

Kestrel

Kestrel Category (5,100 JOD - 15,000 JOD)



The name “kestrel” is given to several different members of the falcon genus, *Falco*. Kestrels are most easily distinguished by their typical hunting behavior, which is to hover at a height of around 10 to 20 meters over open country - to hover; kestrels require a slight headwind - and swoop down on prey. This category's projects are considered to be valuable hunts for the RSCN to guarantee improved nature conservation measures, hence the designation, “kestrel.”



Kestrel Category's Sponsor Benefits:

As a sponsor of one of the RSCN's programs and projects listed in the Kestrel Category, the sponsoring party will not only be publicly demonstrating their support for nature conservation, but will also be receiving the following benefits:

- Tax deduction for the whole amount of fund.
- Sponsor's logo to be placed on all project-related publications (invitations, posters, t-shirts, etc.)
- Media coverage through press releases in local press, radio and TV stations, the RSCN's Website, newsletters, and social media channels.
- Sponsor's logo to be placed on the RSCN's and Wild Jordan's Websites under "Friends and Sponsors" section.
- Sponsor recognition at the RSCN's annual general assembly meeting and annual members' events.
- Discounted membership.
- Special 10% discount on the RSCN/Wild Jordan Nature Shop's high quality handicrafts produced by local women residing in and around our nature reserves, including customized products for the sponsor's giveaway needs for one year.
- Special 10% discount on the RSCN's eco-tourism services provided at the nature reserves for the sponsor's corporate trips for one year.
- Recognition and awarding at the RSCN's Donors Awarding Event.
- Volunteering opportunities for the sponsor's staff in executing the sponsored project.



Clean Up the World Campaign (6,000 JOD)

“ The RSCN annually organizes a clean-up event in conjunction with the International Clean Up the World campaign, which is a community-based environmental campaign that inspires and empowers communities from every corner of the globe to clean up, fix up, and conserve their environment. Usually, the RSCN conducts this clean-up campaign in the Dibeen Forest Reserve, as littering is considered one of the reserve’s main problems as the Dibeen Forest is a popular picnicking destination. Around 300 to 500 people from different community segments participate yearly in this campaign to contribute to its success.





Updating Information in the Azraq Reserve Visitors Center (6,000JOD)

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In 2000, the RSCN opened the information hall in the Azraq Visitors Center to serve as a resource to teach visitors about the various cultural, societal and environmental landmarks in the Azraq region. In addition to displaying information about the history of the Azraq region and the various groups of animals that are indigenous to the area, the room also informs visitors about the problem of locals pumping and draining water from the oasis basin. The hall also keeps visitors up to date about the environmental rehabilitation project and the restoration of the basin that is home to the only type of vertebral fish in the oasis: the Sarhani fish.

The RSCN seeks to renovate the information hall and update the information found therein because the room has not been changed since its establishment.





Study of the Ibex in Mujib Biosphere Reserve (8,000 JOD)



The RSCN began a study of the Ibex Mountain Goat in 1995, when increasing populations prompted the RSCN to conduct research on where this endangered species can be found in addition to studies of their habitats and appropriate breeding environments.

Because the Ibex is such an influential species in Mujib Biosphere Reserve, the RSCN seeks to begin a study on the Ibex population within the site. This study will be completed using satellite tracking systems, as it is meant to help researchers understand the movement patterns and behaviors of Ibex communities. This study will consider both biotic and abiotic indices in order to aid in the protection of the species and the reduction of threats against it.





Improving the Visitor's Experience at the Aqaba Birds Observatory (8,000 JOD)

“ The RSCN manages the Aqaba Bird Observatory which is an important part of the wetlands that are situated along flyways of birds migrating from Northern Europe and Asia to Africa through the Rift Valley. The Observatory attracts large numbers of migratory water birds, birds of prey and passerines, especially during spring and autumn.

