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Published by: IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Produced by: IUCN Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA), Amman, Jordan.

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Design and layout: Razan Baqain, IUCN ROWA.

Printed by: Doculand Print & Copy Center (A4/ inside paper 160g with cover 300g)
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CHAPTER 1:
A WORD FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR
When we embark on a new year full of new challenges, we pause to reflect on the previous year, appreciating the lessons we have learned, the experiences we’ve underwent, as well as, the new journeys we have encountered.

We have witnessed so many catastrophes and calamities in recent years that we were left wondering if things will ever get better. We understood that if we want to see change, we must take action!

With the assistance of our powerful network of Members, partners and donors, the IUCN West Asia Office (ROWA) has adopted this approach to enhance the living circumstances of local communities while simultaneously working to increase biodiversity and natural resources in the area and throughout the world.

I also have the distinct pleasure of sharing some of ROWA’s outstanding accomplishments from the previous year with our esteemed network of colleagues. Knowing that this is my forth year as IUCN ROWA Regional Director, I could not be more delighted of what we have achieved in the previous year in terms of preservation and conservation.

ROWA’s four thematic programmes have worked in coordination and harmony to implement many projects throughout the region, as well as mobilize hundreds of partners, stakeholders, and donors to help protect our environment and achieve our mission and mandate of preserving and conserving our valuable ecosystems in the West Asia region.

Our efforts and interventions would not have been implemented without the cooperation of grassroots local communities in devising and managing sustainable solutions for the benefit of their lands and natural resources.

I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to all of our Members, partners, donors, and my incredible team of staff for their outstanding support and goodwill in assisting in the protection of our environment and the remolding of the worldwide mounting dangers.

Dr. Hany El Shaer
Regional Director
IUCN Regional Office for West Asia
CHAPTER 2: ABOUT IUCN
IUCN AT A GLANCE

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, with its Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, was created in 1948 as a membership organization. IUCN is the world’s first and largest global environmental network. By harnessing the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,400 Member organisations and the input of some 15,000 experts, IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

IUCN seeks to help the world find pragmatic solutions to the most pressing environmental and sustainable development challenges. It also provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge, tools and projects that enable societies, economies and nature to thrive together. These include data, assessments and analysis, trusted standards, neutral convening fora, and capacity-building resources.
The IUCN Regional Office for West Asia was established in 2004 in Amman, Jordan.

The IUCN West Asian region comprises of 13 countries including Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Iran in addition to the Gulf countries including Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

IUCN ROWA aims to be active in all 13 countries in various conservation and sustainable development activities. The critical issues facing the region are:

- Land degradation, aridity and desertification;
- Unsustainable water extraction and use;
- Biodiversity and habitat loss, and species extinction;
- Threats to sensitive marine ecosystems through pollution, habitat destruction, Invasive Alien Species, and unplanned coastal development;
ROWA’S TEAM

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NUMBER OF STAFF BY GENDER AND TYPE OF CONTRACT 2022

Total IUCN ROWA Staff

18 Male Staff Members
19 Female Staff Members
6 Senior Managers
Retention Rates

- 81.1%
- 18.9%
- 13.5%

Turnover Ratio

- 86.5%

Permanent Staff
Temporary Staff (Interns)
CHAPTER 3:
MEMBERSHIP & COMMISSIONS
MEMBERS

IUCN ROWA is only as strong as the undivided power of its Members. We are proud that over the past 10 years we have seen a substantial growth in the numbers of our Members in the region, from 32 Members in 2010 to 77 Members by the end of 2022. Our Members benefit from the technical support in the field of environment, the knowledge sharing and the calls for consultancies that IUCN ROWA provides them with, in addition to the numerous events and initiatives that happen in collaboration with our Members.

In 2022, there were 77 Members in West Asia classified in the following categories:

- **06** State Members
- **13** Government Agencies
- **58** National Non-Governmental Organisations
- **01** Regional Committee
- **05** National Committees
- **03** Regional Councillors
- **339** Commission members

GROWTH OF WEST ASIA MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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LIST OF WEST ASIA MEMBERS

• Al Shouf Cedar Society
• Arab Group for the Protection of Nature
• Arab Women Organization of Jordan
• Arab Women Water Energy Environment Network Association
• Association for Forests, Development and Conservation
• Association for the Development of Rural Capacities
• Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa
• Bahrain Women Association - for Human Development
• Basmet Elkhair Women Charity Association
• Biodiversity and Environmental Research Center
• Center for Conservation and Development of Sustainable Ecosystems
• Dibeen Association for Environmental Development
• Echo of Persia Wildlife
• Emirates Nature in association with WWF
• Environment Society of Oman
• Friends of Nature Association
• Future Pioneers for Empowering Communities’ Members in the Environmental and Educational Fields
• GHADI
• Green Hand
• Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia
• Horizon for a Green Environment
• International Research Center for Water, Environment, and Energy
• Iranian Cheetah Society
• Jordan BirdWatch Association
• Jordan Environment Society
• Jordan Environmental union
• Jordan Outdoor Sports Association
• Jordan Society for the Conservation of Turtles & Tortoises
• Jordanian Beekeeper’s Union
• Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Badia Development
• Jordanian Society for Organic Farming
• Kuwait Environment Protection Society
• Kuwait Water Association
• Land Research Center
• Lebanon Reforestation Initiative
• Mada Association
• Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
• Nature Iraq Organization

• Operation Big Blue Association
• Palestine Wildlife Society
• Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation
• Plan for the Land Society
• Princess Alia Foundation
• Royal Botanic Garden
• Royal Scientific Society / National Energy Research Center
• Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature
• Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon
• Sustainability Foundation for Nature Conservation
• The Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem Society
• The Environmental Education Center of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
• The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development
• The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan
• The Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife
• Union of Agricultural work Committee
• University of Jordan
• WADI for Sustainable Ecosystem Development NGO
• West Asia - North Africa (WANA) Institute
• Window to Environment Association
• Environment Authority
• Environment Public Authority
• Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
• Ministry of Environment
• The Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture
• The Supreme Council for Environment
• Al Ain Zoo
• Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority
• Centre for Restoration of the Iraqi Marshlands and Wetlands
• Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve
• Environment Agency Abu Dhabi
• Environmental Sciences Department
• International Fund For Houbara Conservation
• King Abdulaziz Royal Reserve Development Authority
• Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
• National Center for Research and Development
• Petra Development Tourism Regional Authority
• Royal Commission for AlUla
• National Council for Scientific Research - Lebanon

