



العربية لحماية الطبيعة
Arab Group for the Protection of Nature

Annual Report 2013



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Arab Group for the Protection of Nature

About APN

The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN), was established as a member-based non-profit organization in April, 2003 by a group of motivated persons concerned with the protection of the environment and the natural resources in the Arab countries against all hazards including the destructive impacts of wars and foreign occupations. APN is managed by a board of directors composed of seven members elected by a general assembly. Its work is guided by the resolve, commitment and dedication of its members and aided by the engagement of its supporters.

Mission:

The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature seeks to strengthen the capacities of Arab people to sustain and control their natural resources, especially those living under occupation and armed conflicts, and to mobilize efforts of civil society organizations towards promoting and advocating regional and global environmental issues.

Objectives:

- Contribute to the rehabilitation and sustainability of natural resources in the Arab region which suffer from wars and armed conflicts, especially in Jordan and Palestine.
- Influence the drafting and implementation of related global environmental policies, and enhance the role of civil society organizations through effective partnerships.
- Mobilize efforts of the civil society in order to contribute and respond to the needs of Arab and global environment.
- Build the capacity of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature in order to achieve its mission with high professionalism, effectiveness and institutional sustainability.



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The Million Tree Campaign

In 2013, APN has continued its work in replanting trees in Palestine through its Second Million Tree Campaign that aims to support farmers and families retain their food security and livelihoods .

The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature's 10th Annual Dinner



APN celebrated 10 years of its campaigns, which included planting more than a million and 700 trees in Jordan and Palestine, and organizing hundreds of forums and awareness workshops around the topic of food sovereignty in the Arab World, on the 21st of December 2013 at the Landmark Hotel in Amman.

The dinner was attended by more than 500 supporters, and is considered to be the biggest event of solidarity for the Million Tree Campaign. A video demonstrating the achievements of the group in the 10 years was screened at the dinner followed by scenes from the documentary The Last Shepherds of the Valley directed by Mariam Shahin. The screening s were followed by a discussion with the director and the documentary's leading character, Palestinian farmer Abu Saqr, who spoke about the struggle of the Palestinian Bedouins in the Jordan Valley .The ceremony was concluded with an Arab folk dance (debkeh) performed by Al Hannouneh Society for Popular Culture.

In the opening address, president of APN, Razan Zuayter said that "the most important focus of APN is to increase sovereignty over our natural resources and our food through influencing agricultural and environmental policies on local, regional, and global levels. We must work against the tools that marginalize our local food production systems".

A number of personalities and institutions were honored at the dinner for their role in supporting the 2nd Million Tree Campaign.





APN's Initiative to Plant Quarter of a Million New Trees in Palestine

Within the program of planting one million trees for the agricultural season 2013-2014, APN began collaborating with its partner, the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee in Palestine to distribute a quarter of a million fruit trees in a project funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The project aims to cultivate 8300 acres of farmland, to benefit approximately 2400 farms in more than 60 locations in various Palestinian governorates.



Planting 17,000 fruit trees through the Trees of Resilience Project

Within the Second MTC, APN collaborated with the Palestinian Agricultural Farmers Union on the Trees of Resilience (Ashtal Al-Somoud) project to complete the planting of 17,000 fruit trees in the cities of Tulkarem, Salbit, Qalqilya and Jerusalem (Bait Anan, Bait Soreek, Bait Ikksa, Biddo) and Gaza.



Planting 23,000 fruit trees through Al-Ard Al-Tayiba Project

APN completed with its partner the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee in Palestine planting 23,000 fruit trees in the West Bank through Al-Ard Al-Tayiba Project. 1500 trees were planted in Birzeit University to help fund the university students, also 2000 trees were planted inside the green line in the lands occupied in 1948, where the project will help in planting around 740 Donums with the benefit of 320 farmers.

Drilling 5 water wells in Biddo Village in the West of Jerusalem

In collaboration with the Palestinian Agricultural Farmers Union, APN completed the drilling of 5 water wells for the benefit of Palestinian Farmers, in order to provide extra drinking water to the inhabitants of Biddo Village in Jerusalem. It is noted that the villagers depend on the drinking water coming from the public water network which extends to them from the settlements near their village. The majority of the village population like the other residents of the neighboring villages get their drinking water from the main line, and since the amount of water is not enough for their use, this forces the people of the village to buy the water from water tanks where the price of each cup of water can reach up to 5\$ which directly affects their income since most of the villagers are workers and farmers.

APN celebrates Palestinian Land Day by planting 2000 fruit trees

APN celebrated the anniversary of the Palestinian Land Day on the 30th of March by planting 2000 fruit trees in collaboration with Inma Organization and the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee, in the towns of Battouf, Arraba, Dair Hanna, Sikhna and Wadi Salama.

APN Contributed towards the Cultivation of 1000 Trees in the Village of Jibat el-Theeb

As part of the program of planting one million trees in Palestine, APN responded to a call made by the families of Jibat el-Theeb in Bethlehem. APN cultivated 1000 fruit trees in the territory that was regained on the 10th of September in 2013 after owners were prevented from entering it for 13 years.



APN provides a Palestinian farmer with a new horse



APN provided farmer Ibrahim Sbaih with a “horse” to be used in farming in his village Al-Khader, Bethlehem instead of the one that has been poisoned by settlers. He was also provided with trees instead of the uprooted ones. Ibrahim Sbeih refused to sell his land to the near by settlements when he was offered \$ 15 million in exchange for it.

