

The Royal Society for the  
Conservation of Nature  
Annual Report 2016



## Governance and leadership of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)

**The General Assembly** : is composed of all individuals who belong to RSCN's membership program. Members acquire the right to elect board of directors after two years of membership, and will be eligible to run for board election after four years of membership.

**Board of Directors:** is the governing body elected by the general assembly to oversee the management of the Society, consisting of nine elected members and two appointed. The Board is elected once every four years, and the right to vote is confined to Jordanians only.

### Board of Directors (2015 - 2019)

Mr. Khaled Al-Irani	President
Mr. Ghassan Asfour	Vice President
Mr. Issa Shahin	Secretary General
Mrs. Leila Sharaf	Member
Mr. Omar Shoushan	Member
Mr. Yaseen Al-Talhoni	Member
Ms. Rana Naber	Member
Mrs. Dina Bataineh	Member
Mr. Bassam Kanan	Member
Mr. Waddah Barquawi	Member
Mr. Samir Bandak	Member

### Executive Team:

RSCN's employees who are appointed to manage day to day operations and programs of the society according to approved policies and systems.

Mr. Yehya Khaled	Director General
Mr. Mohammad Zarour	Strategic Development Director
Mr. Maen Smadi	Protected Areas Director
Mr. Nasha'at Hmedan	Director of Nature Conservation Monitoring Center
Mr. Nasr Tamimi	Tourism Development Director
Mrs. Laila Malallah	Director of Socioeconomic Development
Mr. Sultan Hanafi	Director of Human Resources and Logistic Support
Mr. Abdelrazzaq Al Humoud	Head of Law Enforcement
Mrs. Mervat Batarseh	Head of Environmental Education
Mrs. Muna Al Taq	Head of Public Relations
Mr. Hassan Khalili	Director of Finance

## Centers and Addresses of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

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### **For all Sections and Nature Reserves**

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The year 2016 witnessed the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, I want to use this occasion to congratulate all of us and to renew our pledge to continue our efforts to service our homeland through fulfilling RSCN's goals and objectives.

Since the establishment of RSCN in 1966, it has been entrusted by the Jordanian Government to establish a national network of protected areas, and in 1973, the Government delegated to the Society responsibility of protection of wildlife through regulating of hunting. In order for RSCN to carry its responsibility effectively, the society established Shaumari Protected area as a breeding center for endangered animal (Oryx, Gazelles and Ostrich) and formed the first nucleus for rangers program. Today and after fifty years, the Society is managing nine protected areas representing approximately 1.5% of Jordan surface area, and has gained a wide global recognition for the effective management of protected areas, and as a result of that RSCN has been selected by Aramco Company to set up and manage its first protected area in the Empty Quarter in the Saudi desert.

Over the last two years, RSCN team developed all protected areas' facilities and visitors' centers with a generous support from His Majesty King Abdullah II. With this grant, RSCN managed to turn protected areas into a real distention for visitors and increase economic opportunities for the local communities.

On the fiftieth anniversary of RSCN, the Board of Directors and staff members would like to share with the society supporters our vision to create, manage and advocates for a national network of protected areas to conserve Jordan's biodiversity and support local community development, while promoting wider public support and action for the protection of the natural environment within Jordan and neighboring countries.

At the end of my address, allow me to extend my thanks and appreciation to the members of the Society and to my colleagues; members of the Board of Directors and RSCN's staff. Also I want to express my sincere thanks to the ministries and the donor organizations who have been playing important role in RSCN's development.

**President**  
Khalid Al-Irani





A photograph of a herd of gazelles in a natural, arid environment. The gazelles are light-colored with dark legs and distinctive long, spiraling horns. They are standing in a field of dry grass and shrubs. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the natural setting.

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature is an independent, non-governmental, national organization devoted to the conservation of Jordan's natural heritage. RSCN was founded in 1966, with His Majesty the late King Hussein as Honorary President, and has been given the responsibility by the Government to care for and protect the Kingdom's biodiversity. As such, it is one of the few voluntary organizations in the Middle East to be granted such a public mandate.

RSCN has gained a wide global fame for its pioneering work in integrating nature conservation programs with socio-economic development.

**Our Mission:**

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature aims to create, manage and advocate for a national network of protected areas to conserve Jordan's biodiversity and support local community development, while promoting wider public support and action for the protection of the natural environment within Jordan and neighboring countries.

RSCN Protects Biodiversity by:

- Setting up and efficiently managing a national network of protected areas to conserve sites representing Jordan's ecosystems and habitats.
- Engaging in studies and research specialized in biodiversity, and maintaining a national database around biodiversity, in order to be used in the organization's programs as a means of integrating nature protection into national plans.
- Enforcing hunting laws, specifically in protected areas and other areas of special biodiversity values.
- Implementing development initiatives targeting local communities living around protected areas.
- Developing a national environmental education program targeting local students who live around protected areas hoping to form a nucleus for future employees in protected areas.
- Providing training and capacity building programs for RSCN staff and other active national and regional organizations working in the field of nature conservation.
- Expanding in membership (including 'Friends'), sponsorship and support programs to widen the public and political support base for RSCN programs.

In the following pages, we'll endeavor to present what has been achieved by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature during the last year of 2016, hoping that the year 2017 will bring more achievements for the Conservation of nature in Jordan.

