

EDITORIAL



THREE DECADES FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE TROIS DECENNIES POUR LA NATURE ET LES GENS

In 1983, when the wars in Lebanon were still raging, Ramzi Saidi and Assad Serhal met for the first time. Out of this meeting and others with our founders, was born the idea of creating an environmental NGO to instigate endeavors for protecting, sustaining and, whenever possible, improving the quality of our nature.

Our most engaging concern at the time was to light a glimmer of hope, generate a flame of awareness and action to protect what could be sustained in our environment, even while the devastation of the wars in Lebanon remained unabated. A group of highly motivated and audacious advocates, amongst whom were our founders as well as many others, were brought together to join their arms together and lay the foundations of SPNL. The rest is our history, during which the first group of founders and advocates continued to support SPNL unflinchingly throughout our development.

However, we must say that there was no Ministry of Environment and few, if any, environmental NGOs or fully protected areas in Lebanon in 1983. Our aspiration was to ignite a movement, inspire awareness and create concern amongst people to maintain what remained of our natural resources safe for future generations.

We can proudly say now that we have a highly active Ministry of Environment, scores of different types of protected points within Lebanon and in the area. Moreover there are scores of local NGOs most of which are tirelessly endeavouring, despite their meager means, to sustain our eco-systems, protect our wildlife, as well as our priceless (inimitable) wealth of bird life!

To be more specific, SPNL has designated 15 Important Bird Areas (IBAs), based on BirdLife criteria which have become globally recognized. SPNL has created 15 Himas on communal lands managed by SPNL and the respective municipalities for the benefit of the environment and people. In addition, there are now 15 Nature Reserves on government lands, managed under the auspices of the Lebanese Ministry of Environment.

En 1983, alors que la guerre du Liban fait encore rage, Ramzi Saidi et Assad Serhal se rencontrent pour la première fois. De cette réunion et de celles qui suivirent avec nos fondateurs et de fervents et audacieux défenseurs de la nature, est née l'idée de créer une ONG environnementale dont le but serait de protéger, de conserver et d'améliorer la nature qui nous entoure. La SPNL était fondée. Elle a depuis toujours reçu un soutien indéfectible de leur part.

Il convient de souligner qu'alors le ministère de l'Environnement n'existait pas et qu'il y avait, pour ainsi dire, peu d'ONG environnementales et de réserves naturelles au Liban. A présent, le ministère de l'Environnement et des ONG locales très dynamiques s'efforcent sans relâche, et malgré leurs faibles moyens, de préserver notre écosystème, de protéger notre faune et notre riche et inestimable variété d'oiseaux, pour le bien de nos générations futures.

A ce jour, la SPNL a désigné 15 zones importantes pour la conservation des oiseaux, selon les critères internationaux de BirdLife International, et a créé 15 Himas sur des terres communales qu'elle gère conjointement avec les municipalités locales au bénéfice des personnes et de l'environnement. Il existe en outre 15 réserves naturelles situées sur des terres du gouvernement qui sont gérées sous l'égide du ministère libanais de l'Environnement.

Ramzi Kamel Saidi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ramzi Saidi'.

Assad Adel Serhal

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Assad Serhal'.



Marine Hima t | South Lebanon

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Hima Kfar Zabad – wetland | Central Bekaa valley



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WOMEN HIMA: MAKING CHANGE A REALITY

The term "Women are the Future" is more pronounced nowadays than ever before. Promoting women's full participation in state-building is a matter of gender equality and human rights. It's also critical for the achievement of sustainable development, as is being shown by a growing body of evidence and international opinion.

Women have a basic, influential, and guiding role in the communities and in raising up new generations. Moreover, rural women have differentiated responsibilities for maintaining the household (food, medicine, fire, water...), where many of these activities are dependent on the environment. Therefore, the state of the environment has a massive impact on women and their role and responsibilities, and affects their health, their labor, and daily life

SPNL is using traditional Hima approach in conservation, and has realized the diminished role of women in decision making process for natural resources management. SPNL initiated some interventions within its Hima site projects.

Hima approach is a traditional community based approach used for managing natural resources, and it depends on the involvement of local communities in decision-making, including women. Since 2004, SPNL has established 15 Himas in collaboration with municipalities, in key biodiversity areas; namely Ebel es-Saqi in South Lebanon, Anjar and Kfar Zabad wetland in the Bekaa region, Qoleileh and Mansouri in the southern coast, Maabour Abiad, Andket, Menjez and Charbein in Upper Akkar-North Lebanon, Jdeidet El-Fakiha in Bekaa, Roum and Qaytouli in Jezzine, Ain Zebdeh, Kherbet Anafar and Qaroun in West Bekaa.

The grant from the UN Fund for Gender Equality came at the right time to concentrate on gender issues in five Hima sites and empowering women from social and economic perspectives. The SPNL and the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality project "Promoting Hima Women Empowerment for Conservation and Livelihood" aims to enhance the livelihood of rural women through the revival of the Hima approach in the sustainable management of the IBAs of Lebanon. Nevertheless, our work on revitalizing the Hima model as a means for women has evolved to become an integral part of SPNL's approach



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to promote women access to and management of local resources. This was translated into SPNL revised strategy mainstreaming gender and having a stand-alone outcome to the empowerment of women translated into a full-fledged programme. It is important to highlight that the seed money granted by the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality has contributed to this organizational change for SPNL and its work to strengthen the role of women in local community development through the Hima model. It has as well helped SPNL raise extra parallel funding for women empowerment and marketing their products produced by the project.

Within the project funded by the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality, at least 6 traditional cultural skills has been identified and local women are trained on them in close linkage with natural resources and globally threatened species in each Hima site, such as carpet weaving, Armenian needle work, accessories, reed products,..... It is of importance to highlight the link of the products to nature and heritage as a means of conversation yet as well establishing linkages with the environment and tapping on natural resources Marketing

of those products remains a key challenge to ensure the proper economic vitality of the Hima women and their economic independence.

SPNL with the Fund has been working on developing a viable marketing strategy component inviting as well partnerships and twinnings with other possible national, regional and international actors in the field. Key planned activities include:

- Developing a marketing study for "Souk Al-Hima" products that would identify all possible means and outlets for marketing on national and regional basis.
- Establishing an outlet at SPNL office in Beirut, which will allow women to reach the target consumers in the capital...
- Display of women products within an artisan store in Jemmazieh, Beirut.
- Possible agreement with another FGE partner in Lebanon-Amel organization for exchange of women products for sale.
- Establishing an outlet at Anjar Hima visitor center (which attracts around 45,000 visitors per year).
- Marketing Hima women products through pages in BirdLife France annual booklet for e-commerce (attracts around 12,000 people).
- Establishing an atelier in Hima Anjar for the local women in addition to a marketing section (for management and sustainability.
- SPNL festivals and local events where special section is dedicated for marketing women products the latest was the "Annual bird migration festival".

The above initiatives work to create a snow ball effect working with a consortium of partners and stakeholders to ensure sustainability and upscaling of the initiatives. Hima model attracted several international fora, and allowed the participation of SPNL to showcase and present the cultural heritage and role of women in the Hima approach. Special thanks is raised to the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality that has supported the mainstreaming of gender and women empowerment in SPNL's vision and approach to serve improving the livelihoods of Hima women as an integral approach to community-based and local resource management.

Les femmes des Himas: Construire le changement

La participation des femmes à la construction de l'État est non seulement une question de droits de l'homme et d'égalité des sexes, elle est également cruciale en matière de développement durable. Les femmes ont une influence majeure au sein des communautés, notamment sur l'éducation des nouvelles générations. Elles exercent par ailleurs, dans les régions rurales, des activités (nourriture, eau, feu, médicaments, etc.) étroitement liées à l'environnement. La SPNL reconnaît le rôle crucial

des femmes dans la gestion des ressources naturelles et, à travers l'approche de la Hima pour une gestion et une protection communautaires de ces ressources, a pour objectif de renforcer leur pouvoir de décision et de développer leurs moyens de subsistance. Grâce au « Fonds pour l'Égalité entre les Sexes d'ONU Femmes » et à d'autres sources de financement, la SPNL a initié un projet à part entière dans 5 Himas : la relance et la commercialisation de l'artisanat traditionnel, en étroite corrélation avec la préservation de l'environnement et la protection des espèces menacées, afin d'assurer le développement et l'indépendance économiques des femmes des Himas.



Biking in Hima Kfar Zabad

WHO'S QUI EST SPNL LA SPNL

Overview

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL) was established in 1984 under the Lebanese laws, and licensed by the Ministry of Interior under Decree No.6/ AD 8/1/1986, with the founding members of SPNL are: Ali Adel Osseiran M.P, Ramzi K. Saidi, Shawki K. Saidi, Assad A. Serhal, Fawwak Turki Suleiman and Mohamed Jamal. As a national environmental NGO in Lebanon, SPNL has widely contributed to both raising awareness on environmental issues and concretely protecting natural areas in Lebanon. Being Lebanon's BirdLife International partner it considers birds as entry points for the conservation of wider natural resources. In addition SPNL is a member of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), elle considère que la protection hence, it has helped develop the first biodiversity project in Lebanon, known as the Protected Areas Project. La SPNL est par ailleurs membre de l'Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature (IUCN).

Aperçu

La Société pour la Protection de la Nature au Liban (SPNL) a été fondée en 1984 et agréée par le ministère de l'Intérieur en 1986. En qualité d'ONG nationale pour la protection de l'environnement, la SPNL a largement contribué à sensibiliser le public aux problèmes d'environnement et à la nécessité de protéger concrètement les réserves naturelles au Liban. Partenaire de BirdLife International au Liban, la SPNL a largement contribué à protéger concrètement les réserves naturelles au Liban. Partenaire de BirdLife International au Liban, la SPNL a largement contribué à protéger concrètement les réserves naturelles au Liban. Partenaire de BirdLife International au Liban, la SPNL a largement contribué à protéger concrètement les réserves naturelles au Liban.

Mission SPNL, the BirdLife national partner in Lebanon, aims at protecting nature, birds and biodiversity and to promote sustainable use of resources with people through reviving the concept of Al Hima. As a national environmental NGO, SPNL contributes to both raising awareness on environmental issues and concretely protecting natural areas in Lebanon.



Hiking-Bird watching at Hima Kfar Zabad/Anjar

SPNL bases its work on sound science and passionate commitment, which through transparent and democratic processes, leads to a well-informed public. SPNL strives to advocate a better quality of life for people and nature, through conserving sites, protecting species, and assuring sustainability.



Hima Anjar

Vision SPNL works in a cooperative manner to fulfil its mission statement, i.e., in cooperation with its partners, government institutions, municipalities, local communities, other NGOs, associates and the private sector. SPNL strives to trigger advances in strengthening capacities and influence. Its strategy revolves around four fundamental building blocks for promoting sustainable development: • Sites & Habitats • Species • People • Sustainability

History of SPNL in 30 years



Hima Maabour Al Abyad | Upper Akkar region

Early Stages 1984 - 1991

In its first few years, SPNL worked on conducting awareness campaigns on the conservation of nature and biodiversity in Lebanon. Along with the awareness campaigns, SPNL also focused, since its initiation, on the hunting sector in Lebanon that was completely unorganized amidst the civil war in Lebanon that ended in 1990. Hence, SPNL aimed for developing a plan that would ultimately regulate hunting and put the random killing of birds under control, especially migratory soaring birds.

