

Report on the IUCN West Asia 8th Regional Conservation Forum (RCF)

(10-12 November, 2015 – Amman, Jordan)



IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature

Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA)

Under the Patronage of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Jordan

Dr. Abdullah Ensour

In Partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Jordan

IUCN West Asia 8th Regional Conservation Forum (RCF)

10-12 November 2015

Intercontinental Hotel

Amman – Jordan

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List of Abbreviation

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature.
CEC	Commission on Education and Communication.
CEESP	Commission on Environmental Economic and Social Policy.
CEM	Commission on Ecosystem Management.
EPA	Environment Public Authority.
FASU	Framework of Action to Strengthen the Union.
FOHE	Friends of Horsch Ehden.
IPO's	Indigenous People Organizations.
KISR	Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.
MPA	Marine Protected Area.
NBS	Nature Based Solution.
NCB	National Coordinating Body.
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization.
PA's	Protected Areas.
RCF	Regional Conservation Forum.
ROWA	Regional Office for West Asia.
SDG's	Sustainable Development Goals.
SSC	Species Survival Commission.
UAE	United Arab Emirates.
UN	United Nations.
WCC	World Conservation Congress.
WCEL	World Commission on Environmental Law.
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas.
WPA's	World Protected Areas.

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Executive Summary

The IUCN West Asia Regional Office in Amman carries regular Regional Conservation Forums; this event is the 8th Forum aiming at gathering the regional members from 13 countries (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Iran in addition to the Gulf countries including Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. (With total of 150 Participants and representatives, aiming to develop, support and link the IUCN ROWA members' roles in developing the regional work plans against the environmental challenges. The forum gave the opportunity for all members and partners and practitioners to get prepared for their participation in World Conservation Congress that will take place in Hawaii in September 2016.

The general slogan of the 8th RCF is the "Innovative natural solutions: Motivating change". This Forum is considered as platform for all the IUCN ROWA members and partners to exchange experiences in Nature conservation, Biodiversity, Climate change, the challenges facing the ecosystems and the future opportunities to uplift the sustainable development in west Asia. The Forum will provide a good opportunity to reinforce the relations amongst the different environmental, scientific and developmental institutions and help in building the capacity of their individuals.

The 8th regional forum carried under the patronage of his Excellency Dr. Abdallah Ensour the Prime Minister of Jordan who commissioned Dr. Taher Shakhshir the Minister of the Environment to carry the opening and to welcome the participants and to deliver the opening speech. The event started with the speech of Mr. Mohamad Zaarour, the chair of the IUCN Jordan National Committee, followed by the speech of Mr. Fadi Al Shraideh the IUCN, IUCN West Asia Regional Director, then Ms. Inger Andersen, IUCN Director General, and His Excellency Dr. Taher Al Shakhshir, Minister of Environment, Jordan.

In the first procedural session, the Director General's Ms. Inger Andersen carried an interactive Presentation, Vision for IUCN where room for discussion and feedback was given through the presentation. Eng. Raed Bani Hani, Director of Nature Protection Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Jordan addressed the presentation on the Conservation Status in Jordan. The flow of presentation and discussions took place as per the Agenda (attached).

Day Two afternoon, Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President delivered a speech on the envisaged future of IUCN and the main areas of interest and cooperation and coordination among the members. In day three the participants went into working groups to discuss and specify the roles and the needs of the members, commissions and secretariat for the main successful implementation of the future objectives. Presentation of the results was carried with discussion and Q&As. The members and the secretariat have discussion and exchanged views on issues of interest.

RCF went well through its three working days, it was well organized in terms of time, sessions, and presentations .It was also well equipped with all necessary equipments (audio visual equipment, pin boards, cards, stationary, etc...) including the venue and services. RCF had been fruitful and productive; gaps were fulfilled by knowledge shared, experiences exchanged and facts announced.

Friendly atmosphere prevailed through all working sessions and supported the serious discussions.

Conclusion

Participants were responsive and active to all sessions. Such events are considered the platform to bring all to discuss openly all topics and issues of mutual interest.

The participants in the working groups discussed the role and needs of the Members, commissions and the secretariat for the best performance of the future goals and tasks.

To conclude, these events help in harmonizing points of view and building agreements and clarifying issues of interest with the members and strengthen the region visibility in Hawai'i World congress in September 2015.

Some delegates announced their need for moderation of their national plans.

Background

IUCN is an International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to the most pressing environment and development challenges, and is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with almost 1,300 government and NGO members and more than 15,000 volunteer experts in 185 countries, IUCN's work is supported by 1,000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. IUCN's work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature- based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. More important to mention, IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and other companies together to develop policy, laws and best practices.

IUCN West Asia 8th Regional Conservation Forum (RCF)

It is the 8th Regional Conservation Forum 10-12 November 2015, over 150 representatives of governments, NGOs and the business sector from West Asia came together in Amman Jordan. The Forum was organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Regional Office for West Asia and in partnership with the Jordanian Ministry of Environment. Of Jordan, the forum was organized under the patronage of His Excellency the Prime Minister Dr. Abdullah Ensour in the Intercontinental Hotel Amman – Jordan.

The forum was held under the Slogan "Innovative Natural Solutions, Motivating Change" the aim of the forum is providing the governments, NGOs, partners and the private sector a platform to engage with each other; to discuss and debate key conservation issues as well as an opportunity to prepare for an effective programme planning and discuss membership business, to initiate discussions on global participation in the next Congress (2016), In addition, the RCF contributes to strengthening knowledge and networking for biodiversity conservation in the region.

The Opening Session

The 8th Regional Conservation Forum is held under the patronage of H.E. the Prime Minister of Jordan, and the presence of HRH princess Basma Bint Ali, and the Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature- Ms. Inger Andersen and the Regional Director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature- west Asia Regional Office- Mr. Fadi Shraideh.



An official opening session was organized on Tuesday 10 November 2015. A welcome speech was addressed by Mr. Mohammed Zaarour, the IUCN Jordan National Committee Chair, welcomed the Guests of Jordan; the Forum participants, attendees and wished all a happy stay in Jordan and success in the Forum activities.



Mr. Fadi Al Shraideh, IUCN West Asia Regional Director, started his speech by welcoming the audience to the IUCN West Asia 8th Regional Conservation Forum. He thanked His Excellency Prime Minister Dr. Abdullah Ensour for his sponsorship of the forum in Amman, the city that's also hosting the Regional office for West Asia in the International Union for conservation of Nature since 2004, which indicates that The Hashemite kingdom of Jordan's interest in issues related to the conservation of nature and its sustainability. He addressed the audience, telling them that this forum



is made for you, and will be achieving its goals through your participation and interaction with what it will be presenting over the next three days of some issues that has become more urgent than ever in order to achieve sustainable social and economic development that suits environmental systems without compromising future generations.

"We've realized that we can't achieve development without taking into our consideration nature conservation, we in ROWA are dedicating our efforts in the region towards three areas; conserving nature, effective and equitable governance uses of nature and generalize solutions for challenges like climate change, food and development", Mr. Shraideh -stated.

Finally Mr. Shraideh wished all participants fruitful and productive discussions.

His Excellency Dr. Taher Al Shkhashir the Minister of Environment in Jordan started his speech by welcoming the audience and passing greetings from His Excellency Prime minister Dr. Abdullah Ensour who honored him by his sponsorship of the forum on behalf of his Excellency.

His Excellency Mr. Shkhashir stated in his speech on behalf of His Excellency the Prime Minister Dr. Abdullah Ensour that *"this forum represents a serious stand in the face of the challenges facing the region, which helps in the preservation of environment and biodiversity"*.



The most important challenges to nature are the unbalanced consumption of natural resources and the excessive productions of emissions and pollutants, with the absence of policies and plans that can strike a balance between consumption and production on one hand and environmental sustainability on the other.

He also added that the Ministry of Environments is continuously working on fixing any loopholes in environmental legislations and always seeking through these legislations to strengthen punishments on offenders to suit the environmental impact they caused. We have put a system to assess the environmental impact for institutions and factories, to make sure that their production does not harm the environment, making this a condition for acquiring the license.

Finally His Excellency Mr. Shakhashir wished all participants all the success they could have.

It was pointed out that the most important challenges and pressures facing the environment in the region are the lack of consideration of land management and environmental systems, unsustainable agricultural practices, and modern economic trends. The challenges deepen when policies and strategic choices do not focus on increasing ownership over natural resources such as water, land which in many cases are depleted due to numerous factors.

It was also stressed by all that the environment is facing great pressures on the regional and global levels alike, and that the time has come to take the opportunity to work together to achieve these goals.

Attendees of this forum were secretariat, members and commissions from several countries of Western Asia (Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE and Egypt).



