



PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GEF COUNCIL SUBMISSION

AGENCY'S PROJECT ID: P075534
GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 1214
COUNTRY: Jordan
PROJECT TITLE: Integrated Ecosystem and Natural Resource Management in the Jordan Rift Valley
GEF AGENCY (IA): The World Bank
EXECUTING AGENCY(IES): RSCN
DURATION: Six Years
GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity
GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM: OP1, OP12 & OP15
GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITY: BD 1, BD 2 & BD4
Pipeline Entry Date: January 15, 2001
ESTIMATED STARTING DATE: March 21, 2007

FINANCING PLAN (US\$)	
GEF PROJECT/COMPONENT	
Project	6,150,000
PDF A	
PDF B	350,000
PDF C	
Sub-Total GEF	6,500,000
Co-FINANCING*	
GEF Agency	
Government	1,800,000
Bilateral	
NGOs	2,300,000
Others	2,000,000
Sub-Total Co-financing:	6,100,000
Total Project Financing:	12,600,000
FINANCING FOR ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES IF ANY:	
LEVERAGED RESOURCES IF ANY:	

*Details provided under the Financial Modality and Cost Effectiveness section

CONTRIBUTION TO KEY INDICATORS OF THE BUSINESS PLAN:

The GEF Jordan IEM Project would contribute to the underpinning of the sustainability of the strategic priorities (SP-1) protected areas systems; i.e. 56,950 hectares of new PAs established more effectively managed for strategic priorities, and SP-2 mainstreaming; and 7 land use management plans (LUMP) with biodiversity conservation and integrated ecosystem practices incorporated into the plans.

RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

Mr. Kamal Khدير
National GEF Operational Focal Point
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Date: January 4, 2001

Approved on behalf of the *World Bank*. This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for work program inclusion.

Steve Gorman
GEF Executive Coordinator, The World Bank
Date: March 27, 2006

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A. PROJECT SUMMARY

a) PROJECT RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES, AND ACTIVITIES.

Project Rationale:

The Jordan Rift Valley is part of the Great Rift Valley, and extends from Yarmouk in the north, to the Gulf of Aqaba in the south, over a length of 370 km. The Great Rift Valley is a globally important ecological corridor and the Jordanian section represents a strategically crucial component, since it is a major fly way between Africa and northern Europe used by millions of migrating birds each year. The sharp physical boundaries of the Jordan Rift Valley, clearly visible from the air, provide a navigational guiding system for these birds and the habitats it contains provide vital resting and refueling stations, without which they are unable to complete their long journeys. Birdlife International's document on Important Bird Areas in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2000), suggests 27 sites for Jordan of which 17 are located in the Jordan Rift Valley.

Apart from its significance for birds, the Jordan Rift Valley also holds many large and internationally important ecosystems, including desert, mountains, wetlands, sea and forest; e.g. the Dead Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Jordan and Yarmouk river systems, as well as numerous specialized or unique habitats of regional importance such as the *Quercus aegilops* oak forests of Yarmouk. To date only one wetland of international importance has been designated, in Jordan, namely the Azraq marshes in the central eastern part of the country, well outside the Rift Valley. However, there are at least six notable wetland sites in the Jordan Rift Valley. Furthermore, the Dead Sea itself is the lowest and most saline water body on Earth and is noted as one of the World's "biodiversity hot spots" because its extremely harsh environment has engendered a high level of endemism.

Its critical geographical location, combined with the most productive agricultural land resources in Jordan has made it a focal area for development and land conversion that threatens its unique ecological and cultural values. The Jordan Government (GOJ) has long recognized this dilemma and is seeking ways to secure the Valley's economic and ecological integrity for the benefit of its people.

Previous GEF activities in the country have revealed the presence of many globally threatened species, including several endemics. The persistent causes of habitat degradation and loss are deforestation, overgrazing, inappropriate agriculture, urbanization and population growth. The growth in mass tourism has also been cited as a 'new' threat to environmental quality in the JRV (NEAP Working Paper 1995). Habitat degradation and species loss in the JRV is serious and accelerating, largely as a result of increasing development pressure, inappropriate agricultural practices and population growth.

The project would address existing and potential threats to the Jordan Rift Valley through an integrated ecosystem management and local development program. It would expand World Bank/GEF support for Jordan to meet its obligations under the CBD, including key national

policies and strategies for biodiversity conservation (National Environment Strategy (1992), National Environment Action Plan (1995), BSAP (2001)) and agriculture (2002). It would also support the implementation of sustainable development strategies as recently adopted in new articles under the Agricultural and Environment Laws (2002 and 2003 respectively). These documents emphasize the GOJ's commitment to safeguarding important natural habitats and ecosystems within the framework of socio-economic and community-based approaches. Through its integrated approach, the project would be fully consistent with the CAS for Jordan by simultaneously addressing issues of land degradation, desertification, industrial pollution and threats to natural and cultural heritage, as well as poverty alleviation and human development.

Project Objective:

The proposed project is a joint effort between the GOJ, the GEF and the World Bank to support the conservation and sustainable development of the Jordan Rift Valley area. The project development objective is to mainstream integrated ecosystem management (IEM) practices in the Jordan Rift Valley pilot areas. The project aims secure the ecological integrity of the Jordan Rift Valley, as a globally important ecological corridor and migratory flyway, through a combination of integrated land use planning, ecologically appropriate and nature-based socio-economic development, and biodiversity protection and management. The GEF-financed part would support the mainstreaming of biodiversity in production landscapes and sectors, and catalyzing the sustainability of protected areas.

Project Outputs & Outcomes:

The proposed project would be designed as a comprehensive program that will mainstream biodiversity conservation into land use and development throughout the Jordan Rift Valley. Two key outcome indicators include: a) seven integrated land use management plans with biodiversity conservation measures in place with participation of all stakeholders and agencies, and b) the total number of hectares in the four PAs (56,950ha) are under sustainable management, as recorded by the biodiversity-tracking tool. The intermediate results include: biodiversity conservation measures introduced into land use planning in the JRV; standard of living of local communities in the vicinity of the protected areas improved through biodiversity friendly alternative livelihoods; biodiversity management capacity enhanced in the four (Yarmouk, Fifa, Mas'uda, & Qatar) protected areas (PA); mechanisms for sustainable financing of biodiversity conservation in place for the four PA; and institutional strengthening and enhanced stakeholder capacity for integrated ecosystem management practices. .

Project Activities and Outputs (Components):

The project design is based on the Protected Areas Review (1999), and includes five components. The first three are designed to safeguard globally significant biodiversity and restore ecological integrity along the Jordan Rift Valley. These three components will first establish sustainable IEM throughout the Rift Valley and provide alternative livelihoods and community development program, while reinforcing the protected areas network along the Rift Valley. Two additional components were formulated to support the three primary component

activities, as it pertains to securing sustainable financing, and strengthening institutional and community capacity.

Component 1: Assessment and Planning for Integrated Ecosystem Management

Output 1.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Jordan Rift Valley completed.

Output 1.2 Recommended policy and institutional reforms to implement SEA

Output 1.3 Legislative and policy review to empower local communities to participate in land use planning.

Output 1.4 Recommendations identified in SEA piloted

The GEF incremental activities under this component will create a better enabling environment and strengthen national capacity for IEM and LUP. The role and responsibilities of the various institutions and agencies that are currently involved in the planning of biodiversity conservation will be streamlined and capacity will be built in these institutions with regard to IEM and its implications for LUP. A SEA will be prepared to assess the capacities in the various departments, and have a better understanding of the resources and challenges. The legal framework will be revised, if necessary, to create a mechanism by which the decision making process in the planning and management of natural resources and the related competences to do so are transferred to communities. The SEA findings for biodiversity conservation will be considered in updating and preparing seven land use management plans in the following IEM demonstration sites namely: Yarmouk River IEM Area, Jordan River IEM Area, Mujib North IEM Area, Mujib South IEM Area, Fifa IEM Area, Qatar IEM Area, and Ma'suda IEM Area.

Component 2: Socio-economic Mitigation Measures for Alternative Livelihoods

Output 2.1 Community action plan for alternative livelihoods adopted

Output 2.2 Alternative livelihood activities are operational and viable in piloted areas

Output 2.3 Lessons learned from alternative livelihood demonstration projects documented and promoted

The primary objective of this component is to improve community economic development through alternative livelihoods and poverty alleviation projects in a biodiversity-friendly manner. In addition to a community action plan for alternative livelihoods, pilot and demonstration projects will be established and the results of these alternative livelihoods programme will be closely monitored. The M&E system will use indicators and indices that are linked to and provide insight in poverty reduction and livelihood improvement. The PMU will be responsible for the M&E system and will ensure that regular monitoring takes place. GEF funding will primarily provide catalytic support to initiate the baseline survey for the action plan and provide incentives for possible interventions. Positive examples of interventions and alternative livelihood will be duplicated, through an extension and awareness-raising programme.

