



INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION
OF NATURE

**WEST ASIA
REGIONAL OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

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THE POWER OF THE UNION

IUCN

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership Union uniquely composed of both governments and civil society organisations. IUCN provides knowledge for public, private and non-governmental organisations to be used as a tool to enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach more than 1,300 Member organisations and the input of more than 15,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.



2019

IUCN Regional Office for West Asia

The IUCN Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN ROWA) was established in October 2004 covering the West Asia region, which includes 13 countries: Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Iran, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

West Asia is part of three eco-regions: the Irano Anatolian region, Mediterranean forest region and the Horn of Africa region, including the Arabian Peninsula and the Socotra archipelago in Yemen. This region incorporates a variety of ecosystems, including Mediterranean forests, deserts, plains, rangelands, savannas, oases, mountains, rivers, lakes, springs, mudflats, swamps, marshes, mangroves and coral reefs. Such ecosystems provide a wide array of services and ecological corridors for migratory species through the region.

MISSION

To influence, encourage and assist societies to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

VISION

A just world that values and conserves nature.

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR



As we are reaching the end of another decade, we look back with pride at what we have achieved today to protect and conserve our natural wealth and biodiversity richness in West Asia. However, in the past few years we have witnessed countless unfortunate events that have affected the state of environment and resulted in human and biodiversity losses in West Asia and around the world. The Dead Sea floods, Lebanon fires, Amazon fires and many more environmental disasters along with the negative impacts of wars and conflicts that threaten the future of our biodiversity every day. This makes us wonder, how much do we have to lose in order to draw the attention of the world?

On the other hand, I can still see the light at the end of the tunnel with the remarkable activities and milestones that IUCN ROWA has achieved in partnership with its powerful network of members, donors and partners. As 2019 marks my first year as a Regional Director for IUCN West Asia, I am honoured to share with our reputable network around the world selected highlights from our key achievements and milestones in 2019.

It's been an exciting journey every step of the way to contribute to the conservation of West Asia. Through our four thematic programmes, we have managed to implement more than eleven projects and initiatives in different West Asia countries by mobilizing hundreds of partners and donors to work together on protecting our valuable ecosystems.

Our interventions and efforts were never put into force without the engagement and participation of local communities at the grassroots level who take part in designing and managing sustainable solutions for the benefit of their lands and natural resources.

It was a heartfelt opportunity to organize such a significant Regional Conservation Forum this year that brought together representatives and high-level officials from all the union's pillars to highlight the importance of our biodiversity and natural uniqueness. It was also a time where all Members sat together and pulled their collective voices and thoughts to prepare for a sound regional presence and participation in the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2020.

Looking ahead, we have a promising opportunity in Congress 2020, whereby IUCN Members and partners convene to shape the conservation agenda and take a step towards our promise and commitment towards our future generations.

I would like to extend my gratitude and deepest appreciation to ROWA staff, Members, partners and donors for their great support and goodwill to safeguard our nature and transform the global rising threats and dangers to promising movements and strong calls to action for a better world.

Dr. Hany El Shaer

IUCN West Asia Regional Director



"We must connect cities with nature to build resilience in the face of climate change and natural disasters".

IUCN President - Zhang Xinsheng

IUCN ROWA PILLARS

ROWA Members

IUCN ROWA works supportively and in collaboration with its Members and partners to mainstream conservation efforts with the sustainable development goals and therefore achieve a new paradigm for sustainable development based on people-centred development.

This vast network of entities adds value to the Union's work and guides its vision and oversight. IUCN ROWA has a total of 79 Members of 13 countries in West Asia including Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Yemen and Iran in addition to the Gulf countries including Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Since the establishment of the IUCN Regional Office for West Asia in 2004, the members have grown as the following figures:



