

Annex A: An overview of laws, policies, and legal frameworks in Jordan

This annex consolidates all the laws, legal frameworks, policies, strategies, and international agreements referenced in the policy brief and corresponding evidence paper, offering the reader a comprehensive overview of the policy landscape for CCA and DRR in Jordan as the findings are reviewed.

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In partnership with:





International agreements and frameworks:

Paris Agreement 2015

Adopted at COP21 on December 12, 2015, and enforced on November 4, 2016, the Paris Agreement aims to enhance the global response to climate change. Its primary objective is to keep global warming well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100, with efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. The Paris Agreement also aims to enhance countries' capacity to address the impacts of climate change and align financial flows with a low-greenhouse gas and climate-resilient pathway. While it shares some features with the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (such as nationally driven guidelines, actions, and reporting mechanisms), it stands out as the only legally binding agreement. However, the climate commitments made by parties to the agreement, known as Nationally Determined Contributions, are not legally binding themselves. Countries are required to uphold their Nationally Determined Contributions, report on their progress, and progressively increase their ambitions. Additionally, the Paris Agreement mandates that countries prepare and submit dedicated climate change adaptation plans to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The Framework is an international treaty established in 1992 to address the global challenge of climate change. Its primary objective is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous human interference with the climate system. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides the foundation for ongoing negotiations and the development of legally binding agreements aimed at combating climate change, most notably through the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Paris Agreement (2015). The convention brings together nearly every country in the world, with parties meeting annually at the Conference of the Parties to discuss and agree on climate action measures. It emphasizes the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, recognizing that while all countries must take action, developed nations should take the lead in reducing emissions and supporting developing countries through finance, technology, and capacity-building.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Framework is a global, non-binding agreement adopted by UN member states in 2015 to reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience to disasters worldwide. It builds on the experiences and lessons learned from the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, and its primary goal is to significantly reduce disaster risks and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health, as well as in economic, physical, social, and environmental assets. The framework emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach to disaster risk management and promotes the integration of disaster risk reduction strategies into national and local development plans. It outlines seven global targets, including the reduction of mortality, the number of affected people, and direct economic losses, among others. It also stresses the importance of investing in disaster risk reduction, improving early warning systems, and ensuring that vulnerable populations are included in risk management efforts.

Nationally Determined Contributions 2016 (updated 2021)

Jordan's Nationally Determined Contributions, first submitted in 2016 and updated in 2021, outline the country's commitments under the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance climate resilience. The initial 2016 submission set a goal of reducing emissions by 14% by 2030, contingent on international support. In the updated 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution, Jordan raised its target to 31% reduction by 2030, with 5% of this target to be achieved unconditionally and the remainder dependent on external financial and technical support. The updated Nationally



Determined Contribution also emphasizes sectoral adaptation strategies in areas such as energy, water, agriculture, and health. These goals align with Jordan's broader climate policies, including the National Climate Change Policy 2022-2050 and the National Adaptation Plan, ensuring coordinated and strategic climate action. The country has developed a Nationally Determined Contributions Action Plan to outline key mitigation and adaptation actions and establish a framework for monitoring progress.



National policies and strategies:

National Climate Change Policy 2022-2050

The Policy provides a strategic framework for the country's climate action, aiming to create a low-carbon, climate-resilient society. The policy focuses on both mitigation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to enhance resilience to climate change impacts. It aligns with global climate commitments, including the Paris Agreement, and promotes sustainable development, ensuring food, water, and energy security for Jordan's citizens. The National Climate Change Policy emphasizes integrating climate considerations into national and sectoral strategies, as well as fostering capacity building, technology transfer, and climate finance. By 2050, Jordan aims to achieve carbon neutrality, contributing to global climate stabilization efforts while ensuring inclusive growth and improved well-being for its population, as per the Jordan Economic Modernization Vision and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022

The Plan complements the efforts of the Ministry of Environment to address climate change within the country's development policy framework. It is a strategic framework developed to enhance the country's resilience to climate change impacts. It identifies vulnerable sectors and regions, proposing targeted adaptation measures to address challenges such as water scarcity, agricultural productivity, and public health risks associated with climate variability. The plan emphasizes the importance of integrating gender considerations, ensuring that adaptation strategies are inclusive and equitable. It also highlights the need for capacity building and public awareness to effectively implement adaptation actions. The National Adaptation Plan aligns with Jordan's broader climate policies, particularly the National Climate Change Policy 2022-2050. In support of the National Adaptation Plan, the Ministry of Environment has played a key role in developing several important policy documents, including Jordan's National Communication reports, sector-specific climate action plans, the National Green Growth Action Plans, and the updated Nationally Determined Contributions.

