

**We, Faisal bin Al-Hussein, Deputy to His Majesty the King, pursuant to Article (31) of the Constitution and based on the decision of the Council of Ministers on 18/9/2022, we order the establishment of the following law:-**

**Regulation No. (61) of 2022**

**Aqaba Marine Reserve Law**

**Issued pursuant to clause (5) of paragraph (b) of article (10) and article (56)**

**Aqaba Special Economic Zone Law No. (32) of 2000**

**Article 1 - This Law shall be called (Aqaba Marine Reserve Law for the year 2022) and shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.**

**Article -2 The following terms and expressions wherever used This Law shall be have the meanings hereby assigned to them unless the context otherwise indicates:**

<b>The Law:</b>	<b>Aqaba Special Economic Zone.</b>
<b>Region:</b>	<b>Aqaba Special Economic Zone</b>
<b>Authority:</b>	<b>Economic Zone Authority:</b>
<b>Board:</b>	<b>Board of Commissioners of Authority.</b>
<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Chairman of the Board</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>The competent commissioner of the authority.</b>
<b>Reserve:</b>	<b>The Aqaba Marine Reserve established in accordance with the provisions of this Law.</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Reserve Management Committee.</b>
<b>Habitats:</b>	<b>The location where the organism or group naturally resides.</b>

<b>Biodiversity:</b>	<b>The variation among living organisms from different sources, whether terrestrial, marine, or aquatic systems, including the differences within species and between these species.</b>
<b>Green and Blue Growth:</b>	<b>A strategic approach that ensures the use of natural, aquatic, and marine resources in a sustainable manner, guaranteeing the promotion of economic growth and the enhancement of social and environmental benefits.</b>
<b>Buffer Zone:</b>	<b>The safe area that is planned and managed around the external boundaries of a protected area, aimed at shielding it from the negative impacts of activities conducted in that zone.</b>

**Article (3) (a) 1-**The borders of the reserve extend from the southern border of the passenger port in the north to the southern border of the Royal Diving Club in the south, and for a distance of (50) meters in the land side in the east, and (350) meters in the sea side in the west and for the seabed vertically in the sea side.

**2-**The boundaries of the reserve shall be amended by a decision of the Council of Ministers based on the recommendation of the Council.

**B-1-**The buffer zone of the reserve extends for a distance of (50) meters to the east of the eastern (land) border of the reserve in a manner that does not conflict with private properties, and for a distance of (100) meters to the west of the western (maritime) border of the reserve.

**2-**The boundaries of the buffer zone shall be amended in accordance with the amendment of the boundaries of the reserve and in accordance with what is stated in the administrative plan.

**Article 4 (a):** A committee called the (Aqaba Marine Reserve Management Committee) shall be formed in the Authority under the chairmanship of the Commissioner and with the membership of:

- 1- Manager of the Reserve / Vice President.**
- 2- Three persons appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Commissioner**

**(B) The committee shall meet at the invitation of its chairman or his deputy in his absence at least once every two months. Its meeting shall be legal in the presence of a majority of its members, provided that the chairman or his deputy is among them. Its decisions shall be taken by a majority of the votes of its members present. In the event of a tie, the side with which the chairman of the meeting voted shall prevail.**

**(c) The committee shall undertake the following tasks:**

- 1- Preparing the administrative plan for the management of the reserve and presenting it to the Council and following up on its implementation.**
- 2- Participate in the review and development of the management plan in cooperation with the reserve management.**
- 3- Review the provisions of the buffer zone once every five years.**
- 4- Providing the necessary funding for the reserve and promoting it.**
- 5- Determine the necessary allocations for the expenses of the reserve to be approved by the Board and included in the annual budget of the Authority.**
- 6- Prepare administrative, financial and technical instructions and submit them to the Chairman for presentation to the Board.**
- 7- Any other work or tasks assigned by the Chairman or the Board.**

**Article 5 (a): The Board may, upon the recommendation of the Committee, contract with a body specialized in the management of water reserves and technically qualified to implement the administrative plan of the reserve under the supervision of the Committee.**

**(b) It is prohibited to dispose of, allocate, mortgage, grant, or assign in any way lands within the boundaries of the reserve. (c) The period of contracts for the management of the reserve or contracts for its development shall not exceed five years and shall be renewable with the approval of the Board.**