**IUCN
ROWA**



**366 experts
in 6 Commissions**



**13
countries**



**79
Members**



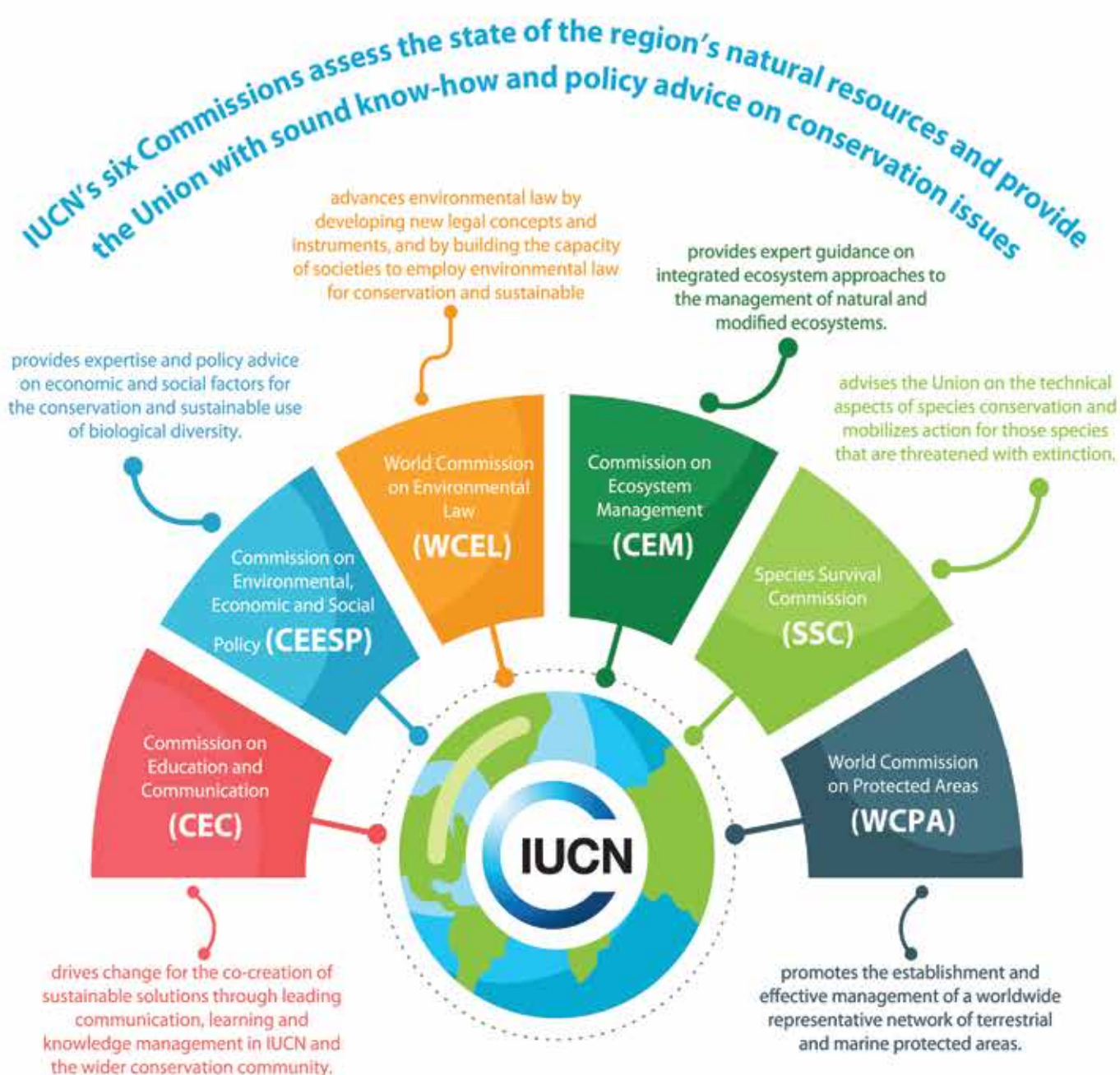
Members per category



Members benefits

ROWA Commissions

The IUCN Commissions are broad and active networks of scientists and experts providing IUCN and its Members with sound know-how and policy advice to drive conservation and sustainable development. IUCN experts are organized into **six IUCN Commissions** made up of over **15,000** experts who inform IUCN's knowledge and help produce its work. The number of IUCN ROWA Commission members is **366** as follows:





Species Survival Commission (SSC)

SSC is a science-based network of more than 9,000 volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together towards achieving the vision of, "A just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to reduce the loss of diversity of life on earth". Most members are deployed in more than 160 Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Task Forces and Conservation Committees.

124



**ROWA
Members**



World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)

WCEL advances environmental law around the globe by providing specialized knowledge and assistance to strengthen the legal foundations of the conservation of nature and sustainable development through the conceptual advancement of environmental principles, norms, and laws, and by building the capacity of communities to benefit from the environmental rule of law.

15



**ROWA
Members**



World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

WCPA develops knowledge-based policy, advice and guidance on the full suite of issues surrounding protected areas through the establishment of Specialist Groups and Task Forces. We bring together global experts to find solutions for programme priorities, including global protected area standards and Best Practice Guidelines.

66



**ROWA
Members**



Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

CEESP contributes to the IUCN's mission by generating and disseminating knowledge, mobilizing influence, and promoting actions to harmonize the conservation of nature with the critical social, cultural, environmental, and economic justice concerns of human societies.

22



**ROWA
Members**



Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

CEC drives change for the co-creation of sustainable solutions through leading communication, learning and knowledge management in IUCN and the wider conservation community.

72



**ROWA
Members**



Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

CEM promotes ecosystem-based approaches for the management of landscapes and seascapes, provides guidance and support for ecosystem-based management and promotes resilient socio-ecological systems to address global challenges.

67



**ROWA
Members**



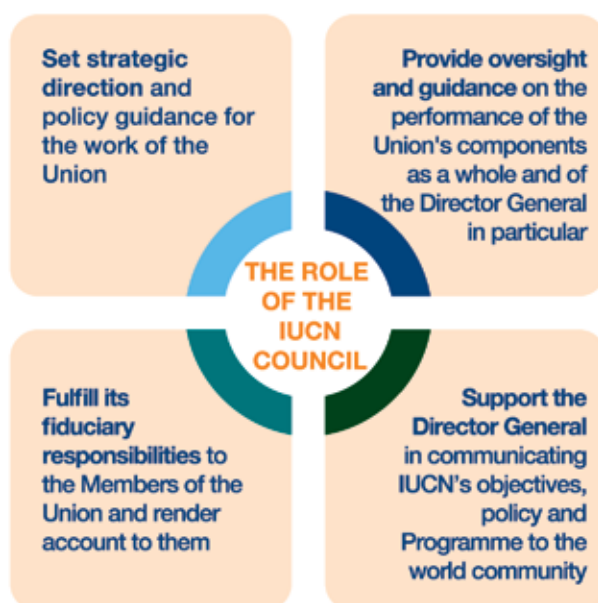
IUCN Council

The IUCN Council is the principal governing body of IUCN between sessions of the World Conservation Congress. IUCN Members elect Commission chairs and representatives from Member organisations to serve four-year terms on the Council.

The members of the Council are:

(a) the President; (b) the Treasurer; (c) the Chairs of the Commissions; (d) the Regional Councillors; (e) a Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat, appointed by the Council, provided that one from that State has not been elected Regional Councillor; and (f) one additional appointed Councillor, chosen by the Council on the basis of appropriate qualifications, interests and skills.

According to the [IUCN Statutes and Regulations](#), nominations by a Member made before the World Congress shall be communicated by the Council to the Members.



IUCN ROWA 2016 - 2020 Regional Councillors



Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri
UAE

Dr. Shaikha obtained her PhD degree in Conservation Biology from the University of Aberdeen, UK and her Master's degree in Conservation of Living Species from Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent. She is the first Emirati to obtain a PhD in protecting and conserving wildlife in the UAE. She has won the Abu Dhabi Award for Excellence in Government Performance for the best performing Executive Director in Abu Dhabi from a list of over 400 short-listed employees from nearly 51 government entities. Dr. Shaikha has authored and co-authored many scientific papers in peer reviewed journals.



Dr. Said Damhoureyeh
Jordan

Dr. Damhoureyeh has served a Jordan University representative for IUCN and for the National committee in Jordan since 2001. He has participated in all IUCN Congresses since 2000 and in most of the regional conservation forums since 2005 till the latest RCF held in September 2019. Dr. Damhoureyeh served as a Steering Committee member for the Commission of Ecosystem Management from 2008-2016.



Dr. Ayman Rabi
Palestine

Dr. Ayman Rabi has more than 25 years of experience in water and environmental related matters at national, regional and international level. He has higher degrees in water resources management as well as in business administration and authored - co-authored several publications on water and environment. Dr. Rabi has served as chairperson of the Palestinian Environmental NGO network and board member in numerous international environmental networks such as Mediterranean Information Office based in Athens and MEDFORUM. He is currently serving as a focal point for the International Association of Hydrological Science in Palestine.



IUCN ROWA National Committees



The IUCN National Committee of Jordan

It was established on 14 September 1998 and recognized by the IUCN Council on 11 December 2002. The main objective of the Committee is to facilitate cooperation, cohesion and coordination among the Members of the Union in Jordan. It also encourages members to share knowledge and experience regarding IUCN thematic areas.

The IUCN National Committee of Lebanon

It was reactivated in 2011 and there are now 14 Lebanon-based IUCN Member organisations. Operations are overseen by an Executive Committee of Lebanon Members, using transparent procedures and majority approval.



The IUCN National Committee of Kuwait

It was established on 29 April 2003 and recognized by the IUCN Council in December 2003. The main objectives of the Committee are to ensure cooperation between Members in Kuwait and to collaborate in designing and implementing conservation activities.