Relief farmers affected by the snowstorm



Due to the damages that affected the farmers and the destruction of their crops by the snowstorm, APN in collaboration with Al-Nahda Rural Society started a project to meet the call of the farmers by planting more than 60 thousand seedling of winter vegetables (cabbage, thyme, onion, sage, garlic and spinach).

Planting land threatened by confiscation in Beit Jala



Within the Second MTC, APN collaborated with the Palestinian Agricultural Farmers Union on the Seedlings of the Nation (Ashtal al Watan) project that is funded by the Welfare Association, APN launched the project on the 27th of December in 2013 by cultivating 300 olive trees in the territory belonging to more than 25 families in the town of Makhrou. The town is located near Route 60, a road built primarily on the territory of the town of Beit Jala.

More than 400 volunteers from Beit Jala and other towns in the West Bank, and members of the Stop the Wall Campaign participated in the project.

APN Signs an Agreement of Cooperation with the Welfare Association to plant 7,000 Fruitful Seedlings within the Seeds of the Nation Project

For the second one million tree program in Palestine, APN and its partner, the Federation of Palestinian Farmers, signed an agreement with the Welfare Association with the aim of planting 7,000 fruitful seedlings. The program will provide a source of livelihood for 195 families extended to 870 donums, and will provide 800 temporary jobs.

Planting 2000 olive trees in Jerusalem villages

As an initiative from the visitors of Imam Muslim Mosque in Kuwait, 2000 olive trees were planted in several areas in Jerusalem, mostly in Bait Soreek, Bait Ikse and Qatana.

Fundraising by APN friends in Qatar to support planting trees

APN friends and volunteers in Qatar held a fundraising campaign to support the farmers in Bait Soreek Village in Palestine. The campaign succeeded in planting 1650 fruit trees (1350 olives, 160 figs and 140 citrus) in an area of 110 Donums for the benefit of 29 farmers.





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The Green Caravan Program

APN launched its Green Caravan Program in 2003, aiming to plant thousands of trees across the disadvantaged areas in Jordan to promote food security and counteract the dangers of desertification, overgrazing and urban sprawl. The project also aims to raise awareness, particularly among the youth on the importance of agriculture, trees and the conservation of nature.



Green Caravan plants 400 trees in 4 marginalized schools in Dlail District

On the 16th of April, APN planted 400 trees in Dlail District in collaboration with Directorate of Education in Zarqa and International Poultry Company-Tamam.

The planting campaign took two days, and it targetted the following schools: Rayhana Bint Zaid High School, Ruba Dlail Elementary School, Maria Al-Qobtiya High School and Al-Shkhout School.



APN plants 123 trees in collaboration with Aramex

APN participated with Aramex in its recycling contest that was launched in the period between 1-20 May 2013. The contest involved filming any creative innovations from recycling and reusing materials and products.

Aramex has contributed by planting a tree with APN for every participant in the competition. The contest resulted in planting 123 trees in Madaba.





APN and Amman Municipality begin a new phase to increase green areas in Jordan and promote cooperation between Civil Society and the Public Sector

A number of meetings which began on the 13th of November were held between the mayor of Amman, Akel Biltaji and a delegation from APN including APN president Razan Zuayter, Farah Kaddoura, Mohammad Qtaishat and Suzan Ayoub. The meetings resulted in the formation of a committee to develop action plans, identify appropriate locations for cultivation, and promote urban agriculture and rooftop gardens. APN and the municipality held further meetings including a meeting on the 26th of November and 3rd and 5th of December. Visits were organized to get to know some of the sites belonging to the municipality that could be cultivated.





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The Food Sovereignty Program (Advocacy Program)

APN at the 40th Session of the CFS



Similar to past years, APN and the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty participated in the 40th Session of the Committee on World Food Security between the 7th-11th of October 2013 at the headquarters of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. The session was attended by representatives from governments, United Nations organizations and international institutions, as well as the private sector and civil society mechanisms.

Being the facilitator of the CSM Working Group on Protracted Crises, APN coordinated the presence of the civil society in the CFS Protracted Crises session. Interventions by the group stressed on the central role of affected communities in the rehabilitation of social, political, and economic infrastructure as well as the importance of creating accountability frameworks governing all parties through the application of international law.

It is reported that the Committee on World Food Security meets on an annual basis to assess

what has been achieved from the reduction of food insecurity in the world, and to draw out future policies and goals. This annual session provides a framework for work to be completed in several smaller sessions throughout the year, and the CFS provides ultimately an annual report to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Participating in the International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism Annual Forum 2013

APN participated in the International Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) Annual Forum 2013 on the 5th-6th of October 2013 at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture in Rome. The forum hosted more than 240 participants, representing more than 175 countries from all over the world. Participants agreed on key issues that will be discussed at the 40th Session of the Committee on World Food Security including the principles on the responsible agricultural investments, protracted crises, biofuels, monitoring, coordination and communication with the Committee on World Food Security, and updates on the Global Strategic Framework.



The Arab region was represented by a delegation from the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty which comprised of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature, the Syndicate of Tunisian Farmers, and the National Federation for the Agricultural Sector of Morocco. Razan Zuayter, APN President and CSM Coordination Committee member focused her speech on the CFS process on food insecurity in protracted crises, the achievements of civil society in this regard and stressed on the need to involve more civil society representatives in its program of work. APN organized a workshop in the CSM forum to get consensus on priority issues, prepare interventions around protracted crises, and prepared a civil society strategy for this stream of work.