**Secretary General**  
Eissa Shahin



## The Conservation of Natural Habitats and Protected Areas Management

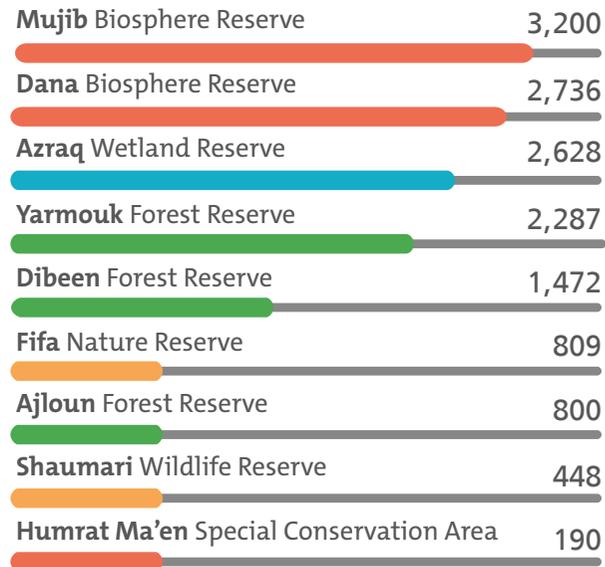
### Management Plans:

Updating management plans for protected areas as a tool for developing their management and increasing management effectiveness.

### Patrolling and Wildlife Enforcement in the protected areas:

Developing the inspection and protection program in protected areas in order to conserve important ecosystems, habitats and species.

### Number of patrolling programs in protected areas during the year 2016



### The rehabilitation of natural habitats:

The Society had rehabilitated many of the important natural habitats in protected areas, most important of which are:

- The rehabilitation of approximately 10% of the original Azraq Wetland habitats through the creation of a new water habitat with a generous support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.
- The rehabilitation of the natural habitat of the Dead Sea Sparrow in the Swaima area through a project funded by the Hima Foundation -Qatar.
- Planting of native trees in the areas that were exposed to fire in the Dibeen Forest Protected area

### The Nature Knight program:

the completion of the implementation of the Nature knight program in Ajloun Forest reserve, and Azraq Wetland reserve through the involvement of students in many of the activities of the protected areas as well as of the Royal Academy for Nature Conservation.

**Active role for Dana Biosphere Reserve and Mujib Biosphere Reserve in UNESCO programs:** active participation in the international network of biosphere reserves under UNESCO, through the updating of the management reports, and participation in conferences and symposia in order to develop protected areas management.

**The development of management facilities, infrastructure and equipment:** the Society had developed the management facilities and infrastructure and provided protected areas with the necessary machinery and equipment in order to enhance their effective management.

**The development of the visitors' facilities in protected areas:**

- The development of a new adventure center in the Mujib Biosphere Reserve with generous support from the Royal Court.
- The development of the Visitors Center of Shaumari Wildlife Reserve with support from the Royal Court and The International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC).
- The expansion of the guesthouse in the Dana Biosphere Reserve with support from the Royal Court.
- The development of Rummana campsite in the Dana Biosphere Reserve with the support of the MEET project - European Union.
- The development of Azraq Lodge with support from the Royal Court.

- The construction of new Chalets in Ajloun Forest Reserve with the support of the MEET project - European Union and Ministry of Finance.
- The development of new visitors' center of Fifa Nature Reserve with the support of the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC).

**Converting the majority of protected areas' facilities to solar energy, including the following centers:**

- The management center of the Fifa Nature Reserve.
- The guesthouse in Dana Biosphere Reserve.
- The management center and socio-economic workshops in the Mujib Biosphere Reserve.
- The Dead Sea Chalets at the Mujib Biosphere Reserve.
- Al-Raddas rangers' station at the Mujib Biosphere Reserve.
- The Visitors Center at Shaumari Wildlife Reserve.
- The Visitors Center and the Azraq Lodge at the Azraq Wetland Reserve.
- The management center of the Yarmouk Forest Reserve.

**A National Map for Important Biodiversity Areas:** The development of a national ecological map as tool to reduce development impact on important areas of biodiversity. The maps was developed in a participatory approach through a national workshop. The plan also helped in updating Jordan file for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

**Azraq Master Development Plan:** RSCN team participated, in the development of Azraq master development plan. The plan redefined the borders of the Azraq Wetland Reserve and define series of development initiatives.

**Communication with the stakeholders:** the protected areas managers maintains communication with all groups of decision makers in order of securing support for protected areas programs.





Dana Biosphere Reserve



Mujib Biosphere Reserve



Ajloun Forest Reserve



## RSCN started the Establishment of the First Protected Area outside Jordan

### The Establishment of Shaybah Wildlife Sanctuary in Al-Rub'El-Khali - Saudi Aramco Company (2016 - 2019)

Saudi ARAMCO entrusted a coalition led by RSCN with membership of Al-'Ameel Company and Vianova to establish the company first protected area in Empty Quarter. The program will extend for three years. The collation is setting up a qualified team to manage the protected area and provide the team with all the necessary equipment, systems and procedures to enable the team to effectively manage the protected area.

## Nature Conservation **Monitoring Center**

A total of 17 specialized biodiversity studies were conducted and their related reports were published, in addition to a number of monitoring programs. Following is a brief summary of the most important studies and programs:

### **Bats Study in Dana Biosphere Reserve**

This study was conducted using a new method that is applied for the first time by RSCN. The study aims to monitor the life-history traits of bats throughout the year using a “SongMeter-2” device that records the frequencies of bats calls. The recorded waves were analyzed to identify the different bat species, their activity, time of hibernation, and their preferred habitats.



