

ANNUAL REPORT 2019







Dibeen Forest Reserve

Governance

and leadership of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

The Society's General Assembly: All associate members of the membership program. A member shall be eligible for election after two years of membership provided he is a Jordanian and not less than twenty years of age. Moreover, a member shall be eligible for election to the Board of Directors four years after joining the membership program..

The Board of Directors: The elected body of the General Assembly to oversee the management of the society, consisting of 11 members, nine elected by the General Assembly and, in turn, appointed two other members. The Council is elected every four years and the voting is restricted to Jordanians only.

Board of Directors (2022 – 2019)

Mr. Khalid Al-Irani	Chairman of the Board of Directors
Mr. Ghassan Asfour	Vice Chairman
Mr. Mohammed Shaheen	Secretary
Mr. Samir Bandak	Member
Mr. Bassam Kanaan	Member
Mr. Waddah Barqawi	Member
Ms. Rana Al-Naber	Member
Mrs. Batoul Al-Ajlouni	Member
Dr. Dureid Mahasneh	Member
Mr. Mohammed Ali	Member
Mr. Samir Farkouh	Member

The Executive Team:

The body responsible for the day-to-day management of the society and the implementation of the decisions of the Board of Directors

Yehia Khaled	Director General
Maan Al-Smadi	Protected Areas Director
Nash'at Hmeidan	Nature Conservation Monitoring Center Manager
Ashraf Barqawi	Ecotourism program Director
Hussam Tarawneh	Head of Socio-economic
Sultan Hanafi	Logistic Support and Human Resources Director
Fadi Al-Nasser	Director of Finance
Abdelrazzaq Al Humoud	Law Enforcement Program Manager
Mervat Batarseh	Environmental Education Manager
Mona Al-Taq	Public Relations and Communications Manager

☀️ Chairman's Message:

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature has turned 53 and today it is entering a new year together and while we grow old, the society stays young and fresh.

Last year, the society achieved numerous successes, whilst facing many challenges, all of which only increased the level of determination of all our staff members, employees, volunteers, supporting parties and activists who believe in our mission, to achieve even more successes, and reach our destination.

As we enter the new year with many ambitious ideas, clear plans, unwavering determination and a sense of renewed vitality aimed at offering more to serve humanity and the environment; we do so whilst simultaneously reviewing the past decades in the life of the society in order to assess its journey and past achievements. We also look to the future with eyes full of hope, and we plan to confidently face all challenges along the path, reinforced by our administrative and technical team; a team which has, over the years and decades, proven its competence and skill, thus making the society a Jordanian success story at the global and regional levels.

Last year, thanks to God, we were able to build on the successes achieved in previous years, whereby, as an example but not limited to, the society obtained certification for the Dana Nature Reserve reaching the final stage of the competition to join the Green List Program of the International Union for Conservation of Nature; after the previous additions of the Ajloun Forest Reserve and Azraq Wetland Reserve to the list.

The society has continued to achieve numerous successes, especially after the Feynan Ecolodge was declared as winner of the Golden Award at the World Travel Market (WTM), in the

category of the best establishment in reducing carbon and other greenhouse gases.

In continuation of the society's role as a home for expertise in various technical and training issues related to the many fields of nature conservation and biodiversity, including the development of environment tourism programs, the society has also been involved in organizing and holding conferences and specialized workshops. National and regional events organized by the society include: the Regional Forum for the Leaders of Protected/Conserved Reserves, the Forth National Conference of Natural Reserves (Sustainable Ecotourism), the Fifth Scientific Conference of the Nature Conservation Monitoring Center and the national workshop on areas of plant biodiversity importance in Jordan.

As for managing ecotourism and socioeconomic projects, which directly benefit local societies, the society introduced the concept of "Experiential Tourism" at a number of natural reserves, as a part of its programs aimed at developing ecotourism and offering high quality services to visitors and tourists. This constituted a qualitative shift in the concepts of the conservation of nature and ecotourism programs by integrating local communities into these programs.

The society also implemented the "Himmeh – W - Lammah" initiative in coordination with a number of partners and supporting institutions in an effort to combat the phenomenon of littering. The initiative had a direct and tangible impact on combating this phenomenon, and it was also successful in introducing the various natural reserve sites spread throughout our beloved homeland. Moreover, the initiative contributed to strengthening our national sense in preserving and protecting these sites.

The Society entered a new era by formulating a reform strategy revolving around elevating its performance and improving the quality of its services. This led to the establishment of the “Estidama Project”, which is mainly involved in developing the capabilities of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, noting that the project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which works to strengthen the society’s institutional and financial sustainability in the long-term by using a set of best practices to consolidate the efficiency and development of human resources, derive increased economic value and determine the optimal costs of protected area business models.

All of these successes would not have been achieved had it not been for the concerted efforts of all those working at the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature, along with its members, supporters and partners; and, God willing, we shall continue with the same approach and by following the same course towards a brighter future.

In conclusion, please allow me to extend my thanks and gratitude to all those who contributed to any of our successes. The roles played by everyone are important and are appreciated by the members of the society, and by my colleagues, members of the Board of Directors, and all of the society’s staff and volunteers, as well as all of the ministries and donor and supportive institutions, and all of the society’s partners who had faith in our mission.

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Khaled Anis Al-Irani



The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature was founded in 1966 as a voluntary non-governmental organization. Upon its establishment, the society was chaired by His Majesty the late King Hussein as the Supreme Honorary President.

The Jordanian government has delegated the responsibility of protecting wildlife and biodiversity in all regions of the Kingdom.

Our mission:

RSCN will create, manage and advocate for a national network of protected areas to conserve Jordan's biodiversity and support local community development, while promoting wider public support and action for the protection of the natural environment within Jordan and neighboring countries

We protect nature through:

- Establishing and effectively managing a network of protected areas in order to maintain their ecosystems.
- Developing and implementing specialized biodiversity studies and facilitating their use in nature conservation programs.
- Regulating hunting, particularly in protected areas and areas of biodiversity excellence.
- Implementing development initiatives targeting communities living around protected areas.
- Developing environmental educational programs in the reserves for greater participation of community children in nature conservation programs.
- Providing specialized rehabilitation and capacity-building programs in the areas of nature conservation and sustainable development.
- Increasing grassroots support for the society through the expansion of membership program and activities (including Friends of the society), in addition to programs sponsoring and supporting the society, in order to increase popular and political support for the society's work programs.

1966



The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

Below is a list of the achievements of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature during 2019, and we hope that 2020 will bring even more achievements related to protecting nature in Jordan.

Secretary General
Mohammad Shaheen

The society's team worked on the implementation of many programs and activities during 2019 within the scope of the society's action plans. The following sections show some of the main activities and programs:


Awards

- Feynan Ecolodge has won the Golden Award at the World Travel Market (WTM), in the category of the best establishment in reducing carbon and other greenhouse gases.

International Participations

- The Director General of the society participated in the meeting of the Birdlife International Supreme Council as a representative of the Middle East region within the international council.
- The society took part in meetings held by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), thus reaffirming the society's regional and global role in leading nature protection programs.
- The society participated in the Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition – the United Arab Emirates, whereby the society gave a presentation on its role in protecting nature in general and animals and birds in particular.





Dana Biosphere Reserve

Protecting Natural Habitats and Managing Protected Areas

Within the framework of its programs for protecting natural habitats and managing protected areas, the society implemented its various annual programs for natural reserves in the sites and reserves run by the society:



Shaumari Wildlife Reserve: Developing the breeding program for various species in the reserve: the Arabian Oryx, the gazelle and the onager. Moreover, a Houbara Bustard program was established in cooperation with the International Fund for Houbara Conservation.



Azraq Wetland Reserve: Rehabilitating natural habitats in the reserve. The reserve provides a natural habitat for the Azraq Killifish *Aphanius Sirhani*, and it also attracts thousands of birds annually.



Mujib Biosphere Reserve: The reserve reached an advanced stage in being declared as one of the first geological reserves in Jordan within the UNESCO's network.



