

#### Photo of the Month



**Bitter Apple**  
(*Citrullus colocynthis*)

The bitter apple is a viny plant native to the Mediterranean Basin and Asia and found throughout southern Jordan. The fruit is extremely bitter and acts as a strong laxative. If consumed in excess, it can cause stomach inflammation and sharp bowel pains.

#### Did You Know?



The Earth is not actually a sphere. Because of its rotation, it bulges slightly at the equator, creating a shape scientists call an "oblate spheroid."

#### BioBit



**Nubian Ibex**  
(*Capra nubiana*)

The Ibex feeds on herbs, shrubs and tree foliage and drinks water daily if available. It inhabits mountainous terrain and is considered threatened on the national and international level, mainly due to illegal hunting, which has led to a sharp decrease in its population. In Jordan, it is protected in two nature reserves, Dana Biosphere Reserve and Mujib Nature Reserve, which has initiated a reintroduction program.

**Go Greener!**

Spread the word to save the planet! This month, recruit a friend, neighbor or family member to join RSCN. Contact us at [member@rscn.org.jo](mailto:member@rscn.org.jo) for more information.



#### Special Issue

## Our Planet

Our planet. We are awed by its beauty, humbled by its enormity, sustained by its resources. On April 22nd, 2010 more than a billion people worldwide celebrated Earth Day. Yet 40 years after the inaugural Earth Day in 1970, our planet is in greater danger than ever before. This month, we present a special E-Newsletter dedicated to our remarkable planet, highlighting articles from around the globe that examine today's most challenging environmental threats. We hope to remind you of the fragile splendor of our beloved Earth and inspire you to take action to protect it.



#### World Environmental News

## Planet Earth: A New Age

The collective weight of human impact on the earth has some scientists arguing that the planet is in a new, unprecedented epoch of geological history. A recent report announced that we have entered the Anthropocene, or "new man" epoch, where our actions are shaking the very foundations of the globe.



[Read more](#)

## March 2010 the Warmest Ever

The effects of global warming continue as the US-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that last month was the warmest March ever documented, with records dating back to 1880.

[Read more](#)



## Can Earth Support 9 Billion?

Scientists are predicting that the world population will level out at nine billion by the year 2050. But with nearly one of seven people going hungry in today's world, how will our overworked planet feed an additional two billion in 40 years?

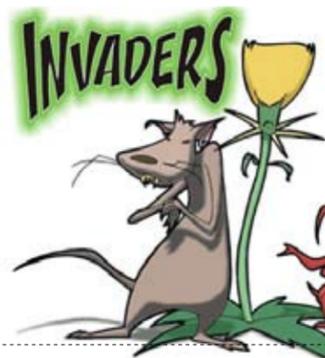
[Read more](#)



## Earth Threat: Alien Invasion

They might come from Earth, but these aliens damage crops, drive out native species, and wreak havoc on ecosystems and economies worldwide. They are introduced exotic species, and their invasion is taking its toll on the planet.

[Read more](#)



## Could Deserts Solar-Power the World?

The concept is simple – harness the powerful solar rays of the sunniest places on Earth: deserts. So what is keeping the Middle East and North Africa from becoming the world's green energy source?

[Read more](#)



## Global Impact of Iceland Volcano

Although the recent volcano in Iceland disrupted the flight schedules of millions, its global environmental impact has been relatively minimal compared to the massive volcanoes of the past.

[Read more](#)



## EARTH AT A GLANCE: FACTS AND FIGURES

- Age: 4.5 billion years
- Surface composition: 70.8% water, 29.2% land
- Water supply: 97% saltwater, 3% freshwater
- Hottest temperature: 58° C (136° F), Libya
- Coldest temperature: -89° C (-129° F), Antarctica
- Highest elevation: 8,848 m (29,029 ft), Mt. Everest, Tibet/China/Nepal
- Lowest land elevation: -418 m (-1,371 ft), Dead Sea, Jordan
- Documented species: 1.9 million
- Human inhabitants: 6.8 billion