### **Study of the status of Stone Marten in as an indicator species in Dibeen Forest Reserve:**

The Stone Marten was studied as an indicator species for the health of the ecosystem in Dibeen Forest Reserve. Several individuals of the Stone Marten were captured and equipped

with radio tracking devices. The purpose of the tracking is to monitor the status of these individuals and collect more information about their home range, movement pattern, breeding, distribution, and preferred habitats.



### **Study of the Status of the Ibex in Mujib Biosphere Reserve**

During this study, data was compiled using photo traps cameras that are triggered by motion. Fifty cameras were installed in the areas where the ibex was expected to occur. The results of the study revealed significant information and indicators concerning the behavior of the animal and the threats that face the Ibex population in Mujib Biosphere Reserve.



### **The vegetation cover study in Dana Biosphere Reserve. (Supervised by Prof. Dawud Al-Eisawi) :**

This study is considered qualitative both in its design and implementation as it resulted in recording (900) plant species, at least (10) of which are new to Jordan, and one other species is being examined as it is expected to be new to science.

## A list of the studies conducted in 2016

Type of the study	Title of the report
Socio- Economic	Socio-economic assessment of livestock owners /Sustainable management of rangelands in Yarmouk Project
Socio- Economic	A Socio-economic assessment of the local community in Ruweished/ The Houbara Project
Socio- Economic	Socio-economic assessment of the local community in Swaimeh/ Dead Sea Sparrow Project
Fauna Study	Study of Bats in Dana Biosphere Reserve
Fauna Study	Study of the status of the Stone Marten in Jerash Governorate
Fauna Study	Study of the status of the Ibex in Mujib Biosphere Reserve
Fauna Study	Study of fish in Azraq Wetland Reserve
Birds Study	Completion of the outputs of "Conservation of the Dead Sea Sparrow Project"
Flora Study	Vegetation cover study in Dana Biosphere Reserve
Flora Study	Carrying capacity of rangelands/ Sustainable management of rangelands in Yarmouk Project
Flora Study	Grazing strategy in Yarmouk / Sustainable management of rangelands in Yarmouk Project
Flora Study	Study of the habitat health in Swaimeh /Dead Sea Sparrow Project
Flora Study	Assessment of the habitat condition in the roe-deer reserve in Jerash Governorate
Flora Study	Assessment of the vegetation cover in Jerash Governorate / the BIMS project
Flora Study	Study of the habitat health in the Ajloun Forest Reserve.
Biodiversity Study	Assessment of the habitat health / Juthour Project

## Scientific Publications for Nature Conservation Monitoring Center

- The publication of the second issue of the Jordan Journal of Natural History in collaboration with the relevant research institutions and academics.
- The publication of (3) scientific papers in local scientific journals, and (4) scientific papers in international scientific journal, all on topics related to biological diversity and the application of the geographic information systems in biodiversity studies.
- The release of confiscated animals back to the wild in corporation with the Law enforcement section, Protected areas section, and Royal Rangers and Al-Ma'wa.
- The preparation of over 30 map packages for the different field surveys, management plans and tourism trails.
- The preparation of maps that show the intersection of development projects with protected areas and sites of ecological sensitivity in order to mainstream biodiversity conservation in development planning.
- Contributing in the implementation and delivery of several outputs related to the projects implemented by RSCN, such as The Biodiversity Information Management System BIMS and developing a biodiversity web-mapping application.

## Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement



### Effective Cooperation with relevant ministries and governmental institutions to ensure the protection of wild species

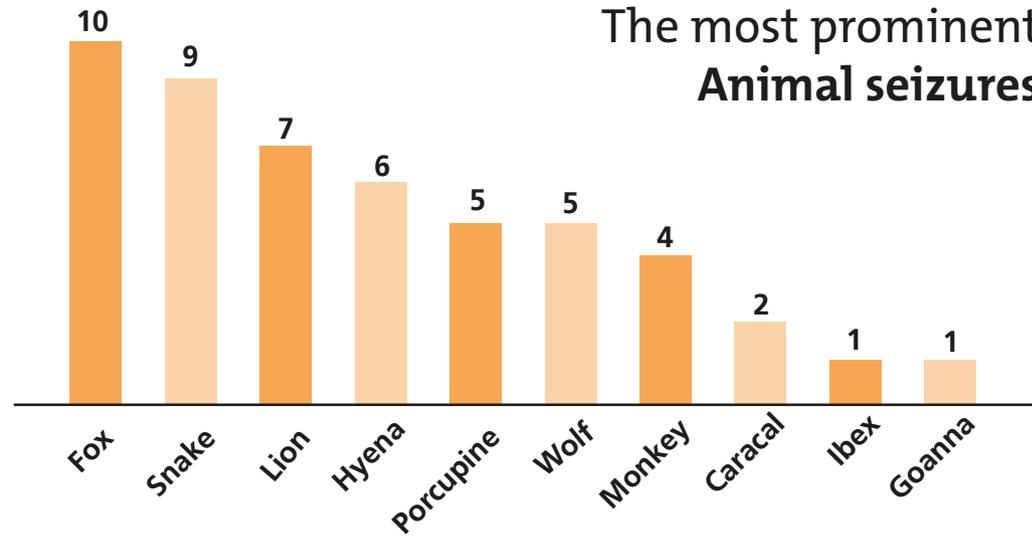
- Organize Joint patrol programs with of the Rangers in order to control illegal hunting and illegal trade of wildlife.
- Reach a joint decision with relevant decision makers in related ministries to stop the issuing of hunting licenses in the military areas.
- Developing new procedures for CITES permits in order to control illegal trade of wildlife.
- Development of national guidelines for bird studies within the process of the Environmental Impact Assessment of wind power projects.

