

**SALTO-Youth Euro-Med Resource Center and
the Jordan Euro-Med National Coordinator**

WATER EDUCATION SEMINAR

24th – 30th April 2004

Jordan



Prepared by:

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CYPRUS**



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INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS SALTO-YOUTH?

SALTO-YOUTH stands for Support and Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities within the European YOUTH program. SALTO-YOUTH.net is a network of 8 Resource Centers working on European priority areas within the youth field. It provides youth work and training resources and organizes training and contact-making activities to support organizations and National Agencies within the frame of the European Commission's [YOUTH program](#) and beyond. SALTO-YOUTH's history started in 2000 and is part of the European Commission's [Training Strategy](#) within the YOUTH program, and works in synergy and complementarily with other partners in the field.

The [SALTO EuroMed Resource Centre](#) is a partner in the EuroMed Partnership agreement between the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

BACKGROUND TO THE WATER EDUCATION SEMINAR

Water is one of the most important resources we have on earth. Some claim it to be one of the biggest challenges of the 21st Century. If we do not better manage this resource, consequences on our ecosystems, but also on political stability will be inevitable and irreparable. The topic of water was examined as a key issue for peace and sustainable development. These are the issues which have been tackled during this seminar and have been related them to the participants' experiences in youth work. Jordan has been chosen to host this activity as it belongs to the ten countries with the least water resources on the world.



This "itinerant" training seminar, organized by the SALTO Youth EuroMed Resource Center in cooperation with the Jordanian National Coordinator, intended to raise participants' awareness on this issue and enable them to reflect on an educational approach to water use and respect, by sharing and discovering good practices from different regions of Jordan. The «traveling» aspect of this seminar made it original: taking place throughout Jordan, from Amman, to Irbid and Umm Qais in the north, to the eastern desert, to the west at the Jordan River banks and the Dead Sea.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

"WITHOUT NEEDS, NO OBJECTIVES AND WITHOUT TRAINING, NO QUALITY."

This course aimed at exchanging and sharing of good practices in the field of the educational management of water.

The following concrete objectives had been set in order to reach the aims as described above:

- To explore and discover Jordan's water situation from environmental, historical and traditional point of views;
- To tackle political, economical, sociological and environmental questions with experts and NGOs relating to the water situation in Jordan
- To compare different approaches to the water issues in other countries;
- To provide educational support and time for the participants to share their own experiences and knowledge;

- To support the intercultural exchange between participants;
- To allocate space for the participants to develop project ideas.

METHODOLOGY

The course was based on the principles and practice of non-formal education and was conceived according to a learner-centered approach based on active and interactive methods. Participants had to self organize part of the activities and thus take a personal responsibility for their learning process. They were exposed to an experiential learning experience. The training course proposed several situations to share their practices, to test tools and methods, to analyze and to produce common material.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

The course program addressed the following elements:

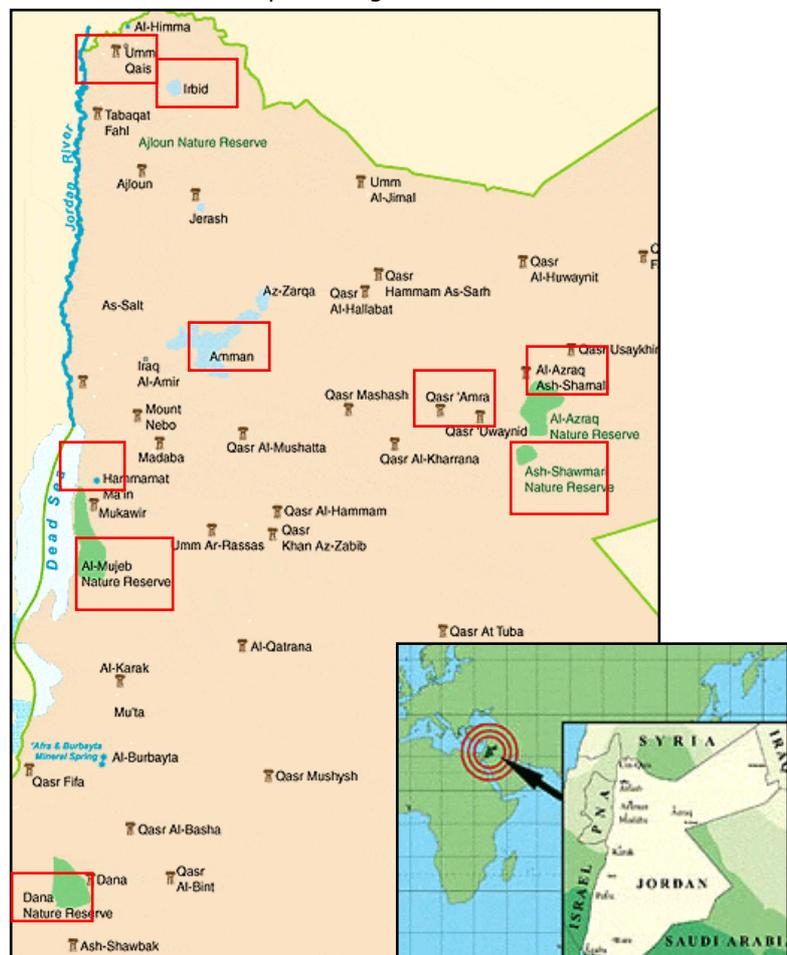
- Why EuroMed co-operation projects?
- Group dynamics;
- Introduction to and definitions of the "Educational Management of Water";
- Exploration of the local environment according to the topic;
- Sharing on good practices and experiences;
- Testing and evaluation of the activities;
- Partnership between participants' organizations;
- Overall evaluation of the course

SPECIFICITY OF THIS SEMINAR

This was an "itinerant" seminar. Participants moved to different places thus being shown good examples of what is done in Jordan. One specific aspect of this seminar tackled the political situation. A chance to arrive at peace took as a starting point these daily activities. Via common resources essential with any life, and in particular drinking water, the cultures in conflict share a universal interest. Water is extremely rare in this area. Its scarcity is accentuated year by year.