The IUCN National Committee of Palestine

It was formally recognized by the IUCN Council on 2 August 2016. The Committee consists of eight IUCN Member organisations with various environmental backgrounds ranging from natural resources conservation and management, to wildlife conservation, biodiversity and ecosystem management, climate change, pollution prevention and environmental quality, etc.



The IUCN National Committee of United Arab Emirates

It was established in June 2016 and is comprised of four Members. It is the newest and smallest one of the five National Committees in West Asia. It aims to facilitate the cooperation among IUCN Members and coordination of the national Members with the other components of IUCN, with focus on ensuring optimal implementation of the IUCN Programme and strategies.

Regional Committee for West Asia

"Members of IUCN within a State, a Region or a part of a Region may organize committees restricted to Members of IUCN or their representatives to facilitate cooperation among Members, coordination of the components of IUCN, and participation of Members in the programme and governance of IUCN. A proposal to create such National or Regional Committees shall be made in accordance with the Regulations (IUCN Statutes article 66)"

IUCN ROWA Members chose to organise themselves into one Regional Committee and five National committees to facilitate cooperation among Members and coordination among the various components of IUCN, and to ensure participation of the membership in the Programme and governance of IUCN. IUCN secretariat provides technical assistance and expertise for committee members through facilitating dialogue and establishing orientations on environmental issues.





"We suffer from various environmental problems and challenges caused by the first lack of environmental awareness, and we must work to find appropriate solutions to them."

Minister of Environment in Jordan - Dr. Saleh Kharabsheh

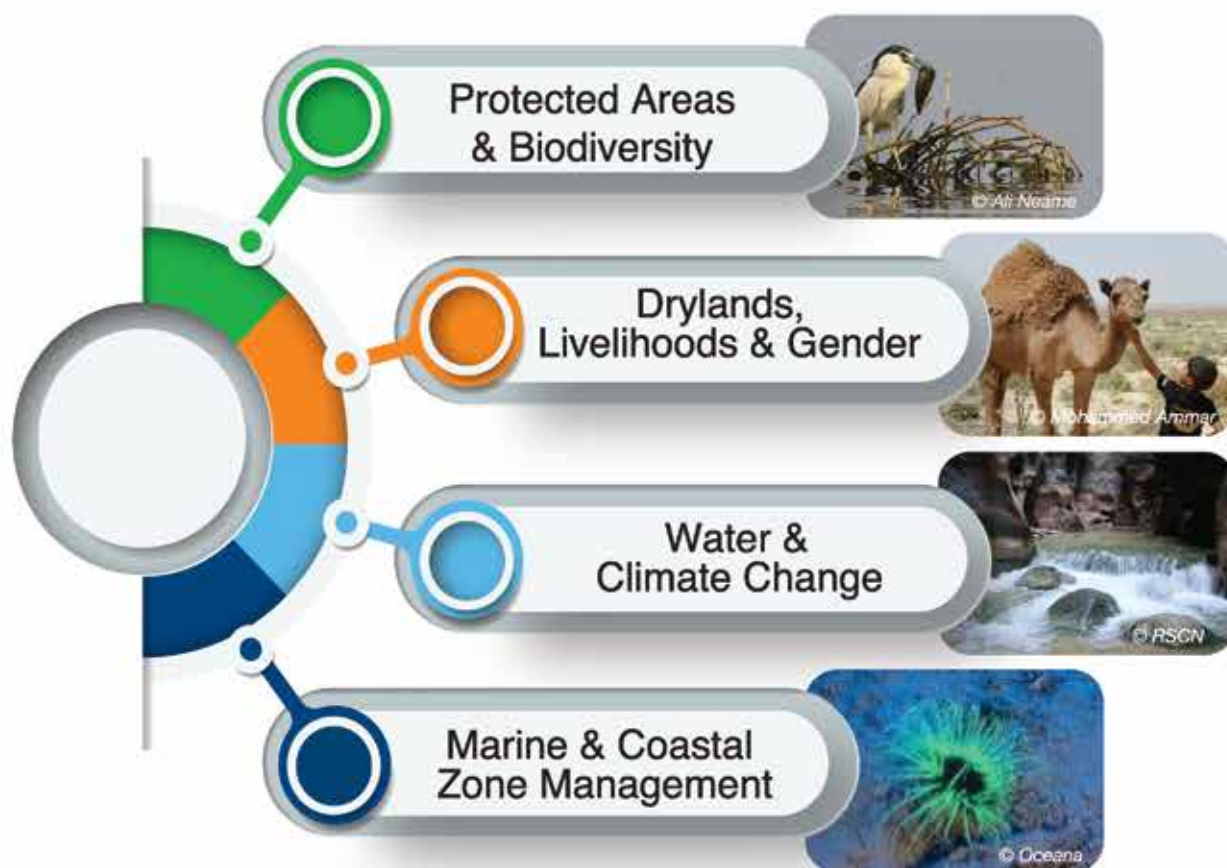
PROGRAMMES AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The West Asia region faces critical conservation challenges that cause threats to the ecosystems and biodiversity. The critical threats facing the region are; (1) land degradation, aridity and desertification, (2) unsustainable water extraction and use, biodiversity and habitat loss, and species extinction, (3) threats to sensitive marine ecosystems through pollution, habitat destruction, Invasive Alien Species, and unplanned coastal development. Accordingly, IUCN ROWA designed its programmes to address those issues and find technical solutions with the support of its members, partners and donors.

Therefore, IUCN ROWA focuses on four major thematic areas;

- 1) Protected Areas & Biodiversity,
- 2) Drylands, Livelihoods & Gender,
- 3) Water & Climate Change,
- 4) Marine & Coastal Zone Management.

Other cross-cutting issues including gender- mainstreaming and natural resource management are also embedded within IUCN ROWA's work in the region.



Protected Areas & Biodiversity Programme



DDCR © Greg Simkins

The West Asia region, and in particular the Arab World, is considered a region that is very rich in biodiversity on both ecosystems and species levels. Four global biodiversity hotspots encompass parts of the region, those are; the Mediterranean Basin, the Irano Anatolian, the horn of Africa, the Eastern Afrotropical. The region is facing a rapid population increase accompanied with continuous land cover change and habitat degradation leading to continuous loss in biodiversity. The Protected Areas and Biodiversity Programme, with its thematic areas of work, aims to conserve the unique biodiversity of the region and support the efforts of the countries towards achieving their global biodiversity conservation targets.

The programme works towards increasing the percentage of key biodiversity areas included with effective systems of protected areas and other effective area based conservation measures. The programme also promotes and supports the implementation of IUCN's core initiatives like the IUCN Green List, the IUCN Red List, and the Key Biodiversity Areas within the region.

The Protected Areas & Biodiversity Programme is currently implementing a number of projects, which contribute collectively in achieving IUCN's Global Vision in the region. Below is an overview on these projects:



Initial Steps for the Establishment of the National Protected Areas Network

Iraq



© Mudhafar Salam

The main objective of this project is to develop and establish a national Network of Protected Areas (PAN) in Iraq. This project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UN Environment.