### Summary of the Enforcement Activities and Violations in in 2016

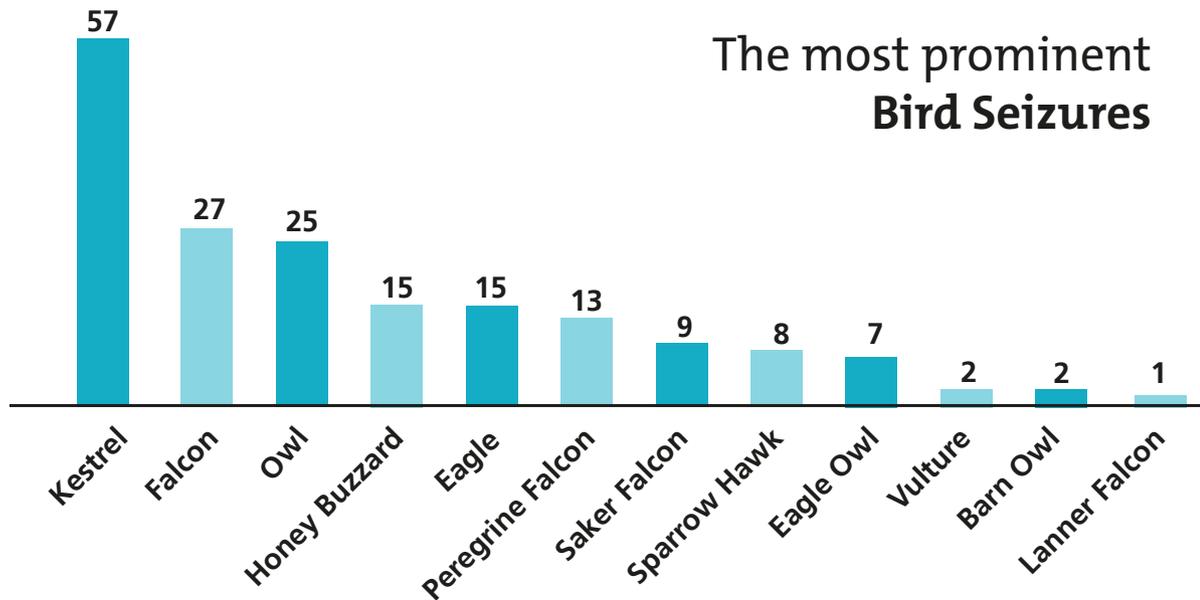
Type	Number
Number of licenses	2,763
CITES permits	109
Number of patrolling programs	1,704
Number of violations	280 35 of them of non-Jordanians nationalities



### The most prominent Animal seizures



### The most prominent Bird Seizures



## Eco-Tourism

- Preparing tourism sites in protected areas to host visitors; developing safety systems and provide the sites with necessary equipment.
- Sitting up a new adventure program in Wadi Hidan- Mujib Biosphere Reserve in cooperation with the private sector.
- Developing the safari program within the Shaumari Wildlife Reserve.
- Contracting (25) tourism companies to promote of RSCN tourism programs.
- Successful organization of (35) weekly trips, known as the “Wild Weekly Weekends Trips”.
- Undertaking a series of marketing and promotional initiatives, particularly aimed at the local market.
- Listing all RSCN accommodation facilities on the web site the (Booking.com) and some similar electronic sites for marketing purposes, hoping ultimately to increase occupancy rates.
- Organizing visits for media activists a tool to promote the Ecotourism facilities and services in protected areas.
- Development of ([www.wildjordan.com](http://www.wildjordan.com)) website for marketing Wild Jordan products; Ecotourism and crafts.
- Following up concession contracts for management of tourism sites and services with private entrepreneurs.

