



## **FORMAT FOR REPORTS**

### **OF THE PARTIES**

**Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals,  
1979 Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian  
Migratory Waterbirds**

**First report by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the implementation  
of the Agreement during the period 2003 and 2005**

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

August 2005

**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY  
WATERBIRDS (The Hague, 1995)**

**Implementation during the period 2003 and 2005**

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## **1. Overview of Action Plan implementation**

Jordan has a long history of support for international collaboration to conserve waterbirds since it holds important waterbird wintering and resting areas, and is located on important migration routes. This will be used to take forward the development of Agreement requirements by Jordan, both locally and internationally

### **1.1 Summary of progress to date**

This report for the third Meeting of the Parties (MoP) is the first report from Jordan covering the implementation period 2003-2005. It provides information about Jordan's initiatives and best practice in relation to the conservation of migratory Waterbirds and their wetland habitats, in the context of the AEWA Action Plan.

The report is based on information drawn from the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, a NGO mandated by the Jordanian Government to establish and manage the protected areas in Jordan. In addition to information regarding the conservation of birds and migratory birds covered by other conventions and agreements.

### **1.2 Outline of planned actions for national implementation over the next three years**

- ◀ A network of 4 new protected areas in the Jordan Rift Valley is in the process of being designated. The new protected areas are located in the main migration route of birds which will guarantee better protection for the migrating birds.
- ◀ After a 4 years study on the National Water Bird Census, it was recommended to continue the census through point counts and record all the huntable and water bird species that occur in Jordan. The list includes 21 bird species.
- ◀ It is also recommended to include the Gulls in the new counts since they were not included in the counts.
- ◀ There were strong recommendations to ban the hunting of some species due to their importance: the Ferruginous Duck having a global conservation status, in addition to four species that have a national status: the Ruddy Shelduck, Gadwall, Red-crested Pochard and the Pochard.
- ◀ Continuing of rehabilitation of degraded habitat of Azraq wetland reserve which holds every year thousands of waterfowl and waders.

### **1.3 Outline of priorities for international co-operation over the next three years**

#### Soaring Birds

The project is being Executed by BirdLife International (co-ordinated through the Site Action Unit), in Partnership with national NGO partners and government agencies in Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The project is currently in a development phase that is funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Bank.

The overall objectives of the project is that "Globally threatened and significant populations of migrating soaring birds are effectively protected at a network of key bottleneck IBAs along the eastern sector of the Africa-Eurasia flyway (Rift Valley and Red Sea Flyway), thereby ensuring their safe passage between breeding and non-breeding grounds." Project components will address policy, planning and legislation; awareness and constituency building; sustainable management and socio-economic development; co-ordination, co-operation and communication; and capacity development.

The project seeks to achieve its objective by removal or reduction of the threats that have been identified at the selected bottleneck IBAs and by addressing the root causes that are at the origin of the threats. Each site will have a unique set of threats and root causes, requiring a specific response to reach the desired improvement in conservation and protection. Some of these are really local in nature and need to be addressed at that level. Others may be national or even regional in nature and would require action most effectively taken at those levels.

#### The SEEN Migration Network

The RSCN is a member of the SE European Bird Migration Network (SEEN). This membership is meant to facilitate exchanging the knowledge regarding migratory birds.

SEEN seek to encourage research of endangered species and enhance understanding of migratory flyways to help countries implement their conservation plans and fulfill obligations under international conventions.

#### Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Jordan Rift Valley

The project aims to secure the ecological integrity of the Jordan Rift Valley, as a globally important ecological corridor and migratory flyway, through a combination of site protection and management, nature based socio-economic development and land use planning. It will provide a large scale pilot program for introducing the principles and practice of integrated ecological management throughout a productive landscape and thus a potential global model.

A network of 4 new protected areas in the Jordan Rift Valley is in the process of being designated. The new protected areas are located in the main migration route of birds which will guarantee better protection for the migrating birds.

## **2. Species conservation**

### **Legal measures**

**2.1 Has a national policy/strategy or legislation to protect and conserve species covered by the Agreement (Table 1: column A; column B) and their supporting important areas been developed? If so:**

#### **a. What are the main features of the policy/legislation?**

Jordan has a long history of protected areas, starting in 1922 with the establishment of 23 forest and rangeland reserves under the Ministry of Agriculture. It now has over 37 protected areas, with widely different roles, from strict wildlife conservation to parks for recreation. Many of its most famous protected areas safeguard world-class archaeological sites but these, at present, are of limited value for biodiversity conservation

Jordan has developed a range of strategies, policies and plans alongside a comprehensive legislative framework that provides the basic protection to wildlife. Jordan's biodiversity conservation is achieved through the establishment and management and the conservation programs that are managed by the RSCN, in addition to the application of the National and international conventions.

The conventions and legislation for environmental protection are playing a major role in protecting the species at risk. Eighteen acts and eight regulations were issued in Jordan, including provisions for the protection of the environment. Two of these acts have articles dealing with animal protection that would help in decreasing the pressures on the species at risk. These acts are the Environmental Law No 12 of 1995 and the Agricultural Law No.20 of 1973. For many years, the Agricultural Law No.20 of 1973 was the sole legislation concerned with the protection of some aspects of wildlife.

The Environmental Law No 12 of 1995 was created to overcome all general weaknesses in other laws concerning environmental issues and to help improve the quality of life of the citizens by protecting the environment and achieving economic and social development. Unfortunately, the law lacks specific articles for the protection of threatened species. It just includes one article dealing with coral reef in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Unfortunately, these laws are still inadequate and ineffective. The environmental law has many deficiencies. One of the key deficiencies is the lack of comprehensive and specific legislation for threatened species. There are just two articles on protected areas. These two articles address the issues of providing protection for all the habitats and ecosystems within the protected areas network. There is no article related to habitat and species protection (particularly the plant species). On the other hand, the agricultural law does have an article dealing with species protection. There are two governmental agencies responsible for and dealing with the articles about habitat and species protection. Many initiatives have been taken to prepare the bylaws for a protected areas article (environmental law) and to prepare the bylaws for wildlife protection (agricultural law).