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IUCN COMMISSIONS FOCUS ON:

- Driving change through leading communication, learning and knowledge.
- Promoting ecosystem-based approaches for the management of landscapes and seascapes.
- Harmonising nature conservation and the critical social, cultural, environmental, and economic justice concerns of human societies.
- Influencing, encouraging and assisting societies to conserve biodiversity by building knowledge on the status and threats to species.
- Advancing environmental law to strengthen the legal foundations of conservation of nature and sustainable development.
- Developing knowledge-based policy, advice and guidance on the full suite of issues surrounding protected areas.

The West Asia Arabian Plant Specialist Group (WAAPSG) is the successor of the Arabian Plant Species Specialist Group (APSG) that was active since 1996. The WAAPSG covers West Asia, a region including Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

The main objective of WAAPSG is to agree on standards and protocols for individual countries to achieve targets for the conservation and preservation of their plant diversity and ensure regional consistency in its approach and sharing data for the benefit of all.

WEST ASIA COUNCILLORS

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Dr Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri
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Dr Ayman Rabi
Executive Director, Palestinian Hydrology Group, Palestine
CHAPTER 4:
WORK PROGRAMMES & ACHIEVEMENTS
WORK PROGRAMMES & ACHIEVEMENTS

IUCN works to protect ecosystems, promote the sustainable use of landscapes and advance justice and equity in conservation. As well as, to conserve coastal, marine and polar ecosystems, and the many benefits they provide for humanity and works to provide everyone with fair access to clean water, and to protect the freshwater ecosystems on which humanity depends.

In addition to, equality and equity underpin sustainable development. IUCN works to enhance the agency of all those who are marginalised. Moreover, IUCN monitors the impacts of climate change on nature, and guides the conservation and restoration of ecosystems to help mitigate and adapt to it.

IUCN's membership, which comprises States, government agencies, and national and international non-governmental and indigenous peoples' organisations, approves a Programme once every four years, accompanied by a statutory four-year Financial Plan. The IUCN Programme defines broad areas of work and sets aspirational targets as well as indicators to measure success.

The IUCN Programme marks the culmination of many years of deliberation across the Union. IUCN Nature 2030 Programme, for the first time, sets its ambition in a decadal time-frame (2021–2030) and is a call for mobilisation to the entire Union, through a high-level, strategic document that includes and invites contributions from the IUCN Members, Commissions and Secretariat.
We are currently living in the sixth mass extinction. Species are being lost at an alarming rate.

Protected areas guard critical habitats for species so that they can thrive in nature, unimpacted by human disturbance.

The IUCN ROWA Protected Areas, Biodiversity and World Heritage Programme with its three thematic areas works in harmony to help ecosystems be resilient and continue to secure the variety of life in West Asia.

The Protected Areas Programme’s main responsibilities in West Asia region:

- Conserve key elements of biodiversity and plays a significant role in social and economic development.
- Engage the business sector in the global and regional movement towards biodiversity nature conservation.
- Support the World Heritage-related activities in the Arab States as part of the broader framework of IUCN's Global World Heritage Programme.
- Facilitate the implementation of IUCN's global initiatives like the IUCN Green List for Protected and Conserved Areas in the West Asia Region.
The Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun Protected Areas management has been successfully strengthened to protect biodiversity against various threats. The project effectively encouraged community involvement, capacity building, and gender equality, resulting in improved effectiveness. The project successfully achieved its objective of enhancing the management effectiveness of the Wadi El-Rayan and Qarun Protected Areas in Egypt by strengthening their management capacities to protect threatened and important species and their habitats. This was achieved through two components: the management capacities were strengthened, and effective community participation was established in the management and conservation of natural resources in the protected areas.

**This objective was achieved through the following components:**

**Component 1:** Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.

**Component 2:** Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.

**Project implemented by:** UN Environment Programme.

**Project executed by:** IUCN ROWA in collaboration with The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA).

**Project funded by:** The Global Environment Facility (GEF).
PROJECT’S ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Consolidated communications between EEAA and IUCN ROWA through establishing reliable communication channels.

- Provided EEAA with eighty complete sets of field staff uniforms, including; two shirts, two trousers, a vest and shoes, which were designed and tailored to the needs and sizes of the staff already existing without excluding the ones yet to join.

- Organized a comprehensive training for EEAA field staff, which included topics such as; Microsoft Office, computer software/hardware maintenance, Photoshop cc2022, video editing, social media, and training on English language, levels one, two and three, after which the participants’ performance was tested and certified.

- Organized a specialized training on the use of the computer programs ARCH-GIS for EEAA field staff, which was done on location using the equipment and licensed programs that were previously provided through this project.
The project aims at reviewing and updating the protected areas network in the State of Palestine using systematic conservation planning principles, IUCN’s guidelines and CBD protected area design criteria to achieve a connected, representative, efficient, and climate-resilient network of protected areas.

**Project implemented and executed by:** IUCN ROWA in collaboration with The Palestinian Environment Quality Authority (EQA).

**Project funded by:** Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).
PROJECT'S ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Conducting a review and update of the protected areas network for Palestine using Marxan systematic conservation planning software. The review was done in extensive collaboration with the EQA and other stakeholders, and resulted in a network on 27 sites covering 10% of the West Bank. Field validation of the proposed protected areas network was done in collaboration with the University of Bethlem from Palestine.

- A stakeholder workshop was conducted in which IUCN and its implementing partner the University of Bethlem, presented the findings of the validation of the protected areas network.