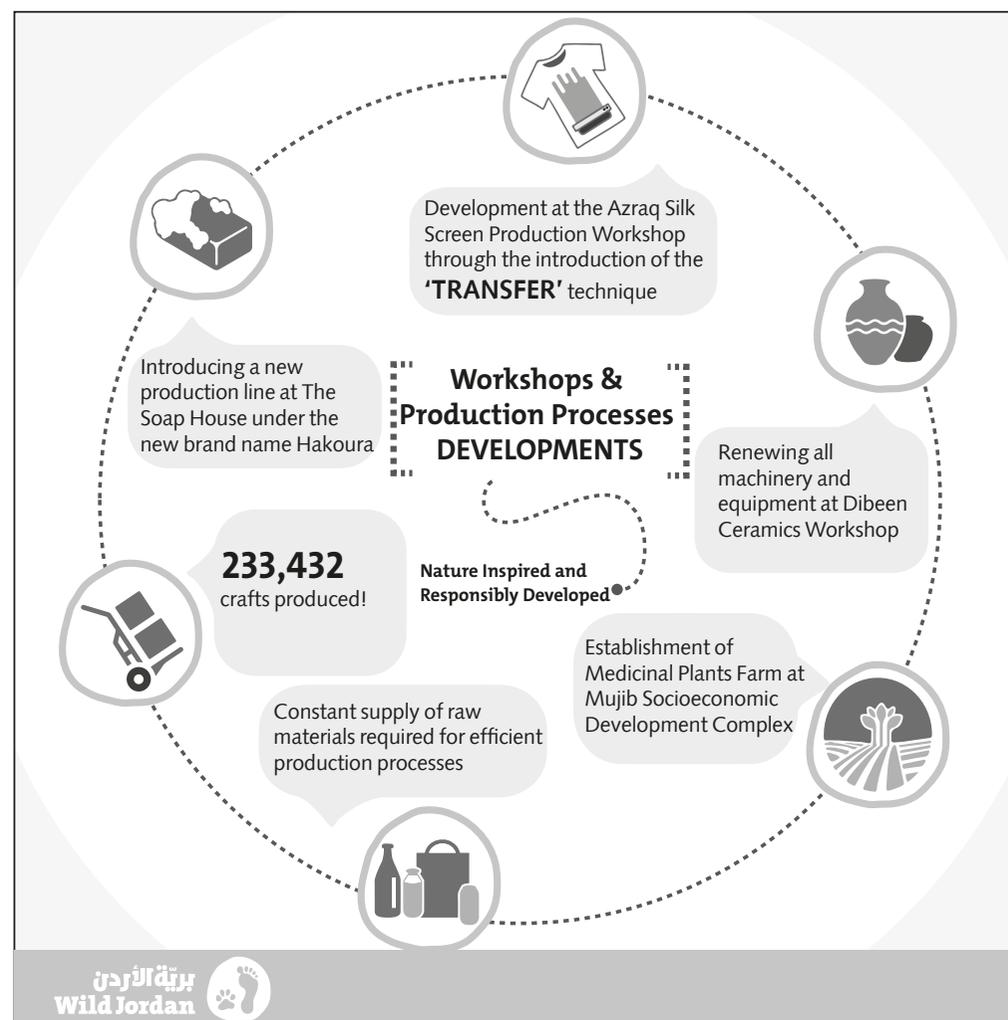
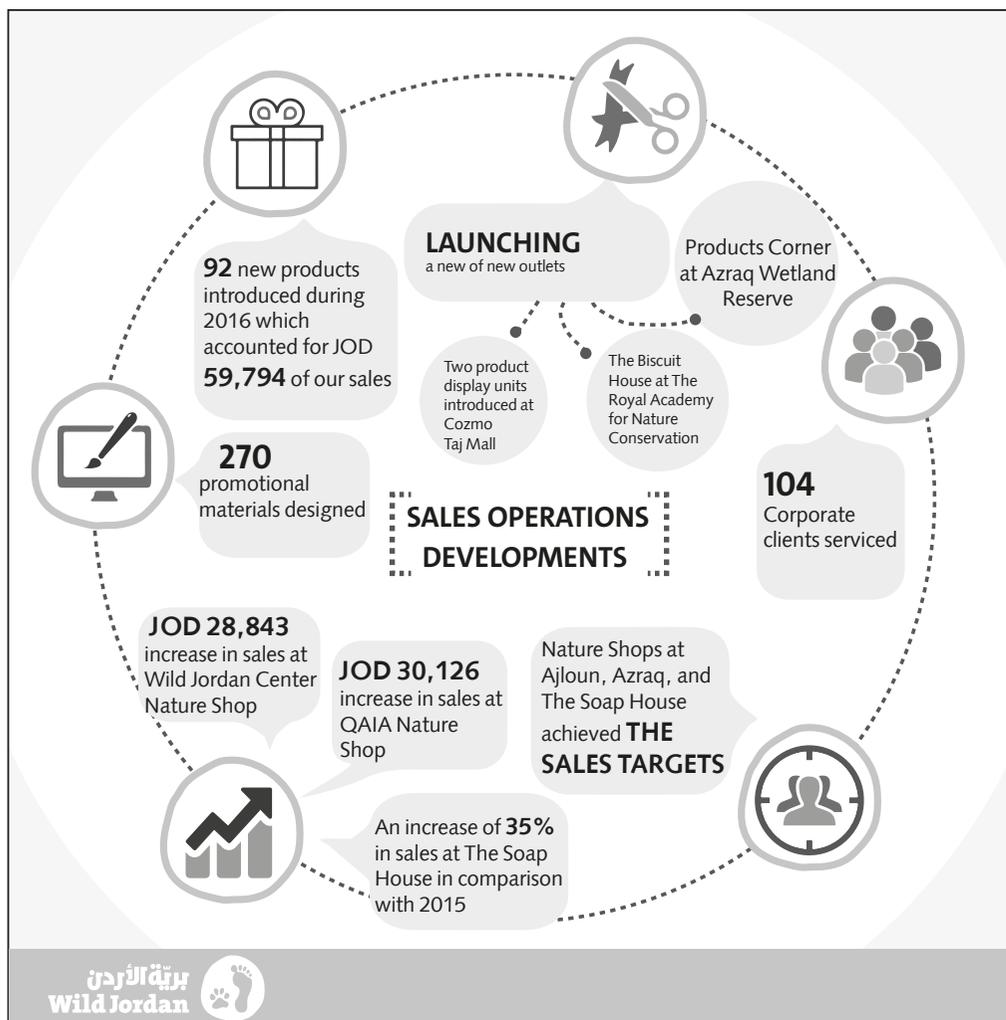


