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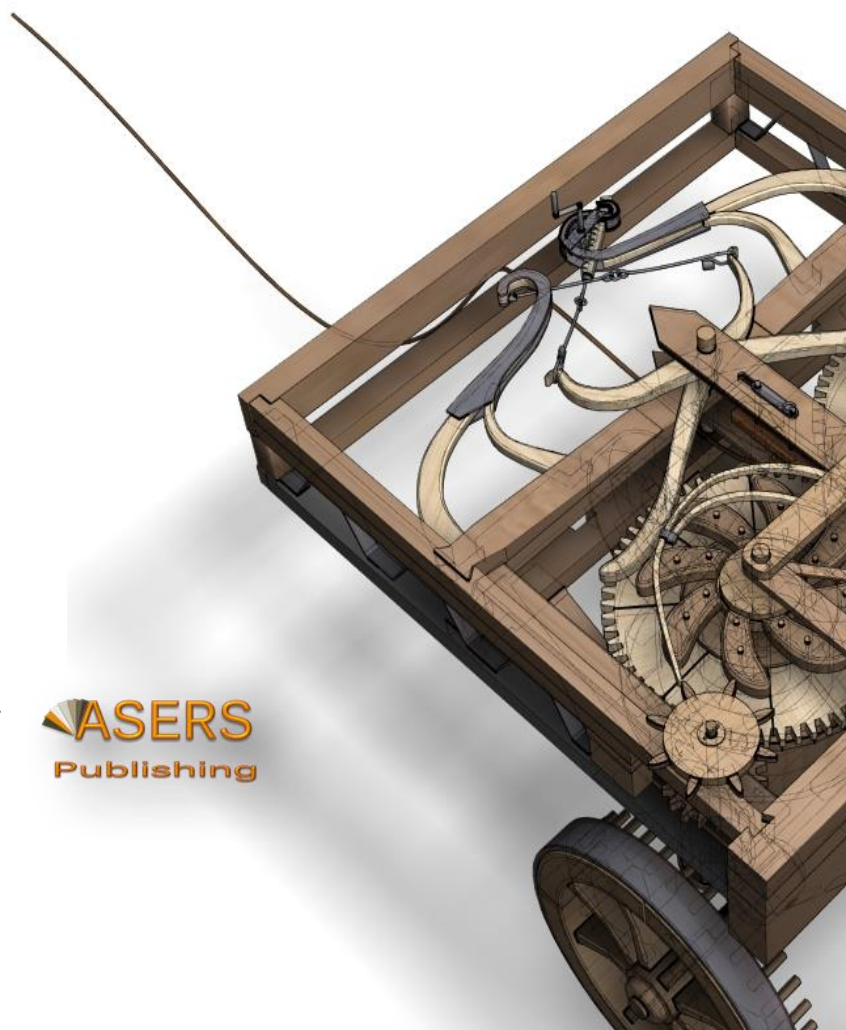
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Call for Papers Summer 2023 Issues Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism

Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism is an interdisciplinary research journal, aimed to publish articles and original research papers that should contribute to the development of both experimental and theoretical nature in the field of Environmental Management and Tourism Sciences.

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The Role of the Environment Committees in the Nineteenth Parliament for the Year 2020 in Studying Matters Related to Environmental Affairs in Jordan

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Abstract:

The study deals with the role of environmental committees in the Nineteenth Parliament for 2020 in studying matters related to environmental affairs in Jordan; It highlighted the role of the Environment Committee in both houses of parliament in discussing the challenges of the environmental sector and the role of the Environment Committee in examining environmental issues; so that the problem of the study lies in the extent to which the Environment Committee has been given specialties in studying the problem of climate change, greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change, and discussing environmental and tourism realities and the study has concluded several findings and recommendations; The most important of these is the need to expand the terms of reference of the environment committees in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, increase their role in discussing environmental laws, and increase their participation in global environmental conferences and workshops; Call for a regular meeting of the environment committees in parliament with representatives of the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Tourism to discuss the environmental and tourism conditions and develop the necessary plans to preserve the environment and prevent direct attacks on nature reserves and other findings and recommendations listed at the end of this study.

