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Ramallah Office

PRESS RELEASE
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Ramallah, 13 April 2017

UNESCO Ramallah Office teaming up with Environment Quality Authority and environment stakeholders on the management of Natural Heritage sites in Palestine



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Ramallah, Palestine (10 April 2017)

In the framework of the project *Local development through the rehabilitation and revitalization of the historic environment in Palestine*, funded by the Government of Sweden, UNESCO Ramallah Office organized a capacity-development workshop on management of natural heritage sites. The activity was conducted in cooperation with the Environment Quality Authority (EQA) and in partnership with the *International Union for the Conservation of Nature* (IUCN) (Advisory Body to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention) and the *Arab Regional center for World Heritage* in Bahrain.

Natural Heritage and Environment Protection policy makers and experts meet in Ramallah to discuss site management policies for natural heritage sites in Palestine (capacity development organized by UNESCO in cooperation with Palestine's Environment Quality Authority, with the support of Sida).

"UNESCO puts at the core of its agenda the support to its Member States' efforts for the effective protection and management of their natural and cultural heritage sites. Palestine is home to a variety of natural and cultural sites closely intertwined and the interaction

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between man and nature has been an important contributing factor in shaping Palestinian Heritage". Said Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi, UNESCO Representative in Palestine".

"We are therefore very happy of partnering with the Environment Quality Authority, with IUCN (invaluable advisory to UNESCO World Heritage Convention), with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and with key national organizations working in the field of environment protection towards a more effective conservation and management of Palestinian natural heritage." Dr. Folin Calabi added.

Engineer **Adala Al-Atireh**, Chairman of the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority said, *"Palestine ratified international conventions and joined international agreements, which is very important step towards building Palestinian institutions; however meeting the requirements of these conventions and agreements is a high responsibility. Registering or proposing inscription of heritage sites on international lists and inventories require strong preparations and joint work. I believe that we have to enforce the culture of working together beyond boundaries of responsibilities and mandates of each Ministry, and we have to strengthening the capacities of all involved towards an effective protection and management of our sites".*
All participants concluded that cooperation between all parties in the field of natural heritage is of high importance knowing the challenges prevail in the Palestinian context and called upon UNESCO and the Environment Quality Authority to continue their support through capacity development activities in the field of natural heritage conservation and management.

For more information on UNESCO's activities in Palestine, please visit www.unesco.org/ramallah and visit us on : Unesco Ramallah Office

For more information on this event, please contact: Majd Beltaji, Public Information Officer of the UNESCO Ramallah Office, at m.beltaji@unesco.org