The program included several visits, interventions and workshops throughout the week:

- Water and Irrigation Ministry, Amman
- Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid
- Water management of the Yarmouk River
- Jordan Valley water facilities
- Water natural reserves managed by the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature
- Water resources of the Dead Sea



PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

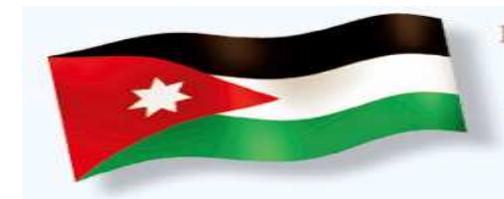
The course was intended to be an opportunity for further training for youth workers and youth leaders who:

- Were experienced in the YOUTH Program and / or the EuroMed YOUTH Program.
- Had experience in the educational management of water, as trainer, youth worker or volunteer.
- Were ready to take the challenges that the exploration of an unknown space presents.
- Were committed to prepare themselves for the working subjects, previous to their arrival and to do the remote work requested by the team in case of selection;
- Had the willingness to cooperate and create together during the training course;
- Were strongly motivated to develop a project within the EuroMed YOUTH Program as result of the course, to provide the group with their own experiences and educational material.
- Were able to physically follow the rhythm of the seminar: changing places, traveling, walking, trekking, swimming, etc.
- Were motivated to undergo training and able to attend the course for its full duration;
- Were able to communicate and work in at least one of the two working languages of this training course (English, French);
- Were resident in a member state of the European Union or in a Mediterranean country signatory to the Barcelona Declaration.
- Twenty trainees participated. There were seven male participants, four from European countries and three from MEDA. There were thirteen female participants, seven from European countries and six from MEDA. For the first time in SALTO training courses, European participants were mainly from northern European countries

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Sunday 24 th	Monday 25 th	Tuesday 26 th	Wednesday 27 th	Thursday 28 th	Friday 29 th	Saturday 30 th
<p>Team meeting</p> <p>Arrival of Participants</p> <p>Preparation NGOs Exhibition</p>	<p>09:00-09:15 - Welcoming by the Deputy of Water Ministry</p> <p>09:15-10:30 - Water Situation in Jordan (Different aspects)</p> <p>10:30-11:00 - Break</p> <p>11:00-12:00 - Visiting a Water Harvest Project</p>	<p>07:00-08:00 Breakfast</p> <p>08:00-09:00 Departure to Azraq</p> <p>09:30-11:30 - Visiting Qasr Amra Desert Castle</p> <p>12:30 Arriving Azraq</p>	<p>07:30 -08:00 Optional (bird watching)</p> <p>08:00-09:00 Breakfast</p> <p>09:00-11:00 Field visit of the reserve (Safari)</p> <p>11:00 - Departure to Irbid</p>	<p>08:00-09:00 Breakfast</p> <p>- Heading to Jadara (the borders of Syria, Israel and Jordan)</p> <p>- Visiting a Jordanian Farm</p> <p>- Water conflict workshop</p>	<p>07:00-08:00 Breakfast</p> <p>Visiting Mujeb reserve Presentation by RSCN</p> <p>08:30-10:30 - Siq Trail (walking and swimming)</p> <p>Heading to Fenan Lodge</p>	<p>08:00-09:00 Breakfast</p> <p>09:00-11:00 Future Cooperation</p> <p>11:00 -12:30 Follow Up and Evaluation</p> <p>Back to Amman</p>
14 :00- 15 :00 Lunch	13 :30 -14 :30 Lunch at Wild Jordan	13 :00-14 :30 Lunch Box	13 :00-14 :30 Lunch in Irbid	14 :00-15 :00 Lunch	14:00-15:30 Lunch at Fenan Lodge	13 :30-15 :00 Lunch
<p>18 :00-20:00</p> <p>Opening: - - Presentation of the team & participants</p> <p>- Aims & objectives - Preparation of the NGOs Exhibition</p>	<p>- 14:30 -16:30 (Workshop) Water Education program in Jordan and other countries.</p> <p>16:30 back to the hotel</p> <p>17:00-18:00 NGOs Exhibition Exchanges of NGO practices</p>	<p>- Importance of Azraq reserved presented by RSCN - Visit the Guest centre presentation and tour inside the reserve</p> <p>- Heading to Shomari reserve</p>	<p>15:00-16:00 - Visiting a water project at JUST (Jordan University of Science and Technology)</p> <p>16:30-18:00 - Workshop (Initiation with Jordanian teaching equipment on education with water)</p>	<p>- Workshop</p> <p>- Free Time at the Dead Sea</p>	<p>16:00-18:00</p> <p>- Ecosystem management of the Dead Sea workshop by RSCN</p>	Free Time in Amman
20:00 dinner	20:00 dinner	20:00 dinner	20:00 Dinner in Irbid	20:00 dinner at the Dead Sea	20:00 dinner in the Fenan Lodge	20:00 Farewell party

DAILY ACTIVITIES

DAY ONE: SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH

The participants were asked to write their expectations of the Seminar on sticky notes, which were then placed on a flipchart. Following are what some participants expressed.

EXPECTATIONS

I'm afraid of

- "Holding too much luggage
- Not having the right shoes
- Being tired
- That my roommate snores like a dog"

I came to this seminar because...

- "I would like to be active
- Gain knowledge and experience, making friends
- To learn and meet people from different cultures
- New partners
- Some ideas about your nature
- Get more information
- To learn how to use water issues on youth projects
- To learn about water education tools
- The subject deals with the most important natural resources in a practical and interactive way
- The subject is international, it concerns my interest, it helps me with my water project
- Water is life
- Find partner for Action 2 projects
- For the topic of the seminar but because the cultural exchange and new teachings
- I like to know more about the Med region and Jordan."



I would like to take home

- "Facts about water situation and politics in the world
- Good memory about Jordan
- Partnership and future projects
- Logistics for my water project
- To produce 2nd water project for young people
- How to educate youth about water issues in Jordan
- Some helpful documents
- Knowledge, new partnership and friendship
- Material on water education to be used in Jordan
- My new water pipe
- New ideas for my work"



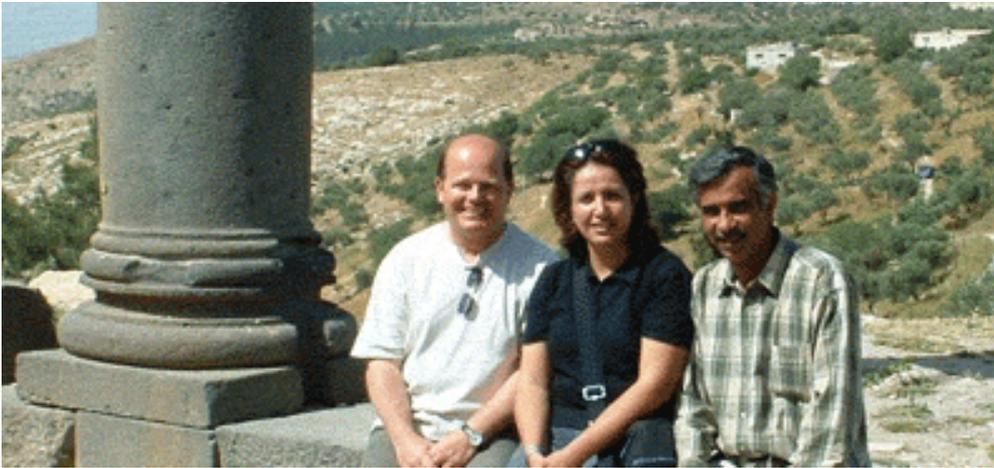
After the Expectations exercise, the participants interviewed each other, thus getting to know each other better.