*These are the main Jordan Protected area policies :*

- JPAs will conserve the natural, cultural, archaeological, and scenic resources of the kingdom, while leaving them unimpaired for use and enjoyment by future generations. Visitor use, scientific study, education, and public enjoyment should be encouraged, but only in such a manner that will not adversely affect the resource.
- JPAs will be designated through a process of evaluation using the "Selecting Areas for a JPA system Criteria." An approved set of formal criteria will be applied during the designation process to assess significance. Additions to the JPA system will be strategic, and the system will expand

in conjunction with the availability of the staff and financial resources to meet protection and operating requirements.

The system should represent a full spectrum of significant Jordan flora and fauna, ecosystems and natural habitats as well as sites of important archaeological and cultural interest, and artefacts from important events in history. Proper selection of areas designated as JPAs will produce a nation wide system of representative sites, with priority given to the finest example of the nation's natural resources, outstanding archaeological artefacts and sites illustrating or commemorating the most significant events in Jordan's history.

***b. Which organizations are responsible for implementation?***

Most of these acts are being implemented through different governmental agencies in addition to the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature as a non-governmental body.

***c. How does it relate to other national initiatives (e.g. national Biodiversity Action Plans)?***

The National Environment Strategy (1991) provides a policy and planning framework for environmental protection in Jordan and incorporates over 400 recommendations and actions. It remains the principal strategic vehicle guiding government and NGO activities. Under the heading *wildlife and habitat* the strategy identifies the creation of new wildlife reserves as a national priority, referring to the network of 12 sites earmarked by RSCN through the IUCN/WWF study of 1977/78

The Convention on Biological Diversity was launched in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de-Janeiro. It was signed by 153 countries, including Jordan, and it requires the contracting parties to “develop national strategies, plans and programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity...”.

Jordan has developed a national Biodiversity Action Plan for the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources. The plan also contributes to the conservation of global biodiversity through appropriate mechanisms.

The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) was produced in 1996 by the Ministry of Planning as a follow-up to the National Environment Strategy. It defines the priority actions required for dealing with the major environmental problems of Jordan, as determined through an intensive workshop involving representatives of all relevant institutions, both government and non-government.

***2.2 What legal measures or practices has your country developed to prohibit or regulate for the following (refer also to section 4 on hunting):***

***a. Taking of, and trade in birds listed in Column A and B of Table 1 (where utilization or trade contravenes the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1 (a) and 2.1.2 of the Action Plan)?***

RSCN is the main body that is managing hunting in the country. They have a mandate by the government concerning the Agriculture Law which includes all legislations concerning hunting in the country. RSCN rangers are legally empowered to carry out hunting enforcement. Nevertheless, being an NGO, RSCN's policy states that rangers should always involve the police. It is believed that this would give an extra legal power for RSCN's work. By the year 2000, this partnership was institutionalized between the RSCN and the police. Since then, RSCN wildlife enforcement activities are being carried with formal coordination with the police

The Law Enforcement Section in the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature – the legal



institution responsible for the protection of wildlife in Jordan - has regulated the process of hunting. The hunting area is restricted to a certain part instead of having hunting all over the country.

The following species are species of concern for the AEWA and are present in the Jordanian species list:

Common Name	Scientific Name
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Northern Shovler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Ferruginous Pochard	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>

#### **b. Methods of taking?**

The data obtained from the Wildlife Enforcement Section at the RSCN showed that the main hunting method in Jordan is using the shotgun. This data is obtained from hunting violations. From the all the violations that are recorded in the database since 1996 until 2004, 61.4% of these violations hunters use shotguns. Air guns are the second most used weapon in hunting with 16.6% of violations. Nets are the third most used method of hunting with 13.4% of the violations.

#### **c. Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?**

The national census has studied the current situation and has recommended the completion of the census and has set the best areas and times for monitoring the bird species and proposed certain bag limits for each species.

#### **d. Sustainable hunting of species listed in Categories 2 and 3 (and marked by an asterisk) in Column A only?**

According to Article 57-b of the hunting law, the wildlife committee that is formed by the minister is responsible for identifying hunting seasons, bag limits, species and restrictions of time of day.

The following species are on the hunting list of Jordan and part of the AEWA bird list:

Common Name	Scientific name
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>

The hunting season is determined so that it will not affect the migration season or the breeding season for the birds. The hunting season starts at the beginning of October and ends at the end of March, i.e. before the migration season. The bag limit is decided for every species.

**e. Exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3?**

### **Single Species Action Plans**

**2.3 Of the species covered by the Agreement (species listed in Table 1: column A), which spend part or all of their life history in your country, which have formal international (Category 1, species marked with an asterisk) or national (column A) Single Species Action Plans:**

**a. Proposed?**

**b. In preparation?**

A National action plan for the conservation of Breeding Sea Birds in Jordan is under preparation as a part of the Implementation of the Strategic Action Program for the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, implemented by Regional Organization for the Protection of the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA).

**c. Being implemented?**

*Please append a list of species and their action plan status. (For international plans indicate which other countries are involved in plan development/implementation.)*

### **Emergency measures**

**2.4 Describe any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action that your country has undertaken to develop and implement emergency measures to conserve species in response to unfavorable or endangering conditions occurring in the Agreement area.**

### **Re-establishments**

**2.5 Has a policy on species re-establishments been developed in your country? If yes, please outline the main features of the policy and give details of any re-establishment programmes for species covered by the Agreement.**

## Introductions

**2.6 Has your country developed and implemented legal measures to prohibit the introduction of nonnative species? Please provide details, particularly describing measures to control the release or introduction of non-native species (please indicate which species and their status).**

The Agriculture Law No. 44 of the year 2002 is the main reference for wildlife hunting in the country. Below are the main articles in this law that deal with the migratory birds and wildlife species in general. The articles deal with hunting , owning, and the introduction of species.