**Article 6 (a): The administrative plan of the protected area shall be considered the operating document and the main reference of the protected area.**

**(b) The administrative plan of the reserve shall be prepared by the committee and submitted to the board to take the appropriate decision in this regard, in preparation for its submission to the Ministry of Environment for adoption and approval.**

**(c) The authority shall announce the management plan of the reserve and publish it in the ways it deems appropriate. The committee shall work with the qualified entity contracted with to implement it.**

**(d) The reserve shall be developed in accordance with the administrative plan of the reserve and in accordance with the timetable specified therein.**

**(e) The administrative plan of the reserve must include the following basic elements: -**

- 1- Description of the reserve and its biological, physical, social and economic characteristics.**
- 2- Evaluation of the components of the reserve.**
- 3- The executive plan, indicators and timetable for at least five years include the general objectives, practical objectives, outputs and activities.**
- 4- A comprehensive plan of the reserve, including illustrative maps and details of permitted and prohibited activities in each area.**
- 5- The proposed budget for the reserve .**
- 6- Monitoring and evaluation programs. .**
- 7- The expected axes of regional and international cooperation.**
- 8- Determine the requirements and conditions for licensing and monitoring scientific research activities.**
- 9- Develop awareness and education programs on the value and fragility of coral reefs and other natural resources in the Gulf of Aqaba and how to deal with them.**
- 10- Any other matters that the Ministry of Environment decides to add to the plan.**

**Article 7 - Taking into account what is stated in any other legislation that allows the establishment of development activities and projects in the buffer zone in a manner that does not conflict with the objectives of this system, provided that the following is taken into account:**

**A- The compatibility of the elements of the project in its various stages with the system of the reserve and the administrative plan.**

**B- The compatibility of the elements of the project or activities with the foundations and standards of green and blue growth and sustainable development.**

**C- The sustainable use of biodiversity elements and natural resources in a manner that ensures their ability to renew and persist over the long term, without harming environmental elements, ecosystems, biodiversity, or the habitats of organisms.**

**D- Conducting a comprehensive environmental impact assessment study for these projects and activities.**

**E- Prioritizing sustainable tourism-related projects that take into account current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts and address the needs of visitors and host communities.**

**Article 8: (a) A special account for the reserve shall be established in the Authority, the financial resources of which shall consist of the following: -**

- 1- Allocations made in the Authority's budget.**
- 2- Fines resulting from the violation of the application of the provisions of this system and the compensation resulting from the violation of its provisions.**
- 3- Amounts derived from the implementation of projects, initiatives and scientific research in the reserve.**
- 4- Allowances to benefit from the protected facilities and services provided therein.**
- 5- Financial assistance provided to the reserve by national and international environmental funds and social responsibility programs.**
- 6- Aid, gifts, donations, and grants received by him, provided that they are approved by the Council of Ministers if they are from a non-Jordanian source.**

**(b) Expenditure shall be made from the funds of the account to achieve the goals and objectives of the reserve and to support the implementation of its activities and programs in a manner that ensures the protection of environmental systems, services and biodiversity in accordance with instructions issued by the Council for this purpose.**

**Article 9 - It is prohibited and under penalty of legal liability to do the following in the protected area:**

- (a) Building roads, carrying out agricultural projects, fish farming, industrial or residential projects, or constructing buildings or establishments.**
- (b) Hunting, transporting, killing, injuring, or harming terrestrial or marine organisms in any way.**
- (c) Collecting, harvesting, or transporting any organisms, sedimentary or organic materials such as shells, corals, rocks, or soil, or taking them for any purpose except with a special permit issued by the president for this purpose.**
- (d) Damage to installations, equipment, fixtures, and onshore or offshore service facilities.**
- (e) Destroying or destroying geological formations or areas that are habitat for animal or plant species, their reproduction, or their migration.**
- (f) Destroying or collecting fossils without obtaining the approval of the authority. Fossil samples must be preserved in museums or sites eligible for preservation.**
- (g) Conducting scientific research and collecting endangered, rare, or endemic species and their parts except with a prior permit issued by the president.**
- (h) Introducing domesticated animals such as dogs, horses, livestock, and others.**
- (i) Introducing animal or plant species or any foreign species that cause environmental damage that threatens the survival of the original species or negatively affects local establishments and communities.**
- (j) Contaminating soil, water, or air in any way .**
- (k) Dumping garbage and waste of all kinds .**
- (l) Entering and driving vehicles except with a permit from the management of the reserve.**