During this period of time SPNL achieved the following:

- Helped in initiating the first bird sanctuary in Beirut in 1992, at the campuses of the American University of Beirut (AUB), American Community School (ACS), and International College (IC).
- Produced TV documentaries on topics such as the Ammiq swamps, islands of Lebanon, and the Lebanese coastline.



SPNL School with no Walls (SNOW) program

A New Era 1992 - 2003

From 1992 onwards SPNL started advocating for the alleviation of the status of the environment in Lebanon and to increase the government's attention towards environmental issues after the end of the civil war. SPNL took the lead along with other environmental NGOs in Lebanon in lobbying for the establishment of the Ministry of Environment, as well as several nature reserves across Lebanon. In addition, SPNL continued its efforts towards organizing the hunting sector and conserving biodiversity, by introducing the Important Bird Area (IBA) concept in Lebanon.

- SPNL was a founding member of the Lebanese Environment Forum (LEF) in 1993, an umbrella organization that brings together major environmental NGOs in Lebanon. Its main objective is nature protection, spreading awareness and information, and lobbying for change.
- Lobbying for Ministry of Environment succeeded in 1993.
- SPNL became the 1st National Lebanese Member of the IUCN 1993.
- SPNL, in partnership with the IUCN, campaigned to establish a department for protected areas and wildlife at the Ministry of Environment in 1993.
- SPNL became the national Lebanese partner for BirdLife International in 1994.
- The first four IBAs in Lebanon (Ammiq Wetlands, Al Shouf Cedars, Ehden Forest, and Palm Islands) were declared in 1994.
- SPNL established the Environment Information Center (EIC) in 1996, funded by UNDP-LIFE. The EIC offered environmental education and awareness, information services, training workshops, and developed educational material.
- SPNL advocated for the establishment of protected areas in Lebanon. Ultimately in 1996, the efforts led to the establishment of three nature reserves in Lebanon, Al Shouf Cedars, Ehden Forest, and the Palm Islands.
- In partnership with SPNL, Ammiq Wetlands and the coast of Tyre were declared Nature Reserves in 2000.
- SPNL revived the IBA program in partnership with BirdLife International and other local and regional partners, at the Presidential Palace under the patronage of the First Lady on December, 11, 2002.



First Lady patronage of SPNL's IBA program

A New Vision 2004- Present

In 2004 SPNL embarked on a new journey to promote the conservation of the environment and its natural resources in Lebanon and beyond. The traditional “Hima” system was adopted and revitalized by SPNL, and merged with modern scientific research to form a community based conservation approach that is intended for sustainable development by serving humans and nature alike.

Through the Hima approach, SPNL declared several locations across Lebanon as Himas, spread the Hima concept in the region and the world, and considered the Hima system as the basis of tackling any conservation program that SPNL works on.



Ersal tapestry

In 2004

- Initiation with the Birdlife International of “Building Capacity for Sustainable Hunting of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean Third countries” Project funded by the European Union.
- Declaration of Ebel es Saqi in Southern Lebanon, as the first Hima in Lebanon.
- Declaration of Kfar Zabad wetlands in the Bekaa Valley as a Hima.
- Declaration of the Qolieleh coast as a marine Hima in 2006.
- Building of a green filter bed for the treatment of waste water in the recreational area of Hima Kfar Zabad, through the kind support of European Nature Heritage Fund (Euronatur) in 2006.
- 1st Regional Hima Revival Workshop at Hima Kfar Zabad in 2007.
- Implemented project “Conservation of the Marine Hima of Qoleileh Village”, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in 2007
- Started SDC-Biodiversity and ecotourism project, Hima Kfar Zabad wetlands rehabilitation plan (2007-2009)

In 2008

- Declaration of Anjar wetlands in the Bekaa Valley as a Hima.
- Established the Hima Fund, by a one million U.S. Dollars donation by sheikha Jawaher on May, 13, 2008.
- Completed Lebanon’s IBA inventory, 15 sites were officially approved by BirdLife International.
- Declaration of the Mansouri coast as a marine Hima.
- Implementation of the project (Promoting sustainable agricultural practices in the Hima of Kfarzabad) funded by GIZ in collaboration with the Lebanon Environmental Fund and CDR.

In 2009

- As presented by SPNL, the Hima revival concept was adopted by WANA.
- Declaration of the Upper Akkar area as a Hima.
- Started the Fonds Français Pour L’Environnement Mondial (FFEM) Hima Kfar Zabad project (2009-2011).
- Initiated educational project “Combating hunting and conserving bird species through public awareness campaign”, funded by the Royal Embassy of Netherlands.

In 2010

- Initiated “Mainstreaming Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds into Key Productive Sectors along the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway” project in partnership with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and UNDP. The first phase of the project will be completed in December 2014.
- Conducted a regional workshop in Beirut on sustainable hunting in partnership with the United States Forest Services (USFS).
- Conducted a training workshop on Hima revival in Syria, in partnership with the Syrian Society for Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW).

In 2011

- Initiated with IUCN “Social, Ecological, and Agricultural Resilience in the Face of Climate Change in the Mediterranean Region (SEARCH)” project funded by the European Union (EU). This regional project was completed in June 2014.
- Revival of the works at Hima Aanjar under the FFEM project.
- Conducted a regional workshop for Hima Policy Brief in Turkey, in collaboration with WANA, UNU and World Justice.

In 2012

- Collaborated with the Lebanon Reforestation initiative (LRI) to restore Hima Anjar-Kfar Zabad, where 300,000 seedlings were planted.
- Declaration of Andqit-Upper Akkar in Northern Lebanon as a Hima.
- Participated in the Higher Hunting Council for the production of the new hunting application decrees for two terms.
- Under the MSB project, SPNL led the production of the Bird Identification Manual, Soaring Birds Field Guide, Hunter’s Guide, Hunter’s License Guide, and Soaring Birds Atlas.



Transhuman program

- Produced a 5 year action plan for the globally threatened Syrian Serin species in Hima Anjar-Kfar Zabad.
- Produced SPNL new website and utilized social media tools.
- Hima article selected by Birdlife International as one of the twenty stories of achievements for Birdlife 90th anniversary.
- During the 2012 UN Climate Change Conference (COP18) in Doha-Qatar, SPNL took part in the debates relating to Al Hima System.
- Adoption of Motion 122 for promoting and supporting community based resource management and conservation, including Al Hima, by the IUCN during its 5th World Conservation Congress in Jeju Island, South Korea. The adopted motion was co-presented by SPNL and the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water.
- BirdLife International initiated Hima office in Doha-Qatar, managed by SPNL and FEC.

In 2013

- Initiated the works on identifying and selecting Responsible Hunting Areas (RAHs) in Lebanon, as a continuation for the support of the implementation of the new hunting law, with the Migratory Soaring Birds project.
- Initiated “Promoting Hima Women Empowerment for Conservation and Livelihood” , a project funded by the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality that aims at enhancing the livelihood of women using the Hima approach in three IBAs in Lebanon.
- SPNL embarked on several projects to promote sustainable grazing and organize this sector in Lebanon using the Hima approach with Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).
- SPNL was rewarded “Best Practices” certificate by the UN Habitat as part of improving the livelihood of the locals at Qolieleh Marine Hima.
- SPNL reinitiated issuing a monthly newsletter starting in January 2013.
- Initiated the project «Restoring Hima Ecosystem functions though promoting sustainable community-based water management systems», funded by MAVA in Hima Anjar-Kfar Zabad.
- Start of the “Regional Knowledge Network on Systemic Approaches to Water Re-sources Management” regional project led by IUCN ROWA and funded by European Union.
- Partnership between SPNL and the West Bekaa Country Club for the establishment of the “Middle East Center for Sustainable Hunting”.

In 2014

- Initiated the project Safe Guarding Agriculture Based Economy in Anjar funded by USAID OTI Lebanon
- Finalized the project Vocational Trainings on Carpet Weaving in Fakiha village & pruning in Aanjar funded by USAID- OTI Lebanon
- Japanese Embassy supported the project “Water Rehabilitation and Management at Hima Kfar Zabad Wetlands and Springs”
- Presented “Al-Hima System: a Mean for Women Empowerment” within the UN FGE portfolio as a modality for south to south cooperation.
- Start of two ENPI EU funded regional projects where SPNL is involved (MEDSCAPE & MEDPHARES).
- Initiated the project “Enhancing livelihoods of Local Lebanese communities in Hima territories; from social, economic and natural perspectives” funded by European Union.
- Declaration of Charbine forest in Hermel as the 15th Hima.
- Identification of 10 RHAs on communal lands.
- Printing of “State of Lebanon’s Birds & IBAs, “MSB Field Guide”, and “Manual for Bird Identification”.
- Start of “Souk Al Hima” initiative for marketing local Hima products.



FUTURE PLANS PLAN D'ACTION FUTURS

As part of the ongoing process of advancement and growth of SPNL over the years, SPNL has established a set of programs and plans for development in the near future that comply with its broader mission and pillars.

Au cours de son ascension et de sa croissance au fil des années, la SPNL a établi plusieurs projets et plans d'action conformes à sa mission plus vaste et à ses valeurs essentielles et qui seront initiés et développés dans un avenir proche.

The issue of sustainable hunting, that SPNL has been working on and advocating for since its inception, is still a priority within SPNL's future plans. As such, SPNL is working hard on selecting and initiating the first Responsible hunting area (RHA) in Lebanon to promote sustainable hunting. In addition, SPNL will strengthen its efforts and partnerships with the Middle East Center for Sustainable Hunting as well as the West Bekaa Country Club in an attempt to further promote the concept of sustainable hunting in Lebanon and the region. In this sense, SPNL will also expand its current work on the hunting program to a regional basis in order to share experiences and exchange knowledge with regional partners for conserving bird species across the region. SPNL also intends to empower the networking and communication between the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Lebanon through monitoring, raising awareness and education, in addition to promoting the efficiency of ecotourism and its role in conserving the environment. SPNL is also working closely with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and several Lebanese ministries such as the ministries of Environment, Tourism, and Agriculture in order to publish a national ecotourism strategy and action plan for Lebanon that mainstreams the protection and conservation of migratory soaring birds. In the near future, SPNL is aiming to establish a Hima community Center in collaboration with the private sector and the respective Hima municipalities, thus developing business plans and marketing strategies that can promote the established Himas in Lebanon and the region. Additionally, SPNL will work in the coming years on expanding its water management program, especially concerning the documentation of traditional water management systems. Moreover, SPNL will further develop its School with No Walls-SNOW program and extend its activities to increase awareness and education among the new generation.

On the other hand, SPNL is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture to develop a national grazing strategy and action plan for Lebanon, which will act as a stepping-stone for promoting sustainable grazing practices in an effort to conserve this traditional heritage and mitigate the negative effects that may rise from overgrazing practices.

Finally, the coming year will witness the publication of the Hima Guideline manual and a guide to the Flora of Hima Fekha and the Anti-Lebanon mountain range, as well as a complete guide book entitled "Mammals of the Middle East" in Arabic.

La question de la chasse responsable et durable, l'instauration de zones de chasse publique au Liban restent une priorité pour la SPNL. La connaissance et l'expérience dans ce domaine seront partagées entre les partenaires régionaux afin de préserver les oiseaux dans la région.