National Water Strategy 2023-2040

The Strategy outlines Jordan's approach to addressing its water scarcity challenges and ensuring sustainable water security over the next two decades. The strategy focuses on reducing water loss, improving energy efficiency in the water sector, and optimizing water resource management, including the integration of reclaimed water and efficient irrigation practices. The Strategy emphasizes the widespread impact of climate change in all aspects of its operations. In Chapter 12, Climate Change Resilience, the strategy outlines and provides links between climate change and water management. These links are directly aligned with two primary goals:

- Ensuring the resilience of Jordan's water sector against changes in the quantity and quality of water resources, as well as threats to infrastructure and operations arising from climate change.
- Ensuring that Jordan's water strategy comprehensively addresses the need to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2023-2030

The Strategy outlines Jordan's approach to strengthening disaster resilience and reducing risks over the next decade. Developed by the National Center for Security and Crises Management, the strategy focuses on enhancing awareness, improving legal and institutional frameworks, and integrating disaster risk reduction into national development policies. It aims to standardize disaster management approaches, increase public and institutional knowledge, and invest in resilience-building measures. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy aligns with international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, emphasizing risk understanding, governance, preparedness, and resilience.

National Urban Policy 2023

This policy represents a proactive approach toward establishing comprehensive national policies. The policy aims to promote sustainable urban planning, increase affordable housing, improve urban services, and foster economic development, particularly in urban centers. It also focuses on enhancing social inclusion and resilience, ensuring equitable access to essential services like education and healthcare. The policy aligns with national development plans and international frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to serving as a guiding framework for national urban development, the policy acts as an incubator for sectoral plans across various ministries, authorities, institutions, and special administrative regions, including the Greater Amman Municipality, Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority, the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority, and the Jordan Valley Authority. The policy also engages relevant stakeholders, such as universities, civil society organizations, the private sector, donor organizations, and other actors.

Ministry of Health Strategic Plan 2023-2025 (Theme Seven: Crises and Emergencies)

The strategy seeks to transform Jordan's healthcare system by enhancing access to high-quality services and tackling key health challenges across the nation. It aligns with the National Center for Epidemiology's strategy to ensure coordinated roles and responsibilities. The strategy integrates preparedness and response to crises, disasters, and climate change impacts into all Ministry of Health plans and policies, ensuring the updated National Health Plan is prepared to handle such situations. This is achieved through close coordination with the National Center for Epidemic Control and a thorough review of all Ministry of Health strategies, plans, and policies to assess their integration of crisis preparedness and climate change response. Additionally, the strategy focuses on strengthening and updating the Public Safety Plan, ensuring robust preparation and response capabilities at key ministry facilities. This includes providing necessary resources and conducting training sessions to ensure staff readiness across all locations and potential crisis scenarios.

Climate-Smart Agriculture Plan

The Plan for Jordan focuses on enhancing the resilience and sustainability of the agricultural sector in the face of climate change, particularly addressing challenges such as water scarcity and rising temperatures. The plan aims to promote climate-resilient farming practices, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve agricultural productivity through efficient water use and soil management. It emphasizes capacity building by providing training and resources to farmers on Climate-Smart Agriculture techniques and establishes systems for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of these interventions. The plan aligns with Jordan's broader climate priorities, including its Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, and complements the Green Growth National Action Plan 2021-2025.



Economic Modernization Vision 2022

The Vision is a comprehensive 10-year strategy aimed at transforming Jordan's economy by focusing on sustainable growth, job creation, and environmental sustainability. It seeks to enhance economic diversification by promoting key sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, logistics, and technology. The vision also prioritizes improving the quality of life by investing in education, healthcare, housing, and infrastructure. Additionally, it emphasizes green investments and climate resilience to align economic development with environmental stewardship. Supported by various governmental and international bodies, the vision aims to foster inclusive growth, promote job creation, and position Jordan for a prosperous and sustainable future.

Jordan Vision 2025

The vision is a comprehensive national blueprint aimed at achieving sustainable development and improving the quality of life for Jordanians over ten years. The vision focuses on creating a diversified, competitive, and resilient economy by promoting key sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and energy. It emphasizes the importance of innovation, private sector involvement, and environmental sustainability. The plan aims to foster social inclusivity, enhance human capital, and improve governance.