Keywords: environment committee; parliament; environmental affairs; environmental laws.

JEL Classification: K32; K19; K10; R11.

Introduction

Environmental committees play a key role in the study of laws and matters related to environmental affairs, so that each parliament consists of a large number of members, making it very difficult for each parliament to carry out its functions and work, whether legislative, supervisory or otherwise, in plenary sessions, but this may even lead to discussions and speeches in plenary sessions useless or productive, resulting in a loss of parliamentary time and effort, and as a result of these and other reasons, parliaments of the world in general resort to form committees to study and prepare their work from limited members and specialists or who have interest in one of the branches of state activity or society (Yahyawi 2010).

The importance of committees has begun to increase as an important organizational element in the effectiveness of parliaments. However, it enables members to participate effectively in parliamentary work, particularly in emerging modern democracies. Environmental committees contribute to strengthening the strength and effectiveness of the National Assembly and improving the democratic process. In addition, the committees take on important work on Parliament's behalf, particularly the executive branch's accountability (Al-Jubouri 2005).

The committees are defined as organs within parliament, so the legal jurist (Joseph Bertelmi) defined them as: "Organs established in each room consisting of an often-limited number of members selected based on a certain competence initially charged with preparing their work and submitting a report" (Lavroff 1995).

Legal jurist Eric Oliva also defined it as: "Formations generally organized for the image of the Council based on the importance of each group are small councils, and each committee is its businesswoman meeting at the request of the government or by its president, and its actions are not public" (Oliva 1977).

1. Research Background

This study aims to identify the role of environmental committees in the Nineteenth Parliament for 2020 in studying matters related to environmental affairs, to learn about the role of the environmental committee in the Jordanian Senate in studying matters related to environmental affairs, and to learn about the role of the environmental committee in the Jordanian Parliament in studying matters related to environmental affairs.

The importance of the study lies in the fact that it deals with the role of environmental committees in the Nineteenth Parliament for 2020 in the study of matters related to environmental affairs. Therefore, this study is one of the current and important topics that significantly impact practice. Therefore, the researcher will take care of all aspects of the subject, whether theoretical or practical and address the deficiency in the Jordanian Constitution, the provisions of the rules of procedure of the Senate and the rules of procedure of the House of Representatives through the use of international standards.

Concerning the legal system for forming standing committees for both houses of the Jordanian Parliament, the Jordanian constitutional legislator did not mention the subject of standing committees, leaving this to the same councils in their internal systems. Therefore, we will try to determine the reality of environmental committees by extrapolating relevant texts in both systems, respectively.

Through this study, we will try to answer the questions that represent the problem of research, which are two main problems: - What is the role of the Environmental Committee in the Jordanian Senate in studying matters related to environmental affairs? What is the role of the Environmental Committee in the Jordanian Parliament in studying matters related to environmental affairs? These major problems have several sub-questions, the most important of which are: What is the mechanism for forming the Environment Committee in the Senate? And other complex legal questions.

To answer these questions, we must refer to Jordan's 1952 Constitution and its amendments, the Environmental Protection Act, the Rules of Procedure of the Senate and the rules of procedure of the House of Representatives and their compatibility with international standards.

2. Methodology

This study will employ a comparison technique due to the diversity of laws addressing the investigation's key problem.

It will help us define the differences between these regulations and assess the strengths and weaknesses of these trends and how they are perceived.

Furthermore, the study applies an analytical approach to investigate all legislative laws related to the subject of this study in order to determine their contents, repercussions, and goals before critiquing and commenting on them and stressing the researcher's critical aspect (Malkawi 2008).

Numerous research approaches are required because the subject is divided into legislative texts, jurisprudential trends, and opinions.