Main achievements in 2019:

1. Conducted a baseline field survey in two proposed protected areas (Dalmaj and Teeb Protected areas in the south of Iraq).
2. Conducted a training workshop on the Environmental Impact Assessment in Protected Areas for Ministry of Health and Environment in Iraq.
3. Conducted two national workshops in Iraq to discuss the baseline field survey results and the design of the Protected Area Networks.
4. Conducted a training workshop on IUCN Red Listing in Amman for Ministry of Health and Environment in Iraq.
5. Developed a draft strategy for Iraq's protected area network.
6. Produced a set of communication materials including brochures and postcards.

Market policy and legislative Development for mainstreaming sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems

Lebanon



© Aron Tanti

The main objective of the project is to conserve and protect marine and coastal biodiversity through enhancing policies and legal reforms. This project promotes the integrated framework for sustainable management and conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity. The project will work on mainstreaming those priorities into national plans with particular focus on the impact of climate change on marine and coastal biodiversity. This project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UN Environment.

Main achievements in 2019:

1. Developed two fact sheets on marine birds and marine invasive alien species in Lebanon.
2. Conducted a national workshop to present the factsheets in Beirut Lebanon.
3. Conducted a training workshop on IUCN Red Listing in Byblos Lebanon.
4. Started developing "Guidelines on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the EIA process for development projects affecting marine and coastal ecosystems, and a checklist for the inspection and monitoring of necessary environmental mitigation measures related to biodiversity conservation and protection" which is still in progress.
5. Developed an Atlas of distribution for coastal and marine birds of Lebanon.
6. Produced a set of communication materials including brochures and postcards.

Monitoring and Documentation of Biodiversity Kuwait



The project intends to document all the biodiversity elements in Kuwait using previous records and updating the biodiversity components through selected field surveys. The project also aims at raising the capacity of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) staff in biodiversity research and introducing them to modern techniques and most recent research standards and procedures. The outcomes of this project will contribute in establishing a biodiversity database that will enhance the decision-making process related to protected areas and biodiversity conservation.

Main achievements in 2019:

1. Conducted a training workshop on scientific methods in monitoring and documenting biological diversity and field visits in Kuwait.
2. Conducted a three-day training workshop on Documenting and Monitoring Biodiversity using GIS and Remote Sensing Kuwait.
3. Developed a review and assessment of GIS development needs and training.
4. Developed a draft national report entitled "The State of Biodiversity in Kuwait".
5. Conducting training on IUCN's Green List on protected and conserved areas in partnership with IUCN's Global Protected Areas Programme.
6. Produced a set of communication materials including brochures and postcards.

"We have the knowledge that conservation works if executed in a timely manner, yet, without strong political will in combination with targeted efforts and resources, the wonders of nature and the services it provides can be lost forever."

IUCN Global Director - Biodiversity Conservation Group, Jane Smart



Drylands, Livelihoods & Gender Programme



This programme contributes to the rehabilitation of drylands and rangelands in West Asia. It provides nature-based solutions and ecosystem services which needed to improve livelihoods through sound participatory management, gender equality and effective community engagement.

The programme's strength stems from contributing to the revival of the Hima an inherited Bedouin protective system envisioned to decrease poverty, improve economic development and conserve rangeland ecosystem and endangered species as well as mainstream social justice and gender equity. The programme operates through different projects in the region:



Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD) Jordan and Egypt



This project aims at catalysing the scaling-up of Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD), both regionally and globally. HERD builds on the sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity. The four-year project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and executed by UN Environment, focuses on desertification of pastoral rangelands in Jordan and

Main achievements in 2019:

1. Established the Arab Pastoralist Communities Network (APCN).
2. Developed a toolbox on Sustainable Rangeland Management in cooperation with the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).
3. Developed a rangeland health assessment by using the Participatory Rangeland and Grassland Assessment (PRAGA) methodology.

Stakeholders Engagement and Natural Resources Assessment for AES in East Amman Jordan



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 Khashafyah. The first phase of the project is designed to develop and implement a strategic environmental community action plan for sustainable investment in the area through community involvement and capacity building in the targeted areas in East Amman. It is a three-year project funded by the AES Levant Holding BV Jordan.

Main achievements in 2019:

1. Identified and designed three top priorities in phase one that became pilot interventions; an environmental monitoring program, native seedling nursery, and veterinary clinic and agricultural extension centre. The three projects were the cornerstone for change in the area and a model of multi-stakeholder partnership towards sustainable communities.
2. Developed four proposals to implement income generating pilot projects in phase two in a participatory manner through successive workshops and meetings with stakeholders and local communities.
3. AES Levant Holding BV Jordan has won the Green Apple Awards 201 for the project's first phase.

Water & Climate Change Programme



Water scarcity is one of the most predominant issues facing this arid or semi-arid region. IUCN ROWA recognizes the importance and urgency of water shortage as a significant threat to the West Asia region by promoting sound water and climate change governance through the Water and Climate Change Programme. This programme strengthens countries' national capacities to revise existing or adopt new legal frameworks for the sustainable management of water and natural resources.

The programme contributes to IUCN's Global Water Programme; a world-wide effort to implement a systemic approach to water resource management. This enables members in the region to benefit from the global experiences and expertise.

Community engagement and participatory planning are embedded within the design of this programme to ensure that sound decision-making and the use of systemic approaches are met at every step in the design and implementation phase of each project.

In 2019, the programme has worked in partnership with multiple donors, partners and members to address challenges and contribute to the conservation of water resources through technical expertise, technology and community engagement.

The programme operates through different projects in the region:



The MENA Region Initiative as a Model of NEXUS Approach and Renewable Energy Technologies (MINARET)

Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia



Sweden
Sverige



Horizons
For Green Development



This project is designed to address the unique sustainability challenges and opportunities of the MENA region by applying the "NEXUS" approach at the municipal level, which increases local and regional sustainability capacities using the synergies between renewable energy technology and efficiency, water management and food security. It is a four-year project implemented in the MENA region focusing on Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia to foster regional cooperation in partnership with the National Energy Research Centre of the Royal Scientific Society and Horizons for Green Development and Funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA).

MINARET focuses on building municipalities' resilience to climate change through adopting renewable energy resources and energy efficiency applications, water management techniques and food security approaches focusing on women, youth and vulnerable groups.

Main achievements in 2019:

1. Solar-powered water pump at the Barouk River in Jdaidet El Chouf, Lebanon
2. Established a decorative plant nursery in Lajoun, Karak on a municipality land using treated water, composting and solar pumping methods.
3. Utilized a rainwater harvesting system to irrigate municipal gardens in Monastir, Tunisia.

