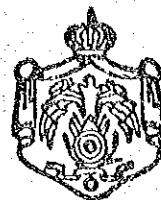
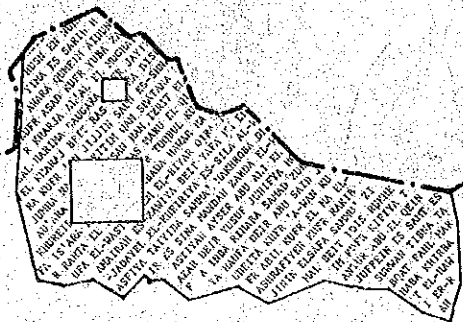


THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN



INTEGRATED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDY OF NORTHERN JORDAN FINAL REPORT



Volume 7: PART III, RESULT OF PHASE II STUDY CHAPTER V Tourism

March, 1980

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY
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FINAL REPORT

Volume7: PART III, RESULT OF PHASE II STUDY
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- Plan of Development Core: Jerash, 2000

CHAPTER V

AJLUN-DIBBIN-JERASH TOURISM PLAN

CHAPTER V

AJLUN - DIBBIN - JERASH TOURISM PLAN

5.1 Background and Purpose of the Study

5.001 The Integrated Regional Development Study of the Northern Jordan, Phase I, studied the tourism development for the whole Study Area covering almost every part of the Irbid Governorate. As a final output, the Study identified eight priority projects, which are Jerash Tourism Development, Um Qeis Excavation and Restoration, Um El Jimal Restoration, Ajlun Tourism Development, Dibbin National Park, Maqarin Resort Development, Irbid Development, and Ramtha Tourism Development.

5.002 Among these projects, the Government of Jordan chose Jerash Tourism Development, Dibbin National Park and Ajlun Tourism Development as a set of the projects for which an in-depth study seems necessary. In response to this, the Phase II Study concentrated on establishing a tourism development plan for the area covering the cities of Jerash and Ajlun, and their environs, including Dibbin National Park, King Talal Dam, Wadi Yabis and Ishtafina Tourism Park, with special emphasis on spatial integration of these potential tourism areas. This area is referred to as the Target Area hereinafter. The reference period of the planning study is from the present until the year 2000 with an intermediate target set for 1985.

5.003 With the intention of prescribing the resource inputs to be made for the tourism development in the year 2000, the study has (1) reviewed and assessed the resources and other potentialities of the Target Area, including natural resources for tourism, historical and cultural assets, other man-made resources and infrastructure; (2) established a development framework comprised of alternative development scenarios, projection of the numbers of tourists, foreseeable pattern of tourism activities and facility requirements; (3) proposed the plan, a set of objectives, targets, strategies, areal networks, area-specific objectives and strategies and location plan of major tourism facilities and infrastructure, and (4) identified the projects, phasing and scheduling of their implementation and financial requirements.

5.2 Analysis of Present Situation

5.2.1 Overview of the Target Area

5.004 The Target Area is situated in the northern part of Jordan between Amman and Irbid (see Figure 5.1). It is approximately 40 km south of Irbid and 50 km north of Amman. Major access roads include Route 15 and Route 33 from the south and Routes 15, 23 and 37 from the north. The western part of the Target Area is hilly and its altitude ranges from around 600 to 1,000 m above sea level, so that it enjoys a fairly cool climate in summer. The Target Area is also one of the most verdant parts of the whole country.

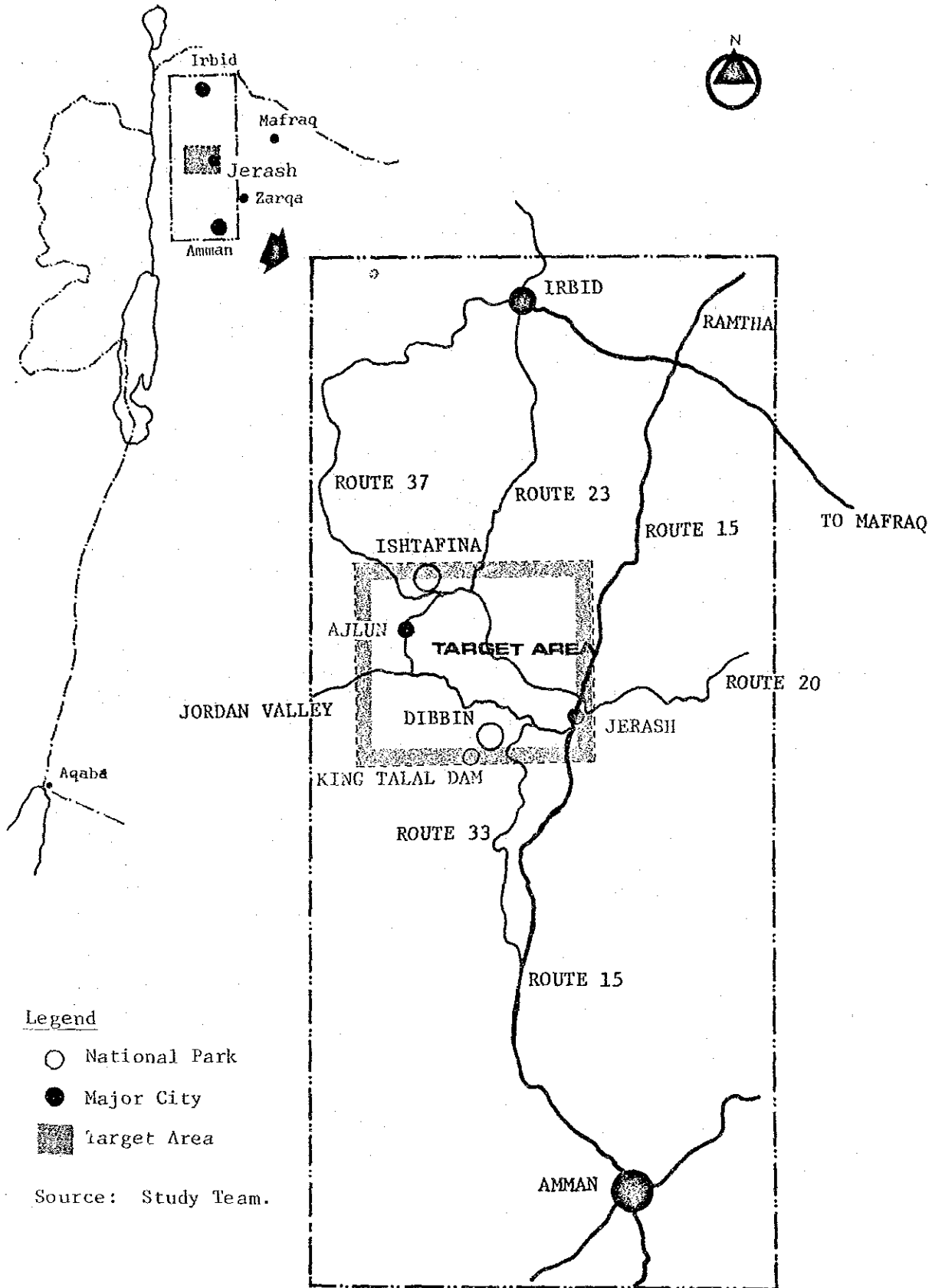
5.005 The natural resource endowments for tourism in this area are the relatively cool climate in summer and the verdant views, and the man-made resources are historic assets of the well-known Jerash antiquities and Rabad Castle. In the sense that no other tourist center in the country has both natural and man-made resources together, the Target Area has been recognized as one of the most important tourism areas in Jordan.

5.006 Because of its natural characteristics, the Target Area exists as a summer resort place, not only for Jordanians but also for those in neighboring hot countries. In contrast, the Jordan Valley has been recognized as a winter resort place. Moreover, Jerash is considered to be attractive to foreigners, including those from remote countries, because of its high reputation as a location of historical assets.

5.007 Topographically, the eastern part of the Target Area in general is lower than the western part. Jerash and its environs are approximately 600 m above sea level, whilst the area from Dibbin to Ibbin through Anjara, Ajlun and Ishtafina along Routes 20 and 23 is covered with a gentle stretch of hills which rise 800 to 1,000 m above sea level. Within this area there are some high places, easily accessible, such as Ras Al Aqra (1,098 m), Qal'at Er Rabad (1,023 m), Um El Manabi (1,080 m) and Ain Rasun (1,198 m). There are also some steep-sloping wadis such as Wadi Yabis, Wadi Nahla and Wadi Janza.

5.008 In the setting described above, Jerash plays an important role as the center of a series of historical places. Qal'at Er Rabad, in Ajlun, is another important tourism place noted for its history as well as its panoramic views. As for natural environment resources, Ishtafina National Park and Dibbin National Park, together with their surroundings, are extremely important tourism places for the Jordanians and Arabs from neighboring lands who wish to enjoy cool weather and a verdant environment in summer.

Figure 5.1 Location of the Target Area, 1979



5.2.2 Tourism Resources of the Country

a. Tourism Resource Inventory

5.009 An inventory of historical assets and natural resources has been prepared and their potentialities for tourism development have been assessed (see Table 5.1).

5.010 Because of its historical background, the country is endowed with a number of historically noteworthy places, including Jerusalem, the Holy Land of Islam, Christianity and Judaism, and the many scattered ruins of the Greek and Roman periods from which the contemporary western culture originates. For Christians, there are many attractive places, in addition to Jerusalem, such as Mt. Nebo, where Moses was moved to tears with Canaan, on the Exodus, according to the Old Testament. Many castles, including that of Ajlun, which were constructed for defense against the Crusaders in the late Twelfth Century are striking symbols reminding us of the Saracens.

5.011 In these historical places and their surroundings, one can find innumerable archaeological sites and antiquities which are valuable as potential resources for tourism development, at present and in the near future. From an academic viewpoint, all the excavated or unexcavated ruins and the whole range of historical assets dating from the Pre-historic Age to the Middle Ages should be of high value. However, this Study has taken an inventory of them, and assessed them, mainly from the viewpoint of tourism development. The inventory, therefore, excludes unexcavated ruins such as Capitolas in Beit Ras and Pella containing the famous ancient Decapolis and the small-scale scattered ruins which are isolated from touristic routes and are virtually unapproachable. It should be noted that the archaeological sites and antiquities in Jordan have become increasingly attractive to overseas visitors who previously visited Greek and Roman ruins in Lebanon before the onset of civil war.

5.012 In addition to the historical assets, the country is endowed with natural resources and a climate well suited for tourism development, including cool climate conditions and forests such as hardly can be enjoyed in neighboring desert countries. A remarkable place is Dibbin National Park where people from throughout the Middle East can fully enjoy its cool weather in summer, because of its high altitude, and perennially green woods. In winter, people can comfortably visit the Jordan Valley, Dead Sea, Aqaba, Wadi Ram, El Azraq and many other places. This combination of summer and winter resorts will make it possible for the country to attract people of neighboring countries throughout the year.

5.013 Looking at the potential of these respective historical and natural tourism resources and their spatial distribution, several groups of tourism resources have been identified (see Figure 5.2 and Table 5.2).