Component 3: Capacity Building for Expanded Protected Area Network

Output 3.1: Four new protected areas officially designated.

- Output 3.2: Protected Area (PA) management plans are in place and operational.
- Output 3.3: PA staff teams recruited, trained and in place.
- Output 3.4: Facilities developed at four new PAs and at Mujib NR.

The objective of this component is to expand and improve the existing Protected Area system in the Jordan Rift Valley, namely the PAs in Yarmouk, Fifa, Mas'uda and Qatar. Simultaneously, management plans will be formulated for all four proposed PAs, based on a participatory approach, involving all the stakeholders. The local community members will play an important role in the implementation of the management plan. The establishment and management of four new PAs will require a significant expansion of RSCN's field-based staff, with adequate training. In addition, the four new PAs will require basic facilities such as offices, meeting rooms, visitor centers and staff housing, and be equipped with reliable electricity and water supplies. Furthermore, they will require office equipment, communication systems, and transportation arrangements. Finally, the project is expected to provide infrastructural support to the already existing Mujib NR, which was established in 1987, but needs urgent upgrading of its facilities. The four PAs reserves were selected on a priority basis, in that they support significant populations of globally threatened species, whose conservation would benefit from interventions to remove threats to global survival. The benefits of these interventions, therefore, accrue mainly to the global community. Anticipated replication, of lessons learned and good management practices, to sites within the JRV and to the Eastern Desert will further protect areas of significant biodiversity and contribute to global benefits.

Component 4: Sustainable Financing Mechanisms

- Output 4.1 Defining sustainable financing mechanisms
- Output 4.2 Sustainable financing mechanisms in place and operational

This component has an overall objective to establish a sustainable financing system for biodiversity conservation in the JRV. The anticipated financing sources and mechanisms could include: income generation activities (e.g. ecotourism) from private sector partnerships, funding from the state budget, donations from intra-community organisations, revenues generated from the from protected areas entrance fees, contributions from international foundations and NGOs and / or national environmental funds such as a Biodiversity Enterprise Fund. One concrete example of such a financing source is the already established Jordan Fund for Nature. The project will direct activities to increase the capital base of this existing fund.

Component 5: Capacity Development and Monitoring and Evaluation

- Output 5.1 Institutional and community needs for enhanced biodiversity conservation identified
- Output 5.2 Institutional strengthening recommendations implemented for government agencies
- Output 5.3 Enhancing capacities of NGO and community organizations
- Output 5.4 Monitoring and Evaluation Program effectively implemented
- Output 5.5 Dead Sea Panorama Center, for biodiversity conservation and environmental management operational

Output 5.6 Project managed successfully

The objective of this component is to strengthen institutions and enhance stakeholder capacity for integrated ecosystem management practices. A capacity assessment and the training needs will be identified. Based on the assessment, a training and capacity building plan will be implemented. At the national level, the plan will address policy development, enforcement and monitoring, land use planning for government representatives. Institutional reform will focus on bringing in place mechanisms for efficient information sharing and decision-making. At the local level (PA), the plan will address training for reserves staff, local (decentralized) government officials in LUP, and support to extension services in the promotion of more sustainable agricultural techniques. At the community level, the plan will address community development, institutional strengthening of communities, training to local communities in business development, training in alternative livelihoods, inclusive of NGOs and community organisation. The PMU will be integrated into the RSCN to assist in building capacity and manage the project successfully, inclusive of overseeing and conducting the monitoring and evaluation program.

b) KEY INDICATORS, ASSUMPTIONS, AND RISKS (FROM LOGFRAME)

The GEF proposed project would contribute to the sustainability of the Rift Valley as expressed in the following results:

Component One:

- SEA findings for biodiversity conservation considered in updating and preparing seven land use management plans.
- Recommendations from a comprehensive legislative and policy review for land use planning developed

Component Two:

- Community Livelihood Action Plans developed and implemented for the Yarmouk, Fifa, Mas'uda, and Qatar communities
- Average income of those participating in alternative livelihood increase 10 percent in the four communities as a direct consequence of the project intervention

Component Three:

- Four new PAs (Yarmouk, Fifa, Mas'uda, & Qatar) officially registered with the GOJ
 - -Rate of generation or regeneration of vegetative cover/biomass in all four PAs
 - -Reestablishment of the threatened animal populations
 - -Increase in the number of bird passing along the JRV
- Number of Community Development Plans prepared and implemented in consultation with local communities
- Number of trained staff in PA facilities

Component Four:

- Sustainable financing programs established for the four PAs (20 socio-economic projects around PAs in place at end of project)
- 10% increase private sector financing of biodiversity friendly development activities
- The "Jordan Fund for Nature" endowment is capitalized according to proposed targets

Component Five:

- Needs assessment actions plan for capacity building in place and implemented
- Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system in place in year two
 - Implementation of a program for increased public awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation
- M&E targets met annually
- RSCN manages Dead Sea Panorama Center according to MOU
 - o The databank (DB) on biodiversity of each PA is updated
 - o The GIS is widely used

Specifically, the main results (outcome) indicators:

- Seven integrated land use management plans with bio-diversity conservation measures in place with participation of all stakeholders and agencies
- Total number of hectares under sustainable management in all four PAs (56,950ha)

Critical Assumptions:

Political stability and government support for sustainable development and biodiversity conservation; sufficient number of communities interested in project interventions to have a positive impact at ecological level; Key national and local stakeholders are effectively made aware of and became sensitive to the link between conservation, or sustainable natural resources management use and economic development during the project period; Specific legislative protection for biodiversity is legally feasible; Co-financing for critical non-GEF community development projects can be confirmed; Co-financing and parallel financing sources can be identified in a timely manner at levels sufficient to support the program.

Potential risks:

Political risks that may affect project success and their respective mitigation measures incorporated into the project design are:

- (i) The scale and multi-disciplinary nature of the project poses a risk in identifying and implementing clear and simple institutional arrangements for effective collaboration between the government agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders. A series of consultation workshops involving all relevant stakeholders would be conducted during project preparation to identify and agree on an appropriate institutional plan that unambiguously defines roles and responsibilities.
- (ii) Integrated land use represents a potential risk because it is currently poorly developed in rural areas of Jordan and there are no integrated land use schemes under implementation that address biodiversity conservation needs and could serve as pilots. Given this scenario, the complexity of land ownership issues, and the variety of different development objectives in the Rift Valley, the government and municipalities (and any other major stakeholder) will need to take the lead developing pilot land-use programs in the Valley at an early stage in the project's development.

C) COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

a) COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY

Jordan ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1993 and this project meets the requirements and philosophy of the Convention under the following articles:

- In-situ conservation of ecosystems and habitats
- Sustainable use of biological diversity
- Involvement of local communities
- Capacity building

b) COUNTRY DRIVENNESS

The Government of Jordan has also signed and ratified the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) and the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC). It is fully aware of the fragility and threats towards the unique ecosystems existing in the JRV and the need for conservation measures and improved ecosystem management and land use planning. This was amongst others reflected in the National Environment Action Plan Working Paper (1995) as well as in the Jordan Country Study on Biodiversity (1998).

The GOJ supports the implementation of sustainable development strategies as recently adopted in new articles under the Agricultural and Environment Laws (2002 and 2003 respectively). The project will support Jordan in meeting its requirement and reporting obligations under the CBD, following the submission of its First National Report which dates back to 2001. It will also assist Jordan in achieving its environmental objectives as stated in key national strategies and action plans for biodiversity conservation, i.e. the National Environment Strategy (1992), the National Environment Action Plan (1995) which emphasized the need for a national biodiversity inventory, and the National Biodiversity and Strategic Action Plan (2001) which is a major contribution to the country's development and is designed to enhance co-ordination of national efforts aimed at the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of biological resources. The GEF project will directly implement some of the priority actions and projects identified in the NBSAP in the areas of protection of biological resources, integrated land use planning, etc... These documents emphasize the GOJ's commitment to safeguarding important natural habitats and ecosystems within the framework of socio-economic and community-based approaches.

The commitment of the Government of Jordan is furthermore reflected by the fact that it has been one of the most successful countries in implementing key community driven and conservation-based development projects, of which the above mentioned Conservation of the Dana Reserve Project, and the Conservation of Medicinal and Herbal Plants Project are examples. In addition, RSCN has been entrusted with the responsibility to manage the PAS and has recently been given the responsibility of implementing and enforcing the hunting law.

The proposed GEF project is designed to be fully in line with Jordan's Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) priority areas which address resource conservation, exploitation and management, with a focus on water.

D) PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY

a) FIT TO GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM AND STRATEGIC PRIORITY

The project fits with OP 1 “Arid and Semi-arid Zones Ecosystems”, OP 12 “Integrated Approach to Ecosystem Management” and OP 15 “Sustainable Land Management”. In promoting and introducing an integrated approach to environmental management (EM-1) the project will contribute to the GEF strategic priorities under the biodiversity focal area. The project will mainly contribute to BD- 2 Mainstreaming biodiversity in production landscapes and sectors, by strongly promoting Integrated Ecosystem Management. It also contributes to BD-1 Catalyzing the sustainability of protected areas (BD-1), by strengthening the PA system and to some extent to generating and disseminating best practices to address biodiversity issues (BD-4) through the capacity-building program.

b) SUSTAINABILITY (INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY)

Indication of Recipient Commitment and Ownership. The importance that the Government of Jordan places on integrated ecosystem management and the conservation of biodiversity is demonstrated by a number of major steps undertaken in this direction:

- The Government of Jordan has already signed and ratified a number of international conventions, notably the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) and the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC);
- GOJ is fully aware of the fragility and threats towards the unique ecosystems existing in the JRV and the need for conservation measures and improved ecosystem management and land use planning. This was amongst others reflected in the National Environment Action Plan Working Paper (1995) as well as in the Jordan Country Study on Biodiversity (1998);
- The commitment of the Government of Jordan is furthermore reflected by the fact that it has been one of the most successful countries in implementing key community driven and conservation-based development projects, of which the above mentioned Conservation of the Dana Reserve Project, and the Conservation of Medicinal and Herbal Plants Project are examples;
- RSCN has been entrusted with the responsibility to manage the protected area systems and has recently been given the responsibility of implementing and enforcing the hunting law; and
- In January 2001, the GOJ signed a letter of endorsement in which it requested assistance from the World Bank and GEF in preparing a project on Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Jordan Valley and stated that the project concept was in accordance with national development and environmental priorities relating to the conservation of biodiversity.

Sustainability. The institutional sustainability of the project will be guaranteed through: capacity building in relevant areas of all stakeholders (government agencies, NGOs and community organizations) at national, regional and local level; the adaptation of legislation and the

regulatory and policy framework, in order to support IEM and community involvement in LUP; the streamlining of institutional responsibilities in the areas of IEM and LUP; the introduction of a planning process based on a SEA. In order to warrant the social-economical sustainability local communities will be organized and awareness will be created with regard to the importance of integrated ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation. The local community members will be actively involved in the planning and implementation of ecosystem management plans. Alternative livelihoods and income generating activities will be introduced based on the experienced gained in the Conservation of the Dana and Azraq Protected Areas project¹. Part of the Dana experience is the explicit policy to employ local people as staff in protected areas. Today, the entire Dana reserve is run by the local communities and more than one thousand people benefit directly and indirectly from the income-generating activities of the reserve. The financial sustainability will be created by the expansion of the Jordan Fund for Nature, which is used to operate and maintain protected areas. A Biodiversity Enterprise grant program will be established to stimulate and support private sector entrepreneurial initiatives that generate profit and contribute to biodiversity conservation. A mechanism for revenue collection and reinvestment of income in PA and IEM activities will be developed. Technical sustainability of the project will be ensured by enhanced integrated ecosystem management through appropriate land use planning which combine habitat protection and biodiversity conservation with sustainable development through the introduction of improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihoods. Furthermore baseline surveys will be carried out which describe the ecological and socio-economic conditions in and around the Protected Areas. These data will be entered into a developed MIS system, which can be used to monitor progress and impact. Four new protected areas will be designated and registered.

Replicability. The replicability of interventions is of utmost importance and forms an integrated part of the implementation strategy, based on a process of learning by doing, which focuses on the dissemination and expansion of positive experiences in the area of IEM, and alternative livelihoods. RSCN has already identified priority areas for post-project replicability based on the Jordanian National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. These areas are both located within the Jordan Rift Valley, such as the Aqaba protected area, and outside the Rift Valley such as the Burqu reserve in the Eastern Desert. Other areas for post-project replicability will be determined, based on findings from the SEA and LUMP planning process, through a similar criteria-based stakeholder engagement process used in defining the GEF project sites. The SGP's funds will be used to explore and assess the replication of the protected areas based on lessons learned from the project.

c) STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Involvement of relevant stakeholders is a strong element throughout the project, which considers a bottom up approach concerning community engagement and interventions. Different groups of people (community representatives) will be involved in planning the future land use in order to ensure the accomplishment of the management objectives. The planning process will pay attention to the different roles of men and women in the various land uses.

The primary beneficiaries of the project would be the communities living in and around the seven IEM pilot areas. Marginalized groups, including women, herders and other

¹ UNDP JOR/92/G31

underprivileged groups will be actively targeted to ensure that they receive their share of benefits from project activities and are able to effectively participate in decisions regarding LUP in general and the development of their community in particular. Project staff - in partnership with government and NGO staff - will support communities in these IEM areas, in participatory assessments and in the IEM/LUP preparation and implementation. Baseline surveys will be carried out through PRA and RRA methods in which data on the socio-economic status of the community members and the social relationships will be collected.

In order to encourage community involvement, the project will provide specific expertise through the appointment of community development specialists as project staff members. The project will establish a M&E system that will be based at PMU level. This M&E system will monitor the performance of the project towards the achievements of the social development outcomes.

d) MONITORING AND EVALUATION

As part of Component 5 outputs, the project will design a well-functioning M&E system to ensure that the financial expenditures are at par with achieving project outcomes and results. The PMU, together with the RSCN, will be responsible for M&E. In order to monitor the project's progress and impact (especially in the area of livelihood improvement and biodiversity conservation), baseline surveys will be carried out at the start of the project. Data collected from the baselines and M&E activities will be entered in a management Information System to be established at the PMU HQ. Reporting formats for the various components and activities within them will be developed, including targeted annual performance objectives and monitoring indicators, using the Results Matrix in Annex 3 as basis. There would be a project evaluation after two years and four years, followed by a final evaluation. All approved GEF biodiversity projects will be required to fill in the PIFB, which is for monitoring of project results. Once this format becomes available, the PIF will be incorporated into standard project M&E procedures.

E) FINANCIAL MODALITY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS

Co-financing Sources				
Name of Co-financier (source)	Classification	Type	Amount (US\$) million	Status*
GOJ & Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities	Government	Grant	1.5 0.3	Meeting minutes include support
RSCN	NGO	In-kind support	2.0	Letter available
Co-financier	Other NGOs	In-kind support	2.3	MOC with IUCN & JOHUD
Sub-Total Co-financing			6.1	

* Reflect the status of discussion with co-financiers. If there are any letters with expressions of interest or commitment, please attach them.

F) INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

a) CORE COMMITMENTS AND LINKAGES

The proposed project will build on the experiences obtained in on-going or recently completed projects. The most important experience is that of the GEF Dana Nature Reserve Project (October 1996 – July 1998), which integrated biodiversity conservation activities with community development, especially income-generating activities implemented by local communities. The project could further benefit from the outcome of the UNDP/GEF funded “Self Assessment of National Capacity in Jordan for Global Environmental Management” (January 2004 – June 2005) and the UNDP/UNSO financed “Establishment of a National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Desertification in Jordan” (February 2002 – October 2004); both executed by the Ministry of Environment.

In addition, the project strongly complements other several on-going World Bank projects, and donor interventions such as a) the Jordan-Gulf of Aqaba program (1996 – 2005), which is part of the Coral Reef Program and has a GEF component; b) the GEF project “Conservation of Medicinal and Herbal Plants” (May 2003- December 2008), c) the GEF/UNDP funded project Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Dibbeen Nature Reserve (January 2004 – January 2008) and d) the GEF financed PDF for the Project Conservation of soaring migratory birds in the eastern sector of the Africa-Eurasia flyway system (Rift Valley and Red Sea flyways), implemented by Birdlife International and its partner institutions (August 2004 – November 2005).

b) CONSULTATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN IAS, AND IAS AND EXAS, IF APPROPRIATE.

As mentioned above, UNDP/GEF has also been actively involved in biodiversity conservation in Jordan. The proposed project could draw some lessons from the outcome of the UNDP/GEF funded “Self Assessment of National Capacity in Jordan for Global Environmental Management” (January 2004 – June 2005) and the on-going GEF/UNDP funded project Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Dibbeen Nature Reserve (January 2004 – January 2008). Consultation workshops with UNDP/GEF and other agencies will take place during appraisal phase and will define the mechanisms and areas for coordination and collaboration.

c) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

The project would be implemented over six years. Primary coordination would be provided by the Ministry of Planning (MOP) and the RSCN. The RSCN will be the executing agency. Within the context of the World Bank OPCS guidelines, the Project Management Unit (PMU) will be “semi-integrated” within the existing structure of the RSCN augmenting them with some capacity. RSCN has a mandate to manage and control protected areas and its enforcement power

has been recently expanded to all aspects of the agricultural law. However, outside the protected areas, RSCN will also work closely with other institutions who have been actively involved on IEM and LUP concepts and practices, such as land communities and land owners (private owners, line ministries and regional authorities such as the Jordan Valley Authority and the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority).