The Aqaba Bird Observatory covers a wide area of about 500 dunums that encompasses critical habitats to attract birds, as well as forked tourist trails that link these habitats. In order to regulate the movement of visitors in these trails, we aim to provide directional signs on tourist trails and provide places for bird-watching in some areas that attract large numbers of birds. This will allow tourists to be able to roam inside the Observatory by following the signs for safe paths and enjoy the bird-watching services at key controlled spots.





Rangeland Survey of the Ajloun and Dibeen Forest Reserves (9,000 JOD)



Ajloun and Dibeen represent forest reserves that are dominated by the Mediterranean type of forests. The rangeland of these two reserves are in decline each year due to natural causes and human practices - such as, livestock over grazing - as well as because of the area's accessibility by the local community and lacking levels of supervision. There is, however, no detailed assessment for the amount of grazing that occurs or its impact on these two reserves.

There is a need to conduct rangeland studies in both the Ajloun Forest Reserve and the Dibeen Forest Reserve, requiring fieldwork, consultant support, new equipment, and reporting. These rangeland studies will increase RSCN's understanding of the main causes of the rangelands' decline, thus ensuring a well-studied conservation plan to be drawn up accordingly. A comprehensive communication strategy can also be developed to influence the local communities' use of both reserves.

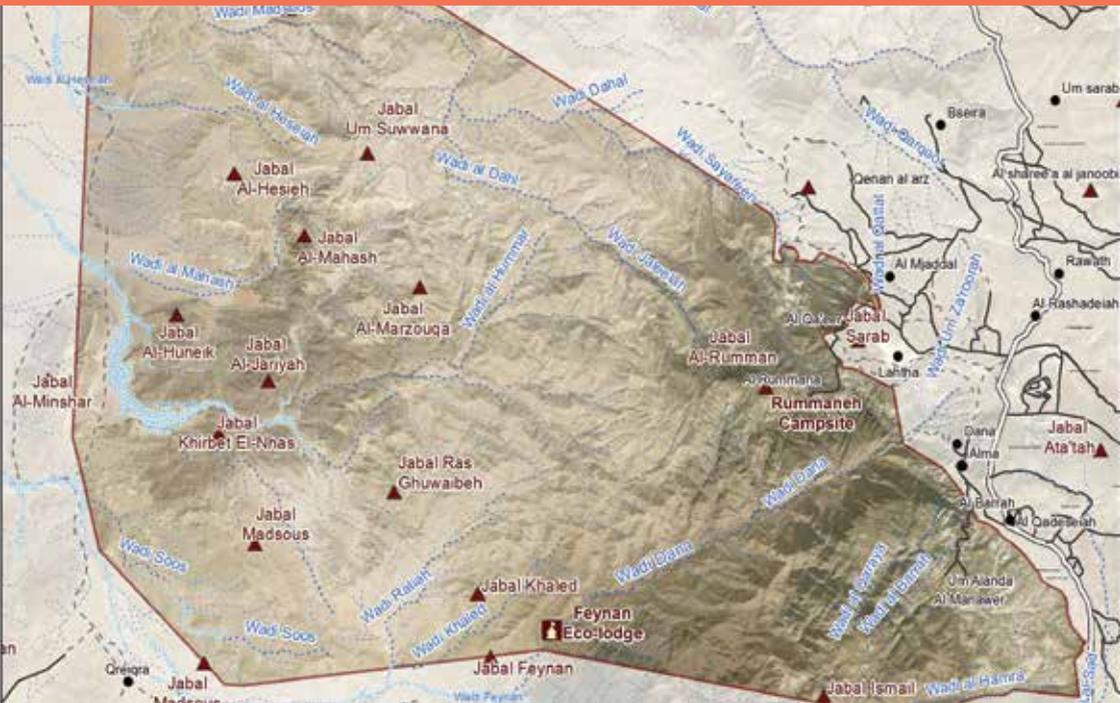




Developing the Vegetation Map of the Dana Biosphere Reserve (9,000 JOD)

“ The Dana Biosphere Reserve is the only reserve in Jordan that includes the three different bio-geographical zones of the kingdom: Mediterranean, Irano-Turanian and Sudanian penetration. As such, it is the most diverse nature reserve in the country in terms of habitats and species, hosting several vegetation types, including the Phoenician juniper, evergreen oak, sand dunes, acacia, and rocky sudanian, among others. This reserve is also home to the southernmost remaining forest community of Cypress *Cupressus sempervirens*.