To achieve that goal, the following steps will be taken in this study:

- Interpretation or analysis
- Provide feedback and recommendations for improvements.
- A conclusion describes suggested changes.

3. The Role of the Environment Committee in the Senate in the Study of Matters Related to Environmental Affairs

The Environment Committee of the Senate is one of the standing committees, so members of its standing committees are elected to each regular session, interested in studying matters related to environmental affairs (Yagi *et al.* 2017).

3.1 The Mechanism for the Formation of the Environment Committee in the Senate

Standing committees are formed in the Senate, including the Health and Environment Committee. That Article (15) of the Senate Rules of Procedure for 2014 and its amendments, published in the official gazette no. (5266), dated 26 January 2014, stated: "The Council elects the members of the following standing committees for two years: '... G. Health, Environment and Population Committee'" (Article 15/G, The Senate Rules of Procedure, 2014).

Concerning the standing committees of the Jordanian Senate, it is not much different in terms of the committees that are formed so that the legislator, having referred to some of the main committees such as the Legal Committee, Finance, Administrative and Foreign Affairs, for example, provided a provision granting the Council to appoint standing committees to determine their functions, and therefore note that there is a possible match for the number of standing committees that are formed.

However, despite this similarity in the types of standing committees of both houses, the difference can be seen from two angles: First: in terms of the duration of the Standing Committee, the original is to be for one regular session in the House of Representatives while we find it in the Senate for two years, and the difference goes back to the term of the presidency of both houses, the President appointed by the King for two years, while the House of Representatives presides over the president-elect for one year and therefore applies to the duration of the committees. Standing in both houses. Secondly, regarding the number of members of those committees, the Senate's rules of procedure legislators have set the minimum number of members to at least three. In contrast, the legislator of the rules of procedure of the House of Representatives has set the maximum of not more than eleven members (Al-Husban, 2006).

3.2 The Terms of Reference of the Environment Committee of the Senate

The Senate's rules of procedure have established several terms of reference exercised by the Health, Environment and Population Committee. Hence, article (22) stipulates A. Study of laws, matters and proposals related to public health, services, health insurance, food, medicine and environmental affairs. B. Studying laws, matters and proposals related to the population dimension in development plans. C. Discuss policies and decisions on population harmonization and resources for comprehensive and sustainable development. D. Study government policies and decisions on the competence of the Commission's work (Article 22/A/B/C/D, The Senate's rules of procedure, 2014).

3.2.1 Discussing Environmental Sector Challenges

Humans are not only the receivers of environmental change but also the drivers of change in many cases. Many variables are causing global change result of the over-exploitation of resources in industrialized countries and unsustainable economic systems. High population increase in less developed nations is connected to environmental degradation because residents try to preserve or enhance their resource base and economic status by over-exploiting their environment. This generally occurs without any long-term environmental management strategy; resources can be quickly drained or inefficient (Beniston 2010).

On 26 January 2021, the Senate Health, Environment and Population Committee discussed the most important challenges of the environmental sector in the Kingdom. This came during the committee's meeting with the Minister of Environment, in the presence of the Acting Secretary-General of the Ministry, the Director of Environmental Policy in the Directorate of Public Security, the Director of Environmental Compensation Programs and the Director of the Environmental Protection Fund. It was recommended that the environmental sector is no less important than any other sector, especially since it is intertwined with many other sectors, which calls for increased attention to environmental issues, pointing out the importance of adopting initiatives and projects that concern the environmental sector and its preservation. In addition, the Minister of Environment reviewed the Ministry's strategic plan and executive programme, particularly about hazardous waste, licensing and inspection, monitoring and protection of reserves, climate change and the green economy.