La SPNL renforcera la mise en réseau et la communication entre les différentes Zones importantes pour la conservation des oiseaux (IBAs) au Liban grâce à un suivi continu, la sensibilisation et l'éducation, et la mise en valeur du rôle de l'écotourisme dans la conservation de l'environnement.

La SPNL travaille en étroite collaboration avec le Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD) et plusieurs ministères libanais pour élaborer un plan d'action stratégique pour la protection et la préservation des oiseaux planeurs migrateurs au Liban. Dans un futur proche, la SPNL souhaite créer un centre communautaire de Himas en collaboration avec les municipalités concernées et le secteur privé afin de promouvoir les Himas actuelles au Liban et dans la région.

Le programme de gestion de l'eau sera élargi, notamment en ce qui concerne la documentation sur les systèmes traditionnels de gestion de l'eau au Liban.

Le projet pédagogique SNOW (School with No Walls) pour la sensibilisation et l'éducation de la nouvelle génération verra ses activités élargies.

En collaboration avec le ministère de l'Agriculture, la SPNL développera une stratégie nationale et un plan d'action relatifs au pâturage au Liban. Cela servira de tremplin pour encourager les pratiques de pâturage durable, préserver cet héritage traditionnel et contrer les effets néfastes du surpâturage. Des cartes SIG indiquant les zones de pâturage et les trajets de transhumance seront élaborées.

La SPNL publiera dans le courant de l'année le « Manuel d'orientation », comprenant les lignes directrices pour l'identification, la sélection et la gestion des Himas, et le guide des « Mammifères du Moyen-Orient » en langue arabe, premier guide exhaustif couvrant toute la région.



Controlled grazing at Hima Kfar Zabad



SPNL NEW STRATEGY NOUVELLE STRATEGIE

For the last year, as a part of the IUCN-led 'Nurturing NGO Capacity to Engage in Biodiversity Conservation in the Eastern Mediterranean Project', SPNL has been working on updating its strategic plan with the support and guidance of Dr. José Tavares, IUCN consultant and the Director of Vulture Conservation Foundation.

As a result of these discussions, SPNL staff and the consultant finally developed the skeleton of a new strategy for the organization for the period 2014 - 2020. SPNL updated strategic plan have been developed in tandem with the BirdLife International and IUCN strategies, which highlights the following strategic objectives:

Pillar 1 Save bird species (and other biodiversity) from extinction in Lebanon

- Prevent extinctions
- Transform hunting into a regulated activity with less impact on biodiversity

Pillar 2 Conserve priority sites for conservation

- Identify, manage, restore and monitor the priority sites for birds and other biodiversity
- Lobby for the adoption of an adequate national protected area policy, and for the legal protection of IBAs
- Promote and apply the Hima approach on IBA conservation
- Develop and/or implement master plans/management plans for Hima sites

Pillar 3 Promote the ecological sustainability in priority sites

- Promote sustainable policies and practices
- Implement sustainable development projects at key sites

Pillar 4 Engage with people to support nature conservation

- Increase number of people engaging with SPNL
 - Promote local conservation actions
 - Raise Awareness on children about nature conservation
 - Develop internally SPNL, and its linkages with society, and international networks
- The final version of SPNL strategy for 2014 - 2020 is expected end of September 2014.



La nouvelle stratégie de la SPNL pour la période 2014-2020 a été établie en coopération avec l'IUCN et BirdLife International. Ses principaux objectifs sont:

Protéger les oiseaux (et autres espèces concernées) de l'extinction au Liban :

Éviter l'extinction.

Réguler la chasse pour un impact moindre sur la biodiversité.

Sauvegarder les sites prioritaires pour la préservation :

Identifier, gérer, restaurer et surveiller les sites prioritaires pour la conservation des oiseaux et de la biodiversité.

Agir en faveur de l'adoption d'une politique nationale adéquate pour les aires protégées et la protection juridique des zones importantes pour la conservation des oiseaux.

Encourager et appliquer l'approche de la Hima dans ces zones.

Développer et/ou mettre en œuvre les plans directeurs/les plans de gestion des Himas.

Promouvoir la durabilité économique dans les sites prioritaires :

Encourager les politiques et les pratiques durables.

Mettre en œuvre des projets de développement durable dans les sites clés.

Inciter le public à défendre la conservation de la nature :

Augmenter le nombre de personnes engagées auprès de la SPNL.

Encourager les actions locales de préservation.

Sensibiliser les enfants à la protection de l'environnement.

Développer la SPNL en interne, renforcer ses liens avec la société civile et ses réseaux internationaux.

PILLARS LES PILIERS ESSENTIELS

Hima Kfar Zabab/Anjar IBA



Protected Areas & Important Bird Areas of Lebanon

During the early stage, SPNL aimed at the alleviation of the status of the environment in Lebanon. Key biodiversity areas in the country that harboured much of the threatened and diverse species that inhabited Lebanon or migrated through it were endangered from human interference.

SPNL along with other NGOs in the country lobbied for the establishment of the Ministry of Environment in order to increase the government's role in nature preservation and protection. These efforts eventually paid off in 1993.

In the following years, SPNL advocated for the establishment of official protected areas in Lebanon. Several locations were chosen all across Lebanon based on their high value for bird migration, rich fauna and flora, as well as for the presence of globally threatened species. The lobbying and campaigning for that purpose finally gave a good result with the declaration of the first three nature reserves in Lebanon. By that, Al Shouf Cedars, Ehden Forest, and the Palm Islands were officially declared nature reserves by 1996. Four years later in 2000, Ammiq wetlands and the coast of Tyre in South Lebanon were declared as nature reserves as well.

All of the nature reserves established back then played a major role in protecting the birds of Lebanon. Moreover, SPNL being the national BirdLife International partner in Lebanon since 1994 took the same initiatives as BirdLife International in order to protect the indigenous and migrating birds of Lebanon by adopting the Important Bird Areas program.

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are among the world's key sites for the conservation of biodiversity. They are identified nationally using data gathered locally, and compared with internationally adopted criteria. The program recognizes that sites can be conserved in many different ways, ranging from strict protection to community-based management.

In this sense, SPNL helped initiate the first bird sanctuary in Beirut at the campuses of the American University of Beirut (AUB), the International College (IC), and the American Community School (ACS) in 1992.

Later on, SPNL's hard work succeeded in declaring the first four IBAs in Lebanon recognized by BirdLife International in 1994. Namely, the IBAs declared were the Palm Islands Nature Reserve, Ehden Forest Nature Reserve, Al Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve, and Ammiq Wetlands. Those IBAs covered more than 5% of the Lebanese territory, with Al Shouf Cedar Reserve being the largest in Lebanon (approximately 550 km²). On December 11, 2002, SPNL initiated the revival of the IBA program that took place at the Presidential Palace in Lebanon under the patronage of the First Lady of Lebanon, with the participation of BirdLife International. As such, SPNL in partnership with AROCHA-Lebanon launched the IBA research project funded by the MAVA Foundation in 2005. Forty-two (42) sites were proposed for study, out of which 31 were surveyed and 11 cancelled due to security issues. The result: in addition to the four sites declared in 1994, 11 new sites have been identified and declared by BirdLife International as IBAs.

The Hima concept was launched by SPNL in 2004 in order to conserve the IBAs of Lebanon. This approach aimed at mainstreaming bird conservation into societies and giving communities the responsibility in effectively managing their natural resources, amongst which the diverse bird species.

Les aires protégées et les zones importantes pour la conservation des oiseaux

Le programme des Zones Importantes pour la Conservation des Oiseaux (ZICO), développé par BirdLife International, vise à définir l'importance globale des ces zones pour la conservation de la biodiversité au niveau national et à assurer la conservation pérenne des zones, allant de la protection stricte d'un site jusqu'à sa gestion au niveau communautaire. Les Zones-Clés pour la Biodiversité (ZCB) prolongent ce programme en incluant d'autres groupes taxonomiques d'animaux et de plantes terrestres, maritimes et d'eau douce.



Bird watching at Ramlieh IBA

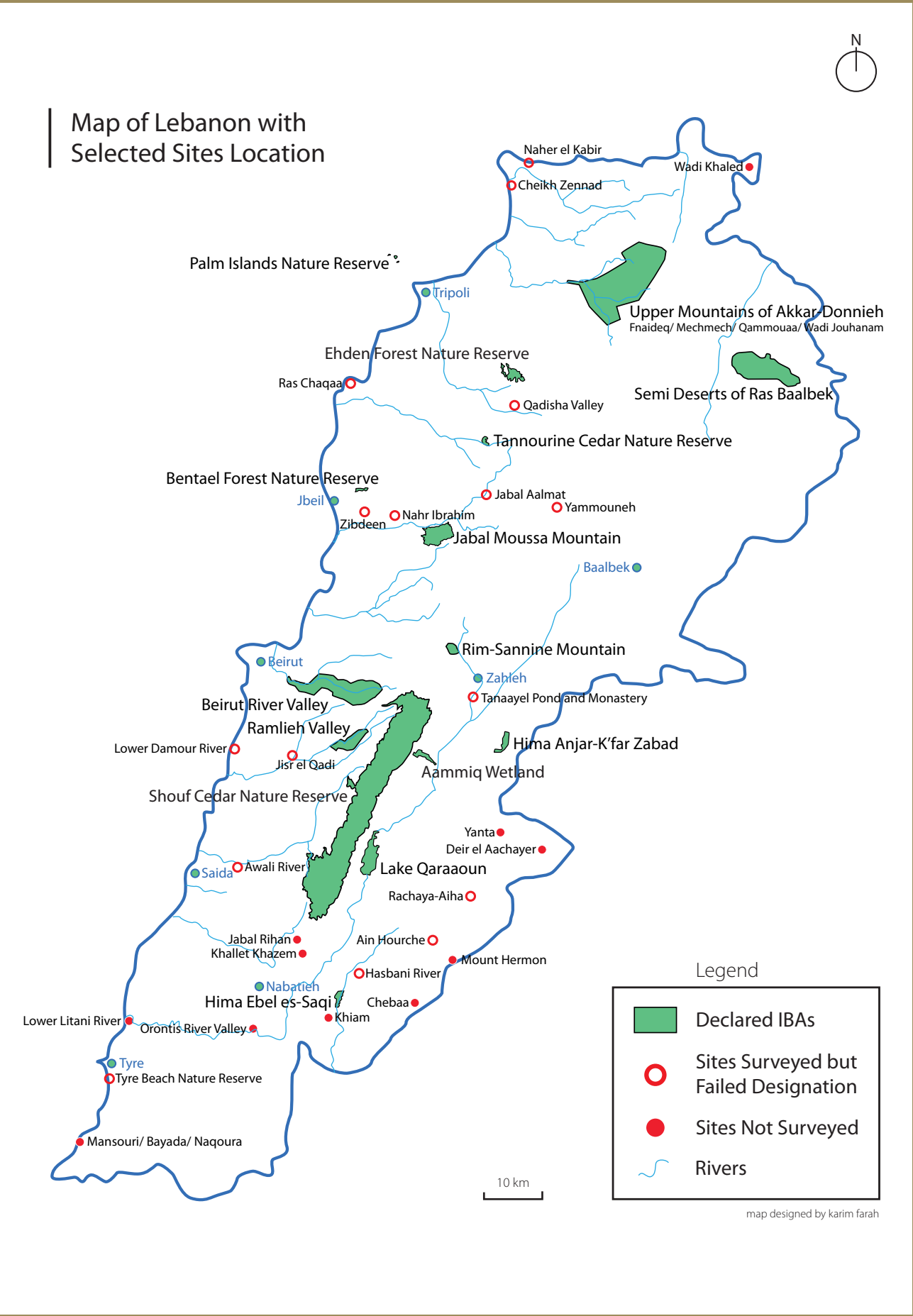


Hima El Fekha for controlled grazing and responsible hunting | Northern Bekaa valley