### *Article 57-a*

*Minister of Agriculture sets the regulations that control conservation of, hunting of and trade in wild birds and wild animals in a way that these regulations do not oppose international agreements related to protecting wild birds and animals. These regulations include:*

- *Set conditions for hunting licenses, their fees and the bodies delegated to give them.*
- *Identify areas of hunting and areas where hunting is banned*
- *Identify wild bird and animal species that are not to be hunted, owned, transported, sold or present for sale*
- *Identify wild bird species that can be traded with and set the conditions for registering trade markets for these species*

### *Article 57-c*

*It is strictly prohibited to do any of the following:*

- 2-*Import or export any wildlife species (dead or alive) unless with a special permit by the minister.*

After this law was issued, specific regulations were issued later. These regulations (Regulations No. G/34 for the year 2003) focused on the protection of wild birds and animals and they were as follows:

### *Item 13*

*It is not allowed to export, import and re-export any wildlife species, their derivatives, parts, and products unless a special permit is granted and in compliance with the international conventions signed by the kingdom.*

### 3. Habitat conservation

#### Habitat inventories

##### ***3.1 Has your country developed and published inventories of important habitats for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, please provide details, including any provisions to maintain or update these inventories.***

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is protecting the bird species in its natural habitats through the management and establishment of Nature reserves. Jordan has mandated the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature to manage and establish the reserves.

Jordan has 7 established protected areas in addition to 11 proposed protected ones, of them 5 were proposed by the RSCN in 1998 and the rest by Clarke 1978.

Detailed research programs for the birds and their habitats take place in each protected area in the early stages of establishment. Each inventory ends up with a report containing the proper recommendations for the birds and their habitats in addition to proper monitoring programs for the important species.

Jordan has also identified a network of important bird areas that has a big value for the protection of birds specially during their migration and in protecting habitats important for the breeding of important bird species. 27 Important bird areas were identified by a study made by the RSCN and BirdLife office in Amman in the year 2000.

There have been many surveys of wetland habitats in Jordan. These have generally been undertaken for specific habitat inventories (e.g. for Mudflats, dams and inland wetland). This assessment has come from census bird of Jordan that has been conducted for four years to assess the situation of waterfowls in Jordan during migration season.

Azraq wetland reserve and the adjacent mudflat is the only Ramsar site in Jordan. Beside of the census bird of Jordan Azraq wetland reserve has special bird program to monitor and evaluate bird population that use the reserve during the migration season

##### ***3.2 Has your country undertaken a strategic review of sites to develop a national network of important sites or areas for species covered by the Agreement? Please append a list of identified sites of international importance.***

In 1974 the RSCN invited a mission from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to promote wildlife conservation in the country. In 1978 a complete survey took place through the mission lead by Clark to identify important habitats and ecosystems that need to be conserved. The study revealed that there are 12 important sites to be protected. RSCN began the implementation of the establishment of the reserves network and established 6 reserves till the year 1998.

These reserves protect some of the most valuable and scenically spectacular ecosystems in the country and have become national and international models of the new community-centred approach to protected area management. The influence of the GEF programme in bringing about this shift in management approach cannot be over-emphasized, as it has provided significant funding and technical assistance for integrated conservation and development programmes in protected areas and for the strengthening of managing institutions. As a direct consequence of this support, notable protected areas like Dana and Azraq have become centres of ambitious eco-tourism and other socio-economic initiatives, such that they are now making a significant contribution to local employment and the national economy

After 20 years of land use and increase in population size, there was a need to review the rest of the proposed protected areas. The RSCN has conducted a large scale survey to review the proposed sites and to propose other sites that needed to be conserved. RSCN team has reviewed first the basis of selection of the sites and reassessed the criteria according to the international standards of IUCN. The vegetation types map of Jordan was used as a base for calculating the proper percentages of habitats to be conserved. A 4% of each vegetation type was meant to be covered by the reserves network.

All the old proposed sites were reassessed and another 6 reserves were proposed by the study team. The proposed reserves are being adopted by the government and are being thought of in all the landuse planning. One reserve is already established of the new proposed areas, Dibbin in 2003.

A set of 4 new proposed protected areas are being under the process of getting established through a new project funded by the World Bank, The Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Rift Valley. The work is going on to finish the PDF of the project and once the project is approved by the World Bank 4 new protected areas will be established in the Jordan Rift Valley , the project will also address the important bird areas that are located in the rift valley. These 4 new reserves are located on the main route for birds' migration which will add a value to the conservation of migratory birds and specially the waterbirds.

## **Conservation of areas**

***3.3 Describe the legal frameworks and other measures through which sites (including transfrontier sites) including of international importance gain practical protection. (Please append a list of internationally important protected sites.)***

***3.4 Has your country developed a management planning process for protected sites? If yes, please outline the types of management plans and organisations responsible for development and implementation.***

The RSCN is mandated by the government to establish and manage nature reserves in Jordan including sites that have national or international importance for birds and especially wildfowl and waders. RSCN has established 7 reserves and some are proposed. Each reserve has its own management plan , in order to facilitate the management schemes in the sites.

The RSCN is responsible for the development and implementation of the management plans in the protected areas.

***3.5 How many protected sites have formal management plans (please append a list of sites and their management planning status):***

***a. Proposed?***

Following, a table of the proposed sites for protection. A proper management plan is set once the site is designated and the needed ecological and cultural surveys are done.

