

**Bab AL Salam women cooperative society**  
**Final Report Integrated Ecosystem management of Tel Al Arbin special  
conservation area**

**Organization Legal Name:** Bab AL Salam women cooperative society

**Project Title:** Integrated ecosystem management of Tel Al Arbin special conservation area

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**Report Author** Mr Ziad AwadAllah

**Contact Information:** Email: zsameeh@yahoo.com

**CEPF Region:** Mediterranean Hotspot conservation

**Strategic Direction:**

The project is located within the strategic direction number 3 within the program, to improve the quality conservation zones for 44 major biodiversity areas, within sub-programs:

- Establish new protected areas and develop management of the current protected areas by Creating and application Sustainable management plans.
- Create Funding mechanism to support protected areas and the local community.
- Increase the awareness of the importance of biodiversity areas, especially the areas that have Terrestrial and marine biodiversity which cannot be transferred.

**Grant Amount:** 19,700 Dollar

**Project Dates:** 25 June 2013 until 25 June 2014

**Conservation Impacts:**

1. The main objective of the project was to decrease the deterioration of the ecosystem and biodiversity of estuary of zkolab River in Jordan Valley, especially the Acacia as being the sole representation of this kind in Jordan with challenges surrounding the site in land use and agricultural activities resulting in the use of pesticides and fertilizers and increase pollution of water stream in the Valley. In addition to that, the forest is also exposed to negative behaviours of waste

dumping and all are in the end finds its way to the Jordan River, originally heavily deteriorated. By declaring the concerned area as SCA that allowed proper use of lands and by implementing the integrated management plan for the targeted area which is prepared by using the participatory approach that allowed all stakeholders to be aware with concerned challenges as mentioned at the said proposal. This project considered as exemplary for adopting the principles of integrated management and sustainable agriculture that increased the awareness related to the impact of using organic agriculture

### ***Results of the project:***

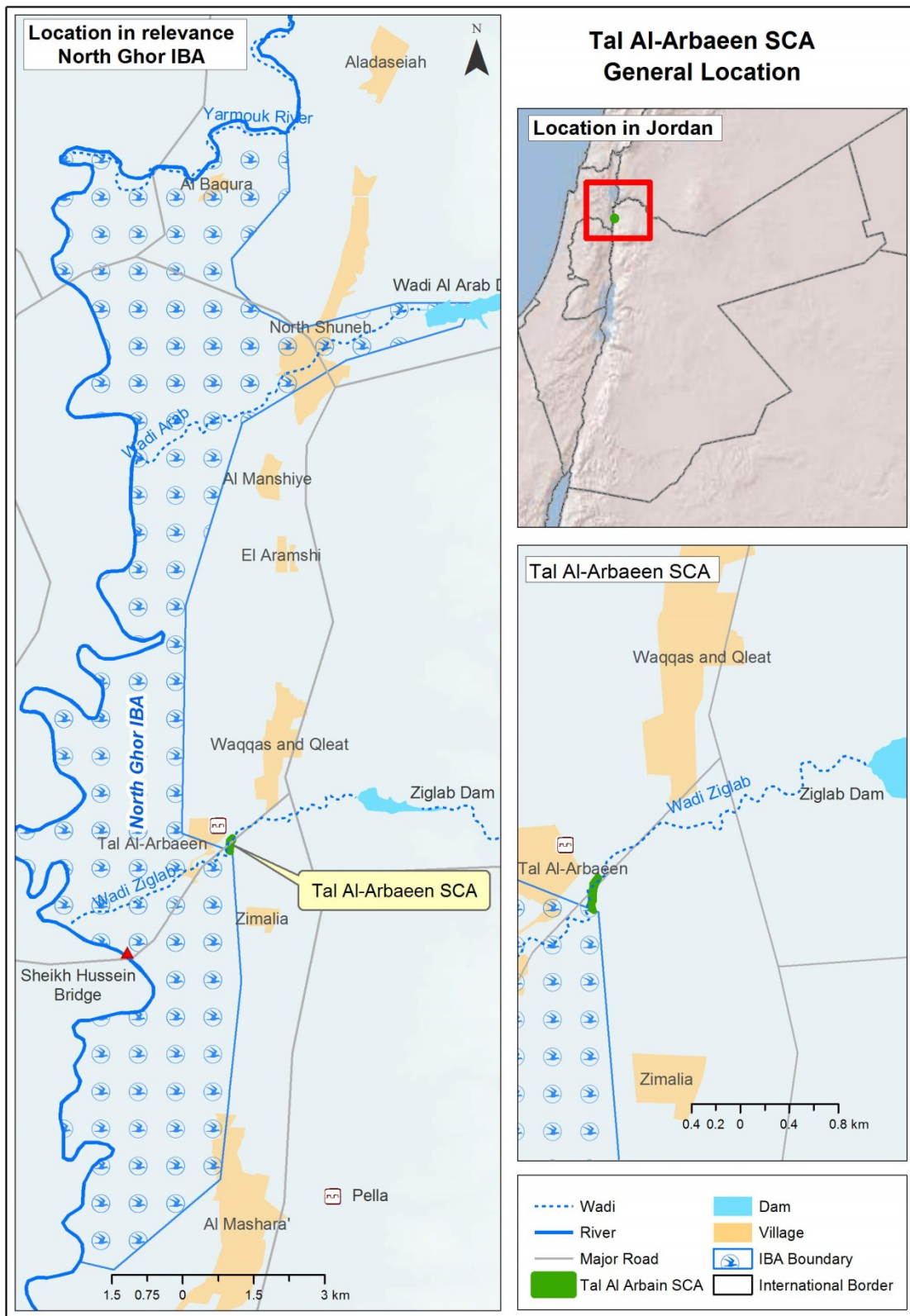
The following are the main outputs for the project:

