



Waste Management in Jordan: setting up a national plan to face the emergency.

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At the beginning of 2014, a group of environment experts from public authorities and civil societies called for setting up a national waste management plan in order to reduce trash and encourage recycling activities and pilot projects in the whole country.

Actually, we can talk about a “waste crisis” in Jordan: around 2.13 million tons of waste and 18.000 tons of medical and hazardous materials are generated annually, with less than 5 per cent of Jordan’ s solid waste management being recycled and with an annual increase of waste production of 3 per cent. These data urge of a national master plan, in order to reduce, manage and control the whole waste management in the country: three points need prompt responses. Decentralized waste management, control and monitor on hazardous materials and recycling strategy.

During the seminar *Wild Jordan*, organized by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, the importance of recycling and its role in saving the environment, the stakeholders showed off all the implications in term of environment protection, public health and investment opportunities related to a new master plan for waste management in Jordan based on the recycling and its implication in the biggest energy strategy 2007 -2020 that is involving the Jordanian authorities in a project able to change the future energy perspectives of the countries. Starting from a serious and widespread waste management plan should be more easy start to talk about the energy strategy “ from waste to energy” , launched from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resource in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment.

But, as usual, the first step to take is a cultural step: all the Jordanians, including the Institutions, have a responsibility to protect the environment, their country, their beautiful landscape and their daily lifestyle; after that, make sense to involve foreign authorities in order to collect funds, capabilities and expertise. A big opportunity and an ethical obligation that Jordan cannot miss.