Dana Biosphere Reserve: Developing programs for running the reserve in order to reach the final phase of being included within the Green List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The reserve's management is also working on assessing the potential environmental impact and the economic feasibility of copper exploration within the reserve.



Ajloun Forest Reserve: Developing the reserve's facilities in order to receive the increasing numbers of visitors, in line with the best international standards and principles of ecotourism.



Dibeen Forest Reserve: Developing the distinct Aleppo pine-oak forests of the reserve to redirect the influx of visitors to a new picnic area on the boundaries of the reserve.



Yarmouk Forest Reserve: Rehabilitation of the natural habitats within the reserve, and improve natural pastures in cooperation with the Livestock Owners Society from the local community.



Fifa Nature Reserve: Working on transforming Fifa Village into the first ecovillage in Jordan within the framework of a cooperation program between the society's management, the Arab Bank and a number of local community institutions.

❖ Protecting Natural Habitats and Managing Protected Areas



Burqu Nature Reserve: Developing the Burqu Nature Reserve program to become the first Arab reserve involved in training falcons, supported by the International Fund for Houbara Conservation. The reserve development program also includes a major component dedicated to local community development.



Dahik Nature Reserve: The society started developing and implementing an inspection and protection program.



Aqaba Bird Observatory: The society began formulating its plans and designs for developing the Aqaba Bird Observatory to become a birding area, in cooperation with the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority and the Aqaba Development Corporation.

The society has also implemented several programs in the fields of natural habitat protection and natural reserves as follows:



Management Plans for Protected Areas:

The society continued developing management plans for protected areas, based on updated management plans as a means to increase the effectiveness of its on-site management of these reserves. Consequently, the Azraq Wetland Reserve and the Ajloun Forest Reserve were both added to the Green List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, which consists of some of the best reserves internationally when it comes to management. Work is also underway to finalize all the requirements for the addition of the Dana Biosphere Reserve to this list. Moreover, the Network of Nature Reserves was further developed to encompass more than approximately 4% of the surface area of Jordan, whereby Dahik and Burqu were both declared as natural reserves and were added to the network of protected areas in Jordan.



Inspection and Protection Programs in Protected Areas:

Developing inspection and protection programs in protected areas in order to conserve important ecosystems and natural habitats, whereby the number of inspection patrols in natural reserves reached (17,455) during 2019.



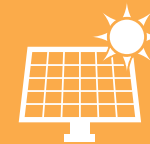
The Rehabilitation of Natural Habitats:

The society rehabilitated (3) important natural habitats within the protected areas of the Ajloun, Fifa and Dana reserves.



The Development of Management Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment:

The society developed the management facilities and infrastructures at protected areas, and it provided these protected areas with the necessary machines and equipments in order to manage them effectively.



Finalizing the Conversion of the Majority of Protected Areas' Facilities to Renewable Solar Energy:

The annual value of produced renewable solar energy reached approximately JD127,000.



Maintaining Communication: The managers of the reserves ensure to maintain contact with all groups of stakeholders from within all segments through numerous programs and activities, mainly through the Steering Committees of the Reserves.



❖ Nature Conservation Monitoring Center

The Center implemented the following activities and programs:

- The Center implemented a number of specialized ecological studies and issued scientific reports detailing the results of these studies, whereby a total of (8) studies were conducted, and a number of monitoring programs were executed in the nature reserves. The following is a summary of the most significant studies and programs conducted and implemented:

Specialized Environmental Studies Conducted during 2019

3 Flora studies

- A study of the vegetation in the Yarmouk Forest Reserve
- A study of the vegetation in the Fifa Forest Reserve
- A study of the vegetation in the Wadi Rum Nature Reserve

2 Fauna studies

- A study of lizards in the Fifa Nature Reserve
- A study of fish in the Fifa Nature Reserve

2 Bird studies

- A study of vultures in the Fifa Nature Reserve
- A study of vultures in the Yarmouk Forest Reserve

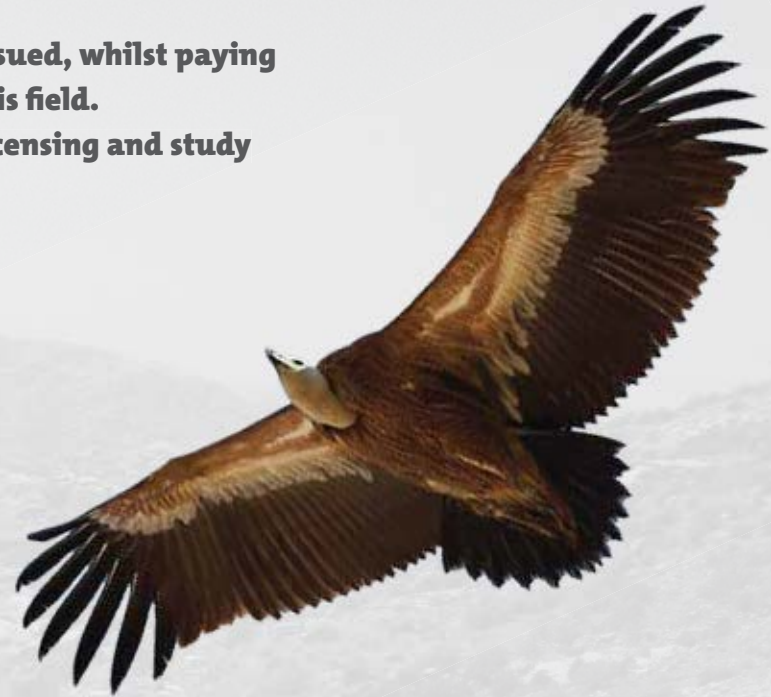
- Moreover, a study was conducted on the relationship between biodiversity and tourism in the Northern region of Jordan.
- The fifth publication of the Jordan Journal of Natural History was issued, whilst paying special attention to contacting researchers and academics within this field.
- Through the use of the Geographical Information Systems, (2000) licensing and study committee maps were prepared, according to the below table:



Types and Numbers of Maps Prepared through Geographical Information Systems during 2019

470

Maps for licensing committees



1530



Maps prepared for studies conducted by the Nature Conservation Monitoring Center and the departments of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

❖ Law Enforcement for Protecting Species and Regulating Hunting

The Protection Program continued to regulate hunting activities throughout the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in cooperation with the Royal Department for Environment Protection and the relevant ministries and governmental institutions, in order to ensure the protection of wild species. The following is a list of the society's most significant achievements:



The issuance of
3298
hunting licenses



The issuance of
640
certificates of
(CITES)