Forum Procedures

First day, Session one

The Forum started its activities with the National Jordanian Anthem, followed by the opening session carried by Master of ceremonies Ms. Hana Al Araj, who presented the speakers as follows:

- Mr. Mohammad Zaarour, IUCN Jordan National Committee Chair, delivered his address of welcome.
- Mr. Fadi Al Shraideh, IUCN West Asia Regional Director, presented RCF introduction and objectives. (as above)
- Ms. Inger Andersen, IUCN Director General, pointed out Keynote Address.
- His Excellency Dr. Taher Al Shakhshir, Minister of Environment, Jordan, delivered his Keynote speech. (as above)



The Regional Conservation Forum has launched an exhibition and knowledge café in an aim to provide governments, NGOs, partners and the private sector a platform for engagement; to discuss and debate key conservation issues under the 3 IUCN Results found in the IUCN niche. The exhibition contributed to strengthening knowledge and networking for biodiversity conservation in the region. The knowledge café Showcased how IUCN ROWA initiatives work hand in hand with member initiatives, the IUCN ROWA booth acted as a common area used for Knowledge Cafe sessions.

Session two

This session started with IUCN Director General, Ms. Inger Andersen, who delivered her presentation on IUCN Vision 2017- 2020.

The presentation contained:

- The State of Conservation.
 - Conservation Priorities for the Union.
 - Growing Pressures on Environment.
 - IUCN's Legacy of Impact & Delivery.
 - IUCN's Identity.
- Priorities.



- Framework for Impact.
- Priorities.
- Strategic Outlook.
 - Vision 2048.
 - Next Programme cycle (2017- 2020).
 - Next 18 months.

The following is the discussion Q & A:

Comments:

- 1) There is no harmony between what was presented by Ms. Inger Andersen and what IUCN does with nature. SDG's are 17 goals, 5 of them are related to nature and this is considered an achievement. We ask each country in February 2016 to choose from the 17th goals 4 to 5 country goals, and more support from IUCN to Jordan to choose goals to strengthen environmental strategy (Laila Naffa'a).

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"Global goals are related to nature and environment and they are not only five, we have looked to 96 indicators to reflect environmental priorities and it is very difficult. More important to mention, we can't achieve sustainable development goals without taking into consideration nature and environment."

- 2) Regarding the development of the one Program, we don't find any kind of ownership for members in this program, plus the development process is not so close to members in the area. There is no specific mechanism of applying this program to my institution, company, organization, etc..., no specific mechanism to state the national priorities and no clear mechanism for secretariat regarding development, application and evaluation.



We need to strengthen members and their effectiveness, and having one name, we are IUCN (Mohammad Zarour).

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"About the one program, I heard this comment when I joined the union and we sent our recommendations. We need to conduct a primary study to use members' comments, plus we focus on methodologies regarding our brand and our name"

- 3) The importance of communication's role on the institutional side. Commission on education and communication calls members to communicate with, learn and benefit from the regional office (Feras Abdelhadi).

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"Yes, it is important for the members to communicate and learn from each other and there are many projects within the Royal Scientific Society and we need our members to start implementing these projects"

- 4) There are many countries that are not engaged in the union.

Countries must make policies that harmonize its relations with civil society organizations (legislations and regulations).

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"Countries also must make policies and regulations that help scholars to provide and deliver their knowledge, science and information"

- 5) We need to have one voice for the union, as well as involving the youth. If we use their capacities and utilize them to spread news and facts it will be more effective and efficient. (Mina kathemy)

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"You have got a point in mentioning this comment, the council and secretariat are giving the most out of themselves to call and involving youth"

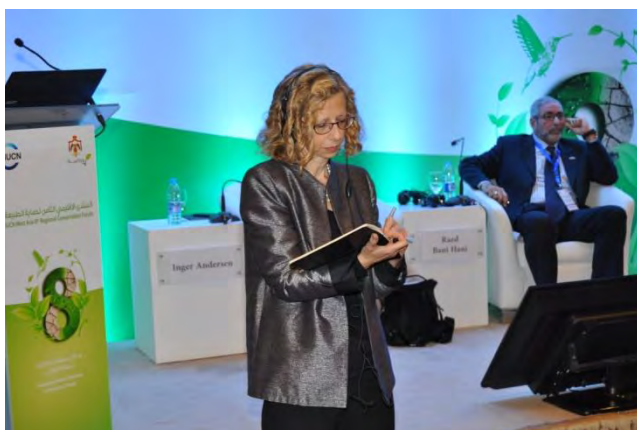
- 6) In terms of protection of nature, it is a must to expand the National Committee for Environmental Protection's umbrella.

I strongly believe the regional office has to take into consideration, raising awareness for all people, not only for NGO's. The awareness approach should be national and regional. (Ahmad Al Rousan)

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"It is our pleasure for any NGO to join or to be involved with us, and the process of joining is included in our procedures. Governments are aware of raising awareness but, governments can't manage this alone, it needs IUCN's support and we need some time to improve a lot of things from time to time".

- 7) Investing in nature is considered an investment on the long run, what we really need is reinforcing our environmental ethics and principles (Saif Bin Ali).



Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"I like to hear that, children teach their parents these ethics and values better than their parents, and a part of these ethics is related to nature, nature has its biotic rights and we don't have the right to manipulate these rights"

- 8) We are suffering with governmental bodies' representatives.

How much confusion caused to states by thousands of decisions made by forums and how difficult it is for the state to follow these decisions with limited capacities (Hussein Shaheen).

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"There are a lot of new ideas came by IUCN"

- 9) It is very good that scholars deliver their knowledge but, knowledge should be legal.

Private sector plays a participatory role in supporting environment (Khadeeja -Catherine Razavi).

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"Local scholars have their knowledge and there is no high or low knowledge, and this is what the commission does to collect knowledge. Regarding private sector: biodiversity was lost due to the private sector's industrial and commercial practices"

- 10) In terms of resources: if we decide to live in the way Switzerland lives, we might need two planets and half.

Goals are not reasonable, we don't have a voice and when you write, you want to reach the goals within less than 10 years, it sounds illogical.

We seek your help to have an effective regional office. (Dr. Ali Darwiche)

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"We were a bit shy plus we did not have a good and deep knowledge to materialize our work and come out with new solutions. Students should take additional courses in sustainable development"



- 11) Communication approaches, learning approaches to local committees must be new. (Recommendation).

Communication knowledge- based tools to involve new generation (Recommendation).

There is a gap and a kind of competition between us as members, where is the role of the regional office?

There is a need to implement policies in crises (Recommendation) (Dalia Al-jawhary).

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"It is unacceptable regarding competitions and we have to turn the page, we have a file that can't be closed. Concerning IUCN during crises, Governments do not allow us to speak in issues related crises".

- 12) Strengthen the relations between governmental agencies and IUCN. (Ziad Daghistani).

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"Yes, it is a must to strengthen the relations between governments and IUCN".

- 13) Are we working on involving members of the commission?

What is the value of joining IUCN?

We need to communicate with state members (Recommendation) (Mohammad Al Tayeb).

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"I've been to Asia and I feel that we need to have additional commissions and volunteers but volunteers need permissions from their universities, but why don't we search for retirees?"

- 14) There is disability in delivering our priorities to IUCN and also a weakness in communicating with secretariat and commissions (Razan Zuayter).
- 15) IUCN showed commitment to the Arabic language in order to become louder (Comment).

What do governments do to encourage individuals to become members? (Dr. Shaikha Al Dhaheri)

Comments replied by Inger Andersen:

"We can't translate all languages due to lack of finance, honestly we wish to publish in Arabic".

Eng. Raed Bani Hani, was the second speaker, the Director of Nature Protection Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Jordan, delivered a presentation on conservation status in Jordan and contained:

- Nature reserves Areas in Jordan. (10 reservation areas.)
- Jordan's IUCN Network.



Session three

Session three was planned to have three main titles:

First, IUCN Programme 2017- 2020, Mr. Ziad Samaha delivered a presentation which contained:

- Building on IUCN Programme 2013 - 2016.
- Impacting Change for a Sustainable Future (our theory of change).
- Steps in Developing IUCN Programme 2017- 2020.
- Some lessons learned from the 2013-2016 Programme (1).
- Some lessons learned from the 2013-2016 Programme (2).
- What's different in our approach for 2017- 2020?
- Framework for 2017-2020 Programme.
- Valuing & Conserving Nature.
- Effective & Equitable Governance of Nature's Use.
- Deploying Nature Based Solutions to address Societal Challenges.



Comments, recommendations and suggestions regarding the draft can be found on pages: (15- 16)

Second, IUCN ROWA Programme Priorities (Situation Analysis), Dr. Hany El Shaer delivered a presentation which contained:

- Socio Economic Context.
- Situation analysis (PAs, Species, dry land and water).
- IUCN presence in the region.