PRESENTATION OF THE TRAINERS

✿ Bernard ABRIGNANI,
Coordinator of the SALTO-Youth Euro-Med Resource Center, France

✿ Sahar AL FAYEZ,
National Coordinator, Euro-Med Youth Program, Jordan

✿ Sakher SFOUQ,
Trainer, Mt. Nebo Association, Jordan



DAY TWO: MONDAY, APRIL 25TH

VISIT TO MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION

Meeting with Mr. Saad Bakri, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in Jordan. Some of the topics presented to the

- The widening gap between supply and demand
- The establishment of a comprehensive desalinated brackish water
- Review of legislations and arrangements
- Development of public awareness with need of optimal use.
- Red Sea - Dead Sea project
- Aqaba waste water project
- Wehda Dam project (Feb 2006)
- Jordanian River Karama Dam project
- King Abdallah Canal
- National water master plan



VISITING A WATER HARVEST PROJECT IN GUERIA SCHOOL

Following are some impressions from some of the participants.

- I was impressed by the hospitality and the professionalism of these dedicated teachers. The information acquired was useful and practical.
- I hope all of Jordan will start harvesting water like this school does.
- The school was a real experience! The food, the kids, the song, the act - fantastic.
- When I saw the system they use, I was surprised because they are using technologically developed machines and computers to collect information. For the start, it was good, but they improve their project by using the information they collect.
- It was really nice hosting, and I was glad to meet the students in there. Water Harvest Project in the school is very good project. I am impressed. Education is one of the core things in development, so it was really effective.
- The 'entrance' with the 'shouting' children was very impressive. I felt like a very special guest. Also by the small songs they performed for us, it was interesting to see how youth is active at school with water resources.



Wild Jordan Workshop: WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM IN JORDAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- I think the RSCN is really, really effective and good idea for Jordan. The Jordanians managed a good job. The place was really attractive.
- I was really impressed especially when I saw how they use natural material in the building.
- Very inspiring. I hope to be able to do something like that in my own country.
- What a great idea! The whole 'house'! Amazing how creative you can be with and in nature.

The Horge

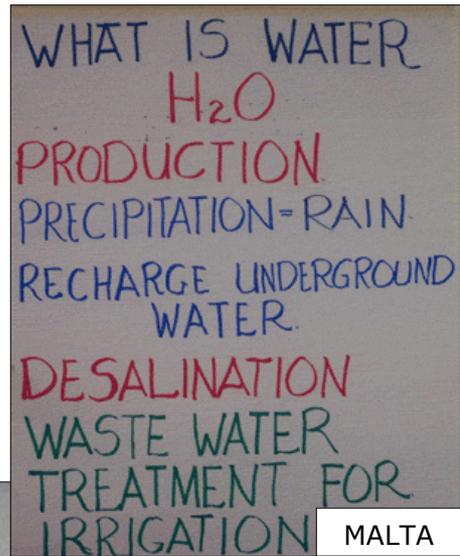
Country	Problem	Solution
Egypt (Jordan)	- fixed amount of water (55,5 BCM) & accelerated population growth	⇒ Legislation & Regulation
Egypt, Jordan	- misuse of water in agricultural sector (flooding irrigation)	⇒ Training for farmers
Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon	- low of public awareness as water as vital environmental element	⇒ Commercial on Awareness
Egypt/Lebanon, Jordan	- water network not well structured	⇒ Partnership
Lebanon, Germany, Netherland	- Pollution through Industrial & Agriculture (Imposex-Syndrom)	⇒ Innovations Research
Netherland, Germany	- Flooding	⇒ Natural Over flowing Areas, Deichs...
Germany	- too much water savings pollute pipes & health	⇒ promotion of (Normal) Use rational
Lebanon, Egypt	- Excessive Use of Water by Tourist & Resorts	⇒ Recycle Water

Jordan: Laila
 Germany: Sabine
 Lebanon: Dalia
 Egypt: Rada
 Netherland: Lut





SWEDEN



MALTA



EGYPT



CYPRUS



FINLAND

DAY THREE: TUESDAY, APRIL 26TH

QASR AMRA

- A must see component to water management history! Excellent!

Called castles because of their imposing stature, the desert complexes actually served various purposes as caravan stations, agriculture and trade centres, resort pavilions and outposts that helped distant rulers forge ties with local Bedouins. Qasr Amra, one of the most preserved castles, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its interior walls and ceilings are covered with lively frescoes, and two of the rooms are paved with colorful mosaics. It was built during the reign of the Caliph Walid I (705-715 CE) as a luxurious bathhouse. It also contained water harvesting and storage facilities.

AL AZRAQ WETLAND RESERVE

Azraq, which means blue in Arabic, is a unique wetland oasis located in the heart of the arid eastern Jordanian desert. It contains several pools, a seasonally flooded marshland, and a large mudflat known as Qa' al Azraq. A variety of birds flock to the reserve each year, stopping for a short rest along their migration routes, staying for the winter, or breeding within the protected areas of the wetland.



The Wetlands with its permanent freshwater and springs, has always been a rich habitat providing sources of livelihood for man and beast. Traditionally was a source of fresh water for Amman, which is the reason why the water level has dramatically fallen, hence reducing the number of migratory birds, which it is able to support. Currently, although drawing of water for Amman is reduced, bore holes in the region drilled for farm irrigation has prevented significant a rise in water level.

The modified trail through the wetland reserve incorporates a stop at a bird watching lookout, and a circular stone structure thought to have been used in olden times for the purification of wetland water for drinking purposes.



Following the participants voice their impressions.

- Useful because I had a look to the place and to remind me how much the water is important to the animals and the birds.
- Good to see that it is possible that 'almost dried up nature areas' can be restored bit by bit.
- I liked visiting the Azrak water Reserve. It's unbelievable that it's now pumping the water to Reserve back from Amman. I was really impressed. I learned many things about the bird tour.

AZRAQ WORKSHOP

Group 1:

Local :

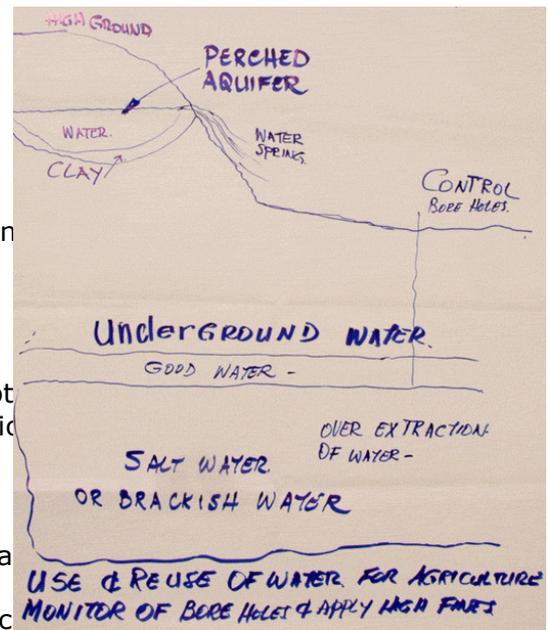
- Clean wastewater with reeds and re-pump it
- Check on wells
- Awareness programs (water cheap plants / green)
- Water harvest at farms

Regional:

- Work on water solution in Amman (look for other solutions, don't spend money on education, science and innovation)
- More waste water cleaning and re-using

Group 2:

- They should put more efforts to provide necessary amount of water under ground
- Rich people (International organizations should control) thus more negotiation should be started
- A summit can be held with the participation of countries (e.g G-8) to discuss the matter under sustainable development issues
- Apart from being a good, effective concept, it must be started and implemented



SHAUMARI RESERVE



Created as a breeding centre for endangered or locally extinct wildlife, the Shaumari Reserve is home to some of the most rare species of animals in the Middle East. In this small 22 Km² reserve, you can often see the Arabian Oryx roaming freely in the desert grassland. Ostriches, Gazelles, and Onagers can also be observed in their enclosures. These animals are rebuilding their populations in this safe haven, protected from the hunting and habitat destruction that nearly wiped them out.