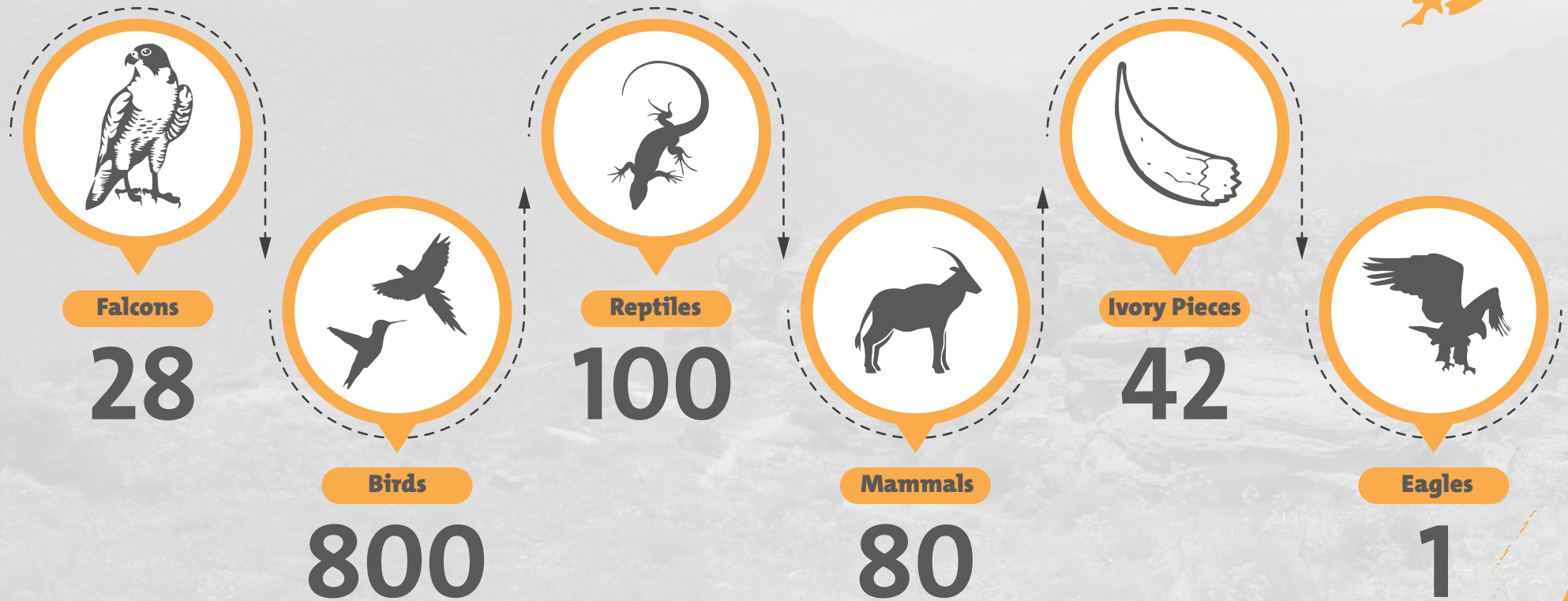


patrols outside
the reserves
reaching
1500
rounds



A total of
550
important species
of various types
were confiscated

Types and Numbers of confiscated species during 2019

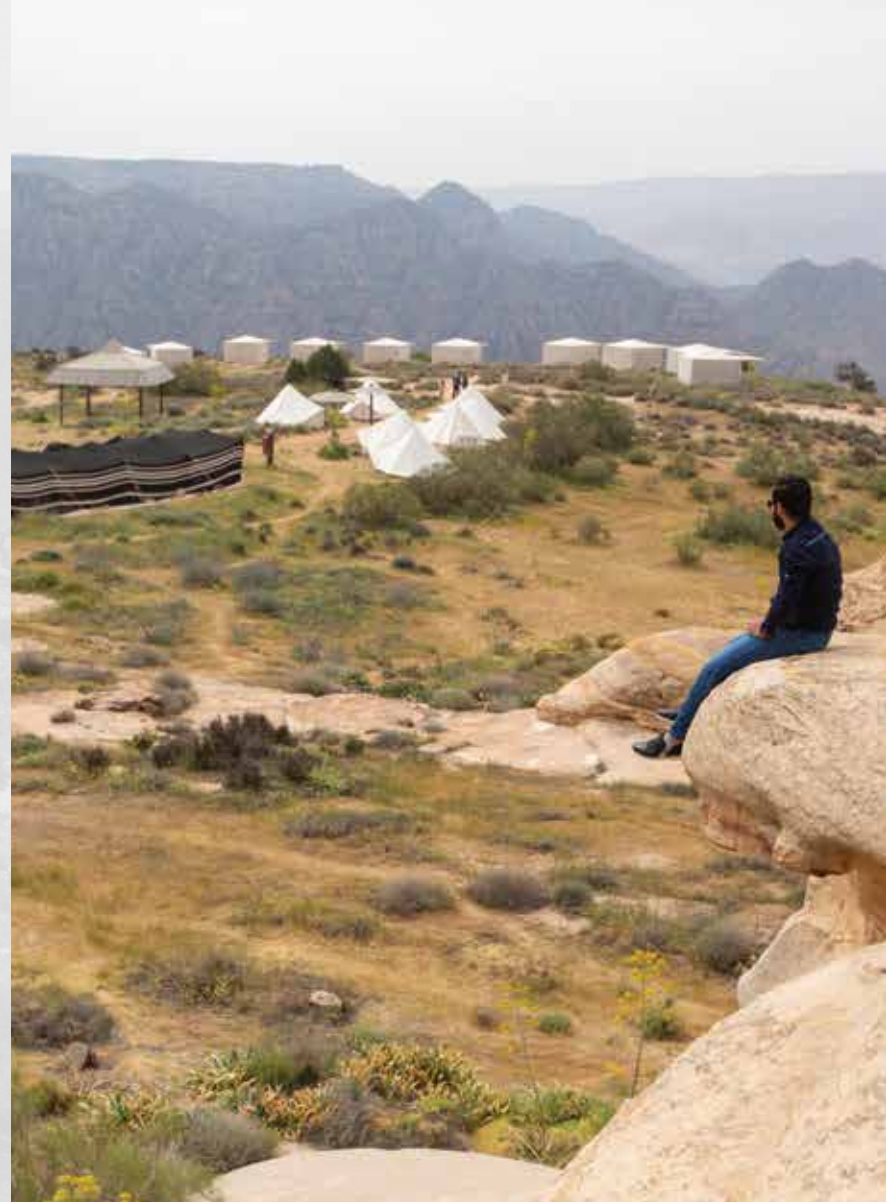


- Implemented numerous training programs for partners, particularly “CITES” programs, the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity and a number of other related topics.

❖ Ecotourism

The Ecotourism program has continued to promote the society's sites, as it has also continued to develop new tourism programs and ecological trails in order to attract the largest possible number of nature lovers and reserves' visitors. The following is a summary of some of the most important achievements made by the society in this regards:

- Organized (60) weekly trips “Weekly Safari Trips”, which were implemented periodically, in addition to a number of promotional campaigns.
- Developed (22) new ecological/tourism trails in all the various reserves.
- Contracted with (80) tourism companies in order to promote the tourism products offered by the nature reserves.
- Signed (73) reservation contracts with various companies.
- Participated in (20) events and conferences specialized in tourism to market the various sites of the society..
- Increased tourism sales through online booking sites such as Expedia/Airbnb/ Booking.com.
- The number of visitors to various sites has increased. The following table shows the number of visitors to each site:



Number of Visitors to Various Sites during 2019



❖ Socio-Economic Projects and Local Communities' Development

The Department of Socio-Economic Development implemented its program mainly involved in developing handicraft and products workshops. The following is a summary of the most significant achievements in this regards:

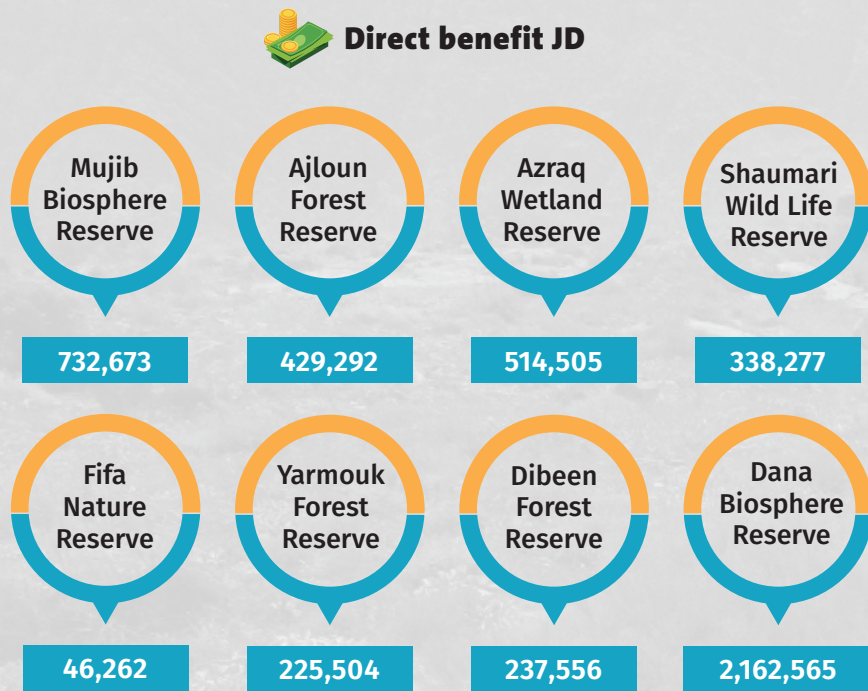
- The Department achieved approximately 99% of its sales target for 2019.
- The Department implemented a number of training programs directed at female workers in the Soap House. These programs were aimed at improving the quality of products, increasing production capacity and reducing costs, in addition to training female workers at the wax workshop in Mujib in order to improve the quality of products.
- A number of agreements were signed, including an agreement with the Applied Science Private University – Faculty of Fine Arts, in order to take advantage of experience in the field of designing. Another agreement was signed with the ACTED Organization, in order to achieve cooperation, launch workshops and serve local communities. Moreover, arrangements were made to launch an exhibition and a café at Abdali Mall. Finally, an agreement was signed to open up a new branch in Ayla – Aqaba.
- Two dunums of land were cultivated with green thyme to meet the requirements of the society's workshops.
- Participation in a number of events, including the Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition – the United Arab Emirates, and activities held by the King Hussein Cancer Center, in addition to experimental initiatives to open up a new market in Kuwait.
- Development of the Aloe Vera project, whereby 15 dunums of land were cultivated with Aloe Vera and arrangements were made to make available the required machines for production. Furthermore, the society has coordinated with various parties to market all Aloe Vera gel products manufactured.
- New products were launched, and work is currently underway to develop packages for these products, especially soap. Moreover, experiments were conducted on producing soap from Aleppo pistachio oil.
- A new workshop for producing cladium plants and banana leaves was launched in its trial phase in cooperation with a group from the Yarmouk Women's Community.
- The society followed up on safety issues with the Food and Drug Administration in order to obtain approvals to sell products in the market.