The fifteen (15) IBA sites in Lebanon that were approved are (from North to South):

Name	IBA Criteria	Area Size	Location
Palm Islands Nature Reserve	A1	500 ha	North-west of Tripoli
Upper Mountains of Akkar- Donnieh	A1, A2, A3, and A4iv	5,270 ha	Nothern end of Mount Lebanon
Semi Deserts of Ras Baalbek	A3	7,814 ha	North end of Bekaa Valley
Ehden Forest Nature Reserve	A1, and A2	140 ha	North western slopes of Mount Lebanon
Tannourine Cedars Nature Reserve	A1, A2, and A4iv		Nothern Mount Lebanon
Bentael Forest Nature Reserve	B1iv	150 ha	Hills east of Byblos
Jabal Mousa Mountain	A4iv	6500	Keserwan- Byblos area
Rim- Sannine Mountain	A3, and A4iv	244 ha	Southern flans of Mount Sannine
Beirut River Valley	A4iv	8,096 ha	Beirut River Watershed
Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve	A1, and A2	20,000 ha	Shouf Mountains
Hima Anjar- Kfar Zabad	A1	326 ha	Eastern Bekaa Valley
Ramlieh Valley	B1iv	928 ha	Shouf Region
Aammiq Wetland	A1, A4i, and A4iv	280 ha	West Bakaa Valley
Lake Qaraoun	A4iv	1,190 ha	Southern Bekaa Valley
Hima Ebel es- Saqi	A1, A2, and A4iv	219 ha	Southern Lebanon

Al Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve/IBA | Ain Zhalta forest





Sustainable Hunting

Lebanon lies on the west side of the Rift valley African Eurasian flyway, which is considered one of the most important flyways for bird migration in the world. In spite of its small geographical area, at least 399 species of birds have been recorded in Lebanon. The wealth and diversity in bird species increases the assets of the country, but on the other hand amplifies our collective responsibility for their conservation.

SPNL has been involved with BirdLife International in the regional project “Building Capacity for Sustainable Hunting of Migratory Birds in Mediterranean Third Countries of North Africa and the Middle East-SHP” from 2004 - 2007 funded by the European Union (EU), where Lebanon was the hub for the West Asia countries. The main achievements in Lebanon were data collection through a national opinion poll, elaboration of the draft legal decrees and decisions for the new hunting law in Lebanon (Law No. 580/2004). In addition, SPNL played an important role in organizing training workshops for law enforcement officers on bird identification, conservation and legal issues, as well as capacity building on conflict resolution skills involving stakeholders of the hunting sector in Lebanon. Moreover, SPNL produced awareness material targeting mainly hunters on globally threatened and game bird species, a bird field guide in Arabic, and an educational manual for school children.

On a regional level, the project produced synthesis reports on status of hunting, guidelines for hunting management for governments, and code of practice manual for hunters, thus providing the basis for a ‘model’ of sustainable approach to birds hunting.

On the other hand, SPNL within the Migratory Soaring Birds (MSB) project developed “The Hunter’s Guide”, a reference guidebook for hunters in order to successfully pass the exam needed to acquire a hunting license according to the new hunting law.

In another context, SPNL is working to set the criteria for responsible hunting areas (RHAs) in Lebanon. The RHAs should primarily be evenly distributed over the seven Mohafazats (large administrative districts) of Lebanon established over communal land and/or on governmental property. The RHAs should also preferably be able to host/provide habitat for at least 3 - 4 out of the 16 game bird species.

Additionally, SPNL contributed to the protection of birds, preservation of natural resources and to the improvement of the livelihoods of local communities via the Hima approach and the fifteen approved IBAs of Lebanon. For example the various ecosystems at Hima Anjar, that include wetlands, agricultural/forested lands, and part of the Anti-Lebanon Mountains, host a variety of important globally threatened species such as the Syrian Serin bird, Common River Otter, and swamp cats; in addition to its distinctive flora. The IBA of the Al Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve on the other hand, is the largest Nature reserve in Lebanon (approx. 5% of the Territory) encompassing the best remaining strands of cedar forests where over 160 bird species have been recorded including a number of globally threatened birds; such as the Greater Spotted Eagle, Imperial Eagle, Corncrake and Syrian Serin.

SPNL has also been involved with the UNDP project “Mainstreaming Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds into Key Productive Sectors along the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway” within the last 28 months funded by Global Environment Fund (GEF). SPNL was awarded «Birdlife International Partnership Award» in 2013 for its work on promoting sustainable hunting.



La chasse durable et responsable

La SPNL s'est investie, avec BirdLife International, dans le projet régional intitulé « Le renforcement des capacités pour la chasse durable des oiseaux migrateurs dans les pays tiers méditerranéens d'Afrique du Nord et du Moyen-Orient ». Les principales réalisations de la SPNL dans ce domaine sont:



Illegal shooting of pelicans

- Les rapports d'études sur les liens entre la chasse, les moyens de subsistance et les oiseaux planeurs. Les moyens de pression à l'encontre des chasseurs, y compris les mesures de limitation.
- Les cartes SIG de la répartition des oiseaux planeurs, les cartes des goulots d'étranglement des voies migratoires, des zones importantes pour la conservation des oiseaux, des aires protégées, des clubs de chasse et des secteurs particulièrement menacés.
- La réalisation de plusieurs matériels de sensibilisation: Atlas des oiseaux planeurs, Guide pratique des oiseaux planeurs du Liban, Manuel d'identification des oiseaux, Guide du chasseur, Code du permis de chasse .
- Les sessions de formation des éducateurs, des agents de la force publique et des membres des clubs de chasse à l'identification des oiseaux et à la loi relative à la chasse.
- L'élaboration d'un plan stratégique de gestion de la chasse durable au Liban.
- La définition des critères des « zones de chasse publique » au Liban destinés à encadrer la pratique et à protéger les chasseurs, les non-chasseurs et le gibier.



Training internal Lebanese security forces on hunting law enforcement | MSB project

Hima (حمى)

SPNL's leading role in nature conservation in Lebanon took a new path in 2004 with the discovery of the Hima concept. The Hima approach in nature protection is a traditional/cultural community-based approach used for the conservation of sites, species, habitats, and people in order to achieve the sustainable use of natural resources. A new voyage of history research began to accompany the ornithological fieldwork, which consists essentially of declaring Important Bird Areas (IBAs), identifying Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and raising the capacity of local communities.

Hima which means protected area in Arabic, originated more than 1,500 years ago where it was spread along the Arab Peninsula as a "tribal" system of sustainable management of natural resources. It was applied as a system for organizing, maintaining, regulating, and utilizing natural pasture and rangelands in a way dealing with harsh ecosystems and fitting local needs. The Hima system further evolved with Islam adding values and rules for improvement and development.

Recent years have witnessed several trends and campaigns in order to conserve nature and its resources, of which some were via the revival of the Hima concept within local communities. The most successful revival attempts in the Middle East to date have taken place in Lebanon as conducted by SPNL. SPNL is reviving the Hima approach in collaboration with municipalities in order to promote the conservation of Important Bird Areas (IBAs)/Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and promote the sustainable use of natural resources. SPNL is merging between the values of the traditional Hima



approach and the modern scientific approaches in nature conservation. Accordingly, SPNL aims through its work to promote and spread the sustainability concept among the communities using the Hima approach as the bridge to achieve sustainable hunting, sustainable fishing, sustainable grazing, and sustainable use of water resources. The Hima approach concentrates on empowering local community, upgrading their livelihood, and promoting sustainable use of natural resources.

In 2004, the first Hima in Lebanon was announced in the village of Ebel es Saqi in South Lebanon. The following years witnessed the declaration of 15 new Himas in different parts of Lebanon, which included Kfar Zabad and Anjar wetlands in the Bekaa Valley, the Mansouri and Qolieleh Coastline in Southern Lebanon, Upper Akkar in North Lebanon that also includes Aandqit and Maabour Alabied, and a Hima in the village of El Fekiha in the Bekaa Valley.

The Hima revival attempts by SPNL also aimed at spreading this concept again, not only in Lebanon, but also in the region. Hence, a workshop under the title of "A Road Map towards More Equitable Conservation and Poverty Reduction in West Asia and North Africa Region Using Traditional Approaches" was organized at Hima Kfar Zabad in March 2007. The workshop that hosted participants from different countries of the region such as Jordan, Qatar, Egypt, and European countries amongst others, set a defined road map for advancing and reviving traditional approaches for nature conservation. The road map enabled a framework for creating synergies in the region as well as strengthening the Hima approach and its management practices, as it considers traditional approaches as a base but molds them into new equitable, sustainable, and effective options that can reach the global conservation community. Moreover, traditional approach, such as the Hima system, ought to be adapted to the current political, legal, and socioeconomic realities in order to meet the changing needs of local communities in addition to the requirements of modern states.

Almost one year after the Hima revival workshop in Kfar Zabad- Lebanon, the Hima Fund was established on May 13 2008 in Doha- Qatar, by a generous one million US Dollars donation by Sheikha Jawaher. This fund was needed in order to enhance the Hima revival initiatives that were taking place in Lebanon and other countries of the region. Furthermore, it acts as an important funding source for capacity building projects for key stakeholders, enhance the understandings of needs in implementing the Hima approach, as well as links different Hima initiatives worldwide and creates a global network between them.

SPNL's experience with the Hima revival initiative after nine years of rigorous fieldwork and research resulted in great success stories in different parts of Lebanon. International recognition of these achievements was at its peak during the BirdLife World Congress that was held in Ottawa- Canada in June 2013. During the congress, SPNL was rewarded with BirdLife Partnership Award for the revival of the Hima approach and its contribution for biodiversity conservation and the protection of IBAs. Additionally, SPNL was a key participant in several events that took place during the congress, presenting and sharing the experiences of the Hima system in Lebanon.





Hima Andqet | Upper Akkar region

In another context, the fifth IUCN World Conservation Congress that was held in Jeju- South Korea in October 2012 also recognized and adopted the Hima approach. Motion 122, “Promoting and Supporting Community-based Resource Management and Conservation as a Foundation for Sustainable Development”, recognized the Hima community conservation as a holistic approach that empowers local and traditional knowledge, and conserves natural resources and culture. Ninety five percent (95%) of the participants at that time voted for the adoption of Motion 122 and the Hima approach that was presented by SPNL in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment, and Water.

