

▶ Photo of the Month



Little Green Bee-eater
(*Merops orientalis*)

This species is primarily an insectivore, feeding on bees, wasps and ants, which it catches in flight. Before swallowing its prey, the bee-eater removes stingers and breaks the exoskeleton of the prey by repeatedly striking it against tree branches. One study suggested that Green Bee-eaters possess an ability to predict whether a human at a particular location would be capable of spotting the nest entrance and then behave appropriately to avoid giving away the nest location.

▶ Did You Know?

Did you know that less than 2 million of the Earth's estimated 7-20+ million species have been recorded?

▶ BioBit



Striped Hyena
(*Hyaena hyaena*)

Although this scavenger species provides invaluable ecosystem services by consuming carrion and the remains of kills of other predators, hyenas are greatly feared by locals and face a constant threat of extermination by carcass poisoning and trapping. In addition, locals attribute many superstitions to the hyena. It is believed that they can hypnotize a person and then guide him into their dens to feast on him afterward.

World Environmental News

Biodiversity Celebrated Around the World

The annual celebration of Biodiversity Day on May 22nd was made especially significant due to the UN's declaration of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. Events around the globe focused on public participation and raising awareness about the troubling downward trend of biodiversity worldwide.

[Highlights from the day's events](#) ▶



RSCN News

Hunting Ban Gives Birds Chance for Life

Last month RSCN announced a hunting ban for all types of birds in order to protect them during their crucial breeding season of May to July. Those violating the ban face fines up to 2000 JD and prison sentences of up to four months.

[Learn more](#) ▶



New Trail Opens in Historic Jabal Amman

Rich in history and brimming with cultural creativity, Jabal Amman can now be explored by a new walking trail launched by RSCN to celebrate the neighborhood. Illustrated trail maps with highlighted landmarks are available at the Wild Jordan Center near the First Circle.

[Read more](#) ▶



Environmental reporting award winners honoured

Winners of the second media award on environmental reporting were honoured on Tuesday, with Ekhsal Al-Qadi from Petra News Agency taking home first prize. Al-Qadi's article shed light on the pollution problem caused by the animals market.

[Read more](#) ▶



Local Environmental News

Jordan River Running Dry

The historic Jordan River, visited by thousands of religious pilgrims and tourists each year, has been reduced to a mere trickle of its former self. An ambitious rehabilitation project has been launched to restore the river, which has lost over 98% of its flow since 1930.

[Read more](#) ▶



Take Action

World Environment Day

Many species. One Planet. One future. So goes the theme for this year's World Environment Day on June 5th. Mark your calendars and make plans to celebrate the day by planting a tree, taking your children on a picnic, or going hiking in an RSCN reserve.

[Learn more](#) ▶



BIODIVERSITY AT A GLANCE: FACTS AND FIGURES

- Scientists group living organisms into eight categories: domain, kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species.
- There are an estimated 1.2 million animal species, the vast majority of which are insects.
- Places with very high biodiversity are called "hotspots." Many of these areas tracts of tropical rainforests
- 50% of the world's plants and 42% of terrestrial vertebrates are found within "hotspots" that make up a mere 2.3% of the Earth's surface.
- An estimated 17,000 species are currently facing extinction worldwide.
- Leading threats to biodiversity include climate change, habitat loss, pollution, hunting and trade, and exotic species introductions.
- Among vertebrates, amphibians are the most at risk, with one in three species threatened.
- In Jordan, 78 mammal species, 96 reptile and amphibian species, 425 bird species, and nearly 2,500 plant species have been recorded.

Go Greener!

Don't pre-heat the oven when cooking. Unless the recipe requires otherwise, simply turn the oven on when you put your dish in.



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Special thanks to IKBIS who documented the Earth Hour vows for 2010, to all who recorded their promises please follow this link



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