- 1- An integrated management plan for the valley and participatory planning of land use.
- 2- Sustainable economic initiative based on the principles of integrated management and sustainable agriculture

The management plan was prepared as follows:

- Project coordinator was recruited
- Stakeholders analysis was conducted
- Committee was formed from local community
- Social, economic, and environmental data were collected accordingly
- Draft of the management plan was submitted to the stakeholders
- Final management plan

**Hectares Protected: 18.1 ha**



**Species Conserved:** *Acacia albeda* which occurs only there in Jordan in addition to several species of migratory birds

**Corridors Created:** Tal Arbren was established to serve as a natural corridor which should support migratory and resident birds species between Al Khyof Special conservation area and yarmouk reserve as well as its location in the important birds area

### **Lessons Learned:**

1- Building project on earlier project which was funded by The GEF Small Grants Programme Contributed to develop the project and maintain RSCN efforts in the same way to develop the environmentally agriculture project.

2- Weakness Abilities for the society members in project management especially in financial management, so we need before starting any project to raise their abilities according to the project objectives and budget.

3- Involve stakeholders the idea of the project by prepared project plan led to support the project from the local communities and promote the idea of the project.

### **Additional funding:**

The project idea built on two major projects objectives; integrated Ecosystems management in Jordan Rift Valley project which was carried out by the Royal Society for the conservation of Nature and funded by the World Bank, organic agriculture project funded by The GEF Small Grants Programme As follows:

- RSCN: 20,000 \$ for Capacity building of society members and rehabilitation *Acacia Albida* area.

- The GEF Small Grants Programme: 30,000 \$ for Organic Agriculture.

### **Sustainability:**

#### **Institutional sustainability:**

According to announcement the region as special conservation area by the Ministry of Environment, Bab AL Salam women cooperative society will have an important role to follow up the conservation programmes in the site.

The adoption of the Local Management Plan will contribute to support all stakeholders in the site.

The Capacity building of Bab AL Salam women cooperative society members is one of the most important project themes; stakeholders will have a role to sustain these capabilities.

### **Financial sustainability:**

This project makes financial sustainability to Bab AL Salam women cooperative society by continue cultivation plastic houses of which make a sustainable income to the society activities.

### **Environmental and Social Conservation:**

Bab AL Salam women cooperative society prepared Social and Environmental impact study for the project Which showed that the project has no negative environmental effects, it has positive environmental effect as conserve Acacia Albida, the A.albida stand in the area is the last for Jordan and represents a unique Acacia stand ecosystem, as well as the socio-economic dimension that targeted the local community which is represented by Bab AL Salam women cooperative society and their members.

### **Recommendations:**

The positive points achieved by the project despite of the small fund and the period of project implementation. The recommendation will be summarized to continue supporting the project especially the capacity building for the society members in project management, financial management and technical reports preparation which was a weak point when the project implemented.

### **Full contact details:**

Name: Debeh Bakar

Organization: Bab AL Salam women cooperative society

Email: [alsalam\\_bab@yahoo.com](mailto:alsalam_bab@yahoo.com)

Tel: +962777542154