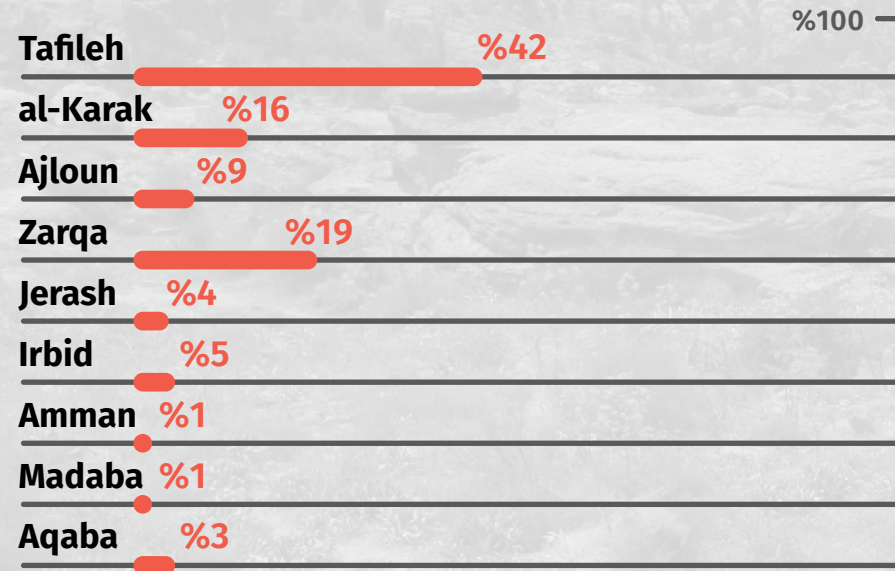
❖ The direct economic benefit to local communities Among the reserves programs:

The accumulated benefit of local communities from protected areas' programs was approximately JD **4686634** that were distributed among protected areas, as shown in the table below:



The economic benefit from the protected areas were Distributed among eight of the Kingdom's governorates; Tafleeh Governorate benefit was the highest while Amman and Aqaba Benefits were the lowest as shown in the table below:

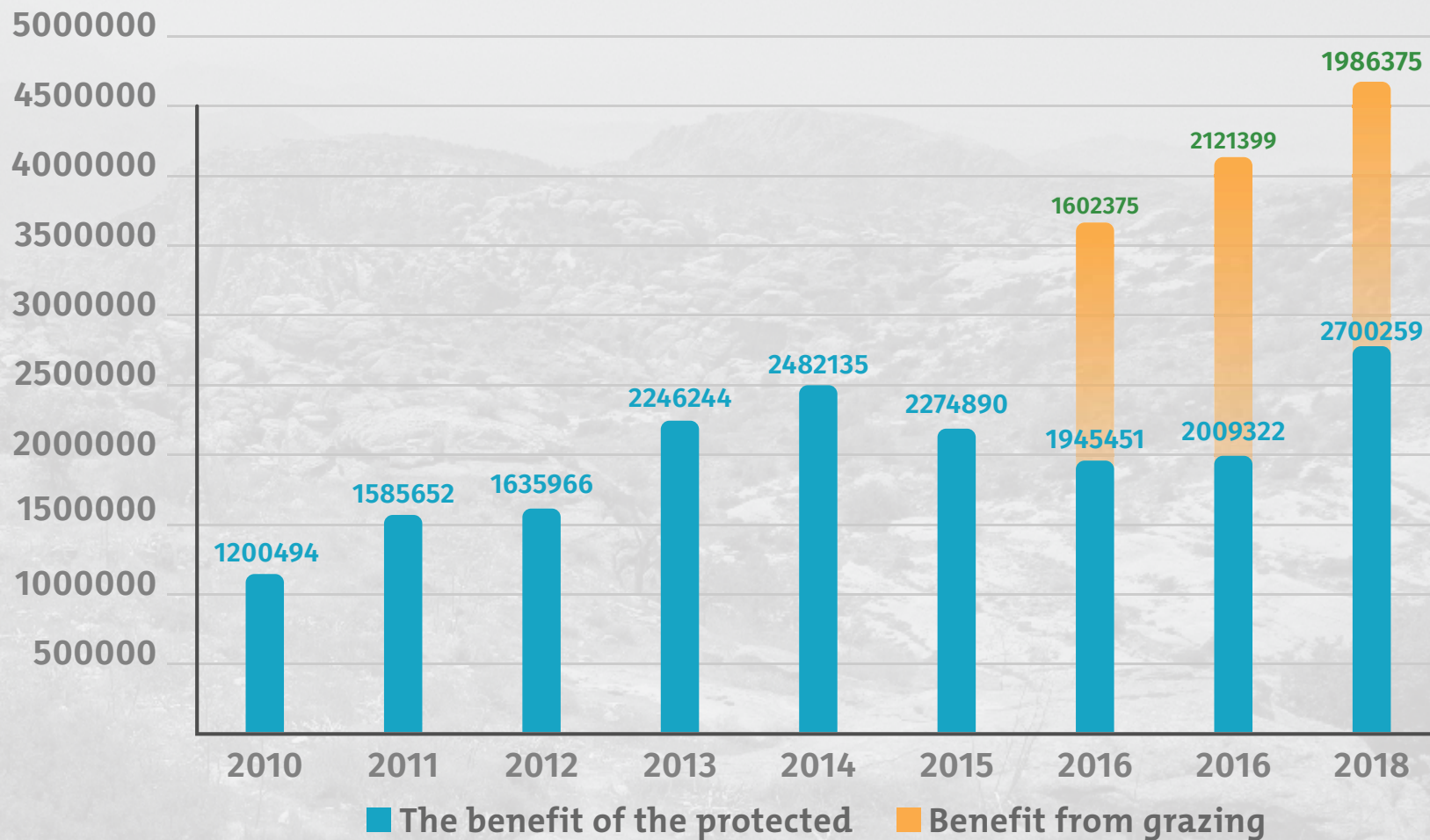
Distribution among Governorates of Benefits from Protected Areas for 2018



The total Benefits from protected areas in 2018 have increased by **%13** by comparing with the previous year 2016 due to the new projects and the increase of the grazing area in the Dana Biosphere Reserve.

