

Sustainable Use of Ecosystem Services in Jordan (EKF-ESS project)

Royal Botanic Garden Case Study

The Royal Botanic Garden is Jordan's prime site for plant genetic resource conservation. The 200ha site embraces the largest collection of species which are naturally protected, propagated, or preserved in nurseries and seed banks.

The case study addresses several key ecosystem services associated with provisioning, regulating, and supporting functions of the ecosystem, with particular focus on native plant conservation, natural habitat protection, and rangeland maintenance.

The main partner of the case study is the Royal Botanic Garden, established in 2005 with the aim to promote plant protection and genetic resource preservation while actively responding to unsustainable uses of natural habitats and rangelands, including tree cutting, excessive grazing, illegal hunting, pollution, and habitat destruction through infrastructure development.

The case study includes a support program for building local and national capacities on flora related research and conservation measures, sustainable utilization of rangeland involving local communities, and linking conservation efforts to socio-economic development of local users with particular focus on the women's sector.

The community based initiative of the case study targets Tal ar-Rumman Women Cooperative as a main beneficiary and aims to promote traditional agricultural practices through linking them to sustainable niche markets, thus contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of rural women and their families.

So far, the initiative supported the fifteen-member local CBO in developing a traditional products outlet in the village, offering a variety of high quality local products to be marketed at the local national level. This included dairy products, olives products, medicinal plants, rain-fed fruits

and vegetables, as well as local wheat and barley used for traditional bread making.

A local kitchen run by rural women was also established as part of the initiative, with the objective to make and sell traditional meals of high value for health and culture.

A third initiative undertaken by the women's group is a traditional bread making (shrak) to be marketed in Amman and other big cities for its high nutritious value and cultural significance.

Collectively, the initiatives aim to provide tools for local community groups and individuals on sustainable solutions for ecosystem utilization and protection. It is meant to be a pilot for a widely spread approach adopted by all rural communities adjacent to the botanic garden.



Royal Botanic Garden - Tal ar-Rumman



King Talal Dam



Contact
Dr. Oliver Schlein
oliver.schlein@giz.de

Ain Ghazal - Ma'in

Ain Ghazal Case Study

Ain Ghazal is a small area located to the west of Ma'in Village in the Governorate of Madaba. The case study represents a unique attempt to address the semi-nomadic lifestyle of rural communities living on the east escarpment of the Rift Valley.

Traditionally, the eastern highlands of the Rift Valley hosted numerous villages and settlements which were living sustainably through applying traditional systems of grazing and rangeland utilization. People moved to lower grounds in winter to escape the cold and rain of the highlands to find relatively rich rangelands which they had left to regenerate throughout the summer and autumn. By early spring, they moved to the middle eastern heights as a temporary station, grazing their livestock on natural and farmed pasture before moving forward to the east, where they spent most of summer and part of autumn harvesting farmed wheat and barley for fodder for their animals.

Due to major socioeconomic transformations, along with high pressures on ecosystems and their services, the semi-nomadic lifestyle has been rapidly eroding, thus threatening to lose an important part of Jordanian traditional culture and knowledge related to rangeland utilization and management.

The case study addresses the provisioning, supporting and cultural ecosystem services, including provision of pasture, maintenance of natural habitat, and traditional knowledge through working closely with a local clan which is one of the few social groups still practicing the traditional lifestyle among swiftly deteriorating tribal culture and knowledge. This practice is well established in the history of the Arab region, and is known as the *Hima* system.

The case study includes a program for natural habitat rehabilitation through protection and seeding, improved herd productivity and health scheme, enhanced land productivity for wheat and barley production, in addition to community organizing and training on various methods and tools associated with rangeland management.

The main partner in the case study is Ain Ghazal Society for Development and Environment which is an environmental CBO working under the Ministry of Environment, and aiming to promote sustainable practices in rangeland utilization and rehabilitation.

The CBO is based on the traditional social structure of the local tribe involved in the initiative and aims to institutionalize such organizational platform into a recognized legal entity, and transform their traditional *Hima* practices into a legally validated land use approach.



Ain Ghazal - Ma'in

Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn

GIZ Office Jordan
Mohamed Baseem Al-Kammash St. 13, Sweifieh
Amman 11190 Jordan
www.giz.de/jordan
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Author: Tarek Abulhawa
Photo credits/sources: GIZ
Photographer: Lukas Flinzberger

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication. Amman February 2018

Case study contacts:

Royal Botanic Garden
Dr Mustafa Shdaifat
mshudiefat@royalbotanicgarden.org
Cell: +962 77 215 4278

Tal Al Rumman Women Cooperative
Ms. Aida Al Sadek
talrumman.women@gmail.com
Cell: +962 79 609 8885

Ain Ghazal Society
Mr. Fahd Al Arameen
fahd.alarameen@gmail.com
Cell: +962 77 247 2600