

Environment Quality Authority **palestine**

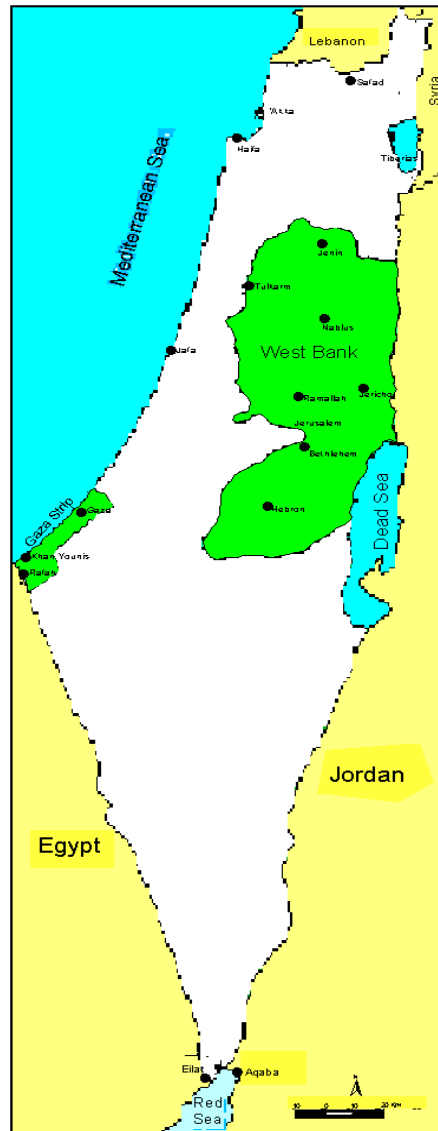
Biodiversity & Protected Areas Department

**Capacity Development Workshop for the Arab
countries on National Biodiversity Strategies
and Action Plans, and the Mainstreaming of
Biodiversity**

Cairo-Egypt 14-18/Dec. 2008

Mr. Mohammed Mahassneh

Regional Location of Palestine



Palestinian Environmental Authority
PEA
April 1999

Source: MDPIC

BSAPP Goal : Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the framework of national sustainable development in Palestine

Expected Benefit/Result: The development of Palestine such that future generations have every opportunity to meet their needs.

Performance Indicators: Palestine's ranking on the UNDP Human Development Index

Assumptions / Risks: Palestine obtains control over its own resources and remains committed to sustainable development.

BSAPP's Objectives:-

- 1)- Conservation of Palestine's Biodiversity
- 2)- Sustainable use of Palestine's biodiversity
- 3)- Enhancement of local knowledge, skills and improvement of people's attitudes and practices for the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity
- 4)- Equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits within Palestine
- 5)- Development of Palestinian institutional and resource capacity in the field of human biodiversity

Priority Initiatives (Projects) for BSAPP

- 1- Development and Management of a Palestinian Protected Areas System;
- 2- Development of Management Plans in Designated Protected Areas Based on Biodiversity Surveys & Inventories
- 3- Protecting and Using Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and Property Rights for Biodiversity
- 4- Implementation of Biosafety Measures on Biotechnology in Palestine
- 5- Habitat Restoration (including rangelands, forests, wetlands, sacred groves and integrated agro-ecosystems)
- 6- Collaborative Management of Biodiversity

- 7- Combating Desertification and Coping with the Adverse Effects of Climate Change
- 8- Elaborating and Enforcing a National Legislation/Legal Frameworks on Biodiversity
- 9- Establishing a Biodiversity Information and Social Education Centre
- 10- Promotion of Eco-tourism/Economical Aspects of Biodiversity
- 11- Coastal Zone Management in Gaza & Dead Sea
- 12- Establishment of a Gene Bank in Palestine

INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SECTORS:

- Environmental Themes (Solid waste, Wastewater, Air, soil pollution, Water policies, Ecological Development...etc,;
- Agriculture Sector (national greening policy, rangelands strategy, Forest development, nurseries, cropping ...etc
- Local governance strategies & policies (landscaping, constructions, real estate, farming...etc;
- National Economic planning & Development Strategies
- Land uses, conservation and Development
- Comprehensive national development Budget

Main Achievements Related to BSAPP

- Produce first, second & third Biodiversity report
- Assessment of most proposed protected areas -
Ongoing and Development of the by-laws for
Biodiversity conservation
- Gaza Coastal and Marine Environmental
Protection and Management Plan,
- Announce Wadi Gaza as a nature reserve;
- Develop a national Database on Biodiversity in
cooperation with Central Bureau of statistics
- Conservation of Wetlands and Coastal Ecosystem -
in the Mediterranean Region Project,

- Assessment of Capacity Building Needs and Palestinian Priorities in Biodiversity,
- Combating Desertification and dry land Project,
- On going Awareness campaigns on Biodiversity
- Establishment of school botanic gardens, small Herbarium, Nursery and Biogas station. The conservation and sustainable use of dry land Agro-biodiversity project
- MoA together with the EQA are jointly implementing other projects in this field such as the Green Palestine Project and Landscaping improvement project.

