded in Aqaba . Analyzing the elements of outputs indicated that in most PAs the management and communication system has been able to share information and build adequate relations with related parties and local communities. Most PAs have a community welfare programs linked to protected area conservation objectives, such as adequate job opportunities directed to the targeted local communities and other income generation activities in addition to other benefits that are provided by RSCN and ASEZA. Moreover there are fees for visiting the protected areas that help in providing revenue for each PA, these fees help PAs to be financially self sustainable and increase the management effectiveness. The visitor facilities and services at most PAs are adequate for the current levels of visitation, but could be improved to control the increasing pressure of visitors.

The elements of outcomes are considered positively influencing the management of the protected areas. The highest scores were recorded in Rum, Mujib and Dana while the lowest score was recorded in Dibben and Aqaba. In general, the main elements of biodiversity in the PAs are considered to be healthy and well-conserved although there is a number of external challenges and pressure. However at most PAs, some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded but most important values have not been significantly impacted. In terms of access control, the protection systems in most PAs are considered moderately to largely effective in controlling access or use of the PA in accordance with designated objectives, However; there are some violations at most sites, but these violations are being controlled by the onsite enforcement teams. The level of the economic benefits derived to the local communities as a result of the existence of the protected area is considered to be moderate at some sites such as Aqaba, Shaumari and Dibein, and significant at the other sites, which indicates that the existing activities in or around the PAs are providing proper employment and allocating part of the fees to the local communities as the case in Rum

The report has suggested a number of recommendations that should be addressed to overcome some problems that constrains the management effectiveness. These recommendations include; ratifying officially the national network of protected areas and addressing it in the national land use strategies and action plan and protecting it from any inappropriate land use form, finalizing the conservation bylaws, hunting bylaws and

PA national policies, developing a comprehensive research and conservation action plans for cultural sites and conducting more research on economic and social aspects, improving the fire management planning and developing a strong cooperation with MOA, reviewing PA zoning plans to have a designated buffer zone around its boundaries and a legal pack up should be attained for these zones, improving the involvement of main stakeholders in management planning, Reviewing and strengthening the management plan monitoring and evaluation systems in order to systematically provide a continuous and constructive feedback to PA manager, building more the capacity of PAs staff in the field of nature conservation, PA patrolling and violation reporting, ecotourism and costumer services, eco-guiding, socio-economic development and PAs' financial sustainability, allocating more budget to development needs for each PA, developing and implementing a comprehensive awareness program targeting influential parties in order to raise their awareness and strengthen their role in implementing the laws and bylaws to attain appropriate land use control.

**Sustainable finance assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

**RSCN has made a sustainable financing assessment for each PA**

**Capacity needs assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

**Policy environment assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

**Protected area integration and mainstreaming assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

**Protected area valuation assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

**Climate change resilience and adaptation assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

(Insert other assessment results if available)