- Thanks to the RSCN in Jordan to bring back the wild life as it was before.
- Hopefully their work will continue well, and that the animals are being released into a bigger area. Also sleeping in the tents was fun.
- Such an experience. The tents were so nice and the beds were good! I loved the bird watching. Good food, good venue.
- Included in nature was one of the experiences I gained during the training.



DAY FOUR: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH

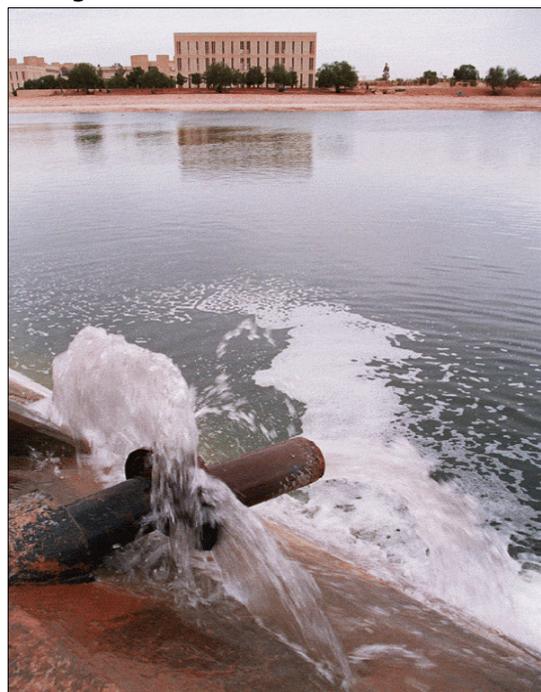
VISIT TO JORDAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

There was a presentation by Dr. Osama Tayseer from the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid. The participants were taken to field visits on and around the University. They were given a presentation of the research being conducted in the field of water reclamation, agricultural irrigation systems and 'the water-friendly crop selection'.



The participants' views.

- Comprehensive explanations and tours to back-up the theoretical presentations. Very informative and reassuring that something is being researched.
- Young people/students active in environmental issues. They did a good job to show us what they were doing.
- Good hosting. Good presentation. Visiting the fields was really useful to get the project.
- It was one of the [most] modern and technically equipped universities that I saw during my studies. I'm really impressed with the work of the Civil Society Development Center.



DAY FIVE: THURSDAY, APRIL 28TH

VISIT TO UMM QAIS, YARMOUK RIVER DIVERSION, KING ABDALLAH CANAL

In the north of Jordan, the participants were taken to Jadara, one of the ancient Greek decapolis, founded by Alexander the Great. Today it is known as Umm Qais, and is located at the borders of Syria, Israel and Jordan. The topic of the day's workshop was Water Conflict.

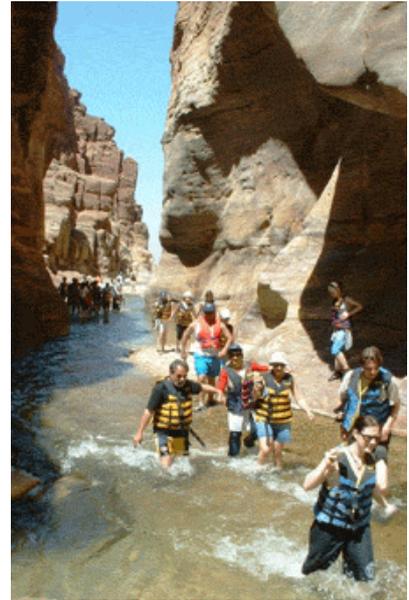


There was also a field visit to the Yarmouk River diversion system, where Jordan, through a treaty, shares the water of the Yarmouk River with the State of Israel. Later on, the group visited the King Abdullah Canal, which transfers fresh water from the Yarmouk all the way down to the Dead Sea.

DAY SIX: FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH

MUJEB RIVER NATURE RESERVE: THE LOWEST RESERVE ON EARTH

Bordering the Dead Sea at 400 meters below sea level, the Mujib Nature Reserve surrounds Wadi Mujib, a deep and majestic canyon that cuts through rugged highlands and drains into the Dead Sea. Seasonal streams flow through many of the wadis, supporting luxurious aquatic plants in the riverbeds. Visitors will be fascinated by Mujib's adventurous, solace, and serenity in a true wilderness environment.



FEYNAN ECO-LODGE



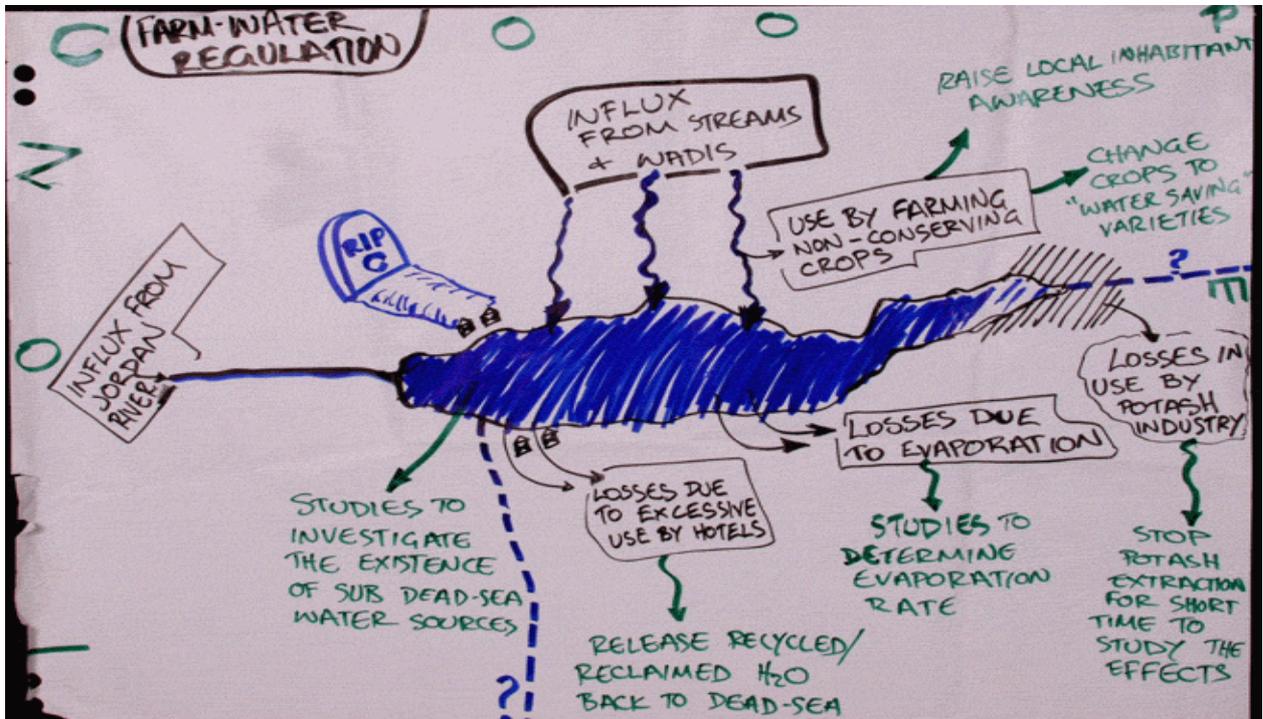
Set among the arid mountains of Wadi Feynan, the Eco-lodge, on the western border of the Dana Nature Reserve, will provide a cool, atmospheric retreat for visitors wishing to explore this undiscovered and archaeologically rich area of Jordan. The lodge has a unique arabesque desert design and uses environment-friendly technologies, including solar and candle power. At night, candles lit most of the Lodge.