The institutional structure will be addressed by the project at two different levels. Firstly, an institutional environment will be created that supports and addresses biodiversity conservation concerns in a more focused and effective way, while setting targets and preparing development plans for the JRV. Presently, biodiversity conservation is the explicit goal of only one ministry (Ministry of Environment – MOEnv) and of a small number of NGOs, with RSCN as the key player among them. Secondly, capacity for IEM/LUP is to be mainstreamed in the various institutions and agencies and related functions and responsibilities are to be identified. As mentioned above several agencies are, or feel, responsible for LUP at present or for certain aspects of it (JVA, MOA, ASEZA), but all have limited or no capacity. Those who have prepared land use plans for substantial areas (JVA mandate area and ASEZA) have contracted its preparation to consultants without ensuring capacity building in the organization itself. LUP, as it has been done so far, should rather be described as land designation and is not consistent with up-to-date LUP and IEM concepts.

ANNEX A: INCREMENTAL COST ANALYSIS

Context and Development Goals

The Jordan Rift Valley forms part of the Great Rift Valley connecting Africa and Northern Europe. It is a major fly way between the two continents and used by millions of migrating birds each year. Birdlife International's report on Important Bird Areas for the Middle East, lists twenty-seven sites for Jordan, of which seventeen are located in the Jordan Rift Valley.

Apart from its significance for birds, the Jordan Rift Valley also holds many large and internationally important ecosystems, including desert, mountains, wetlands, sea and forest; e.g. the Dead Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Jordan and Yarmouk river systems, as well as numerous specialised or unique habitats of regional importance such as the *Quercus aegilops* oak forests of Yarmouk. To date only one wetland of international importance has been designated, in Jordan, namely the Azraq marshes in the central eastern part of the country, well outside the Rift Valley. The Directory of Wetlands of the Middle East however, recognizes at least six notable wetland sites in the Jordan Rift Valley. Furthermore, the Dead Sea itself is the lowest and most saline water body on Earth and is noted as one of the World's "biodiversity hot spots" because its extremely harsh environment has engendered a high level of endemism.

Previous GEF activities in the country have revealed the presence of many globally threatened species, including several endemics. The persistent causes of habitat degradation and loss are deforestation, overgrazing, inappropriate agriculture, urbanization and population growth. The growth in mass tourism has also been cited as a 'new' threat to environmental quality in the JRV (NEAP Working Paper 1995). Habitat degradation and species loss in the JRV is serious and accelerating, largely as a result of increasing development pressure, inappropriate agricultural practices and population growth.

The GOJ has realised the threats to and fragility of the ecosystem in the JRV, and recognised the potential loss of biodiversity. It therefore is supporting policies and investments that can strengthen conservation and environmental protection and is interested in establishing a framework that effectively integrates (economic) development activities and sustainable natural resources management standards into and IEM and LUP system. At the same time it is recognised that community participation is an essential element in the integrated ecosystem management approach that needs to be developed. Despite this recognition, little headway has so far been made in the area of Integrated Ecosystem Management and Land Use Planning, for the following reasons:

- Absence of coherent conservation-oriented integrated ecosystem management and land use strategies
- Lack of participatory integrated resource management approaches and activities that provide for economic development and sustainable resource use to local communities
- Weak legal and institutional framework for integrated ecosystem management with limited capacity and knowledge

The overall project development objective of the GEF Project "Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Jordan Rift Valley" is to introduce integrated ecosystem management in the Jordan Rift Valley.

The primary vehicle to achieve this objective will be financial and technical support for community driven, integrated ecosystem management plans and subprojects that can simultaneously address local development needs and local environmental challenges.

Baseline Scenario

In the baseline scenario or the without project situation very few activities will take place in the area of IEM and LUP as experience in comprehensive land use planning, which takes due consideration to biodiversity conservation and habitat protection is still limited and capacity in IEM is inadequate. Therefore under the baseline scenario the ongoing loss of biodiversity will continue.

Various institutions will continue their LUP activities related to the JRV, which will mainly be focussed on development, with limited room for community involvement and biodiversity concerns. RSCN will continue to implement its mandate to manage and control already existing protected areas. Out of the total annual financial allocation RSCN would divert an approximate amount of US\$ 150,000 towards the maintenance of Mujib PA and about US\$ 100,000 on alternative livelihood activities in this area. However, RSCN has limited additional resources to extend the number of Protected Areas to other important areas and thus improve their connectivity. This means that its efforts will have a positive effect on the conservation of habitats and ecosystems in the already existing protected areas, but the negative trends that have been identified in the four proposed project areas will continue. As part of the routine capacity building program of RSCN, about US\$ 50,000 would be spend on training and awareness raising under this baseline scenario. This would be insignificant a contribution to strengthening of capacity at various levels and would hardly result in streamlining of procedures to address IEM and LUP in a coordinated and systematic approach.

Alternative Scenario

With GEF support the project will start up various activities that should result in the introduction of IEM in the Jordan Rift Valley. The activities and areas of work to be supported by GEF funding have been identified through a root cause analysis (see tables below). Root Cause analysis and response by the GEF project:

Direct causes	Root causes	GEF Alternative
Problems related to IEM and LUP:		
Conflicts between development activities and biodiversity conservation: no integrated ecosystem management approach	Low level of Government support (insufficient technical support) Institutional framework for IEM non-existing Legal framework absent Lack of capacity Lack of awareness Difficulty to enforce regulations	Mainstreaming of IEM and LUP Review of institutions system and streamlining of organisational set-up Review of legislative framework and propose adjustments, if required
Little consideration for biodiversity in existing LUP	Lack of awareness Lack of capacity	Awareness and training programmes at national, regional and local level
Lack of community participation in planning	Low level of Government support (insufficient technical support) Legal framework absent Limited community organisations	Community organisation and formation of stakeholder groups Make legal provisions to support community involvement
Use of inappropriate farming techniques	Lack of alternative technology Weak extension service Lack of capacity and awareness with the farmers	Introduction of IPM and organic farming Introduction of alternative livelihoods Strengthening the extension service

Direct causes	Root causes	GEF Alternative
Problems related to PA establishment and management		
Absence of comprehensive plan for natural types and habitats conservation in the reserve	Weakness of RSCN in preparing these plans Lack of information required for these plans	Baseline surveys Capacity building
Unsustainable grazing, over-grazing	Absence of ecological awareness Weakness in legislations and their implementation No grazing management plans Traditions Absence of grazing zones Easy to reach the places Free grazing	Awareness and training programme Alternative livelihoods Alternative agricultural and farming practices Grazing management plans promotion of good practices
Unsustainable hunting (especially Ibex)	Absence of ecological awareness Weakness in legislations and their implementation Traditions Easy to reach the places Presence of Automatic weapons Presence of 4-wheels vehicles Weakness in patrolling group of reserve	Awareness raising Law enforcement and control
Unsustainable collection of medicinal plants and other plants randomly	Direct use of them from the locals Absence of ecological awareness Weakness in legislations and their implementation No implemented system for collecting plants	Awareness raising Law enforcement and control Sustainable use
Limited awareness of IWRM principles, as they pertain to water projects and building dams	Lack in water resources on the national level Absence of awareness fir the decision makers Increase in investment projects in the Dead Sea basin Spread of water need agriculture in Jordan Valley	Capacity building at all levels Improved agricultural techniques Improved hydrological techniques
Unsustainable mining	Weakness in legislations and their implementation Weak of awareness in the natural resources authority	Awareness raising Law enforcement and control Sustainable use
Damage to the ruins	Weakness in cultural awareness Randomly ruins specimens collection Weakness in ruins locations Absence of ruins locations protection plan	Awareness raising Law enforcement and control
Lack of socio-economic programs around the reserve	New managing for the socio-economic section in the developing plan Weakness in funding these programs	Alternative livelihoods programme
Weakness of eco-tourism programs with developing the local community	New beginning for developing the infrastructure of eco-tourism programs in the reserve No clear mechanism for benefits of local community from eco-tourism programs	Promotion of tourism Establishment of tourism facilities
Technically weakness of reserve management team in reserves managing	Most of employees are new with no experience in managing reserves Weakness of training programs specialized in reserve management Increased staff responsibilities	Capacity building Institutional strengthening and increase in staffing
Lack in equipments and infrastructure required for reserve management	Lack in available funding resources for infrastructure and equipments	Introduction of appropriate technology and equipment
Weak implementation of reserve different management plans	Lack of clear comprehensive organizational structure for the reserve Lack of internal outreach plan between the employees	

Various benefits are expected at a global and national level. At global level, benefits will be obtained through (i) the introduction of integrated ecosystem management in the JRV, (ii) the enlargement of the protected areas, each having a management plan, geared towards habitat conservation and sustainable use (iii) the preservation of cultural and archeological remains in the project pilot areas (iv) the improvement of agricultural practices, through the promotion of Integrated Pest Management, organic farming and the introduction of crops with reduced water requirements. At the national level, (v) enhanced capacity in IEM of government agencies, NGOs and communities and (vi) income generation and alternative livelihoods especially geared towards disadvantaged community members and women, can be added. The tables below provides an overview of the expected project outputs and their contribution to global benefits, shared global and national benefits or primarily national benefits is given:

Global benefits

Annex 1 and Annex 20 detail and illustrated the JRV ecological importance. The Jordan Rift Valley, is a globally important biodiversity zone, both within and beyond the protected area. An effort has been made to build on the lessons learned, and integrate from the knowledge and engagement in the area.² However, and integrated effort is needed. The following project outputs will improve biodiversity conservation at newly established Protected Areas and strengthen capacity to manage the biodiversity resources contributing to long-term and will result in global benefits. The four PAs reserves were selected on a priority basis, in that they support significant populations of globally threatened species, whose conservation would benefit from interventions to remove threats to global survival. The benefits of these interventions – predominantly conservation activities – therefore, accrue mainly to the global community. Anticipated replication, of lessons learned and good management practices, to sites within the JRV and to the Eastern Desert will further protect areas of significant biodiversity and contribute to global benefits.