Third, IUCN ROWA Programme Presentations:

First Speaker, Mr. Mufleh Al Abbadi, who delivered a presentation on **Water & Climate Change**.

Second Speaker, Ms. Fida Haddad, who carried a presentation on **Dryland, Livelihoods & Gender Program**, the presentation contained:

- IUCN Strategy on Drylands based on a number of IUCN resolutions.
- Vision – Mission – Strategic Objectives.
- IUCN's Programme framework 2013–2016

- Program Donors 2013-2016.
- Program Members and Commissions 2013-2016.

Third Speaker Mr. Ziad Samaha, who carried a presentation on **Marine & Coastal Zone Management**, the presentation contained:

- The main environmental problems in West Asia Marine Environments.
- Coastal & Marine Ecosystems in West Asia.
- Mangrove Forests on the Coasts of the West Asia.
- Coral reefs ecosystems in the Seas of the West Asia.
- The Elements of Transformational Change:
 - Policy.
 - Regulation.
 - Programs.
 - Strategies.
 - Structure & Processes.
 - Skills & Competencies.

- Ongoing Projects.
- Our Commitment for the next four years at a glance.
- Understanding the Problem and the Need – Root Causes MPA Ineffectiveness:
 - Governance.



- Process.
 - Responsibility and Skills.
 - Infrastructure and Information.
 - Acceptance and Facilitation.
- Valuing and conserving nature.
 - Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature's Use.
 - Nature Based Solutions.
 - Global megatrends impacting conservation future.
 - What will facilitate change?
 - The IUCN knowledge products and their integration.
 - SDGs and the IUCN Programme.



Fourth Speaker Dr. Hany El Shaer, who presented **Protected Areas & Biodiversity & World Heritage Programme**, the presentation contained:

- Valuing and Conserving Nature.
- Equitable & effective governance of nature's use.
- Deploying Nature-based solutions.

The following is the discussions Q & A:

Comments:

- 1) Our objection wasn't because your data was from the internet, but we need to know what this data means and what is behind this data.
 - How many protected areas work effectively.
 - We suggest that this program should realize strategic procedures in order to achieve better communication.
 - Improving work could be through motivating and educating the new generation.
- 2) How much access do members have? How much capacity building do they have? How many platforms do they have?
 - The answer is to feedback the IUCN.



Comments replied:

"We've been involved with several capacity building and knowledge exchanges, it is not happening everyday but it happens often and we always search for technical experts but we don't find them" (not managers of NGO's) (Ziad Samaha)

- 3) How much are the members' roles contributing to the application?
 - How much do we benefit from Lebanese experts to implement projects in Jordan and vice-versa?
 - How much is there an effective management is there on protected areas and terrestrial marine?

Comments replied:

"regarding experts exchange, it happened between Lebanon, UAE and Jordan, but there is a concern about resources, and we made exchange visits in forest land management, there was a high impact, knowledge was disseminated on more than one level" (Fida Haddad)

- 4) We ask for more involvement for members for application with no competition (Recommendation).
 - IUCN's role is not only in collecting data but it extends to update it and analyze it. (Ma'aen Smadi)
- 5) We are not satisfied with the way members are being involved.
 - I wish I knew about the Marine project in Aqaba, we would have loved to implement this project and share our experiences with IUCN (Faisal Abu Sondos).

Comments replied:

"We should remember that IUCN is not a donor agency and the regional office should work with all the members with the available budget and this sometimes could not cover cooperation with all members (Dr. Hany El Shaer)



"It is an activity not a project; we are implementing a part of the project, not the whole project. We called for people to work with us but no one responded. At the end, we have to work with all members especially when we have limited resources" (Ziad Samaha and Dr. Hany El Shaer)

Wrap up and conclusion of the day

Comments, recommendations and suggestions:

- Air quality is not a part of the conservation program. What about nature based solutions regarding air quality... such as use of alternative energy, solar, wind, etc... it should be an integral part of the program (Tony Saade).
- CEC suggest the one program needs to be more conscious of the process for strategically and effectively engaging people and bringing about change in all areas which depend on appropriate communication and engagement processes and making use of the many communication tools and products developed by CEC.
- State Membership fees!
- As this meeting is a west Asia regional meeting, please change the meeting's language to English.
- Most of west Asia countries are Arabs, replace one language by Arabic (Elham Abu Eisheh).
- Let's try to add Arabic language as a fourth language in addition to English, French and Spanish and get fund from Arab countries.
- We should take into account; some countries were exposed to lose its biodiversity due to wars and challenges such as water scarcity and dehydration (Adel Omran Salman).



- There is a gap in communication with secretariat and commissions. We request a deep participatory analysis to address and overcome them. We managed to introduce resolutions on natural resources in periods of crisis, but it was difficult to follow up on these despite our conscious efforts to communicate but in vain.

Second Day, Session Four

IUCN World conservation Congress

Dr. Enrique Lahmann delivered three presentations, **IUCN World Conservation Forum**, **IUCN Awards** and **Revised Motion Process**.

IUCN World Conservation Forum Presentation covered:

- What have IUCN congress achieved so far?
- The Forum (workshops, posters, knowledge café & conservation campus)
- Call for contributions (all proposals must be submitted through the call for contributions).
- Members Assembly.
- How to Get Involved.
- Registration.
- Sponsored Delegates.

IUCN Awards Presentation covered:

- The John C. Phillips Memorial Medal.
- The Harold Jefferson Coolidge Memorial Medal.
- IUCN Honorary Membership.

Revised Motions Process Presentation covered:

- Results of vote on revisions to Motions process.
- Motions process.
- All motions will be discussed online.
- Substantial number of motions to an electronic vote by IUCN Members prior to the Congress.
- 2016 Members' Assembly.



- The Motions Working Group of Council will be authorized to implement the revised motions process.
- Members will have the right to appeal.

Dr. Lahmann's presentations were clear and accepted since no significant comments were raised.

Governance Consultations

Dr. Samira Omar Asem

Delivered her presentation on **Governance Consultations**, the presentation covered:

- Indigenous People's Organizations.
- Local and Regional Governments and Authorities.
- Authority of Council.
- Election of President.

The following is the discussion Q & A:
Comments, suggestions, questions and recommendations:



- 1) Why do you create a new category for people you don't know? Why are you creating a sub category?

Comments replied by Dr. Samira:

"There are many Indigenous people don't have local NGO's to represent them, most of them have intended rights. We have two categories A and B either we put them with category B in a sub category or we will create a new category for them (D)".

- 2) We need a clear definition of indigenous people.

Comments replied by Dr. Samira:

"Indigenous people is the people who have the ownership of the sustainable participatory management of natural resources from years and years before the attack of modern approach of "development" and the destruction of their sustainable system of managing nature and natural resources with years of trials and errors, while the modern individual conservation is only older of one hundred years"

I don't see any usefulness in getting back to this motion which was fallen in last conference in Jeju, why is current council getting back to this issue; we need to discuss other issues. The current council is deciding on some issues and neglecting other issues on a purpose (Dr. Ali Darwiche).

Comments replied by Mr.
Mohammad Shahbaz:

"The council hasn't decided on any motion, it is based on the feedback. We can't design a system which is selective, all systems have the same design and the same criteria, and it is an objective system based on transparency and openness".



Participants who didn't have the opportunity to express their points, they wrote it on cards:

- 1) How much the members of IUCN are able to suggest secretariat technically in implementing the different projects and activities? In terms of IPO's, identify their locations, countries, to avoid misaddressing the membership status in the union. (Nizar Hani).

- 2) Motion on including local authorities at the state membership level:

It raises concerns as it will unbalance the voting at regional level. E.g. some regions collectively will have more votes compared to other region where a possible alliance to vote and drive certain motions will take place. So, not in favor to agree/ approve this.

- 3) Indigenous people don't have well-developed institutional constitution! So IUCN when considering IPO's special platform should be addressed to help them exercise their membership.

- 4) IPO's, what are the criteria of considering IPO's? some countries have conflict on nativity of people, for example: Bahrain, there is conflict on this issue and we need to define members by defining native people and criteria before voting on IUCN suggestions regarding their subcategory (B) or new one (D).



IPO's challenges: in which language will we communicate with them? Since they speak their own language, and don't speak other languages, and how will they understand reports issued by IUCN or decision for voting? Will they have their representative, if so, what is his job title?



(Mahnaz Kadhemi).

According to ineffective membership in commissions, we can apply banking system! That any account hasn't been used for a long time should be deleted and sending a notification to ineffective member before taking deletion decision

- 5) Indigenous People are in fact the pillars of conservation since thousands of years. In fact the degradation of natural resources star exactly when we as experts, academicians. Governments state the conservation of indigenous people and have destroyed their system of common property and sustainable development. The results are disastrous and it is time to empower them and give them back their right to conserve their areas, give them back their ownership.