Laws and legal frameworks:

Jordanian Constitution of 1952 and its amendments

The Constitution serves as the fundamental legal framework of the country. It establishes Jordan as a hereditary monarchy with a parliamentary system, delineating the separation of powers among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The Constitution guarantees a range of citizens' rights and duties, including equality before the law regardless of race, language, or religion; personal freedoms such as protection from unlawful detention and inviolability of the home; and freedoms of opinion, expression, assembly, and association, provided they do not contravene public order and morality. Over the years, the Constitution has undergone several amendments to adapt to evolving political and social dynamics. Notably, amendments in 2011 and 2016 introduced reforms aimed at enhancing political participation and governance. For instance, the 2011 amendments allowed for greater parliamentary representation, and the 2016 amendments aimed to modernize the electoral system and bolster political pluralism. The Jordanian Constitution does not explicitly address climate change or disaster risks. Instead, it focuses on emergency situations, which may encompass epidemics, wars, natural disasters, or consequences of climate change, such as floods or severe heat waves.

Public Security Law 38/1965 and its amendments

Jordan's Public Security Law regulates emergency response by granting the Minister of Interior, in coordination with the relevant authorities, exceptional powers that enable him to take quick and effective action in the face of disasters and crises. According to Article 94, these powers include seizing transportation and public utilities, using real estate to establish shelters and hospitals, restricting the circulation of flammable materials, regulating the distribution of basic materials, water, and electricity, requiring workers in vital sectors to continue their work during emergencies, and assigning individuals to participate in civil defense work.

In the context of strengthening institutional coordination, Articles 90 to 93 of the law stipulate the formation of the Supreme Council for Civil Defense, which is the supreme body responsible for formulating general policies for civil defense and emergency response. The council is chaired by the Minister of Interior and includes representatives from relevant ministries and institutions. One of its

main tasks is to approve national plans to confront disasters and determine the responsibilities of official and private entities, in addition to establishing public shelters, forming volunteer teams, and organizing early warning methods.

The law also authorizes the council, in emergency situations, to bypass the usual administrative and financial restrictions, such as purchasing materials without adhering to the government procurement system and placing resources available to public and private entities at the disposal of the Civil Defense. To enhance field response, Article 93 stipulates the establishment of civil defense committees in each governorate, headed by the governor, to implement the Supreme Council's plans and coordinate local efforts in emergency management.

This legal framework demonstrates the Jordanian state's endeavor to organize disaster and emergency management in an integrated and institutionalized manner, ensuring rapid response and protection of lives and property, by clearly distributing roles between central and local authorities and enabling security and civil authorities to work jointly during crises.

Environmental Protection Law (EPL) 6/2017

This law, consisting of 32 articles, establishes a comprehensive framework for environmental conservation and sustainable development. The law assigns the Ministry of Environment as the primary authority responsible for environmental protection in Jordan. In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the Ministry is mandated to develop policies, plans, and programs aimed at forecasting climate change impacts and identifying affected sectors. The role of the Ministry additionally includes; overseeing the implementation of international environmental agreements, protecting biodiversity and safeguarding water sources from pollution. It is also responsible for issuing environmental permits for activities with significant environmental impacts, establishing regulations for the handling of hazardous substances, collecting environmental data to maintain a national environmental database, and preparing emergency and disaster management plans.

Agriculture Law 13/2015

This law, consisting of 73 articles, across 14 sections, is designed to regulate and modernize the agricultural sector, focusing on enhancing productivity, sustainability, and rural development. The law establishes the Ministry of Agriculture as the central authority responsible for overseeing agricultural practices and promoting investment in the sector. According to the law, the Ministry of Agriculture shall regulate, organize, and develop the agriculture field in order to achieve the following: increase the production of food and foodstuffs; utilize natural and agricultural resources without damaging the environment; create suitable conditions for investing in agricultural sectors and rural development; increase the country's production capacity; raise farmers' incomes and improve their livelihoods; protect animals; optimize the use of water for irrigation; address animal and plant diseases and epidemics; carry out scientific research and desertification control; and encourage agricultural cooperative work and agricultural cooperative associations.

Local Administration 22/2021 (Article 6-16)

The Local Administration Law No. 22 2021 grants municipalities significant authority relating to urban planning and land use management, particularly in areas such as street planning, paving, and infrastructure development. While municipalities have decision-making power, they must coordinate with regional and national authorities and adhere to national infrastructure standards and environmental regulations.

The law acknowledges the importance of urban planning in managing environmental concerns, including waterways within watersheds, but it does not explicitly establish a direct link between



street planning and watershed management. Instead, this connection is implied through broader environmental and land-use responsibilities.