The RSCN plans to update its map of ground and vegetation cover in Dana biosphere reserve by purchasing high definition satellite photos and analyzing them using remote sensing technology. This project aims to create up-to-date versions of the reserve's ground cover and plant community maps, in addition to updating the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index therein. For a comprehensive approach, the imaging results will be merged with the aforementioned plant life field study.





Advertising Campaign to Promote Wild Jordan Crafts (9,000 JOD)

“ RSCN aspires to being able to launch an advertising campaign to better market, and sell handicrafts produced at local community socioeconomic projects; stemming from RSCN’s belief in the necessity of increasing benefits going back to the community generated from the increase in sales of their traditional handicrafts.





Improve Visitor Facilities at Mujib Biosphere Reserve (10,000 JOD)

“ At 410 meters below sea level, the Mujib Biosphere Reserve is the lowest nature reserve on Earth. Its rugged and spectacular mountains border the Dead Sea coast and are dissected by several river-filled canyons; some are seasonal while others are permanent. Mujib is one of the key valleys flowing through a rose colored rock canyon (Siq) which extends to the Dead Sea coast at 410 meters below sea level, attracting adventure lovers for hiking, swimming, climbing and waterfall abseiling activities.

The unique diversity along the passage of Wadi Mujib makes it the most adventurous site in Jordan. Its popularity has had a major impact on introducing Jordanians to the nature reserves and raising awareness of the importance of conservation for the enjoyment of all.

To reach these water trails, one must cross the 150m long iron bridge from the visitor center at the reserve's tourism unit which leads to the Siq.

The RSCN is urgently seeking to finance the general maintenance and painting works of this bridge, as it is the key entry and exit point to and from other water trails





Improve Visitor Facilities at Yarmouk Nature Reserve(10,000 JOD)

“ Each year, Yarmouk Nature Reserve attracts large numbers of local and international visitors to enjoy and learn about the area’s environment and nature. The reserve is famous for its two vegetation types: Deciduous oak forest and freshwater vegetation types. Rapid assessment surveys show that there are 59 plant species in the reserve, among them the Deciduous Oak, which is Jordan’s national tree.

The RSCN established an environmental tourist camp within the reserve, as part of its plan to develop ecotourism in the nature reserves under its management. It implements its eco-tourism initiatives under the principles of responsible and sustainable tourism in natural areas that seek to preserve the environment while developing socio-economic benefits for the local community. The RSCN therefore plans to build a cafeteria to serve the visitors at the reserve, which will enhance tourist services provided by the reserve while providing jobs for the local community.





Enhancing Safety Procedures and Equipment in Mujib's Biosphere Reserve Water Trails (10,000 JOD)

“ The Tourism Unit at Mujib Biosphere Reserve is one of the key units responsible for raising environmental awareness and the concept of ecotourism among the reserves' visitors. The reserve is visited by a large number of visitors estimated at 20,000 annually.

The reserve receives individuals and organized groups of visitors looking for leisure and adventure through the reserve's tourism programs, which include hikes to waterfalls and mountain climbing. Trained tour guides equipped with safety and climbing gear escort visitors along the tourist routes and provide information on the reserve and its waterways.

The RSCN continues to implement general safety standards for visitors by providing them with life vests, ropes and first aid. The RSCN also seeks to provide visitors with helmets to enhance the general safety procedures through the water trails.

