

The Jordan Badia extends over 90% of Jordan's landscape, with Bedouins and other villages using it for livestock grazing as part of their main economic activity. Traditional grazing systems have declined over the years, subjecting the lands to a number of environmental pressures that further stem from industrialization, urbanization and agricultural

Socioeconomic development initiatives were therefore funded to establish comprehensive training models based on their traditional knowledge and methods of adapting to environmental challenges and change ownership perspectives. Target communities are to be fully involved in rangeland restoration activities and special emphasis will be given to building individual and institutional capacities for environmental management. Proper local community engagement and governance will engage women and marginalized groups to develop and take part in the planning and management process.

Towards Solutions

A Framework for change

A framework for change has been created by which local communities' have secured rights to manage their land and resources. The initiative created a greater sense of resource ownership, leading to their protection, restoration and sustainable management.

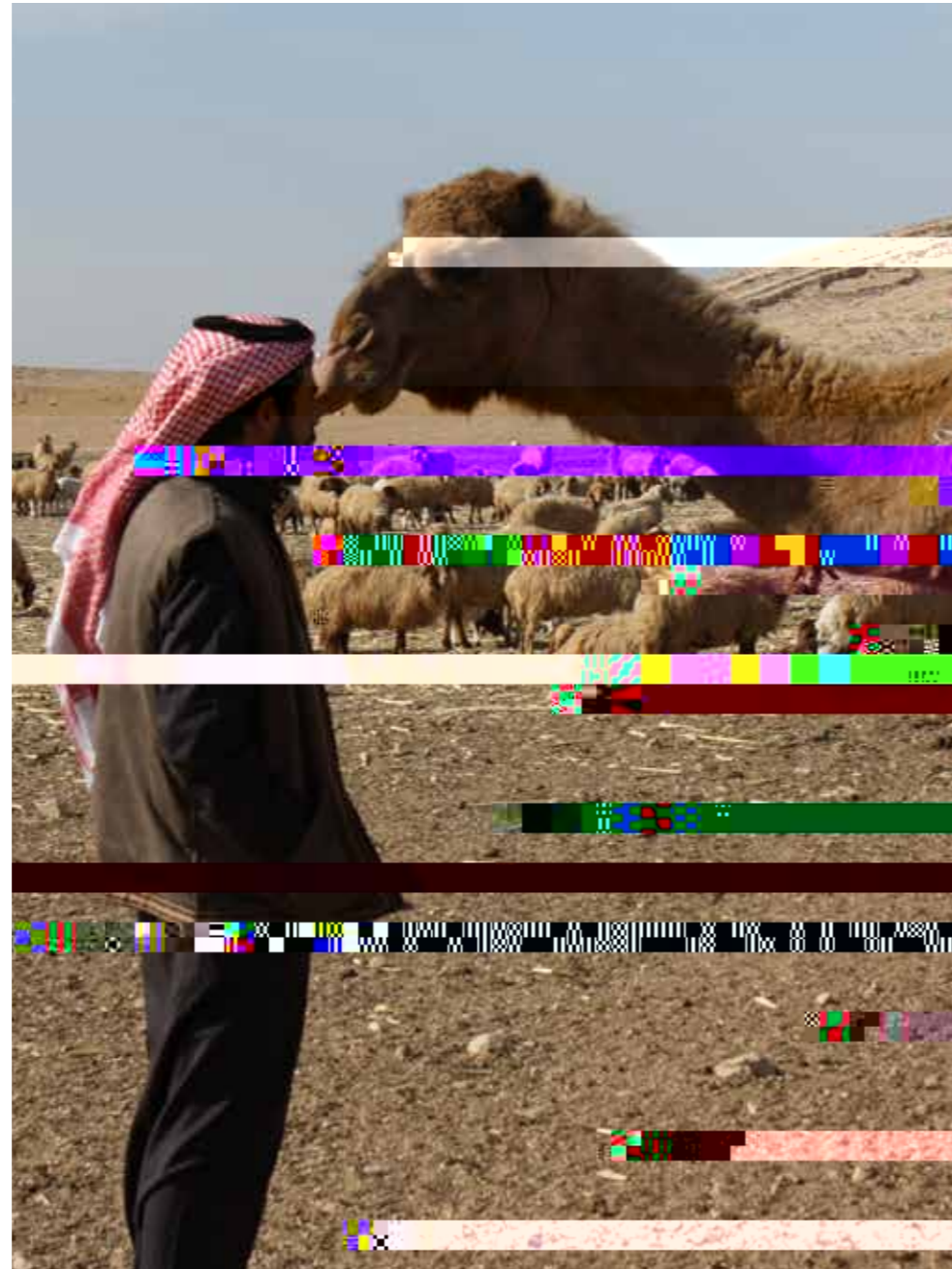


Bani-Hashem: Political Support Does Count

Bani-Hashem consists of four communities located 21 km north of the Zarqa city and has a total population of 15,000 mostly of Bedouin origin. The area had been characterized by a rich plant cover and abundant water resources, which encouraged Bedouin tribes to settle there since the 1850s. Yet with population growth, urbanization and the tendency towards employment in the civil service, natural resources started to deteriorate. A particular incident in 1954 further accelerated this deterioration when a malaria outbreak drove the inhabitants away from water resources after which they started selling their lands and abandoned agriculture and pastoralism.

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