- A workshop was conducted in Palestine with the support of SSC for stakeholders interested in plant conservation. The workshop aimed to enhance local capacities in plant conservation and to create a working group for plant conservation in Palestine that helps updating National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

- A training on integrated management of protected areas was held targeting national stakeholders, academia and NGOs involved in PA planning and management. The training involved a field visit to Ajloun Forest Reserve in Jordan to showcase the integrated management of this Green listed site.
Through this two-year partnership project, IUCN and RCU are addressing key threats affecting AlUla’s natural resources, and strengthening the socio-economic and environmental benefits arising from sound protection and management of AlUla’s protected areas in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. AlUla Protected Areas Network (PAN) project supports the governance and management of AlUla’s biodiversity and protected areas in accordance with IUCN’s international standards and best practices. The project goal is to create an operational network of protected and conserved areas for AlUla that achieves international standards for fair and effective governance and management, delivers tangible benefits for people and nature, and contributes to AlUla’s strategic development and Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030.

The project focuses on delivering more than 80 activities and sub-activities from six components:
1) Legal framework for diverse governance and management of protected and conserved areas.
2) Strategic design of AlUla PAN.
3) Ecosystem rehabilitation and support for species reintroductions.
4) Technology solutions for protected and conserved areas.
5) Capacity development.
6) Effective management of protected and conserved areas.

Project implemented and executed by: IUCN ROWA.
Project funded by: The Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU).
PROJECT’S ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Establishing a permanent presence in AlUla, with two newly appointed IUCN staff.
- Applying the IUCN Green List Standard IBEX benchmarking tool and assessing AlUla’s six nature reserves (First time that this innovative tool is applied in West Asia).
- Identifying AlUla’s six reserves management categories.
- Conducting a comprehensive system-level governance assessment and reviewing process of existing and proposed options for legal and institutional frameworks to support the network of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in AlUla.
- Undertaking an analysis of training needs, and designing a competence model for RCU Nature team, including rangers.
- Starting a system-wide biodiversity and threat assessment in AlUla PAs.
This project aims to identify (KBAs) in the UAE following the Global Standard for the Identification of KBAs as sites of importance for global persistence of biodiversity. The project produced a KBA report and multi-proposal package for the UAE in extensive collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE) and local biodiversity experts.

This project provides fundamental information to UAE decision-makers and helps achieve the following:

• Mapping potentially sensitive areas that need to be considered and integrated in UAE development strategies and planning processes.
• Supporting the private and financial sectors in managing their environmental risks related to biodiversity impact.
• Identifying potential sites to be included in protected area (PA) systems or covered by other area-based conservation measures.
• Monitoring progress towards global and national biodiversity targets.

**Project implemented and executed by:** IUCN ROWA in collaboration with IUCN Global Species Programme and IUCN Mediterranean Cooperation Centre.

**Project funded by:** UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE).
PROJECT’S ACHIEVEMENTS:

Preparing the KBA report and multi-site proposal forms for the proposed UAE KBA sites. Currently, we are in the process of submitting the multi-site proposals to the KBA Secretariat. The KBA Secretariat will review the multi-site proposal and the approved sites will be reflected in the World Database for Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA).
Iraq is a vast, biodiversity-rich and biogeographically diverse country. The country has recently suffered from decades of conflicts, wars, sanctions which resulted in severe environmental degradation. The country’s development agenda is therefore, focused on re-establishing security and reconstruction. In this context, Biodiversity conservation and protected areas establishment was not given priority in recent years.

The main objective of this project is to develop and establish a national network of protected areas in Iraq with both long and short-term implementation strategy and action plan. The project also involves pilot implementation in two protected areas namely Teeb and Dalmaj Protected Areas.

**Project implemented by:** UN Environment Programme in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Environment and IUCN ROWA.

**Project funded by:** The Global Environment Facility (GEF).
PROJECT’S ACHIEVEMENTS:

• A national report entitled *Protected Areas Network design for Iraq* was completed, which covers the PA review process for Iraq and the resulting network. The report is currently in the final review and publishing process.

• Developing factsheets for Teeb and Dalamaj PAs in Arabic which were translated to English.

• A publication entitled *Protected Areas Management Effectiveness guidelines for Iraq* was completed and is in the peer review process.

• Developing a website for the Protected Areas Network in Iraq in both English and Arabic languages (Click here: AR, EN). A training was conducted for the Ministry’s staff for the administration and management of the site.

• *Guidelines for Protected Areas Managers* were developed, and they are currently in the review and design process.

• An assessment of the management effectiveness and operation of Teeb and Dalmaj protected areas using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT-4) was initiated to assess the impact of the project on enhancing management effectiveness of the PAs.
Biodiversity monitoring and documentation are important because they provide basis for evaluating the integrity of ecosystems, their responses to disturbances, and the success of actions taken to conserve or recover biodiversity. The project aims to document biodiversity elements in Kuwait referring to published literature, previous records and updating existing data through field and gap filling surveys. The project also aims at raising the capacity of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) staff in biodiversity research and introducing them to modern research techniques and procedures. The outcomes of this project are expected to contribute in establishing a biodiversity database that will enhance the decision-making process related to protected areas and biodiversity conservation.

**Project implemented by:** IUCN ROWA.
**Project funded by:** The Environment Public Authority (EPA).
PROJECT’S ACHIEVEMENTS:

Publishing the following reports:

- Conservation directory of the birds of Kuwait.
- Fishes of the State of Kuwait.
- Vegetation of the State of Kuwait.
- Mammals of the State of Kuwait.
- Reptiles and amphibians of the State of Kuwait.
- The common insects of the State of Kuwait.
The programme works to ensure that coastal and marine ecosystems are restored and maintained, and that any use of their resources is sustainable and equitable. It focuses on consolidating assessments on West Asia status-quo with regard to marine and coastal zone ecosystem management. It establishes a functioning network of marine and coastal management at the regional level and addresses the global threats of ocean acidification, invasive species, loss of habitat due to ever expanding urbanization and coastal development coupled with various impacts of climate change.