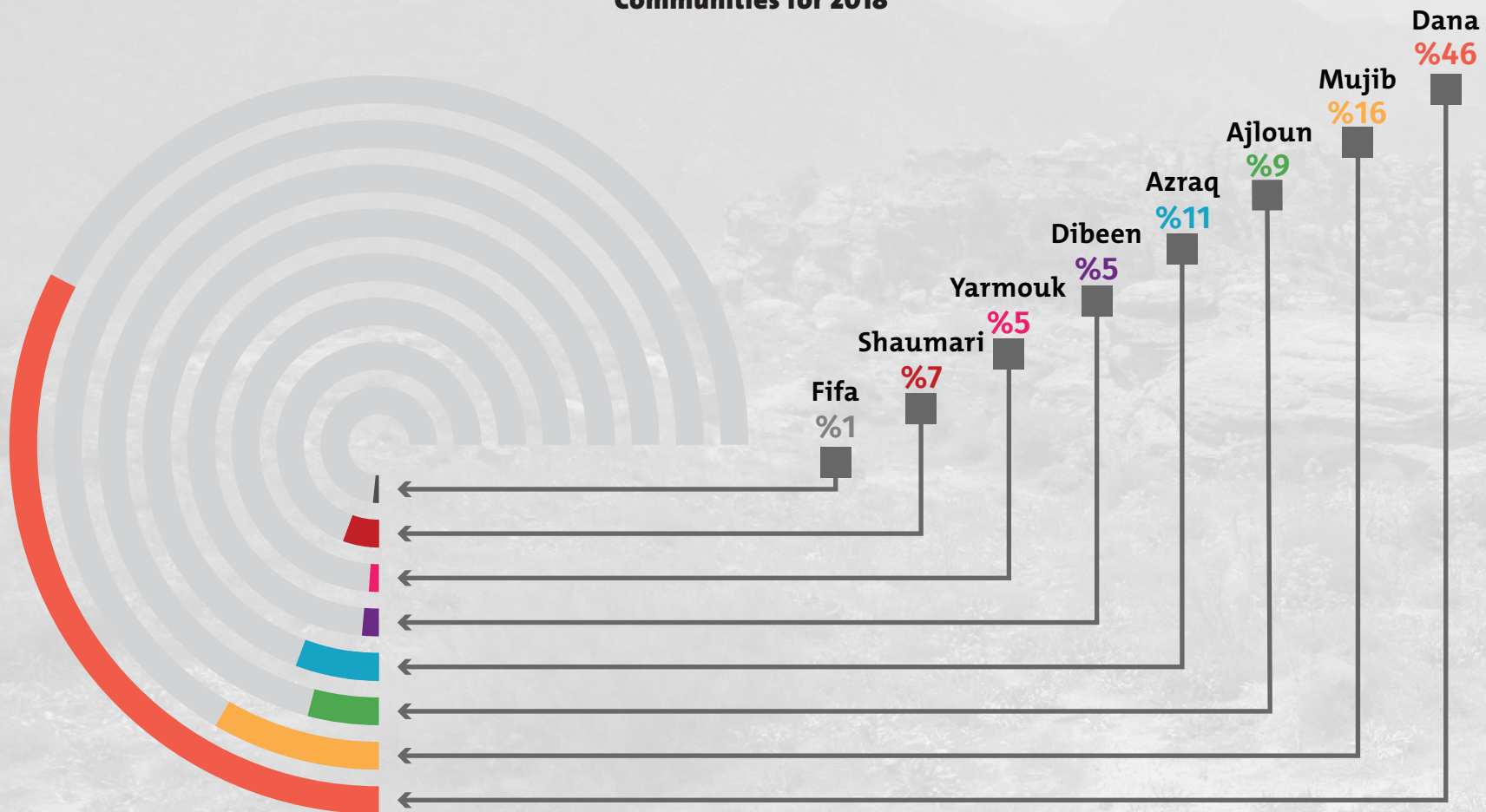
As shown in the table below:

**Compare the local community's use of nature reserves
During the years 2010 to 2018**



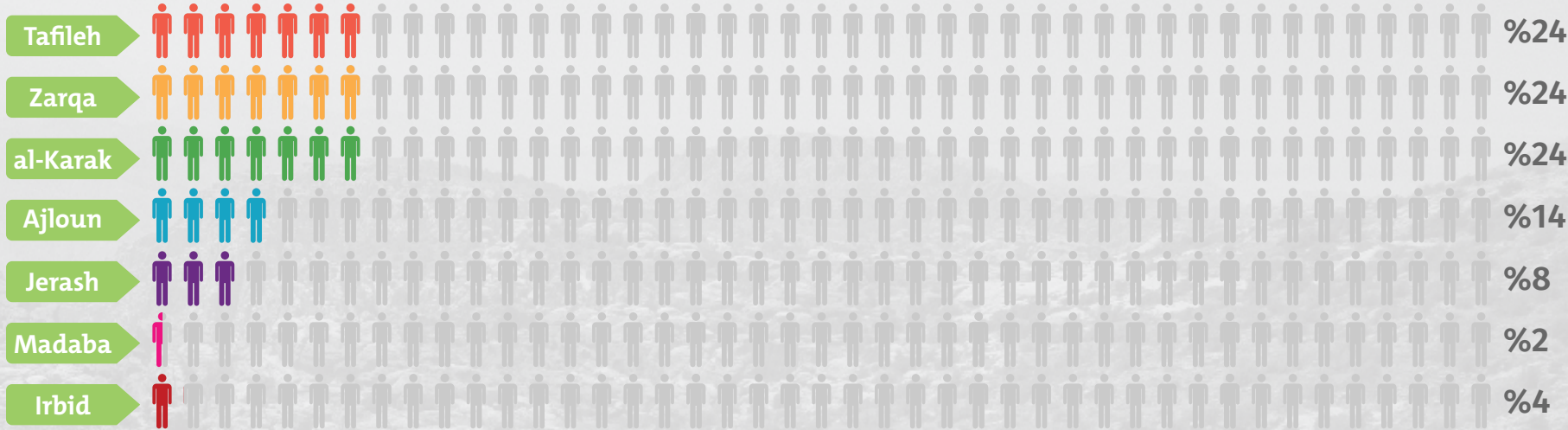
The percentage of the contribution of the various reserves in the general total for the benefit of local communities from the natural reserves varied, as the Dana reserve was the highest at a rate of %46, followed by the Mujib reserve by %15, followed by the Azraq reserve by %11, followed by the Ajloun reserve %9, followed by the Shomari reserve %7, followed equally by each From the Yarmouk reserve, the Dibin reserve %5, and the FIFA reserve %1, as shown in the figure below.

Contribution of protected areas in the total benefit Communities for 2018

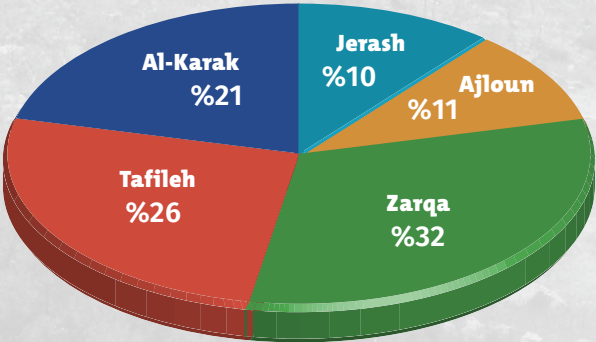


Natural reserves and at the national level contributed to advancing development in remote areas. Because of the establishment of these reserves, a total of (238) permanent job opportunities were created for the local population distributed among seven governorates and fifteen districts and districts of the kingdom's districts, with the exception of the capital, Amman, where Tafila was Karak was the most benefiting from jobs in the reserves, while Madaba governorate benefited the least, as is shown in the figure below.