## Number of visitors to the sites during 2016

The guesthouse in the Dana Biosphere Reserve	1,525
Rummana campsite in the Dana Biosphere Reserve	2,317
Faynan Eco-lodge in the Dana Biosphere Reserve	3,633
Azraq Lodge	3,105
Azraq Wetland Reserve	12,277
Shaumari Wildlife Reserve	229
Ajloun Forest Reserve	16,409
Mujib Biosphere Reserve trails and chalets	22,852
Dibeen Forest Reserve	70,000
Yarmouk Forest Reserve	1,500
Aqaba Birds Observatory	8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>141,847</b>

## Socio-Economic projects and local communities' development

### Effective management of sales and supply chain for the social and economic development programs



## Development of new socio-economic initiatives around protected areas and important areas for biodiversity inadi Araba and Eastern Desert:

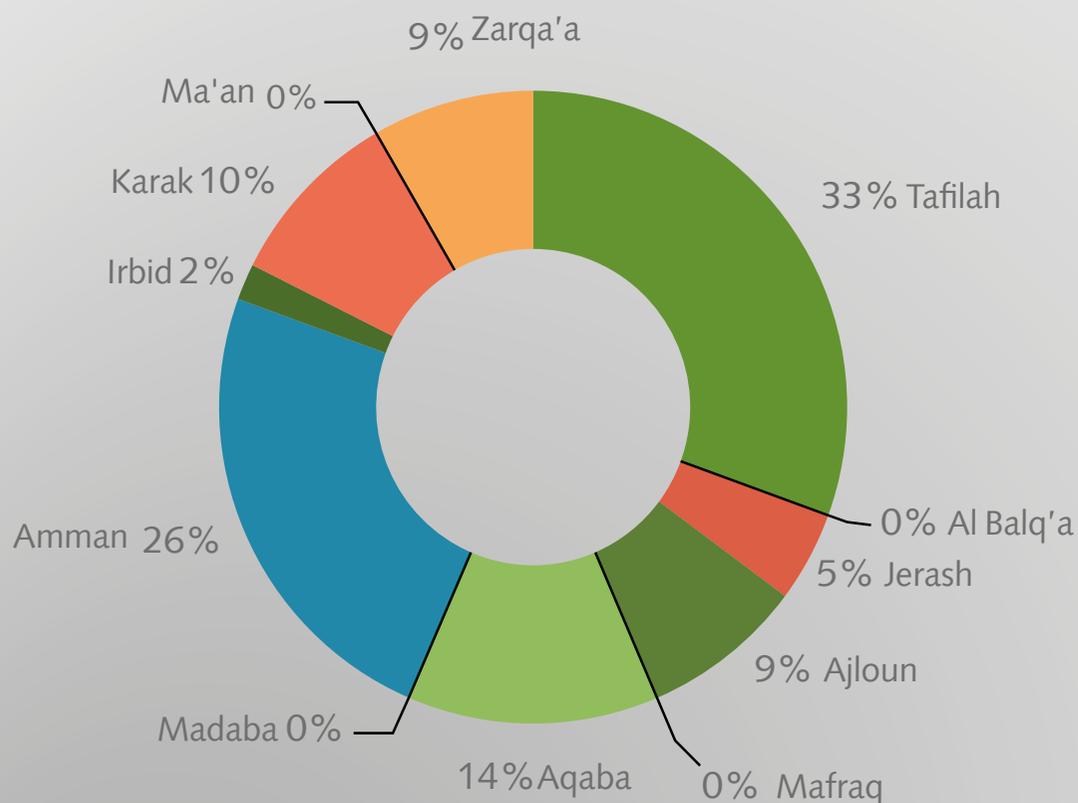
- Training of (14) local guides from the community of Yarmouk Forest Reserve through the "Sustainable Use of Ecosystem Services in Jordan" project, funded by the German Agency for Development (GIZ).
- Securing grant for USAID- fhi 360 project to develop the program of "Livestock Owners Society" with the aim of organizing grazing in Yarmouk Forest Reserve.
- Implementation of social development initiatives in Wadi Araba through working with the local associations and individuals in the areas where the Houbara has been released. These activities were with generous support of the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC) of the United Arab Emirates.
- Implementation of social development initiatives in Eastern Desert through working with the local associations and individuals in the areas where the Houbara has been released. These activities were with generous support of the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC) of the United Arab Emirates.

### Economic Benefits of Local Communities from the Protected Areas' Programs

1. The accumulated benefit of local communities from protected areas' programs approximately JD (2,274,896) that were distributed among protected areas, as shown in the table below:

	Shaumari	Azraq	Ajloun	Mujib	Dana	Dibeen	Yarmouk	Fifa	Total
<b>Benefit in Jordanian dinars</b>	45,663	221,247	220,932	228,339	1,352,589	115,516	48,548	42,062	2,274,896

### Distribution Among Governorates of Benefits from Nature Protected areas for 2015



2. The economic benefit from the protected areas were distributed among eight of the Kingdom's governorates; Tafilah Governorate benefit was the highest while Madaba benefit was the lowest as demonstrated in the graph.

### Local Communities Benefits from Nature Protected areas 2010 -2015



3. Benefit from protected areas was distributed among 17 sub governorates Bsaira benefits is the highest while Al-Dhlail benefit.

# Communication and Networking to Gain more Grassroots and Political Support

## **The Royal Academy for Nature Conservation Hosted Important Visits**

The Prime Minister Dr. Hani Mulki and a team of ministers visited the Academy during their program in Ajloun Governorate. The prime Minister expressed his appreciation of RSCN's role in Ajloun Governorate and his government support.

## **Active Participation in International Conferences and Meetings about Conservation of Nature**

- Effective participation in World Conservation Congress (IUCN).
- Active participation in the Conference on Climate Change in Marrakesh.
- Presentation of case study about community development projects in Azraq at the Dubai Conference of Expo 2016, in the framework of the development dialog among the countries of the south - South countries, organized by the United Nations.

## **Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with University of Jordan - Hamdi Manco Center for Scientific Research**

The objective of the MOU is to facilitate the use of the Center laboratories for scientific research in subjects related to the work of RSCN, mainly the transplantation of the plants, which are under threats of extinction.

## **Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ayla Oasis Development Company**

The objective of the MOU is to study and develop management of habitats of various birds that frequent visitors to the location of Ayla oasis, particularly during migration seasons. It is, furthermore, intended to underline the oasis importance in attracting migrating birds crossing the region, which is considered one of the most important in the kingdom.

## **Partnership with the Private Sector**

- Development of innovative partnership with the Arab Bank through the involvement of the Bank staff in volunteering activities in protected areas, the Bank also supported a number of programs in protected areas.
- Active participation of Al-Hikma Pharmaceuticals Company in supporting the Society's programs.
- Wings of Hope Association has participated actively in supporting the use of solar energy by the Mujib Chalets at the Mujib Biosphere Reserve. Moreover, the association's staff participated in volunteering programs with RSCN.
- RSCN received important support from Al- Hussein Fund for Excellence, Cement Company, Bromine of Jordan Company and ABC Bank.

## **Raising Youth Awareness about Nature Conservation**

- Development of environmental games in children corner in Wild Jordan Center.
- Development of environmental awareness corner in Children Museum with the support of The International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC).

## **Grand Media coverage of the Society:**

- RSCN marinated high coverage of its activities in various media tools. Number of coverage items exceeded (170) written items, (37) television reports, in addition to the effective use of the networks of social media.
- Effective use of Wild Jordan Center as for the promotion of RSCN's programs and activities, in addition to marketing purposes of ecotourism and socio-economic products.

## Membership Program

- Membership Committee has been restructured and its programs reenergized to become the link between RSCN board of directors and the members.
- Number of friends increased substantially to (16180), while number of members increased to (380).
- A number of activities were organized celebrating national and international environmental occasions, a large number of members and friends of the Society participated in these events. Below a table of the most important of which are:

Events	Number of participants	Site	Supporters
Hour Earth	400	Wild Jordan Center	Al-Hikma Pharmaceutical Company
Clean the World Campaign	800	Dibeen Forest Reserve Scandinavian Forest Zara Area	Al-Hikma Pharmaceutical Company Scandinavian Jordanian Friendship Association Wings of hope & Marriott Hotel

The following table shows the number of activities carried out by the public relations section during the year 2016

Lectures, Conferences	Events	Awareness campaigns
3	12	7



## The Royal Academy for Nature Conservation

RSCN team continued to develop the academy's programs as well as the regional training despite the scarcity of resources. The following is a summary of these programs.



Workshop Title	Participants	Sponsors/Supporters
Establishment and management of protected areas – Case studies form Jordan experience in protected areas management and ecotourism	Those working in protected areas from - Republic of Algeria - Republic of Libya - Republic of Tunisia	- UNDP (United Nations Development Program ) - BirdLife international - WWF (World Wildlife Fund )
Enforcement of Nature Conservation Laws ( laws, regulations and environmental legislation)	Rangers working in the field Nature Conservation Laws	Hanss Sidel Foundation
Climate change and its impact on protected areas	Practitioners working in the field of management and research in protected areas;(Jordan - Palestine - Morocco - Tunisia - Lebanon)	Hanss Sidel Foundation
Workshop on Value of Ecosystem Services	Practitioners of Jordanian environmental societies and who are active in the field of local communities development	German Agency for Development GIZ

Several workshops for local communities were organized under certain projects. Following a list of these workshops:

Two training workshops tailored to “Livestock Owners Association”: - Financial Management - Management of Associations	Livestock Owners living around the Yarmouk Forest reserve	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Implementation of three training programs 1- Marketing Skills 2- Management and leadership skills 3- Strategic planning	Local community Associations in the Ruweished region	Badia Ecosystem and Livelihoods Program (BELP) project.



## Logistical support and Human Resources

- Work to increase staff productivity through the effective implementation of the personnel system.
- Periodical maintenance of the society's resources and facilities.
- Licensing of RSCN's facilities in accordance with the national laws.
- Effective application of procurement and inventory systems in all RSCN centers.

# Projects managed by the **Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature**

## **The Development of Ecotourism Facilities in Protected areas - Funded by the Royal Court**

**The aim of the project is to develop and expand ecotourism facilities in protected areas.**

The following are the most important achievements of this project:

- Development of the Visitors Center at Wadi Mujib and improvement of the Dead Sea chalets and beach area at the Dead Sea.
- The expansion of the guesthouse in the Dana Biosphere Reserve.
- Rehabilitation of the Visitors Center in the Shaumari Wildlife Reserve.
- The development of new picnic site at Dibeena Forest Reserve.
- The development of Al-Haidan visitors Center within the Mujib Biosphere Reserve.
- The development of eco-tourism in the Eastern Desert

## **The restoration of the Houbara Bustard in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, funded by The International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC) of the United Arab Emirates (2014- 2017)**

**The project aims at reintroducing Houbara birds to Jordan and protecting their natural habitats. The project also aims to initiate community development programs at the released sites.**

The most important achievements of the project in 2016:

- Release of Houbara birds in selected areas in accordance with the relevant scientific studies.
- Implementation of monitoring program for released Houbara birds.
- Initiation of socio-economic development initiatives targeting local communities in the release sites of Wadi Araba and Ruweished Area /Eastern Desert.
- Following-up the construction of biodiversity corner at the Children's Museum.
- Production of documentary film "reintroduction of the Houbara Bustard birds in Jordan" which was broadcasted by television channels.