« Hima » est un mot arabe signifiant littéralement « lieu protégé » selon un système traditionnel autochtone de gestion et de conservation de la biodiversité et des ressources naturelles, en vigueur depuis près de 1500 ans dans la péninsule arabe, les régions avoisinantes, le Proche-Orient et l'Afrique du nord. Ce système constitue l'une des institutions les plus anciennes et les plus efficaces alliant la conservation des ressources naturelles au bien-être des communautés avoisinantes



Hima Mansoureh key biodiversity area important for endangered sea turtles



(bergers, fermiers, chasseurs, pêcheurs, etc.). De nos jours, de plus en plus d'experts en protection de l'environnement voient dans les « hima » un lien cohérent et indispensable entre la conservation des ressources renouvelables et le développement durable. Les populations concernées sont bien conscientes du fait que

ce concept met l'accent sur le bien-être commun plutôt que sur la protection exclusive de la faune et de la flore. La SPNL a réintroduit et modernisé ce concept qui, basé sur la culture de la région concernée, combine approches traditionnelle et moderne, loin de toute tendance à la discrimination ethnique, tribale, religieuse, etc. Il est

Hima Kfar Zabad wetland resting and breeding area for water birds



adapté aux nouvelles réalités politiques, légales et socio-économiques afin de répondre aux besoins changeants des communautés locales et aux exigences des états modernes, comme la décentralisation, l'émancipation des femmes, l'éducation des jeunes aux problèmes de l'environnement et à la nécessité de sa sauvegarde. A ce jour il existe 14 « hima » déclarées au Liban.



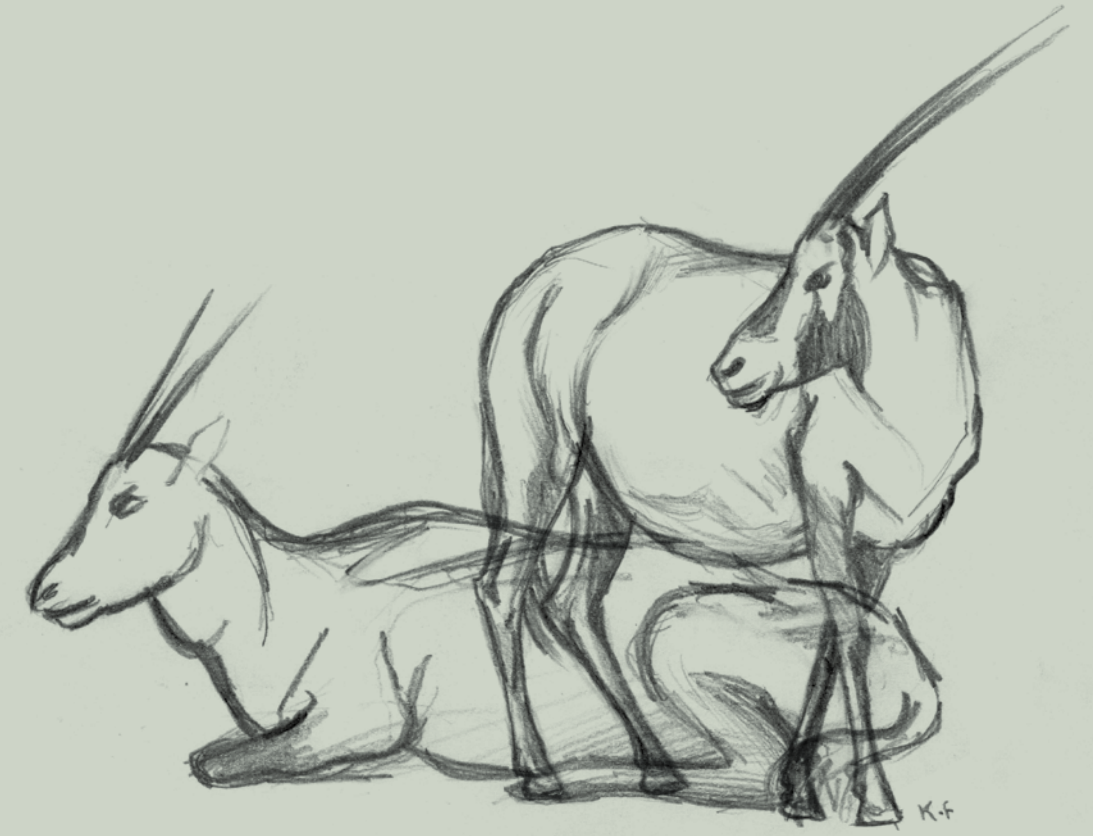
Threatened Syrian Serin

Globally Threatened Species

Since its foundation, SPNL has based its work strategy on preserving the biodiversity of Lebanon by protecting its species and conserving their sites.

Using the different management programs that SPNL is currently implementing in Lebanon, several action plans and tools are targeting the protection of the common river otters, wild cats, marine sea turtles, as well as 11 threatened bird species that exist in Lebanon. As an example on the field in Hima Anjar, SPNL began an investigation in order to initiate efforts to protect the common river otter after it was spotted feeding on a fish in 2007. What is interesting about the common river otter is that it was thought to have become extinct in Lebanon since 1982, as it had never been seen after that time until 2007. The common river otter has been listed on the IUCN Red List of threatened species since 2000, and its population is constantly decreasing due to persecution and man-induced destruction of their natural habitats, hence this shows the valuable work that SPNL is conducting at Hima Anjar to conserve this species. Moreover, SPNL is also working on preserving the habitats for the protection of the wild cats that exist in Hima Anjar/ Kfar Zabad IBA.

On the other hand, SPNL has been involved in the protection of the globally threatened marine sea turtles that reach Lebanese shores each year to lay their eggs. The work was mainly focused in certain areas where the marine sea turtles do breed, such as the marine Himas of Qolieh and Mansouri in South Lebanon, and the Palm Island Nature Reserve in North Lebanon. Two species of sea turtles breed in Lebanon and swim off the coast; the Green



Arabian Oryx brought from the brink of extinction in Arabia | Illustrations from 'Field Guide to the Mammals of the Middle-East'

Turtle and the Loggerhead Turtle. Both are highly endangered, internationally, and within the Eastern Mediterranean just a relic of the original population remains. However, through community awareness campaigns and livelihoods improvement programs SPNL has helped in ameliorating the status of the habitats for the sea turtles and bettered their conservation status.

Regarding threatened bird species, SPNL played an important role in protecting threatened bird species that exist in Lebanon, by advocating for the establishment of nature reserves, Important Bird Areas (IBAs), and the Himas. In addition to that, SPNL has been involved in several projects that aimed at conserving migratory soaring birds and organize the status of hunting in Lebanon. All of these efforts had positive effects on the globally threatened birds; one example is that of the Syrian Serin bird whereby an action plan was put in place in order to promote its conservation at Hima Anjar.

Les espèces globalement menacées au Liban

La SPNL, à travers ses différents programmes de gestion, développe des plans d'action et des outils afin de protéger principalement la loutre de rivière, le chat sauvage, les tortues de mer et 11 espèces d'oiseaux menacées dont le Serin de Syrie.



Communication and Outreach

Since its initiation, SPNL has always managed to merge along its various programs and projects awareness campaigns and education tools for the public. Throughout its work SPNL engaged in several awareness campaigns, produced numerous education tools and products to inform the public and deliver the desired information to its public audience in order to elevate their awareness on environmental issues.

In September 1996, SPNL took a leap forward regarding its awareness and community education strategy and established the Environment Information Center (EIC), with the help of a grant from the UNDP-LIFE Program and the support of individuals and the private sector. The mission of the EIC was to promote sustainable human development via environmental education initiatives, capacity building, and information dissemination at educational institutions and in the community. Through its establishment, the EIC was capable of providing educators, students, and the public with a variety of environmental information and educational services, as well as training material. The center also promoted non-formal environmental education and encouraged dialogue between different sectors that aimed at achieving sustainable development and nature protection. Additionally, the EIC provided the citizens with the necessary skills to take an active role in environmental stewardship and sustainable development. As a means to achieve the aforementioned goals, the EIC at SPNL made all its information available to the public through a multi-media library, conducted environmental awareness campaigns, developed relevant educational material, and finally trained and provided assistance when needed to environmental educators.

On the other hand, after years of field experience in community awareness and education SPNL is now launching the "School with No Walls – SNOW Program". The SNOW Program is an outdoor and nature education program targeting school students (8 - 12 years old) launched at Hima Anjar –Kfar Zabad in September 2013, through the initiation of the first Hima Educational Summer Camp in the area. SNOW is an educational program initiated by SPNL in collaboration with its partner Great Escape one of the leading nature based tourism companies in Lebanon. The upcoming program consists of several activities including Hands on Programs and Learning through fun. SNOW aims to raise awareness about IBAs and KBAs habitat and species, respect nature and appreciate cultural practices and values.

In another context, and with the goal of reaching the community, locally and internationally, SPNL has connected in 2012 with the world using the various social media tools available today through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Google+, and Flickr in addition to SPNL's website (www.spnl.org). SPNL has reinitiated its publishing of "Wings & Waves" newsletter on a monthly basis to inform the people on all the work and achievements of SPNL, while also providing information about the donors, and general news as well.



Kids aged 8-12 making bird nest | SNOW program | Hima Ebel es-Saqi | Southern Lebanon

La communication et la sensibilisation

Parallèlement à ses nombreux projets, la SPNL s'est toujours investie dans de nombreuses campagnes d'information et de sensibilisation à l'environnement et a élaboré une grande variété d'outils pédagogiques destinés aux enseignants, aux élèves et étudiants et au grand public.