Over the past year the work was mostly focused in Lebanon supporting rational initiatives to conserve biological integrity of the marine and coastal areas, integrating the Nature-based Solutions into the coastal sustainable development plans. We have provided adequate tools and technical support to establish scientific knowledge and evidence to influence national decision-makers.
The project involves different stakeholders and actors and aims at reducing the vulnerability of selected coastal towns in Lebanon, which are facing crucial sustainability issues, and improve marine protected areas as ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation.

The project also applies a mix of tools and approaches to enable key conservation functions, sustainable management of ecosystems, adaptation to climate change, and increase capacity to manage natural resources. The project provided innovative tools used for the first time in Lebanon which have helped the national authorities to improve their data collection gaps and boosted their capacity for improved modelling and monitoring.

**Project implemented and executed by:** IUCN ROWA.
**Project funded by:** Royal Norwegian Embassy of Beirut.
PROJECT’S ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Improving climate change planning in Lebanon through an online database for climate change study results accessible to stakeholders.
- Support local government in better developing mitigation and adaptation plans through review the current governmental plans and provide feedback based on the Nature-based solution framework.
- Support local government in better monitoring fishing activities through repair and maintenance of patrolling the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) boats.
- Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (IVMS) test trials in Lebanon though testing of prototype for local network and software Compatibility and conduct training of MoA staff on the use of the IVMS and data interpretation.
- Publishing the *Eastern Mediterranean fish field guide*.
- Publishing the first *National fisheries fish spawning calendar for Lebanon*.
- Cooperation protocol with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Cooperation protocol with the National Center for Scientific Research.
- Twinning agreement between Lebanese and Turkish MPAs.
- Updated national action for the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS).
- Develop an online course on “Ocean Governance and Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Lebanon”.
- Compiling a climate change study data and sharing it with peer reviewers for review to get it published in the IUCN library database.
The Middle East and North Africa is the world’s most water-scarce region and the situation is worsening due to the impacts of conflict, climate change and economic downturn. The water crisis threatens the region’s stability as well as its human development and sustainable growth. The Water and Climate Change Programme, in essence promotes good water and climate change governance in the region. It assists countries to strengthen their national capacities to revise existing and/or adopt new legal frameworks for the management of water resources in a sustainable manner and help manage nature resources.

This programme itself, directly contributes to the Global Water Programme; a worldwide effort of IUCN to implement a systemic approach to water management. This enables Members in the region to benefit from the experience and expertise available worldwide. This programme gives important attention to engage local communities in the planning and decision-making processes. At the same time all other relevant stakeholders are involved in a process of dialogue and concerted action. For this, the projects under this programme will importantly build on participatory planning and decision-making and the use of systemic approaches.
This project establishes the framework for the cooperation between WFP and IUCN for the implementation of output 4 of the WFP, FAO, and IFAD project entitled: “Enhancing resilient livelihoods and food security of host communities and Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon through the promotion of sustainable agricultural development”, funded by EU-MADAD.

The plan of operations regulates the terms and conditions governing the implementation of forestry and rangeland activities through the Food Assistance for Assets Creation (FFA) modality noting that MoA remains the main counterpart with a supervisory and advisory role.
THE THREE MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS FLA WHICH ARE:

A. Forestry Activities: establishing new forests in six different locations (Wasfi Al Tal – Balqa, Mastaba & Ballila – Jaresh, and Kofer Awan – Irbid), the planting area is 10 ha in each location include installing a water tank with irrigation network. Furthermore, maintenance activities will be implemented in the selected forests such as (cleaning, trimming, pruning, maintain/create water harvesting lines, removal weeds. etc.).

B. Rangeland Activities: establishing rangeland’s areas in four different locations (Bie’eh, Sharif – Karak, Ma’en – Madaba, and Hima – Zarqa), the planting area will be 50, 50, 50, and 30 ha respectively.

C. Community Capacity Building Activities: Community engagement activities will be conducted through awareness campaigns and workshops. Which will also include training for the communities on assets management, awareness sessions on environmental safeguards, and experience sharing among the communities.

A new amendment to the project was created to extend the area for extra 40 ha in all forestry locations Ballila, Mastaba, Kufr Awan and Wasfi Altal, and another 100 ha in three rangelands Locations Al Shraif, Al be’aah and Maeen.

Project implemented and executed by: IUCN ROWA.
Project funded by: World Food Programme (WFP)
PROJECT’S ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 8,690 holes prepared
- 3,750 seedlings were planted
- 4 hectares
- 47 participants

- 15,395 holes prepared
- 7,500 seedlings were planted
- 7.5 hectares
- 67 participants

- 10,966 holes prepared
- 6,490 seedlings were planted
- 6.5 hectares
- 42 participants

- 8,564 holes prepared
- 5,510 seedlings were planted
- 5.5 hectares
- 58 participants

- 16,000 holes prepared
- 4,000 seedlings were planted
- 71 participants

- 16,400 holes prepared
- 1,050 seedlings were planted
- 71 participants

- 12,000 holes prepared
- 8,600 seedlings were planted
- 87 participants

Forestry Activities:
- Wasfi Altal
- Mastaba
- Balila
- Kufuor Awan

Rangeland Activities:
- Ma’een
- Al Shraieef
- Al Bie’ah

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The proposed project would serve a good percentage of the Northern Jordanian Highlands, specifically, the northeastern Badia of Jordan. Around 1,400 square kilometers of irrigated farmland. In addition, the area includes five wastewater treatment plants (Az Zatari, Ramtha, As Samra, Al al-Bayt University, and Mafraq WWTP) representing around 90% of all wastewater treatment capacity in the country. Two river basins (Amman-Zarqa basin and Azraq basin) also run through the selected region towards Azraq and King Talal dams downstream to the West. The area was selected due to the high number of potential Syrian and Jordanian beneficiaries, availability of land and water resources (conventional and unconventional), potential for year-round income generation through farming and supporting activities, presence of active potential academic and civil society partners, and the ability to benefit from previous work completed or being supported by other donors.
PROJECT’S MAIN GOALS:

1. Increase income of vulnerable groups.
2. Increase community resilience to climate change.
3. Improve women income by Home Based Businesses (HBBs).
4. Improve work conditions of the farm’s worker.


Project Executed by: IUCN ROWA.