## **UNDP Project to Develop a Biodiversity Information Management System (BIMS) within a Project entitled "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Tourism Sector" (2014 - 2016)**

**The project aims to build a national database of three sites (Petra, Wadi Rum and Dibeena Forest Reserve) in order to mainstream biodiversity within the tourism sector.**

The following are the most important achievements of the project for the year 2016:

- Completion of all field studies in the target sites and gathering of all essential information.
- The construction of an electronic database and uploading the page with the biodiversity database on biological diversity on the website of the Society and on the internet network, where it is being updated continuously.

### **Badia Ecosystem and Livelihoods Project (BELP) (2013 - 2017)**

**At the end of 2013, RSCN signed a contract with the National Center for Research and Agricultural Extension in order to implement the first component of carry out the first program Badia Ecosystem and Livelihoods Project It is expected that this objective can be achieved by developing ecotourism programs in the Eastern Desert of Jordan, specifically the area between Azraq Wetland Reserve and Burqa' proposed Reserve.**

The following are the most important achievements of the project in 2016:

- Implementation of the tourism master plan through building of Eco lodge in Burqa' and furnishing the tourism camps.
- Implementation of a set of community development initiatives in order to improve living conditions of the local communities living in the Eastern Desert.

### **Organic Farm Project Funded by the INVESTBANK ( 2011 - 2017)**

**RSCN has been working on the promotion of organic farming in Ajloun Region as a tool for community development in environmentally friendly way. RSCN tries to achieve this goal through the implementation of a range of initiatives which support of organic farming in the region. In 2013, RSCN developed a partnership with Al-Kifah Local Cooperative to support organic farming project. Parallel to that, RSCN developed marketing brand for organic products (Al-Shams Farmers' Market), where the organic products are regularly displayed in Wild Jordan Center. The organic farming program is supported by the INVESTBANK.**

The following are the most important achievements of this project in 2016:

- The empowerment of Al-Kifah Cooperative to sustain the project activities including (establishment of a major management department in Ajloun, development of a specialized financial system, enhancement of the technical knowledge in organic agriculture, state-of-the-art agricultural practices in this field, marketing and realization of more profits through the (Al-Shams Farmers' Market).
- Increasing the number of beneficiaries through the integration of associations of local communities in the project activities through conducting training workshops for capacity-building. Result of the training indicated readiness of these associations to switch to organic agriculture, and to support the objective of the project.
- The allocation of a plot of land adjacent to the Royal Academy for Nature Conservation in Ajloun for training and the practical application of the principles of organic agriculture.
- The total sales of (Al-Shams Farmers' Market) exceeded 53,200 Jordanian Dinars in 2016.

**The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature would like to express its thanks and gratitude for all its members for their support of nature conservation programs in Jordan.**

**The RSCN also thanks all Jordanian and international institutions for their support of the various programs.**

**Jordanian Ministries and Institutions:**

Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Social Development, the Royal Court, Jordan Tourism Board (JTB) , Land and Survey Department, Jordanian Meteorological Department, Jordan Valley Authority, Directorate of Public Security, The Armed Forces , Potash Company, Badia Police, Arab Bank, INVESTBANK, ABC Bank, Aramex, Hashemite Fund for Human Development, King Abdullah II for Development, Development and Free Zones Commission, Jordan Development Zones Company, Jordan Bromine Company, Jordan Carbonate Company, Al- Hussein Fund for Excellence, Ayala Oasis Development Company, Umniah Telecom Company, The Governorate of Zarqa, Madaba, Al Karak, At Tafilah, Ajloun, Jerash , Irbid, and Aqaba, Jordan TV, Roya TV, Jordan Green Building Council , Office of HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, University of Science and Technology, University of Jordan, Environmental Police (Rangers), The Judicial Council of Jordan and Jordan Customs, Jordan Customs Al-Hikma Pharmaceutical Company , Afaq Energy Company. Amman Chamber of Commerce, Talal Abu Ghazala Company, Jordan Federation for Environmental NGO's, Wings of Hope Society, Royal Scientific Society, EDAMA, international airport Group and Cozmo.

**International partners**

Global Environment Facility-World Bank, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the European Union, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, U.S. Agency for International Development, Czech Embassy, Swedish Embassy, BirdLife International, UNESCO, Ford Award, Municipality of Fujairah, The International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC)/United Arab Emirates, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, US Agency Forest Agency, Canadian International Development Agency, Wetlands International, Hima Fund/ Qatar, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Fund for Animal Welfare, Mercy Corps, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

**Be a voice for the conservation of nature and join our membership program.**

To inquire, please e-mail us at: [member@rscn.org.jo](mailto:member@rscn.org.jo)

We Work hard to protect nature for us and for future generations. With your support, no matter how little that would be, you contribute in achieving our mission

**Helping Nature... Helping People.**

To donate, RSCN bank account: 26666500 - Arab Bank - Jubaiha Branch - Jordan, or send e-mail to: [support@rscn.org.jo](mailto:support@rscn.org.jo).



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