We have to be careful not to involve any private sector without any strong participatory Environment Impact Assessment. The worst impact to indigenous people has been private sector.

IUCN President Mr. Zhang Xinsheng delivered a keynote address speech that includes important issues facing the world, Policies, principles, and necessary efforts needed for future activities together with new future perspective of IUCN approaches.



Feedback from members on IUCN 2017- 2020 programme.

- The first step to conserve is to assess and identify terrestrial and protected areas and more focus on activities and assessment in this region.
- Recognizing the local communities and governance of natural resources management.
- First, we should focus on landscape and seascape, monitoring species, changes and challenges affecting species. Second, social challenges and further assessment for local needs in local communities.
- Restoration is important but it is necessary to mention that restoration should be environmentally sound.
- Is IUCN's action plan based on approved agenda from congress or it is case by case depending on members?
- Better engagement of members in IUCN work to better synergize efforts for sake of nature.
- Do all commissions have vice- chairs in the region? Does SSC also have vice- chair?
- Is there any plan to add or merge commissions? If so, what are these commissions?



"Currently, there are no plans; however this issue should be open to near future".

- Importance of addressing challenges of communities in conflict, particularly for the west Asia region. Conflict contributes greatly to biodiversity loss, we can see this in Syria where the seed bank was destroyed and the arctic "Doomsday vault" had to be opened for the first time ever. This is a theme that should be threaded through all IUCN programmatic areas. Conflict also impacts access to natural resources.

- Communication and networking within the IUCN commissions members? How we can make it better and more active?
"Yes, there is a gap but also it has to be two ways of communication".
- How to evaluate the involvement of west Asia commissions members in ROWA Projects and Programs?
- Listing of all commissions members and make it available for everybody.
- Make use of social media for communication.
- The importance of focus on arid areas and semi arid areas for biodiversity conservation.
- The importance of concerted efforts to achieve biodiversity agreements goals including Bonn and Ramsar treaty.
- Regional offices roles in analyzing the current situation of IUCN, as well it is important to discuss IUCN priorities in each region with members to avoid any weaknesses in the program and its implementation.

IUCN commissions Reports

First speaker: Mr. Antonio Benjamin, world Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL).
Mr. Benjamin couldn't manage to make it to the Forum so his presentation was on Skype.

Second speaker: Mr. Firas Abd- Alhadi, Commission on Education & Communication (CEC). The presentation covered:

- What Drives the CEC?
- CEC's Values.
- How CEC Works.
- About the CEC – The Oldest Commission of IUCN.
- Role of CEC within IUCN.
- What CEC Does?
- Current Mandate 2013-2016.
- CEC core areas.

Third Speaker: Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz, Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP). The presentation covered:

- CEESP Commission Membership by Region (April 2015).
- CEESP Commission Membership by Theme.
- CEESP Objectives.
- CEESP Programme Priorities.
- How to join IUCN-CEESP.



Fourth speaker: Dr. Said Damhoureyeh, Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM). The presentation covered:

- Mission & Objectives.
- Structure and Governance.
- Thematic Groups.

- Membership per CEM-region.
- Commission Activities.
- CEM-products.
- CEM in the Regions (1).
- Some Highlights of CEM in the Regions (2).
- Clearing House Mechanisms.
- Lessons learned, guidelines, manuals.
- Conferences, workshops, seminars. (Co-organized by CEM)
- Advocacy & Policy Development.
- CEM as sounding board and pool of expertise.
- Emerging issues in conservation and project development.
- Working together (SSC, CEESP, WCEL, CEC & WCPA).
- 1st World Forum on Ecosystem Governance.
- Nature Based Solutions – NBS Pavilion.



Fifth speaker: Mr. Pritpal Soorea, Species Survival Commission (SSC). The presentation covered:

- SSC Organigram.
- SSC Members in West Asia.
- National Red List Alliance formed.
- Key Biodiversity Areas Standard.
- Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee.
- SSC Disciplinary Specialist Groups.

Sixth Speaker: Mr. Maher Mahjoub, World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). The presentation covered:

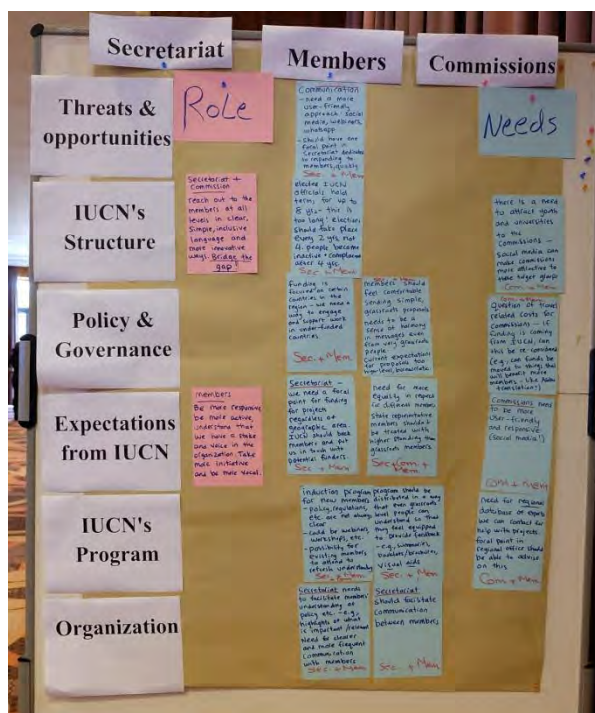
- WCPA mission, members and structure.
- WCPA main activities and strengths.
- Aichi target 11 and PA statistics.
- WPA and Promise of Sydney.
- Suggestions for the way forward.

The following is the discussion Q & A:

1) Regarding slide number four: people who came with decisions, are they going to be with the implementation group? Do they have a role in monitoring?

Comments replied by Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:

"If you are proposing a motion and the



motion became a resolution, of course you will be executing".

2) We don't know what is going around us regarding communication, emails, voting, nomination, etc....?

Comments replied by Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:

- Communication outputs are done by secretariat, but our members are not following us plus they are not communicating and giving us feedback whether they are receiving emails or they are still working in the same position or they moved to a new position.
- NGO's keep changing our focal points.
- Every member of the national committee have the rights to nominate two people, yes two people, in case of the first one wasn't available, the second one replaces him.

Third day, session five

In this session, Mr. Shahbaz carried a presentation on " Framework of Action to Strengthen the Union", where explained that the Framework (FASU): is a **Council-led process** aiming at undertaking concrete, targeted, time-bound steps that will lead to two main objectives:

- Raising IUCN's profile, leadership and influence within and beyond the conservation community,
- Strengthening IUCN as an effective Union, including its membership, governance and structure

Initially structured around 6 areas:

- Threats & Opportunities
- IUCN's Strengths
- Policy & Governance
- Expectations from IUCN
- IUCN's Programme
- Organization

In addition in his presentation, Mr. Shahbaz presented:

- What has been done so far?
- Next steps: Moving forward with a strengthened IUCN
- Short-term outcomes (2016 WCC)

After the presentation, the participants were split in working groups to discuss the roles and needs of each (IUCN Secretariat, Commissions and members) for the achievement of the above mentioned objectives within the 6 areas. In a two hours brain storming in working groups, the participants produced their envisaged roles and expected needs, short presentation were carried after the working groups have completed their exercise, followed by short discussion (For more details, please refer to pages: (22-30).





After participants presented what they discussed within their groups, some comments raised by Dr. Lahmann.

- 1) Policy making in IUCN is not made by the president. The general director, secretariat and members of world conservation congress define policies.
- 2) Nomination: made by members of category A and B, they propose candidates of council.
- 3) National regional committees: guidelines approved by council, it is not a mandate, it is recommendation.
- 4) We will make our efforts to work on communication.
- 5) We have some members of low and mid income level, who can't afford expenses of travelling and accommodations to participate our next forum in Hawaii, so we got support from some countries but we still need more support.

Mr. Shahbaz carried a presentation which was clear and accepted for all, since no significant comments were raised.

Session Six, Plenary Meeting- IUCN Governance- Members Business

Chair: Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz

IUCN Committees Presentations

IUCN Regional Committee for West Asia

IUCN ROWA Jordan National Committee; Mr. Mohammad Zaarour, The presentation addressed:

- IUCN National Committee of Jordan (General Information).
- Organization Admitted by Year.
- Member Admitted by Number.
- Main Achievements.
- Strengthening the work of the Committee.
- Main Strategic Objectives.
- Facilitating Cooperation among IUCN Members.
- Facilitating Dialogue with Stakeholders.
- Helping Jordan to Meet International Commitments.
- Increase membership and Capacity Building for Effective Contribution for IUCN.
- Jordan Committee Proposition.



IUCN ROWA Lebanon National Committee, Mr. Zaher Redwan, The presentation addressed:

- National strategy.
- In cooperation with Secretariat – IUCN ROWA Office.
- IUCN national committee future focus.