No.	SITE	Expected vegetation types conserved.
1	Aqaba	Acacia and Rocky Sudanian Vegetation
2	Yarmouk River	Deciduous Oak Forests
3	Buqu	Hammada Vegetation
4	Jebel Masuda	Juniper Forest Steppe Vegetation Mediterranean Non-Forest Vegetation
5	Bayer	Hammada Vegetation
6	Rajel	Hammada Vegetation
7	Jerba	Mediterranean Non-Forest Vegetation
8	Abu Rukbeh	Steppe Vegetation Mediterranean Non-Forest Vegetation
9	North Ghor	Saline Vegetation
10	Fifa	Tropical Vegetation Acacia and Rocky Sudanian Vegetation Saline Vegetation Sand Dune vegetation
11	Qatar	Acacia and Rocky Sudanian Vegetation Saline Vegetation

*b. In preparation?*

No.	SITE	Type of Protection	Area	Establishment Year
1	Dibbin Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	8 km <sup>2</sup>	2003
4	Ajloun Woodland Reserve	Nature Reserve	12 km <sup>2</sup>	1978

*c. Being implemented?*

No.	SITE	Type of Protection	Area	Establishment Year
1	Shauamri Wildlife Reserve	Nature Reserve	22 Km <sup>2</sup>	1975
2	Azraq Wetland Reserve	Nature Reserve	9 km <sup>2</sup>	1976
3	Mujib Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	212 km <sup>2</sup>	1978
4	Dana Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	308 km <sup>2</sup>	1989
5	Rum Special Regulation Area.	Special Regulation Area	540 km <sup>2</sup>	1998

**3.6 What measures does your country have in place to ensure the wise use of wetland habitats and to prevent habitat degradation e.g. pollution control and managing water resources? Please provide examples of best practice initiatives particularly involving cross-sectoral co-operation or public participation.**

In 1977, the Ramsar Convention declared Azraq Wetland and the adjacent mudflat (Qa) as a major station for migratory birds on the African-Eurasian flyway. Therefore, The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) acclaimed Azraq Wetland as a reserve of national and international importance.

During the last two decades, the wetland suffered an environmental disaster because of abuse and overuse of water from the Azraq Basin. This has been caused by over extraction of Azraq Basin water to heavily populated cities in Jordan and the illegal drilling of artesian wells for agricultural purposes. In 1992 the main springs which were feeding the wetland had dried out and water level reached a depth of 12 meters below ground level

The fourth management plan of Azraq wetland reserve was developed in 1998 and lasted for five years, to ensure the sustainable use and management of the wetland. An agreement with the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) signed to guarantee sustainable pumping of water to the wetland habitats. A monitoring program had been conducted by well- trained researchers to evaluate the health of the ecosystem of the reserve. Also, a visitor centre and boardwalk trail with a bird hide has been developed to gain more appreciation and support of the reserve from visitors. A socio-economic program has also been developed to gain more support from the local community of Azraq. In 2004 and after long period of monitoring programs, the results of Bird Monitoring Program, Census Birds of Jordan and Fish Monitoring Program confirmed the continuing importance of the reserve for several species of breeding birds and many species of migrants.

The recommendations of all monitoring programs concluded that the future management of the reserve should aim at expanding the wet marsh and areas of open water, whilst also increasing the diversity of habitats within the wet marsh and increasing the extent of edge areas where different habitats interface.

A proposal was developed to improve and rehabilitate the existing viable wet habitats for Azraq killifish and migratory passerines, rehabilitate the edges of the existing wet pools habitats where the reedbed interfaces with open water, sedge areas and dry marsh and restore a new permanent wet habitat representing the characteristics habitats of the Azraq mudflat.

The main theme of the project is to conserve the important bird areas in the eastern part of Jordan which located on the main migration flyway.

The proposal was submitted to the Dutch embassy and the project is nearly approved.

## **Rehabilitation and restoration**

***3.7 Does your country have a policy for the identification, rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands important for species covered by the Agreement? Please provide examples of rehabilitation and restoration projects and initiatives undertaken.***

See above.

## 4. Management of human activities

### Hunting

#### **4.1 Outline the main features of legislation or legal measures in your country to control hunting of the species covered by the Agreement (e.g. use of lead shot and poisoned baits, and to eliminate illegal taking).**

The Agriculture Law No. 44 of the year 2002 is the main reference for wildlife hunting in the country.

##### *Item 6*

*Taking into consideration Article 63, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature is the body responsible in managing all matters related to hunting licenses including submission, renewal and obtaining fees for hunting licenses.*

##### *Item 7*

*Hunting of wild animals and wild birds is carried out in regions and seasons declared by the Minister of Agriculture according to the recommendations by the Wildlife Committee. Regions and seasons are published in the Official Gazette – Jordan.*

RSCN is the main body that is managing hunting in the country. They have a mandate by the government concerning the Agriculture Law which includes all legislations concerning hunting in the country. RSCN rangers are legally empowered to carry out hunting enforcement. Nevertheless, being an NGO, RSCN's policy states that rangers should always involve the police. It is believed that this would give an extra legal power for RSCN's work. By the year 2000, this partnership was institutionalized between the RSCN and the police. Since then, RSCN wildlife enforcement activities are being carried with formal coordination with the police.

After establishing the partnership, the police has established an environmental branch at its headquarters. This branch is responsible for managing and coordinating the activities of police officers with wildlife enforcement section and its rangers.

Hunting is not allowed in any sort in protected areas in the country. Most if not all protected areas in the country, were known to be very popular sites for hunting before being declared as protected areas. Dana Biosphere Reserve and Mujib Nature Reserve were known to be the best sites to hunt Nubian Ibex (*Capra ibex nubiana*), Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) and Sand Partridge (*Ammoperidix heyi*). None of the migratory bird species are known to be specifically hunted in these areas. Nevertheless, hunting in these two protected areas is under strict control at the present time.

As for Azraq Wetland Reserve, it used to be the most popular site for waterfowl hunting until the early eighties when hunting in the Eastern as a whole, including Azraq was banned. Hundreds of birds of different species of ducks were hunted during the good years when Azraq used to be composed of open waters. After the over-pumping of water from Azraq and after years of continuous drought, the situation in Azraq has worsened. In the year 2000, Azraq mudflat was completely flooded for the first time since 1995. Large numbers of waterfowl wintered there. The mudflat has been flooding on yearly basis since then but on different levels. A lot of hunters especially local hunters from Azraq have been asking the RSCN to allow hunting in the mudflat at least on weekends. RSCN has clarified that the mudflat and Azraq as a whole will never will be open for hunting for any reason since it is an IBA and Ramsar site that should be conserved. Temporarily, RSCN has allowed hunting in small mudflats in the Eastern Desert. There were three mudflats that were opened for hunting but with strict control where hunters have to get a special permission in order to hunt in these mudflats.

