

Simon I. Awad

Executive Director, Environmental Education Center of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Simon Awad is the Executive Director of the Environmental Education Center (EEC) in Palestine, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), which works in the fields of education, ecojustice, advocacy, biodiversity, and climate justice. A key element of his work is providing education in order to protect and restore ecosystems in Palestine. He has authored and co-authored several books and is an activist in Eco-Justice, climate issues, human rights, Biodiversity as an ornithologist and voluntary work. Additionally, he is in charge of running several local development institutions in Palestine. Mr. Awad has represented the EEC in many local, regional and international forums and is an active member in different international and regional organizations, such as the Working Group for Climate Change/World Council of Churches (WGCC / WCC), Chairperson of IUCN National Committee in Palestine, Board Member of OSME, ACT Alliance MENA Middle East and North Africa ACT Alliance Climate Working Group for Good Practice, European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) / biodiversity group, and G 20/Interfaith forum Arab Region.

Computer Skills	Excel, MS Word, PowerPoint, Internet.
Languages	Arabic: Fluent verbal and writing English: Very good verbal and writing Hebrew: Fair verbal German, French and Spanish Basic knowledge.
Personal	Nationality: Jordanian- holder of Jerusalem ID
References:	Upon request

Simon I. Awad
Jerusalem – Ber Oneh, Main St.
P.O. Box 67765
Jerusalem
Mobile 00972-54-6532713
Jawwal 00972-599-034201
E-mail sija9@yahoo.com

Education

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| <i>1984 - 1992</i> | Bachelor's degree in general sciences at Bethlehem University - Palestine. |
| <i>1979 - 1984</i> | General Secondary Examination Certificate (Tawjihi), (Catholic School- Beit Sahour / Palestine). |

Current Position

Private Consultant

2007 - Present

- Matching of Palestinian Environmental Legislation with International Environmental Conventions.
- Red Sea - Dead Sea Conveyance (RSDSC) project, World Bank.
- Environmental consultant for Mercy Corps/West Bank & Gaza.

Significant Accomplishments

- Executive Director of Environmental Education Center
- Chair of International Union for Conservation of Nature / IUCN –National Committee- Palestine
- Representative of Palestine in the World Council of Churches working group for Climate Change.
- Council member of the Ornithological Society of the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia.
- Representative of Palestine in SE European Bird Migration Network (SEEN) since 2000 and leader at its birds ringing (banding) stations.
- Elected as an Executive (steering) Committee in the Palestinian Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PENGON) Partner of Friends of Earth International (2007 – 2012).
- Created First Bird Ringing Stations in Palestine and the Greater Arab World (Talitha Kumi Bird Ringing Station)

EEC (Environmental Education Center): Executive Director - Bethlehem, Palestine

2001 - Present

- Creating, executing, and adjusting implementation plans to further environmental education and community engagement

- Networking and enriching relationships with international and local NGOs.
- Managing seasonal Ringing Station and nursery for native Palestinian species to further research and promote the ecological health of Palestine
- Planning, coordinating and implementing annual Palestinian Environmental Awareness and Education Conferences 2009-2021
- Writing proposals based on the project's needs and those of the local community and presenting them to suitable donors.
- Managing more than one project at a time in addition to daily duties.
- Developing various personnel, financial, administrative, and monitoring systems.
- Budgeting and monitoring expenditures
- Maintaining relations with external partners and donors for fundraising
- Training and building capacity for teachers, students, women, and graduate students.
- Publishing several educational training materials, such as pamphlets, booklets, and brochures about climate change, water, biodiversity and eco justice issues.
- Providing sessions that further capacity building in EEC target groups concerning climate change, biodiversity, water, and eco-justice issues.
- Establish and implement new policies that would benefit the structure of the EEC using strategic planning

Previous Work Experience

“Migratory Birds Know No Boundaries” CPNP Project- Palestine.