APN at the Coordinating Committee Meeting of the International Civil Society Mechanism

APN participated at the Coordination Committee (CC) meeting of the International Civil Society Mechanism on the 3-4th of October at the headquarters of the Food and Agricultural Organization. The committee consists of 41 people representing 11 different sectors and 17 regions. It organizes the participation of the global civil society in the work streams of the Committee on World Food Sovereignty (CFS). APN President Razan Zuayter attended the meeting as the CC representative of West Asia.

The meeting assessed the work and achievements of the Civil Society Mechanism in addition to the work of the advisory group and the coordinating committee. The meeting resulted in a short and long-term action plan to develop the mechanism.



Leading the International Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) in the First and Second CFS Open Ended Working Group meetings on Protracted Crises in Rome

APN participated in the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) meetings of the Committee on World Food Security on Protracted Crisis in July 8, and October 31st in the FAO HQ in Rome. The meeting was attended by member country representatives, different agencies of the United Nations, International organizations, the International Civil Society Mechanism and the Private Sector Mechanism.

APN General Manager, and member of the CFS Technical Support Team Mariam Al-Jaajaa coordinated the presence and interventions of the CSM Protracted Crises working group through preparatory meetings organized on July 7 and October 30 2013.

Preparatory meetings were held to discuss and prepare input on the Draft Agenda for Action on Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises that will be negotiated by governments in July 2014 and endorsed in October 2014. The CSM Working Group stressed in all meetings that the Agenda should adopt a Rights Based Approach, which will allow a step towards the prevention and resolution of food insecurity and malnutrition in protracted crises. The CSM has also insisted that multi-stakeholder platforms for monitoring and evaluation are essential and that an inventory of norms that relate to Food and Nutrition Security in Protracted Crises could be very helpful to assist stakeholder in reforming their policies and actions.



Creating a Communication Mechanism for the CSM Protracted Crises Working Group



APN created a communication mechanism to allow discussions to reach consensus among the 100 CSO members of the CSM Protracted Crises Working Group. The Working Group includes social movements representing farmers, fisheries, women, youth, and workers, as well as local and international NGOs from all around the world.

APN has also pushed for the creation of a self-nominated CSM Technical Support Team that facilitates transferring input between the different civil society constituents on one hand, and the CFS Secretariat and technical team. The working group communicated through emails, electronic calls and face-to-face meetings.

APN, with its General Manager Mariam AL jaajaa, and Herman Kumara from NAFSO/ Sri Lanka were nominated by the CSM Working Group to represent civil society in the CFS technical team that has members from all the different CFS stakeholders.

Participation in the "Monitoring Meeting" of the Committee on World Food Security

On July 17, APN participated through board member Rami Barhoush in the Committee on World Food Security's meeting on Monitoring CFS decisions that was organized at the FAO HQ in Rome. APN was one of the eight non-governmental organizations representing the International Civil Society Mechanism on Food Security.

The meeting discussed principles for the development of an innovative monitoring mechanism to assess the work and achievements of the CFS.

Forming an Asian United Front on Food Sovereignty



APN President and coordinator of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty was invited to participate in the formulation of a CSO United Asian Front on issues around agriculture, food security and sovereignty which was held in Negombo City in Sri-Lanka in the period between the 20th and -23rd of August in 2013.

The meeting comes as a step to strengthen the Asian voice in different platforms including the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty, which held its annual meeting in November 2013 in Brazil. An administrative committee was formed comprising of representatives from South Asia, South East Asia, and West Asia that included APN President, Razan Zuayter .

The participants discussed priorities that the team will work on in the coming two years including the implementation of the voluntary guidelines on the tenure of land, fisheries and forests , responsible agricultural investment and protracted crises.



Participation in the Global Power Shift in Istanbul

APN, through its VP Rami Barhoush, was invited to give a presentation at the Global Power Shift Summit which was held in Istanbul between the 24th and 30 of March 2013. The goal of the summit was to share stories, learn skills, and sharpen strategies around combating environmental damage and climate change. The summit welcomed hundreds of CSO representatives from around the world and APN spoke about the strong relationship between conflict and the vulnerability to climate change.



General Assembly Meeting of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty in Brazil

The General Assembly for the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) met in Brazil between the 25-28th of November to discuss its current strategy and the action plan for the coming years on the global and regional level. Mariam Al Jaajaa gave a presentation about the achievements of the Working Group on Food Insecurity in Conflict founded by APN in 2005.

One of the main achievements is putting the question of food insecurity in crises in the agenda of priorities for the Committee on World Food Security which is the highest international multi-stakeholder platform on food security. Al Jaajaa stressed the importance of involving a large number of civil society organizations with the food sovereignty agenda in this group and managed to include the topic in the 4 main priorities of the IPC. She insisted on the involvement of Arab civil society which is often marginalized by international organizations and global civil society.



A Meeting of the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty

President Razan Zuayter represented West Asia at a meeting of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), which was held in Rome between October 1-2 2013. The discussion focused on the priorities of this platform and its program for the coming two years. Zuayter asked the IPC to facilitate cooperation between countries of the global south and to allow an equal platform that encourages organizations and movements of the south to formulate their own priorities and programs.



Organizing a workshop on Food Sovereignty in the Arab World at the World Social Forum in Tunisia



A team from the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature in collaboration with La Via Campesina organized a workshop on the 28th of March at the World Social Forum in Tunisia. The workshop gathered CSO representatives to discuss issues around food sovereignty in the Arab world. The workshop hosted speakers from Arab and international networks, including the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty which APN had co-founded and registered in September 2012. APN President spoke in her speech about the importance of building CSO networks on the regional and international level to work towards food security and sovereignty.