Reducing erosion in northern Jordan through employment intensive measures in northern Jordan Ziglab Dam

Jordan

giz
Technische Zusammenarbeit
für nachhaltige
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Horizons
For Green Development



The project aims to improve the living conditions for Jordanian and Syrian families through employment intensive measures, reduce erosion in dam catchment area in cooperation with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Horizons for Green Development, and REACH and funded by the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ). This project focused on three main interventions; hydrological and geological studies including hydrological characterization and description for Ziglab catchment area and GIS hydrological modelling and mapping.

technical engineering study and design, and field work that included rehabilitation of the main Wadi, excavation and gabion baskets installation.

Main achievements in 2019:

1. Developed the hydrological characterization and description for Ziglab catchment area.
2. Conducted GIS-based hydrological modelling in Ziglab Dam area and suitability mapping.
3. Carried out field work to implement several activities; including rehabilitation of the main Wadi, excavation and gabion baskets installation by Cash for Works.

Towards Sustainable Management of the Mujib River Basin Jordan



The project aims to implement an integrated river basin management in the Mujib River Basin as a pilot model in Jordan for other basins to follow in the future in partnership with the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (RSCN) and Wetlands International and funded by MAVA Foundation.

Main achievements in 2019:

1. Developed an inception report entitled "Overview about Water Resources in Mujib Basin".

Integrated Landscapes Management Initiative Jordan



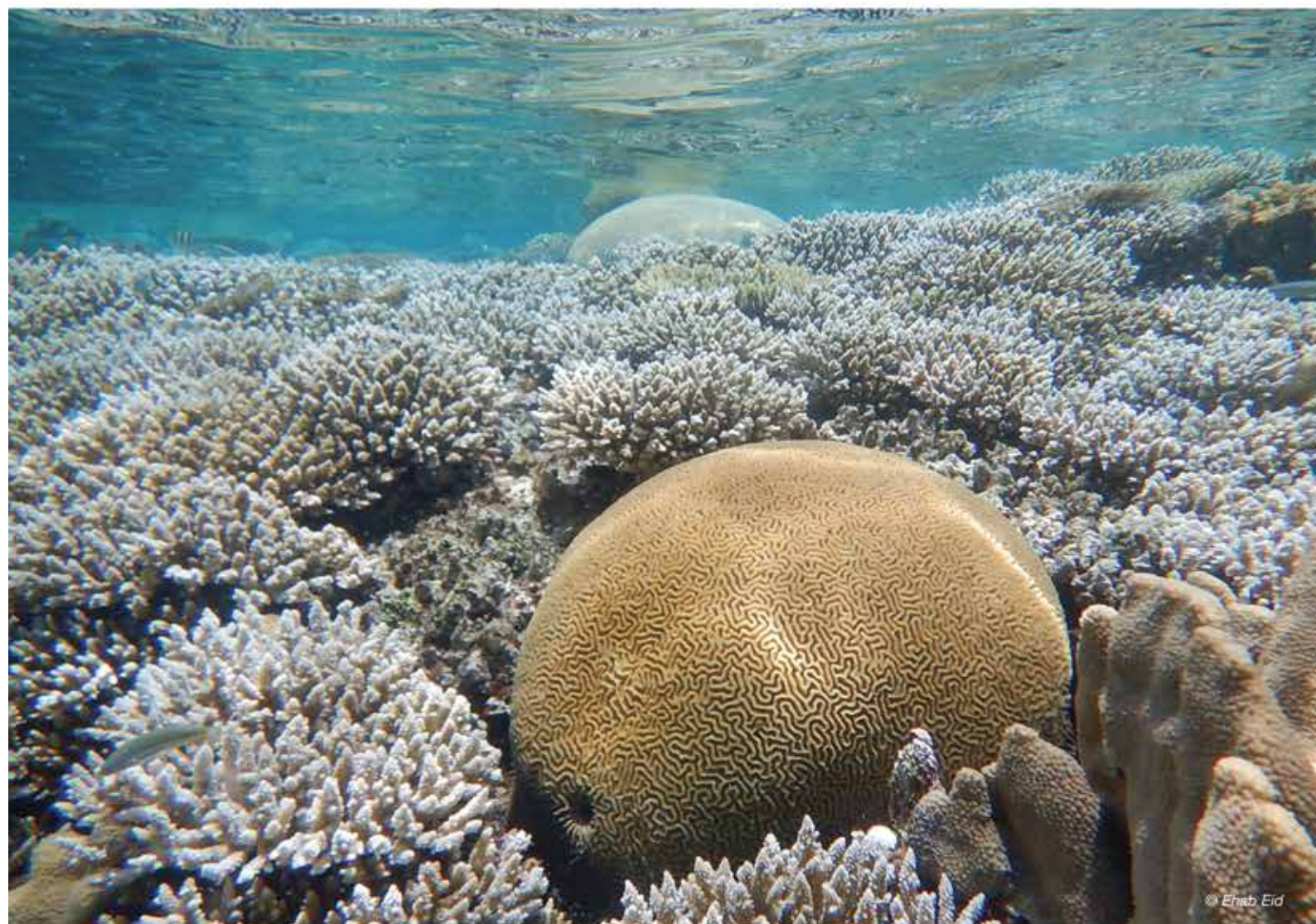
The overall objective of the Jordan Integrated Landscapes Management Initiative (JILMI) is to contribute to the enhanced resilience of Jordanian ecosystems and vulnerable communities in the Jordan Rift Valley through integrated landscape management (ILM). The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) is the executing agency. The project was designed based on an intervention strategy comprising of three main components: (1) strengthened capacity for climate-resilient land-use planning and management of natural resources across the Jordan Rift

Valley; (2) climate-resilient land use and natural resource management across the Jordan Rift Valley; (3) knowledge and awareness of climate-resilient ILM and natural resource management.

Main achievements in 2019:

1. Conducted an inception workshop.
2. Selected the project site area including the Northern Jordan Valley area.
3. Contracted national consultants to assist in preparing the final project document with C4 company.

Marine & Coastal Zone Management Programme



In West Asia, marine biodiversity is particularly rich, with some 1,200 species of fish and 330 species of corals recorded from the Red Sea and the Gulf and more than 11% of the corals are endemic to the Arabian Peninsula. These coastal and marine resources are threatened by pollution, habitat destruction and the introduction of invasive alien species. Unplanned coastal and industrial development, tourism and tanker oil spills are of growing concern. The disposal of brine from desalination plants – and its potential impact on the region's fisheries – is another concern in the Arabian Peninsula. Community engagement and participatory planning are embedded within the design of this programme to ensure that sound decision-making and the use of systemic approaches are met at every step in the design and implementation phase of each project.

In 2019, the programme has worked in partnership with challenges and contribute to the conservation of water resources through technical expertise, technology and community engagement.