Hunting in Wadi Rum Protected Area is still a threat. The area has been popular for hunting Ibex and resident birds. The only migratory bird species that was and is still targeted in the area is Common



Crane (*Grus grus*). Being the largest protected area in the country, Wadi Rum Protected Area is running a patrol plan in order to control hunting in the area.

Protected areas in Northern Jordan, Ajloun Woodland Reserve and Dibbin Nature Reserve are not considered as main sites for hunting. It is probable that songbird trappers could be going to these sites and their neighbouring areas but there is no data that supports that except for very few violations.

Shaumari Wildlife Reserve is the only protected area where hunting of migratory birds was not documented in. Being completely fenced for the reintroduction programme of Arabian Oryx, nobody is allowed to enter the reserve except from the main entrance

#### ***4.2 Does your country monitor hunting levels? If so, how is this information collated and reported?***

The hunting process is monitored and controlled through the Law enforcement section in the RSCN enforced by a police network. Rangers move around the country monitoring and making sure that no one is violating the law. The rangers have a legal status to confiscate and issuing tickets for the law breakers to be fined later.

#### ***4.3 Describe action undertaken by hunting clubs and organizations to manage hunting activity e.g. cooperative action, issuing of licenses and proficiency testing of individual members.***

There are no Hunter associations in Jordan. There were several plans to establish an association but all have failed. Until late 80s, the Azraq Lodge in Southern Azraq was considered as the main gathering point for hunters when they go hunting in Azraq Oasis and the rest of the Eastern Desert. After banning hunting in the Eastern part of the country, the lodge with its bungalows became a bed and breakfast site for recreation. The latest hunters association was established three years ago by some of the licensed hunters and it had plans of establishing some cooperation with the RSCN in controlling and sustaining hunting in the country. The association has failed and no activities were carried out through it.

RSCN is managing the process of hunting, beginning with issuing the permits for hunting that is renewed annually, making sure that the weapon used is licensed and applying the Hunting law of Jordan.

Hunters are obliged to buy the hunter's guide when they applying for the license. This guide includes information about the hunting program and also information about Jordanian wildlife. There is a special section that shows all species that are allowed to be hunted in Jordan and the species that are not allowed to be hunted. Other publications that are given to hunters include the RSCN quarterly magazine Al-Reem which includes the latest edition of the hunting program.

A partnership with the Police Department was institutionalized with the RSCN. Since then, RSCN wildlife enforcement activities are being carried with formal coordination with the police. RSCN has also been giving special training for police officers concerning the wildlife enforcement regulations.

After establishing the partnership, the police has established an environmental branch at its headquarters. This branch is responsible for managing and coordinating the activities of police officers with wildlife enforcement section and its rangers

## **Eco-tourism**

### ***4.4 What is the status of eco-tourism programmes or initiatives in your country? Please provide examples of projects with an indication of the significant outcomes.***

Bird-watching is one activity that is starting to bloom in the tourism sector. Previously, bird-watching trips were limited to foreign excursions, mainly from the UK. Most, if not all, these bird-watching trips were through British tourism agencies. These groups would usually make comprehensive tours around the country where the most important bird-watching sites in the country would be visited.

National tourism agencies have lately started to work on bird-watching programmes. The "ecotourism" programmes in nature reserves has highlighted the huge business and income that bird-watching and other related ecotourism activities might generate. RSCN, being acknowledged as the NGO that has found the ecotourism concept in Jordan on the large scale has also worked on encouraging this business through national agencies and tour guides in general. In 2001 and 2002, RSCN has provided training on Ecotourism in general and bird-watching in specific through training packages that were called "Reading Nature". These training packages were provided for more than 40 tour guides in coordination with their association. Additional, more specialized courses were designed in order to be provided for tour guides who would be interested in carrying out bird-watching tours in the country.

Later, after these courses were provided, several national tourist agencies have contacted bird-watching specialists in the country in order to design bird-watching programmes for foreign birdwatchers. Nothing has yet been established but several agencies are through the process of publishing these programmes.

### ***4.5 What social and economic benefits accrue to the local communities from the conservation of important waterbird sites?***

The conservation programs in the reserves has taken into consideration the human factor and has laid a big importance on the socio-economical aspect . A socio-economy study is done for each reserve to assess the current status and the potential of the site and the locals in or around. The study ends usually with a list of projects that aim to benefit the locals through increasing the working opportunities and through providing income generating activities.

Taking Azraq Reserve as an example, by setting the conservation programs and rehabilitating the water habitats for the use of migratory and resident water birds, the reserve management was able to identify different activities and projects that benefits the locals communities around the reserve, taking into consideration the importance of using local materials and local expertise for these projects.

Using the reed for making baskets, using local expertise to make nature bags, painting on Ostrich eggs, and other activities are small examples of economic benefits for the local communities.

Another economic benefit for conserving the habitats is the increase of using the sites for different activities like tourism and bird watching. Tourists and bird watchers who use the facilities of the reserve usually buy local souvenirs and products, helping by that the local communities market their products.

## Other human activities

### **4.6 Does your country carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting protected sites or areas important for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, briefly describe the main features of your EIA policy and procedures.**

- The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the coordination of all national efforts that aim at achieving environment protection, including the development of a national strategy for environmental education and communication as well as the transfer and proper use of environmental knowledge.
- The law of Environment forbids the disposal of any solid, liquid, gaseous, or (radio-active) pollutants in or near the sources of water.
- Before beginning any project that might have a negative impact on the Environment, an Environmental Impact Assessment EIA must be presented to the Ministry of Environment in order get the approval of the project.
- The Ministry of Environment has the right to request an Environmental Impact Assessment EIA from projects, companies and corporations that have already been established before the issue of this law and practice activities that have a negative impact on the Environment in order to assure that environment protection measures have been taken into account.