Participation in the 4th Session of the Earth Forum in Tunisia



APN was invited to participate with two presentations during the 4th Session of the Earth Forum in the Middle East/North Africa region which was organized by the Housing and Land Rights Networks and Habitat International Coalition between the 26-25 of March 2013. The forum tackled a number of issues including agriculture, water resources, urban and rural poverty and the right to housing. APN, through its Public Relations Manager Farah Kaddoura, gave a presentation on its successful rehabilitation programs in Palestine and Jordan. APN President, Razan Zuayter gave a presentation in the final session on civil engagement in policy making on the international and regional level.



Organizing an Expert group meeting on green value chains for improving livelihoods in the Arab region

In collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), APN organized an Expert group meeting on green value chains for improving livelihoods in the Arab region, in Beirut, between 20-21st of June 2013. The meeting was held at the UN House in Beirut and It brought together experts from national public, private and civil society institutions and from regional and international institutions. The experts were from the economic, social and environment fields, working on such issues as agriculture, industry, water and energy. The meeting offered a platform to review policies and initiatives for developing green agricultural value chains in the Arab region by identifying key challenges and opportunities and proposing ways to improve their effectiveness in terms of higher productivity, improved use of resources, improved product quality and safety, and reduced waste.

APN president Razan Zuayter stressed in her welcoming speech on the right to food and the

right of the peoples to have access to productive resources. APN representative Mariam Al Jaajaa was a discussant in one of the sessions and stressed that agricultural value chains tend to emphasize increasing productivity rather than the fair distribution of food; and that there is a need to think at the regional level, rather than exclusively at the national or global level to achieve the right to food.



Holding the Second Meeting of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty and Appointing APN as its Temporary Secretariat

The Second Meeting of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS) was held in Beirut on the evening of the 21st of June 2013 which was hosted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the UN House in Beirut. It focused on institutionalization and building a sound communication strategy between Arab CSO in order to reach consensus on priority issues and methods to achieve goals. The meeting welcomed 22 members of the ANFS from Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Oman, Yemen, Iraq, Sudan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, UAE. The strategic framework and the statute of the network were also discussed and APN was appointed as a Temporary Secretariat.

Organizing the Second Arab Civil Society Consultation on Food Security and Nutrition

Mandated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), APN held the Second Arab Civil Society Consultation on Food Security and Nutrition in cooperation with the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS) and the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) affiliated with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The conference was held at the Amman Cham Palace Hotel for three days beginning September 11th 2013 and was attended by 60 professionals from Jordan, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Egypt, Yemen, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Libya, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar.

A number of topics were discussed including the Agenda for Action on Food Security in Protracted Crises (A4A), the principles of responsible agricultural investment (rai), and the monitoring of CFS decisions and their application in the states including the application of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Land Tenure, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

Participants adopted a number of recommendations and proposals that stress on a Human Rights Approach and particularly the right to food. Participants pointed to the important role played by civil society organizations in the Arab region to achieve food security, and the importance of achieving a common strategy between Arab countries. Participants also agreed that crises and conflicts are key reasons for the deteriorating food security and nutrition status in the region.

Participating in the Arab Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

APN participated in the Expert Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which was organized in Tunisia, on 18 and 19 of November 2013 by The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in partnership with the League of Arab States (LAS) and the United Nations Environment Programme, and in collaboration with the Tunisian Ministry of Equipment and Environment.

The meeting aimed to consult on the Sustainable Development Goals and post-2015 agenda in light of recent ongoing global consultations on the subject, particularly the outcomes from the 68th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the meetings of the intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) on the SDGs.

APN President was allocated an intervention in the session on Civil Society Perspectives on MDGs, SDGs and Post-2015 where she insisted on the importance of developing a detailed and unified framework for sustainable development in the Arab world which includes a common strategy and multi-stakeholder implementation and monitoring mechanisms that are inclusive of civil society.

Speaking at the Regional Workshop for Stakeholders on Food Security and Nutrition in Tunisia

APN gave a presentation on behalf of Arab civil society in the Regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition that is organized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Tunis from November 4th to the 7th in 2013. The workshop was attended by dozens of representatives from the public and private sector and civil society. It reviewed and discussed the food security strategy in the context of the changing social and political situation in the region, as well as ongoing global initiatives that fall under the umbrella of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Mariam Al Jaajaa, who is responsible for the Policy program at APN, and co-facilitator of the CSM Protracted Crises Working Group gave a presentation on the perspective of global civil society on the Agenda for Action on Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises that is being prepared under the umbrella of the Committee on World Food Security. She stressed on the dangers of restricting the Agenda to post-crises rehabilitation and the exclusion of key principles such as prevention and resolution. She added that the Civil Society Mechanism believes that a primary purpose of the Agenda for Action is to enable governments and other stakeholders to implement existing CFS policy guidance in protracted crises and to honor existing humanitarian and human rights obligations which have been negotiated between all governments, providing the strongest and most legitimate guidance for national and regional actions.



Meeting on the Update of the Sustainable Development Initiative for the Arab Region

In August 25 2013, President of APN, Razan Zuayter, joined a group of experts who were invited by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Program for the Environment, and the Arab League to discuss the updates on the Sustainable Development Initiative for the Arab Region.

Zuayter stressed on the need to discuss basic principles to rely on such as social justice and sovereignty over resources and the involvement of civil society in the development, implementation and monitoring, and she declared that without it, the initiative will remain theoretical.

The FAO Near East & North Africa Land and Water Days

APN was invited to participate in the regional conference, which was held in Amman for four days between the 15-18th of December at the Le Meridien Hotel in Amman.

The meeting revolved around land and water management as well as technologies, approaches and modalities to secure improvements on the ground.



