

Photo of the Month



Mediterranean Spur-thighed Tortoise
Scientific Name
(*Testudo graeca*)

Although often thought to be a common species, this tortoise was classified as Vulnerable (VU) under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List 2009. It is also protected under CITES from illegal harvesting for the pet trade. In addition, habitat loss and degradation, mostly due to overgrazing by livestock, are considered major threats for this species.

Did You Know?

Did you know that many RSCN campsites and trails are now open for the spring season? Visit our website or contact our Tourism Unit at

tourism@rscn.org.jo

for full details.

BioBit



Egyptian Spiny-tailed Lizard
(*Uromastix aegyptia*)

This lizard is one of the largest members of the genus *Uromastix*, with an average length of 76 cm for males. It has been hunted and traded extensively due to its popularity as a pet and its tough skin, which makes good leather. Their meat is also a favorite of Bedouins, who consider it to be an alternative source of protein. To conserve this species and regulate its trade, it has been listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Go Greener!

Whenever possible, wash your laundry in cold water – up to 90 percent of the energy used to wash clothes goes to heating the water.



Middle East Environmental News

Fates of Species Decided in Qatar

Representatives from 175 countries convened in Qatar for the 15th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Votes for new laws to ban the trade of several charismatic species, including the polar bear and African elephant, highlight this year's meeting.

[Read more](#)

[Learn more about CITES](#)



RSCN News

Spring Ushers in RSCN Adventures

The sun is shining, the birds are singing, the flowers are blooming...it all means one thing: time for an RSCN adventure! We kicked off our organized trips this March with an excursion to Mujib. Look for email announcements for future trips or check out our events calendar online.

[RSCN events calendar](#)



Boost for Business along Ajloun Trail

A new program initiated by the USAID Jordan Tourism Development Project and the Ministry of Tourism will provide grants for small businesses along the scenic 25km Heritage Trail in Ajloun. RSCN will partner with the Arab Consultant Bureau to award the funds and oversee their implementation.

[Learn more](#)



Earth Hour Event: Lights Out Jordan

RSCN hosted a candlelit walk through Jabal Amman last month to commemorate Earth Hour 2010, where citizens around the globe took a stance against global warming by turning their lights out for an hour. The event gathered more than 500 participants, in an evening of varied entertainment and environmental awareness. Participants made a personal promise to fight climate change in his or her daily life and wrote it on their candle before setting out on a candlelit march.

[Read more](#)



Local Environmental News

Uncertain Future for Hybrids in Jordan

A small, but growing market for hybrid vehicles has been emerging in Jordan. However, the government-sponsored tax exemption that has made hybrids affordable is coming to an end, sparking criticism and raising questions about the future of the market.

[Learn more](#)



Take Action

Earth Day 2010

Every April 22nd, citizens across the globe set aside a day to celebrate and appreciate our remarkable planet. Mark your calendars to join over 1 billion participants in this world-wide event and look for upcoming Earth Day announcements from RSCN.

[Learn more](#)



EARTH HOUR 2010 PHOTOS