### **4.7 Please describe the main features of your planning policy and provide examples of practical implementation (e.g. activities to minimizing disturbance of species populations or limit the impact of species populations on crops or fisheries). Please summarize any land-use conflicts especially emphasizing successful solutions to problems encountered in promoting the wise-use of waterbirds and their habitats.**

The Law of Agriculture forbids the following:

1. Hunting wild animals and birds without a hunting license, or hunting in the seasons or areas where hunting is forbidden.
2. Killing, possessing, transferring, and selling wild animals and birds.
3. Entering wild animals and birds to the kingdom or taking them out whether they are dead or alive without a previous permission from the Minister.
4. Damaging the nests of birds and wild animals, or picking up and damaging their eggs.
5. Using vehicles, strong lights and automatic weapons for hunting wild animals and birds.
6. Hunting wild animals using weapons other than the hunting shotgun.
7. Using glue, anesthetic and toxic materials for hunting.
8. Hunting in nature reserves.
9. Being cruel to animals

## 5. Research and monitoring

### Status of research and monitoring programmes for species

**1.1 How are priorities for research identified in your country? Please briefly describe your country's research programmes, including any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action, for wetland habitats and for species covered by the Agreement (e.g. studies into species population, ecology and migratory patterns). Please append a list of research activities initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years.**

Although RSCN has been carrying out ornithological research in the country for the past 15 years, none of this research has been targeted in order to evaluate the hunting in the country. There were some plans in order to carry out a comprehensive research on all "hunnable" species in the country including resident and migrant species. Unfortunately, a small part of this has taken place since 1999. Later in the year 2000, several country studies have been designed and were planned to take place through 2000, 2001 and 2002 in order to evaluate the status of most of the hunnable species in the country. RSCN has managed to coordinate the participation of several volunteers, mainly from the RSPB and BirdLife Austria but unfortunately the number of volunteers was not enough to carry out comprehensive in the appropriate periods of the year. Additional funding was sought in order to carry out these studies later but fundraising did not succeed then.

The only comprehensive research activity was the national waterbird census which has been carried in Jordan by the RSCN since October 2000. This study includes direct counts of waterbird species all over the wetlands, permanent and seasonal, in the country starting by October until March in order to cover the winter season in addition to some parts of the autumn and spring migration. Results from this study has helped in identifying key sites for waterbirds and the main species that use each site. A report on the study from October 2000 until March 2002 was published internally at the RSCN and its recommendations are being used in shaping the waterbirds hunting schedule in Jordan.

Ringling in Jordan is a new research activity. It was initiated by the RSCN through the Birds Know No Boundaries project. Pilot ringling studies were carried out in several parts of the country. A ringling station was established in Azraq Wetland Reserve and ringling has been carried out in spring seasons for the past three years. Unfortunately, there no hunting records from shot birds until now.

Since RSCN has already planned to carry out research on "hunnable" species but could not apply it due to the above-mentioned reasons. It is recommended that these studies should be carried out after finding the suitable funding. There is a clear need to carry out research targeting hunters. This research would help in understanding the hunters preferences concerning species and sites.

- A Bird Baseline Survey took place in Aqaba and Yarmouk River through the "For Birds and People in the Jordan Rift Valley" to assess the status of these 2 sites for resident and migratory birds. The study was done in 2 phases to ensure the best coverage of the areas' birds.

- Several scientific papers were prepared, approved and published by OSME magazine,

- ◀ The first European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* in Jordan
- ◀ Preliminary data on raptor passage in Jordan
- ◀ The first Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* in Jordan
- ◀ Red rocks, pink birds and blue lizards: Jordan in early autumn
- ◀ The first Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* in Jordan

*Many new or rare records were recorded during last year, some of the records are as follows:*

- The first European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* in Jordan

- The first Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* in Jordan
- The first Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* in Jordan
- Mute Swan- third record in Jordan- recorded in the eastern desert.
- Sanderling- third record in Jordan- recorded in Burqu' in Spring

**5.2 What monitoring activities does your country undertake, including any bilateral or multilateral cooperative action, of wetland areas and species covered by the Agreement (e.g. national monitoring schemes, International Waterfowl Census)? Please append a list of monitoring activities or programmes initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years**

The RSCN has installed cameras in nesting boxes of House Sparrow and the Great Tit as part of the Migrating Birds Know No Boundary project. The locations were set up after a study carried out to identify the targeted birds and the living conditions they can adapt to. Researchers in the Kingdom can now observe the nesting behaviour of the on the Internet 24 hours a day, thanks to the nest box camera system.

The project picked the House Sparrow in the Azraq wildlife reserve, and the Great Tit in the Dana reserve.

The cameras are connected to the Internet through a server and accessible at <http://birds.rscn.org.jo>, <http://azraq.rscn.org.jo> and <http://dana.rscn.org.jo>.

## 6. Education and information

### Training and development programmes

#### **6.1 Describe the status of training and development programmes which support waterbird conservation and implement the AEWA Action Plan.**

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature provides training on the research and handling of birds as a part of the ringing training programs.

A special training for police officers concerning the wildlife enforcement regulations is provided by the RSCN. Training workshops on this matter also included awareness items which focus on Jordan's biodiversity, nature reserves and other conservation concepts.

On 2nd to 7th March, Azraq Oasis Ramsar site (Jordan) served as a case study for a 6-day Training Course on Management Planning organized under the MedWet initiative (MedWetCoast project ) The course gathered about 30 participants from Albania, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, from both governments and NGOs. The course meant to enable participants to design management plans for 15 wetland and coastal sites (some of them Ramsar sites), as part of the 2nd phase of the MedWet Coast project. The course was organised in partnership by the **Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature** from Jordan, **ATEN** (the French training organisation for protected areas staff), and **Tour du Valat Biological Station**. Draft management plans were designed by the participants for Azraq using existing baseline data, field visits, and meetings with local stakeholders.