THE DEAD SEA

Within the folds of the Jordan Valley lies the Dead Sea, more than 400 m below sea level and the lowest point on earth. The solution is the Peace Canal from Red Sea. This project on a grand scale as water is precious in the region. Because of its scarcity, water is a key to development and survival.

DEAD SEA WORKSHOP ECO-TOURISM



Group 1

Problem:

- Accelerating population growth
- Industrial & agricultural development
- Limited water resources

Solution:

- More eco tourism
- Less agriculture

Group 2

- There is also a solution from the beginning
- Lots of governments and NGOs are supporting the environment
- The countries push the other partners to be more p



Group 3: Save the Dead Sea



Problem:

- Tourism demands a lot of water
- Problem is not caused by agriculture or industrial companies

Raise awareness for tourists:

- Mark travel books with the " water stamp "
- Towels on the floor signs
- Time tabs

No increase in tourism

- Alternative projects for employment
- Dead Sea-Red Sea Canal
- Import Rain dancers from North America (or snow)
- Sustainable Development

DAY SEVEN: SATURDAY, MAY 30TH

FINAL EVALUATION

Presentation of the Team and the Program

- That was very clear and a great start.
- The presentation of the team and program was very well organized. The team was cooperative.
- The Team was really good, and I think it would be better if we can collect more than the countries, which contributed.
- Good.
- I think it was a great organized seminar. Because we checked in/out everyday, it must have been an extra difficult task to get all the logistics well, and this was done great.
- Good.
- I missed the presentation of the Team and Program.
- Unfortunately, I missed the presentation of the Team and Program. But I got information during the training.
- I was absent on this day.

Aims and Objectives

- I was absent on this day, but was filled in adequately by the team members and participants subsequently.
- Good.
- Youth exchange between Europe and the Middle East "water for peace".
- To let the people in the Middle East area know about water problems and conflicts, and hoping that Europe can help the area in such problems.
- Were clear from the preparation, and we almost reached them all.
- They were shown clearly. And I think objectives are suitable for such kind of training.
- I guess we reached and managed many aims and objectives.
- Ok, could also be reflected with the needs and expectations of the participants.
- During the oral evaluation, I understood it was the idea to present everything as a 'big bowl' and that participants had to take out what had their interest. I like this idea, but found it difficult sometimes to get the 'basics' completely understood.

Visit: Ministry of Water

- Very informative and stimulating. A comprehensive presentation of the problems and challenges.
- Very good.
- Well I think they are doing well but sometimes they were far away from the real situation when they were talking about future projects.
- The visit was fruitful, especially for Jordanians to know the suffering of Jordan in water matters.
- Their cooperation is very important for future projects and they must feel important now.
- Very educational.
- First of all, I should emphasize that I wasn't expecting such kind of welcome. They prepared very well and gave us the information about the works the Ministry does.
- The presentation was good.
- Very interesting. I'm only wondering how much of it is political talk and how much is really done. Would be nice to hear the other side as well.
- Good presentation with a lot of figures and facts. Easy to follow and to take notes.

Visit: Water Harvest Project in the school

- I was impressed by the hospitality and the professionalism of these dedicated teachers. The information acquired was useful and practical.
- Good.
- Actually it was really good and I wish them to get advanced.
- I hope all of Jordan will start harvesting water like this school does.
- The school was a real experience! The food, the kids, the song, the act -> fantastic.

- ✿ I did not like that visit because the information given was totally unnecessary and irrelevant to the situation.
- ✿ When I saw the system they use, I was surprised because they are using technologically developed machines and computers to collect information. For the start, it was good, but they improve their project by using the information they collect.
- ✿ It was really nice hosting, and I was glad to meet the students in there. Water Harvest Project in the school is very good project. I am impressed. Education is one of the core things in development, so it was really effective.
- ✿ Interesting, but could also be more about other schools and curriculums as well. Left many questions not answered.
- ✿ The 'entrance' with the 'shouting' children was very impressive. I felt like a very special guest. Also by the small songs they performed for us, it was interesting to see how youth is active at school with water resources. Maybe it was a bit too 'expensive' for a project for just a small selection of people.

Visit: Wild Jordan

- ✿ Excellent surroundings! Excellent workshop!
- ✿ Very good.
- ✿ The project is new and the workers are doing well.
- ✿ What we heard there amused us because of the information we heard the first time.
- ✿ I liked the game with the 'beans'.
- ✿ Such a cool place. Excellent visit!
- ✿ I think the RSCN is really, really effective and good idea for Jordan. The Jordanians managed a good job. The place was really attractive.
- ✿ I was really impressed especially when I saw how they use natural material in the building.
- ✿ Very inspiring. I hope to be able to do something like that in my own country.
- ✿ What a great idea! The whole 'house'! Amazing how creative you can be with and in nature.

Workshop: Water education in Jordan

- ✿ More time was necessary for the participants to absorb and possibly exchange ideas, come up with fresh, new suggestions for practical activities in schools (games/experiments, etc...)
- ✿ Medium.
- ✿ We liked the idea that they are teaching school children about water problems to become aware of the problem.
- ✿ As I mentioned in the oral evaluation, I liked the work in small groups. I felt I could contribute and learn more. Also I was two times with Lela in a small group. She was really skilled and it was interesting to listen to her, but in the 'whole group' she hardly spoke.
- ✿ Ok, could be more practical (less PowerPoint...).
- ✿ In this workshop, I was in the team with Malta, Cyprus, Sweden and Germany. It was our first workshop, but it was really good. I learned the system of those countries, not whole but partly.
- ✿ The workshop met the needs generally but we should have discussed the education tools specifically.
- ✿ To be honest I had a small starting 'problem'. It took a while to get a clear picture of the situation.

Exhibition of and for the NGOs

- ✿ Informative, comprehensive, but a slight lack of space and resources (tape/blue tack) for the latecomers.
- ✿ Good.
- ✿ That was good to make the participants know more about their NGO's and to make an idea to prepare future projects.
- ✿ We had an idea about NGO's activities of the participant countries.
- ✿ Maybe we could have taken a bit more time for this part of the program. Maybe some 'informal' time after the presentation to talk a bit more with the people/NGO's that trigger your interest.