Output 3.1: Four new protected areas officially designated.
Output 3.2: Protected Area (PA) management plans are in place and operational.
Output 3.3: PA staff teams recruited, trained and in place.
Output 3.4: Facilities developed at four new PAs and at Mujib NR.

Shared global and national benefits

The outputs listed below will contribute to the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation into land use planning in the Jordan Rift Valley and the building of capacity in IEM and environmental protection which has global as well as national benefits.

Output 1.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Jordan Rift Valley completed
Output 1.2 Recommended policy and institutional reforms to implement SEA
Output 1.3 Legislative and policy review to empower local communities to participate in land use planning.
Output 1.4 Recommendations identified in SEA piloted

² (GEF/UNDP) Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity in Dibeen Nature Reserve; (GEF / World Bank) MOP Between: The National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology (NCART) & RSCN Inventory of Medicinal and Herbal Plants of Jordan; (GEF-SGP) SGP Partner NGO's Capacity Building Programme; (Jordanian Swiss Counterpart Fund) The Bilateral Committee The Eco-Tourism and Socio Economic Development in the Mujib Reserve; (SDC) Eco-Tourism and Socio-Economic Development in the Mujib Reserve; (Canadian Embassy) Production of Interactive Environmental Games of Jordanian Children to Encourage Greater Environmental Awareness; (USAID) The Jordan Fund For Nature(Nature Centre), Water Efficiency and Public Information for Action WEPIA Integration Water Demand Management Concepts in the National Jordanian Curriculum; and (GTZ) Supporting the improvement Public Awareness.
Source: <http://www.rscn.org.jo>

Output 5.1 Institutional and community needs for enhanced biodiversity conservation identified
Output 5.2 Institutional strengthening recommendations implemented for government agencies
Output 5.3 Enhancing capacities of NGO and community organizations
Output 5.4 Monitoring and Evaluation Program effectively implemented
Output 5.5 Dead Sea Panorama Center, for biodiversity conservation and environmental management operational
Output 5.6 Project managed successfully

National benefits

Finally the following project outputs result mainly in national and local benefits.

Output 2.1 Community action plan for alternative livelihoods adopted
Output 2.2 Alternative livelihood activities are operational and viable in piloted areas
Output 2.3 Lessons learned from alternative livelihood demonstration projects documented and promoted
Output 4.1 Defining sustainable financing mechanisms
Output 4.2 Sustainable financing mechanisms in place and operational

Incremental Cost Matrix

Below the incremental cost matrix is given which lists the domestic and global benefits as well as the GEF incremental costs for each of the project components.

Component	Cost Category	US\$ m	Domestic Benefits	Global Benefits
1. Assessment and Planning for Integrated Ecosystem Management	Baseline	0.01	Some RSCN staff involvement in the establishment LUP and routine contacts with relevant agencies.	Negligible contribution
	GEF Incremental	0.97	Institutional and legal framework in place at national and local level to implement SEA and support IEM that gives due consideration to natural resource management and biodiversity conservation (especially through a focus on alternative agricultural practices) A participatory approach to IEM with the participation of local communities as well as other stakeholders in place	Improved framework in place for IEM and LUP that takes care of biodiversity as well as development planning. Stronger enforcement to uphold environmental policies and regulations
	<i>Additional non-GEF incremental costs</i>	1.03		
2. Socio-economic Mitigation Measures for Alternative Livelihoods	Baseline	0.10	Alternative livelihood activities will focus on Mujib PA as part of the already established programme	Activities will have some positive impact related to Mujib PA only
	GEF Incremental	0.06	Increased opportunities for alternative livelihoods and income generation in rural communities	Improved basis through training for sustainable management of global biodiversity resources and opportunities for

Component	Cost Category	US\$ m	Domestic Benefits	Global Benefits
				alternative income earning that would reduce pressure on the natural resource base
	<i>Additional non-GEF incremental costs</i>	1.89		
3. Capacity Building for Expanded Protected Area Network	Baseline	0.15	Operation and maintenance of Mujib PA	Conservation activities as part of the ongoing mandate and programme at Mujib
	GEF Incremental	4.35	Four new sites Registered as Protected Area and management plans for these areas prepared and implemented	Improved conservation of globally significant ecosystems and biodiversity; removal of threats, and improved resource use practices by the surrounding communities
	<i>Additional non-GEF incremental costs</i>	1.70		
4. Sustainable Financing Mechanisms	Baseline	0		
	GEF Incremental			
	<i>Additional non-GEF incremental costs</i>	1.34	Mechanism for sustainable financial support to protected area management in place	Sustainable flow of funds for the establishment and maintenance of globally important ecosystems
5. Capacity Development and Monitoring and Evaluation	Baseline	0.05	Ongoing capacity building on traditional topics	
	GEF Incremental	0.76	Enhanced technical capacity and human resources related to IEM and LUP at the relevant government and non government agencies Increased information sharing and public awareness concerning the importance of biodiversity conservation Increased public sector capacity for IEM, LUP and protected area management	Increased capacity at various levels to plan and coordinate activities directed to safeguarding fragile ecosystems and habitats
	<i>Additional non-GEF incremental costs</i>	0.14		
Total	GEF Incremental	6.50	Total GEF input of US\$ 6.50 million, includes US\$ 350.000 for the PDF-B and an estimated amount of US\$ 6.15 million for project implementation	
	<i>Additional non-GEF incremental costs</i>	6.10		
Total		12.60		

ANNEX B: PROJECT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

1. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Project Development Objective Global Environmental Objective	Outcome Indicators	Use of Outcome Information
<p>PDO Mainstream integrated ecosystem management (IEM) practices in the Jordan Rift Valley pilot areas</p> <p>GEO Secure the ecological integrity of the Jordan Rift Valley as a globally important corridor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seven integrated land use management plans with bio-diversity conservation measures in place with participation of all stakeholders and agencies - Total number of hectares under sustainable management in all four PAs (59,650ha) 	<p>Outcome information will be utilized for the design and development of similar national and regional projects (in Middle East)</p>
Intermediate Results One per Component	Results Indicators for Each Component	Use of Results Monitoring
<p>Component One: Biodiversity conservation measures introduced into land use planning in the JRV</p>	<p>Component One:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEA findings for biodiversity conservation considered in updating and preparing seven land use management plans. - Recommendations from a comprehensive legislative and policy review for land use planning developed 	<p>Component One: Results will refine and be adapted to integrated ecosystem management practices.</p>
<p>Component Two: Standard of living of local communities in the vicinity of the protected areas improved through biodiversity friendly alternative livelihoods</p>	<p>Component Two :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Livelihood Action Plans developed and implemented for the Yarmouk, Fifa, Mas'uda, and Qatar communities - Average income of those participating in alternative livelihood increase 10 percent in the four communities as a direct consequence of the project intervention 	<p>Component Two: Adoption rate of alternative livelihood activities will be used to revise interventions</p> <p>Positive results will be used for replication in other areas</p>

Intermediate Results One per Component	Results Indicators for Each Component	Use of Results Monitoring
<p>Component Three:</p> <p>Biodiversity management capacity enhanced in the four (Yarmouk, Fifa, Mas’uda, Qatar) protected areas (PA)</p>	<p>Component Three:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four new PAs (Yarmouk, Fifa, Mas’uda, Qatar) officially registered with the GOJ -Rate of generation or regeneration of vegetative cover/biomass in all four PAs (see note below) -Reestablishment of the threatened animal populations -Increase in the number of bird passing along the JRV - Number of Community Development Plans prepared and implemented in consultation with local communities - Number of trained staff in PA facilities 	<p>Component Three:</p> <p>Lessons learned to replicate PAs establishment and management in other areas.</p>
<p>Component Four:</p> <p>Mechanisms for sustainable financing of biodiversity conservation in place for the four PA</p>	<p>Component Four:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable financing programs established for the four PAs (20 socio-economic projects around PAs in place at end of project) - 10% increase private sector financing of biodiversity friendly development activities - The “Jordan Fund for Nature” endowment is capitalized according to proposed targets 	<p>Component Four:</p> <p>Replication of sustainable for biodiversity conservation in other protected areas</p>
<p>Component Five:</p> <p>Institutional strengthening and enhanced stakeholder capacity for integrated ecosystem management practices</p>	<p>Component Five:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Needs assessment actions plan for capacity building in place and implemented - Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system in place in year two -Implementation of a program for increased public awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation - M&E targets met annually - RSCN manages Dead Sea 	<p>Component Five:</p> <p>Results will be used to review effectiveness of the training and capacity building program</p>