Table 5.1 Inventory of Tourism Resources in Jordan and Their Assessment, 1979

Name of Site	Ancient Name	Major Antiques and Ruins	Historical Values	Tourism Potentials	Major Arrangement Necessary for Tourism Development	Assessment of Tourism Potential for:	
						Arab-based national Tourism	International Tourism
Jerash	Gerasa	City theaters, Temples, Streets, Forum, Baths, Bridge, Church and Museum.	Nabatean important city, Caravan city, etc. Typical Roman city, Greco.	Well known site. Big scale complex of ruins. Contact to main route.	Diversion of through-traffic. Construction of by-pass route.	I	I
Ruins of Ancient City	Petra	Theater, Street, Tombs, Temples, Treasure houses, Museum.	Nabatean important city, Caravan city, Political center of Nabatean Kingdom.	Well known site. Distinctiveness Big scale. Source of Arabic history.	Arrangement of approach.	I	I
Um Qeis	Gadara	Theater, Bath, Temple, Tombs, Church, Store.	One of Decapolis, Christian point.	Panoramic view. Complex with Lake Tiberias.	Excavation and restoration of ruin.	II	II
Um El Jimal	Um El Jimal	City tower, Church, Houses, Cistern.	Roman ruin, Satellite city of Bozrah.	Center of Satellite cities in North Jordan.	Development as a group of cities.	III	III

(to continue)

Name of Site	Ancient Name	Major Antiques and Ruins	Historical Values	Tourism Potentials	Major Arrangement Necessary for Tourism Development	Assessment of Tourism Potential for:	
						Arab-based	International Tourism
Amman	Philadelphia	Theater, Castle, Odeon, Nymphion, Museums.	One of Decapolis.	Center of tourism in Jordan. Traffic center. Base lodging site.	Arrangement of national archeological museum.	I	I
Madaba	Medeba	Floor mosaic, Museum, Church, Cistern.	Byzantine mosaic. map of Palestine.	Group ruin & ancient antiques. One day trip from Amman.	Development together with its environment.	II	II
Ruins of Ancient	Mt. Nebo	Church, Museum.	Story of Moses.	Panoramic view, Bible point.	Information.	II	II
City of Ancient Cities on West Bank: Jerusalem, Jerico, Beth-lehem, etc.	Same as present name.	Innumerable ruins.	Important areas in Bible.	Main point of Bible. History tour for pilgrim.	Solution of national boundary problem.	I	I

(to continue)

Name of Site	Ancient Name	Major Antiques and Ruins	Historical Values	Tourism Potentials	Major Arrangement Necessary for Tourism Development	Assessment of Tourism Potential for: Arab- based national Tourism
Castle of Ajlun	Qal'at Er Rabad	Castle ruin.	Castle against Crusader's power. Typical Arabic castle.	Panoramic view, Crusader story for European. Asset for Arabic Nationalism.	Restoration of ruin. Arrangement of museum and resthouses.	II I
Arabic Ruins						
in Middle Ages	Qasr El Azraq	Castle ruin.	Arabic castle. Base camp in "Sir Lawrence in desert".	Fine oasis, view of desert. Hot spring and ruin.	Combined development with other ruin of "Palace of Desert" arrangement, Museum.	II II
Palaces of Desert	Qasr Amra, Qasr El Kharana, Qasr Ed Daba, Qasr El Mushatta.	Castle and palace ruins.	Arabic king's life.	Desert tour.	Resthouse, Information services, Arrangement of access road.	III III

(to continue)

Name of Site	Ancient Name	Major Antiques and Ruins	Historical Values	Tourism Potentials	Major Arrangement Necessary for Tourism Development	Assessment of
						Tourism Potential for: Arab- based national Tourism
Arabic Ruins of Middle Ages	Karak	Castle, Museum.	Important point on the history of Crusader's age.	Viewpoint of big valley near Dead Sea. Middle way on the tour between Petra and Amman.	Information services, Development of access road.	II II
	Aqaba	Ezion Gebel Aila	Important site on the trade route with Red sea.	Summer and winter resort.	Information services and transport service.	II I
Natural Re-sources	Dead Sea	Salt Sea, Sea of the Arabah.	Story on Bible history.	Distinctive-ness, Sight-seeing and swimming.	Seaside resthouses, Development of panoramic viewpoints along the road.	II III
	Jordan Valley		Story on Bible.	Sightseeing of green plants and fields.	Arrangement of attractive panoramic points.	II II

(to continue)

Name of Site	Ancient Name	Major Antiques and Ruins	Historical Values	Tourism Potentials	Major Arrangement Necessary for Tourism Development	Assessment of Tourism Potential for:	
						Arab-based national Tourism	International Tourism
Ajiun & Dibbin Area National Park with Wadi Yabis & King Talal Dam			Combined with Qal'at Er Rabad.	Panoramic green & cool area for summer resort.	Development of various facilities.	I	II
Zarqa Ma'in				Panoramic view of Dead Sea from approach road. Hot spring, Peculiarity of landscape.	Development of resthouses and access road.	II	III
Hemma				Hot spring.	Development of resort facilities.	III	II
Maqarin Dam				Lake site & water surface resort area.	Development of resort facilities.	III	II
Wadi Ram				Peculiarity of desert landscape.	Resthouses.	II	I

Source: Study Team.

Note: I/ II indicates the first grade potentiality, II the second grade and III the third grade.

Figure 5.2 Grouping of Tourism Assets, Jordan, 1979

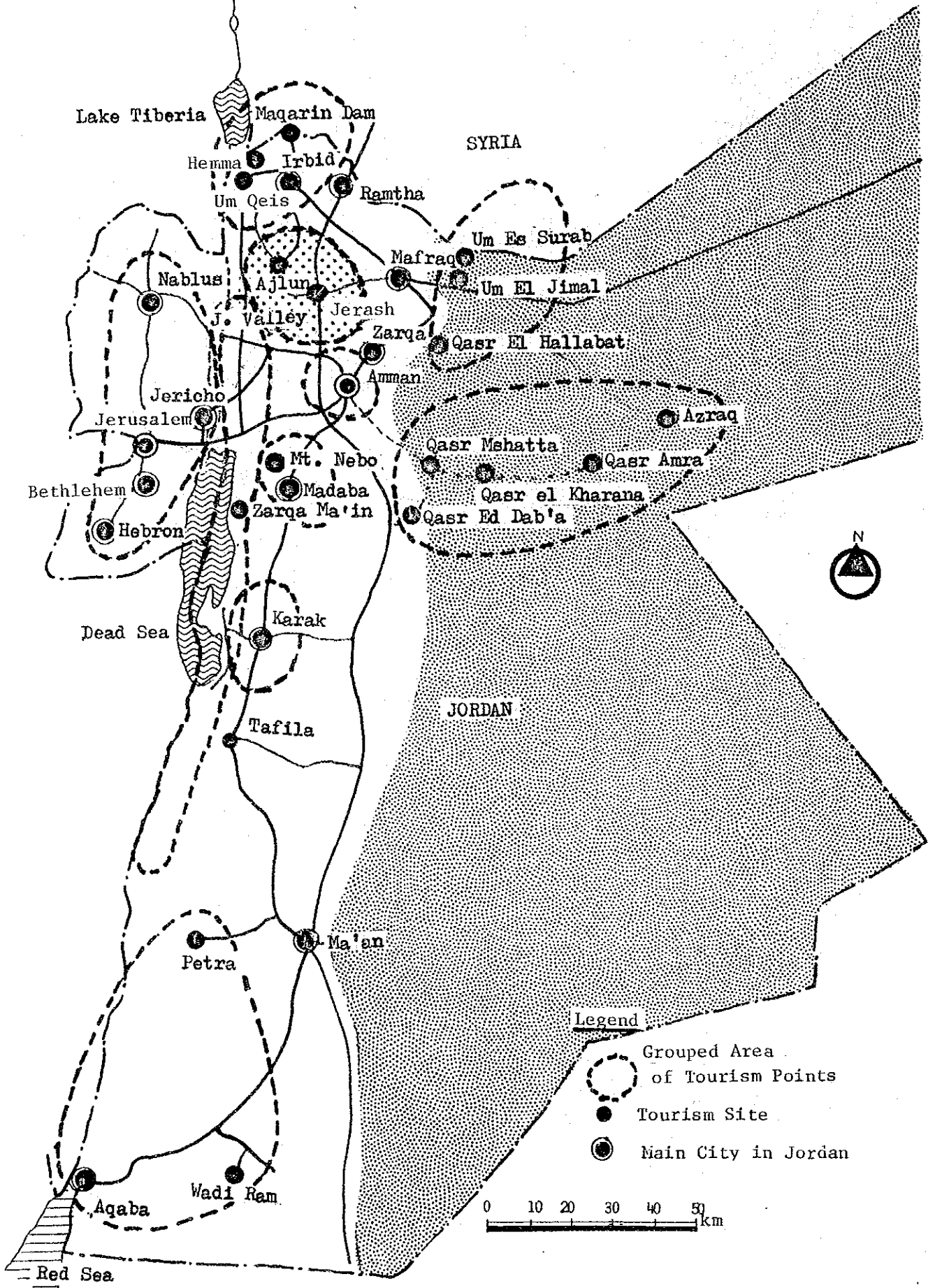


Table 5.2 Grouping of Tourism Resources in Jordan, 1979

Area-wise Grouping	Major Tourism Sites	Characteristics of Sites
Ajlun-Dibbin-Jerash Area	Ancient Ruin of Jerash	Archeological point
	Qal'at Er Rabad	Arabic historical point
	Ajlun and its surroundings	Summer resort
	Anjara and its surroundings	Summer resort
	Wadi Yabis	Orchard for tourists
	King Talal Dam	Sightseeing
	Ishtafina National Park	Summer and Weekend resort
	Dibbin National Park and Mt. Aqra	Summer and Weekend resort
Karak-Petra-Aqaba Area	Ibbin and its surroundings	Orchard for tourists
	Karak Castle	Archeological and sightseeing tour
	Petra Ruin	
Aqaba Beach		
El Azraq and Desert Palace Area	El Azraq (Oasis + Hotspring + Castle El Azraq)	Arabic historical point and resort
	Qasr El Mushatta	Visit to historical points and touring through desert
	Qasr El Kharama	
	Qasr Ed Dab'a	

(to continue)

Area-wise Grouping	Major Tourism Sites	Characteristics of Sites
Um El Jimal and Its Surroundings	City Ruin of Um El Jimal Qasr Al Hallabat Um Es Surab	Ancient ruin as satellite cities of Bosra at Southern Syria in Roman age.
Um Qeis-Hemma-Irbid-Maqarin Dam	Um Qeis City Ruin Hemma Hot spring Beit Ras City Ruin Irbid Maqarin Dam Site	Archeological point Resort site and park Archeological point Note of tourism routes Museum Resort and sight-seeing
Amman and Its Surroundings	Amman City Ruin-Theater, Museum Madaba Museum Mt. Nebo Ruin Zarga Ma'in Hot spring Salt and its surroundings	Archeological point Tourism center of Jordan Archeological point Panoramic sightseeing Weekend resort Weekend resort
Jordan Valley and Dead Sea Area	Many places along the valley and sea side	Sightseeing drive tour and swimming
West Bank Area	Jerusalem and many Ancient Cities	Archeological tour on Bible land

Source: Study Team.