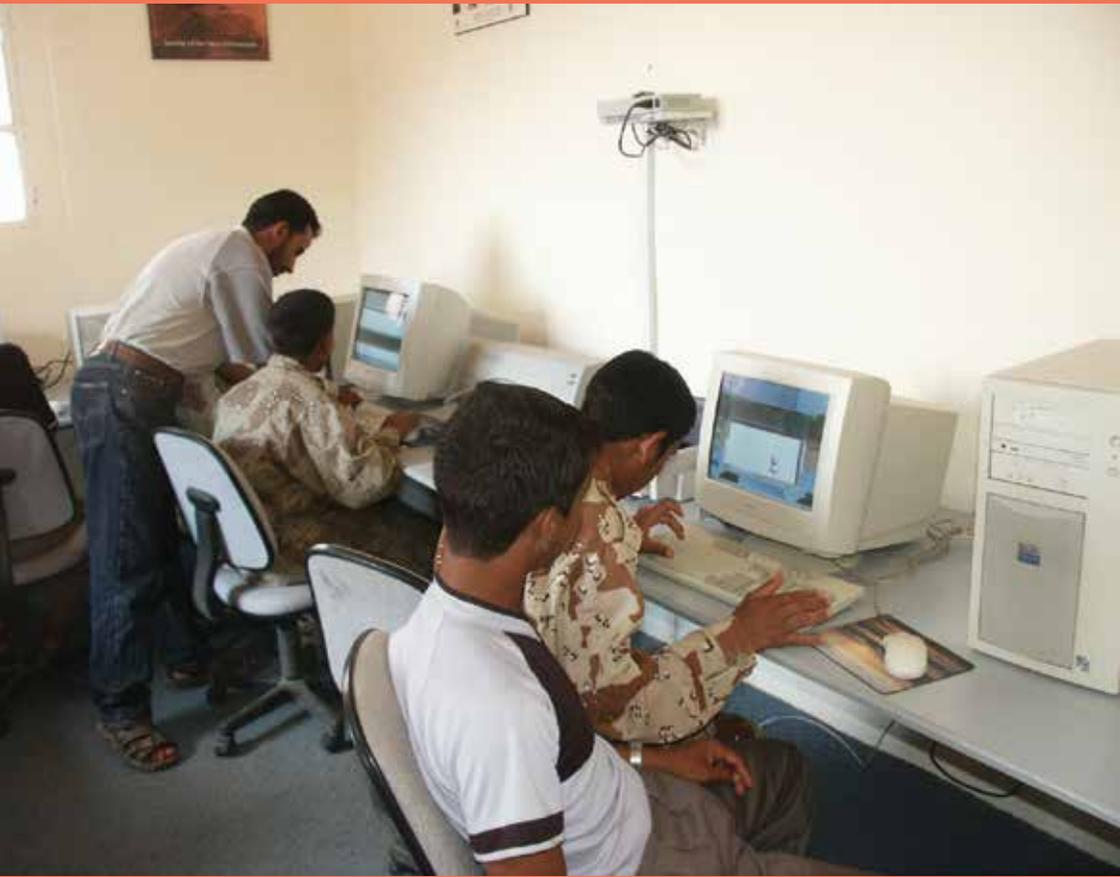




Developing Internet Communication within Reserves (10,000 JOD)



Most of the RSCN's reserves are located in remote areas, which still require effective mechanisms of communication. Specialists have defined the need for additional bands of Internet to cover the different operating units at each site. A new band is essential to provide the RSCN's different locations with stable Internet connections for better communication.





The RSCN's Members Events (10,000 JOD)

“ The RSCN is a membership organization; the number of members and friends in 2012 exceeded 15,000. The RSCN is planning to organize a series of member's events that include: receptions, quiz nights, and other gatherings. The objective of these events is to share the RSCN's conservation strategies and achievements, and to develop new ways for members to become engaged in the RSCN's activities.