He also spoke about environmental legislation relating to the Framework Waste Management Act No. 16 of 2020, regulations and instructions issued under the EU Grant (three systems and six instructions), solid waste recycling under the National Waste Management Plan 2022 and the National Solid Waste Management Strategy. The environment minister said the hazardous waste treatment centre operated within certain tracks regarding operational procedures, including dealing with the status quo and establishing integrated treatment units. The hazardous chemicals matrix operated through the three fast, medium and strategic tracks. He spoke about the importance of the environmental sector and its various issues, both in terms of investment and protection,

pointing to the importance of reviewing the environmental law legislation (The health of dignitaries discusses the challenges of the environmental sector, <http://senate.jo/en/node/5641>).

3.2.2 Search for Climate Change Problem

Human activities are altering the global environment in most places on the planet. Land-use change, desertification and deforestation, biodiversity loss, air pollution, ozone depletion, and climate change are just a few causes of global environmental change. Changes in normal and extreme weather and climate trends can put important resources under stress. In addition, ecosystems become increasingly vulnerable to opportunistic species' appearance, invasion, and spread. These environmental factors interact synergistically, exacerbating the stress condition and the negative impacts of a degraded environment on human activities and carrying capacity (Beniston 2010).

Climate change has become a major problem caused by the emission of gases from human consumption and uses that negatively affect the Earth's climate. Scientists and specialists paid attention to the global consequences; Therefore, in 1988, the United Nations Environment Program, in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization, established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to obtain scientific data on climate change (Al-Haf 1998; Zerbani 2019).

The President of the Senate stressed that the challenges facing our world, the critical circumstances it is going through, and the conflicts that are spreading there, which are not limited to a particular region, have generated full certainty of the importance of participatory and the efforts necessary through intensive and responsible dialogues to come up with lasting and realistic solutions. He made the remarks during a speech at the 12th Bosphorus Summit entitled 'Facing challenges for a better world, with the participation of several heads of state and ministries and ministers, politicians, economists, businessmen, intellectuals, and writers.

The Chairman of the Senate said that the problem of climate change is an urgent priority and needs a sustained international effort, pointing out that the 26th Un Climate Change Conference, held in Glasgow last month, presented important parts of this problem and addressed good areas, regarding the need for urgent action to protect our environment. However, we still need further action, especially from industrialized countries, to address this problem. The damage caused by climate change to our environment has reached a worrying stage because of the millions of years of environmental imbalance. The President of the Senate pointed out that the problem of climate change is an essential part of several political problems facing our world today, including the high level of violence, instability and war, as well as the arms race, crime, terrorism and various international tensions (Climate change is an urgent priority and needs a sustained international effort, <https://petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=197398&lang=ar&name=news>).

3.2.3 Research Environmental Issues

The Natural Environment is the natural creation of the earth and what it contains inside or on its surface of active or inert minerals and rocks, ground or surface water, and the gaseous layers that encase it to sustain and preserve it. It gave it the ability to rejuvenate its energy and vitality, and some say that the natural environment is all that surrounds man of living or non-living phenomena. However, man has no intervention, and these phenomena are represented by terrain, climate, plants, and animals (Alhendi 2022).

Environmental issues and climate change were discussed with the Minister of Environment and the Secretary-General of the Ministry. It was noted that the policy of climate change in Jordan requires the development of an integrated scientific methodology to address the effects of climate change, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and move forward on the path of the green economy and build the capacity of communities and institutions in the Kingdom.

Bearing in mind that Jordan has abundant resources of renewable energy because we are located on the solar belt, it has long solar brightness hours during the year, fair winds for power generation in several places in the Kingdom, and the vast untapped area of the kingdom's territory, and great expertise and competencies that enable increased reliance on renewable energy sources in the total energy mix and electricity generation. These combined factors would make Jordan an important centre for the production and export of green hydrogen, in line with the royal vision and efforts to shift towards a green economy and rely on clean energy, thereby achieving economic development in the context of environmental conservation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change.

Green hydrogen is produced through water electrolysis by separating water into hydrogen and oxygen elements without accompanying environmentally harmful by-products. Climate change is one of the most prominent challenges of the times because it has negative effects on all different development sectors, the most

important of which are water scarcity, drought, serious changes in sea level, plant life and mass extinctions, as well as affecting human societies.