Distribution of protected areas jobs in the governorates of the Kingdom for the year 2018

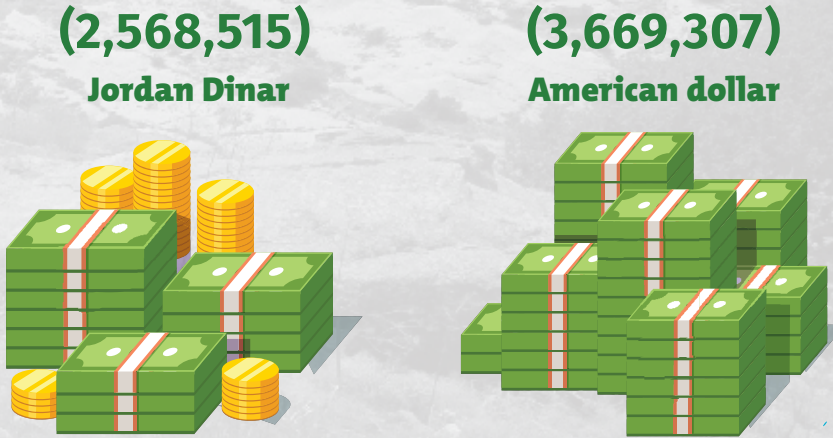


The RSCN runs nineteen small projects in the protected areas. These projects are linked to the protected area and are distributed to governorates as follows:



Number & Distribution of Economic Projects by Governorate

Total indirect economic benefits at local and national level In Jordanian Dinars and US Dollars



∴ Communication and Networking for Grassroots and Political Support

The society continued its activities and programs throughout all of its departments and sites in order to maintain the highest possible level of communication with stakeholders, partners, members and all of its supporters within various segments. These activities and programs may be summarized as follows:

- **Organizing the General Assembly meeting:** The meeting was organized and new members of the Board of Directors were elected, whereby the General Assembly ratified the 2018 annual and financial reports. Moreover, PWC Firm was chosen as the society's internal auditor for 2019.
- **Active participation by the society in a number of international conferences and meetings** related to various nature conservation programs.
- **Active Partnership with the Private Sector to Support Nature Conservation's Programs, represented by the following:**
 - Maintaining a sustainable partnership with Arab Bank by involving Arab Bank employees in voluntary activities, in addition to the bank's support for the society's programs.
 - Developing a partnership with Ayla Oasis Development Company by implementing the World Migratory Bird Day Campaign in Aqaba, and supporting Bird Watching programs in Ayla Oasis.
 - Maintaining relationships with the society's supporters and donors, in addition to attracting new donors in order to support the society's programs.
 - Developing the partnership with Investbank, through the Bank's support for numerous initiatives, the most important of which is the Organic Farming Project in the municipality of Ajloun, in addition to signing a memorandum of understanding related to developing an area for children's playground area in Ajloun Forest Reserve.
 - Cooperating with the Wings of Hope Foundation to contribute to environmental education programs in the reserves, especially supporting the Nature Knight Program in the Azraq Wetland Reserve during this year.

- **Nature Knight Program:** The society implemented its Nature Knight Program, which is considered as the society's main environmental education program in nature reserves, whereby school students participated in various programs within the environmental and nature conservation programs implemented in the reserves. Around (1,000) students participated in this programs, and a total of (100) students graduated as Nature Knights after having passed the program's five levels.



- **Develop On-site Educational Games Related to Species within the Reserves:** Continued development of on-site environment game zones for children, especially the interactive educational children games zone in the Ajloun Forest Reserve.



- **Communicate with Decision Makers:** Various departments of the reserves implemented programs for communicating with decision makers related to the reserves, who are all considered as main partners in the nature conservation programs of the society. These programs adopted a number of tools, the most prominent of which were “Local Committees for Managing the Reserves”.
- **Major media appearance for the Society(media, social networks), including the following activities:**
 - Developing a clear plan and marketing content dedicated to the society’s work through numerous social media networks, in addition to an increase in the number of followers on Facebook reaching 19,100, 3,500 on Instagram, and 4,000 on Twitter.
 - Maintaining and expanding media partnerships with local and global international entities, and increasing diverse coverage to 858 .

- Use of the Wild Jordan Center as a promotional center for the society’s programs and activities, in addition to marketing tourism and socio-economic development programs.

- **Membership program:**

- Activating the role of the membership committee and its programs in communicating with members.
- "Nature Discussions" program held on a monthly basis.
- The number of active members reached (406), and the number of friends of the society reached (17,535).

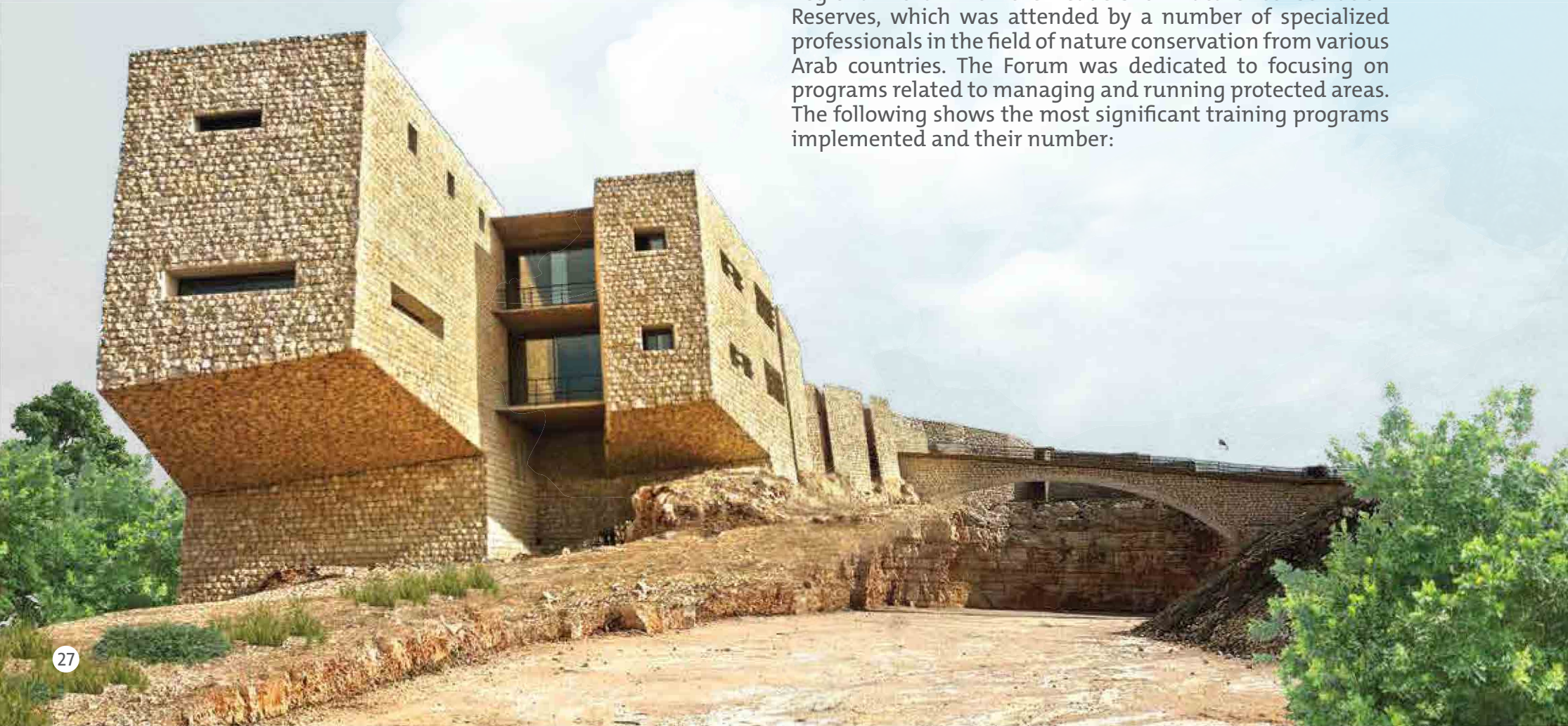
- **Events:** The society organized a total of (50) international and local events and campaigns. The most prominent of these events was the society’s participation in the “Himmeh-Wi-Lammeh” campaign dedicated to combatting the phenomenon of littering in Jordan.