Vegetation Study in Dana Biosphere Reserve (10,000 JOD)

“ Dana Biosphere Reserve is among the richest areas in the world when it comes to plant diversity. At this time, there is a clear need to update the archive of information on the Dana plant community, as all continuing field research on plant life in Dana Reserve is currently based on the results of a general study that was conducted twenty years ago. The new study will be a comprehensive analysis taking into account all of the changes that have occurred in the past twenty years. As part of the RSCN's long-term conservation strategy, this study will focus on building the skills and abilities of Dana field researchers by bringing in local and international experts to lead the project.





Launching the Jordan Journal of Natural History (10,000 JOD)

“ As an addition to its research department, the RSCN established a center for the observation of ecological diversity in the Hashemite Kingdom. One of this center’s major responsibilities is issuing a scientific journal dealing with ecological diversity in Jordan and the neighboring Arab countries. This project will help to enrich the body of ecological information in the region and publish it in a manner that is at once scientifically accurate and high in quality.

To this end, a scientific journal is currently being prepared for the press under the title of Jordan Journal of Natural History. To acknowledge and celebrate the launch of this publication, the RSCN will organize a formal ceremony and invite the nine magazine contributors. The ceremony, resembling a scientific conference, will entertain attendees who specialize in relevant fields and will include paper presentations and talks by conservation experts.

Jordan Journal of Natural History





Conservation Program Development in Yarmouk Nature Reserve (10,000 JOD)



The Yarmouk Nature Reserve is located in the northwestern region of the Hashemite Kingdom on the border of the Golan Heights. The reserve spans over 20 square kilometers of land and is made up of two topographical components: mountains and valleys. The mountains are covered with deciduous oak forests and reach elevations of up to 500 meters above sea level, and the valleys that fall between them descend toward the Yarmouk River. These small to medium valleys, with the exception of the Shag Al-Bared valley, all contain seasonal runoff.

In recent years, this reserve has been threatened by a number of dangers, especially fire. In order to mitigate such threats, the RSCN plans to build three observation towers in the reserve, allowing the safety team to identify dangerous places in the reserve and make announcements about fires as quickly as possible. As most areas of the reserve are mountainous and difficult to access, these towers will serve as stable points from which 80% of the reserve's area can be observed. The tower locations will be selected from established safety sites.





Updating the Information Hall in Dana Biosphere Reserve Visitors Center (10,000 JOD)

“ Since its establishment, the RSCN has been aware of the importance of including educational and environmental awareness programs in its nature reserves. For this reason, the RSCN has designed a number of environmental education programs that aim to raise general awareness about environmental issues and their importance. The RSCN has also launched several specialized awareness programs that target the local populations living around each nature reserve.

The RSCN established the information hall in Dana Biosphere Reserve in 1995. This room serves as an illustrative source of information about the important cultural, social and environmental landmarks inside the reserve.





Conservation Program of the Azraq Wetland Habitats (10,000 JOD)

“ The RSCN uses a reverse pumping of water system in the Azraq Wetland Reserve to recreate the characteristic habitats of original wetlands, which are home to thousands of plants and animals species, including the endemic Sarhani fish.

The RSCN is planning to renew the pipeline network in order to guarantee effective distribution of water to the important wetland habitats.





Nature Reserve's Eco-Games (11,000 JOD)

“ The RSCN is planning to develop eco-games to be used in all of their nature reserves, as games are an effective tool for raising visitor's awareness of biodiversity conservation. The eco-games target school students (6 to 16 years) who visit the RSCN's reserves. These games offer students the chance to learn through playing, exploring, and entertainment. When visiting the nature reserves, students will learn basic environmental concepts, acquire conservation skills, and adopt environmentally-friendly attitudes. Since the Nature Reserves' Educational Program established in 2004, many eco-games have been produced to add value to this program. Currently, however, the program needs to be updated and new eco-games must be developed and/or reproduced, as some games require maintenance.