	Panorama Center according to MOU - The databank (DB) on biodiversity of each PA is updated - The GIS is widely used	
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Note: Below are the targets established by RSCN in terms of vegetation cover to achieve by the end of the

Project period:

Proposed PA	Vegetation Type	Target Cover (%)
Yarmouk	Deciduos Oak	5.81%
	Saline	0.57%
Fifa	Tropical	5.51%
	Acacia	0.34%
Qatar	Mudflat	3.05
	Saline	1.59%
	Mediterranean Non-Forest	0.78%
Jabal Mas'ada	Steppe	1.56%
	Acacia	1.09%
	Juniperus Forest	17.60%

Source: BSAP & RSCN, 2000

2: ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESULTS MONITORING

Outcome Indicators	Base Line	Target Values						Data Collection and Reporting		
	Values	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Frequency of Reports	Data Collection Instruments	Data Collection Responsibility
IEM practices are integrated into planning and development activities at all levels in JRV	None	0	0	10%	20%	30%	40%	Annually	Planning outcomes of different agencies	PMU
Total number of hectares under sustainable management in 4 PAs (56,950ha)	Baseline indices	0	0	20%	40%	70%	100%	Annually	Reports of different agencies	PMU
Results Indicators for Each Component										
Component 1: SEA findings for biodiversity conservation considered in updating and preparing land use management plans (LUMPS)	0 SEA	0	0	0	50 % completed	75% completed	100 % completed	Annually	Preparatory field survey for SEA Existing environmental and biodiversity information on JRV	PMU
Recommendations from a Comprehensive Legislative and Policy Review for land use planning developed	0 Comp. Legislative and Policy Review	0	50% completed	100% completed	0	0	0	Annually	Legal documents Policy documents LUMP Legislative Policy Review	PMU
Seven land use management plans in place (LUMPS) with participation of all stakeholders and agencies	0 LUMPS	0	0	7 LUMPS	0	0	0	Annually	SEA Legislative Policy Review Community Participation Program	PMU +IEM field teams
Component Two: Community Livelihood Action Plans developed and implemented for the Yarmouk, Fifa, Mas'uda, and Qatar communities	0 Action Plans	0	4 Action Plans	0	0	0	0	Annually	Baseline Economic Survey Work plans Alternative Business models progress reports	PMU + IEM Field teams
Average income, of those participating in alternative	US\$ 900 av. personal	0	0	5%	6%	8%	10%	Annually	Baseline Economic survey	PMU + IEM field teams

Outcome Indicators	Base Line	Target Values						Data Collection and Reporting		
	Values	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Frequency of Reports	Data Collection Instruments	Data Collection Responsibility
livelihood, increases 10 percent in the four communities (above increase in non-participating communities)	income (2004), 10 % increase								Personal Income Survey Progress Reports	
Component Three: Four new PAs (Yarmouk, Fifa, Mas'uda, Qatar) officially registered with the government of Jordan	0	0	3 PAs (Yarmouk, Fifa,, Qatar	1 PA Mas'uda	4 PAs registered	4 PAs registered	4 PAs registered	Annually	Official documents	PMU
Rate of generation or regeneration of vegetative cover/biomass in all four PAs	% of vegetation cover in all four PAs	% increase in vegetation cover in all four PAs	% increase in vegetation cover in all four PAs	% increase in vegetation cover in all four PAs	% increase in vegetation cover in all four PAs	% increase in vegetation cover in all four PAs	% increase in vegetation cover in all four PAs	Annually	Survey Progress Reports	PMU
Reestablishment of the threatened animal populations	X number of threatened animal species	% decrease in number of threatened animal species	% decrease in number of threatened animal species	% decrease in number of threatened animal species	% decrease in number of threatened animal species	% decrease in number of threatened animal species	% decrease in number of threatened animal species	Annually	Survey Progress Reports	PMU
Increase in the number of bird passing along the JRV corridor	X number of bird	% increase in number of bird	% increase in number of bird	% increase in number of bird	% increase in number of bird	% increase in number of bird	% increase in number of bird	Annually	Survey Progress Reports	PMU
Management plans prepared and implemented in consultation with local communities	0 plans 0% implemented	50% prepared 0% implemented	100 % prepared 0% implemented	25% implemented	50% implemented	75% implemented	100% implemented	Bi-annually	Community Outreach Program Public Hearings Management Plans	PMU
Number of trained staff in PA facilities	0 facilities/ 0 staff	0	0	3 facilities/ 22 staff trained	1 facility/ 14 staff trained	4 facilities 36 staff trained	4 facilities/ 36 staff trained	Annually	Facilities Plans Training Program	PMU
Component Four: Sustainable financing program established for the four PAs (20 socio-economic projects around PAs in place at end of project)	0 socio-economic projects	0	4 socio-economic projects	8 socio-economic projects	12 socio-economic projects	16 socio-economic projects	20 socio-economic projects	Annually	Financial reports	PMU
10% increase private sector financing of biodiversity friendly development activities	Limited private financing (Wild	0	0	0	5%	7%	10%	Annually	Audit reports	PMU

Outcome Indicators	Base Line	Target Values						Data Collection and Reporting		
	Values	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Frequency of Reports	Data Collection Instruments	Data Collection Responsibility
	Jordan, Jordan River Foundation)									
The "Jordan Fund for Nature" endowment is capitalized according to proposed targets	US\$11 million by end of 2005	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Annually	Audit reports	PMU
Component Five: Needs assessment actions plan for capacity building in place and implemented	0 Needs Assessment Action Plans	TNA 100%	25% implementation of AP	50% implementation of AP	75% implementation of AP	100% implementation of AP	N/A	Annually	Training reports	PMU
Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan in place in year two and targets met	0 M&E Plan	50 % M&E Plan in place	100 % M&E Plan in place	100% First Year targets achieved	100% Second Year targets achieved	100% Third Year targets achieved	100% Fourth Year targets achieved	Annually	Survey Monitoring and Evaluation Compliance Reports	PMU
RSCN manages Dead Sea Panorama Center (Ministry of Tourism) according to MOU	MOU signed	100% conditions maintained	100% conditions maintained	100% conditions maintained	100% conditions maintained	100% conditions maintained	100% conditions maintained	Annually	Minutes of RSCN Board meeting; Amendment to MOU	PMU
Implementation of a program for increased public awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation	No program	50% of program prepared	100% of program prepared	Program implemented in one PA	Program implemented in one PA	Program implemented in one PA	Program implemented in one PA	Annually	Survey Monitoring and Evaluation Compliance Reports	PMU
The databank (DB) on biodiversity of each PAs is updated		DB updated	DB updated	DB updated	DB updated	DB updated	DB updated	Annually	Surveys Progress Reports	PMU
The GIS is widely used	0	All data on bio-diversity are properly mapped	All data on bio-diversity are properly mapped	All data on bio-diversity are properly mapped	All data on bio-diversity are properly mapped	All data on bio-diversity are properly mapped	All data on bio-diversity are properly mapped	Annually	GIS techniques	PMU

STAP EXPERT REVIEW

POINTS REQUESTED BY TERMS OF REFERENCE

KEY ISSUES

1. Scientific and technical soundness of the project

The project is well structured and the contents of its five components are consistent with its goal: To secure the ecological integrity of the Jordan Rift Valley as a globally important corridor. The components are also in accordance with the project's development objective, which is to mainstream integrated ecosystem management (IEM) practices in seven pilot areas the Jordan Rift Valley.

A core issue in this project is the safeguarding of globally significant biodiversity and restoring ecological integrity along the Jordan Rift Valley. In order to achieve that, it will mainstream biodiversity conservation into the land-use planning process and thus introduce and apply the principles of integrated ecosystem management in the Rift Valley. This is coherent with the current trends in conservation that stress the importance of protecting ecosystems rather than isolated areas.

In that sense, the proposal of expanding the Protected Areas Network by creating four new areas in this ecosystem and including them in the project seems logical and absolutely necessary. The proponents make it clear that, although it would be positive to create more areas, the number of four is a compromise between reasonable increase in demands, on the one hand, and a minimum number to achieve the establishment of a system of protected areas, on the other hand.