∴ The Royal Academy for the Conservation of Nature

The society's team continued to develop the regional Academy's programs and training despite the scarcity of resources available for these programs. The following is a summary of the achievements made in this regards:

- A total of (14) training programs were implemented locally, regionally and globally, the most significant of which was the Regional Forum for the Leaders of Nature Conservation Reserves, which was attended by a number of specialized professionals in the field of nature conservation from various Arab countries. The Forum was dedicated to focusing on programs related to managing and running protected areas. The following shows the most significant training programs implemented and their number:



The Main important Training Programs Implemented during 2019

Training Programs (Locally, Regionally and Globally)	Number of workshops held/levels
The completion of the law enforcement curriculum for targeted groups locally and regionally (decision makers and inspectors)	levels 3
Conservation and Inspection Skills	4
Regional Forum for the Leaders of Nature Conservation Reserves	1
The Impact of Energy Infrastructure on Migratory Birds	1
Management of Nature Reserves (Delegation of participants from the Republic of Tunisia and the Republic of Libya)	2
Workshop on Wetlands	1
Training for Adventure Guides	1
Strategic Plans for Non-governmental Organizations	1

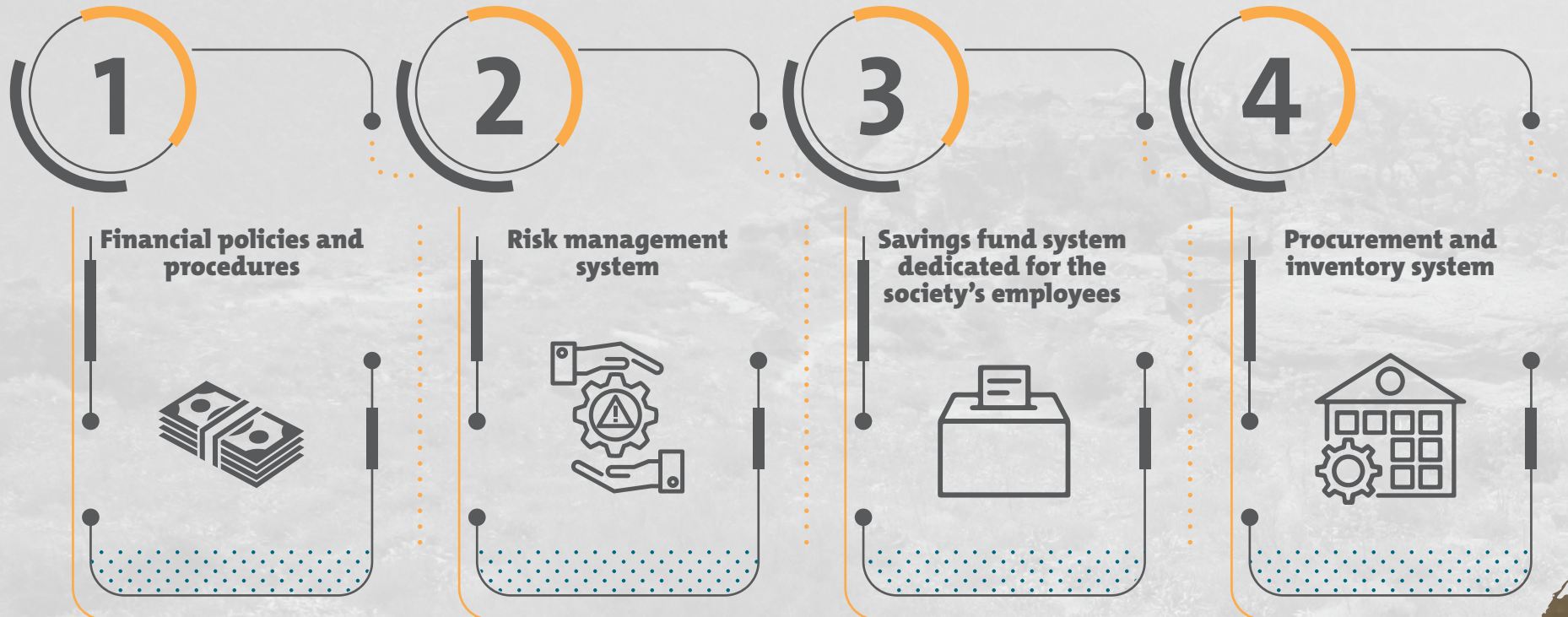
- **Building and maintaining partnerships with local, regional and international institutions, the most important of which are:**

- The General Customs Department.
- The Royal Department for Environment Protection.
- The Palestinian Ecotourism Society.
- The Saudi Wildlife Authority.
- The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi.
- The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).
- The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- The Palestinian Wildlife Society.
- The United States Forest Service.
- The Hanns Seidel Foundation.

- **A total of (4) foreign delegations visited the academy and the society headquarters in order to review specialized training programs offered by the academy in the fields of nature conservation, biodiversity, socio-economic development, and conservation programs, in addition to others.**

Logistical Support and Human Resources

The society has worked on developing the management systems necessary for organizing and regulating its activities in all sites and locations, by developing the following:



Fifa Nature Reserve



❖ Projects Managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

Houbara (Bustard) Conservation Project funded by Houbara Fund in the UAE (2018- 2023)

The project aims at reintroducing Houbara birds in Jordan, and protecting their natural habitats and also aims to develop local communities in the release areas.

Important Achievements for 2019:

Signing of an agreement for the second phase of the project and integrating the conservation and sustainability programs of the Houbara bird with the socio-economic development of the local communities."

Furthermore, the project implemented a host of activities with the following scientific objectives:

- Continuing the environmental and socio-economic studies and research related to the status and distribution of Houbara in Jordan to improve conservation programs and sustain the natural habitats.
- Maximizing the mechanisms of local community integration and active participation in Houbara conservation programs to cover all social and economic needs and increasing the income.
- Working with local communities and decision makers to reduce the decline of Houbara in the wild as a result of intensive human hunting, and developing new field and legal mechanisms to enforce hunting laws and procedures.
- Mobilizing of political and popular support for Houbara conservation programs and related protection activities.
- Developing and strengthening of institutional and individual capacity to achieve the Houbara conservation programs with high efficiency.



Jordan Valley Links Project, funded by the Canadian MEDA Foundation (2017 - 2019)



The Jordan Valley Links project aims at increasing the contributions of youths and women to achieving economic growth in Jordan. The project works to support women and youth to take advantage of new economic opportunities in the fields of: food processing, community tourism and clean technology in the Jordan Valley region, thus allowing them to become involved in the economy. The field of community tourism in the regions of Jarash and Ajloun were chosen for the society's interventions.

Important Achievements for 2019:

- A total of 1,214 male and female participants from the governorates of Jarash and Ajloun were trained, of which 986 benefitted from new projects, while 228 benefitted from ongoing projects.
- Training of project beneficiaries (grants) to use social media platforms.
- Prepared a supply and demand survey in Jarash and Ajloun in cooperation with a company specializing in this field.
- Offered (11) grants for community tourism projects in Jarash and Ajloun.
- Created a special pamphlet for environmental policies and procedures, and implemented a report on the best practices related to the main projects in Ajloun Forest Reserve and Dibeen Forest Reserve.
- Developed internal procedures related to community diversity, and trained 500 male and female participants on the topic of community diversity.

Organic Farming Project, funded by Investment Bank (2018- 2020)



The society been working on promoting the organic farming in Ajloun by implementing a set of initiatives that supports the concept of organic farming in the area, with funding from Investment Bank.

Important Achievements for 2019:

- A development plan has been placed for the pilot farm through rehabilitation and introduction of animal husbandry like poultry farming and sheep breeding Al-Kifaah Society has obtained the certificate of organic farming.
- Began registering farms in the "Um Al-Yanabee" area to have them transformed to organic farms. Moreover, an agreement was signed with the Spanish "Aserta Company" to facilitate the transformation process.
- All farms were supplied with the most important materials and resources in order to ensure obtaining organic agricultural products.
- The society introduced experiential tourism activities in these farms, in order for all visitors to experience organic farming.
- Completed the training program on organic farming in order to raise the performance of farmers in the "Um Al-Yanabee" area
- Introduced beekeeping activities in farms.