A delegation comprising of President Razan Zuayter, Mohammad Qtaishat, Farah Kaddoura and Mariam Al jaajaa was present at the conference which was a platform for member countries and their development partners to share experiences and lessons learned.

On the sidelines of the conference, APN met with the regional representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Mr. Abdul Salam Wild Ahmed, in order to introduce the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty and its goals as a platform for civil society organizations working in the field of food security. Razan Zuayter spoke about the significance of a genuine and institutionalized partnership between civil society and the FAO and the need to give civil society the right of self-organization and autonomy. The network and its future relationship with the FAO were welcomed by Mr. Abdul Salam Wild Ahmed. APN and the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty invited Mr. Laith Bin Bichr from the Tunisian Farmer's Syndicate, Ms. Shahira Wehbeh from the Arab League, and Mr. Raafat Khandakji, a representative of the Palestinian Agricultural Farmers Union, to discuss a mechanism of cooperation between the Arab League and Arab civil society involved in sustainable development and food security.



Creating a Local Policy Working Group on Food Sovereignty Issues

APN created a local volunteer advocacy working group to discuss core issue such as Arab food security and agriculture, distribution and protection of natural resources, as well as conflict and its impact on the environment.

The aim of forming this group is to raise the awareness and capacity of youth to influence policies on local, regional and international level.

The policy group held a series of meetings throughout the year where it researched, examined and discussed academic work on food security and food sovereignty and welcomed experts to speak on relevant matters of concern.

A Field visit to Jordan Valley Farmers Union

APN organized a field visit to the Jordan Valley Farmers Union on the 4th of May 2012. The aim was to learn about the challenges facing the agricultural sector in Jordan and to encourage future cooperation between the two parties.

Farmers spoke about their hardships such as the high and volatile prices of agricultural inputs, the lack of a clear agricultural strategy to guide cultivation , in addition to the limited water resources provided by the Jordan Valley Authority. The two parties agreed on a series of joint future actions.



A Meeting between the Policy Working Group and the Palestinian Farmers Union

APN's Policy Working Group held a meeting on the 20th of April with Abir Al-Khalili from the Palestinian Agricultural Farmers Union. The meeting discussed the situation and role of the 93 agricultural civil society organizations in the West Bank and Gaza benefiting more than 8000 Palestinian farmers.

The participants discussed the current tax program, mechanisms of protecting the Palestinian market, capacity building programs, and health schemes that could enhance the resilience of small farmers.

A Discussion on Economic and Successful Agriculture

APN's policy group invited agricultural expert Maher Azzouka to join a discussion on the 29th of June, on elements of economic and successful agriculture in Jordan and challenges faced by local farmers all through the value chain. The discussion included mechanisms to enhance added value of local production and improving farmers' income through marketing services, monitoring the quality of the products and controlling prices of intermediaries. Maher emphasized on the need of unity between small farmers to create large agricultural units such as cooperatives or via contract farming to be able to compete in the market.



Participating in the "Environmental Future in the Middle East" Workshop

APN participated by volunteer and activist Carrie Schwartz in the workshop "Environmental Future in the Middle East" that was held by a group of researchers in Columbia University on the 17th of June. The workshop was moderated by Professor Karim Maqdisi from the American University in Beirut and the workshop was attended by a group of academics and activists.

Carrie presented a paper about APN and food sovereignty in protracted crisis and global warming, she emphasized on the strong relation between conflicts and environmental degradation, and the relation between these phenomenas with food security and human rights. She also presented Gaza Strip as a case study, and stated the difference between food security and food sovereignty, and that working towards sovereignty will help the communities to have the ability to confront and adapt to political and climate change.

Participation in a workshop on the proposed Law on Biosafety in Jordan

APN was represented by Razan Zuayter and Mohammad Qtaishat in the workshop that was held between 17-19 June in Amman to discuss the proposed Law on Biosafety in Jordan. APN emphasized the importance of including civil society in the National Committee on Biosafety, and pointed that the project should include an platform to spread awareness and mobilize civil society around this subject.



Intensive meetings to discuss the effects of Genetically Modified Foods



In solidarity with the global social movements that call for the boycott of genetically modified seeds particularly produced by the US-based company Monsanto for “Agricultural Biotechnology”, APN in collaboration with local activists from Tammey, Taghmees and Jadal formed a group to examine the implications of GMOs and how to protect our food and the future generation. This group aims to prepare a series of events and activities to raise awareness among people and to encourage farmers and local agriculture by providing local seed banks and to set a law that demands the labeling of all imported genetically modified products to give the people the right to know its composition.

APN was also invited by the Jordan Agriculture Engineers Association to participate in a meeting about the effects and the consequences of companies such as Monsanto on Jordan. APN was represented by its volunteers Riwa Kahhale and Zeena Jaajaa. Jaajaa presented APN's work on this topic as it held the first forum on GMOs in Jordan in 2005, as well as issued the first publication on this topic in Arabic.

APN meets with the Jordan Valley Famers Union and the Palestinian Famers Union



APN was invited on the 18th of April to meet with the Jordan Valley Farmers Union headed by Mr. Adnan Khadam and Palestinian Agricultural Farmers Union headed by Mr. Ibrahim Duaiq . APN president Razan Zuayter presented a brief APN and its diverse activities on local, regional and international level.

Jordan Valley Farmers Union president Adnan Khadam and Palestinian Farmers Union president Ibrahim Duaiq presented a brief about their unions and their work and they discussed some ideas for future cooperation.