Gaps and Driving Forces Affecting the BSAPP Implementation

- 1)- A gap in information & knowledge
- 2)- A gap in human resources
- 3)- A gap in legal frameworks & Enforcement.
- 4)-lack of coordination among national and local stakeholder agencies in biodiversity.
- 5)-Inadequate awareness and commitment to biodiversity

Threats to Biodiversity in Palestine

-) Succession of different Civilizations**
-) High Population Growth rate (4.6%)**
-) Different Pollution Forms**
-) Unsustainable agricultural practices**
-) Degradation and Destruction of Ecosystems**
-) Rapid Erosion of sustainable Skills and traditional knowledge on Biodiversity**
-) Climatic Change adverse effects**
-) Israeli Occupation and its aggressions**
-) Absence of Palestinian Sovereignty**
-) Introduced species and overgrazing**
-) Desertification, Over-harvesting**
-) Lack of Environmental Public awareness**
-) Lack of legislations and enforcement of laws**

■ Immediate activities recommended for action

- - Rehabilitate degraded habitats & ecosystems
- - Develop policies, measures, & frameworks
- - Establish national system of protected Areas
- - Develop Sustainable ecotourism programs.
- - Integrate Biodiversity and agriculture programs
- - Supervised/Controlled forms of hunting ,
plant collections and combat desertification
- - Proper Management and control of grazing
- - Forest management and production
- - Management of fisheries, land and water
resources, and integrated pest management
- - Strengthen traditional resource management.
- - Training on indigenous threatened species

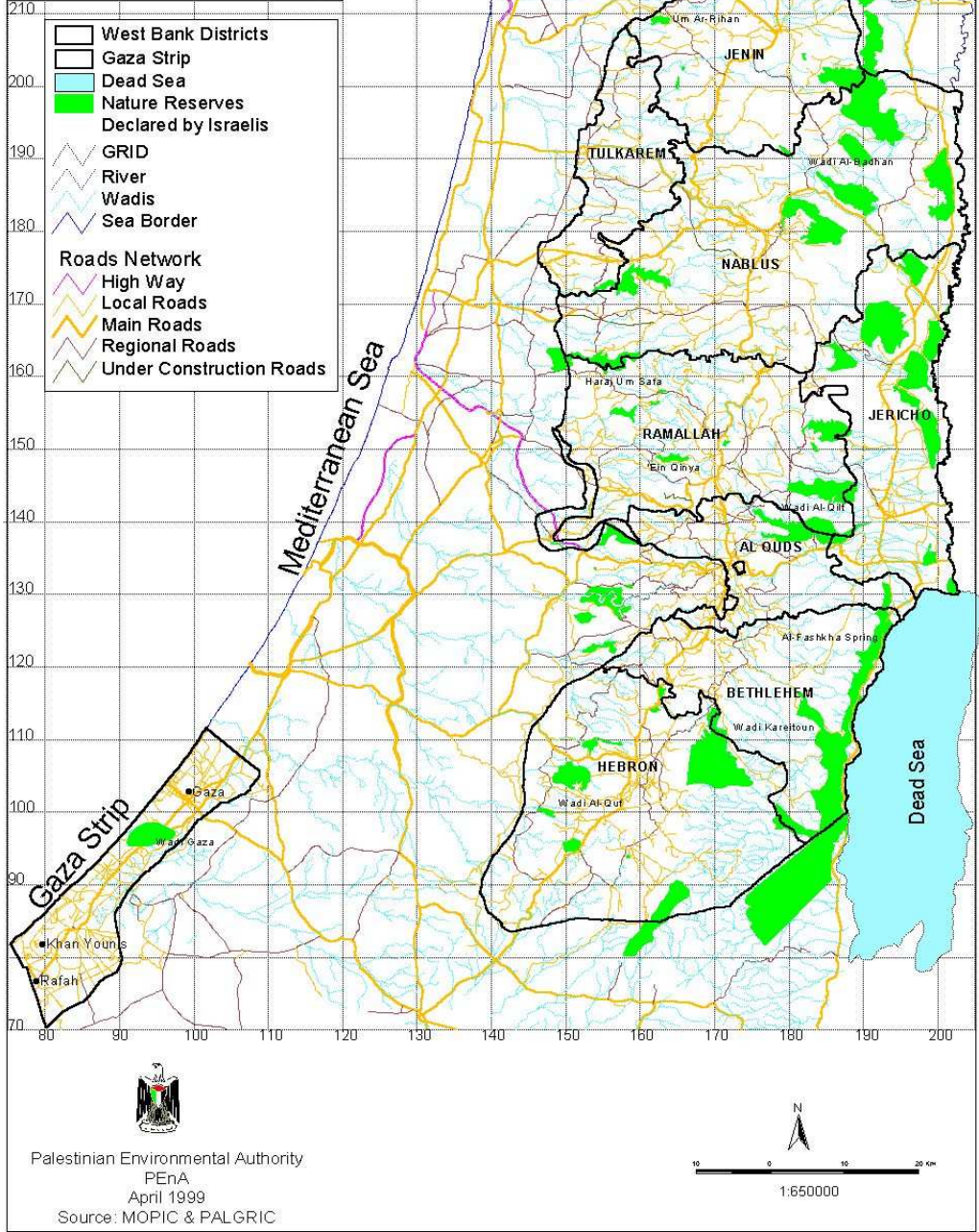
- **Biodiversity awareness campaigns,**
- **Increase Social communication activities**
- **School clubs for the protection of nature**
- **Research on benefits and costs of conservation**
- **Equitable licensing for marine fishing, grazing and uses of biodiversity resources,**
- **National Trust Fund for biodiversity Training courses in Biodiversity management**
- **Systems of collaborative management of natural resources (stakeholders negotiate their own benefits).**
- **Revise university curricula and establish courses and workshops to train local specialists,**
- **Conserve and Improve indigenous knowledge practices and skills**
- **Develop training programs in eco-tourism**







Proposed Protected Areas in the West Bank & Gaza Strip



Palestinian Environmental Authority
 PEnA
 April 1999
 Source: MOPIC & PALGRIC