IUCN ROWA Kuwait National Committee, Mr. Mufleh Al Abbadi was deputized by Dr. Samira to deliver her presentation. The presentation addressed:

- Long-Term Relationship.
- Members of the Kuwait National IUCN Committee.
- Meetings of the National Committee.
- Council Meetings & World Congress
- Participation in the World Parks Congress Sydney 2014.
- IUCN President's Visit to Kuwait 11 June 2015 (KISR, Voluntary Work Center & EPA).
- KISR-IUCN Regional Workshop Ecosystem Conservation and Management March 2016.
- New Research Projects.

The following is the discussion:

Comments:

- Global Result 1: "Credible and trusted knowledge" should be disseminated and an outreach and communication strategy should be developed, our role is important in raising awareness worldwide (not only reaching out to members).
- Sub- results 1.3 are very general. We suggest tackle directly threats, ex: "threats facing biodiversity are listed, identified and tackled.



- Nature- based solutions: change should start within the IUCN (offices, practices) that should become a role model for all members.
- Regional committee: 13 + 2 may cause voting imbalance (this approach may encourage regions to call for more membership).
- Case studies to be enhanced and included into IUCN publication.
- "Case studies are existed on www.Rknow.net"
- Regional Committee use current bylaw (suggestion).
- ROWA support the committee for some seed money (suggestion).
- Request to have the national committee's bylaw of Jordan and Lebanon.
- Jordan NCB is in Arabic.
- Lebanon has the English version and we can share.
- Regarding the Regional committee: can representatives of each country be chosen on a rotary basis (twice a year for example) or is there a specific mandate.

Results of working groups on the "Frame Work of Action to Strengthen the Union"

Members & Secretariat		
Criteria	Roles	NEEDS
Threats & opportunities	<p><u>Communication</u></p> <p>Threats: poor communication between members, secretariat & commissions.</p> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Use basic language, less jargon, regular newsletter. 2) Members should be more active to respond and should be proactive. <p>Role: Participatory approaches in defining threats + opportunities.</p>	<p><u>Communication</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Members expect clear and concise message. They should communicate properly. - Prioritize the message that will be available on the portal and send them to other members. - Facilitate and simplify messages, using other applications. - Appointing national communication focal points. - More direct involvement & development of opportunities & increase communication.
IUCN's structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure complicated and difficult to understand. • No uniform approach on how to apply for membership in a commission. • Empower member's role to facilitate membership and work at all levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be explained in easy way especially for new members from old one. • Theoretically the structure is clear, practically, it is not.
Policy & Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not sufficient transparency. • Members should be invited to nominate candidates; no transparency on how candidates are chosen. • Clear follow up for effective of new motion and resolution all the way to declaration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate access for membership. • Should invite all members for IUCN activities for example: training, workshops, etc... • Candidates should be selected in a transparent way. • Clarify governance principles of regional offices.

Expectations from IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and easy way of communication between members and commissions. • Toolkits to be less abstract and easy to understand and apply to local communities. • More clear outreach+ program+ collaboration with member involvement. • Encouragement of involvement of local experts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better clarification for mechanisms of selection for partners implementing projects at country level. • Need easier way of communication with commissions; long chain of communications. • More involvement of regional offices in member's program. • Need capacity building for toolkits and guidelines set by IUCN? • IUCN to focus more on biodiversity conservation. • More attention to west Asia region. • Equity in support and attention to our region.
IUCN's Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jargon language, difficult to understand, not very tangible. • Good communication on a national+ regional level about activities and programs. • Reflect member's priorities & utilize local knowledge in implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better alignment of program and projects with IUCN with IUCN program at country level. • Need to inform members in a better way about activities & projects. • Sharing knowledge and lessons learned from implementing the program.
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication of regional offices should be clear and focused. • Each country should have a national committee. • Acknowledge the members as the strength of IUCN+ draw on their vast experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication between members at a national level needs improvement. • Regional committees should be more active. • Strengthen relationship with members & increase transparency participatory approach in organization.

Members & Commissions		
Criteria	Roles	NEEDS
Threats & opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Win – Win situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better communication mechanism.
IUCN's structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support and facilitate clear coordination & communication mechanism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of institutional setup to be more effective with member.
Policy & Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the members as the basis for any governance/ policy initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplify the governance system to be more effective (bottom up approach).
Expectations from IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear & increase level of communication between commissions and regional office to trickle down to members and vice versa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic/ periodic meetings between commissions & regional offices.
IUCN's Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member based program to reflect their priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop bottom up program not top down program.
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage & mobilize members to interact among & between each other. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complement, cooperate not compete.

Commissions & Members	
Criteria	NEEDS
Threats & opportunities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) More efficient communication. 2) More interact and communicate between commissions.
IUCN's structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Better structure for commissions. 2) Strengthen the regional framework. 3) Presence of regional focal point.
Policy & Governance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support works of members (technically and scientifically). 2) Control of commission responsiveness to members
Expectations from IUCN	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Contact more of the commission members. 2) Being more responsive towards members needs. 3) More communicate with the secretariat to streamline the commission output. 4) Discuss and explain role of commission to members. 5) Update list of expert and commission members in the region. 6) Technical meeting (experts).
IUCN's Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Independency within the overall IUCN One Program.
Organization	

Members, Secretariat & Commissions		
Criteria	Roles	NEEDS
Threats & opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed their expertise to overcome current biodiversity threats. • Biodiversity of expertise (Members). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support in relation to conservation issues and monitoring species (Members).
IUCN's structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract new members (who have professional experience). • Evaluate the work of commissions (Members). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a clear implemented action plan for all commissions.
Policy & Governance		
Expectations from IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear & increase level of communication between commissions and regional office to trickle down to members and vice versa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of scientists to be more involved in IUCN's Program. • Promote the work of members on the global level (Members). • Support of the implementation of the resolution.
IUCN's Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To highlight priority biodiversity needs of the country. (Members) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN's program shall be reflective to the country/ region needs. (Members)
Organization		

Secretariat, Members & Commissions		
Criteria	Roles	NEEDS
Threats & opportunities		<u>Communication</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need a more user- friendly approach: social media, webinars, and whatsapp. Should have one focal point in secretariat dedicated to responding to members quickly (Secretariat + members)
IUCN's structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to the members at all levels in clear, simple, inclusive language and more innovative ways. Bridge the gap. (Secretariat + Commission) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected IUCN officials hold terms for up to 8 years- this is too long! Elections should take place every two years, not 4 people become inactive and complacent after 4 years (Secretariat + Members) There is a need to attract youth and universities to the commissions- social media can make commissions more attractive to these target groups. (Commissions + Members)
Policy & Governance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding is focused on certain countries in the region- we need a way to engage and support work in under-funded countries. (Secretariat + Members) Question of travel related costs for commissions- if funding is coming from IUCN, can this be reconsidered (e.g van funds be moved to things that will benefit more members- like Arabic translation?) (Commissions + Members)
Expectations from IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be more responsive, be more active, and understand that we have a stake and voice in the organization. Take more initiative and be more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need a focal point for funding for projects regardless of geographic area. IUCN should back members and put us in touch with

	vocal (Members).	<p>potential funders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members should feel comfortable sending simple grassroots proposals. Need to be a sense of harmony in messages even from very grassroots people. Current expectations for proposals too high- level, bureaucratic. • IUCN should help with proposals writing. (Secretariat + Members) • Need for more equality in respect for different members. State representative members shouldn't be treated with higher standing than grassroots members. (Secretariat + commission+ Members) • Commissions need to be more user- friendly and responsive (social Media!). (Commissions + Members)
IUCN's Program		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction program for new members. • Policy, regulations, etc... are not always clear. • Could be webinars, workshops, etc... • Possibility for existing members to attend to refresh understanding (Secretariat + Members + Commissions) • Program should be distributed in a way that even grassroots level people can understand so that they feel equipped to provide feedback e.g: booklets, summaries, brochures, visual aids, etc... (Secretariat + Members) • Need for regional database of experts we can contact for help with projects. Focal point in regional office should be able to advice on this. (Commissions + Members)

Organization		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat needs to facilitate member's understanding of policy, e.g: highlights of what is important/ relevant. • Need for clearer and more frequent communication with members. • Secretariat should facilitate communication between members (Secretariat + Members)
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Secretariat & Commissions		
Criteria	Roles	NEEDS
Threats & opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duplication for member's role. • Good relation with international community donors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More networking and open new relations to members. • Provide more support.
IUCN's structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination, support & networking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaching new members to be more involved in IUCN.
Policy & Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract new members. • Raising awareness about IUCN policy. • Facilitate forming national committee and support their work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform new members about IUCN policies with more attention. • Empower national committee and members to take bigger role in policy influencing. • Contribute in defining local policy challenges and convey it to higher level of policy formulation.
Expectations from IUCN		
IUCN's Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with members in defining priority/ challenges for the region. • Raising funds to implement programs. • Involve members to implement projects and build their capacities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More efforts needed to inform new members about programs. • Enhance all members' involvement in their related areas of interest.
Organization		

Attachments

Attachment 1: Mr. Fadi Shraideh Speech- Opening Session.