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Arab Group for the Protection of Nature

Events and Activities

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature ... 10 Years of Achievements



APN celebrated its 10th anniversary on the 25th of July at the Landmark Hotel with more than a hundred of its volunteers. There was a review of the group's achievements from the past 10 years and words of appreciation given by the staff and volunteers of APN celebrating this occasion. APN president expressed her gratitude to the media that has supported APN's activities since it was founded.

General Assembly Meeting

The General Assembly of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) held its meeting on the 10th of November in 2013. President of the Board of Directors Razan Zuayer presented a report outlining the group's achievements and projects completed in 2012.

The Chief Financial Officer of APN and the auditor from the Talal Abu -Ghazaleh Company presented the financial report and balance sheet of APN for the year 2012 which got the approval of the assembly.

Meeting a Palestinian farmer from Al-Jaba'a Village in Bethlehem

APN board members invited Palestinian Farmer Khalid Masha'aleh from Al-Jaba'a Village on the 20th of March to expose the situation of his village that is surrounded by 5 settlements as well as the segregation wall . Al-Jaba'a checkpoint is also located on his land.

Masha'aleh discussed the situation of the other Palestinian farmers and the challenges they face, where the area of the village has shrunk from 13000 Donums to 2500 Donums due to the expansion of the settlements and building of the checkpoint.

Participation in Souk Jara

APN volunteers participated in Souk Jara (Jara Market) that is held every Friday of each summer season in the Jabal Amman area in Jordan. Through its participation, APN aims to spread awareness about environmental problems facing our region, as well as mobilizing financial and human resources to tackle them. APN participates by selling handmade products by volunteers where the profits goes to supporting reforestation projects implemented by APN in Jordan and Palestine.



Participation in the activity "Sahritna Market"

On July 18 APN participated in Sahritna market, an event organized by the King Hussein Training Center as an initiative to fundraise for projects that integrate people with disabilities .



Demencia Music Festival donates to the MillionTree Campaign

On August 30, a group of students organized the Demencia Music Festival in which the international artist Aya Marar performed along with a group of Jordanian local artists. The ceremony was attended by more than 450 people in the Bisharat Golf Club.

Festival organizers donated a part of their profit to the second Million Tree Campaign and APN introduced its products during the festival.



New Environmental Partnerships

APN launched a partnership program with REFUTREES , a CSO, which aims to develop sustainable environmental projects to serve the needs of communities in camps in the West Bank and Lebanon. A cultural evening was set up as part of this collaboration on Friday, October 11th under the name of "Jamming for a Cause". Proceeds went to the cultivation of green roofs in the refugee camps. APN volunteers Lamis Abu Aziza and Hamza Sabha sold products and raised awareness about APN and REFUTREES.

APN participates in AUB Alumni Club market

APN participated in AUB Alumni Club market that was held on the 28th of June in their headquarters. APN was able to plant more than 30 trees by its participation in this market.

APN visited the Princess Basma Youth Resource Centre (PBYRC)

In a new initiative, APN visited the Princess Basma Youth Resource Centre (PBYRC) on the 4th of October in order to communicate with youth committees in the Kingdom. APN was introduced to the green station at the center in al-Hashemi, and from then on, it was decided that the organizations would collaborate with each other to establish new green stations and gardens. It was also agreed that they would organize lectures together to spread environmental awareness as part of the If You Know campaign..





Bait el-Ruwad Band on the 19th of November

APN was invited by Bait el-Ruwad as a guest of one of their performances that are held on a weekly basis under the auspices of the Greater Amman Municipality. They began the ceremony by welcoming members of APN who were attending. The floor was given to APN member Farah Kaddoura which gave a presentation about the group's programs and its achievements over the past 10 years.



APN elected in the administrative board of Jordanian Federation for Environmental NGOs

On the 27th of June, Eng. Razan Zuayter, APN president, was elected as a member of the administrative board of the Jordanian Federation for Environmental NGOs.

Approval of the internal rules of the National Committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

The Jordanian National Committee for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature organized a meeting for its members on the 20th of May. The goal of the meeting was to approve the internal rules of the National Committee of the IUCN, as well as developing an action plan for the year 2013. APN participated in this meeting with its volunteers Mohammad Qtaishat, Ruba Shahrour and Riwa Kahhale. The meeting resulted in the approval and adoption of the internal rules.

The first and second meeting of the Jordanian Environmental NGO's Federation

APN hosted the first and second meeting for JEFN, on the 18 and 20 of July to discuss a number of topics and coordinate the first steps to institutionalize the federation. President of APN Razan Zuayter has confirmed the need to have a clear vision for the work of the federation which demands that inputs are taken from specialists on various environmental concerns.

A Meeting at the Ministry of Environment

APN's President, Razan Zuayter represented the organization at the First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the National Plan for the Development of Environmental Awareness Programs which was held at the Ministry of Environment on November 11th 2013.

Participants discussed the division of environmental themes into several sectors of the Jordanian society (e.g. the industrial sector, the agricultural sector, teachers and students, and women) . Programs and activities were identified for each sector .



Participation in an intensive workshop on the development and institutionalization of civil society organizations

In the period between 7-8 April, APN held in its headquarters an intensive workshop on the development and institutionalization of civil society organizations with the presence of Mr. Jose Tavares, Razan Zuayter, Mariam Jaajaa and Mohammad Qtaishat. This workshop came within the programs of raising the efficiencies of the

local environmental institutions that are organized by the regional office for West Asia at IUCN. The workshop was followed by two meetings at APN, that welcomed Moutaz Al-Tahir, an expert in planning processes, strategic management and communication.