The programme focuses on consolidating assessments on West Asia status with regards to marine and coastal zone ecosystem management, establishing a functioning network of marine and coastal management at the regional level and addressing the global threats to oceans.

The programme operates through different projects in the region:



Enhancing socio-ecological climate change resilience of marine and coastal systems

Lebanon



Norwegian Embassy
Beirut



This project aims to reduce the vulnerability of selected coastal towns in Lebanon facing crucial sustainability issues, while improving Marine Protected Areas as Ecosystem-based Mitigation and Adaptation. Climate change and ocean acidification are often seen as farfetched topics in Lebanon, severely and rapidly affecting species, ecosystems and people. This project is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Beirut.

Main achievements in 2019:

1. Capitalised on effective measures and tools that have previously been tested and proven successful around the Mediterranean.
2. Conducted vulnerability assessments and ecosystem mapping to protect and safeguard coastal communities.
3. Empowered stakeholders on marine management planning and change processes for effective and sustainable management of marine ecosystems and livelihood security.





"The interlinked environmental challenges facing the Arab region are enormous, but also represent an opportunity for development. There is no contradiction between protecting the environment and achieving economic development."

Executive Director of CEDARE - H.E. Dr. Nadia Makram Ebeid

MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Membership



79

Members



366

experts
in 6 Commissions



13

countries

Secretariat

55%



45%

gender
distribution



quarterly retention
rates 2019

Programmes



11
current
projects

10,072,233 CHF



projects
budget



13
publications



8
current
donors

2,601,873 CHF



SDGs
contribution
budget

Aichi Targets

13 SDGs goals

5 strategic goals



IUCN West Asia 9th Regional Conservation Forum



IUCN President Mr. Zhang Xinsheng highlighted the diversity existing in West Asia region that contributes in the diversity of the flora and ecosystems of the world. He stressed on the importance of the RCF in preparing for the IUCN World Conservation Congress in order to draw attention to the region's main concerns and issues. He encouraged the Members to shape a vision on how to conserve the nature in West Asia and bring it to the Congress.

Around 180 IUCN West Asia Members and partners participated in the IUCN 9th Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) held in Kuwait from 9-11 September 2019. The forum was organized by IUCN ROWA and graciously co-hosted by the State of Kuwait through the Environment Environment Public Authority and Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS).

The RCF included an exhibition that featured booths that represented the four thematic IUCN ROWA Programmes. HRH Princess Bassma bint Ali, H.E. Mariam Al Aqeel; Minister of State for Economic Affairs in Kuwait, H.E. Ibrahim Al Shahahdeh; Minister of Agriculture and Environment in Jordan, and H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Al Subah; Director General of Environment Public Authority in Kuwait opened the RCF exhibition. The RCF provided a platform for IUCN Members to network with each other and debate key conservation issues. The RCF has facilitated the platform for IUCN West Asia Members to prepare for an effective programme planning and discuss membership issues.

It contributed to strengthening knowledge and networking for biodiversity conservation in the region.

The forum gave an opportunity for IUCN Members, partners and the wider conservation community to prepare for its effective regional participation in the next IUCN Congress 2020, which is planned to be held from 11 to 19 June 2020 at Parc Chanot, Marseille, France.



Dr. Grethel Aguilar, IUCN Acting Director General said in her speech that there are a number of great achievements across the West Asia region, for example, four sites were recognized to well-managed and well-governed protected and conserved areas and listed to the IUCN Green List. The Iraqi marshlands was declared as a UNESCO world heritage site in 2016, and Jordan was awarded the bronze Future Policy Award in 2017 by the World Future Council (WFC) for its Updated Rangeland Strategy.



© IUCN ROWA



© IUCN ROWA

IUCN West Asia Regional Director, Dr. Hany El Shaer shared his concerns on the negative impacts of wars and conflicts on the future of biodiversity in our region. He referred to the war in Syria that has led to the extinction of Northern Bald Ibis at a local level. He shared his sympathy for Amazon fires and their unfortunate results and raised the question of how much do we have to lost to draw the attention of the world! He also shed light on the biodiversity richness and endemic species in West Asia region, where there are 524 protected areas, of which 4 are world heritage sites.



IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is where the world comes together every four years to set priorities and drive conservation and sustainable development action. IUCN's +1300 government, civil society and indigenous peoples' Member organisations vote on major issues, action which guides humanity's relationship with our planet for the decades ahead. IUCN's unique and inclusive membership gives the Congress a powerful mandate as it is not solely government or non-government, but both together.

The next upcoming IUCN Congress is hosted by the Government of France. It will be held from 11 to 19 June 2020 in Marseille, at Parc Chanot. It comprises of three components; the Members' Assembly, Forum and the Exhibition. The forum is a hub of public debate, bringing together people from around the world to discuss and develop solutions to the world's most pressing conservation and sustainability challenges. It will include a range of events from High-level dialogues, to training and capacity building sessions, as well as exhibition and social events.

Community engagement and participatory planning are embedded within the design of this IUCN Programme to ensure that sound decision-making and the use of systemic approaches are met at every step in the design and implementation phase of each project.

In 2019, the IUCN Programme has worked in partnership with multiple donors, partners and IUCN Member to address challenges and contribute to the conservation of water resources through technical expertise, technology and community engagement.

The IUCN Programme operates through different projects in the region:

During the Members Assembly, IUCN's Member organisations vote on pressing conservation and sustainable development issues. Key decisions adopted during the Assembly include electing the IUCN Council, approving of the IUCN Programme for the next four-year period, discussing topics of strategic importance, adopting motions defining the general policy of IUCN and amending Statutes of IUCN.

In the Exhibition, IUCN Members and Commissions, businesses, partners, and academia host pavilions, booths and events. The Exhibition is open to both Congress participants and the general public, allowing exhibitors to showcase their work to the broadest Congress audience.

IUCN West Asia Members are working together to prepare for this global convention. The first step was through their participation in the IUCN 9th Regional Conservation Forum held in Kuwait in September 2019. Regional and National Committees will be meeting throughout the coming months in preparation for their sound regional participation and input in the upcoming Congress.