The causes of climate change as a whole are the increase in the human activity of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which is now trapping more heat, he said, noting that Jordan has participated in many international agreements aimed at adapting and reducing the effects of climate change in the Kingdom and the world. Through his participation in the Glasgow Climate Summit, renewable energy projects, emission reductions, and global warming are carried out through the production of green hydrogen and nitrogen in the Kingdom using solar, wind, and clean energy dependence (Energy of dignitaries discusses environmental issues and climate change, <http://senate.jo/ar/content>).

4. The Role of the Environment Committee in the Jordanian Parliament in Studying Matters Related to Environmental Affairs

The Environment Committee of the House of Representatives is one of the standing committees, so members of its standing committees are elected to each regular session, interested in studying matters related to environmental affairs (Yagi *et al.* 2017).

4.1 The Mechanism for the Formation of the Environment Committee in the House of Representatives

Standing committees are formed in the House of Representatives, including the Health and Environment Committee. Hence, Article (38) of the Jordanian Parliament rules of procedure stipulates: 'The Council elects the members of the following standing committees at the beginning of each regular session: - A. The Legal Committee. B. The Finance Committee. C. Economic and Investment Committee. D. Foreign Affairs Committee. E. Administrative Committee. F. The Education and Youth Committee. G. National Steering Committee, Information and Culture. H. Health and Environment Committee. I. Agriculture, Water and Desert Committee. J. Committee for Action, Social Development and Population. K. Energy and Mineral Resources Committee. L. Tourism, Antiquities and Public Services Committee. M. The Committee on Public Freedoms and Human Rights. N. The Palestine Committee. O. The Committee on Women and Family Affairs (Article 38, The Jordanian Parliament rules of procedure, 2013).

As for the number of members of the committees, Article (54) of the Jordanian Parliament rules of procedure states: 'A. The Standing Committee consists of eleven members, a minimum of five members, to be agreed upon as determined by the Executive Office based on the proportional representation of blocs B. Suppose the formation of committees is not agreed upon by the provisions of paragraph (a) of this Article within fourteen days from the beginning of each regular session. In that case, its members will be elected by secret ballot if the number of candidates exceeds the scheduled number. C. A deputy may not be a member of more than two permanent committees. D. It is not permissible to combine the membership of committees with the membership of the permanent office. E. Suppose the Committee loses the minimum number of its members provided for in paragraph (a) of this Article. In that case, the Committee shall be considered dissolved and reconstituted by the provisions of this Article (Article 54, The Jordanian Parliament rules procedure, 2013).

The Committee continues its work from the beginning and end of the regular session, so the Council has to perform this legal duty, but this does not prevent the possibility of renewal for members of the previous committees because the system did not require the need to change the members of the committees. However, only this text came before the need to confirm this at the beginning of the regular session. The regular session of the legislator of the rules of procedure indicated it explicitly.

On the other hand, there is no objection to the fact that the membership of the standing committees of the same deputies selected in the first regular session of the Council after its election and until the end of the constitutional term of the Council, provided that the renewal must be indicated at the beginning of each regular session. Here, the reference to renewal is revealed, and what supports this result is learned from the same system and its provisions. Elsewhere, he had explicitly referred to the possibility of a change in the membership of the previous committees, which were formed at the beginning of an earlier regular session when it was stipulated that: 'The President of the Council invites each committee at the first regular session to meet to elect among its members a president and a rapporteur (Al-Husban 2006).

4.2 The Terms of Reference of the Environment Committee of the House of Representatives

The rules of procedure of the House of Representatives have established several terms of reference exercised by the Health and Environment Committee. Hence, Article (46) of the rules of procedure of the Jordanian Parliament stipulates that: "The Health and Environment Committee is entrusted with the following tasks: 'Studying laws,

matters and proposals relating to public health, health services, health insurance and environmental affairs” (Article 46, The rules of procedure of the Jordanian Parliament, 2013).