❖ Projects Managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

Jordan's Green Infrastructure Improvement Project through Labor-Intensive Procedures, funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ (2017 - 2019)

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the German Corporation for International Cooperation and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature are implementing the green infrastructure improvement project in Jordan through labor-intensive procedures.

The project aims at employing Jordanian and Syrian men and women who are in need of work, in the field of improving green infrastructure in the areas which they live in, and they are therefore able to receive incomes quickly. The workers implement projects such as planting trees, urban gardening, the creation of recreational and picnic areas, parks, playgrounds and sports facilities, thus making them suitable for use. This project provides a green infrastructure for local communities living in these areas, thus strengthening bonds between families and neighbors. The project is being implemented inside protected areas and a number of surrounding villages .

Important achievements for 2019:

- Employing 685 workers from villages surrounding protected areas (50% Jordanian and 50% Syrian workers).
- Rehabilitation of various tourist corridors in protected areas.
- Rehabilitation of the water catchment in the Azraq Wetland Reserve.
- Planting more than 12,000 seedlings of indigenous plant species.



Birds Projects (2017 - 2023)



The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature is implementing three projects concerned with the protection of birds in Jordan in partnership with the Birdlife International and funded by a number of entities, namely MAVA, UNDP, GEF and the European Union. These projects are concerned with conserving and protecting birds along their entire migratory path within the Jordan Valley. The society plans to achieve the objectives of these projects by incorporating the concept of migratory birds within various productive sectors (energy, hunting, tourism, agriculture and waste management). Moreover, the society shall also incorporate the concept of migratory birds into land use policies all along the Jordan Valley path, in addition to reviewing policies and developing and adopting procedures in productive projects in order to guarantee the protection of birds. These procedures and policies are to be widely circulated on the national level, in addition to implementing awareness and capacity-building programs for stakeholders and national partners in the public

and private sectors seeking to integrate the concepts of birds and their migratory paths, thus enabling sectors to support and implement the new safety and guarantee procedures within their planning processes.

Important Project Achievements of 2019 :

- Development of the wind energy guide in the Arabic and English languages, and officially making it available to the Ministry of Environment. The pamphlet was included within the licensing instructions.
- Printing and launching the guide for hunters' book.
- Implemented a training program in order to increase the efficiency of stakeholders and partners.
- Organized media and awareness events related to bird projects in order to raise awareness about threats and mitigation procedures.
- Signing the Raptor MOU.

“Integrated management and the preservation of water resources in the Yarmouk Forest Reserve” project, funded by the Prince Albert II Foundation – Principality of Monaco



Project Objective:

To implement an integrated approach to the management of natural water resources in the Yarmouk Forest Reserve in order to guarantee the preservation of the natural water system, and sustained use of water resources in the region.

Important Achievements for 2019:

- 1.Preparation of a study to assess the ecosystem services offered by water resources around the Yarmouk Forest Reserve.
- 2.Assess the training needs of stakeholders surrounding the Yarmouk Forest Reserve, and began the implementation of a training program on “Managing Eco Farms”, in addition to the management of water resources for homes. The training course targeted 73 individuals from the local community.

3.Implemented a program for communicating with stakeholders, in addition to the Nature Knights educational program and a summer camp for students.

4.The society began working on assessing farming / agricultural areas, and it invited activists from the local community to benefit from the project and to establish their own sustainable eco-farms, in order to create a model to be more widely adopted, with the aim of conserving water resources whilst simultaneously achieving an appropriate level of agricultural production.

ESTidama Project – A Journey to Self-Reliance - Capacity Development of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) funded by USAID (2019 - 2023)



The project aims to build up long-term institutional and financial sustainability for the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, by using the best practices available for strengthening the efficiency and development of human resources, and by generating/extracting even more economic value, in addition to optimally determine the costs of business models used in the various protected areas.

Important Achievements for 2019:

Planning and conducting specialized studies for the various aspects of the current business models of the society in order to achieve the objective of the project. During 2019, these studies revolved around the following topics:

1. Assessing the current business model adopted by the society for ecotourism and handicraft workshops related to socio-economic development within local communities, in addition to the preparation of marketing, communication and sales plans, in order to place the society on a sustainable path and to enhance its impact on communities.
2. Assessing the human resources at the society, and formulate a strategic plan to further develop employees' skills.
3. Review the organizational chart of the society and facilitate the process of transforming the society into an effective electronic institution.
4. Renew seven sites belonging to the society to reaffirm their identities and increase the number of visitors to the sites, in addition to increasing incomes generated by local communities and the society.

Sheba Reserve Management Project in the Empty Quarter (Rub' al Khali) (2016- 2019)



The society's team, who is working in a tripartite coalition to implement the second year of the contract with Aramco, has developed the management of the Sheba Reserve in the Empty Quarter in Saudi Arabia, where the team has written a detailed management plan for the Reserve based on scientific studies carried out by the study team, and the management of wildlife breeding programs (Oryx (Maha), Ostriches and Deer) have been updated based on the best international practices in this regard.

Major Aspirations for 2020



1. To continue developing the management of the reserves in order to achieve a higher level of efficiency of all their programs.
2. To deal with the subject of copper exploration studies at Dana Reserve taking into consideration the best environmental standards.
3. To develop the Aqaba Bird Observatory according to the development plan agreed upon with the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority.
4. To increase the efficiency of the conservation programs and regulating of hunting.

5. To develop new tourism services/packages in line with the society's policies and principles, and to market them in order to increase the society's revenues.
6. To develop socio-economic development projects in order to ensure long term financial sustainability for these projects.
7. To redesign the society's projects in order to achieve financial sustainability in the long term.
8. To establish a national awareness center within the society's new offices.

Ajloun Forest Reserve



Thanks and appreciation

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature would like to extend its gratitude to all of its members for the support they have given to the various nature conservation projects in Jordan by joining the society's membership program; and it would like to convey its appreciation to all Jordanian and international institutions for their support of its various programs.

Jordanian Ministries and Institutions

The Royal Hashemite Court, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the Ministry of Social Development, the Jordan Tourism Board, the Department of Lands and Survey, the Jordan Meteorological Department, the Jordan Valley Authority, the Public Security Directorate, the Armed Forces, the Leadership of the Royal Badia Forces, Arab Bank, Investbank, Arab Banking Corporation, the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development, King Abdullah II Fund for Development, Development Zone Commission, the Jordan Development Zones Company, Jordan Bromine Company, Lafarge Cement Company, Jordan Carbonate Company, Al Hussein Fund for Excellence, Ayla Oasis Development Company, Zarqa Governorate, Madaba Governorate, Karak Governorate, Tafilah Governorate, Ajloun Governorate, Jarash Governorate, Irbid Governorate, Aqaba Governorate, Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, Ro'ya Television Station, Al-Mamlaka Television Station, Jordan Green Building Council, HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, Jordanian University of Science and Technology, Royal Department for Environment Protection, the Judicial Institute of Jordan, the Jordanian Customs, Al-Hikma Pharmaceutical Company, Darwazeh Institution, Amman Chamber of Commerce, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global, Jordan Environmental Union, Wings of Hope Society, the Royal Scientific Society, EDAMA Energy, Water and Environment Society, the Airport International Group, Cozmo, Emlaq Company, Princess Alia Foundation, Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife, the Royal Botanic Garden.

International Partners:

Global Environment Facility/World Bank, United Nations Development Program, the European Union, Hanns Seidel Foundation, United States Agency for International Development, German Corporation for International Cooperation – GIZ, the Embassy of the Czech Republic, the Embassy of Sweden, Birdlife International, UNESCO, the Ford Award,

Fujairah Municipality, the International Fund for Houbara Conservation, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, the United States Forest Service, the Canadian International Development Agency, Wetlands International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Mercy Corps, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, global media.

Be a voice for nature and join our membership program.

To inquire, send us an email: member@rscn.org.jo

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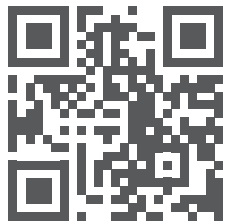
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