5.014 Compared to the tourism resources in the rest of the country, those in the Target Area are considered to be quite competitive in view of the following points. Firstly, the historical ruins and antiquities in Jerash are relatively attractive and valuable enough to meet the demand of international tourism. Secondly, the castle of Rabad is similarly remarkable as a historical and ethnic asset in the Arab World. Thirdly, Dibbin National Park qualifies as a summer resort because of its verdant and cool environment which is something very rare not only in the country but throughout the Middle East (see Figure 5.3).

5.015 Finally, it should be stressed that no tourism places other than those in the Target Area are found to be endowed with both historical and natural resources for tourism in a relatively proximate locations. This, together with good accessibility from the capital city, Amman, makes the Target Area worthwhile enough for the Government to give a high priority to the nationwide tourism development strategy. The Target Area furthermore could attract tourists throughout the year by linking itself with other major tourism spots, particularly winter resorts such as the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley in an integrated manner.

5.2.3 Potentialities of the Target Area

a. Natural Resources for Tourism

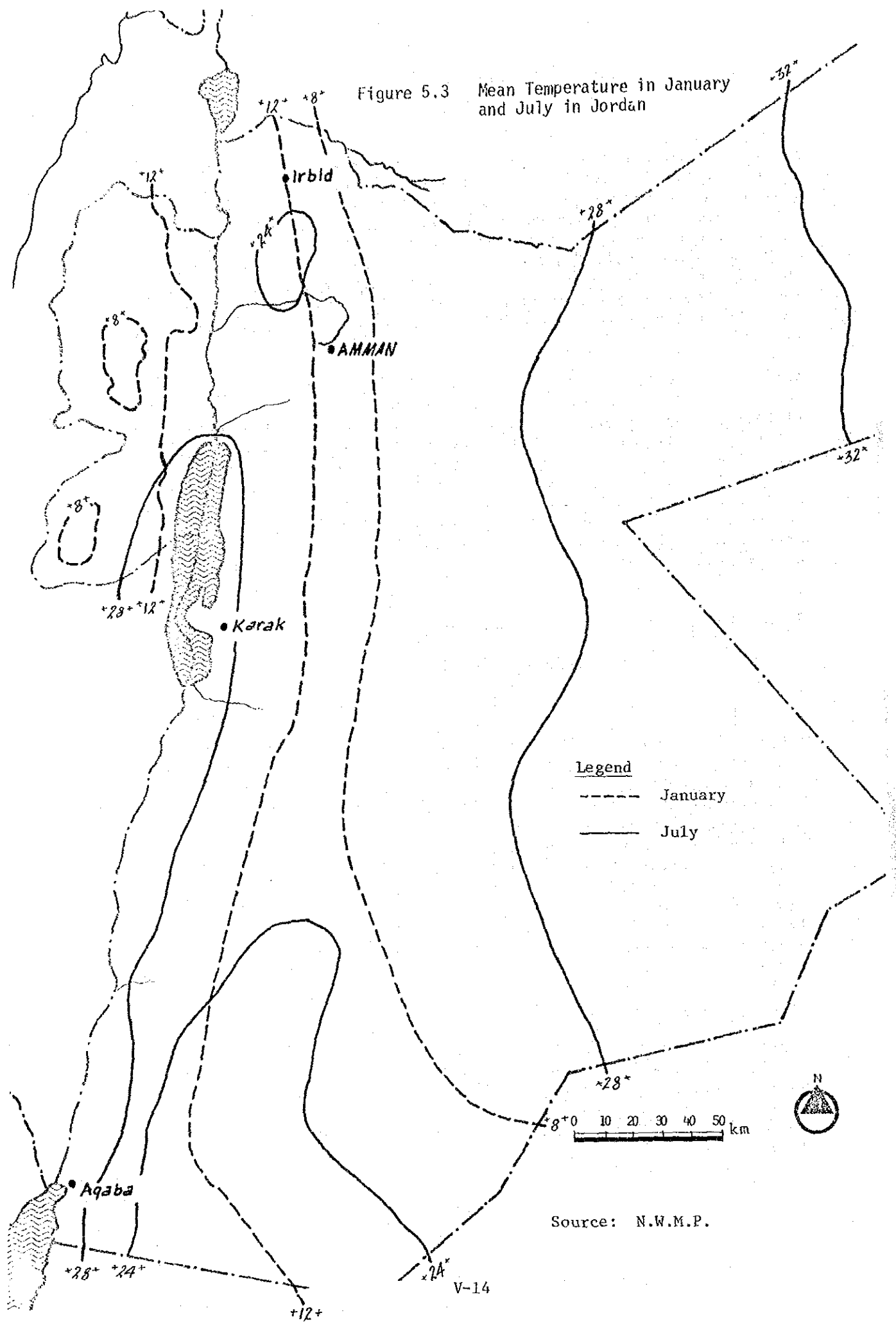
i. Climate

5.016 Among the Middle Eastern countries, Jordan has an unusually undulating topography and rich natural landscapes. The south-to-north mountain range situated in the western part of the country, like the land's backbone, provides a cool natural environment in summer while the low-lying areas such as the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley are suitable for winter resorts because of the moderate climate in winter. Annual precipitation exceeds 500 to 600 mm in some spots of the northern mountainous area. Taking examples in the Study Area, at Ajlun the average annual precipitation has been 520 mm. The relatively large volume of precipitation is a major factor which makes the country have a scarcity value in the Middle East region in terms of verdant environment.

ii. Hot Springs

5.017 Jordan has several hot springs, of which Ma'in and Hemma are particularly famous. Although both of them are situated outside the Target Area, it is important to establish links with these hot springs, in terms of tourism planning and promotion as well as physical movement of tourists, thereby enhancing the attractiveness of the Target Area.

Figure 5.3 Mean Temperature in January and July in Jordan



Source: N.W.M.P.

iii. Water

5.018 One should not talk about the water resources as tourism potential without touching on the King Talal Dam and the Maqarin Dam, the latter, although still in the planning stage, but will have enormous like. As to the King Talal Dam, a number of reports have made various proposals on use of the Dam and its surroundings for tourism, but the area does not seem to be suitable at present for water-related recreational activities due to the steep topography and the shortage of water. In the Middle East region, however, this is one of the rare places where people can see a wide surface of water. The high potential of this for tourism development in this sense will be enhanced if the surrounding hills are afforested. The Maqarin Dam together with Yarmouk Valley, although it is outside the Target Area, will probably be one of the major resort areas of the country when the dam is completed.

iv. Forest

5.019 Vast forest lands are observed in the northern mountainous areas particularly in the Target Area. As described earlier, large precipitation contributes to the existence of forests (see Table 5.3 and Figure 5.4).

v. Landscapes

5.020 Whilst the northern part of Jordan is covered with mountainous forests, the southern part has, in the main, moderately sloping wild lands. The eastern half of the country is almost desert. Thus, those visiting this country could take an armchair tour of the mini-Arab world in which a full range of the natural scenes of the Middle East are condensed. Tourists from Western and Far Eastern countries will be impressed by the thrilling and grand views of the valleys and those from Arabic countries would take comfort in verdant parks and dots of villages stretching along wadis. Also, the unforgettable sunset over the desert and oasis cities would serve for foreign tourists as a reminder of the old Saracenic history.

b. Historical and Archeological Assets

i. General

5.021 In the Target Area there are many important ruins from the historical and archeological viewpoint (see Figure 5.5). Among them, however, the ruin of Jerash and the Qal'at Er Rabad are outstanding. These two are discussed in detail below.

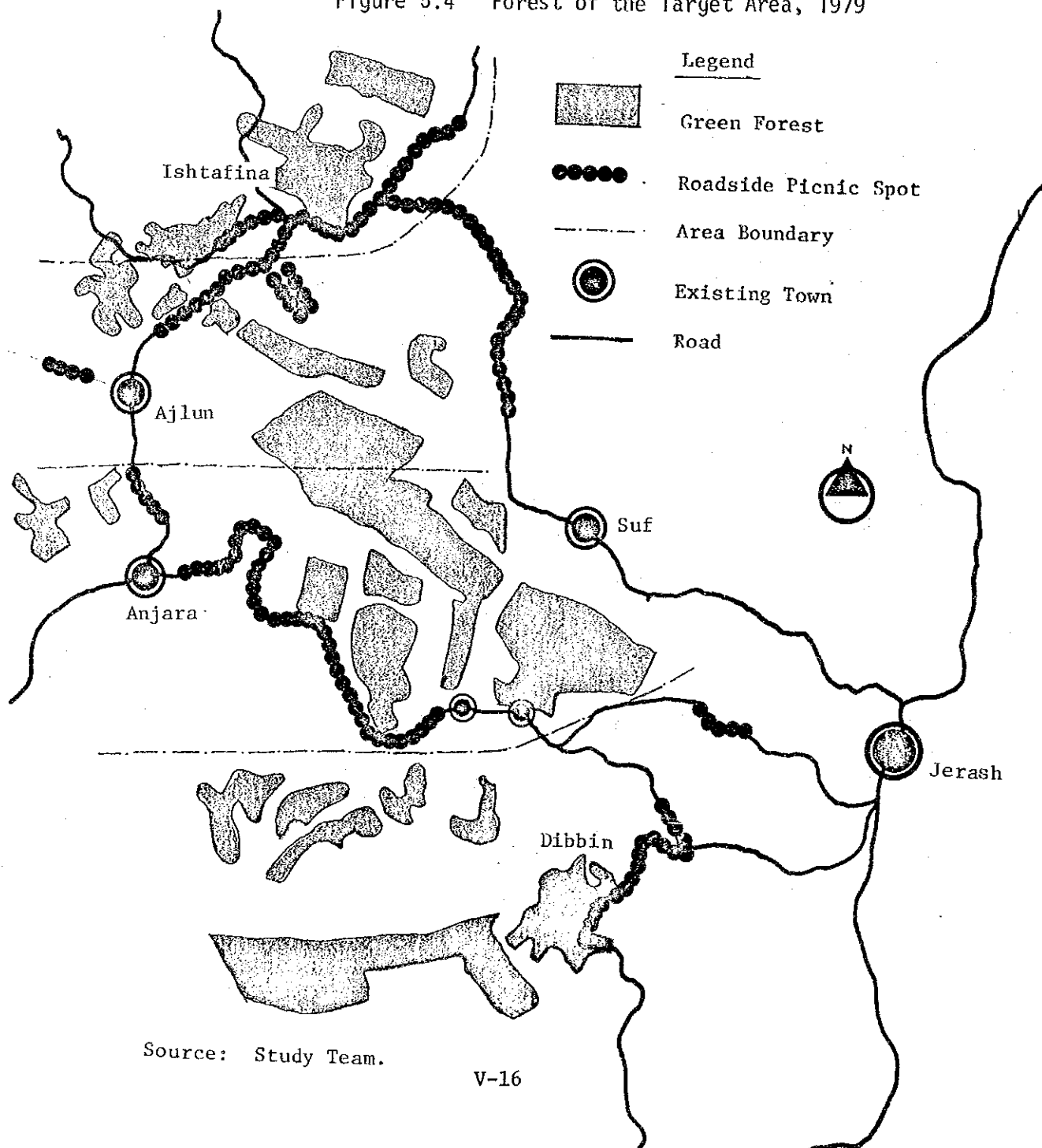
Table 5.3 Existing Potentialities of the Target Area - Forest, 1979