4.2.1 Discussing the Environmental and Tourism Realities

Environmental protection is one of the more recent topics in Arab legal systems and one of the topics that is newly regulated in comparative legal systems. It reflects a new stage in developing the concept of human rights. As a result, it was necessary to establish authority within the state structure to protect the right to a clean and sanitary environment and take all necessary measures to prevent pollution. The first United Nations was the beginning point for studying and tackling environmental challenges (Emar & Abu Issa 2021).

The Parliamentary Health and Environment Committee visited the (Ajloun Forest Reserve) to learn about the environmental and tourism realities. The chairman of the committee said that this tour is part of a series of field tours organized by the committee to see the reserves, including (Ajloun), (Dabin) and (Barqash), in order to develop them and facilitate access to citizens to it to be a tourist destination for all its users locally and externally.

He stressed the importance of joining forces of all stakeholders to preserve the reserves, which are witnessing active movement by citizens and visitors due to their natural and environmental advantages, pointing out that the committee continues its tours in many regions of the Kingdom to learn about the challenges and problems facing the health and environment sectors and to discuss the possibility of solving possible ones to serve the public interest. Visiting the reserves is to identify their needs and create ideas for their translation on the ground in line with royal directives to give tourism importance and development, adding that the Committee is intensively following these reserves to preserve them and prevent encroachments on them.

The importance of investing in the tourist season to promote these sites and develop Jordan's media tourism system was stressed. Furthermore, to take into account the specificity of (Ajloun) province, which is witnessing busy tourist traffic and the demand of visitors and those seeking recreation in the arms of nature, praising the role of the Ministry of Environment and its keenness to network with the Committee for keeping forests and reserves safe, healthy and environmentally (Health and the parliamentary environment look at the environmental and tourism realities of (Ajloun) Reserve <https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=189614&lang=ar&name=news>).

4.2.2 Check the Environmental Reality of Nature Reserves

Fine dust is considered the most common air pollutant, which is distributed and generated from many sources, whether liquid or solid; it is also the most severe dust generated in mechanical activities and also includes industrial dust and ash particles of different types and sizes have several physical properties in common, it grows by condensation is absorbed or mixed with vapours and gases, it freezes or spreads. In addition, it absorbs or scatters light (Al Gharaibeh & Farhan 2000).

The chairman of the parliamentary health and environment committee stressed the need to join forces to preserve the kingdom's forests and nature reserves. During the committee's visit to the (Dabin) reserve, he said forests and reserves are an important outlet for domestic tourism, calling on citizens to preserve this national wealth and not attack it to promote ecotourism locally and arable. Furthermore, to cooperate with the private sector to develop and develop these reserves, he stressed the need to work under the guidance of His Majesty King Abdullah II to replant the areas whose trees have been attacked to preserve the region's beauty.

The chairman of the Tourism Committee of the Jerash Provincial Council noted the support provided by the provincial council to the reserve, indicating that it needs to establish an environmental hostel that will increase the reserve's income and provide jobs for the residents of the area. The reserve director gave a detailed account of the number of visitors, the area, and the most important challenges it faces from attacks such as logging and indiscriminate dumping of waste by visitors (Parliamentary health inspects the environmental reality in The (Dabin) Reserve, <https://petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=189621&lang=ar&name=news>).

4.2.3 Discussion of the Environmental Situation in the Provinces of the Kingdom

The smoke emitted from the combustion of solid fuels (coal), liquid fuels (petroleum), gaseous fuels, and natural gas, where these materials are still used in power generation in most industries, contribute to air pollution because they contain compounds of lead, beryllium, arsenic, copper, zinc, fine particles, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and ozone gas, as the main elements of air pollution are the smokes emitted from the combustion of solid (Sharq 1999).