كلمة السيد فادي الشريدة المدير الإقليمي لغرب آسيا في الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة

المُلتقى الإقليمي الثامن لحماية الطبيعة لمنطقة غرب آسيا

2015/11/10

عمان - الأردن

دولة الدكتور عبدالله النصور رئيس الوزراء الأكرم،

معالي الدكتور طاهر الشخشير وزير البيئة الأكرم،

سعادة السيد زانج زيشنغ رئيس الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة المحترم،

سعادة السيدة إنجر آنديرسن مدير عام الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة المحترمة،

أصحاب العطفة والسعادة،

السيدات والسادة الأكارم،

لسلام عليكم ورحمة وبركتكم،،،،

يسرني أن أرحب بكم في المُلتقى الإقليمي الثامن لحماية الطبيعة لمنطقة غرب آسيا الذي ينظمه الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة/ المكتب الإقليمي لغرب آسيا بالشراكة مع وزارة البيئة في الأردن، متوجهاً بدايةً بامتتاني لدولة الدكتور عبدالله النصور رئيس الوزراء في المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية على تفضله برعاية هذا المُلتقى في عمان والتي نتشرف أيضاً باستضافتها للمكتب الإقليمي لغرب آسيا في الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة منذ إنشاء هذا المكتب في عام 2004، مما يدلُّ على اهتمام المملكة بقضايا حماية الطبيعة واستدامتها ودعمها للمؤسسات الدولية والإقليمية الناشطة في هذا المجال. كما أتقدم بخالص شكرٍ لمعالي الدكتور طاهر الشخشير وزير البيئة في الأردن على دعمه لهذا المُلتقى وما أبدته وزارة البيئة من أوجه مُشركة للشراكة الحقيقية مع الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة في تنظيم المُلتقى وجعله فرصة مثالية لتبادل الخبرات وتنسيق الجهود الإقليمية في مجال حماية الطبيعة.

كما أرجو الحضور الكريم أن يسمح لي بالترحيب بالسيد زانج زيشنغ رئيس الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة والسيدة إنجر آنديرسن مدير عام الاتحاد وتقدير حرصهما على المشاركة في هذا المُلتقى مما يعكس العناية الكبيرة التي يوليها الاتحاد لأهمية حماية الطبيعة في إقليم غرب آسيا وسعيه للتواصل المستمر مع كافة الشركاء والمعنيين في هذا الإقليم للوصول إلى حلول فعالة لما يواجهه هذا الإقليم من تحديات بيئية.

أما أنتم أيها المشاركون الكرام، فما كان هذا المُلتقى إلا لكم وما يحقق غايته إلا بكم فمرحباً بشاركتكم وتوقاً لتفاعلكم مع ما سيُطرح في أيامه الثلاثة من قضايا غدت اليوم ملحّة أكثر من أي وقت مضى من أجل تحقيق تنمية اجتماعية واقتصادية مستدامة ومتوافقة مع احتياجات النظم البيئية ومُحافظةٍ عليها ومُورثةٍ لها للأجيال القادمة. ما اجتماعنا هذا إلا إيمانٌ منا بأنه إن كان ثمة عصاً سحرية

لتحويل التحديات إلى فرصٍ نُمُو وازدهار فإنما تكون تلك التي تحمل بصماتٍ جميع المعنيين، وما هذه الرعاية الكريمة من دولة رئيس الوزراء والدعم الكبير من معالي وزير البيئة وهذا الحضور المتميز من دُول المنطقة إلا تعبيرٌ فعليٌّ عن إدراكِ دُولنا لما تواجههُ الطبيعة في منطقتنا من تحديات ورغبة بجعل "العصا السحرية" شجرةً مثمرةً وارفَةً الظلال تُوفّر سُبلَ العيش لنا جميعاً وتحفظ كوكبنا وخيراته وتُثَمِّها لمن سيأتي بَعْدنا. فكمّا تتجاوز مسؤوليتنا نحو الطبيعة الحدود المكانية فإنها أيضاً لا تَقِفُ عند زَمَننا الحاضر.

دولة الرئيس، معالي وزير البيئة، السيد زانج زِنْشَنغ، السيدة إنجر آنْدِرْسِن، أصحاب العطفة والسعادة، الحضور الكريم...

نلتقي اليوم في إطار عنوان كبير هو "خُلُول طبيعية مُبتكرة مُحَفَّزة على التغيير" مُدركين أن الاتجاهات السائدة في التعامل مع الطبيعة لا يمكن لها أن تستمر وأنه لا بد من إيجاد حلول مبتكرة للضغوط التي تتعرض لها الطبيعة والمتمثلة في إقليمنا هذا بما يلي:

- عدم مراعاة النظم البيئية الهشة لدى إدارة الأراضي.
- الممارسات الزراعية غير المستدامة.
- الزحف الحَضْرِي والاتجاهات الاقتصادية الحديثة.
- التغيرات المجتمعية العميقة.
- السياسات والخيارات الاستراتيجية المُركَّزة على الإنتاج والملكيّات الخاصة للموارد الطبيعية كالمياه والأراضي والمؤدية في حالات عديدة إلى استنزاف هذه الموارد كمّاً ونوعاً.
- العوامل المناخية المُفاقمة لتأثيرات الممارسات غير القويمة.

وللتعامل مع هذه الضغوط سعى الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة من خلال أعضائه وسُكْرَتَارِيته ومفوضياته والشراكات التي عقدها لإحداث تغيير إيجابي يقوم على بناء المعرفة واستخدامها وتحسين السياسات على المستويين الوطني والإقليمي وعَرْض نَجاعة ما نتوصل له نحن وشركاؤنا من حلولٍ لتحديات حماية الطبيعة والتنمية.

وقد أدركنا في الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة أن حماية الطبيعة والتنمية صِنُوان لا يَفْتَرقان فَسَعَيْنَا إلى حَثِّ المجتمعات في مختلف دول العالم ومساعدتها على حماية سلامة الطبيعة وتنوعها وضمان استخدام الموارد الطبيعية بأُنصافٍ ومراعاةٍ لاحتياجات النظم البيئية. ونحن في المكتب الإقليمي لغرب آسيا في الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة نُوجِّه جهودنا في دول المنطقة ضمن ثلاثة محاور هي تقدير الطبيعة وصونها، والحوكمة الفعالة والمُنصفة لاستخدامات الطبيعة، وتعميم حلول لتحديات المناخ والغذاء والتنمية تقوم على الطبيعة وذلك من خلال أربعة برامج هي:

1. برنامج المياه والتغير المناخي
 2. برنامج المناطق المحمية والتراث العالمي والأعمال والتنوع الحيوي
 3. برنامج إدارة المناطق البحرية والساحلية
 4. برنامج الأراضي الجافة وسُبل العيش والنوع الاجتماعي
- وهذه ليست مجرد برامج عمل بل هي في ذات الوقت تمثيْلٌ عملي لنهج اتَّبعناه عِمادُهُ تبادل المعارف والتعلم المشترك بين الأعضاء وبناء القدرات المالية والبشرية للمؤسسات الوطنية والمحلية وتوفير الدعم والبيئة المُمكنة لنجاح هذه البرامج واستدامتها سعياً لحشد الطاقات المجتمعية الهائلة في دول المنطقة كي تشارك مشاركة فعالة في صون التنوع الحيوي والتنمية المستدامة وتقليل الفقر وزيادة

الرّفاه الاجتماعي وُصولاً إلى الغاية المنشودة وهي وقف فقدان التنوع الحيوي وحمايته وتعزيز المرونة أمام التغيرات والتحديات وتمتين الإنصاف في الاستفادة من خيارات الطبيعة ومكتسبات التنمية.