(Unit: km²)

Area	Green Forest	Suitable for Picnic		
		In Green Forest	Along Roads	Total
Dibbin Area	8.35	4.00	1.1	5.1
Between Dibbin and Ajlun	2.49	1.82	0.95	2.77
Ajlun Area	3.93	0.72	0.65	1.37
Ishtafina Area	3.99	2.25	0.65	2.9
Total Whole Target Area	18.76	8.79	3.35	12.14

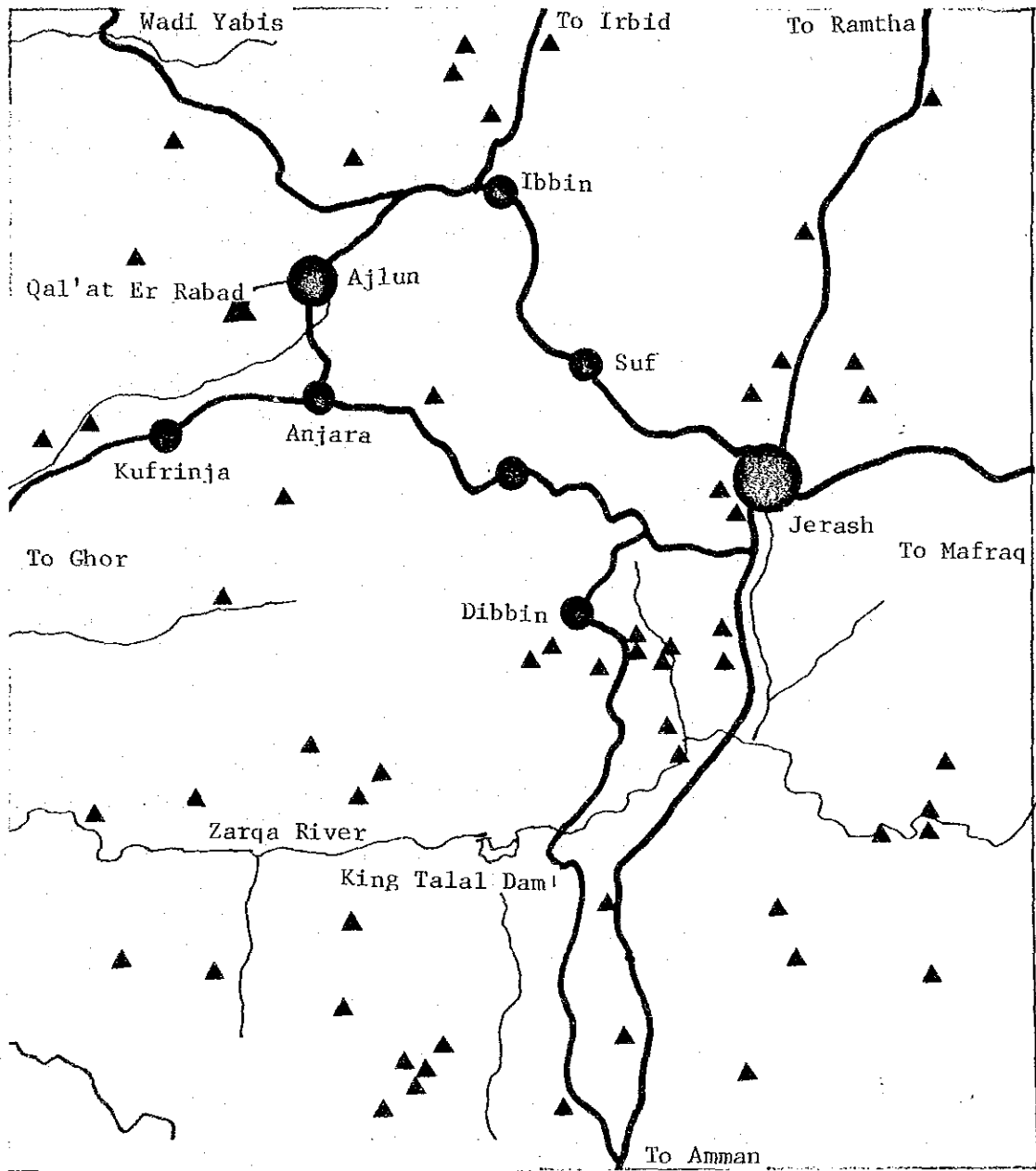
Source: Study Team.

Figure 5.4 Forest of the Target Area, 1979



Source: Study Team.

Figure 5.5 Location of Ruins in the Target Area, 1979



Legend

- Major Town
- ▲ Ruin
- Arterial Road
- River



0 5 10 km

Source: Department of Antiquities.

ii. Jerash

5.022 Jerash, which was well-known as GERASA in ancient times, is the most valuable ruin in the Target Area. Not only inside of Jordan but also among the ruins of ancient cities all over the Oriental area, it will be appreciated as a first-class one. Moreover, the excellent conservation of the ruin with such a large scale conveys precisely the image of a Greco-Roman city. Its importance and attractiveness is well comparable to such ruins as Palmyra and Petra on the same level, it was an important base-point on the ancient caravan route by the Nabatean people.

5.023 There have been three prosperous periods in the historical development of Jerash. First: The Hellenistic period under the rule of the Nabatean Kingdom from the second century B.C. and the first century B.C. Second: The Roman age, under the rule of Roman empire, in which period it was at its most prosperous, in the second century A.D. Third: The Byzantine period, in the sixth and seventh centuries A.D. During the Roman period, Jerash was a member of a well-known Decapolis, and it was proud of its domination over Palestine as an important political and economic center. In this period, the Temple of Artemis, the colonnade street, Forum, Theaters, Baths and other many fine monuments were constructed (see Figure 5.6). During the Byzantine period, religious motives led to construction of the St. Theodore church and many luxurious churches; and today the ruins are very well preserved.

5.024 In Arabic history before the Moslems, there was Nabatean Kingdom as the ruler of ancient caravan routes. The Kingdom prospered and it was a period of history of which the Arabian people may be justly proud. Jerash is one of the most typically Hellenistic cities in the World, showing not only the quality of individual architectural ruins but also the character of city-planning of the Greco-Roman age. It shows a well-conserved city pattern. Moreover, since Jerash historically started from Biblical age, it will be of great interest even for visitors from Europe or America.

5.025 A list of important Jerash ruins from the tourism viewpoint is shown in Table 5.4.

5.026 Regarding development for the purpose of tourism and the conservation or restoration of the ruins in Jerash, the following issues must be given consideration:

- (1) Conflict between the historical ruins and the existing modern town and private land inside the ancient city wall;
- (2) Problem of the existing through-traffic of Route 15;
- (3) Character and location of the existing archeological museum which seems to need reexamination;

Table 5.4 List of Important Ruins from the Touristic Viewpoint in Jerash, 1979

Site	No.	Name of Ruin	Note on Architectural Value	Evaluation for Tourism	Potentiality for Tourism
Inside of City Wall	1	Colonnade Streets - crossing two roads	The first class ruin in terms of quality with typical Hellenistic style.	***One of the best restored streets in the Ancient City	Main Circuit of Tourists in Jerash
	2 & 3	Tetrapyla - south and north	Most typical ruin as an element of Hellenistic city. Similar to the one in Palmyra.	***Upper structure does not exist. Restoration is highly desired.	Expressional point as a landmark of City Center or Main Circuit
	4	Forum	Incomparably particular form.	***Very attractive place to stand	The place for tourist activity
	5	Theater - south	Greco-Roman style. Under restoration.	***Completed theater is so attractive.	The place for tourist activity
	6	Theater - north	Not restored yet.	*Far from center of Main Circuit	Looking only
	7	Temple of Artemis	Typical Greco-Roman temple.	***Main structure of Jerash	Restoration of all its temenos has great potential.
	8	Temple of Zeus	Site would be Acropolis of Jerash.	**As a panoramic viewpoint, it is extremely attractive, impressive.	Stairway also will be attractive after its restoration.

(to continue)

Site	No.	Name of Ruin	Note on Architectural Value	Evaluation for Tourism	Potentiality for Tourism
Inside of City Wall	9	Stairway to Artemis Temple	Monumental valuable structure	**Stone bank is disturbing approach	Stairway also will be attractive after its restoration. Stone bank should be removed.
	10	Nymphaeum	The most valuable one in all the Orient Ancient City.	***Most impressive point on Colonnade Street	It should be so soon re-stored with neighborhood stores. One of best point for visitors.
	11 & 12	Roman Baths - west	Not so attractive ruin on this scale, room structure has survived very well.	*Approach from modern town and resthouses is easy to visit	East bath will be useful as outdoor exhibition place.
	13	Roman Bridge	Attractive Roman structure	**Important point on Main Circuit way for tourists	Should be restored and to be a part of Wadi Jerash Garden.
	Byzantine Churches				
	14	St. Theodore Church	Complete and big ruin	***It has archeological museum on side place.	As big complex of ruins, it will be center for visitors.
	15	Cathedral Church	Typical Byzantine Basilica		

(to continue)

Site	No.	Name of Ruin	Note on Architectural Value	Evaluation for Tourism	Potentiality for Tourism
Inside of City Wall	Byzantine Churches				
	16	St. George Church	Attractive mosaic floor	**A little far from Main Circuit	A point to visit when touring
	17	St. John the Baptist Church			
	18	St. Damian Church	Structure of mono-centric type		
	19	Other churches	Not complete, excavated ruin	*Far from Main Circuit	Not so attractive ruin to visit
	20	Propylaeum	Big scale monumental propylaeum	*Non-complete to image	Restoration will ensure this will be one of the most impressive point on the Main Circuit.
On the City Wall	21	South City Gate	Not so interesting structure without restoration	**Not so interesting small gate	Important phase as a main entrance to Ruin of Jerash
	22	North City Gate	Not so interesting structure without restoration	*Too far from Main Circuit	Visitors' point only for looking.
	23	City Wall	Not clear section of structure	*Mark of Ruin's boundary	Guardline for conservation of ruin
	24	Water Gate	Part of Water bridge remains.	*Rest place for tourists.	Element of Wadi Jerash Garden

(to continue)

Site	No.	Name of Ruin	Note on Architectural Value	Evaluation for Tourism	Potentiality for Tourism
Outside City Wall	25	Roman Cistern	Big scale and good conservation	*Far from Main Circuit	Place for some kind of Festival.
	26	Triumphal Arch	Important ruin as symbol of Jerash	***Separated points by Light and Sound Project	Looking only
	27	Hippodrome	Maybe, it would be stadium.	*Almost destroyed ruin	Should be restored, most useful festival ground.
	28	Necropolis	Not clear but important	Nothing	Conservation area only

Source: Study Team.