**REGISTER
NOW**

<https://www.iucncongress2020.org/>



Green List Initiative

IUCN ROWA

Events Gallery



Training workshop on environmental survey methodologies
6 January 2019
Iraq



Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring Methods and Techniques
10-14 February 2019
Kuwait



IUCN National Red List Training Workshop
3-4 March 2019
Kuwait



Launching the HERD project
18 March 2019
Egypt



Launching for the Arabian Pastoralist Communities Network
29-30 April 2019
Jordan



Training Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment in Natural Reserves
20-21 April 2019
Iraq



Workshop for the National Committee for Natural Reserves in Iraq
1 May 2019
Iraq



Meeting with the Director General of the Civil Defense, Major General Mustafa Al-Bzayah
13 June 2019
Jordan



Training on Red list for the Iraqi Ministry of Health and Environment
13 June 2019
Jordan



Meeting with the President of the Royal Court, H.E. Mr. Yousef Al-Essawi
30 June 2019



Risk Management Training Workshop
June 30 - 2 July 2019
Jordan



World Environment Day Ceremony
2 July 2019
Jordan

IUCN ROWA

Events Gallery



Inception workshop for the Integrated Environmental Management Systems Project
8-10 July 2019
Jordan



IUCN Lebanon National Committee Meeting
12 July 2019
Lebanon



IUCN ROWA Regional Director, meeting the Jordan Minister of Agriculture, Eng. Ibrahim AL Shahhdeh
27 August 2019
Jordan



IUCN Jordan National Committee Meeting
1 September 2019
Jordan



IUCN President, Mr. Zhang Xinsheng visit
5-7 September 2019
Lebanon



IUCN Green List Training
12 September 2019
Kuwait



Consultation workshop on Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund projects
14-15 October 2019
Jordan



Sands International Academy visit
16 October 2019
Jordan



Training Workshop on Geospatial Data Processing and Preparation
4-7 November 2019
Kuwait



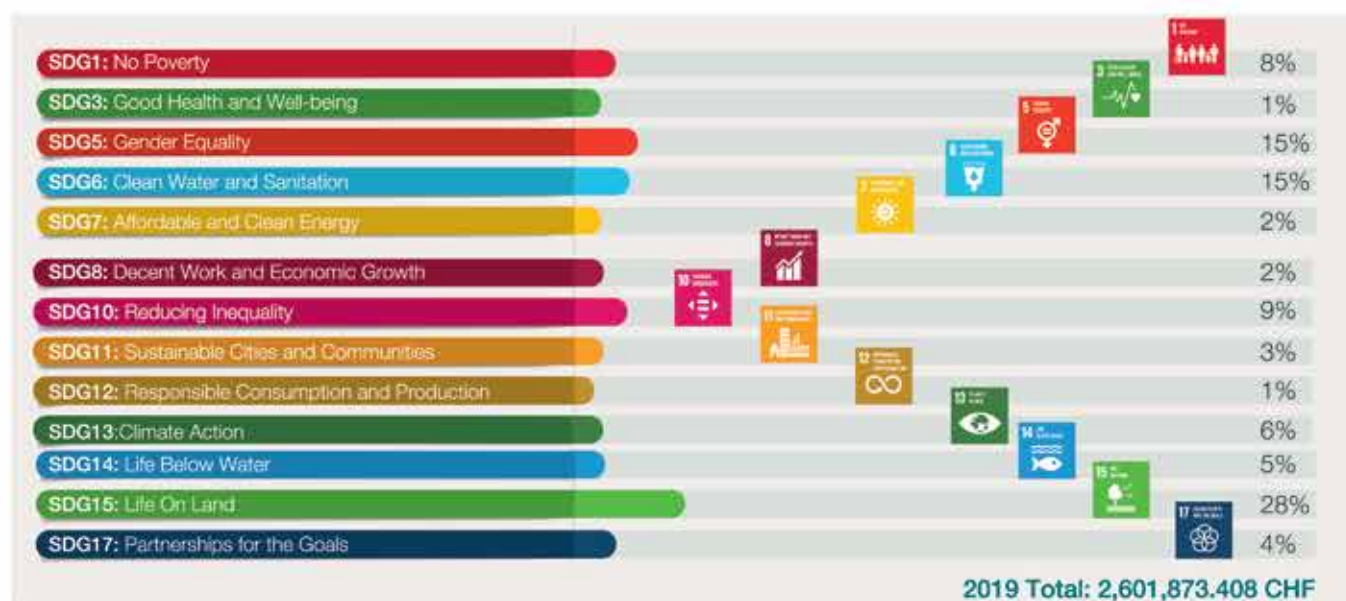
Advisory Committee Meeting
17 December 2019
Egypt



HERD Project Regional Steering Committee meeting
19 December 2019
Jordan

Marine and Coastal Zone Management Programme	1,035,301	1
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CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN 2019



CONTRIBUTION TO THE AICHI TARGETS IN 2019



KNOWLEDGE OUTPUTS

Publications

Stakeholder Engagement Model

For Sustainable Investment in Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Resilience

IUCN strives to support societies to conserve nature and manage natural resources sustainably. IUCN also aims to influence businesses in various sectors to acknowledge and mitigate the impacts of their activities on biodiversity through implementation of nature-based solutions. Accordingly, IUCN Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA) formed a unique partnership with AES Levant Holding BV Jordan to engage stakeholders in seeking solutions to local and environmental challenges affecting the east Amman area in Jordan. This booklet documents the progress and outcomes of this partnership.



Nexus comprehensive methodological framework

The MENA region initiative as a model of nexus approach and renewable energy technologies (MINARET)

This proposed Comprehensive NEXUS Methodological Framework seeks to suggest an Approach that outlines explicitly how the NEXUS Concept should be performed. Specifically, how the Water-Energy-Food Nexus (WEF Nexus) could be implemented (targeting mainly the Arab Region). The WEF Nexus Approach seeks to help with providing the structure, configuration, organization and composition of methods and procedures to be used for implementing relevant projects, activities, initiatives and interventions.

Water, energy and food security nexus in Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia

Assessment of current policies and regulatory and legal framework

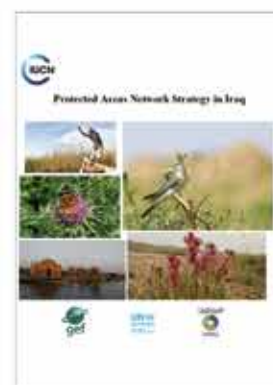
This study is aimed at assessing current policies, regulatory and legal frameworks on renewable energy and energy efficiency, water management, the food security nexus and sustainable development in the countries of Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. While it assesses those issues, this study closely considers climate change and gender as well. It also tackles the gaps, solutions and recommendations for improvement.



In Process

Protected Areas Network Strategy in Iraq

Covering almost %12 of the world's land surface, global protected area system represents a unique commitment to the future. The Ministry of Health and Environment in Iraq and the IUCN, with the support of the UN Environment and other stakeholders, are aiming to achieve a healthy, productive, and biologically diverse environment through enhancing the consistency between marine and land-based policies and to create a network of protected areas (PAN) in Iraq. This design sets out how the policy related to the environment fits within the government's wider policy framework.



State of Biodiversity in Kuwait

This is the first comprehensive work on the biodiversity of Kuwait with extensive literature review. It includes all known taxa that have been reported from this country, along with species lists for terrestrial and marine species. For the vertebrates, the IUCN status on global and regional levels were given. Conservation status for several groups according to the IUCN listing are included. The present study is an effort to have a baseline inventory for all taxa in Kuwait.