يتألف اسم اتحادنا من ثلاثة عناصر رئيسية هي: (1) الطبيعة، (2) الحماية، (3) الاتحاد الدولي. وبعد أن تناولتْ نَهْجَنَا في حماية الطبيعة اسمحو لي أن أُنَظِّقَ بإيجاز لما استَجَدُّ على واقع الإطار المؤسسي الذي نعمل من خلاله على هذه الحماية في إقليم غرب آسيا. فكما في الأقاليم الأخرى يقوم عملنا في غرب آسيا على مفهوم "الاتحاد"، أي أن أعضاءنا هم أساس عملنا مما يدفعنا دوماً للسعي إلى زيادة عدد الأعضاء من أجل تحقيق غايتين رئيسيتين هما:

1. توسيع النطاق الجغرافي للمناطق التي نُنفِذُ بها أنشطتنا وبالتالي زيادة أعداد المجتمعات والنظم البيئية المُنتفِعة من جهودنا.
 2. توفير إضافة نوعية للخبرات التي نستفيد منها في تنفيذ مشروعاتنا لتعظيم النتائج التي نسعى لتحقيقها.
- في هذا العام ارتفع عددُ أعضائنا إلى خمسة وخمسين عضواً مقارنة بأربعة وأربعين في العام الماضي ونسعى للوصول بهذا الرقم إلى خمسة وستين عضواً في العام القادم بإذن الله تعالى. وقد انعكس هذا النمو في عدد الأعضاء على إنجازاتنا إذ نقوم مع شركائنا حالياً بتنفيذ أكثر من ثلاثين مشروعاً في دول الإقليم من خلال شراكات تمثل كافة المعنيين بقضايا الحماية في هذه الدول. كما تجاوزَ عددُ الداعمين لهذه المشروعات عشرين منظمة إقليمية ودولية مثل الاتحاد الأوروبي والوكالات التابعة للأمم المتحدة و DROSOS و MAVA والمؤسسات الحكومية وغيرها. وانعكس كل ذلك على عدد موظفي المكتب والذي أصبح خلال هذا العام ثمانية عشر موظفاً مقارنة بسبع موظفين في عام 2013.

السيدات والسادة الأكارم...

لن أباغ إذا قلتُ إنَّ العناصر الثلاثة التي يتألف منها اسم الاتحاد هي ما يجمعنا في هذا المُلتقى: الطبيعة، الحماية، الاتحاد الدولي. وهي معاً -أي الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة- تُشكِّل ما نحن بصدد مناقشته خلال هذه الأيام الثلاثة. ف رؤية الاتحاد للأعوام العشرة القادمة وبرنامجه العام خلال الأعوام من 2017 إلى 2020 وبرامجه المواضيعية في دول إقليم غرب آسيا وسُبلَ تمثينه وحوكمته وملاحظات أعضائه وتقارير مفوضياته هي المحاور الأساسية لهذا المُلتقى وهي الرّوافع التي نسعى من خلالها إلى تعزيز جهودنا في حماية الطبيعة وجعلها أولوية في الأجندات والسياسات الوطنية والإقليمية والدولية. أخيراً فإن هذا المُلتقى يأتي في سياق إيمان الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة والمكتب الإقليمي لغرب آسيا أن التواصل أمرٌ أساسي للنجاح في إيلاء ما تستحقه الطبيعة وتستدعيه جهودُ حمايتها من اهتمام وحشد للطاقات والموارد.

ختاماً أجدد شكري لدولة الدكتور عبدالله النصور رئيس الوزراء على رعايته الكريمة لهذا المُلتقى ولمعالي الدكتور طاهر الشخشير وزير البيئة على دعمه الكبير للملتقى والمساهمة الفعالة لوزارة البيئة في تنظيمه. وأشكرُ كلَّ من ساهم في ترتيبات عقد المُلتقى من زملائي في المكتب الإقليمي لغرب آسيا في الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة وشركائنا في وزارة البيئة وكافة المؤسسات الشريكة على ما بذلوه من جهود. وأتقدم بتقديري لسعادة السيد زانج زيشنغ رئيس الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة والسيدة إنجر أندرسن مدير عام الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة المحترمة على حرصهما على المشاركة في هذا المُلتقى. أما أنتم أيها المشاركون الأكارم فلکم بالغ التقدير على حضوركم ومساهماتكم، وأرجو لكم نقاشات مثمرة وإقامة طيبة في الأردن.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة اللّٰه وبركاته،،،

Attachment 2: Dr. Taher Al Shakhshir Speech- Opening Session.

كلمة معالي الدكتور طاهر الشخشير وزير البيئة الأكرم

المُلتقى الإقليمي الثامن لحماية الطبيعة لمنطقة غرب آسيا

2015/11/10

عمان - الأردن

سمو الاميرة بسمة بنت علي،،

سعادة السيد زانج زيشنغ رئيس الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة المحترم،

سعادة السيدة إنجر أندرسن مدير عام الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة المحترمة،،

أصحاب المعالي،،

السيدات والسادة،،

الحضور الكرام،،

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

إسبحوا لي أولاً أن أرحب بكم جميعاً في الأردن وانقل لكم جمعياً تحيات دولة رئيس الوزراء الدكتور عبد الله النسور الذي شرفني برعاية هذا المؤتمر مندوباً عن دولته متمنياً لكم النجاح والتوفيق.

كما يشرفني أن يقام هذا المُلتقى الإقليمي الهام بحضوركم. فالأردن بتوجيهات من جلالة الملك عبدالله الثاني المعظم حريص على دعم كل المبادرات التي تهدف للحفاظ على البيئة محلياً وإقليمياً وعالمياً والتعاون مع المنظمات الدولية العاملة في مجال حماية الطبيعة وذلك لإيماننا بأن التعاون والتواصل كفيلاً لحل أعقد تحديات الطبيعة. كيف لا والطبيعة ذاتها نظام قائم على التناسق والتناغم بين عناصرها! ومن أبرز الأمثلة شراكتنا مع الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة - المكتب الإقليمي لغرب آسيا. وما تنظيم هذا المُلتقى إلا أحد أشكال التعاون وتلك الشراكة.

ويمثل هذا المُلتقى الذي يتم تنظيمه بالشراكة مع الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة وقفه جادة أمام التحديات الخطيرة التي تواجه الطبيعة ومقوماتها ليس في المنطقة فحسب بل في العالم أجمع للحفاظ على هذا الكوكب وبيئته الحيوية والتي تعد من أهم شروط بقاء الإنسان واستمراره وديمومة الحياة فيه.

هذه هي الرسالة التي يجب أن نحملها جميعاً وننشرها ونُعرّف الناس بها كي نضمن دعمهم ومشاركتهم في الحفاظ على مواردنا لأبنائنا وأحفادنا والأجيال القادمة. وعلينا أن ندعمها بالتوعية والتعليم البيئي لإيجاد جيل مؤمن بالطبيعة مدفوعاً بحُبها وليس مجرد الالتزام بتعليمات الحفاظ عليها.

السيدات والسادة،،

الحضور الكرام،،

تتمثل أهم التحديات التي تواجه الطبيعة في منطقتنا وفي غيرها في الاستهلاك غير المتوازن لمواردها الطبيعية والإفراط في إطلاق المخلفات والملوثات المختلفة مع غياب السياسات والخطط القادرة على تحقيق التوازن بين الإنتاج والاستهلاك من جهة واعتبارات الاستدامة البيئية من جهة أخرى، ناهيك عن ضعف الدافع الذاتي لمراعاة هذا التوازن و الاهتمام به يتحقق من خلال تعزيز التواصل وإلهام الجيل الجديد لتبني أنماط سلوكية في حياتهم المهنية المستقبلية وحياتهم الشخصية يمارسون فيها عوامل التوازن بين الطبيعة والتنمية واستدامة النظام البيئي.

لقد نهضت وزارة البيئة بأعباء حماية الطبيعة الأردنية وعملت جاهدة منذ سنين لتطوير القوانين والأنظمة والتشريعات الوطنية لتوفر أفضل الركائز لحماية البيئة وعناصرها، كما عملت على التطوير المؤسسي والعلمي لبنيتها بما يتوافق مع تطبيقها لنظم الرقابة الفاعلة على كافة الأنشطة الملوثة للبيئة، وساعية للحفاظ على مكوناتها وعناصرها والحفاظ على نوعية المياه والهواء والتربة ومجابهة مظاهر التصحر والجفاف والتغيرات المناخية والحفاظ على التراث الطبيعي والتنوع الحيوي وحماية الغطاء النباتي. كذلك سعينا لتطوير النظم الوطنية للإدارة المتكاملة والسليمة للمواد الكيماوية الخطرة، واجتهدنا في نشر الوعي والثقافة البيئية لكافة طبقات المجتمع وإشراك المجتمع ليتبني دوراً فاعلاً في حماية البيئة، ساعين بجدية وإخلاص ليكون الاردن بيئة صحية وآمنة للحياة المستدامة.

وتعمل وزارة البيئة باستمرار على معالجة أية ثغرات في التشريعات البيئية أو التي قد تنشأ نتيجة احتياجات مستجدة. وتسعى من خلال هذه التشريعات إلى تشديد العقوبات على المخالفين لتتناسب مع الأثر البيئي الذي يسببونه، ونحن في ذلك نتشاور مع المؤسسات المعنية بالبيئة والتي نسعى لتمكينها وبناء قدراتها عبر صندوق البيئة الذي تأتي موارده من المخالفات البيئية ورسوم التراخيص والسماح بإعادة تصدير بعض المواد.