Project Funded By: French Development Agency.
PROJECT’S ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Finalizing the rehabilitation of 69 farms.
- Completion of support interventions to 304 Home Based Businesses.
- Selection of the second batch of farms and Home Based Businesses.
- Completion of rehabilitation interventions and support of 1 processing facility.
- Installation of solar energy systems in two factories.
- Conduction of 45 sessions of best practices trainings.
- Conducting a Bazar for selling the products of the Home Based Businesses.
- Participation in the Jordan National Olive Festival.
- Signing agreements & Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 5 parties (Through Smart DESERT Company).
- Launching the Business Support Incubator in NARC Station/ Bagaa.
- Launching The Smart DESERT Company.
- Completion of the training of 7,308 trainees.
- Reaching out to the total number of 4536 women under the project.

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The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is the most water-scarce region in the world. Throughout the MENA region both surface and groundwater resources are under pressure and over exploited because of increasing water demand. Agriculture is by far the largest user of water and is a major cause of depleted aquifers, rivers and reservoirs. Across the region agriculture comprises around 65% or more of total water demand and competes for water with other sectors (industry, services, residential). Unsustainable land management practices, including mechanized mono-agriculture and overgrazing, have severely degraded large areas of land, reducing rainwater retention and infiltration and increasing surface runoff and erosion. Climate change (the MENA Region is facing a possible 4 degree increase in the future and increasing precipitation variability) will exacerbate the challenges of future water resource management by, amongst other things, increasing water demand and increasing the frequency and severity of droughts and floods.

With the support of a GBP 5m grant over 5-years, the long-term goal of the Al Murunah project – building climate resilience through enhanced water security in MENA – is: to increase water security in the MENA region through the integration of Nature-Based Solutions for Water (NBSW) and Agricultural Water Management (AWM) in the face of climate change and land degradation. To this end, the programme will strengthen, empower and catalyse national capacities for the implementation and up-scaling of integrated NBSW/AWM through a transformational change process and by developing action-oriented field examples and recommendations that overcome technical and non-technical barriers to uptake and long-term sustainability of NBSW/AWM. It will generate evidence and understanding of the contribution NBSW/AWM can make to sustainably increase water security.
Implemented by the MENA Regional Office of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in partnership with IUCN, the central premise of this project is that appropriately designed on-the-ground NBSW and AWM interventions can, in tandem, enhance water security in the agricultural regions of the Middle East, thereby increasing the resilience of households and communities.

**Project implemented by:** IUCN ROWA and International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

**Project funded by:** Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).
The project sites have been finally identified in all countries, namely Wadi Al-Seer in Jordan, Ras Baalbek in Lebanon, Umm Al-Matamir in Egypt and Al-Fara’a in Palestine.

The identification of the target communities and the analysis of the project partners have been completed and identified based on the scope and objectives of the project.

All the baseline assessment studies have been done, which are the hydrological, socio-economical and climate change impact assessment, as well as, predesigning Nature-based Solutions interventions.
The Mediterranean Region (MedRegion) is facing growing challenges to ensure food and water security in a sustainable way as countries experience an increasing demand and decreasing availability of supplies. Climate change, population growth, urbanization and environmental deterioration are further exacerbating this situation. In this context, the nexus approach aims at managing conflicts, trade-offs and leveraging synergies across sectors, driving towards an efficient, integrated use and management of the Nexus between Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems (WEFE) generating at the same time economic, environmental and societal benefits. WEFE analysis must include ecosystem services considering its crucial relation to ecosystems and the key link between policies and practices, understood as WEFE paradigm to connect social dimension-people with specific trade-offs.

BONEX aims to catalyse actions for WEFE related solutions by improving policies and governance and their implementation in practice. For that purpose, the project aims to produce a novel, robust, transdisciplinary and diagnostic WEFE Bridging Framework to serve the production of context-specific Nexus Bridging Plans (NBPs) tailored to different technologies and its combination (e.g. solar irrigation, water reuse) and socioeconomic context across the MedRegion. The framework combines methods in a context-specific manner, mobilizing transdisciplinary collaboration to go beyond disciplinary silos and integrate system, practice and transformation knowledge (Pahl-Wostl, 2020). The framework and innovative Nexus solution approaches will be iteratively developed and tested in 7 carefully selected Demonstration Projects (DP) covering a diversity of MedRegion situations and challenges, to ensure that results are truly replicable and that wide socio-ecological and cultural diversity of the MedRegion is considered. BONEX framework and NBPs will be developed throughout multi-actor processes, with close collaboration of all value chain relevant actors, such as researchers, farmers’ organizations, businesses in the agro-food chain, public administration, technology providers, civil society organizations, and consumers.

Project implemented by: Bioazul S.L. (BIOAZUL), Universidad de Córdoba (UCO), FutureWater (FW), University of Almeria (UAL), Universität Kassel (UNI Kassel), Consorzio della Bonifica Renana (CBR), Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna (UNIBO), German Jordanian University (GJU), IUCN, NovaEnergia SAL (NE), American University of Beirut (AUB), Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV), Natural Business Intelligence (NBI), Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, SMART LOGGER SARL (SL), National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry (INRGREF).

Project funded by: PRIMA-EU.
PROJECT’S ACHIEVEMENTS:

The project is still in the beginning stage. IUCN’s part is to implement the demonstration site in Wadi Mujeb, and this requires more time for design and plan in collaboration with the German Jordan University team in Jordan.