Meeting with the president of Land Research Center in Palestine

On the 1st of April, APN held a brainstorming meeting at its headquarters with the president of the Land Research Center in Palestine, Mr. Jamal Talab, to discuss future cooperation opportunities between the two parties. Land Research Center is specialized in monitoring tenure violations against Palestinian territories, and specialized in scientific research on agriculture, environment and human rights.

Makram Makhoul's Meeting with APN Board Members on Saturday

APN held a meeting between Mr. Makram Makhoul, a Palestinian academic and professor in Cambridge University, and the board members of APN on Saturday the 30th of November so that he may be introduced to the organization's programs and push for cooperation between the two parties.

Participation in the meeting that discussed the World Bank studies about the Red-Dead Channel Project



APN, represented by Eng. Mohammad Qtaishat participated in the meeting that discussed the World Bank study on the Red-Dead Channel Project, which was hosted by the Water Authority in their headquarters on the 6th of March. Qtaishat stated APN's concerns about the project including the fear of causing a change in the overall form and quality of the Dead Sea water as well as the environmental hazards caused by removing water from the Gulf of Aqaba and its effect on marine life. APN suggested an alternative proposal of building a wastewater treatment plant near Aqaba and pumping the water to Dissi Aquifer.

Participation in a conference about Investment in the Gaza Strip

APN's president, Eng Zuayter was invited to participate in a conference about investment in the Gaza Strip. Due to the closure of the checkpoint crossing, the meetings were held in Cairo on 20/5. In her intervention, Zuayter called the 200 participants to set the criteria for any investment that shall take place in Gaza and Palestine, she also emphasized that it not any investment that is required but rather ones which achieve sustainable and equitable development.

A New Film that Celebrates Ten Years of APN Programs

APN collaborated with director Mustafa Rasheed to direct a film that documents the achievements of APN in the last 10 years. The film was presented for the first time at the Annual Dinner, which was held on the 21st of December 2013.

Training workshop on the management of protected areas

APN was invited by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature to participate in a workshop on the management of protected areas in Dana Biosphere Reserve between 14-15th of April. Volunteer Ruba Shahrour participated in the workshop on behalf of APN. The presentations focused on the concept of eco-tourism and the importance of using renewable energy . Speakers also stressed on the need of involving local communities in the planning phases as there are three variables (economic, social and environmental) to ensure the sustainability of any project.



A Lecture on the Reality of the Nuclear Reactor Project

On November 25th 2013, APN hosted a lecture by Dr. Nidal Al-Zubi, an expert in reactor engineering and nuclear fuel management. He gave a presentation on the reality of nuclear research reactors and the flawed strategy that is being used to build a nuclear program in terms of the quantities of uranium available in Jordan and the cost of production.

This lecture came at the request of the Jordan Environmental NGOs Federation which APN is part of. Two other meetings were held on the 21st of November and 15th of December to discuss the different environmental concerns, and to put finishing touches on the institutionalization of the work of the federation.



New Products: T-shirts of the Towns and Cities of Palestine

APN launched a new line of products including T-shirts with the names of Palestinian and Jordanian cities, mugs and homemade olive oil soap. Volunteers have also decorated jars that contain local herbs and seeds that have great health benefits.





العريضة لحماية الطبيعة
Arab Group for the Protection of Nature

Raising Public Awareness

The “If You Only Know” Campaign

APN launched the If You Only Know Campaign in 2012, to spread awareness between schools and university students about the environmental risks facing agriculture and the environment in Jordan and the Arab world, through providing awareness lectures by a number of APN volunteers. The lectures that were held this year included the following:

Training workshop in YWCA

In collaboration with Loyac organization, APN held a training workshop in the Young Women Christian Association in Madaba to a number of volunteers, aiming to provide them with information as well as basic skills in presenting lectures as part of the If You Only Know Campaign.

Lecture in the German Jordanian University

On the 27th of March and on behalf of APN, Mohammad Qtaishat presented a lecture to the students of Architecture in the German Jordanian University about water problems in Jordan. Qtaishat reviewed the water resources in Jordan and he mentioned the most important completed and future projects in this context, such as Red-Dead Channel Project, Dissi Project and the situation of surface water and ground water in the Kingdom. He also reviewed APN's projects in protecting the natural resources in Jordan and Palestine.

Awareness lectures in Dahiyet Al-Rasheed High School & Dair Al-Latin School

Mohammad Qtaishat and artist Raed Abu Zahra presented an awareness lecture in Dahiyet Al-Rasheed High School on the 25th of April 2013. The function included a lecture about the environment, followed by an arts session encouraging students to express what they have learnt through drawing. APN has also organized another lecture in Dair Al-Latin School in the city of Madaba, and it was presented by YWCA volunteers and attended by more than 50 students.



Lecture in Baqa'a School

APN held an awareness lecture on the 14th of May in Baqa'a School and it was presented by the volunteers Mariam Jaajaa and Sawsan Khaldi. The lecture was attended by more than 50 participants. The discussion dealt with the most important environmental challenges and obstacles that face the agricultural sector in Jordan and Palestine. It also addressed the importance of the role of civil society and the role of APN in facing these challenges.

Organizing a lecture on Permaculture

APN organized on the 16th of January a lecture on Permaculture & sustainable agriculture, and it was presented by APN volunteer and expert Salah Hammad. He presented the principles of permaculture and its methods in design. The lecture came in context of increasing awareness about the importance of agriculture in achieving food security for our communities. Hammad explained how to manage the farms effectively, particularly limiting the depletion of soil, water resources and energy.

APN Held a Debate about the Role of Youth in Agriculture

On September 29th APN hosted agricultural researcher Hanadah Sadat in a debate with a number of volunteers to talk about agriculture and activating the role of young people with their different professions in the service of the agricultural community.