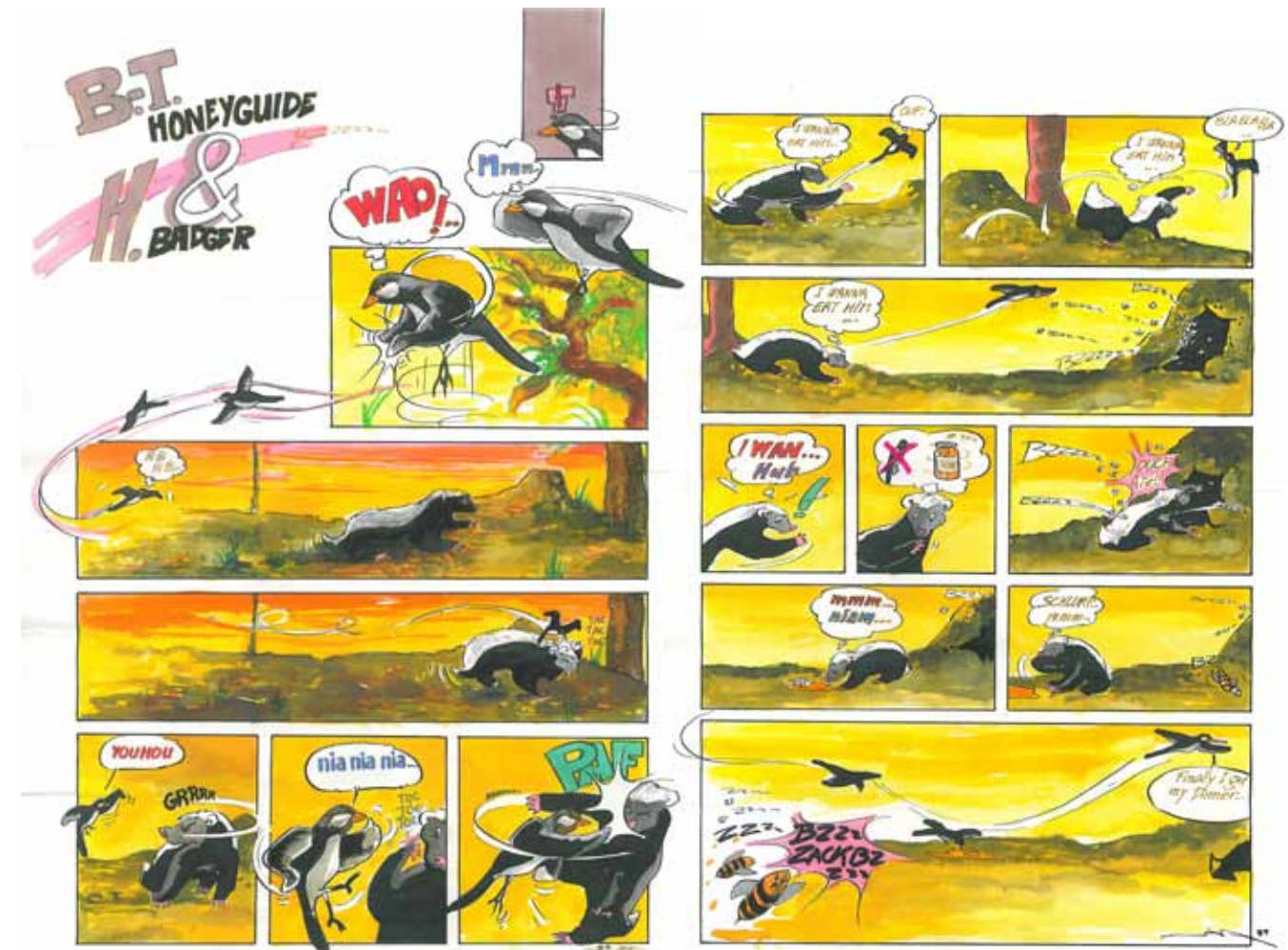
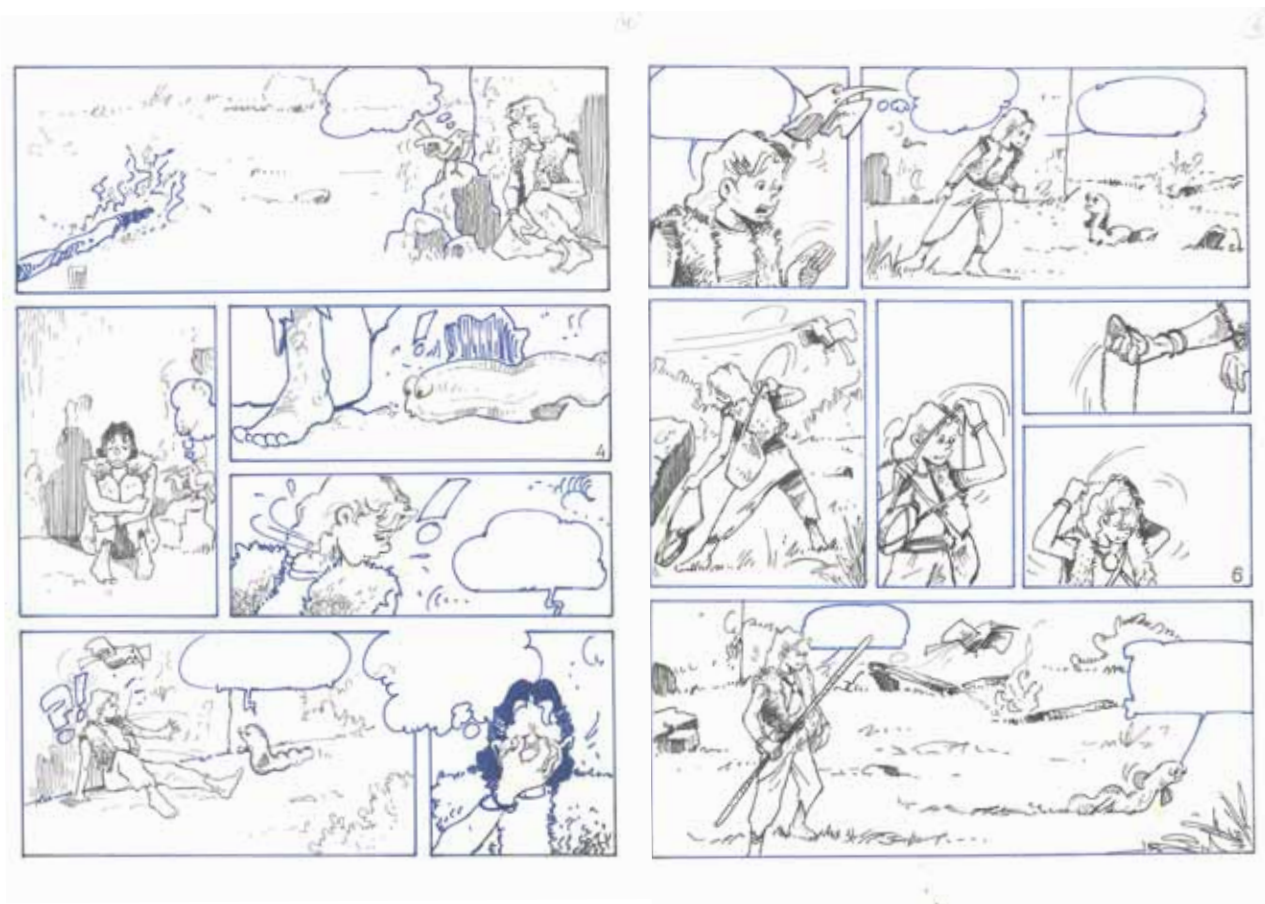
La SPNL a également initié, en collaboration avec son partenaire Great Escape, une importante société spécialisée dans l'écotourisme au Liban, un programme éducatif intitulé « SNOW » (School With No Walls) destiné aux écoliers de 8 à 12 ans et comportant différentes activités ludiques et interactives pour les sensibiliser aux espèces qui peuplent les zones importantes pour la conservation des oiseaux et leur apprendre à respecter et à apprécier la nature, la biodiversité et les différentes pratiques et valeurs culturelles.

La SPNL est présente sur différents réseaux sociaux comme Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Google+, Flickr, et sur son site internet : www.spnl.org en anglais, arabe et français. Grâce à ces outils, elle communique directement avec le monde sous le nom arabe « Touyouarna » qui signifie « nos oiseaux ». La SPNL publie également un bulletin mensuel en anglais intitulé « Wings&Waves » téléchargeable sur le site.

COMICS BANDES DESSINEES

The SNOW program aims to spread awareness and education about natural resources through indoor and outdoor hands-on activities "Learning by doing" approach, thus reviving the positive relation between human and nature. The program takes into consideration that learning is a life-long process, acquired by actual experiences.

COMING SOON TO THE SPNL SNOW PROGRAM SCREEN.. A SHEPHERD STORY!!



AWARDS



Director General Assad Serhal receiving BirdLife partnership award | Ottawa

SPNL receives “Best Practice” Award from the United Nations for improving the living environment through Hima system

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon recently received an international ‘best practice’ award for their work at the Qolieleh Hima site, southern Lebanon, for preserving the coast and improving living conditions for local people.

Dubai Municipality presented the Dubai International Award for Best Practices to SPNL for community-based conservation at the coastal Hima site. This award focuses on projects that sustainably improve the living environment, under the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. During the ninth session of the award in 2013, they recognised SPNL’s work in reviving a traditional land-use practice, “Hima”, as a model for improving the quality of people’s lives in an environmentally-sustainable and culturally-sensitive way.

Assad Serhal, Director General of SPNL expressed his joy in receiving the award for the Qoleileh Hima project, which is one of the most successful Hima projects carried out by SPNL, entitled ‘The Conservation of the Marine “Hima” in Qoleileh – Reviving Yesterday’s Community Based Conservation Approach for the Sustainability of Tomorrow’s Generations.’

Carried out in collaboration with the municipality of Qolieleh, the Site Support Group-SSG, Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC), the German non-governmental organization EURONATUR, ATW-WWF, Care International, and Jensen/BirdLife International, the project preserves the southern Lebanese coast and its resources whilst empowering local people. As well as attracting different species of marine birds, the project aimed to benefit local fishermen by creating job opportunities, such as marine guides, and train them on sustainable fishing methods; and promote eco-tourism in the area.

The project also involved the neighbouring village communities (in the area stretching from the south of Tyre Coast Nature Reserve to Naqoura) in protecting the coast, birds and marine life. By raising awareness and support for nature conservation amongst local people, this will also promote sustainable living, improve daily income and enhance the respect they have for their local biodiversity.

SPNL receives “Partnership Award” in Birdlife World Congress in Ottawa

The 2013 BirdLife International World Congress marks two major anniversaries: the 90th anniversary of the organisation from which BirdLife evolved (making it the oldest truly international conservation organisation), and the 30th anniversary of The Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), the leading in the revival of the Hima, a traditional community-managed protected area system, in Lebanon and throughout the Middle East. SPNL also played a leading role in BirdLife’s Sustainable Hunting campaign to control the killing of birds along the African-Eurasian Flyway.

Assad Serhal SPNL’s general director and Dalia Al-jawhary, Hima Program Director, represented SPNL in the Birdlife World Congress, the largest and fastest growing global Partnership of national conservation organisations which took place in Ottawa, Canada, June 2013.

Birdlife partnership award

On 19 of June SPNL received Birdlife partnership award for the revival of the Hima approach and its contribution for biodiversity conservation and the protection of IBAs, and promotion of sustainable hunting. Following five years of achievement since the 2008 World Congress, during which the Partnership has grown to 121 conservation NGOs, BirdLife has used its Partnership Awards to recognise the exceptional contributions of an unprecedented seven Partner organisations.

“This gathering is both for birds and people and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon will continue its efforts to conserve biodiversity for the provision”, Assad Serhal.



Al-Hima System: a Mean of Women Empowerment

SPNL “Al-Hima System: a Mean of Women Empowerment” solution has been selected to reflect the UNW FGE Portfolio as a modality for South-South cooperation, in the First Arab States regional South-South Development EXPO held in Doha-Qatar from 18 to 20 February 2014.

SPNL is implementing project titled “Promoting Hima Women Empowerment for Conservation and Livelihood” and funded by UN Women Fund for Gender Equality. The project aims to improve women livelihood through acquired skills and better income opportunities in five Hima Sites including Hima Anjar, Hima Kafar- Zabad, Hima El- Fekha, and Himas of Qoleileh Mansouri.

**TWO FRIENDS SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY
TO LOOK OVER THE HERD**



RECENT LES PROJETS PROJECTS EN COURS

Assessing and supporting cultural conservation practices in the Mediterranean

Le projet MAVA pour la nature et la culture

All Mediterranean countries vary in their physical geography, biodiversity and their historic, cultural and social character. They present different environmental processes and pressures and diverse governance and economic conditions. The West Asia region (Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan) has been highly known for the cultural practices carried out by its community especially in rural areas. These practices have always had a positive effect on the environment and communities have always depended on these practices for income generation. Today, with the urban sprawl, development, and technology, people started looking towards the businesses in the city in order to meet the high living costs, thus, culture is losing its identity.