Boundaries Demarcation to define the borders of Fifa Nature Reserve (12,000 JOD)

“ Fifa Nature Reserve is located in the southwestern part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It is 140 km south of Amman and its western border is the international border between Jordan and the West Bank. Fifa was declared a nature reserve in the year 2011. The protected area extends 26 square kilometers from Al-Summar area in the north to Wadi Khanzeera in the south, and is under the administration of the Jordan Valley in the southern Karak Governorate. The lowest point of the reserve is 420 m below sea level. Fifa Nature Reserve is home to two important species of salt and tropical plants.

The RSCN is looking to raise awareness of the environmental importance of the reserve and reduce threats and negative impact to its biodiversity by installing boundaries marks on the ground to define the borders of the reserve, and to install concrete signs measuring a meter high, half a meter wide for a distance of 12 km in length.





Evaluate the Status of Hunting Species in Jordan (13,000 JOD)

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Since its start in the 1970s, the RSCN has been active in defining the species designated on local hunting lists. However, for a long time these hunting lists have remained unchanged with no updates, despite the declining number of species and disappearance of others.

Accordingly, and taking the RSCN's staff observations in the field into consideration and groups of hunters who have been in communication with the RSCN, a field study became a must to re-evaluate all listed species in various regions of the Kingdom, and recommendations will be made to sustain the practice of hunting by proposing species that are not under threat and which may not be currently listed, re-mapping the hunting areas according to the distribution and intensity of species, or making suggestions for breeding of some hunter-targeted species.

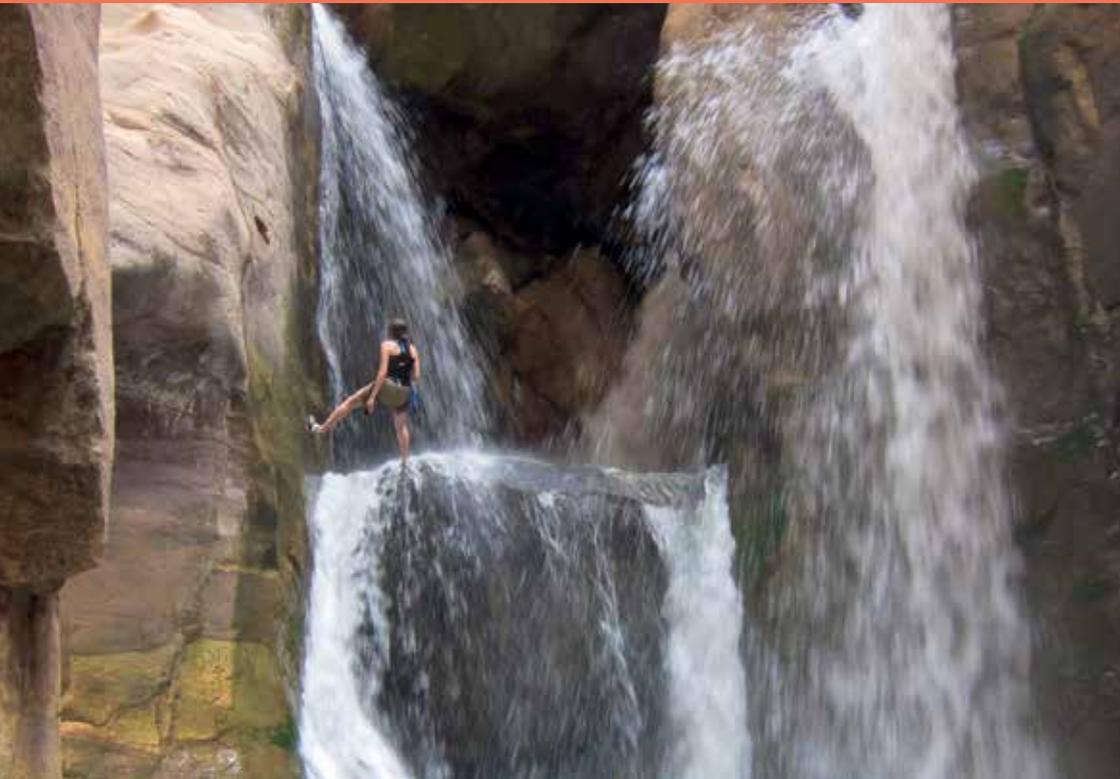




Enhancing the Adventure Tourism at the Mujib Biosphere Reserve (14,000 JOD)

