

The Initiative for Biodiversity Studies in Arid Regions (IBSAR)

Director: Salma N. Talhouk

Twenty-five faculty and 28 associate members from diverse disciplines created IBSAR as a forum for promoting the conservation of biodiversity. The current faculty members of IBSAR are listed below:

Abdallah, Kamel, PhD	Lecturer; Management, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship (OSB)
Abou-Fakhr, Efat, PhD	Associate Professor; Plant Sciences (FAFS)
Badr, Kamal, MD	Professor; Internal Medicine, Nephrology (FM)
Barbour, Elie, PhD	Professor; Animal Sciences (FAFS)
Batal, Malek, PhD	Assistant Professor; Nutrition and Food Science (FAFS)
Bouhadir, Kamal, PhD	Assistant Professor; Chemistry (FAS)
Darwiche, Nadine, PhD	Associate Professor; Biology (FAS)
El-Sabban, Marwan, PhD	Professor; Human Morphology (FM)
Hamadeh, Shady, PhD	Professor; Animal Sciences (FAFS)
Houmaïdan, Fadia, PhD	Associate Professor; Physiology (FM)
Hwalla, Nahla, PhD	Professor; Nutrition and Food Science (FAFS)
Jamali, Dima, PhD	Assistant Professor; Management, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship (OSB)
Kabbani, Nader, PhD	Assistant Professor; Economics (FAS)
Khattar, Medhat, PhD	Assistant Professor; Biology (FAS)
Knio, Khouzama, PhD	Associate Professor; Biology (FAS)
Makdisi, Karim, PhD	Assistant Professor; Political Science and Public Administration (FAS)
Makhzoumi, Jala, PhD	Associate Professor; Plant Sciences (FAFS)
Mohtaseb, Hala, PhD	Professor; Biology (FAS)
Rubeiz, Nelly, MD	Clinical Associate Professor; Dermatology (FM)
Saab, Basim, MD	Associate Professor; Family Medicine (FM)
Saliba Aoun, Najat, PhD	Assistant Professor; Chemistry (FAS)
Shehadi, Ramzi, MD	Assistant Professor; Surgery (FM)
Talhouk, Rabih, PhD	Professor; Biology (FAS)
Talhouk, Salma, PhD	Professor; Plant Sciences (FAFS)
Zurayk, Rami, PhD	Professor; Land and Water Resources (FAFS)

Introduction

Established in 2002 IBSAR's mission is to engage in research, training, and information exchange to promote the conservation of biodiversity in arid regions, and to explore and develop linkages and opportunities between biodiversity and society.

IBSAR's Objectives

- conducting basic and applied research using state-of-the-art biotechnologies to screen and investigate potential uses of biodiversity
- exploring socio-economic dynamics of biodiversity conservation, and protecting and restoring native landscapes
- fostering collaboration among various sectors by establishing links with stakeholders, acting as a center of reference for information dissemination, providing consultation and training, and collaborating with regional and international partners
- guiding policy and legislation, compatible with international rules and regulations, for the sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in the region
- exploring and developing economic opportunities for the sustainable use of biodiversity through acting as an incubator of biodiversity innovations that are commercially viable, providing consultancies and training to the public and private sectors, and recommending alternative mechanisms for economic development

Membership and Administration

IBSAR is an interdisciplinary research group and membership is open to all AUB faculty members, students, and junior scientists. All campus facilities are open for research activities of the group, including the Central Research Science Laboratory, the Environmental Core and Molecular and Cellular Biology Core Laboratories, and others.

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 complementarity and synergism within the center:

- The executive committee is responsible for coordinating the work of the center and providing guidance to its committees, and is 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, and with governments and NGOs at the national, regional, and international levels.