- (m) Camping except in designated places and under a permit from the management of the reserve.**
- (n) Filming and producing films for commercial or advertising purposes or for the benefit of television stations or others, except with prior permission from the management of the reserve.**
- (o) Any other activity that conflicts with the objectives of the reserve.**

**Article 10: a- Rehabilitation or breeding programs for marine and terrestrial species that are extinct, endangered, or of environmental value, such as coral culture and artificial coral structures, may be implemented in the reserve by a decision of the Council upon the recommendation of the Committee.**

**b- The entity proposing any rehabilitation or propagation program shall submit an integrated file to the committee that includes an assessment of the impact of the program on the elements of the environment, environmental systems, and biodiversity to study it and submit appropriate recommendations to the board.**

**c- The entity wishing to implement the rehabilitation or multiplication program shall bear all the expenses and costs resulting therefrom.**

**Article 11: Whoever holds the status of judicial officer in the zone shall be responsible for controlling the violations and assaults occurring in the reserve, each according to his competence and powers in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force in the zone.**

**Article 12: Whoever violates the provisions of this system shall be punished with the punishments stipulated in the law .**

**Article 13: The council shall issue the necessary instructions for implementing this law**

**Article 14 - The Aqaba Marine Park Law No. (22) of 2001 shall be repealed, provided that the instructions issued thereunder shall continue to operate until they are repealed, amended or replaced by others in accordance with the provisions of this Law.**

**18/09/2022**

**Faisal bin Al-Hussein**

<b>Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammed Jamil Musa Al- Najjar</b>	<b>Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Local Administration Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs in charge of Tawfiq Mahmoud Hussein Krishan</b>	<b>The Prime Minister and the Minister of Defense. Dr. Bishrhani Mohammed Al- Khasawneh</b>
<b>Minister transportation Eng. Wajeeh Tayeb Abdullah Azaizah</b>	<b>Minister of Public Works and Housing Eng. Yahya Moussa Bijayang Kasbi</b>	<b>Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Affairs Nasser Sultan Hamza Al- Shuraida</b>
<b>Minister Al-Zira'a Eng. Khaled Moussa Shehadeh Hanifat</b>	<b>Minister of Justice Dr. Ahmed Nouri Mohammed Al- Ziadat</b>	<b>Minister of Tourism &amp; Antiquities Naif Hamidi Al-Fayez</b>
<b>Minister Islamic Endowments, Affairs and Sanctities Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Muslim Al-Khalayleh</b>	<b>Minister Finance Dr. Mohammed Mahmoud Hussein Al-Assas</b>	<b>Minister Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Saleh Ali Hamed Al- Kharabsheh</b>
<b>Minister youth. Mohammed Salama Faris Suleiman Al-Nabulsi</b>	<b>Minister of State for Follow-up and Government Coordination Acting Minister of State for Prime Minister's Affairs Dr. Nawaf Wasfi Saeed Mustafa Wahbi Al-Tal</b>	<b>Minister of Social Development Acting Minister of Labor Ayman Riyadh Saeed Al-Mufleh</b>
<b>Minister Health Dr. Firas Ibrahim Arshid Al- Hawari</b>	<b>Minister Ad Dhakhliya Mazen Abdullah Hilal Al-Faraya</b>	<b>Minister Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship Ahmed Qasim Dheeb Al- Hanadah</b>
<b>Minister of Culture and Minister of Education Acting Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Haifa Yousef Fadl Hajjar Al- Najjar</b>	<b>Minister of State for Media Affairs Faisal Youssef Awad Al-Shabool</b>	<b>Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Youssef Mahmoud Ali Al- Shamali</b>
<b>Minister of Investment Eng. Khairy Yasser Abdel Moneim Amr</b>	<b>Minister Of Environment Dr. Muawiya Khaled Mohammed Al-Radaidah</b>	<b>Minister of State for Legal Affairs Wafaa Saeed Yaqoub Bani Mustafa</b>