

The Royal Academy for Nature Conservation

All workshops will take place in Jordan at the newly established Royal Academy for Nature Conservation located in the Ajloun Forest Reserve.

Built environmentally friendly on top of an old abandoned quarry, the Royal Academy for Nature Conservation strives to become a permanent and international-standard Centre of Excellence devoted to providing accredited courses in the environmental disciplines most needed in the region. The Academy's training facilities coupled with its tourism facilities including accommodation, restaurant, shop and small-scale handicraft production offered in conjunction with the adjacent Ajloun Forest Reserve form a single integrated eco-tourism complex which will provide real-life training situations.

The Academy is currently developing core curricula of key training areas like environmental policing, nature conservation, eco-tourism and local community development offered to practitioners from the region on a fee paying basis.

RSCN and the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung have a long-standing co-operation offering tailor-made and high quality training programs for environmental professionals from the MENA Region. Since 2012, essential elements of these programs are being transformed into key curricula of the new Academy.



Project Partners & Countries

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung

The Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, founded in 1967, is a German political foundation, close to the Christian Social Union (CSU), providing political education "in the Service of Democracy, Peace and Development" in Germany and abroad. It has been working for more than 35 years in the field of development co-operation and is currently taking an active part in approximately 100 projects in around 60 countries worldwide. Our international activities seek to promote humane living conditions and to contribute to sustainable development by strengthening peace, democracy and social market economy. Within the MENA Region, the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung operates in the following countries which are also participating in the "Climate Change & Protected Areas"- Project 2016 - 2018: Egypt – Jordan – Lebanon – Morocco – Palestine - Tunisia

Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), established in 1966, is an independent voluntary organization devoted to the conservation of Jordan's natural resources. It is fulfilling its mission by setting up protected areas to safeguard the best wildlife and scenic areas, by enforcing governmental laws to protect wildlife and control illegal hunting and by raising awareness in environmental issues through educational programs.

For more information please visit our websites:
www.hss.de and www.rscn.org.jo



MENA Region Project

Climate Change and Protected Areas

2016 - 2018



in co-operation with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature



Background & Project Objective

In the coming decades, nature reserves and protected areas will be subjected to significant changes in their natural potential due to climate change. From environmental, political and economic perspectives, the development and implementation of adaptation and management strategies for maintaining habitats and communities which are highly endangered due to climate change are vital for the future development of any country.

Protected areas serve as natural instruments for storing carbon and for helping people and ecosystems to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Although not the sole solution, protected areas are an essential - though often neglected - part of adaptation and management strategies developed by national and local governments.

However, existing legislation, strategies and concepts can only be effective if they are implemented. In all countries of the MENA Region, there are significant deficiencies in this regard. In addition to financial reasons, there is a serious lack of necessary knowledge and experience to implement such legislation.

Therefore, the objective of this "Climate Change & Protected Areas" - Project is the support of experts and professionals in politics and practice to strengthen protected areas as effective instruments of climate change mitigation and adaptation in the MENA Region.

Project Activities & Topics

The project will consist of a combination of **information sessions** and **co-ordination meetings** at national level plus series of regional **workshops** from 2016 – 2018 for two different target groups:

The aim of the **"Decision-makers"** workshops is to increase knowledge and skills to integrate protected areas in national climate change policies and to facilitate the exchange of experiences in order to foster regional dialogue.

The aim of the **"Practitioners"** workshops is to improve knowledge and management skills of executives and employees of institutions that are entrusted with protected area management in regard to increasing the resilience of protected areas and their role in climate change mitigation and adaptation

Priorities and details of the learning content will be developed tailor-made for each target group, but will in general cover the following **topics**:

- The consequences of climate change for nature, natural resources and people
- International and national responses – how policy makers view the role of protected areas
- The potential of the world's protected areas system to address climate change
- Mitigation – The role of protected areas
- Adaptation – The role of protected areas
- Opportunities to use protected areas to address climate change
- Implications of climate change for protected area design, management and governance

Target Groups & Participation Criteria

Target Group 1 "Decision-makers"

Employees of relevant ministries (Environment, Agriculture, Planning, etc.), members of parliamentary committees or National Environment Climate Change committees, executive representatives of environmental organizations and leading figures of the civil society from countries of the MENA Region who are participating in commissions for drafting and developing national strategies.

Target Group 2 "Practitioners"

Employees of national institutions responsible for the management of protected areas and for senior employees from nature reserves in the MENA Region like Directors General, Heads of Conservation / Biodiversity / Research Departments, Protected Area Managers, Senior Researchers, etc.

Potential project participants should fulfill the following criteria:

- a) be an Arab national (MENA Region)
- b) belong to the above defined Target Groups
- c) have at least 2 years ('practitioners') respectively 5 years ('decision-makers') work experience
- d) be directly responsible for developing protected area management plans ('practitioners') or national climate change strategies and policies ('decision-makers')
- e) commit to a continuous participation in 2 or respectively 3 workshops over a period of 2 to 3 years
- f) express their willingness to complete given and practical "assignments" in preparation and/ or follow-up of workshops
- g) be willing to closely co-operate and exchange any relevant information with the local HSS office