In 2004, RSCN organized several training programmes funded by the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) aimed at developing the capacity of environmental practitioners in the neighbouring Arab countries. These included:

- Ecotourism development
- Management planning for protected areas.
- Environmental awareness
- Methods of defining Important Bird Areas.
- NGO's management
- Fundraising.

#### **6.2 What bilateral or multilateral co-operative action is your country undertaking to develop training programmes and share examples of good practice?**

**RSCN having a good experience and expertise in Biodiversity and wild life management, is providing many training programs for the neighboring countries on different topics.**

Training programs on the development of management plans for protected areas, developing ecotourism and business plans, research techniques, ringing procedures, law enforcement, and many other topics of training were provided to different groups from Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and several individuals from other countries. The training was held either in Jordan or in the country that asked for the training program. The training programs usually aim at giving the trainees real life examples of the protected areas they are presenting to guide them towards applying what they have learnt.

## **Raising public awareness**

### ***6.3 Describe activities to raise public awareness of the objectives of the AEWA Action Plan. Please outline any particular successes generating public interest in, and securing support for, waterbird and wetland conservation (e.g. campaigns, information notes or other initiatives)?***

The education and public awareness element of the Migrating birds know no boundaries project is considered to be a success in this field. It was designed so that it can reach the largest number of school children with the help of the Nature Clubs initiated and run by the RSCN. This program aimed at producing the concept of bird conservation and relating it to the bird migration . The program is repeated twice a week at the education center at RSCN Head quarter among students with the target ages 8-11, and 12-15. The program includes participatory approach and game related activities to give the students information about the bird, its habitats, the food chain relationship, birds in Jordan with focus on water birds in Azraq reserve.

Another important activity of the same project is having cameras placed in nest boxes and connected directly to the internet. This is used to show the very small details in the lives of birds during the breeding season. This is used for the students and other interested viewers to stress on the importance of the area for breeding and nesting birds and specially during the migration season. In addition to that RSCN has designed and prepared a Bird Guide for students drawn and printed in colors to encourage children to observe and identify the different types of birds and relate them to the different habitats.

On another hand the Law and enforcement Section at the RSCN has prepared a Guid for the Hunable species . The guide describes the hunable species so that it will not be mixed up with other species and to identify the exact bag limits of each type and the exact places for hunting.

## **7. Final comments**

### ***7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan***

### ***7.2 Observations concerning the functions and services of the various AEWA bodies***

- a. The Agreement Secretariat***
- b. International organisations***
- c. AEWA NGO partners***

### ***7.3 How might the Action Plan be further developed as a practical aid for national and international conservation of migratory waterbirds?***



**8. Progress to implement Resolutions and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties**

*Please summarize progress to implement decisions of previous Meetings of the Parties.*

## **9. OPTIONAL SECTION – Planned and future actions**

Contracting Parties are invited to outline below any further information regarding the aims of the Agreement, for example, planned actions or other informative examples.

1. Species conservation
2. Habitat conservation
3. Management of human activities
4. Research and monitoring
5. Education and information

## **List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report**

AEWA	African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement
BSAP	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CITES	International Convention on Trade of Endangered Species
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HF	Hanns Seidel Foundation
JPAs	Jordan Protected Areas
MoP	Meeting of the Parties
NGO	Non -Governmental Organisation
PERSGA	Protection of the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden
RSCN	Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEEN	SE European Bird Migration Network
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

## References

- ◀ Andrews, I.J. 1995. The Birds of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I.J Andrews, Midlothian, Scotland.
- ◀ Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan – Protected Areas, 2001.
- ◀ Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan – Species at Risk.
- ◀ National Report on Hunting of Migratory Birds- Jordan ,2005, Amman.
- ◀ RSCN, 2003. National Waterbird Census. RSCN , Amman.
- ◀ RSCN 2000. Important Bird Areas in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Dar Amman Publishing, Amman.
- ◀ RSCN 2000. Aqaba Birds Baseline Survey April – May 2002. RSCN, Amman.
- ◀ RSCN 2000. Yarmouk Birds Baseline Survey April – May 2002. RSCN, Amman.

## ◀ Appendices

### Appendix 1: Implementation plan for African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement

<b>2. Species Conservation</b>	
<b><i>Legal Measures</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eighteen acts and eight regulations were issued in Jordan, including provisions for the protection of the environment. Two of these acts have articles dealing with animal protection that would help in decreasing the pressures on the species at risk. These acts are the Environmental Law No 12 of 1995 and the Agricultural Law No.20 of 1973. For many years, the Agricultural Law No.20 of 1973 was the sole legislation concerned with the protection of some aspects of wildlife</li> <li>• Jordan has developed a national Biodiversity Action Plan for the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources.</li> <li>• The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) was produced in 1996 by the Ministry of Planning as a follow-up to the National Environment Strategy. It defines the priority actions required for dealing with the major environmental problems of Jordan.</li> <li>• According to Article 57-b of the hunting law, the wildlife committee that is formed by the minister is responsible for identifying hunting seasons, bag limits, species and restrictions of time of day.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Single Species Action Plan</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A National action plan for the conservation of Breeding Sea Birds in Jordan is under preparation as a part of the Implementation of the Strategic Action Program for the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, implemented by Regional Organization for the Protection of the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA).</li> </ul>
<b>3. Habitat conservation</b>	
3.1. Habitat inventories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jordan has 7 established protected areas in addition to 11 proposed protected ones, of them 5 were proposed by the RSCN in 1998 and the rest by Clarke 1978</li> </ul>
3.2. Conservation of areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A set of 4 new proposed protected areas are being under the process of getting established through a new project funded by the World Bank. The work is going on to finish the PDF of the project and once the project is approved by the World Bank 4 new protected areas will be established in the Jordan Rift Valley , the project will also address the important bird areas that are located in the rift valley. These 4 new reserves are located on the main route for birds' migration which will add a value to the conservation of migratory birds and specially the waterbirds.</li> </ul>
3.3. Rehabilitation and restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proposal was developed to improve and rehabilitate the existing viable wet habitats for Azraq killifish and migratory</li> </ul>