Note: Numbers of Ruins correspond to those in Figure 5.6.

- *** First Grade
- ** Second Grade
- * Third Grade

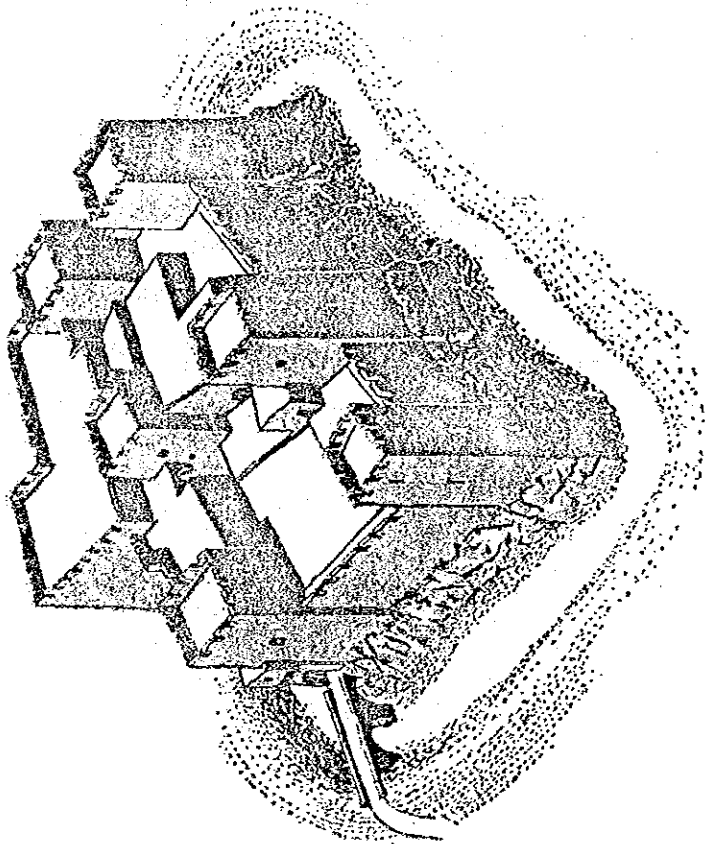
- (4) The problem that the Triumphal Arch and the Hippodrome will be separated from the main area of the ruins when the Light-and-Sound Project in front of the Amman Gate will have been completed;
- (5) The question of the strategy of how we should restore the complex ruins with architecture of different periods: Byzantine and Roman;
- (6) Restoration and the priority among different architectures;
- (7) Long-term strategy of excavation in Jerash;
- (8) Design and selection of model tour routes throughout the ancient city for the various tourists; and
- (9) Necessary tourism facilities; their kinds, characters, scales and locations.

iii. Castle of Ajlun

5.027 Among the castles constructed in this area during the 12th century, the Castle of Ajlun, i.e., Qal'at Er Rabad, is known as the only Muslim castle south of Damascus; it functioned as a fort on the front line against Crusaders (see Figures 5.7 and 5.8). It is noted for its Saracenic design and is a good reminder of the past. It is relatively well maintained and is one of the precious assets of Saracens in Jordan.

5.028 This gives a good contrast to Jerash which has ruins of the Roman and Byzantine ages. Historical importance of the castle attaches the Ajlun area a symbolic meaning of the heritage of the Arabic world. Thus, it is possible to develop this area to be a tourism site that has accumulated and well represents the Arabic culture.

5.029 The Castle of Ajlun is located on a hill, as was usually the case for forts during the Crusaders' age. For this reason, it has a panoramic view to the direction of the towns of Ajlun and Anjara, and, likewise, in another direction toward the Jordan Valley over Kufrinja. On the approach roads in ravines, tourists can enjoy fine views from various angles of the changing silhouette of the castle. When these factors are taken into account, this castle is magnificent as a symbol of this area. Inside of Qal'at Er Rabad could be utilized as a museum, concentrating on the antiquities of the Crusader period.

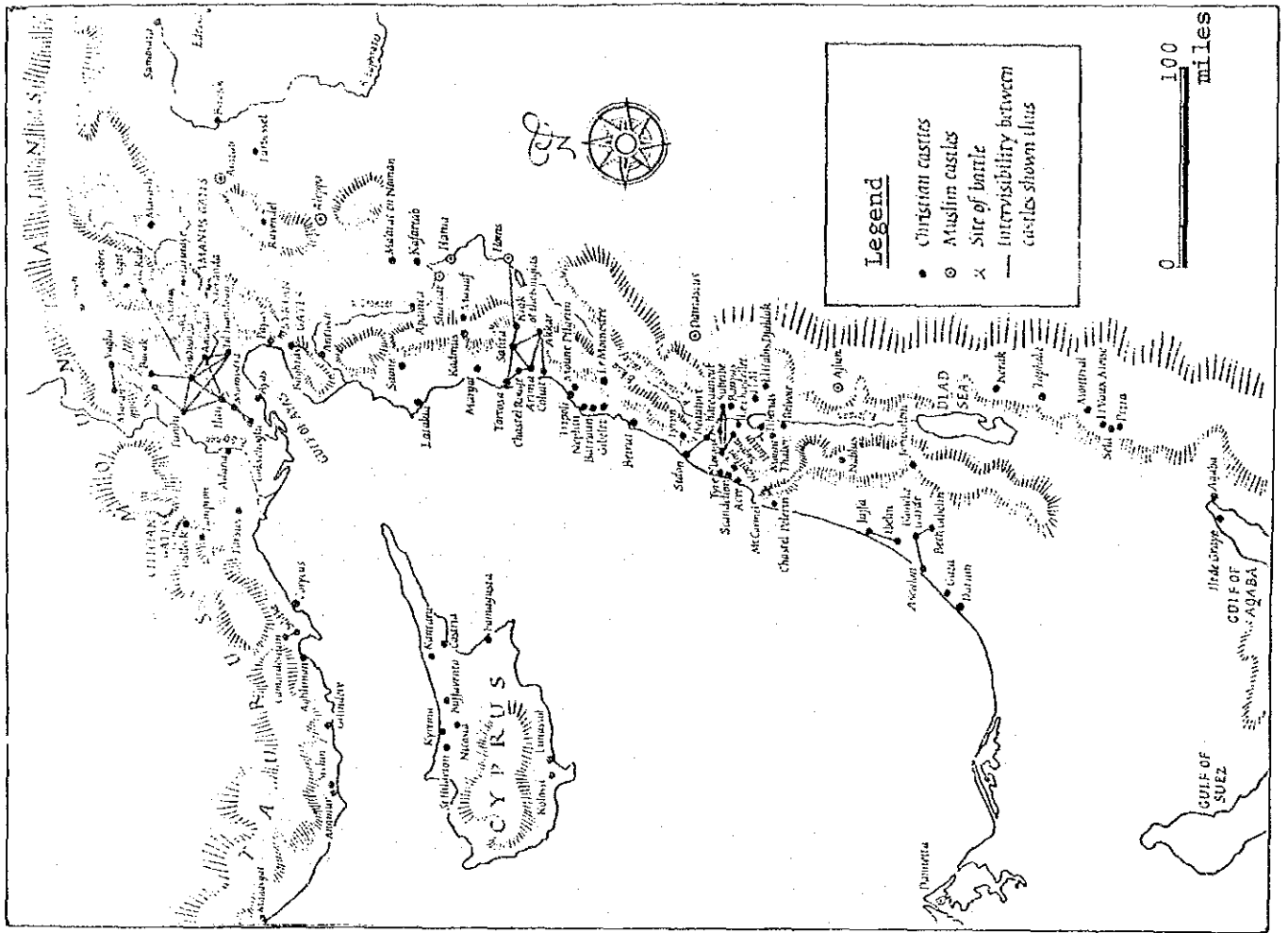


▲ Figure 5.7 Castle of Ajlun

Source: P.S.R. BOASE, Castles and Churches of the Crusadings Kingdom.

▲ Figure 5.8 Location of Crusader Castles

Source: Robin Fedden and Jorn Thomson.



c. Other Man-Made Resources

i. Buildings, Villages and Traditional Ways of Life

5.030 In this area, few buildings and urban scenes are observed to be attractive enough for tourists. However, views of traditional villages, coupled with those of historic ruins and natural landscapes, would surely attract the interest of tourists and have an exotic feeling, particularly to those from the non-Arabic world. For example, the old mosque and its high minaret at the town of Ajlun, together with the silhouette of Qal'at Er Rabad, enhance the cultural atmosphere of the town. Bazaars in the Souk (market), traditional rural festivals, scenes of farming and harvesting and many other town activities could also add to the potential tourism resources from the particular viewpoint that an essential part of tourism is to show the people's way of life.

ii. Antiquity Museum

5.031 At present, there are exhibits of antiquities in a small antiquity museum and the visitor's center, both located in the ruins of Jerash. However, they are on a small scale and inadequate when compared with Palmyra, another large ancient city, as they fail to explain the history of Jerash sufficiently. Besides, tourists tend to overlook them because the museums are not located along the main circuit followed by tourists. Also, the area in which the museums are situated is not suitable for expansion. Thus, it seems desirable to move the existing museums to some place along the main circuit of tourists, to physically expand them and to increase the efforts of collecting the antiquities, which are scattered in many places.

5.032 To date, there is no museum specializing in Arabic folklore, art and handicrafts in the Target Area. Such a museum should be developed separately from an antiquity museum, because one gets a somewhat odd impression when seeing the ancient amphitheater in Amman or mosaic museum in Madaba endowed with exhibits of Arab folklore. It is also worthwhile to think of developing a handicraft training center in Jerash or near Ajlun at a place easily accessible to tourists. Also, a potential exists in these areas to combine either the museums or the training center with the cottage industries, giving tourists on-the-spot demonstrations and chances to buy souvenirs.

Table 5.5 Handicrafts Produced in the Study Area, 1979

Type of Handicraft	Place of Production
Rug (a kind of carpet)	El Husn and Bishra
Wooden Sculptures	Ajlun and its surroundings
Sword	Ajlun and its surroundings
Embroidery, Frill, Agara, Hatta, Hadab, etc.	All over the region

Source: Study Team.

iii. Gardens, Parks and Orchards

5.033 Apart from Dibbin National Park, there are no substantial parks and gardens in the Target Area. Well-maintained parks are desirable at least in the Jerash and Ajlun areas. With its adequate vegetation and water resources, Wadi Jerash is extremely suitable to be utilized as a park, not only for the people in the locality but also for tourists. Many roads in the Target Area have places along them where drivers can stop and enjoy nice views and the provision of small-scale service areas should be considered.