Atlas of distribution for marine and coastal birds of Lebanon

In Lebanon, the ornithological publications are very rare. The mention of coastal and sea birds is almost limited to the very few checklists of Lebanon. Our publication targeted these birds where 75 species along the shore line and for a distance of 7 km offshore were recorded. But due to the degradation of the coastline and the sea quality under the impact of chaotic urbanization, the number of threatened coastal and marine bird species at the national level has increased and included 3 globally threatened species. With the use of an Atlas of the coastal and marine bird species, we focus on the numerical distribution of the recorded species together with their population size and abundance.





IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas: Standard

(Arabic Version)

This publication is an Arabic translation of the IUCN Green List of Protected Area and Conserved Areas Standard. This is an important knowledge output for the West Asia region that will encourage protected and conserved areas to measure, improve and maintain their performance through globally consistent criteria that benchmark good governance, sound design and planning, effective management, and successful conservation outcomes.

Marine and Coastal Birds of Lebanon

In Lebanon birds attracted 53 ornithologists and birdwatchers from different parts of the world; whereas, marine and coastal birds have enticed only 15 ornithologists and birdwatchers between 1833 and 2018. This fact sheets is an assessment of bird diversity, where the most significant marine and coastal bird species are highlighted with information, pictures and details about each one of them.

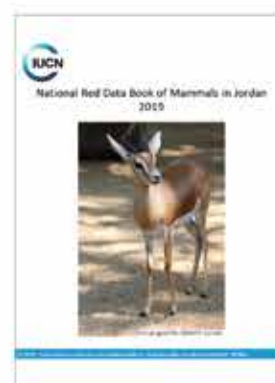


Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the Marine Environment of Lebanon

This publication was developed as part of the Development of a Monitoring Protocol for Marine Invasive Alien Species (IAS) project. It highlights some of the most significant IAS in the Lebanese marine environment and summarizes important information on each. It allows the public to recognize an IAS quickly on the market or at sea. It also draws the attention on venomous and poisonous species that might threaten people in contact with those species.

National Red Data Book of Mammals in Jordan

This is the first national Red List assessment for the mammals of Jordan. This publication is vital since it will identify the list of threatened species of mammals, provide information about the threats facing them, provide conservation measures implemented to conserve them and request urgent actions to ensure their survival. The information will support Jordan's government to comply with their commitments toward biodiversity conservation set within the CBD and other conventions. Also, it will help the various nature conservation entities to achieve national targets.





MINARET Video

A short-animated video that consists of infographics and RealFlow animation to demonstrate intended outcomes of the MINARET project segment in development in Lebanon. The animated video documented Al Jdeideh Municipality progress in regards of WEF Nexus approach. Watch video [here](#)

Towards Deep-Sea Conservation in Lebanon Project video

A short-animated that was produced as part of the Towards Deep-Sea Conservation in Lebanon Project.



Leaflets and posters



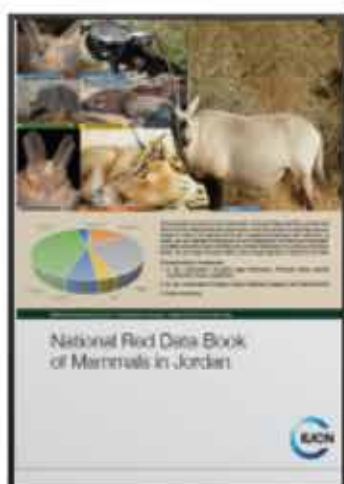
Initial Steps for the Establishment of the National Protected Areas Network Project – Iraq



Monitoring and Documentation of Biodiversity Project in Kuwait



Market Policy and Legislative Development for Mainstreaming Sustainable Management of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Project – Lebanon



National Red Data Book Mammals in Jordan



Mediterranean Most (UN) Wanted



Jordan Plant Red List



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"The environment dimension is very important for achieving sustainable development in a way that helps realize the balance between Man's right to live in a sound environment and the prosperity and development he aspires for."

EPA Director in Kuwait - Abdullah Ahmed Al -Humoud Al-Sabah

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- Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority
- Arab Group for the Protection of Nature
- Arab Women Organization of Jordan
- Basmet Elkhair Women Charity Association
- Dibeen Association for Environmental Development
- Future Pioneers for Empowering Communities Members in the Environmental and Educational Fields
- Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia
- Horizon for a Green Environment
- Jordan Environment Society
- Jordan Society for the Conservation of Turtles & Tortoises
- Jordanian Beekeepers Union
- Jordan Environmental Union
- Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Badia Development
- Jordanian Society for Organic Farming
- Ministry of Environment of Jordan
- National Center for Research and Development
- Petra Development Tourism Regional Authority
- Princess Alia Foundation
- Royal Botanic Garden
- Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature
- The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development
- The Jordanian Society for Microbial Biodiversity
- The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan
- University of Jordan
- West Asia - North Africa (WANA) Institute

LEBANON



- Al Shouf Cedar Society
- Association for Forests, Development and Conservation
- Association for the Development of Rural Capacities
- Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa
- Environment Protection Committee
- Friends of Horsch Ehden
- Friends of Nature Association
- GHADI
- Green Hand Organisation
- Green Line
- Lebanese Environment Forum
- Lebanon Reforestation Initiative
- Mada Association
- Operation Big Blue Association
- Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon
- Window to Environment Association

SYRIA



- The Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife

IUCN ROWA MEMBERS

PALESTINE



- Biodiversity and Environmental Research Center
- Land Research Center
- Palestine Wildlife Society
- Palestinian Livestock Development Center
- The Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem Society (ARIJ)
- The Palestinian Hydrology Group for Water and Environmental Resources Development - Research and Development
- The Environmental Education Center of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
- Union of Agricultural work Committee

SAUDI ARABIA



- The Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture

BAHRAIN



- Bahrain Women Association for Human Development
- The Supreme Council for Environment

UAE



- Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve
- Emirates Environmental Group
- Emirates Nature-WWF
- Environment Agency Abu Dhabi

KUWAIT



- Environment Public Authority
- Kuwait Environment Protection Society
- Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
- Kuwait Water Association

IUCN ROWA MEMBERS

IRAQ



- Environmental Sciences Department
- Marine Science Centre
- Ministry of Health & Environment

OMAN



- Environment Society of Oman
- Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs Oman

YEMEN



- Al-Haswa Feminist Environmental Society
- Environment Friends Association
- Ras Imran Society for Sea Turtles Conservation
- Sustainability for Nature Conservation
- Yemen Society for the Sustainability of Natural Resources

QATAR



- Friends of Environment Center
- Qatar Museums

IRAN



- Center for Conservation and Development of Sustainable Ecosystems (ZIPAK)
- Centre for Sustainable Development
- Echo of Persia Wildlife
- Payeshgaran e Hamiye Mohit Zist Iran
- Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation
- Plan for the Land Society

DONORS AND PARTNERS





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working for
a just world
that values and
conserves nature



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