Training workshop on simple marketing and communication skills

APN held a training workshop in its headquarters on the 11th of February to a group of APN volunteers on building their skills of presenting projects to the private sector. Administrative Board member and APN media coordinator Ziad Moghrabi trained the volunteers by giving them theoretical information about the skills of marketing and communication. The talk was followed by practical exercises to evaluate their skills. APN held this workshop as part of the preparation for a campaign targeting the private sector to convince them in support reforestation and food security initiatives in Jordan and Palestine.



Training workshop for APN volunteers on using Social Media tools

APN held a training workshop on the 8th of February to a group of its volunteers on using social media to the benefit of its campaigns, particularly Twitter. APN volunteer and expert in social media Maher Nammari presented the workshop. This training came as part of the capacity building program that APN is providing to its volunteers to enable them to acquire skills to promote APN.



Palestinian Sunbird ends his journey in South America

APN volunteer Qais Hinti organized a tour that took several months of traveling in South America. In his journey he visited several countries and held different lectures to Arab and foreign communities about APN, and agriculture in the Arab world. His last stop was in Peru, where he had two lectures in the municipality of Surko.





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Media Views

In the year 2013, media shed the light on APN through covering its news, events and activities in newspaper articles and television and radio interviews.

Participation in a meeting on Jordanian Television

On August 14, the Jordanian TV show Yawm Jadeed presented by Samar Gharaibeh hosted two APN volunteers, Farah Kaddoura and Ahmed Gharabli. The volunteers spoke about the group's projects and activities that contributes to protecting the environment in Jordan and Palestine, and a glimpse of its advocacy achievements over the past 10 years on the regional and international level.



Donia el Sahafa On Royaa TV

Donia el Sahafa program hosted Razan Zuayter, President of the APN in September 2013. She spoke about the organization, its programs and activities, and the initiative to form the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty. She also spoke about the Civil Society Consultation on Food Security and Nutrition, which was held in Amman in September.

Zuayter spoke about the importance of the conference, which aims to bring together Arab civil society voices on issues related to agriculture . She explains that the conference is commissioned by FAO in collaboration with the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, and the International Civil Society Mechanism.



Donia Ya Donia Program – APN’s Initiative to Help the People of Jibat el-Theeb

Roya TV’s Donia Ya Donia hosted by Mais el Nubani hosted APN projects coordinator Mohamed Qtaishat and its press officer, Ziad El Moghrabi. They spoke about APN’s latest achievements, its projects in the past ten years, and the event which was held to celebrate the ten years.

Mr. Ziad El Moghrabi spoke about the objectives of APN with reference to the Green Caravan campaign that aims to cultivate shade and fruit trees in marginalized areas in Jordan. Qtaishat gave a brief explanation of the One Million Tree campaign in Palestine which aims to provide Palestinian with a new source of income.

Donia Ya Donia Hosts Guests of the APN Annual Dinner

On the 22nd of December, the TV program “Donia Ya Donia” hosted farmers Abu Saqr and Ibrahim Sbaih and Vice President of APN Rami Barhoush.

Mr. Rami Barhoush discussed the founding of APN and the reason for its inception, its aims, and its activities.

Abu Saqr, who comes from a village in the Palestinian Jordan Rift Valley, described the abuses that the indigenous Bedouins face such as the destruction of homes , killing and terrorizing cattle, and restrictions on water resources.

Ibrahim Sbaih, resident of Al-Khader area in Bethlehem, described the hardships of farmers such as the uprooting of trees, poisoning of horses, and letting out sewage water on agricultural lands.

Barhoush pointed out to other APN programs such as the Green Caravan and the If you only know campaign.



Annual Dinner Press Conference



APN hosted a number of media representatives of local and regional news agencies in its press conference to talk about the achievements of APN, upcoming plan and the path it will be taking through the coming years. APN presented the schedule of its Annual Dinner, which is the largest yearly solidarity event for the “Million Tree Campaign”.

In a statement during the press conference, Zuayter said “We are very pleased with what we have accomplished so far through our past 10 years of collective work. We are proud to be a real civil society initiative that relies almost entirely on local donations.” She emphasized on the importance of sustainable development initiatives instead of handouts that generate dependency, she also added “Our region is the most food insufficient in the world and the agricultural sector is still marginalized.” Zuayter also stressed on the importance of developing the concept of volunteerism to become institutionalized and sustainable.

Wasfi El Zaghoul and Razan Zuayter discuss Agricultural Economics

President of APN Razan Zuayter was the guest on the radio show The Economic Dimension with Wasfi Zaghoul on the 11th of December 2013. Razan presented her opinions on agrarian economy and sustainable development.

Zuayter stressed on a number of important topics such as the difference between economic growth and broad sustainable development which includes principles on the fair distribution of resources ownership, production and development. She talked about the need to widen the umbrella of development to include all governorates of the Kingdom and not only the capital Amman. She also stressed on the importance of investing in productive sectors such as agriculture and industry, and the independence from foreign conditional support that marginalize these two sectors. She concluded with the importance of emphasizing on food sovereignty and natural resources that are the base of sustainable economic development.

Interview on Radio El Balad with APN's guest, President of the Palestinian Agricultural Farmers Union, Ibrahim

Radio El Balad hosted president of the Palestinian Agricultural Farmers Union, Ibrahim Deiq on to talk about APN and the Million Tree Campaign and its role in strengthening the resilience of Palestinian farmers. Deiq said that “APN reflected the great extent of Jordan's support to the Palestinian Struggle for resilience”.