	<p>passerines, rehabilitate the edges of the existing wet pools habitats where the reedbed interfaces with open water, sedge areas and dry marsh and restore a new permanent wet habitat representing the characteristics habitats of the Azraq mudflat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main theme of the project is to conserve the important bird areas in the eastern part of Jordan which located on the main migration flyway.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Management of human activities</b>	
4.1. Hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSCN is the main body that is managing hunting in the country. They have a mandate by the government concerning the Agriculture Law which includes all legislations concerning hunting in the country. RSCN rangers are legally empowered to carry out hunting enforcement. RSCN's policy states that rangers should always involve the police. It is believed that this would give an extra legal power for RSCN's work. By the year 2000, this partnership was institutionalized between the RSCN and the police. Since then, RSCN wildlife enforcement activities are being carried with formal coordination with the police.</li> <li>• After establishing the partnership, the police has established an environmental branch at its headquarters. This branch is responsible for managing and coordinating the activities of police officers with wildlife enforcement section and its rangers</li> </ul>
4.4. Eco-tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National tourism agencies have started to work on bird-watching programmes.</li> <li>• Bird-watching is an activity that is starting to bloom in the tourism sector.</li> <li>• RSCN has provided training on Ecotourism in general and bird-watching in specific through training packages that were called "Reading Nature".</li> </ul>
4.5. Other human activities	<p>The Law of Agriculture forbids the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hunting wild animals and birds without a hunting license, or hunting in the seasons or areas where hunting is forbidden</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before beginning any project that might have a negative impact on the Environment, an Environmental Impact Assessment EIA must be presented to the Ministry of Environment in order get the approval of the project.</li> <li>• The Ministry of Environment has the right to request an Environmental Impact Assessment EIA from projects, companies and corporations that have already been established before the issue of this law and practice activities that have a negative impact on the Environment in order to assure that environment protection measures have been taken into account.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damaging the nests of birds and wild animals, or picking up and damaging their eggs.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Research and monitoring</b>	
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ringing in Jordan is a new research activity. It was initiated by the RSCN through the Birds Know No Boundaries project. Pilot ringing studies were carried out in several parts of the country. A ringing station was established in Azraq Wetland Reserve and ringing has been carried out in spring seasons for the past three years. Unfortunately, there no hunting records from shot birds until now.</li> <li>• A Bird Baseline Survey took place in Aqaba and Yarmouk River through the "For Birds and People in the Jordan Rift Valley" to assess the status of these 2 sites for resident and migratory birds. The study was done in 2 phases to ensure the best coverage of the areas' birds.</li> </ul>
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RSCN has installed cameras in nesting boxes of House Sparrow and the Great Tit as part of the Migrating Birds Know No Boundary project. The locations were set up after a study carried out to identify the targeted birds and the living conditions they can adapt to. Researchers in the Kingdom can now observe the nesting behaviour of the on the Internet 24 hours a day, thanks to the nest box camera system.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Education and information</b>	
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature provides training on the research and handling of birds as a part of the ringing training programs.</li> <li>• A special training for police officers concerning the wildlife enforcement regulations is provided by the RSCN. Training workshops on this matter also included awareness items which focus on Jordan's biodiversity, nature reserves and other conservation concepts.</li> </ul>

**Appendix 2: List of relevant World Wide Web addresses for national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation**

*Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature*

[www.rscn.org.jo](http://www.rscn.org.jo)

RSCN's Nest Cameras

<http://birds.rscn.org.jo>,  
<http://azraq.rscn.org.jo>  
<http://dana.rscn.org.jo>



**Appendix 3: List of relevant migratory waterbird and habitat conservation projects initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
2001 - now	National Waterbird Census	A national water bird census is carried out in order to provide a scientific base for decisions of the hunting committee. Results of the national water bird census will be included in two of the most important publications about water birds in the world " <i>Numbers and distribution of wintering water birds in the Western Palearctic and Southwest Asia</i> ", and " <i>Waterbird Population Estimates</i> ". Both publications are issued regularly by Wetlands International.	Ongoing
2005	Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Jordan Rift Valley	The project aims to secure the ecological integrity of the Jordan Rift Valley, as a globally important ecological corridor and migratory flyway, through a combination of site protection and management, nature based socio-economic development and land use planning. It will provide a large scale pilot program for introducing the principles and practice of integrated ecological management throughout a productive landscape and thus a potential global model.	Ongoing
	Soaring Birds	The project sets out to achieve improved conservation status of a number of key sites, which are of global biodiversity significance because of the presence of high numbers of globally threatened soaring birds and other biodiversity.	Ongoing
2002	For Birds and People in the Jordan Rift Valley	To transform Jordan Valley into an ecologically sustainable region by conserving and protecting nature while recognizing the inextricable link between ecological sustainability and social, economic and cultural factors.	Completed
2000	Migratory Birds Know No Boundaries	Combining education, research, and environmental protection using the	Completed With some

		migrating birds as a learning and conservation tool.	activities going on.
2005	Rehabilitation of Azraq Habitats	<p>The main theme of the project is to conserve the important bird areas in the eastern part of Jordan which located on the main migration flyway.</p> <p>Improve and rehabilitate the existing viable wet habitats for Azraq killifish and migratory passerines, rehabilitate the edges of the existing wet pools habitats where the reedbed interfaces with open water, sedge areas and dry marsh and restore a new permanent wet habitat representing the characteristics habitats of the Azraq mudflat.</p>	Initiated
2002	For Birds and People in the Jordan Rift Valley	To transform the Jordan Valley into an ecologically sustainable region by conserving and protecting nature while recognizing the inextricable link between ecological sustainability and social, economic and cultural factors.	Completed