كذلك فقد وضعنا نظاماً لتقييم الأثر البيئي لكافة أنواع المنشآت والمشاريع التنموية للتحقق المسبق من أن منتجاتها لن تسبب أضراراً للبيئة، جاعلين ذلك شرطاً للترخيص. كما أولينا قضية التغير المناخي اهتماماً خاصاً فبدأنا بمشاريع كبيرة مع مؤسسات مثل المركز الثقافي الملكي وشركة البترا كي تتحول إلى استخدام مواد رفيقة بالبيئة وذلك بدعم من مؤسسات دولية مثل الوكالة الألمانية والوكالة الفرنسية والـ USAID.

وانطلاقاً من اعتبارين وجيهين هما أن الجزء الأكبر من الموازنة في المملكة يذهب إلى استيراد البترول ودعم الكهرباء وضرورة حماية البيئة ومواردها الطبيعية كان لا بد من تفعيل بدائل للطاقة للتوفير على الخزينة وعلى المواطن الأردني. ومن هنا انطلق توجه الحكومة نحو الطاقة البديلة والطاقة النظيفة، حيث أطلق في صيف هذا العام مشروع توليد الكهرباء من الطاقة الشمسية في منطقة معان في جنوب المملكة، وقدمت الحكومة تسهيلات وإعفاءات للمستثمرين في هذه الطاقة المتجددة حيث صدر نظام خاص لاستخدام الطاقة البديلة والاستفادة منها. كذلك بدأت عدة دوائر حكومية باستغلال الطاقة الشمسية لتوليد الكهرباء في مبانيها.

السيدات والسادة...

اسمحوا لي أخيراً أن أتوقف عند عنوان الملتقى الاقليمي الثامن لحماية الطبيعة وهو "حلول طبيعية مُبتكرة مُحفزة على التغيير". فلماذا كان هذا العنوان للملتقى وما أهميته؟ لقد وُضع على هذا النحو كي يذكرنا بأن الحلول للتحديات البيئية التي نواجهها

اليوم ليست فقط موجهة نحو الطبيعة بل هي تأتي من الطبيعة ذاتها بما فيها من قدرات ظاهرة وكامنة تمكنها من البقاء، وهي قدرات تستدعي منا التغيير في تعاملنا معها، ولا يتأتى ذلك إلا من خلال فهم الطبيعة وتقديرها وتخفيف وطأتنا السلوكية عليها وذلك بالإدارة التشاركية الرشيدة. وما عدا ذلك فلنتركه لها فهي كفيلة بالتجدد وبتزويدنا بما نحتاج اليه من غذاء وماء ومدخلات إنتاج. وأنا على ثقة بأننا سنضع هذه المعادلة السهلة الممتعة نُصَب أعيننا خلال جلسات هذا الملحق.

وفي الختام أتوجه بشكري وتقديري لكافة المشاركين والمنظمين من الاتحاد الدولي لحماية الطبيعة ووزارة البيئة من خبراء ومختصين ومهندسين وإداريين وأشد على أيديهم وأدعوهم الي تقديم المزيد من الجهود للوصول إلى مستقبل أفضل للطبيعة والإنسان في دول منطقتنا.

وفقنا الله في خدمة وطننا بطل راعي المسيرة سيدي صاحب الجلالة الملك عبد الله الثاني حفظه الله ورعاه.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Attachment 3: Agenda

**IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional
Office for West Asia (ROWA)**

**Under the Patronage of His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Ensour, the
Prime Minister of Jordan**

In partnership with Ministry of Environment of Jordan

**IUCN West Asia 8th Regional Conservation
Forum (RCF)**

Innovative Natural Solutions

Motivating Change

10 – 12 November 2015

InterContinental Hotel

Amman, Jordan

DAILY PROGRAMME

Day 1

10 November, 2015

08:30 – 09:15

Registration of Delegates

SESSION ONE:

09:15 – 10:00

Opening Session

Master of Ceremony: Ms. Hana Al Araj

09:15 – 09:20

Address of Welcome

Mr. Mohammed Zaarour, IUCN Jordan National Committee Chair

09:20 – 09:30

RCF introduction and objectives

Mr. Fadi Al Shraideh, IUCN West Asia Regional Director

09:30 – 09:40

Keynote Address

Ms. Inger Andersen, IUCN Director General

09:40 – 09:50

Keynote Address

Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President

09:50 – 10:00

Keynote Speech

His Excellency Dr. Taher Al Shakhashir, Minister of Environment, Jordan

10:00 – 10:15

VIP Speech

His Excellency Dr. Abdalla Ensour, Prime Minister, Jordan

10:15 – 11:30

Exhibition Opening

11:30 – 12:00

Coffee break

SESSION TWO:

12:00 – 12:50

Director General's Presentation: Vision for IUCN

Inger Andersen, IUCN Director General

12:50 – 13:00

Conservation Status in Jordan

Eng. Raed Bani Hani, Director of Nature Protection Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Jordan

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch at Al Badia 1-2

SESSION THREE:

14:00 – 14:30

IUCN programme 2017 – 2020

IUCN ROWA

14:30 – 15:00

IUCN ROWA Programme Priorities (Situation Analysis)

IUCN ROWA

15:00 – 16:00

IUCN ROWA Programme presentations

Water and Climate Change

Mr. Mufleh Al Abbadi

Dryland, Livelihoods & Gender

Ms. Fida Haddad

16:00 – 16:15

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00

Marine & Coastal Zone Management

Mr. Ziad Samaha

Protected Areas & Biodiversity

Dr. Hany El Saher

17:00 – 17:15

Wrap up and conclusion

20:00 – 22:30

Dinner hosted by the Ministry of Environment

At Al Riwaq – Intercontinental Hotel

Day 2

11 November, 2015

SESSION Four:

08:30 – 10:00

IUCN World Conservation Congress

Dr. Enrique Lahmann

**World Conservation Forum
Members Assembly**

General information about the Congress, including key deadlines and criteria/process for being a sponsored delegate;

Possibilities for Members to get involved in the World Conservation Forum. IUCN Awards

Q&A

10:00 – 10:45

Revised Motions Process

10:45 – 11:30

Governance Consultations

- Indigenous People's Organisations
- Local and Regional Governments and Authorities
- Authority of Council
- Election of President

11:30 – 11:45

Coffee break

11:45 – 13:00

Feedback from members on IUCN 2017-2020 Programme

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch at Al Badia 1-2

14:30 – 16:00

IUCN Commissions Reports

World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)

Mr. Antonio Benjamin (Skype)

Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

Mr. Firas Abd-Alhadi

Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

Dr. Said Damhoureyeh

Species Survival Commission (SSC)

Mr. Pritpal Soorae

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

Mr. Maher Mahjoub

16:00 – 16:15

Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:00

Wrap up and conclusion

20:00 – 22:30

Dinner hosted by IUCN at Burj Al Hamam restaurant

Day 3

12 November 2015

SESSION Five:

08:30 – 10:30

Framework of Action to Strengthen the Union

Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee Break

Session Six:

10:45 – 13:30

Plenary Meeting – IUCN Governance - Members Business

Chair: Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz

IUCN Committees Presentations

IUCN Regional Committee for West Asia

IUCN ROWA Jordan National Committee; Mr. Mohammed Zaarour

IUCN ROWA Lebanon National Committee; Mr. Zaher Redwan

IUCN ROWA Kuwait National Committee; Dr. Samira Omar

IUCN governance issues (improvements / reforms / amendments to statutes)

13:30 - 14:30

Lunch at the main restaurant

Session Seven

14:30 – 15:15

Concurrent Working Groups (Members Only Meeting)

(Secretariat Staff will not attend unless called in for any assistance)

15:15 – 16:15

Members Only Plenary Meeting

This members' session should be based on discussions held during the parallel meetings, to make decisions and recommendations *(Secretariat Staff will not attend unless called in for any assistance)*

(a) Nominations and Elections for the Next Intersessional Period

(b) Appointing a Representative for Closing Remarks in the Final Plenary

16:15 – 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30 – 17:15	Introduction of Candidates for Elections in the 2016 Congress (Candidates)
17:15 – 17:30	Closing Remarks by a Representative of the Membership (As appointed by Members)
17:30 – 17:35	Closing Remarks by the Hosts
17:35 – 17:45	Vote of thanks
20:00 – 22:00	Dinner at Al – Badia 1&2

Day 4

13 November 2015

Excursion Day

Ajloun Forest Reserve

08:30	Departure from InterContinental Hotel
10:00	Arrived at Ajloun Forest Reserve
14:00	Lunch at Ajloun reserve
16:00	Return back to InterContinental Hotel