Thus, the project will focus on seven demonstration sites: Jordan River Area, Mujib North Area, Mujib South Area, Yarmouk River Area, Fifa Area, Qatar Area, and Ma'suda Area. These last four are the proposed new protected areas to be created during the project's implementation.

Another important consideration is that the project draws on important lessons learned from the Dana Nature Reserve project, carried out in the 1990s and considered highly successful. Particularly, the component dealing with *Alternative livelihoods* will be introduced based on the experience gained in that project, which had an explicit policy of employing local people as staff in protected areas.

The integrated ecosystem management approach intends to strike a balance between the interlinked objectives of biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resources use, while keeping in mind the fair distribution and equitable sharing of benefits arising from these resources.

In accordance with that objective, the current project intends to apply a strategic "bottom-up" approach with great emphasis on community participation and capacity building. The proponents acknowledge the importance that this livelihood program is sustainable, so that it does not damage the conservation value of the sites included. In order to control the project's achievements and impact, a well structured participatory monitoring and evaluation system has been included not only as a control instrument but also as a mechanism for improved planning and implementation of the program in cooperation with the stakeholders.

The weak institutional and legal framework for integrated ecosystem management with limited capacity and knowledge is also addressed by the proponents, who have included a strategy to improve the legal

framework and fill the gaps that limit the full participation of communities in the management of their environment.

Although it is an ambitious project, the duration of 6 years seems adequate to achieve the stated objectives.

2. Global benefits of the project

The support of this project will have a positive impact on the environment and human populations of the Jordan Rift Valley.

This valley is an integral part of the Great Rift Valley and provides a globally critical land bridge between Africa, Europe, and Asia that supports a large variety of ecologically diverse habitats of international importance with millions of migrating birds visiting each year.

As stated in the project, it is also of strategic economic importance, linking the five countries of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the West Bank, and Syria, which share many of its natural resources, including the Jordan River, Dead Sea, and Gulf of Aqaba. Its critical geographical location, combined with the most productive agricultural land resources in Jordan, has made it a focal area for development and land conversion that threatens its unique ecological and cultural values.

The seven areas selected for the project were chosen considering: a) coverage and diversification of the major ecological zones in the JRV, b) coverage of the four selected Protected Areas and Important Bird Areas and their adjacent land areas, c) ecosystem connectivity (i.e. ensuring that a conservation corridor is ensured along the JRV), d) presence of globally significant biodiversity assets and vulnerability of local ecosystems, and e) coverage of areas with observed unsustainable development (specifically in the area of agriculture or tourism) putting the biodiversity conservation in the adjacent proposed protected areas at stake.

The project's goal to secure the ecological integrity of the Jordan Rift Valley as a globally important corridor is clearly of worldwide importance. Seeking ways to ensure the Valley's economic and ecological integrity for the benefit of its people also seems of great importance to improve the conservation of this fragile habitat that harbors more than 20 globally significant species, including threatened migratory birds, rare plants and fish, and threatened mammals. In addition, the creation of the four proposed areas will add currently unprotected habitat types to Jordan's Protected Area Network.

3. Compliance with GEF objectives, operational strategies and guidance in biodiversity focal areas

- It strengthens the participation of local communities, particularly women, in the conservation of biological diversity and its components.
- It offers a means to long-term conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and can serve as an example for other cases in the Jordan River habitat and other places in the Middle East.
- It applies an integrated ecosystem management approach that has not yet been applied in Jordan.

The project fits under the GEF biodiversity conservation focal area and the operational programs N° 1 *Arid and Semi-arid Zones Ecosystems*, N° 12 *Integrated Approach to Ecosystem Management* and N° 15 *Sustainable Land Management*.

In promoting and introducing an integrated approach to environmental management, the project will contribute to the GEF strategic priorities under the biodiversity focal area, such as:

- Strategic Priority (SP) 2- *Mainstreaming biodiversity in production landscapes*, by strongly promoting Integrated Ecosystem Management.
- Strategic Priority (SP) 1- *Catalyzing the sustainability of protected areas*, by strengthening the PA system.
- Strategic Priority (SP) 4- *Generating and disseminating best practices to address biodiversity issues*, through the capacity-building program.

The Government of Jordan has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA), consistent with the requirements of OP 4.01 and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was prepared as part of the EA. All activities are designed to improve the ecosystem and socio-economic conditions. Potential adverse environmental or social impacts will be minor and can be avoided or minimized through appropriate preventive actions and mitigation measures. The proponents envision that some of the interventions and activities to be carried out under the alternative livelihood and income generation component could potentially have a negative impact on the environment. Nevertheless, they are prepared to review these potential setbacks prior to implementation in order to take measures to mitigate them.

The project will advance the commitment of the GOJ to a number of international conventions that have already been signed and ratified, notably the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) and the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC).

4. Significance and potential benefits of the project

The project's significance and potential benefits can be clearly identified at both the environmental and social levels.

The proposed project is aimed at conserving fragile ecosystems in an area that has great environmental and economic significance for five countries in the Middle East and Africa. This will contribute to strengthen the limited national efforts that have been carried out thus far to introduce, regulate, and institutionalize integrated ecosystem management. In addition, it will help integrate conservation and rural development activities.

The social benefits have also been identified. The capacity building component, which is clearly developed, is of great importance since it will serve to strengthen institutions in charge of conservation in Jordan, while at the same time it will focus on obtaining the involvement of communities and local stakeholders in ecosystem management and land use planning through a well-planned awareness-raising program.

As stated by the proponents, the project has crosscutting social benefits as it contributes to the ecological integrity and socio-economic development in Jordan River Valley as a regional effort. The primary beneficiaries of the project will be the communities living in and around the seven pilot areas. Marginalized groups, including women, herders and other underprivileged groups will be actively targeted to ensure that they receive their share of benefits from project activities and are able to effectively participate in decisions regarding land use planning in general and the development of their community in particular. In accordance, the training and capacity building activities of the project will include participatory techniques and gender sensitization as topics in the training program.

5. Potential replicability of the project to other sites

The project considers replicability as an integral part of the implementation strategy, which is based on the process of learning by doing and focuses on the dissemination and expansion of positive experiences in integrated ecosystem management and alternative livelihoods. This is the first major project in Jordan focusing on Integrated Ecosystem Management. The project design is based on lessons learned from experiences gained in other community-driven protected area and natural resource management projects, particularly the Dana Nature Reserve (DNR) project.

It also states that positive examples of interventions and livelihood alternatives will be duplicated through an extension and awareness-raising program.

Furthermore, it acknowledges that it provides the opportunity for an exchange of ideas and cross-fertilization with other GEF projects, thus giving the possibility for the creation of an integrated ecosystem management network, including surrounding countries and regions.

6. Sustainability of the project in institutional, financial and technical terms

The proposed project is satisfactory in its considerations to ensure its institutional, financial and technical sustainability for the following reasons:

Institutional:

- The Government of Jordan, assisted by the World Bank and the GEF, has heavily invested in adequate institutional capacity to handle preparation and implementation of natural resources management projects during previous years.
- The project will be implemented over six years and primary coordination will be provided by the Ministry of Planning (MOP) and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), the largest non governmental environmental organization in Jordan, will be the implementing agency. RSCN has a mandate to manage and control protected areas and its enforcement power has been recently expanded to all aspects of the agricultural law. This guarantees stability to the project.
- Capacity building efforts will also contribute to the institutional sustainability of the project through training in relevant areas of all stakeholders (government agencies, NGO's and community organizations) at the national, regional and local levels.
- Adaptation of legislation and the regulatory and policy framework, in order to support integrated management and community involvement in land use planning is also crucial to this project, which includes a comprehensive review to identify and tackle bottlenecks for the inclusion of local stakeholders in the planning process.

Financial:

- The proponents have identified several sources of funding: Private sector partnerships for income generation activities (e.g. ecotourism); state budget; revenues from protected areas and entrance fees; international foundations and NGOs; national funds planned for environmental and natural resource management.
- There is already a Jordan Fund for Nature and the project will direct activities to increase the capital base of this existing fund, which is used to operate and maintain protected areas.
- A Biodiversity Enterprise grant program will be established to stimulate and support private sector entrepreneurial initiatives that generate profit and contribute to biodiversity conservation.

A mechanism for revenue collection and reinvestment of income in protected areas and integrated ecosystem management activities will be developed.

- The proponents have also identified a series of current or potential partnerships to assist in financing the project: GEF Small Grant Program; Ministry of Planning Enhanced Productivity Program (IRADA) and its support to small scale enterprise development, with NGOs; IUCN, which has already signed a memorandum of technical cooperation with RSCN in 2005; the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD); the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA), that has offered RSCN to manage the Dead Sea Panorama Center under a renewable 5-year agreement; the USAID; and potential donors who are interested in substantially increasing RSCN's trust fund – Jordan fund for Nature.