On December 15th, 2022, German Jordanian University hosted the First Stakeholders Project Workshop. The workshop was organized by the German Jordanian University and by IUCN ROWA. The workshop was the first event in the frame of the BONEX project, which is funded by the EU-Foundation “Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)”. In Jordan, the BONEX project has a specific focus on the Wadi Mujib Basin, and has the ambition to explore and develop specific solutions promoting the linking of governance with practice to overcome barriers to WEFE (water, energy, food, ecosystem) nexus and policies. The demonstration site is expected to be finalized at the end of April 2023.
Zarqa Ma’in Dam is relatively a newly established dam, where it has begun water storage in 2017. This provides a great opportunity to implement measures that can protect the dam structure from soil erosion, enhance water storage capacities, increase the life expectancy of the dam and support beneficiaries in the long term. The dam does not contain flushing gates to help reduce sedimentation, and therefore it is important to implement this project because of the activities that reduce soil erosion. Zarqa Ma’in watershed serves several villages and host communities, where Syrian refugees survive. The poverty rate is very high and many of these villages are considered a poverty pocket. Therefore, providing short-term employment opportunities and sustainable agriculture business opportunities are vital to enhance livelihood. Moreover, the capacity building programmes that IUCN will apply will help enabling the host community and Syrian refugees to increase their chances to find other job opportunities.

Project Overall Goal: Improve the living conditions of the Jordanian host communities and Syrian refugees by creating job opportunities to reduce soil erosion and minimize yearly evaporation in the Zarqa Ma’in Dam.
THE PLANNED INTERVENTIONS FOR GIZ PROJECT INCLUDE:

1. Improve host community and Syrian refugees’ livelihood, skills and capacities by creating 395 short-term job opportunities.

2. Implementing measures to reduce soil erosion and to engage local community.
   - Implementing Gabions (2400 m³) & Riprap (200 m²).
   - Clean and rehabilitating existing irrigation canal.
   - Constructing 5 water troughs for watering local cattle.
   - Implementing afforestation (7 ha).
   - Implementing rangeland rehabilitation (5 ha).

3. Floating Shade Balls Technique to reduce evaporation.
   - Implementing shade balls techniques to cover 14% of the Zarqa Ma’in dam lake.

THIS PROJECT AIMS TO ACHIEVE THREE MAIN SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- **Objective (1):** Improve host communities and Syrian refugees’ livelihood by creating 375 short-term employment opportunities (24% women), and 48 sustainable agricultural business opportunities (33% women). (50% Jordanian and 50% Syrian refugees).
- **Objective (2):** Reduce the impact of sedimentation and soil erosion by regulating and controlling floods to the dam through planting 7,500 seedlings and constructing 3,000 M³ gabion baskets.
- **Objective (3):** Reduce evaporation in the Zarqa Ma’in Dam lake by adopting new innovative techniques through shading 10% of the dam lake surface, which will result in saving around 280 m³/week.
- **Objective (4):** Rehabilitate the existing water canal alongside the downstream of the dam.
- **Objective (5):** Conduct a capacity building programme targeting 398 participants from the Zarqa Ma’in catchment area.
The programme aims to rehabilitate the West Asian drylands (mainly rangelands) by applying Nature-based Solutions for improved livelihoods, enhanced biodiversity, and sustained ecosystem services production such as fodder, food, medicinal plants, water purification, and carbon sequestration.

The programme stresses better participatory management, gender equality, and integration of local communities. During the past 12 years, several projects were implemented in collaboration with key donors, partners, and stakeholders. In addition, the programme promotes and revives the ALHima approach, which was practiced thousands of years ago by tribes. sustainable natural resources management through promoting the ALHima approach, which aims to promote the community-based management of rangelands.

The key approaches of the programme are as follows:

- **Sustainable rangelands management (SRM):** is the use of the rangeland’s resources, including soils, water, animals, and plants for the production of goods and services to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions.

- **The Nature-based Solutions (NbS):** are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human-well being and biodiversity benefits.

- **Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA):** is a Nature-based solution that harnesses biodiversity and ecosystem services to reduce vulnerability and build resilience to climate change.
The Drylands, Livelihood & Gender programme’s projects progress
In the loving memory of our dear colleague, friend and brother.

AMER
ALME’ADAT

Eng. Amer Al Me’adat, Project Coordinator of the Dryland, Livelihoods and Gender Programme at IUCN ROWA, who passed away on 22 May 2022, during the Hima field visit, due to health complications.

Amer was and always will be a member of the IUCN family, and will always be remembered for his kind heart, his work ethics, his generosity, and his beautiful spirit, that always managed to bring so much light and joy to others around him.

The IUCN family is grieved by the passing of Amer, and hopes that he will always be remembered as a pillar in IUCN, and the Dryland, Livelihoods and Gender Programme. We thank Amer for all his contributions and achievements during his time with IUCN, and for his tremendous efforts for over 10 years before his passing.

Amer passed away doing what he loved, and we will make it our mission to make his life’s visions come true.
May your beautiful soul rest in eternal peace Amer, you will be greatly missed.
HERD project is a four-year project that aims to strengthen the restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in Egypt and Jordan and catalyzing scale-up regionally and globally. The project components that grouped under four Components that focus on the following: (1) Provision of evidence-based technical assistance; (2) Institutional strengthening for rangeland governance; (3) Up-scaling of good practices in sustainable rangeland management (SRM); and (4) Promoting SRM knowledge management, including at the global and regional levels.

The outcomes of the projects are: outcome 1.1) Rangeland monitoring systems institutionalized nationally and regionally based on commonly agreed scale-dependent indicators appropriate for different end-user groups; outcome 1.2) Good practices and effective policies in sustainable rangeland management and rangeland rehabilitation identified and prioritized for implementation; outcome 2.1) Local organisations for rangeland management (community and government) engage in more inclusive dialogue for improved rangeland governance covering approximately 500,000 hectares; outcome 2.2) Participating communities use PRMP to guide the establishment of rules and regulations for improved rangelands management (in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure); outcome 3.1) Local farmers / pastoralists adopt good practices in rangeland restoration and management and supporting services with support from local government agencies; and outcome 4.1) Increased support for sustainable pastoralism in investments and public decision/policy-making, nationally, regionally and globally.