- Nice!
- These organizations are doing a great job. Very nice.
- We learned about the NGO's and their work. And it helped us to decide for the new partners in new projects.
- That was so sweet. I ate too much sweets and candies. The presentation of NGO's was really good. All people presented their NGO's well.
- It would have been much better if the presentation had had the form of mingling, because people got very tired of listening and some took too long. Another positive aspect would have been that the participants would have gotten to talk and get to know each other.

Visit: [Castle Amra](#)

- A must see component to water management history! Excellent!
- Very good.
- Nice, more touristic attraction.
- Excellent. Very good!
- This was our first visit outside of Amman. It was a really nice castle.
- Very interesting and that in the middle of nowhere!
- I was surprised about how the ancient people managed to live in such a desert.

Visit: [Azraq Water Reserve](#)

- RSCN professionalism at work. The guided tour was very good. The problem at hand was mad worryingly visible. (I hope something can be done before it is too late.)
- Good.
- Useful because I had a look to the place and to remind me how much the water is important to the animals and the birds.
- I hope this Reserve will be restored even to be back as it was generations before.
- Good to see that it is possible that 'almost dried up nature areas' can be restored bit by bit.
- Very interesting.
- I liked visiting the Azrak water Reserve. It's unbelievable that it's now pumping the water to Reserve back from Amman. I was really impressed. I learned many things about the bird tour.
- Wow! What a pity it's become like that, but it's still beautiful. You can put the plastic birds in the reserve now, so they might be attracting others!
- Seeing the rehabilitation works made me understand the importance of natural reserves.

Visit: [Shaumari Reserve](#)

- A very nice visit to nature of Jordan's east. The workshop was excellent, people magnificent!
- Very good.
- Thanks to the RSCN in Jordan to bring back the wild life as it was before.
- Nice table tennis. Hopefully their work will continue well, and that the animals are being released into a bigger area. Also sleeping in the tents was fun.
- Very nice, in particular the people.
- Sleeping in the tents was really attractive. The Shomari Reserve is a really good job. Such a nice place in the desert, it is really nice. This shows us that Jordan is aware of the environment and animals, and so on.
- Such an experience. The tents were so nice and the beds were good! I loved the bird watching. Good food, good venue.
- Included in nature was one of the experiences I gained during the training.

Workshop: [Water-situation in Azraq](#)

- Very good walking tour and excellent demonstration of how the water tables in the region are arranged. Work on suggested solutions to the problem may have been a bit ambiguous.
- Medium.

- If we talk about the problem without discussing the solution means we did not get the answer to the question.
- It needs help to revive.
- A workshop (partly) in smaller groups, that was good. Also the 'model' with the sand was an interesting tool to create awareness about water pollution.
- Nice, only that more feedback about the group work would have been excellent.
- It was really good for me. I learned many things about ground water. Good workshop and it was useful.
- Very interesting.
- Actually to me the situation got clear afterwards. Our discussion was more about other things but reflected to the subjects in our countries. The kit RSCN uses for schools is very good.
- We discussed the water situation and we talked about underground water, how to calculate underground water, and how to conserve water.

Visit: [Jordan University of Science of Technology](#)

- Comprehensive explanations and tours to back-up the theoretical presentations. Very informative and reassuring that something is being researched.
- Very good. Organization of the program was very good.
- The university is near and their project is really practical.
- It was successful.
- Young people/students active in environmental issues. They did a good job to show us what they were doing.
- I didn't get the best out of it, as it was a bit too scientific for me.
- Good hosting. Good presentation. Visiting the fields was really useful to get the project.
- Good.
- Very nice university, but you also realize that there are not so many differences between them, I think. It was also nice to see the practical sites. I liked to have talked to the students more.
- It was one of the modern and technically equipped universities that I saw during my studies. I am really impressed with the work of the Civil Society Development Center. They also welcomed us very well.

Visit: [Jadara and view to the borders of Israel, Jordan and Syria](#)

- Also necessary, as it sets the scene for past and possible future conflicts.
- Good.
- The visit was fruitful, but needed more time for the group to know better about the area.
- Interesting of the 'political' situation of this area. I have some knowledge about the history of conflicts in this area, and it was good to see this place to make things more 'alive'.
- Very interesting. Wonderful possibility. Thank you very much for it.
- It was amazing for me. I really felt so nice.
- Great.
- Impressive. Very nice. Now I have a better 'view' of the border situation.
- Before participating in the seminar, I specifically studied on water conflicts between countries thus this visit enriched my knowledge.

Visit: [Water Control Center in the Jordan Valley](#)

- Very informative and proof that communication and cooperation can work.
- Very good.
- It is the result of putting the technology in serving the problems.
- The canal is a vital project for the Jordan Valley.
- Good to see how 'computers' can contribute into helping in water management.
- Interesting, but a bit too scientific for me.
- The way of controlling is really attractive. Good job.
- I was amazed by the number of greenhouses. In my opinion, I'll start my own 'investigation'; it's not a good system. Later more.

- Controlling all the water system positively affected me. And it was helpful for my water management education.

Workshop: Water Conflict

- I feel that it was more productive to have it as we did, all together, than splitting into groups. I think group work for this particular topic would have meant that not everyone would have been made familiar with the extent of the situation in the region.
- Medium. It would be nice if we had a presentation on this to let us know more about the real conflicts.
- I felt that I did not get what was the aim.
- There were no experts to know about water conflicts in the region. I hope no future wars about water.
- I expected more out of this workshop. I think we had difficulties in 'staying within the scope of the workshop' but good was to realize once again how 'sensitive and delicate' certain issues can be for people who are personally involved. I am from "Western" Europe and approach this but also other issues sometimes too 'direct/blunt'.
- Would have needed more pre-info about the situation (conflict in the area), and about conflict management. Hard job. Very difficult topic but interesting!
- We needed more information about water conflict. We just asked the question. The topic was not so clear. But it was good that people reach that there is a conflict about water.
- I think more information should have been given to the participants. But apart from it, we got the opportunity to discuss about general problems and about the definition of conflict.

Visit: Mujeb Reserve

- NO WORDS CAN DESCRIBE!!! A wonderful visit that was also instrumental in bonding the group together. "Water is the glue of life."
- Very good.
- Wonderful, but I think it was wasting for the water.
- It was a new adventure, but more instructions were needed to be given to the participants.
- Probably the best part. In Netherlands, this is not possible to do. Such a great surrounding. Nice, great, energetic, sportive trip.
- So much fun!
- It was amazing. I will go there again.
- Absolutely amazing.
- Nice challenge. A bit risky it was, but you have to take some risks sometimes, I think.
- It was the hardest part of the field visits. But as we were afraid while we were passing the rocks in the water, enjoyed it a lot.

