

**Under the patronage of Her Excellency**

**Secretary General of Ministry of Water and Irrigation Dr. Maysoon El-Zoubi**

**Closure Workshop for The Project ‘Integrated Water Resources  
Management and Conservation in Mujib Biosphere Reserve’  
2009-2011**

**December 8<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Scarcity of water resources and pollution are considered among the greatest environmental challenges facing Jordan. This is mainly due to the arid and semi-arid climate, high population growth and depletion of available water resources. Considering Wadi Mujib, which passes through Mujib Biosphere Reserve, as one of the major water resources in Jordan, it faces several challenges on various levels. These challenges include the existing Mujib and Hidan dams, water-consuming agricultural activities that heavily use chemical fertilizers and pesticides, sporadic research activities on natural water system, weak dialogue between the different stakeholders, unbalanced division of water between the different sectors and stakeholders and the weak awareness of stakeholders of the environmental values of Mujib River basin as an ecosystem.

To address these challenges and to encourage various relevant stakeholders and targeted local communities to reduce negative impacts on natural water system and its resources in Wadi Mujib, a project titled as “Building capacity for civil society to engage in water management in the southern and eastern Mediterranean region” has been carried out in three countries, Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco with financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under the Mediterranean Wetlands capacity-building project, managed by Wetlands International (WI). The Jordanian project titled as “Integrated Water Resources Management and Conservation in Mujib Biosphere Reserve” was implemented by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) with a novel approach that involves guaranteeing full participation of local communities and civil societies in conservation of water resources in Mujib Biosphere Reserve. The project main objective is “To apply an integrated water natural resources management approach in Mujib Nature Reserve that assures a long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural water system in the area”.

The project has started in 2009 and will close its activities by the end of December 2011. During this period, various activities have been accomplished and several lessons were learnt and to address all of these, a closure workshop for the project activities will be conducted on December 8th 2011, to achieve the following objectives.

- 1) Present main achievements and outcomes of the project,
- 2) Show the lessons learnt and
- 3) Shape a future vision for Mujib river basin

The event will include interactive materials produced by the project as well as presentation that will give the opportunity of participants to share their views.