



JORDAN

U.S. Forest Service International Programs

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

For over fourteen years, the U.S. Forest Service has supported natural resource conservation efforts in Jordan.

The U.S. Forest Service and the Princess Basma Youth Resource Center designed and developed an innovative science and environment bus. “Eureka” has traveled all around the Kingdom and delivered programs to over 28,000 people in underserved communities across Jordan.

The U.S. Forest Service promotes regional collaboration and technical exchange on native nursery management by convening expertise from Lebanon, Morocco, the West Bank, Armenia and Jordan to provide a platform for regional expertise and experience exchange.

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OVERVIEW

Although Jordan is a water-poor country with limited green spaces, it has considerable biodiversity, beautiful landscapes, and a strong network of protected areas. Over the last thirteen years, the U.S. Forest Service has worked with diverse partners including the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, the Hashemite Fund, the Princess Basma Youth Resource Center, the Ministry of Agriculture-Forestry Department, the Environment Rangers, and the Al-Shejarah Society. Activities have focused on a wide range of issues, such as watershed management, forest conservation, institutional strengthening, law enforcement, conservation education and protected area management. This work has been made possible over the years through support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jordan and the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science.



SEED Nursery employee shows unique seedling container that develops stronger root system.

The Importance Of Conserving Jordan’s Natural Resources

Jordan is one of the least forested countries in the world. Many of its remaining native forests face significant challenges from fire, disease, slow rates of regeneration, and increased loss of native species. Water scarcity often dominates the discussion of natural resource threats in Jordan. Landscape level conservation should be an important aspect of Jordan’s water conservation strategy, as it can help ensure conservation of rain water currently lost during run-off and evaporation. The U.S. Forest Service cooperates with partners in Jordan to address soil and water conservation through technical exchange.

2017 Programs In Jordan

In 2016, the U.S. Forest Service launched the Sustainable Environment and Economic Development (SEED) project, a three-year initiative funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development in Jordan designed to rehabilitate rangelands in Jordan’s eastern desert by increasing community involvement in natural resource management and boosting the survival rate of native seedlings. SEED partners with the Hashemite Fund for the Development of the Jordan Badia, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Badia Restoration Project, the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, and local women’s cooperatives to grow and manage native plant nurseries. These nurseries present educational benefits and economic opportunities for the people who use the land, targeting communities disproportionately impacted by the Syrian refugee crisis. SEED also provides training for nursery growers in science, math and rural business, connecting the role of healthier seedlings to sustainable watershed management.