Visit: Feynan Lodge

- The ideal venue for environmental projects/seminars. If only we had more time!
- Very good, but it is too far.
- Nice, but wished we had longer time to see the area.
- Not bad in such a location.
- Probably a nicer place than all the 5-star hotels together. Impressive area. Nice 'eco-tourism' idea.
- Excellent place!
- It was the best place that we visited.
- Incredible.
- Another very, very nice place of RSCN! Superb! Just some tips: for the shower, and a hanger in the door for clothes.
- After climbing and swimming in a perfect nature, Mujeb Reserve, we moved to Feynan Lodge. And by this we again realized the importance of water for life.

Workshop: Water situation of the Dead Sea

- Some good ideas were exchanged. Facilitation by an expert on the Dead Sea-Red Sea canal project would have been helpful and interesting.

- It would be nice if we had a presentation of the situation of the Dead Sea.
- The conservation was good but we should have talked longer about the solution.
- The Dead Sea needs a project to keep such an important site, because we are losing history.
- After swimming in the Dead Sea, the workshop felt a bit difficult. It feels difficult to come up with some good ideas in front of people who are probably already 20 years active in this issue (water situation in Jordan).
- I would need more facts.
- We need more information about what is exactly the water situation of the Dead Sea.
- I think you (Jordan) have too much agriculture and perhaps there is no need for the Red-Dead Channel?! I'll work on my view.
- We brought lots of ideas during the workshop, but the most important suggestion for me was about the usage of canal from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea.

Presentation: Euro-Med and SALTO

- I did not attend.
- Good, but the timing was not suitable.
- They helped open our minds how much people are working hard to help in Euro-Med cooperation. Europe and the Middle East are neighbors; cooperation between them is a must.
- This really had my interest because my NGO and I want to do further projects, so it is good to increase my knowledge about this.
- Go Bernard! Excellent!
- It was a good presentation. But I'll look at the website. I need more knowledge about it.
- Thank you Bernard. Very helpful.
- Because of my health problems, migraine, I, unfortunately, missed the presentation.

Accommodation & Food

- Both were very good. The only complaint is that the food was too much and too fattening. I gained 4 kilos in one week!
- Good, but it was too cold in the desert (Shomari Reserve).
- Really good.
- Very good.
- Especially the accommodation was far above what I am used to. I really liked it and was great experience. But I enjoy it as much in places where for example there is 'no' electricity. Also there the vegetarians were taken very good care of.
- FANTASTIC! I have never stayed in 5-star hotel before.
- Everything was very organized and well.
- I was hungry at times because there wasn't enough food or because it... The accommodation was excellent, but I would have preferred to choose who I was going to share a room with.
- All accommodations were surprising. I really like the Jordanian food, very nice, good cooks. My compliments for that.
- They were absolutely great.

Organization

- All well organized and meticulously planned. Timing was good as there was a constant flow of activities.
- Good.
- Good.
- Well organized.
- Excellent. Such a 'difficult'/complicated project and organized so well.
- Everything very well handled.
- Very organized and good. We got not only theoretical information but also we did practical visiting and projects. That method was really useful to understand, clarify the situation.
- Good.
- Good cooperation between the organizers. RSCN gave a good contribution and their accommodations are so nice!

- They were well prepared and very friendly. They helped us very much during the training. They created a great synergy within the group.

Timing

- There were occasions when I felt the time allocated to group work in the workshops was not enough.
- Good.
- A little bit stress.
- There was needed a little bit of more time to be given to the participants to share their interests.
- Maybe the program was too 'tight' sometimes. But then again, it was great to see so many things in just one week.
- Sahar: You were not too straight with such a group as us. I think the timing was managed well, even though my Nordic spirit sometimes felt we spent too much time waiting.
- Organized.
- Good.
- This is always difficult in a big group and because we were traveling, you had to hurry all the time.
- Perfect!

Group Dynamic

- Participants were all very good although at times it was obvious that not all understood or were completely tolerant of others and their ideas.
- Good.
- Good.
- It was very active and gave some time good ideas to be taken into consideration.
- No fighting, as far as I noticed. I think people got on very well.
- More attention could be put on building the group dynamic at the beginning. But this group still had a fantastic dynamic.
- I think that we made really good group dynamic.
- The group was great but we could have had a few ice-breaking games and group dynamic/team-building exercises that would have been great.
- I think we could use some more energizers, group-building games (funny ones), that also help for getting in time. The group could use some more time for discussion.
- There is synergy. This is important. And we really got on well together. We managed to create a dynamic group!

What do you take personal from this Seminar?

- I fell more in love with a country I already knew the more touristic side of. I made what I hope are long-lasting friends, especially in the RSCN. I saw Jordan as a country with dedicated professionals that are working hard in the field of conservation and public awareness raising.
- Friends, partners, contacts, ideas, techniques, methods, experience.
- Good future partners.
- Information, teamwork, new ideas.
- Got an insight in an environmental issue in Jordan and saw how it is related to politics. Met interesting people and got inspiration for further projects.
- Great in view to 'official' projects and water policy in Jordan.
- Water is really, really important, not for the Middle East countries, but for the whole world. We need more projects in increase awareness of people. I got a lot of information about Jordan's water situation and the way/method of using water in Jordan.
- A lot more information, new aspects and project ideas.
- Too many ideas, good friends, good practices, a very good impression of Jordan and also other Med countries.
- I got the opportunity to implement my education and knowledge that I gained during my studies at university and voluntary platform. In the workshops, I enriched my knowledge on water management.

Did the meaning of water change for you?

- I have always been careful not to waste water but now even more so especially as a tourist to a water-poor region. I am now looking into creating my own water harvesting system at home and I will be suggesting it for our school.
- Of course, I believe we have to save it more and more.
- Sure.
- I had a better idea, and more aware of water problems.
- Hmm, maybe not specifically. But I am grown up with the idea to be 'sensitive' about water. And it is good to see another spot, a bit more away. Although of course the water 'home' can't be transferred.
- Not really. I have lived in a country with a serious water problem and have the sociological and health aspect of water for years.
- Yes, now I am more and more aware of water. It was really nice organization to get how water is used.
- Not really.
- Yes, if you see the situation with your own eyes, then you know better what it's like. Now I also have an impression of the situation and needs in other countries.
- Absolutely yes. I faced the meaning of shortage of water. And I saw how to solve these kinds of problems.

Message to the team

- Excellent work! I know it was hard trying to coordinate everything. Maybe more structure in the workshops would allow concrete outcomes to be reached in the time available.
- Stress on specifying more contents of workshops. Thanks too much to the team for the great effort they did.
- Thank you all.
- Keep in contact and share your future projects in the right direction.
- You did a great job!
- I would like to thank Sakher for his patience, kindness and openness. His support and help has greatly affected the positive outcome of this seminar.
- Great job. It was a pleasure to meet you all. Thank you.
- The team was so great. Everybody got on well with each other.
- Thank you all so much for this experience! For Holland, water will always be a good topic. A team is not always a TEAM, but you are! Hugs and kiss for all of you.
- Thank you very much for your great efforts. You were really amazing with your patience and friendly behavior.

More comments

- Hope to meet people again.
- Thank you very much.
- I wish I was good one.
- This was my first participation in a Euro-Med project. There were some people who give importance to water and environment. I am very glad to meet such nice people. Thanks to the Jordanian National Coordinator, SALTO-Euro-Med. It was a very good experience for me. See you in other projects and actions. Thank you so much!
- I am disappointed with some of the workshops, because I had expected there to be more discussions about pollution, as I consider it to be more important that the lack of water in some places, and the political aspect of water. It would've been good to know which aspects we were going to put the focus on before the seminar.
- The CD you made to take home is very good. Thanks Bernard! I could use some more time in between to have conversations with other participants sometimes. No solutions came out actually. We didn't discuss outcomes of the workshops with each other. This seminar gave me a very good feeling.
- Now I know what water management is, and I met with potential partner for the new project and made lots of friends. Thank you!

HELPING NATURE, HELPING PEOPLE

In a country that is able to jokingly self-criticise that the flying black plastic bag is its national bird, any environmental awareness work would be extremely difficult. In Jordan, however, the work of the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (RSCN) in protecting the natural environment and working toward a sustainable future for its people is exceptional.

Jordan is a country of variety. Its beauty ranges from that of the arid sandy desert to the white-waters of sandstone gorges, from the buoyancy and therapeutic properties of the Dead Sea to the ancient Greco-Roman and Nabatean cities.

Being a country with very little natural wealth in terms of resources, a great scarcity of water combined with a choking influx of refugees over the past years, makes it understandable why people may not have the environment as their number one priority.

The RSCN, however, established in 1966, has centered its work in creating a public awareness of the environmental issues faced by Jordan, and incorporating the protection of the environment with the sustainable development of the land and the people. By setting up reserves around the country they have managed, in Shaumari, to pull the Arabian Oryx back from the brink of extinction. Restoration and protection of the Azraq Oasis has meant that intercontinental migratory birds have an important haven where they can stop to rest before continuing their trip to Africa. The creation of Dana Reserve and Feinan Lodge



Bird observation shelter, Azraq Wetland Reserve.

means that eco-tourism can now come to these areas, thus bringing a much-needed income for the locals. Local people, who as well as being employed in different positions on the reserves, have also had their traditional handicrafts revived so that they now produce quality products for sale to tourists.

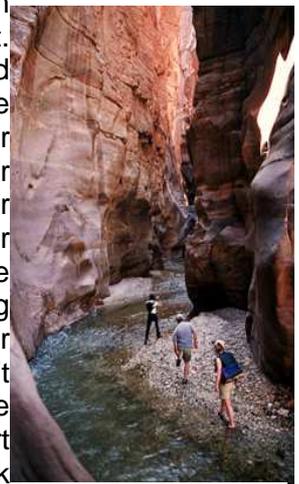


Road leading away from Feynan Lodge, Dana Reserve.

The professionalism, level of education and friendliness of the RSCN staff is something that cannot leave the visitor unaffected. They are people who work long hours, and in some cases, for months as caretakers on the reserves, away from their families while always willing to help enquiring travelers making them feel the essence of Jordanian hospitality. They are people who love what they do and who talk about their organisation and its achievements with pride.

RSCN's stewardship of Jordan's natural and traditional beauty is trying to moderate the fast pace of large-scale touristic development, which nonetheless is managing to force its way through. No one can dispute the importance of tourism as a major source of future income to Jordan. The fast and uncontrolled development of this resource, however, can have devastating effect on a country which is said to be the world's third poorest in fresh water reserves.

If you have not yet been to Jordan it is a must. Go with an open mind but at the same time the necessary respect for the people, their traditions and their natural wonders. After all, it is these that make a place worth visiting and not the 5-star hotels. And don't forget, when you are there, help to support the RSCN and the work they do as they are actively contributing to the survival of the beauty you will see.



Waters of Wadi Mujib.

Elias Kamaratos
Teacher of Biology, Pascal English School,
Larnaca, CYPRUS

REFERENCES

Cyprus Ministry of Agriculture website: www.moa.gov.cy

Jordan Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities website: www.mota.gov.jo

Royal Society for Conservation of Nature website: <http://www.rscn.org.jo/>

SALTO-Youth - EuroMed website: <http://www.salto-youth.net/euromed>

Useful Links:

To get some information about Jordan you can visit the following websites: -

www.jordan.jo
www.amman.com
www.go2petra.com
www.petramoon.com/madaba&nebo.htm
www.desertexplorer.net
www.mieasttravelnet.com/jte/madaba.htm
www.mota.gov.jo

Or if you would like to learn more about the water situation or the environment in Jordan, please visit the following websites: -

www.mwi.gov.jo
www.moenv.gov.jo
www.jes.org.jo
www.foe.org.jo
www.rscn.org.jo
www.jreds.org.jo
www.environment.gov.jo
www.water-technology.net/projects/greator-amman/
www.rgs.org/temp/php
www.projectprofiles.co.uk/wallingfor-news_jordan.htm
www.waternet.rug.ac.be
www.bubl.ac.uk/link/j/jordan
www.paconsulting.com/industries/water/international/jordan/default.htm
www.europa.eu.int/europeaid/projects/med/bilateral/jordan

ARTICLE SELECTION

Pair plans \$1 billion El Arish power plant By Amiram Cohen

Businessman Yossi Meiman and his Egyptian partner, Hussein Salem, are initiating the construction of a billion dollar power plant in El Arish, which would supply electricity to Israel and the Palestinian Authority, Haaretz has learned.

The plant would be the third joint project of the two partners.

The source suggests that Meiman and Salem intend to establish a 1,200-megawatt power station, equivalent to 10 percent of the present production capacity of the Israel Electric Corporation, which sorely lacks reserves.

Some of the electricity could be used to build a desalination plant that would pump water to the Gaza Strip, which has a severe shortage of drinking water.

Political sources in Jerusalem said over the weekend that the project won the full support of Egyptian intelligence chief General Omar Suleiman, who deals with Israeli affairs in his government. Such support would not come without a green light from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Haaretz also learned that the project was discussed in talks Mubarak held with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in their summit in Sharm el-Sheikh.

The positive political climate forged over the past year between Israel and Egypt following the disengagement decision, according to the sources, made the new initiative possible.

This process follows the pattern of Meiman and Salem's two previous projects. The improvement in the political climate that the Oslo process created in the early 1990s allowed the first joint venture to construct the \$1.5 billion Midor oil refinery in Alexandria, Egypt. Former prime minister Ehud Barak's attempt to push forward a deal with the Palestinians in 1999 contributed to a joint initiative to provide Egyptian gas to the Israel Electric Corporation for \$2.5 billion. That deal was closed in a formal ceremony two weeks ago.

Economic sources in Jerusalem believe the Europeans, through the European Investment Bank, would likely fund the project. The Europeans have declared the Mediterranean Sea basin as a preferred region for investment, and the bank has amassed 7-8 million euros for projects to stabilize the region. The European Investment Bank also raised financing for Meiman and Salem's previous projects.

Meiman had announced at the gas supply signing ceremony two weeks ago that a third project was in the works but had not delineated. Meiman's Merhav company said over the weekend that "the company makes reports only when it has something to report."