Project Manager

1998-2001

Children for the Protection of Nature in Palestine “CPNP” program.

Position

1998 - 2000

Palestinian Human Rights Information Center (PHRIC) Jerusalem - Arab Study Society Palestine.

Fieldworker & Coordinator

1988 - 1998

Significant Published Books

Researcher in *IBA/Important Bird Areas in Palestine*, June 1999.

Co - Author of “Bulbul Talking,” Oct 2005.

Author of *Birds of Palestine*.

First edition 2005.

Second edition 2009.

Co - Author of First Checklist of Birds in Palestine, 2015. *English Edition*

Co - Author of First Checklist of Birds in Palestine, 2017. *Arabic Edition*

Co - Author of Update First Checklist of Birds in Palestine, 2022. *English Edition*

Significant Published Works

Contributor: State of Palestine Third and Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2015.

Author of Chapter: “*Advocacy for Eco-Justice in Palestine*”, *Making Peace with the Earth*, Action and Advocacy for Climate Change. Published by: World Council of Churches. 2016

Author of Chapter: “*Ecological justice for Palestine*”, *Environmental Justice, Popular Struggle and Community Development*; edited by: Anne Harley and Eurig Scandrett, Published by: the University of Bristol, UK and the University of Chicago Press, USA, 2019.

Co-Author of Chapter: “*New paradigms for Ecological Education in Palestine*” in *Ethics for Life--Bread for the World*, 2019.

Significant Published Papers

The Ringing Site in Jericho (Palestine) – Development of Bird Migration and Parasitological Research on the Great Rift Valley Flyway, Awad S., Rz¹d I., Busse P., 2013.

Jericho (Palestine) Spring 2014 Ornithological and Parasitological Research Results Simon Awad and Izabella Rzad, 2014.

Long-Term Bird Ringing in Palestine, The Ring 39/2017. Simon I. Awad, Michael H. Farhoud, Riad K. Abu Saada and Przemyslaw Busse, 2017.

The Biodiversity Value of Olive Groves in Palestine. Simon Awad and Omar Attum, 2019.

Significant Awards

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Award for Environmental Management in the Islamic World (Edition 2016 - 2017) Category Best NGO's Leading Practices, Third Prize.

Voluntary Experience

1992- Present	Founder and currently Chairman of Fashion and Textile Institution, (Latin Patriarchate, Palestine) - Bethlehem
2001- 2004	Member of National Palestinian Committee for summer camps - West Bank.
2000- 2008	Founder and Board member of Palestinian Ornithology and Biodiversity Society (POBS) - Beit Sahour
1998- 2000	Coordinator of Environmental Section activity in Bethlehem 2000 Project.

1996- 1999	Founder and board member of Jerusalem youth housing society - Jerusalem
1982- 1997	A variety of positions in student groups, committees, clubs and NGOs.
1992- 1994	Activist and member in Amnesty human rights education campaign-Palestine.

Campaigns:

- *2000 - Present:* **Green Palestine:** Supervised a yearly campaign to plant 5000 trees (native and other trees) with the help of local and international volunteers.
- *2001- present:* **Clean up Palestine:** Supervising a yearly campaign with the participation of more than 10,000 students, teachers and decision makers to clean up the cities and villages of Palestine.
- *2001 - Present:* **Supervising the Olive Harvest Festival:** helping the Palestinian farmers to sell their olive products.
- *2002:* Supervisor of the **Protection of Common Swift Nesting Places Campaign.**
- *2002:* Supervisor of **Conserving Natural and Cultural Heritage Campaign** involving more than 1500 students and 70 teachers held in Palestine.
- *2004:* Supervisor of the **Preservation of Water Campaign**, more than 2000 students, 25 women and 40 teachers took part in these activities.
- *2004:* Supervisor of “**Conserving the Palestinian Biodiversity Campaign**” involving more than 3000 students, 30 teachers and 40 decision makers.