5.034 This area has an abundance of grape and apple orchards. They are important elements of the landscape, and their fruit is sold in quantities as souvenirs to visitors, thereby providing opportunities for earning cash for the farmers as well. The small-scale service areas mentioned above could be effectively integrated with this activity, and shopping facilities, or perhaps even a resthouse, could be provided. Of the existing orchards, pomegranate trees along Wadi Yabis and the orchard on the slope between Ibbin and Suf are particularly attractive and are important tourism assets for local day-trippers.

iv. Sporting Facilities

5.035 There are no remarkable sporting facilities in the Target Area, although much land in the area is found to be suitable for various sporting activities, such as field athletics, cross-country walking, hiking and horseback or camelback riding. Especially, in the Ajlun and Ishtafina areas, including Qal'at Er Rabad, and in the Dibbin and Mt. Aqra areas, there seems to be a high potential for the development of such sporting facilities.

v. Cultural Activities

5.036 There are few cultural activities worth noting except for the occasional folklore events in Jerash. A Light and Sound Project is planned at the front of the Amman Gate in the Jerash Ruin and it remains to be seen whether the project will do as well as the existing one in Berlbeck, since the scale of the objects utilized in Jerash will be fairly small when compared to those displayed at Berlbeck. In addition to the Light and Sound Project, many other activities are deemed effective for attracting tourists in the future. They are summarized in Table 5.6.

Table 5.6 Possible Cultural Activities in the Target Area

Area	Site	Kind of Activities
Jerash	South Theater	Drama and music show
	Forum and Colonnade Street	Folklore, dancing and parade
	Hippodrome	Sport festival, big assembly, and horse and camel racing
	Pedestrian Plaza	Parade, Light and Sound
	Plaza in front of Amman Gate	Light and Sound
	North Cistern	Water festival
Ajlun	Qal'at Er Rabad	Lighting
	Roadside between Village and Castle	Parade, outdoor market
Dibbin	Plateau on the top of Mt. Agra	International Jamboree for young people

Source: Study Team.

d. Utilities

i. Highway Network and Transportation

5.037 Tourists in Jordan travel mainly by land transport, automobiles in particular. The breakdown of tourism trips by mode of transport is reportedly 87 percent by road, 12 percent by air and the rest by unclassified transport.

5.038 In the Target Area, most tourists are supposed to use road transport. Highway network in the Target Area is shown in Figure 5.9. The roads between Amman and Irbid, including Routes 33, 15, 11 and 16, are not necessarily suitable for tourist use because they are regarded as important industrial roads. However, Route 33, stretching from the vicinity of Kh Tureil to Ajlun is considered excellent for tourism purposes because of the grand view of the Zarqa River Valley, which would not fail to impress tourists who drive by. Upgrading of Route 33 will provide tourists with views of the beautiful, natural landscape. The views would serve as a prologue of the tour for those proceeding from Amman to the Target Area and an epilogue for those leaving. Although one can think of utilizing Route 15 for tourism purposes, after the completion of a new industrial road currently proposed to connect Amman and Irbid, priority should be given to the up-grading and improvement of Route 33 on account of the rather poor landscape and lack of other attractions along Route 15.

5.039 As for other roads, Route 22 which is under construction and is expected to link Anjara to Route 44 in the Jordan Valley through Wadi Kufrinja, needs to be given attention to because this is the only road connecting the Target Area with the Jordan Valley and landscapes along the road are excellent.

5.040 In general, roads in the Target Area lack adequate and well-maintained road facilities and accessories, such as traffic sign boards, center lines with reflectors, guard rails and parking areas, and this situation is more or less the same outside the Target Area.

ii. Water Supply

5.041 Figure 5.10 shows the existing water supply network in the Study Area.

5.042 Water supply is the most serious bottleneck of any developmental activity in Jordan, and tourism development is no exception. The steep slopes of the East Bank keep the Jordan River apart from settlements in the country, including the Target Area. However, a considerable increase in water supply can be expected for Jerash and Ajlun as a large quantity of groundwater seems to exist in these areas (see Figure 5.11). By using potential groundwater in addition to the water available at present, the Target Area will be able to meet the demand of tourism activities for water. However, at present the running water system is not sufficiently maintained and there is a need for considerable improvement with particular emphasis on the water supply to the Dibbin National Park Area, where the availability of a large quantity of groundwater seems to exist.

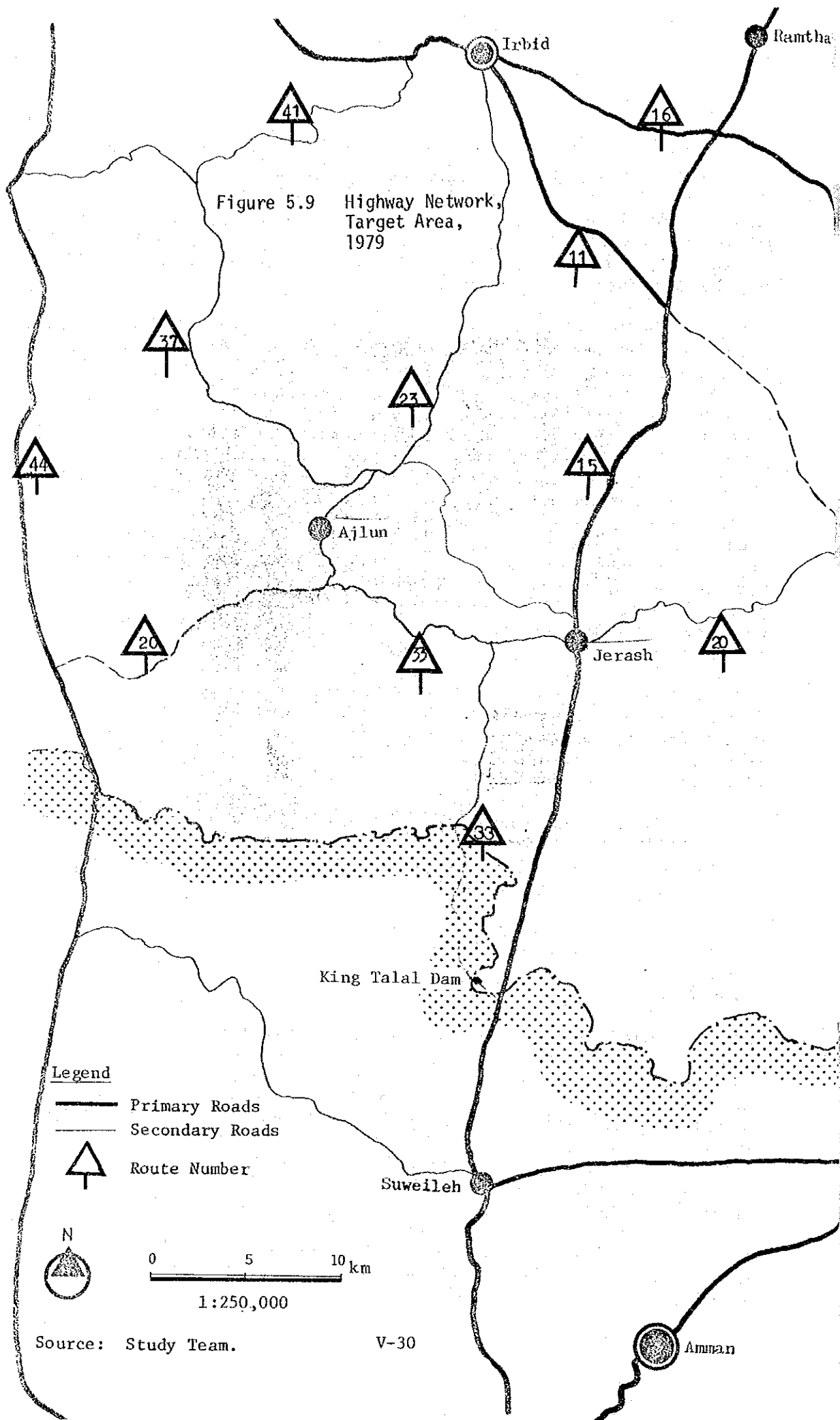
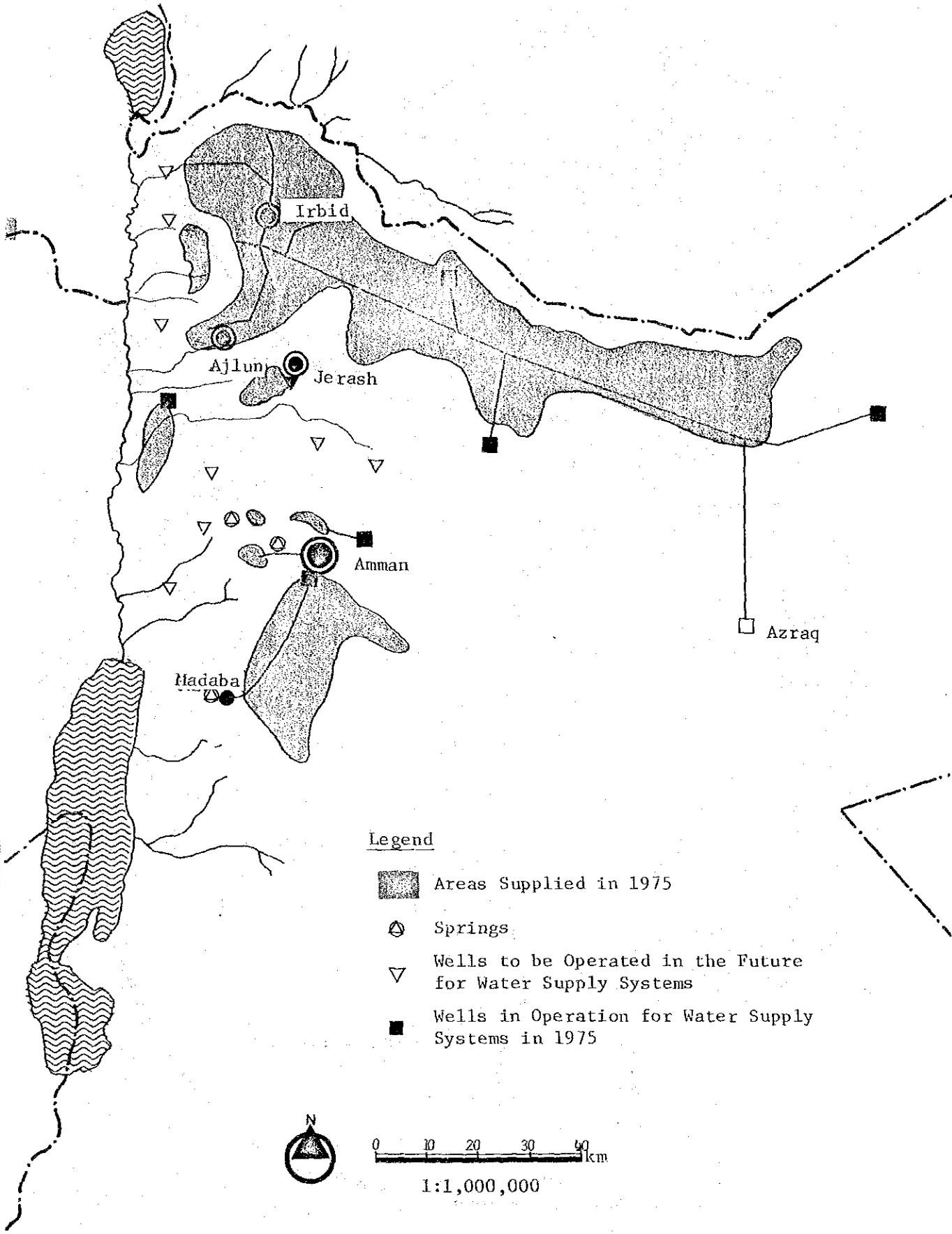
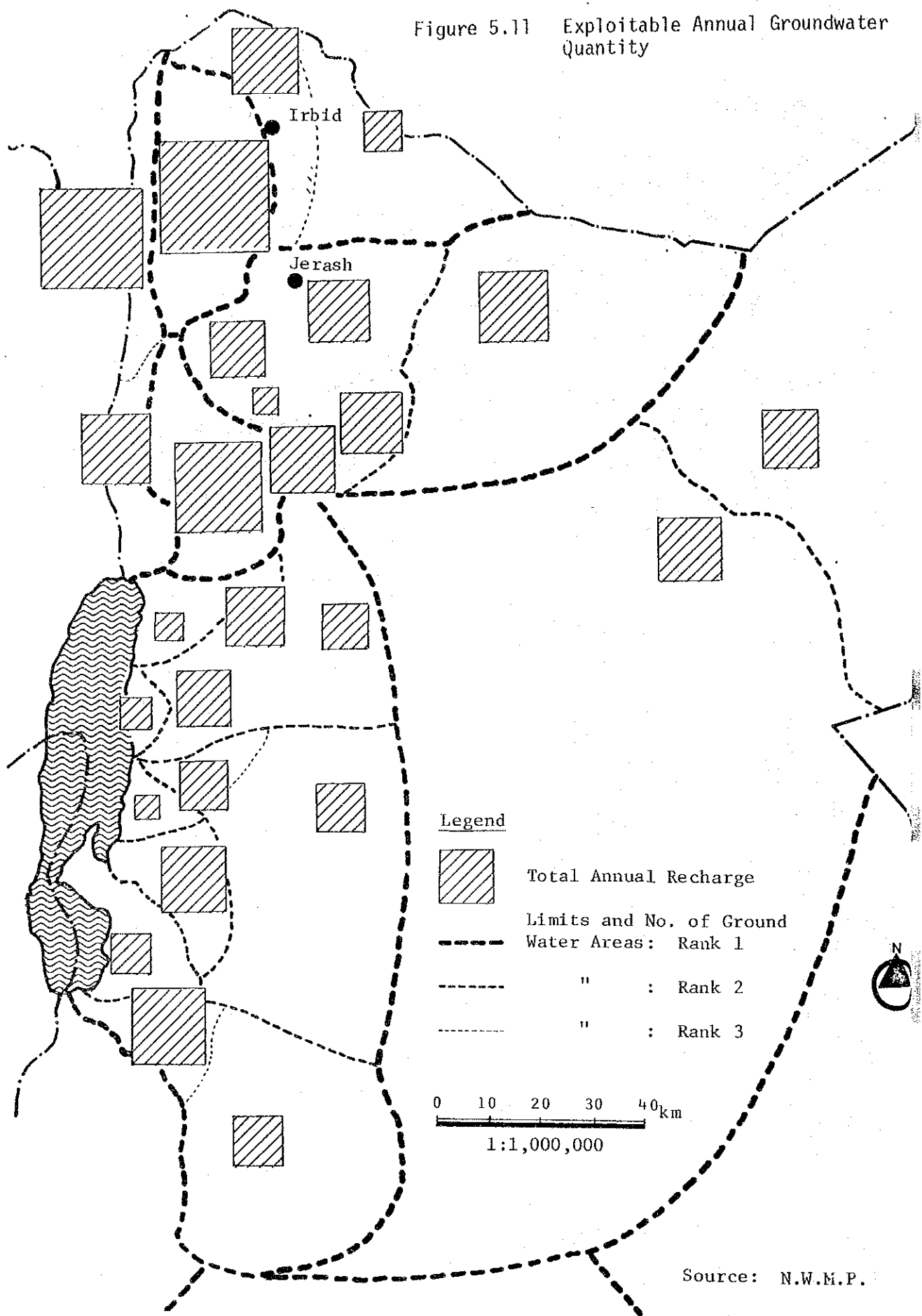


