IALC CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGENMENT

Understanding and Restoring the Rangelands of Jordan's Badia



OVERVIEW

- Congress authorized IALC in 1990 Farm Bill. Over 20 years it received
 - \$12 million from USDA (CSREES and USFS)
 - \$6 million from USAID
- Supported 132 projects including research (91), and demonstration projects (30), and special initiatives including conferences and training (11) in eight countries.

• Of these, more than 75 involved natural resource management

• The Jordan Badia serves as an example of IALC multidisciplinary/multinational approach



BACKGROUND

- The arid and semiarid rangelands of Jordan – the Badia – constitute 85% of Jordan's land area
- The Badia Research Programme was established in 1992 by the Higher Council of Science and Technology
 - They have been active IALC members





THE PAST 40 YEARS IN THE BADIA

- Rangeland of the Badia has become degraded
 - -Increased use of trucks to haul sheep, water, feed
 - Decreased local autonomy to control access
 - Drought
- Degradation caused 70 percent herd reduction
- Herds now rely on barley for 95 percent of feed



IALC BADIA ACTIVITIES

- In 2007, IALC supported a research and demonstration projects in Tal Rimah and Qurain
- Objectives were to explore the effects of
 - Livestock exclusion
 - Small scale water harvesting (e.g., contour furrow)
 - Seeding of forage shrubs
- Treatments saw an increase in potential carrying capacity from 3 to 6-fold

NSF PROPOSALS

- Based on these results, NSF supported a workshop to explore the reestablishment of the traditional *hima* management system.
- The premise was the hima system historically was a successful coupled humannatural system that had been "decoupled" over time

Lands Consortium

SUMMARY OF QUESTION

Can payment for environmental services restore degraded systems?

Project

components

- Determine resilience of degraded ecosystem
- Understand local decision making processes and governance
- Provide incentives (feed) to reduce livestock numbers
- Monitor outcomes
- Model results

SUMMARY

- Technical demonstration projects are essential, but only the beginning to effect community change
- Understanding how all the pieces fit together is hard and requires a large multidisciplinary team
- A consortium provides access to the many disciplines, and levels of expertise that are required