During a meeting held on the environmental situation in the capital, the Parliamentary Health and Environment Committee discussed and received complaints about the treatment of investors by some inspectors

of the Health Department of the greater Amman Secretariat. During presiding over the meeting, the chairman of the committee said that the 'parliamentary health' heard from the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Environment, the Deputy Director of the City for Health and Agricultural Affairs of the Secretariat, and the Deputy Director of the City for Environment and Areas affairs of the Secretariat of Oman, how the Ministry of Environment and the Secretariat dealt with medical waste a year after the Coronavirus pandemic and how to dispose of it. He added that the Committee would hold a meeting to be set up later with those concerned in the Ministry of Environment to discuss waste recycling (Alkhseilat *et al.* 2022).

The Ministry will not abandon the separation of medical waste from households, reviewing the measures taken by the Ministry during the past period, such as the distribution of a procedural manual on citizens and workers of the homeland, explaining how to deal with waste and stone areas where sterile materials and muzzles have been used for fear of transmission of the virus to them. On e-waste, the Ministry of Environment is in the process of allocating a recycling programme. It was discussed that there are special protocols to deal with waste obtained by Corona, such as being excreted and burned from household waste. However, after being classified globally as not dangerous, it was treated as household waste, pointing out that it is sprayed with pesticides and then buried in (ghabawi) landfills. He said that brochures had been distributed to citizens and workers to deal with this waste ('Parliamentary Health' discusses the environmental situation in the capital, <https://representatives.jo/AR/NewsDetails>).

4.2.4 Parliamentary Environment Discusses Environmental Situation Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

The World Health Organization declared a worldwide coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19). As a result of the virus's transmissibility and quickly spreading worldwide, numerous nations have imposed many restrictions on social life and economic activity, including stay-at-home orders, social distance, mandatory quarantines, and remote work and schooling. These restrictions will lock down most of the world's population by late March 2020 (Silva *et al.* 2022).

Despite influencing many aspects of human existence, the Covid-19 Pandemic spreads exponentially and immediately impacts other global resources. This worldwide epidemic has profound implications for how humans interact, interpret, manage, and protect global biodiversity. According to reports, human impact on natural ecosystems and wildlife has decreased. The travel ban and park closure have resulted in a dramatic drop in the number of tourists to protected areas, alleviating the animal burden (Kumar *et al.* 2020).

The Parliamentary Health and Environment Committee discussed the environmental situation in the Kingdom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the environmental damage caused by the use of HIV prevention requirements. During his presidency of the meeting in the presence of the Minister of Environment and the Secretary-General of the Ministry, the Chairman of the Committee stressed the importance of having absolute cooperation between the committee and the ministry, which reflects positively on the citizen, pointing out that all the observations received during the meeting will be followed up. Furthermore, the deputies called for adequate attention to medical and other waste and cooperation in legislating laws that would preserve the environment (Al-Billeh 2022).

It was noted that emissions had been reduced," he said, stressing that there was political will to gradually reduce emissions during 2020-2030. If emissions are reduced, donors will provide \$5.7 billion in grants. In addition, it was noted that the Ministry of Environment had issued a manual of procedures for dealing with critical waste, which was contaminated with the Coronavirus, and stressed that there was no nuclear waste on the kingdom's territory ('Parliamentary health' discusses environmental situation due to COVID-19 Pandemic, <https://representatives.jo/AR/NewsDetails>).

Conclusion

After studying the role of environmental committees in the Nineteenth Parliament for 2020 in studying environmental affairs in Jordan, we have reached a range of findings and recommendations as follows:

- Reducing the emission of greenhouse gases that cause global warming, especially particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide, ozone gas in Jordan and a significant drop in demand for petroleum products and other natural resources.
- The need to expand the terms of reference of environmental committees in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, increase their role in discussing environmental laws, and increase their participation in global environmental conferences and workshops.

