

## Aqaba Marine Reserve UNESCO Nomination File Preparation

Name of legal entity	Country	Overall project value (EUR)	Proportion carried out by candidate (%)	No of staff provided	Name of client	Origin of funding	Dates (start/end)	Name of partners if any
Sustainable Seas Ltd	Jordan	26.000	100%	1	UNDP Jordan	GEF	Aug 2020 to Nov 2020	N/A

Detailed description of project	Type of services provided
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Jordan's coastline extends only for 27 km along the Gulf of Aqaba. It is the only outlet to the open sea for the country and include the sea ports, an industrial zone, marine navy base and several tourist infrastructures. The marine and coastal environment of the Gulf of Aqaba is of global significance, they are the northern-most tropical reef systems worldwide (REF). It has been designated as a world wildlife fund (WWF) global 200 ecoregion due to its marine biodiversity value and being a home for both endemic and globally threatened species. The biodiversity value of Aqaba coastline is threatened by degradation of the ecosystem stemming from anthropogenic and development related pressures. These problems, although growing in significance, are not yet severe in many areas along the coastline and could be regulated effectively by professional conservation and sustainable protected area management.

The support is intended through preparing the "nomination file" which shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment as per the Nature Protection by law for their approval and ultimately, by the Cabinet. The new marine reserve will be an added value to the existing national network of protected area which consists of ten reserves and will be a contribution to the national efforts to achieve the national targets set forth in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan as well as the national obligations towards the UN Convention on Biodiversity and the other relevant international conventions and agreements. The assignment will address these threats by creating a nature marine reserve in accordance with national relevant bylaws and the international standards and guidelines to safeguard ecologically significant and vulnerable areas of the Aqaba coastline where the world is in danger of

- The main objective of the assignment is to develop the UNESCO compliant Nomination File for the establishment of the first marine reserve in Jordan in accordance to the national environmental legal framework and the international guidelines and best practices. Specific tasks for Jonathan McCue (as key Maine Expert) are as follows:
- Conduct baselines assessment that is required to prepare both; the nomination file for the proposed reserve and as per the guidelines set forth by the Ministry of Environment and the reserve management plan in accordance to the guideline document adopted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
  - Review of all legal and institutional frameworks of the marine and coastal area in Aqaba, particularly those related to the existing marine park including its management plan.
  - Conduct a baseline ecological survey to understand the ecology of marine system and prepare the necessary maps in collaboration with ASEZA and UNDP to identify the proper boundaries for the proposed reserve and its buffer zone
  - Preparation of the protected area nomination file according to the guidelines adopted by the Nature Protection bylaw of the Ministry of Environment
  - Development of the first draft of the management plan in consultation with ASEZA, UNDP and the relevant stakeholders and according to the standard practice
  - Conduct training needs assessment of core team es in that regard
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