“ The Mujib Biosphere Reserve is known for its adventurous water trails and activities that attract tourist from all over the world. Visitors enter the canyon trails via a small reception complex, which contains a waiting area, bathrooms, a small office, and a store. This complex was built in 2003 as a pioneering venture to develop tourism in Mujib and as a conservation and socio-economic tool.

In the light of the increased number of visitors to the Mujib canyon, and in order to maintain a high level of visitor’s enjoyment, as well as maintain an acceptable level of safety, the RSCN seeks the support to better equip the Mujib Biosphere Reserve with essential equipment, such as life jackets, ropes, helmets, stretchers, and the like.





Wild Weekly Weekends (15,000 JOD)

“ Visiting the reserves was made easier by Wild Jordan’s Wild Weekly Weekends. This program enables Jordanians and tourists to visit the RSCN’s reserves on regular basis. The idea behind the organized trips is to open new channels for Jordanians to visit the nature reserves and learn more about their biodiversity, while encouraging domestic tourism as all income generated from these trips go to support the local communities that live in and around the reserves. These excursions also help protect Jordan’s environment for future generations.

The current program is simple and requires development; the RSCN hopes to secure funding to develop the Weekly Weekends program through intensive marketing using effective new methods.





Conservation program of the Fifa Nature Habitats (15,000 JOD)

“ The Fifa Nature Reserve lies at an elevation of 420 meters below sea level and thus contains two important plant categories: local and tropical.

One of the major conservation issues in Fifa Nature Reserve is local planting of Acacia trees, which contribute heavily to the deterioration of endemic vegetation for a number of reasons. Acacias have roots up to 60 meters long, which absorb large quantities of groundwater and starve surrounding plants. These trees are extremely hardy and can endure difficult climactic conditions, outlasting endemic plant species by starving them of water and sunlight. Acacias force the surrounding plant life to spread to other areas, and their presence has a very negative impact on the local community of Arak trees.

As part of its conservation efforts, RSCN seeks to remove the Acacia trees from Fifa Nature Reserve and replace them with the indigenous Arak trees. This process will result in a number of environmental and economic benefits for the area.





Managing the Water System at Fifa Nature Reserve (15,000 JOD)

“ The RSCN seeks to revisit and complete plans to revive the reserve’s natural habitats and reclaim bodies of water for conservation. This applies especially in the Ain Bin Thaker region, due to its historical and environmental importance as well as its ecological diversity. This work includes a study on the local fish to determine which species are indigenous and which are invading, as well as to determine the primary threats to this fish community. A major objective of this project is to preserve the water system with as few losses as possible. There may arise a need for water redistribution, cleaning, purification of water sources and removal of fire debris and rotted plant life.





Strengthening Jordan's Fund for Nature (5,100 JOD - 15,000 JOD)

“ Recognizing the need to push ahead as quickly as possible with further designations in response to the enormous development pressure evident throughout the Kingdom, the RSCN is poised to establish an additional 3 protected areas over the next 3 years.

With the establishment of these 3 new protected areas, the land area under the RSCN's management will more than double — growing from 1,000 kilometers-squared to 2,160 kilometers-squared. Consequently, recurrent management costs will escalate. The estimated increase in the annual financial burden for the RSCN is approximately 1,400,000 JOD. While the organization will strive to offset these costs through an expansion of eco-tourism and private sector concessions, there will remain a significant shortfall that must be met by the RSCN's own resources.

For this reason, the RSCN wishes to strengthen its existing Endowment Fund to enable it to cope with its expanding protected area portfolio and maintain its dynamic socio-economic development program.