Technical:

- Technical sustainability of the project will be ensured by enhanced integrated ecosystem management through appropriate land use planning that combines habitat protection and biodiversity conservation with sustainable development, through the introduction of improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihoods.
- As stated in the project, the community-based land use planning approach covers an area of land with accepted boundaries. It focuses on the production of food, fuel, fodder and construction materials from crops, trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses. It identifies opportunities and constraints in the use of protected areas and the buffer zone as well as on surrounding agricultural fields. It also pays attention to the interaction between different forms of land use in different areas.
- An agreed upon distribution of rights, concessions and obligations concerning management of hillsides and communally used lands among all interest groups involved is crucial for sustainable management.

7. Degree of involvement of relevant stakeholders in the project

Involvement of relevant stakeholders is a strong element throughout the project, which considers a bottom up approach concerning community engagement and interventions. This project builds on the RSCN capacity building and legal and regulatory efforts initiated under the DNR, which demonstrated that communities can be successfully engaged in the land use planning approach for sustainable development.

The proposal considers a series of consultation workshops involving all relevant stakeholders to identify and agree on an appropriate institutional plan that unambiguously defines roles and responsibilities.

Local and regional land use plans, formulated in consultation with community members and accompanying capacity building and awareness raising activities, will be the project's primary vehicle to implement interventions and approaches relating to ecosystem management. The proponents stress that through participation in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the local ecosystems, the communities will provide input to the final land use plans (LUP) and to potential legal and regulatory reforms, which will need to be undertaken.

The project will also ensure that targeted communities will be involved in identifying and implementing eligible alternative livelihood initiatives. This includes women and poor members of the community.

In order to encourage community involvement, the project will provide specific expertise through the appointment of community development specialists as project staff members. It will also establish a Monitoring and Evaluation system that will monitor the performance of the project towards the

achievements of the social development outcomes, included in the different project components, in general and in the component relating to alternative livelihoods in particular.

SECONDARY ISSUES

8. Linkages to other focal areas.

The project is also linked to the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area, particularly through its land use planning activities and its efforts to achieve alternative livelihoods for local communities surrounding the protected areas involved.

The proponents acknowledge that the task of improving the productivity of a planning area and preventing it from degradation is difficult. Different people in an area make different uses of the land and claim their own rights. Therefore, the task can only be implemented if community members work together, are willing to compromise and organize themselves, and develop and implement rules and regulations for the use of their land.

9. Role, potential and importance of capacity building elements and innovativeness of the project.

Capacity building is an important component of the project and is well articulated. The proponents state that in an effort to support the Bank's recommendation that stand-alone project management units (PMUs) be mainstreamed into existing structures, the PMU will work closely with the RSCN to be consistent with the Bank's mission of capacity development and institutional strengthening.

At the same time, the project considers the need to train and empower local communities to take responsibility in community-based resource management and to become equitable partners in participatory planning, while government agencies and NGOs need to be trained to guide this process.

The proposal states that this will be achieved by providing RSCN with information, infrastructure and capacity building support so that this organization is equipped to implement effective PA management in new and/or expanded Protected Areas.

It also mentions that management plans will be formulated for all four proposed protected areas, based on a participatory approach, involving all the stakeholders. The establishment and management of these areas will require a significant expansion of RSCN's field-based staff: these will need to be recruited and trained, as a pool of appropriately trained specialists in the field does not exist in Jordan outside the existing Protected Areas network. In addition to that, the four new areas will require basic facilities such as offices, meeting rooms, visitor centers and staff housing, and be equipped with reliable electricity and water supplies.

The project considers carrying out a capacity and training needs assessment that will be the basis for the implementation of a training and capacity building plan. At the national level the plan will address policy development, enforcement and monitoring, land use planning for government representatives. At the local level (protected areas) it will include training for protected areas staff, local (decentralized) government officials in land use planning, and support to extension services for the promotion of more sustainable agricultural techniques. At the community level, the plan will address community development,

institutional strengthening of communities, training to local communities in business development, training in alternative livelihoods, inclusive of NGOs and community organization.

10. Specific Comments:

It would be suitable for the proponents to give a few clear examples of places where the project can be replicated, ideally mentioning specific areas, or stating clear actions to be taken, such as meetings with organizations in charge of similar protected areas in other countries sharing the Jordan River Valley.

11. Final comments:

It is a very important project that I endorse in the strongest terms.

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GEF AGENCY RESPONSE TO STAP REVIEW

The World Bank is in agreement with the points made by the Reviewer. Document clarified the next steps to be taken for replicability. Recognizing the replicability of interventions is of utmost importance and forms an integrated part of the implementation strategy, based on a process of learning by doing, which focuses on the dissemination and expansion of positive experiences in the area of IEM, and alternative livelihoods. RSCN has already identified priority areas for post-project replicability based on the Jordanian National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. These areas are both located within the Jordan Rift Valley, such as the Aqaba protected area, and outside the Rift Valley such as the Burqu reserve in the Eastern Desert. Other areas for post-project replicability will be determined, based on findings from the SEA and LUMP planning process, through a similar criteria-based stakeholder engagement process used in defining the GEF project sites. The SGP's funds will be used to explore and assess the replication of the protected areas based on lessons learned from the project, and those from the SGP program in Jordan.

ANNEX D: MOC RSCN - IUCN

IUCN - The World Conservation Union
Regional Office for West and Central Asia and North Africa (WESCANA)
WESCANA's Proposed Role in the Implementation of the Jordan Rift Valley Project – Jordan
Summary Concept (first draft 2.06)

25th February 2006

Background

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) in Jordan had been working in cooperation with the World Bank to develop and implement an integrated ecosystem management and protected areas project in the rift valley region of Jordan as one of the largest and most advanced initiative in the sector of biodiversity and sustainable rural development yet in the country.

The project development is at its final stages of preparation and is expected to be fully developed, approved by the GEF council and commenced in the year 2006.

RSCN and IUCN WESCANA developed and signed a memorandum of technical cooperation in mid 2005. Under this framework agreement, the parties expressed intention to cooperate at the national regional levels in the fields of biodiversity conservation, protected areas management and capacity building of national staff related to the subjects above.

This brief concept presents IUCN WESCANA's expected roles in the implementation of the rift valley project based on the core areas of IUCN regional and international knowledge and experience networks.

IUCN – WESCANA

Formed in 1948, IUCN is a unique Union. IUCN's over 1,000 members include 75 States, 114 government agencies, and 800-plus NGOs. More than 12,000 internationally-recognized scientists and experts from more than 180 countries volunteer their services to its six global commissions. For more than 55 years this partnership has generated environmental conventions, global standards, scientific knowledge and innovative leadership. IUCN remains the world's largest conservation organization, and one of its most respected. In 1999, Member States of the United Nations accorded IUCN the status of Observer at the General Assembly.

The newly established WESCANA Regional Office (WESCANA-RO) covers a vast geographical area, stretching across North Africa, West Asia and Central Asia. Although the countries of the region are diverse, they also share many common traits, particularly with respect to ecological conditions, cultural traditions and religious beliefs.

WESCANA adopts a programmatic approach in implementing its regional strategy. The protected areas program is one of its two main areas of intervention besides with the water program.

WESCANA PA Program adopted a three years strategy to engage with its members and partners in the region through:

Promoting New Approaches for PAs in regard to Effective and collaborative management of PAs and NRs along with Supporting national agendas – NBSAPs, PA systems, NWH

Capacity building and regional knowledge development including the development of Arabic PA guidelines in addition to regional expertise development and establishment of networks of experts and practitioners

Enhancing networking and communication through the activating of WCPA regional network and other national and thematic networks such as that of world heritage

Expected areas of IUCN WESCANA's support to JRV project implementation

IUCN WECANA through its regional protected areas program is proposing to provide technical support in the capacity building program components of the project and particularly those relevant to protected areas development and management. This would include building the national team's skills capacities in the fields of:

- Protected areas planning
- Approaches for local communities' involvement and participation in protected areas planning and management.
- Protected areas management plans development.
- Management plans implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review.
- Protected areas zoning in relevance to the wider land-use planning and management programs, socio economic development and other sustainable development sectors such as ecotourism.
- Other emerging protected areas planning and management components as needed for the sound project implementation.

WESCANA's contribution to the implementation of its envisaged roles is planned to be through:

1. Allocating around 20% of the total staff time of the protected areas program over a period of five year. This would sum up to around 300,000 USD of in kind contribution over the project period. Any further use of WESCANA's core staff time is expected to be covered by the project.
2. Facilitate the utilization of IUCN'S regional and international expertise in the fields of experience which cannot be fulfilled by the existing staff. IUCN expects a full recovery from the project budget for this component based on its standard staff time and other logistics costs.
3. A 10% management overhead is expected to be covered by the project for all activities and services undertaken by WESCANA except those provided its core staff time allocation.
4. Activities and service provided will be based on an annual workplan developed and agreed by RSCN and WESCANA on a quarterly basis.
5. Detailed supplemental agreements will be developed and signed by RSCN and IUCN for cooperation on an annual basis including all agreed roles, activities and services provided by IUCN in the JRV context.