Figure 5.10 Water Supply Systems in Northern Jordan



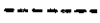
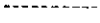


Source: N.W.M.P.

Figure 5.11 Exploitable Annual Groundwater Quantity



Legend

-  Total Annual Recharge
-  Limits and No. of Ground Water Areas: Rank 1
-  " : Rank 2
-  " : Rank 3

0 10 20 30 40 km
1:1,000,000

Source: N.W.M.P.

e. Ongoing Projects and Proposed Plans

5.043 In Jerash, a most remarkable project called "The Jerash Development Project" will be executed by an independent organization under the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. According to the project plan, a new 200-seat restaurant, originally planned to seat 400,^{1/} will be completed in 1980. Restoration of antiquities and especially the amphitheater are included in the project, which will be fully incorporated in the "Light and Sound Program," a component of the project.

5.044 In terms of restoration, Qal'at Er Rabad, Castle of Ajlun, is also being restored by the Department of Antiquities with the assistance of UNESCO and the British Government.

5.045 Under the Five-Year Plan^{2/}, the Department of Tourism intends to construct an additional 32 chalets and a resthouse with a 200-seat-restaurant at Dibbin National Park by the end of 1980. However, this plan has not been implemented yet.

5.046 In addition to these ongoing projects, there are several plans recommended in the following reports, though these plans are still in the proposal stage. These proposals are summarized in Table 5.7 and Figure 5.12.

- (1) World Bank, The H.K. of Jordan: Appraisal of Tourism Project, May 10, 1976.
- (2) Swiss Technical Cooperation Service, Study Survey of Touristic Resources in the Governorate of Irbid, Oct., 1978.

5.047 Proposed projects in these reports are revised, rearranged, and summarized below according to the major geographical area.

(1) Jerash

Full excavation and restoration in the antiquity site are desired, especially the restoration of the Water Fall, Triumphal Arch, and South Theater should be given high priority. A lecture room for school-groups should be prepared in the visitors' center. A quality restaurant for high-income guests and a standard quality restaurant sufficient for low- and medium-income guests should be built. Additional parking places are needed.

1/ The Architects collaborative, Petra/Jerash Development Plan, "Jerash Restaurant Facilities," August 1978.

2/ NPC, The H.K. of Jordan, Five Year Plan 1976 - 1980.

Table 5.7 The List of Existing Recommendations and Plans in the Target Area

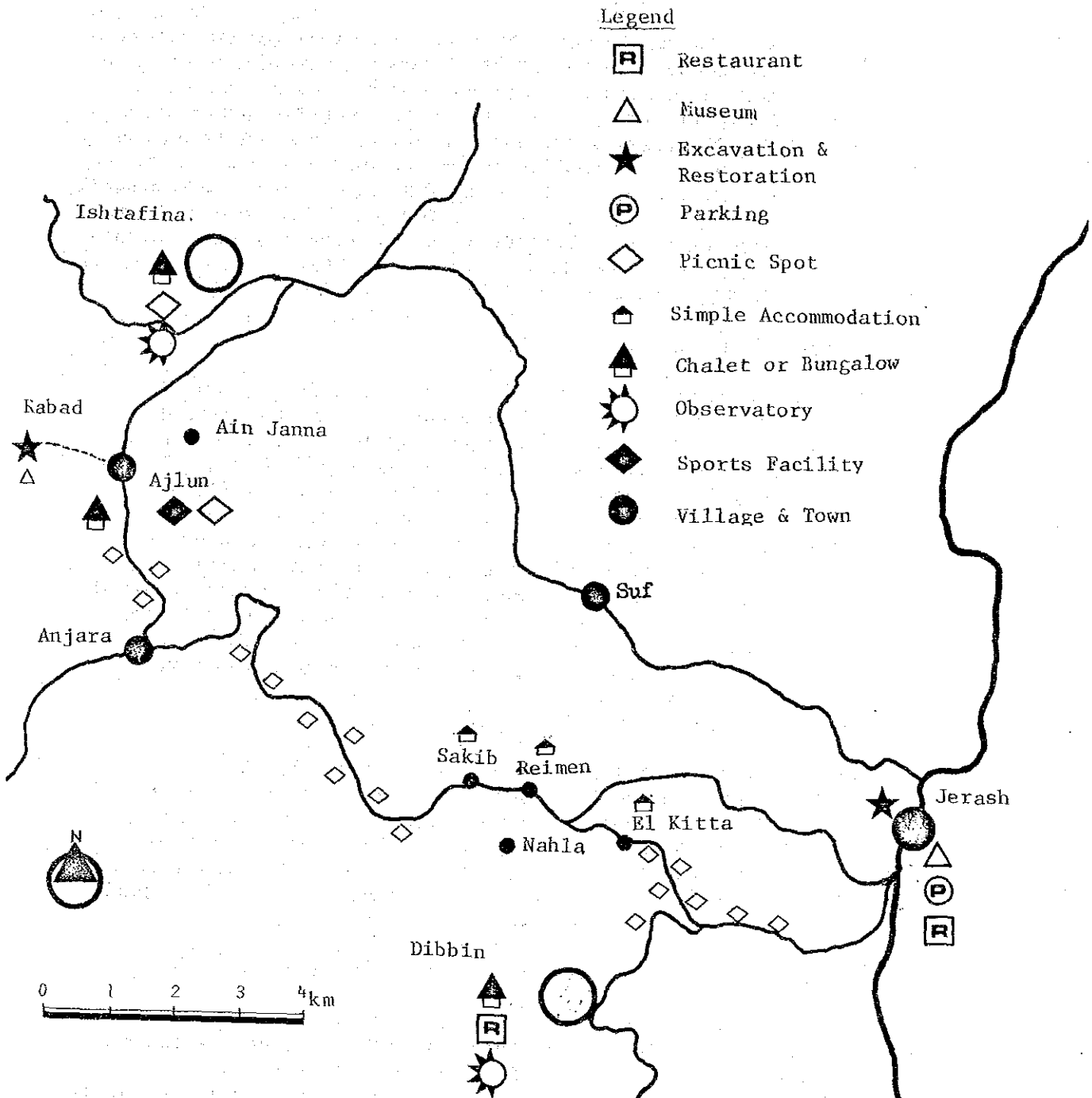
Places	Existing Recommendations and Plans
Jerash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restaurants of different types according to income of potential guests - Excavation and restoration of antiquities - Enrichment of the visitors center - Parking places - Small size museum - Rest rooms - Light and Sound program
Dibbin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chalets - Restaurant - Parking places and picnic spots between Jerash and Dibbin - Observatories - Small earth terraces between Dibbin and Ajlun - Simple standard accommodations in El Kitta, Reimun and Sakib
Ajlun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoration of Qal'at Er Rabad - Access road to Rabad - Museum in Rabad - Hall in Rabad - Swimming pool and fishing pools in Ajlun - Picnic spots with children's garden - Camping site with toilets, changing cabins and small shops - Horse riding trails - Accommodation in Ajlun Park
Ishtafina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Picnic spots - Pedestrian trails - Chalets or bungalows - Luncheon or rest places in Wadi Yabis - Horse riding trail along the Wadi Yabis

Sources: World Bank, The H.K. Jordan: Appraisal of Tourist Project, May 10, 1976.

