IBSAR, Nature Conservation Center for Sustainable Futures

Director: Talhouk, Salma N, Professor, Chairperson, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management

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Hwalla, Nahla, PhD  Dean and Professor; Nutrition and Food Sciences (FAFS)
Jamal, Ghada  Instructor; Fine Arts and History (FAS)
Jurdi, May  Professor, Environmental Health (FHS)
Kamleh, Rabih  Assistant Professor; Environmental Health (FHS)
Kassaify, Zeina  Assistant Professor; Nutrition and Food Sciences (FAFS)
Knio, Khouzama, PhD  Professor; Biology (FAS)
Makdisi, Karim, PhD  Assistant Professor; Political Studies and Public Administration (FAS)
Makhzoumi, Jala, PhD  Associate Professor; Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management (FAFS)
Mohtaseb, Hala, PhD  Chairperson and Professor; Biology (FAS)
Muraywed, Amal  Senior Lecturer; Fine Arts and History (FAS)
Obeid Omar, PhD  Associate Professor; Nutrition and Food Science (FAFS)
Olabi, Ammar, PhD  Assistant Professor; Nutrition and Food Science (FAFS)
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Saab, Basim, MD  Professor; Family Medicine (FM)
Saikaly, Pascal  Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering (FEA)
Salha, Neville  
Senior Lecturer; Fine Arts and History (FAS)

Saliba Aoun, Najat, PhD  
Associate Professor; Chemistry (FAS)

Talhouk, Rabih, PhD  
Professor; Biology (FAS)

Talhouk, Salma, PhD  
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Zurayk, Rami, PhD  
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**Introduction**

Established in 2002, IBSAR is an interfaculty center with a mission to promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity in arid and Mediterranean regions by providing an open academic platform for innovative research and development.

IBSAR’s objectives are to link biological, ecological, social, economic, and cultural disciplines to generate new knowledge and publish information that is useful to society and that provides it with direction and tools for effective nature conservation and use. It achieves these objectives by:

- Conducting basic and applied research.
- Fostering collaboration among different sectors.
- Guiding policy and legislation.
- Exploring and developing economic opportunities for the sustainable use of biodiversity.
Membership and Governance

IBSAR is an academic platform and membership is open to all AUB faculty members, undergraduate and graduate students, junior scientists, and student clubs and societies.

The center is managed by a director and three committees whose members are appointed by election. The mission and objectives of these committees have been designed to ensure diversity and synergism within the center:

• The executive committee is responsible for coordinating the work of the center and providing guidance to its committees. It is also in charge of fundraising.

• The research committee is responsible for the cultivation of research activities, and encourages those leading to patentable innovations.

• The outreach committee disseminates information to society at large and organizes activities that highlight the economic, social, and cultural value of biodiversity for communities.

In addition to coordinating with the appropriate University administrators and an International Advisory Board, IBSAR works with the business community, with governments and NGOs at the national, regional, and international levels.