**Project implemented by:** UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
**Project executed by:** IUCN ROWA.
**Project partners are:** From Jordan: the Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia (HFD JB), the Royal Botanic Garden (RBG), Ministry of Environment. From Egypt: the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Desert Research Centre (DRC), Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, and Lands Reclamation.
**Project funded by:** Global Environmental Facility (GEF).
PROJECT’S ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Approximately 950 ha have been restored in Jordan and Egypt by native pastoral species such as Atriplex spp and Artemisia spp.
- Training programmes were organized such as remote sensing and GIS, Participatory Rangeland Management and Planning (PRMP), Participatory Rangeland and Grassland Assessment Methodology (PRAGA), and sustainable rangelands management (SRM).
- Support the rehabilitation of vet clinics and veterinary campaigns in Jordan and Egypt.
- In addition to baseline assessment studies such as gender, socio-economic studies and landscape detailed studies, several key studies were carried out such as situation analysis of rangeland health and estimated cost benefit of restoration and protection in Arab countries, Economic valuation of rangeland services in Matrouh Governorate, Policy, and Technical Review to advance Sustainable Rangeland Management in the Arab. Sustainable Rangeland Management Toolkit for Resilient Pastoral Systems.
- Support establishing of revolving funds (in total 4, where 3 in Jordan and 1 in Egypt) and more than 100 beneficiaries.
IUCN designed this project to address the environmental, economic, and social issues related to the areas affected by AES Levant Company’s activities. The project established and implemented a community, environmental, and strategic action plan for sustainable investment in the region through community integration and capacity building in the targeted areas in East Amman. The project aims at engaging stakeholders in seeking solutions to local and environmental challenges affecting the east Amman area in two target areas; Al Manakher and Al Khashafiyah. Additionally, the project aims to improve adaptation and strengthen the efforts toward mitigation of climate change, control environmental pollution, and enhance standards of living for affected communities by strengthening the sustainable management of natural resources.

Other objectives include: I. Rehabilitation and restoration of the rangeland ecosystem, II. Capacity development of local community, III. Reduction of environmental pollution, and IV. Knowledge sharing between stakeholders with a focus on women’s role empowerment in sustainable management of natural resources and income-generating activities. The project focuses on four components that are Nature-based Solutions driven and are contributing to the implementation of the 17 SDGs of the UN Agenda 2030.

Project implemented and executed by: IUCN ROWA.
Project funded by: AES Levant Corporate
PROJECT’S ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **Capacity building, gender and youth involvement:**
  - 27 training courses were given targeting 48 community members, mainly women.

- **Solar water heaters**
  - Installing 260 units of solar water heaters.
  - Distribution of 200 energy-saving light bulbs.
  - Reduce energy consumption by 30-50% per month per household.

- **Vet clinic**
  - 574 farmers were supported out of 600 farmers in the project area.
  - 185,165 sheep vaccinated.
  - 1,355 goats vaccinated.
  - 73 camels vaccinated.
  - 115 horses vaccinated.
  - In total 43,962 vaccines given.
  - Providing a mobile veterinary clinic to reach remote areas.

- **Schools more sustainable (eco-schools)**
  - Installation of two on-grid photovoltaic systems PVs at Al Khansaa secondary school and Al Manakher preliminary school.
  - Installation of two greenhouses.
  - Rainwater harvesting system in each eco-school.

- **Nursery**
  - Establishment of a community nursery to propagate native rangeland species, with a production capacity of 80,000 seedlings.
  - Training of a team of eight motivated young men and women from Al Khashafiyah to work in the nursery.

- **Landscape/Ecosystem restoration**
  - A Tractor was purchased to be used by the local communities.
  - Distributing seedlings and trees to families to be planted in their house gardens.
  - Ploughing the land to reduce soil erosion and increase water harvesting.
  - Rehabilitation of natural range land with native seedlings.
  - Raising awareness of sustainable land management practices (SLM).
CHAPTER 5:
FINANCIAL REVIEW
Total Budget By Programmes = CHF 25,896,064

- Water & Climate Change Programme: CHF 14,041,928 (54.2%)
- Drylands, Livelihood & Gender Programme: CHF 3,875,919 (30.8%)
- Protected Areas, Biodiversity & World Heritage Programme: CHF 7,978,215 (15%)

Programme Project Portfolio

- Water & Climate Change Programme: 61 projects
- Drylands, Livelihood & Gender Programme: 54 projects
- Protected Areas, Biodiversity & World Heritage Programme: 9 projects

Number of Projects Per Programme
## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTS GOALS

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<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zero Hunger</td>
<td>23,930.61</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
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<td>Good Health and Well-Being</td>
<td>615,800.58</td>
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<td>Gender Equality</td>
<td>509,178.26</td>
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<td>Clean Water and Sanitation</td>
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<td>Affordable and Clean Energy</td>
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<td>Economic Growth</td>
<td>569,847.48</td>
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**Grand Total**: CHF 6,285,224
CHAPTER 6:

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
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CHAPTER 7:
KEY FACTS & FIGURES
19 Projects
13 Countries
77 Members
9 New Staff
4 Regional Initiatives
8 Publications
58K Seedlings
400 Hectares Planted
25.8 M ROWA’s Total Portfolio
6.2 M ROWA’s SDG Budget
16.4K Followers
154 K Reach
16.4K Followers
CHAPTER 8:

PUBLICATIONS & KNOWLEDGE OUTPUTS
CHAPTER 9:

2022

HIGHLIGHTS
REGIONAL INITIATIVES
King Salman Royal Nature Reserve approached IUCN to organize a forum on Protected Areas and a training on IUCN’s Green List to be held in Riyadh, KSA.

This forum and training were designed to define protected area priorities in KSA and build the capacity regarding the different IUCN Management Categories and Governance Types and how their global standards affect the planning and management of protected areas (PAs).

Project implemented by: IUCN ROWA.
Project funded by: King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Royal Reserve through a local partner.

Projects Achievements:
- KSRNR announced commitment to the IUCN Green List Standard and started the application process.
- A two-days training workshop on the “IUCN Protected Area Management Categories and IUCN’s Green List Standard” was held on 6 October 2022.
In the framework of the ‘Policy’ of the convention signed between the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS), the latter aims at reinforcing the activities of its partner countries in their aim to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In this context, RBINS and the Environment Quality for Palestine approached IUCN ROWA to facilitate and organise a regional bioland training workshop for partners from Palestine, Yemen and Jordan.