A consortium of NGOs from all over the Mediterranean region in addition to the Society for Protection of Nature in the Lebanon (SPNL), have joined forces to undertake a project to assess and support cultural conservation practices in the Mediterranean Basin. Through the project funded by the MAVA Foundation, we aim to reinforce traditional



Al Rachid Bed & Breakfast at Hima El Fekha



practices, techniques and ways of living harmoniously with nature as well as celebrating the ingenuity of people all across the Mediterranean to protect and manage their land, water and resources. We hope that this project will contribute to a real revival of such practices so that they remain - or become - robust enough to stand their ground in the 21st century.

Through the course of the project, SPNL is responsible for identifying certain traditional practices in Eastern Mediterranean region that comprises Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Out of the numerous traditional practices assessed, SPNL focused its work on a minimized list of practices that covered this region. Namely those practices are: the Hima concept, grazing, hunting, water canals, traditional salt production, terraces, collection of wild plants, and lastly cultural heritage which includes old houses, religious sites, and values. These practices were found by SPNL to be of importance to the region and their revival and conservation is crucial in order to strengthen the bonds between culture and nature.

Des ONG de divers pays méditerranéens, dont la SPNL, ont unis leurs efforts au sein d'un consortium pour entreprendre un projet d'évaluation et de soutien des pratiques culturelles favorisant la conservation dans le bassin méditerranéen. Ce projet, financé par la fondation suisse MAVA, a pour objectif de renforcer les pratiques, les techniques et les modes de vie traditionnels en harmonie avec la nature ainsi que de célébrer l'ingéniosité des peuples tout autour de la Méditerranée pour la protection et la gestion de leurs terres, de l'eau et de leurs ressources.

La SPNL a particulièrement mis l'accent sur plusieurs pratiques traditionnelles au Liban, en Syrie et en Jordanie: le concept de « Hima », le pâturage, la chasse, l'irrigation, la production de sel, les cultures en terrasses, la récolte de plantes sauvages et enfin l'héritage culturel avec les maisons anciennes, les sites religieux et les valeurs traditionnelles. Le maintien ou le renouveau de ces pratiques dans la région est essentiel pour renforcer les liens entre la nature et la culture.

Salt pools on the Lebanese Eastern Mediterranean shore



Shepherds Without Borders

The Society for the protection of nature in Lebanon (SPNL) signed a partnership agreement with Transhumancia y Naturaleza – Spain (TyN) "Shepherds Without Borders". Both parties agreed to pursue their shared objectives through means of a Partnership Agreement establishing the basis for mutual collaboration and development of projects aiming at linking nature and culture conservation through pastoralism and transhumance. TyN team that visited Lebanon consisted of Francesca Pasetti and Concha Salguero. SPNL General Director Assad Serhal praised the cooperation with TyN.

La SPNL a signé un accord de partenariat avec l'ONG espagnole « Transhumancia y Naturaleza » (TyN) établissant les bases d'une collaboration mutuelle et le développement de projets pour la préservation de la nature et de la culture en relation avec le pastoralisme et la transhumance.



ON THE MOVE in the Middle East

Traditional pastoralism is facing difficult times in the Middle East today. The Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL) has been leading the Mediterranean Consortium's project here and has been exploring the many threats to both pastoralism and nature in the region (Lebanon, Jordan and Syria). Not only is the political context difficult, there is little understanding of the different types of pastoralism and transhumance there, and its real impacts on nature in light of changing climatic conditions. Policies have been unsupportive and even harmful for years and rangeland management takes little account of the knowledge of shepherds in decision-making.

Here you can admire the work of Asaad Saleh from Lebanon who portrays with a keen eye and great kindness the lives of Lebanese pastoralists...

La SPNL conduit le projet du Consortium Méditerranéen pour la culture et la nature relatif à la transhumance, au pastoralisme et aux effets du changement climatique sur la nature et sur ces pratiques traditionnelles au Liban, en Jordanie et en Syrie. Le photographe Asaad Saleh, qui dépeint la vie des pasteurs libanais avec un regard aiguisé et une grande bonté, représente le Liban lors de l'exposition internationale itinérante de photographies professionnelles « On the Move ». La SPNL sera présente lors du passage de cette exposition à Paris dans le cadre des Journées Européennes du Patrimoine, ce qui lui permettra d'ouvrir de nouvelles perspectives d'avenir en France.

[On the Move au Moyen-Orient](#)



Supporting Cultural Conservation Practices in the Mediterranean

Presented by:
Liza Zogib, DiversEarth

On behalf of the
Mediterranean Consortium for
Nature and Culture



MEDITERRANEAN
Consortium for Nature & Culture

Abstract:

The Mediterranean Consortium was established to understand and promote the strong links between nature and culture across the Mediterranean Basin. As a first step we have undertaken a Rapid Assessment of Cultural Conservation Practices, looking at a broad variety of activities and lifestyles, which in one way or another contribute positively to conservation goals. From traditional water management techniques, to culture-based agriculture and spiritually informed protection systems, the results are fascinating.

Through this project we aim to reinforce traditional practices, techniques and ways of living harmoniously with nature as well as celebrating the ingenuity of people all across the Mediterranean to protect and manage their lands, waters and resources. We hope that we can contribute to a real revival of such practices so that they remain - or become - robust enough to stand their ground in the 21st century.

Introduction

Ordinary people all over the Mediterranean Basin are the keepers of extraordinary ecological knowledge. Understanding and supporting this knowledge and the practices that are based on it is absolutely critical at a time when biodiversity and cultural diversity have never been more threatened.

Here we present a glimpse of the findings of a Rapid Assessment of Cultural Conservation Practices in the Mediterranean. Specifically we have looked at the Iberian Peninsula, North Africa (Morocco and Tunisia), Middle East (Lebanon, Jordan, Syria), Turkey, and Greece and the Balkans.

The Mediterranean Consortium for Nature and Culture is:



www.diversearth.org
www.medconsortium.org
www.onthemove-exhibition.com



A. Transhumance and nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralism

Transhumance, or the mobility of domestic herds, has been used by all pastoral societies as a method to reduce uncertainty and risk in the environment (including protection against disease outbreaks and droughts). Transhumance has survived as a widespread practice throughout the Mediterranean and temperate zone of southern Europe from the Neolithic era until today. Transhumance trails and grazing areas support a great variety of habitats, suitable for plants, small mammals, reptiles and insects (e.g. thyme and bees), while they also contribute to forest management and fire control. Moving herds supplies vultures, wolves and other carnivores with an important source of food and the continuous movement of flocks allows for a more economic use of water resources and contributes to the formation of unique landscapes.

B. Agro-pastoral systems based on local knowledge

There are many communities around the Mediterranean that continue to use traditional agro-pastoral systems based on local knowledge and cultural values. Traditional low impact agriculture along with community land/water management systems has shaped the landscape and is often linked with customary law and social cohesion. Such systems are indispensable for agro-biodiversity and often prevent unique and innovative methods of land management (e.g. Agdal, Morocco).

C. Sacred sites, holy places, sacred species, and the nature / religion linkage

There are many links between the sacred, the religious, and the environment in the Mediterranean. From sacred groves in Greece to transboundary pilgrimage routes, to Islamic belief systems and the many ways in which this interacts with nature conservation. Often times it is this religious / spiritual link with nature that makes for the most robust and sustainable practices in favour of the environment (e.g. Marabout, Tunisia, Sacred species, Turkey).

D. Traditional forestry and forest protection

Tahtao Alewites are a subgroup of Alewites in Anatolia - a religious minority group combining elements of Shi'ism with Sufism with some schools drawing influence from Tengrism and/or Zoroastrianism. Tahtao Alewites are believed to be ethnically Turkmen and specialise in forestry. 'Tahtao' literally means 'woodcutter'. This approach has a direct impact on the biodiversity of the forest's ecosystem. They have a vast knowledge of the habitat in the forest which leads to an effective resource management strategy. A unique and wonderful example of how cultural and spiritual values have a direct and useful impact on the environment and natural resources.

K. Salinas

A cultural practice mostly performed in coastal cities and nearby areas of the Mediterranean Sea. These are very old techniques which have generated artificial structures important for the local economy and the preservation of agricultural, fishery and livestock products. They are of exceptional importance to many species adapted to the brackish water and to provide essential nutrients to very remote areas. Creation of important biotopes for biodiversity, with species such as flamingos (e.g. Lebanon).

J. Traditional harvesting of food, medicinal plants and natural resources for other purposes

This type of harvesting is extremely important as it connects people very concretely to their natural environment. Food culture is absolutely at the heart of Mediterranean culture and much of the collection of wild food - and medicinal plants - is done by women.



I. Rituals, festivals, folklore

Throughout the Mediterranean there are celebrations and festivals that promote environmental awareness and protection such as carnivals that carry on the spirit of ancient celebrations for the coming of spring and nature's fertility. Included here are the songs, poetry, and stories, etc. that are linked to nature and which maintain and strengthen the interface between nature and culture everywhere (e.g. olive collection and festival, Tunisia).

H. Water management systems

The availability of water is of major concern in the Mediterranean. As such people have developed innovative mechanisms to cope throughout the centuries. Examples of water management systems are found all over the region and in many cases, are quite extraordinary (e.g. foggaras, Tunisia).

G. Sustainable hunting

Hunting is a real culture in the Mediterranean region, and while it can be harmful when unregulated, there are still examples of traditional and sustainable hunting techniques, such as falconry in Tunisia and cultural beliefs that protect certain species in Turkey.

F. Traditional (and unique) fishing techniques

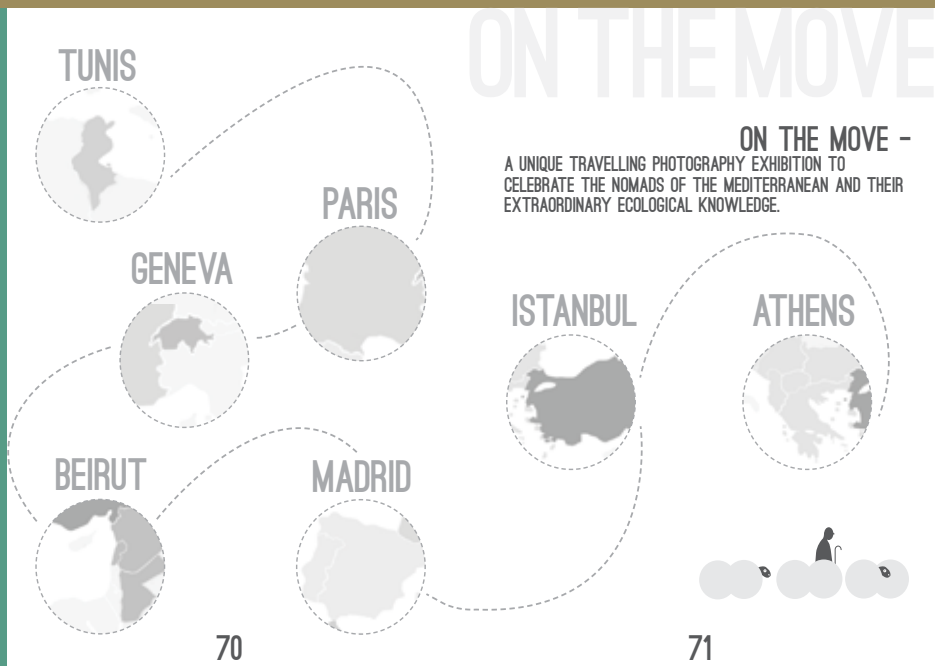
Across the Mediterranean Basin many different fishing methods and equipment can be identified. Such techniques are under significant threat from commercial fisheries and traditional materials are fast being replaced by modern, less sustainable ones. Some of the fishing methods considered are unique to individual places, for example the Charafin in the Gulf of Gabes, Tunisia.