Swiss Technical Cooperation Service, Study Survey of Touristic Resources in Governorate of Irbid, Oct., 1977.

JICA, Part. II.

Figure 5.12 Existing Plans and Recommendations, Target Area



- Sources:
1. World Bank, The H.K. Jordan: Appraisal of Tourist Project, May 10, 1976.
 2. Swiss Technical Cooperation Service, Study Survey of Touristic Resource in Governorate of Irbid, Oct. 1977.
 3. JICA, Phase I Report.

(2) Dibbin National Park and Surroundings

Some parking places, in connection with picnic sites, should be prepared at every 500 m or so along the access road to Dibbin from Jerash. Observatories or other similar places from which tourists can enjoy the flourishing verdant scenery are reportedly necessary in the park. Small earth terraces under the trees, surrounded by low benches of natural stones, are strongly recommended to be provided for picnickers along the road between Dibbin and Ajlun. Also, construction of simple standard accommodations in three villages on the same route, El Kitta, Reimun and Sakib, are desired.

(3) Around Ajlun

It is reported that the access road from Ajlun to Qal'at Er Rabad needs improvement. It has already been recommended some years ago by the United Nations to construct a swimming pool and two fishing pools for tourist purposes alongside of Wadi Kufrinja/Ajlun. A horseback riding trail is suggested to enhance the attractiveness of the area. As a small camping ground for the summer season is proposed, some facilities such as toilets, showers, and small shops are required. Picnic spots and a children's garden are recommended around the swimming pool. Some more accommodations are also recommended to be provided in Ajlun Park.

(4) Ishtafina National Park

Some picnic spots linked with pedestrian trails are suggested to be prepared. Provisions of chalet or bungalow type accommodations need to be considered. To take full advantage of the excellent vegetation and existing orchards, from the tourist viewpoint, the provision of luncheon or resting places and horseback riding are recommended.

5.048 Following is an assessment of these ongoing projects and plans.

5.049 Among all projects and plans, the plan of a new restaurant in Jerash seems to have great possibility of implementation. On the other hand, no plan for accommodation facilities has been implemented yet in Dibbin National Park although three and a half years have already passed since the Five Year Plan 1976 to 1980 started. The construction of them is strongly recommended, since the demand is very high.

5.050 Concerning other proposed plans, the following considerations are regarded as important. Firstly, it is necessary to strengthen efforts to excavate and restore the Jerash antiquities site and Rabad Castle. Promotion of rehabilitation will help preserve as well as revitalize historic relics, thereby enhancing their value from the viewpoint of tourism industry. Secondly, it is considered important to provide facilities for outdoor recreation in the Dibbin-Ajlun-Ishtafina areas so that the Jordanians are able to obtain recreation opportunities in an excellent natural environment more easily.

f. The Area-wise Potentialities: A Summary

5.051 To conclude the diagnosis of potentialities discussed in a. to e. the following have been determined to be of high potential for the area.

- (1) Natural resources for tourism: Table 5.3 and Figure 5.4 show the most outstanding points in this respect.
- (2) Historical and archeological assets: Jerash and Ajlun have been identified as the most important places.
- (3) Other man-made resources: King Talal Dam is considered to be the most remarkable of the man-made resources, and the addition of fruit stalls at convenient locations throughout the area will add to this resource.
- (4) Utilities for tourism: Amongst all the utilities, including roads, infrastructure such as water supply, sewage and electricity, the access roads from main cities should be given top priority in terms of tourism potential. Route 15 from Amman and Route 23 from Irbid in their present state and Route 33 from Amman as envisioned for the future are considered to be important utilities. From this viewpoint, Jerash, Dibbin and Ajlun are considered high potential areas.
- (5) Amenities for tourism: Jerash is already regarded as a tourism spot, therefore, conveniences such as a visitor's center, a restaurant and parking facilities have already been provided. Dibbin, likewise, has a resthouse, chalets, and a restaurant. Thus, both Jerash and Dibbin are highly evaluated with regard to tourism amenities.

5.052 According to the area-wise assessment of tourism potentialities, six high-potential areas, Jerash, Dibbin, Ajlun, Ishtafina, the area between Dibbin and Ajlun, and the area between Suf and Ibbin, have been recognized. The potentialities of these six areas are analyzed in Table 5.8, and location of potential tourism resources are shown on Figures 5.13 and 5.14.

Table 5.8 Potentialities of Six Areas, Target Area

Area	Natural Resources	Historical/ Archeological Assets	Other Man-made Resources	Utilities	Amenities
Jerash	Wadi Jerash	<u>/Jerash Ruins/</u>	Museum Handicrafts	Route 15 Route 20 Water supply Sewage Electricity	Hotel Restaurants <u>Visitors</u> Center Existing Town Parking
Dibbin	<u>/National Park/</u> Mt. Agra Forest Viewing Point Wadi Janla Picnic spots		<u>King Talal Dam</u> Fruit stalls	Route 33 Water supply Sewage Electricity	<u>Chalets</u> Resthouse Restaurant Parking
Ajlun	<u>/Viewing point /</u> Wadi Forest Tourist park Picnic spots	<u>/Rabad Castle/</u>	Handicrafts Fruit stalls	Route 37 Route 23 Route 33	Existing Towns Hospital Restaurant

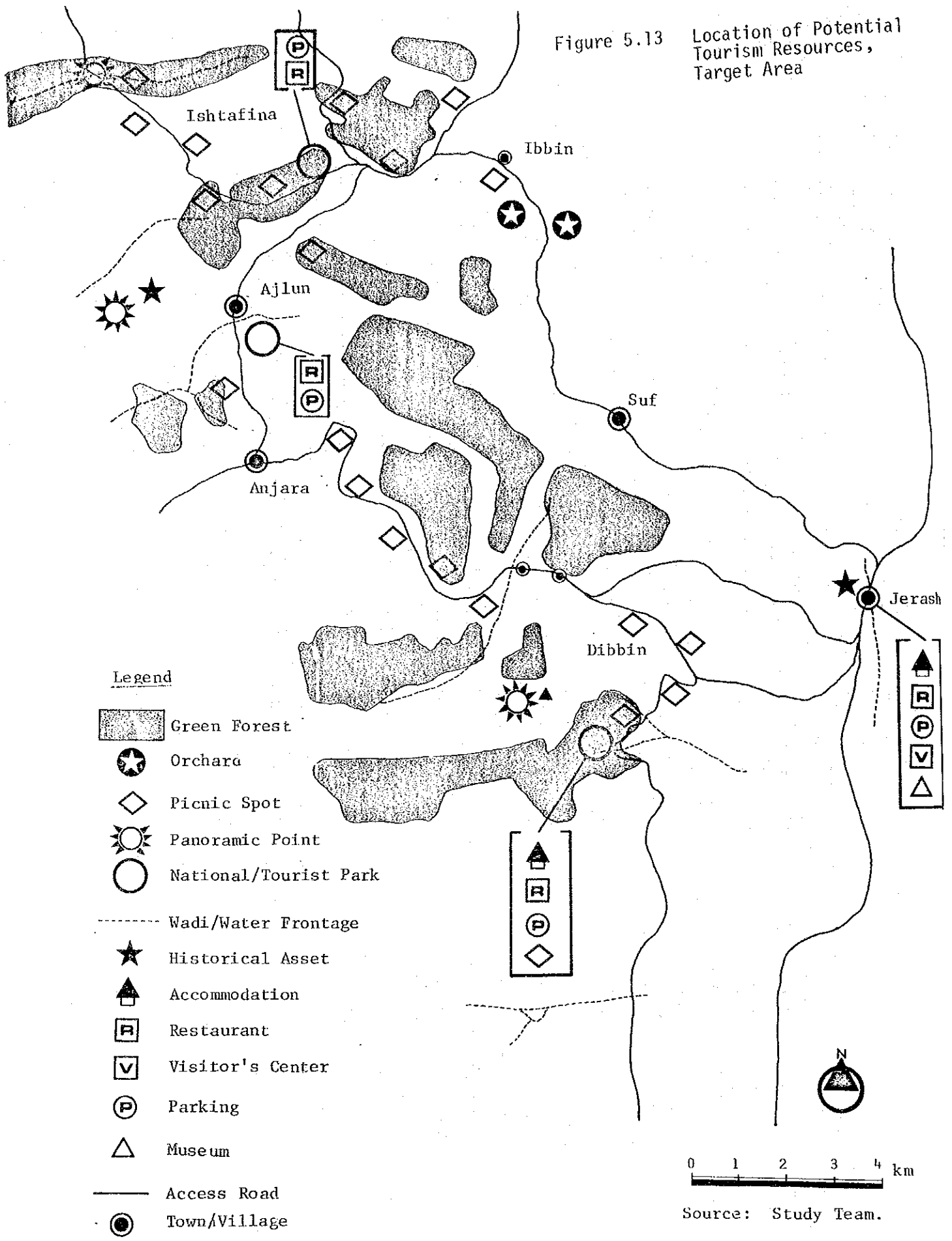
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Area	Natural Resources	Historical/ Archeological Assets	Other Man-made Resources	Utilities	Amenities
Ishtafina	<u>National Park</u> Viewing point Wadi Yabis Forest Picnic spots		Fruit stalls	Route 37	Resthouse Parking
Between Dibbin and Ajlan (Route 33)	Forest Wadi <u>Picnic spots</u>		Handicrafts <u>Fruit stalls</u>	Route 33	Villages
Between Suf and Ibbin (Route 20)	<u>Orchard</u> <u>Picnic spots</u>		Handicrafts Fruit stalls	Route 20	Villages















Source: Study Team.

Note: Boxes and underlines indicate the highest and relatively high potential resources, respectively.

Figure 5.13 Location of Potential Tourism Resources, Target Area



Legend

-  Green Forest
-  Orchard
-  Picnic Spot
-  Panoramic Point
-  National/Tourist Park
-  Wadi/Water Frontage
-  Historical Asset
-  Accommodation
-  Restaurant
-  Visitor's Center
-  Parking
-  Museum
-  Access Road
-  Town/Village

0 1 2 3 4 km

Source: Study Team.

Figure 5.14 Tourism Resource Map, 1979

OCTOBER 1979
 PREPARED BY:
 JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY

