

Photo of the Month



Caracal (*Caracal caracal*) It is one of the most beautiful and rarely encountered wild cat species. It has a nocturnal as well as crepuscular activity period and feeds mainly on gazelles, hares, rodents, rock hyrax, birds and reptiles. It was reported from Al Hazim, Amman, Azraq, Dana biosphere Reserve, Petra and Ghor Fifa.

Did You Know?



Sucker-footed bat (*Myzopoda aurita*) Did you know that this bat species was studied in Madagascar and it was found that it uses wet adhesion to attach itself to surfaces? This bat, unlike its fellow batcousins, roosts head-up. And this has turned scientist's understanding of bat behavior upside down.

BioBit



Palestinian Burrowing Asp (*Atractaspis engaddensis*) Venomous snake, which spends the majority of the time buried in the soil. It exhibits a strange striking pattern, being able to strike with a nearly closed mouth, with one single fang moving side wide, downwards and backwards. Even if held behind the head, it can surprisingly bite and is therefore hard to handle safely. This snake species feeds on rodents, lizards and other snakes.

Go Greener!

When preparing your favorite hot drinks this winter, boil just enough water to make the number of cups you need, rather than a full kettle, and you'll save water, energy, and money.



General Environmental News

COP15 Concludes with Last - Minute Deal and Controversy

The 15th Annual Climate Change Conference, popularly known as at COP15, concluded amid the same sentiments that have surrounded it for weeks: uncertainty and tenuous hope. A last minute accord, spearheaded by the US, China, and Brazil, has been officially recognized by the UN but is receiving scathing criticism by some for its lack of legally binding content.



[Read more](#) | [Read the Copenhagen Accord](#)

RSCN Events

Wild Sale at Wild Jordan

Celebrate nature this season and save up to 50% on a wide selection of Wild Jordan's handcrafted gifts, including special prices on our dotted ostrich eggs, leather frames, jams, and much more! Enjoy sale prices now through January 16th at the Nature Shop in Jabal Amman.



[Browse Nature Shop products](#)

RSCN News

Capturing Carbon in Marshes and Moors

Although much attention has been given to off-setting carbon emissions by reforestation, recent studies suggest wetlands could be up to 30 times more effective at capturing and storing carbon. Experts from RSCN and the Netherlands-based NGO Carbowet are currently working the Azraq Wetland to fine-tune methods of measuring carbon storage capacities of wetlands..



[Learn more](#)

RSCN Projects

Conservation through Ecotourism: A Regional Perspective

Since 2005, RSCN has managed Ecotourismnet, a project seeking to alleviate poverty while promoting conservation in the ecologically diverse Mashreq Region, which extends through Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. The project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, brings ecotourism managers and conservationists together to achieve the common goal of helping nature while helping people.



[Find out more](#)

Take Action

2010: A Clean, Green Slate

As 2009 draws to a close, we have an opportunity to reflect on our last year's efforts to make the Earth a greener, healthier place. We also have a chance to set green goals for the coming year. 2010 is a clean slate – let's resolve together to work to make next year the greenest of our lives!



[Green resolutions for 2010](#)



RSCN MEMBER PROFILE
MAYE A. NUFAL

Like all of us at RSCN, Maye Nufal is building towards a greener future. But while many of us build towards that future with ideas, programs, or financial support, Maye is literally building. As an energy simulation engineer, she has contributed to over 20 Green Building projects in the Middle East – from the Tiger Towers in Dubai to the Samarah Dead Sea Resort in Jordan.

Using sophisticated computer software, Maye projects energy and water needs for buildings and then optimizes their design to increase efficiency and reduce environmental impact. Yet while her work is technologically driven, her inspiration is all natural. "There is no doubt that innovation is inspired by nature," she notes. "When I connect with nature, whether it is by hiking in Mujib or trekking through Dana, I experience an unusual sense of tranquility. It's an incredible physical, emotional, and spiritual experience."

Translating inspiration into action, Maye is a member of RSCN and part of a newly formed NGO, The Jordan Green Building Council, which advocates for green building practices in the Jordanian construction sector. "We can all contribute to developing a conscious Jordanian community by increasing environmental awareness and investing in long-term solutions," she observes.

Maye's vision for a greener Jordan goes beyond buildings; she sees a future filled with hybrid cars, tree-lined sidewalks, and recycling bins on every corner. "We are all accountable for our actions," she explains, "and we are wise enough to make good decisions that will positively impact our future." And while many daunting environmental challenges threaten her vision of a hybrid-filled future, we can all be encouraged by Maye's dream. As she puts it, "the good news is that nothing is impossible."

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