

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

United Nations
Development Programme



Hashemite Kingdom of
Jordan

Energy and environment are essential for sustainable development. The poor are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and lack of access to clean, affordable energy services. These issues are also global as climate change, loss of biodiversity and ozone layer depletion cannot be addressed by countries acting alone. UNDP helps Jordan strengthen its capacity through providing innovative policy advice and sharing best practices.



Environment and Energy in Jordan

Arable land represents only 7% of Jordan's land area. The country is classified as one of the 10 most water scarce countries in the world with a per capita water availability of 153 m³ per year. Jordan is signatory to many major global environmental conventions and has started putting in place mechanisms to support their implementation. Nevertheless, population growth, rapid urbanization, industrialization, air pollution and low energy efficiency continue to exert a considerable pressure on water, land resources and generate unacceptable levels of environmental degradation. In addition, the recent rise in fuel prices will have a negative impact on the citizens' livelihoods

UNDP on the Ground in Jordan

UNDP Jordan interventions in the area include four major components:

- Compliance with global environmental conventions;
- Climate change adaption to water sector;
- Safe management of hazardous waste;
- Reduction and mitigation of natural disasters risks;

FACTS ON JORDAN

- Limited natural and energy resources
- Signatory to global environmental conventions on conserving biodiversity, combating desertification, climate change, the Montreal Convention, and Kyoto protocol.
- 7% only arable land
- Renewable energy sources constitute 1% of total energy sources
- One of 10 most water scarce countries
- 97% of population have access to water, and over 65% have access to sanitation.

UNDP in Jordan sponsors projects that support the country's sustainable management of its natural resources, protect its environment and meet its international commitments through:

Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development

- UNDP assists Jordan with enabling activities necessary to develop its Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as part of its obligations towards it. The report should be presented to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the convention on 15 November 2008.
- UNDP supports Jordan's preparations for the fourth national report of the Convention on Biological Diversity which will carry out an initial assessment process with regards to applicable 2010 biodiversity targets.

Sustainable Land Management to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation

- As part of the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and in cooperation with GEF/Small Grants Programme, UNDP through small grants projects will provide opportunity for civil society in degraded areas to engage in managing their lands.

Effective Water Governance

- With funding from the EU SMAP programme, UNDP is assisting Jordan to develop an integrated approach to the management of wastes from olive oil pressing industries. The initiative is part of a regional project with Syria and Lebanon.
- With a focus on Zarqa River basin, UNDP provides support to develop the capacities of public and civil society organizations to adapt to threats to health, food security, productivity and human security under the severe water scarcity that is expected to be compounded by climate change.

Access to Sustainable Energy Services

- UNDP, with funding from GEF and DANIDA, supported the establishment of the Russeifa Biogas plant to capture methane gas emissions generated by waste decomposition in Russeifa landfill and utilize them in energy production, combined with use of organic waste to generate energy. The plant was the first of its kind in the Middle East, and serves as an example for replication by other municipalities. In response to its success, UNDP and the Jordan Biogas Company embarked on expanding the plant's capacity from 1MW to 3.5 MW, and the Jordan Biogas Company is promoting the Clean Development Mechanism potential for waste to energy in Jordan.



Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

- As part of a regional project with 11 countries, UNDP with funding from GEF is supporting Jordan in establishing conservation and monitoring programme to protect globally significant soaring bird's species and their habitats in the eastern sector of the Africa-Eurasia flyway system.

- Administered by UNDP, the GEF Small Grants Programme seeks to improve the global environment at the local level with the involvement of NGOs and generation of direct community benefits and ownership. Since its inception in 1993 until mid 2008, the Small Grants Programme supported 147 projects at different local communities for a total grant value of over US\$ 4 million, with national contributions of at least triple this amount.



Natural Disasters Reduction

- UNDP in collaboration with the Government of Jordan is assisting the General Directorate of Civil Defence in establishing a Disaster Risk Management Process that would equip the Municipality with a Disaster Risk Management Master Plan. The project is also cost shared by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

GEF: Global Environment Facility –
<http://www.undp.org/gef/05/>

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September 2008