



The BOT-ERA Project

Reinforcing Cooperation between the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan and the European Research Area



www.boterajordan.org

BOT-ERA, an EU FP7-funded project running until January 2015, is a partnership between the Royal Botanic Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the University of Birmingham, and Innoveo Consulting of Luxembourg.

BOT-ERA goals

- Improve the scientific expertise of the RBG and other Jordanian institutions
- Provide training for Jordanian researchers and scientists
- Enhance European-Jordanian science partnerships
- Set up joint experiments and research
- Exchange scientific knowledge
- Prepare an updated checklist of the flora of Jordan
- Help develop a National Strategy for Plant Conservation
- Promote the RBG's excellence in plant conservation and botanical research

Major areas of focus

- Plants and Seed Conservation
- Genetic Resource Diversity and Biotechnology
- Utilisation and Access Benefit Sharing



الحديقة النباتية الملكية
Royal Botanic Garden

Practicing and advocating biodiversity conservation at the whole-systems level



www.royalbotanicgarden.org Telephone: +962 6 541-3402



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RBG Q&A

Is the RBG a government project?

- No, the RBG is a non-governmental, non-profit company .

Who is the founder?

- HRH Princess Basma bint Ali



Where is the Garden?

- About 20 km north of Amman

How big are the grounds?

- 1,800 dunums / 180 hectares

What's the topography like?

- Hilltop and slopes, with 300 m of elevation change

Are there hiking trails?

- Yes, 17 km of trails

Which native habitats are being re-created at the RBG?

- Deciduous oak forest, pine forest, juniper forest, Jordan Valley and freshwater habitats

What kinds of gardens will visitors see?

- Native plants, threatened species, medicinal plants, traditional gardens, rock gardens, garden of the senses, Islamic gardens (in Phases I and II)

What else will there be in the Garden?

- Bee exhibits, mushroom museum, butterfly house, birdwatching huts, learning spaces ...

What about facilities for families?

- Facilities include a visitor centre, gift shop, food vendors, picnic areas and play areas

Is the Garden a member of BGCI?

- Yes, the RBG is a member of Botanic Gardens Conservation International.

Is the RBG online?

- Yes. Find us at royalbotanicgarden.org, facebook.com/RBG.RoyalBotanicGarden.Jordan and twitter.com/botanicgardenjo

Community-Based Rangeland Rehabilitation

The Royal Botanic Garden works closely with the community. After consulting with local herders, the RBG began to address Jordan's overgrazing problem by setting up a Community-Based Rangeland Rehabilitation programme (CBRR) in 2007.



The CBRR works with herders to improve flock management, and provides herders with supplemental forage, hygiene training, low-cost vaccinations and medicine for animals, as well as para-veterinarians.

Herders participating in the CBRR are seeing healthier herds and increased profits.

While assisting local herders, the CBRR team is monitoring plant diversity, assessing the carrying capacity of the land, and developing habitat-specific grazing protocols.



The CBRR is also gathering invaluable traditional and local knowledge from tribal elders about past range practices, livestock diseases, and medicinal plant use.

- Participation in the CBRR programme rose to 38 local herding families in 2012.

- The average income of participating herders rose 30% in 2011 compared to the previous year.

- In one herd, the revenue per head was 140 JOD in 2011, compared to a loss of 10 JOD a head in 2009 .

- In 2011, participating herders saw a mortality rate of only 4% in their herds.

- The lambing rate in 2011 was 91% on average, and over 99% in some herds.

- About 5,600 sheep and goats were vaccinated through the CBRR programme in 2012.

- 14 tons of supplemental fodder was distributed to CBRR participants in the past year.

- Controlled grazing has led to a 30% increase in vegetation cover and plant biodiversity in study areas

- Fall is generally the best time to allow controlled grazing, as most plants have set their seeds in the ground by then, and respond favourably with new re-growth.



Discover

Sustainable Living

Keeping it simple... and beautiful!

The Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan is making a conscious choice to use and demonstrate sustainable living solutions wherever possible.



Ecodomos

Our Global Context building is an ecodome, constructed using an earth-bag method. More ecodomos serve as display buildings in the Bee Garden.



Natural Materials

Sediments from King Talal reservoir are being used to make fired bricks and Nabatean-like water pipe systems. Ancient mortars are also being duplicated, for natural building projects.



Pottery Workshop

King Talal clay is the main raw material at the RBG's pottery workshop, where local community members can learn to throw and decorate pots.



Solar Cooking

The RBG is using Jordan's plentiful sunshine to cook up delicious natural dishes. Cooking with sun power takes longer, but is very easy!



Composting

The RBG loves compost, a natural soil conditioner, mulch and fertilizer all wrapped into one! Composting is Earth's top method of recycling.



Water Harvesting

Capturing rainfall and allowing water to sink into the ground slowly is more sustainable than setting up elaborate irrigation systems.

Education & Community Development

Investing in people!

Raising Awareness



Interpreting Nature

The RBG is a place where people can have fun while learning about the importance of conserving the environment and planting native species.



Learning in the Great Outdoors

There's nothing like wide open spaces for re-connecting with nature. We learn best by seeing, smelling, feeling and doing...!



Spreading the Word

The RBG is disseminating its research on Jordan's biodiversity to the academic community and policymakers, to help transform environmental thinking in Jordan.



Commitment to Education

Public outreach at the RBG is just as important as the science behind the Garden, as research alone cannot bring change unless it becomes clearly understood by society.

Encouraging Micro Projects



Artwork & Handicrafts

The RBG is training local women to develop nature-inspired arts and crafts. After receiving free sewing and design courses, some women are producing original works.



Dairy Production

To help diversify the income of sheep herding families, the RBG has trained local people in the production of *jameed*, or dried yogurt balls used in Jordan's national dish, *mansaf*.



Mushroom Cottage Industry

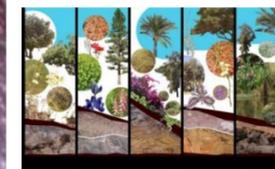
The Jordan Mushroom Project, an initiative of the RBG, is teaching local community members to produce and market tasty mushrooms.



Bee Products & Honey

The RBG is teaching local villagers to raise bees, extract honey and develop bee products. Beekeeping will provide a source of income, while supplying the market with top-grade all-natural honey.

Science & Conservation



Re-Creating Habitats

To conserve biodiversity, the RBG is re-creating five major Jordanian habitats *ex situ*, modeled on *in situ* home habitats in other parts of the country.



Propagating Native Plants

The RBG's nursery grows native species to plant in the Garden. We propagate native species and encourage all Jordanians to adopt the plants best suited to our arid climate.



Saving Seeds for the Future

Seeds are being collected, dried and stored in a seed bank at the RBG, to provide stocks for future propagation and ensure the survival of species under threat of extinction.



Studying Medicinal Plants

The RBG is conducting ethnobotanical studies to conserve traditional knowledge about Jordan's native medicinal plants and their uses.



Documenting Jordan's Mushrooms

The RBG is collecting and classifying the edible and poisonous mushrooms of Jordan for a field guide, an online database, and a mushroom museum.



Preserving Herbarium Specimens

Our herbarium collects, classifies and stores dried specimens of Jordan's plants, and makes them available for research online at nationalvirtualherbarium.org



Preparing Jordan's Plant Red List

The RBG is establishing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species for Jordan, to determine the exact status of native plant species. This is part of the National Strategy for Plant Conservation.



Establishing a National Strategy

Jordanian researchers and scientists are working with the RBG to draw up a national checklist and prioritise the country's plant species for conservation.



Rehabilitating Jordan's Rangeland

Our Community-Based Rangeland Rehabilitation programme is developing grazing protocols and studying biomass re-growth, while helping local herders improve their standard of living. (More info on the back.)