

**Unofficial translation of the endorsement letter from the Ministry of Planning**

Date: 2/10/2001

Ref : RS/

H.E Resident Representative  
UNDP  
Amman, Jordan

Your Excellency,

Enclosed please find a copy of the proposal project for conservation and sustainable use of Dibbin forest, which was submitted by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

The project aims to establish and manage Dibbin Forest as a nature reserve with a total surface area of about 8 km. This area is a representative area for the Mediterranean natural Aleppo pine forest, mixed with ever-green oak, Palestinian pistachio, carob, strawberry tree, and various native plants including Anatolian orchid and cyclamen. The area has more than 10 species of rare orchids that are facing threats due to deforestation, in addition to some local and internationally important species.

Dibbin Forest is also considered as an important habitat for the threatened Persian squirrels, and an important site for birds in the Middle East, taking into consideration that Dibbin Forest was designated as an Important Birds Area by Birdlife International in 1994.

Due to the importance of this unique project, at a national and international level and because of its importance from a socio-economic aspect, we kindly approach GEF for a medium-sized grant of \$700,000 to support implementation of the project, on the understanding that the Jordanian side will contribute in kind the equivalent of \$270.000

Yours sincerely,

Jawad Hadid  
Minister of Planning

**Please note:** This letter was written before a detailed budget was prepared and before the project proposal was reviewed with GEF staff.