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Law 28/1992

Housing and Urban Development Corporation was established in 1992 through the merger of the Housing Corporation (1965) and the Urban Development Department (1980), under Law No. 28/1992. This merger aimed to create a unified entity responsible for implementing housing and urban development policies in Jordan. Housing and Urban Development Corporation operates with financial and administrative independence, reporting directly to the Prime Minister. Its primary mission includes formulating housing policies, executing national housing strategies, conducting studies for new residential areas, and promoting partnerships with the private sector to address housing needs, especially for low- and middle-income groups. Additionally, Housing and Urban Development Corporation focuses on improving living conditions in underserved areas and facilitating access to affordable housing through various projects and initiatives.

Article 24 of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Law establishes a cooperative fund designed to protect the Corporation's projects, beneficiaries, and properties entrusted to it from risks and damages. This fund serves as a safety net to mitigate potential losses or damage related to the Corporation's housing and urban development initiatives. Further regulations outline the conditions for participation in the fund, specifying who can contribute, the circumstances under which compensation will be provided, and the amount of compensation for risks and damages. Additionally, the regulations cover other important details regarding the compensation process, ensuring the fund is used appropriately to address these concerns.

Farmers Compensation Bylaw 57/2023

This regulation, consisting of 13 articles, aims to compensate farmers who do not participate in the Agricultural Risk Management Fund originally established under the Agricultural Risk Management Fund Law No. 5/2009, which allocates compensation to farmers not affiliated with the Fund. However, it is important to note that at the time of this document's publication, a draft law for the Agricultural Risk Management Fund Law (2024) is under discussion. This new law, issued pursuant to paragraph (C) of Article (4) of the Agricultural Risk Management Fund Law 5/2009 and its amendments, aims to repeal the existing Agricultural Risk Management Fund Law. Under the draft provisions, all regulations, instructions, and decisions issued pursuant to the 2009 law will remain in effect until they are formally canceled, amended, or replaced in accordance with the new law.

The bylaw outlines the conditions under which farmers can participate in the compensation system, detailing the types of risks covered, the procedures for claiming compensation, and the criteria for assessing and determining the compensation amounts.

Climate Change Bylaw 79/2019

The Bylaw consisting of 9 articles and three annexes serves as Jordan's primary regulatory framework for addressing climate change, supplementing the Environmental Protection Law 6/2017. The bylaw defines the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Environment in addressing climate change-related issues and designates the ministry as the focal point for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and for facilitating communication and coordination on climate-related matters. It also establishes the National Climate Change Committee within the Ministry of Environment, chaired by the Minister of Environment. This committee is responsible for the oversight and coordination of climate change initiatives and has the authority to define its own tasks and powers to effectively address climate challenges.

The bylaw places a strong emphasis on collaboration, requiring coordination with multiple stakeholders, including other ministries, government agencies, and civil society organizations. To support this, it mandates the creation of technical advisory teams composed of experts, who will provide advice and recommendations on climate-related policies and initiatives. Additionally, the bylaw highlights the importance of reporting and progress tracking, requiring the preparation of national reports, maintenance of environmental inventories, and development of climate finance strategies to support Jordan's climate commitments. The Climate Change Directorate within the Ministry of Environment is responsible for the day-to-day implementation and management of the committee's activities, ensuring the execution of climate policies and coordination across relevant sectors.

Aqaba Special Economic Zone Law 32/2000

The Law establishes the Aqaba Special Economic Zone with the aim of promoting economic development, investment, and tourism in the region. The law grants the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority significant administrative and financial autonomy, empowering it to manage and regulate the zone. The Aqaba Special Economic Zone has the authority to issue regulations on customs, investment incentives, land use, and environmental protection, creating a conducive environment for business growth. The law offers a range of investment incentives, including tax exemptions and customs duty reductions, to attract both local and foreign investors. Additionally, the Aqaba Special Economic Zone is responsible for urban development and implementing sustainable environmental practices. The boundaries of the Zone are determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the board of directors.

Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority Law 15/2009

The Law established the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority with the goal of enhancing Petra's tourism sector and supporting sustainable development in the region. The Authority operates as an independent body responsible for promoting tourism, preserving cultural and natural heritage, and improving infrastructure within the Petra region. Its key duties include marketing Petra as a global tourism destination, protecting and restoring archaeological sites, managing environmental resources, and fostering community involvement through employment opportunities.

National Center for Security and Crises Management Bylaw 20/2015 (Amended by No. 62/2020)

The Bylaw establishes the National Center for Security and Crisis Management as the central body responsible for coordinating national efforts in managing and responding to crises and disasters in Jordan. The National Center for Security and Crisis Management plays a critical role in ensuring national security and public safety by developing and implementing preparedness strategies, coordinating emergency responses, and building the capacity of relevant institutions. It also promotes public awareness and preparedness for potential crises. The amendments made in 2020 further refined the center's responsibilities, adapting its functions to address emerging challenges in crisis management.