The main objective of the training was to train the CBD stakeholders engaged in the implementation of the NBSAP’s in the region on using the CBD Clearing House Mechanism platform to track the implementation of the NBSAP’s and as a collaborative platform for hosting and communicating biodiversity data and project information.

**Project implemented by:** IUCN ROWA.  
**Project funded by:** The Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS).

**Projects Achievements:**
- Organising four days regional training workshop on the clearing house mechanism CHM Platform using the Bioland tool for Jordan, Palestine and Yemen to update and upgrade their national CHM website. [Click here.](#)
- The CHM website for all the participating countries was upgraded to the new platform using Bioland tool developed by the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences.
The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas is the first global standard of best practice for area-based conservation. It is a programme of certification for protected and conserved areas – national parks, natural World Heritage sites, community conserved areas, nature reserves and so on – that are effectively managed and fairly governed. A protected area or conserved area that reaches the IUCN Green List Standard is certified and recognised as achieving ongoing results for people and nature in a fair and effective way.

To learn more: IUCN Green List Home - IUCN Green List

Projects Achievements:
- Green Listed sites from the MEWA region have undergone mid-term review for their Green List certification.
- Site visit was conducted to Sir Bou Nir PA from the UAE, and the evaluation is in process.
- New sites from MEWA region declared commitment to the IUCN Green List and initiated new Green List applications in 2022; these are (Aqaba Marine Reserve, Jordan, and King Salman Royal Nature Reserve, King Abdul Aziz Royal Reserve, Uruq Bani Ma’arid protected area).
- ROWA Site summary: Green Listed sites: 2 from Jordan (Azraq Wetland Reserve and Ajloun Forest Reserve), 1 from Lebanon (Al Shouf Cedars Nature Reserve), 1 from UAE (Al Wathbah Wetland Reserve), 2 from Egypt (Wadi Al Hitan and Ras Mohammed National Park).
- Sites undergoing the Green List application process: Jordan (Yarmouk Forest Reserve, Dibeen Forest Reserve, Dana Biosphere Reserve, Royal Botanic Garden, Aqaba Marine Reserve), UAE (Marwah Marine Biosphere Reserve, Mangrove Marine National Park, Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, Sir bou Nair Island Protected Area), Palestine (Wadi Al Quff, Battir Cultural Landscape Heritage Site), Kuwait (Al-Kuwaissat (Al-Jahra) Natural Reserve), Saudi Arabia (King Salman Royal Nature Reserve, King Abdul Aziz Royal Reserve, Uruq Bani Ma’arid protected area).
IUCN ROWA in collaboration with the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) conducted a pilot study aiming to estimate the amount of carbon sequestered in the Dibeen Forest Reserve. This initiative formed an opportunity to develop rigorous methodology for estimating carbon sequestered in forests, and utilizing new techniques for field data collection combined with remote sensing and modelling techniques that can be replicated in other forest areas.

Projects Achievements:

- Organising a three-days training workshop including a field training from from 22 to 24 March 2022 to establish “Practical measures to estimate the carbon emission/removals in the forestry area in Jordan covering Dibeen Forest Nature Reserve”. The training targeted participants from different stakeholders in Jordan including the Ministry of Environment – Climate Change department, Royal Society for Conservation on Nature RSCN, Royal Botanic Garden RGB.
- A pilot study to estimate the carbon sequestered in Dibeen Forest Reserve was conducted based on remote sensing and GIS modelling combined with field measurements. The results of the study were validated in a national workshop organised by IUCN and UNDP Jordan Country Office held on 19 May 2022 under the patronage of the Minister of Environment. The workshop aimed to present and validate the results of the carbon sequestration model, and collect recommendations for the future to involve technical and governmental institutions to agree on the carbon capture estimation methodology and possible future test sites, and future plans for the project.
- A desktop review was also conducted to research the legal framework, regarding the carbon market and Jordan’s opportunity of entering under a governmental umbrella.
IUCN ROWA received a delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia / the Royal Commission for AlUla in Amman, Jordan, to hold a two-day coordination workshop.

Under the high patronage of HRH Princess Basma Bint Ali, with the attendance of the Minister of Agriculture and the Ambassador of France, IUCN inaugurates the Smart DESERT Business Support Incubator.

The launch of a package of income-generating economic projects was celebrated within the activities of the HERD project in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Arab Republic of Egypt, funded by the Global Environment Facility. Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Ali, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Hashemite Fund for the Development of the Jordanian Badia.
A delegation from the French Development Agency (AFP) met during a field tour with the Smart DESERT project team, where the delegation was briefed on the most important project activities and modern technologies used in agricultural sites and field schools, in addition to their meeting with the owners of agricultural home projects.

During the Land Forum 2022, IUCN ROWA’s team presented the Office’s work and its major achievement and projects.

IUCN ROWA held a regional forum on policies supporting sustainable rangeland management (SRM) and the concept of land degradation neutrality (LDN), in Beirut, Lebanon, as part of the activities of the “Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development GEF/HERD” project.
July 2022

IUCN ROWA and The Environment Public Authority of Kuwait (EPA), published a new field guide *The common insects of the State of Kuwait* through the project “Monitoring and documentation of Biodiversity in Kuwait”

August 2022

IUCN and the Royal Commission for AlUla held the inception workshop for AlUla Protected Areas Network APAN project in AlUla, Kingdom of Saudi Arabi.

September 2022

The Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU) hosted IUCN Director General, Dr Bruno Oberle, Deputy Director General, Dr Grethel Aguilar, and Regional Directors from around the world, for a full day of high-level knowledge exchange sessions.
October 2022

IUCN ROWA participated in a symposium on natural reserves organized by the King Salman bin Abdulaziz Royal Reserve Development Authority in Riyadh, with the participation of a number of experts and specialists in the field of environment and natural reserves.

November 2022

IUCN ROWA participated in the Climate Threats and Adaptation Solutions and links with Ecosystem Restoration in the Arab Region session, at the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27), in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

December 2022

The Governor of Matrouh presented a shield in appreciation of the efforts made by the late Eng. Amer Al Me’adat, during his time with IUCN ROWA.
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

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