- Call for a regular meeting of the environment committees in parliament with representatives of the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Tourism to discuss the environmental and tourism conditions and develop the necessary plans to preserve the environment and prevent direct attacks on nature reserves.
- The environment committees in parliament should contact the competent authorities in an attack on the environment, nature reserves or tourist areas to take appropriate measures and refer violators to the judiciary.

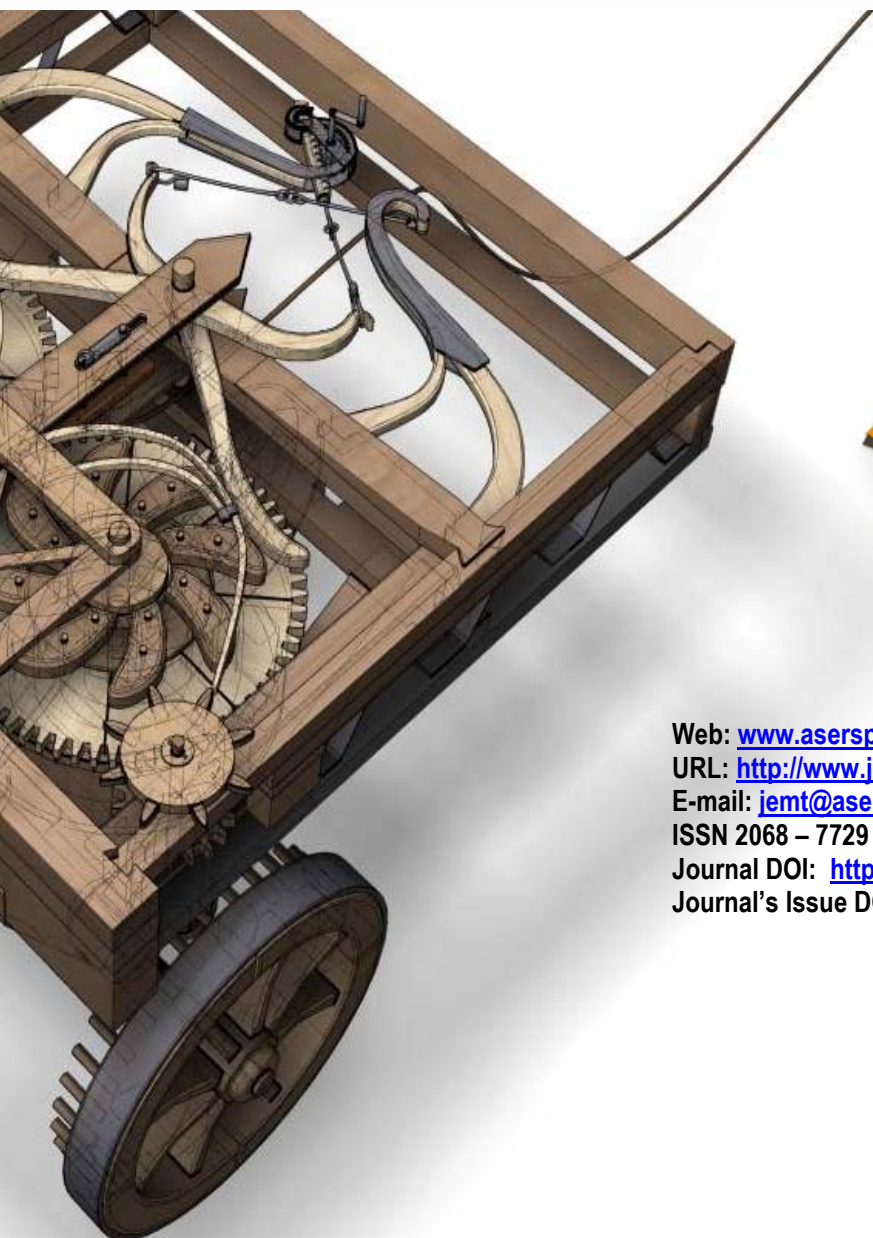
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