E. Dry stone walls, architecture and other bio-climatic construction techniques

Environmentally friendly construction practices, which include dry stone masonry (used mainly for agriculture) and building with natural, recyclable materials (clay, thatched).

Dry stone masonry has long been linked to peoples of the Mediterranean, irrespective of race and religion, being based on practicality and necessity (overcoming natural restraints to support agricultural production, using readily available building materials). Dry stone constructions support many species of flora and fauna (invertebrates, insects, rodents, small birds), and building with natural materials reduces the footprint of the activity and produces recyclable constructions (e.g. Greece and Balkans).





ON THE MOVE -
A UNIQUE TRAVELLING PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE THE NOMADS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THEIR EXTRAORDINARY ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE.

The following timeline is from the Mediterranean Consortium publication "On the Move - for 10000 years | Biodiversity Conservation through Transhumance and Nomadic Pastoralism in the Mediterranean"

71

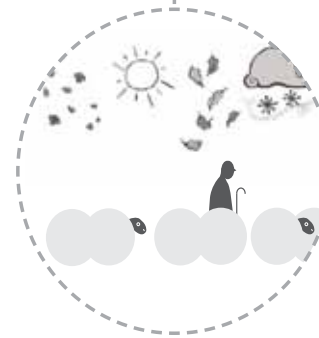
TRANSHUMANCE IS

LIVING PROOF THAT PEOPLE CAN LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE.

A 10'000 YEAR OLD PRACTICE.

THE SEASONAL MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND LIVESTOCK THROUGH THE LANDSCAPE IN SEARCH OF WATER AND PASTURE, TYPICALLY TO HIGHLANDS FOR SUMMER AND LOWLANDS FOR WINTER.

A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF ADAPTING TO RISK IN THE ENVIRONMENT.



TRANSHUMANCE FOR BIODIVERSITY

DROVER ROADS AND GRAZING AREAS BECOME HOME TO A DIVERSE ARRAY OF HABITATS, SUITABLE FOR MANY PLANT SPECIES, SMALL MAMMALS, REPTILES AND INSECTS.

TRANSHUMANT PASTORALISTS CONTRIBUTE CONCRETELY TO THE FORMATION OF UNIQUE LANDSCAPES AND CORRIDORS THAT SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY.

MOVING HERDS SUPPLY VULTURES, WOLVES AND MANY OTHER CARNIVORES WITH AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FOOD.

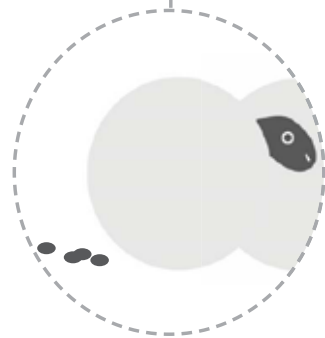
KEEPING ONE COW IN 'NORMAL' CONDITIONS MEANS PROVIDING IT WITH AROUND 50 LITRES OF WATER PER DAY. THE CONTINUED MOVEMENT OF HERDS MEANS THAT THEY ARE ALWAYS FINDING FRESH GRAZING AND NATURAL WATER SUPPLIES.

IT CONTRIBUTES SUBSTANTIALLY TO FOREST MANAGEMENT AND FIRE CONTROL.

TRANSHUMANCE FACILITATES ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CREATION OF CARBON SINKS IN THE GROUND (UP TO 100 TONS OF CO2 PER HECTARE).

THE MOVEMENT OF HERDS FERTILIZES THE SOIL REGULARLY (3 TONS OF MANURE DAILY PER 1.000 SHEEP OR 100 COWS).

THE HERDS SPREAD SEEDS OVER LONG DISTANCES (ABOUT 5 MILLION SEEDS AT 20 KM EVERY DAY PER HERD).



SURVIVAL

WATER IS BECOMING SCARCE AND IT IS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO FIND WATER SOURCES.

MIGRATION ROUTES ARE BEING FRAGMENTED AT AN ALARMING RATE BY VEHICLE ROADS, PRIVATE LANDS, PROTECTED AREAS FOR CONSERVATION AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

IN MOST CASES THE NOMADS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ARE FACING GROWING HARDSHIP AND THEIR LIFEWAYS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY THREATENED.

IN MOST COUNTRIES THERE IS A LACK OF RECOGNITION AND RESPECT FOR TRANSHUMANCE AND NOMADIC PASTORALISM.

IN MAY 2014 THE TRANSHUMANT SHEPHERDS IN SPAIN STRUGGLED TO FIND WATER IN 40° HEAT. IN MOUNT PINDOS, GREECE, THE SHEPHERDS COULD NOT MOVE BECAUSE OF SNOW A CONTINUALLY CHANGING CLIMATE, WITH HEIGHTENED EXTREMES, MAKES LIFE DIFFICULT - BUT ADAPTABILITY PREVAILS, AT LEAST FOR NOW.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICIES OFTEN HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON MOBILE PASTORALISTS.

THE MORE DIFFICULT THE TRANSHUMANCE BECOMES THE LESS LIKELY THE YOUNGER GENERATION ARE TO KEEP THE LIFESTYLE.





Local conservation group clean up campaign | Anjar IBA

Restoring Hima Ecosystem functions through promoting sustainable community-based water management systems

Water demand in Lebanon is an issue which is not only affected by physical conditions of the resource, but it is highly related to crises-crossed formulation constituting tribal, sectarian and political faultiness, which water scarcity can easily provoke. Anjar and Kfar Zabad are two villages on the level plain of the Bekaa valley. Those villages are characterized by high biodiversity value due to their richness in water resources. They are comprised of a marshland formed by rivers and springs, creating a typical habitat for African Eurasian water birds, and breeding habitat for globally threatened Syrian Serin bird which led to its announcement, by SPNL and BirdLife International, as an IBA in 2005. Also the area was declared as a Hima (community based management system), by SPNL and the municipality of Anjar and Kfar Zabad, due to its high biodiversity and livelihood values, and the need to promote sustainable management of resources. The marshlands sustain the livelihood of the surrounding farmers and fisheries and provide the fresh water supply to over 30 villages around.

Nevertheless, the area suffers from degradation of its water resources which is leading to the destruction of the present biodiversity and to serious problems in water quality and quantity. This is due to over extraction, and misuse of water resources caused mainly by unsustainable agricultural practices. Also water supply and shares seems to be a conflicting issue between different stakeholders supported by the different political and sectarian background, aggravated by climate change stresses.

Restaurer les fonctions des écosystèmes des Hima à travers la promotion d'une gestion communautaire de l'eau

Anjar et Kfar Zabad sont deux Hima de la vallée de la Békaa présentant une valeur élevée en termes de biodiversité grâce à la richesse de leurs ressources en eau. Les marais constituent l'habitat typique du serin de Syrie globalement menacé, assurent la subsistance des fermiers et des pêcheries locales et fournissent de l'eau douce à plus de 30 villages aux alentours.

Néanmoins, cette zone souffre de sérieux problèmes de dégradation en quantité et en qualité de l'eau, ce qui menace directement la biodiversité.

Le but de ce projet, financé par la fondation MAVA, est d'améliorer la gestion quantitative et qualitative de l'eau et de promouvoir son utilisation durable à travers une gestion communautaire.



Irrigation canals provided to Anjar community and farmers through Mava project

The three years project, funded by the MAVA Foundation, aims to restore Hima Ecosystem functions through promoting sustainable community-based water management systems, with the following specific objectives:

- 1-To improve the management of water quality and quantity used for agriculture from the canals, wells and wetlands in both Anjar and Kfar Zabad Himas.
- 2- To promote the sustainable, community based practice of water use for Agriculture by the farmers of Anjar and Kfar Zabad.
- 3- To improve the valuation and appreciation of the Hima water ecosystems in Anjar and Kfar Zabad IBA for people and nature.

The project would achieve these objectives by developing three major strategies in order to tackle the above threats as follows:

- 1- Improvement of water infrastructure, management and monitoring in Anjar
- 2- Implementation of Agri/Environmental awareness campaign in Anjar and Kfar Zabad
- 3- Igniting wise water management in Kfar Zabad





Migratory Soaring Birds Le projet MSB

Mainstreaming Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds into Key Productive Sectors along the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway (MSB) is a GEF funded project that SPNL contributed to, in order to ensure that globally threatened and significant populations of soaring birds that migrate along the Rift Valley/Red Sea flyway are effectively maintained. Through multiple activities implemented in Lebanon, the project succeeded in many achievements contributed by SPNL, out of which few are mentioned below.

Developed a Soaring Bird Atlas

The soaring bird atlas was completed and it was divided into 3 sections that involve: the introductions, families of soaring birds, as well as the species account section. The introductions section started with the Introduction to the African-Eurasian flyway, then to soaring birds, threats affecting MSBs, and benefits of MSBs and the importance of Lebanon. The families of the soaring birds' section tackled the broad-spectrum and diverse physical characteristics that distinguish the various families of MSBs from one another. In some cases, notes were added to some of the MSBs families, only when it was found that there was another aspect or characteristic that distinguishes them from other MSBs families. The species account section entails the description of the birds' physical characteristics, status, feeding and habitat for all soaring bird species. The overall atlas's aim is to show the diverse migratory soaring bird species in Lebanon along with the necessary data.

Production of a business plan for sustainable hunting management in Lebanon

A business plan for the hunting sector was produced in the year 2012 in which the main stakeholders involved in the hunting sector has been identified. The business plan involved the relevant stakeholders in order to show the importance of this sector since many of the families rely on this business. Interviews and field visits were done with the relevant stakeholders, essential information was collected (especially from hunters, merchants, hunting reserves, and hunting clubs).

The business plan involved projection of the hunting sector over the years to come, taking into account the current circumstances and challenges they face. This project has positive implications in showing what can be further done to help this sector flourish.

GIS maps

GIS maps were done for MSBs flyway, hunting hot spots, and a map for game bird breeding farms, nature reserves, private reserves and existing shooting clubs.

Experts in birds were consulted and asked about the recommended methods in order to draw the MSBs flyways. The common aspect which they proposed was related to identifying locations of soaring birds as the basis for recognizing the main migration routes of each species.

National Plan on existing shooting clubs, private hunting reserves, game bird breeding farm, existing protected classified sites, potential public and private hunting areas

The project's aim is to analyze the stakeholders' situation and to provide suggestions and mitigation measures that will aid the Ministry of Environment towards sustainable hunting. This also helped in attempting to seek out the responsible hunting areas that can be assigned in the future based on certain criteria that meet with international standards thereby decreasing the level of illegal hunting.

Outcomes

SPNL through the MSB project has developed also State of Lebanon's Birds and IBAs, Field Guide for MSBs, manual for Bird Identification, Hunter's Guide with its questions and answers. Further, trainings has been done to education coordinators from Ministry of Education, and to Law Enforcement officers on bird identification, conservation and hunting law. Currently, SPNL is working on the identification of 10 responsible hunting areas (RHAs) based on scientific objective criteria.



Black storks at Hima Kfar Zabad next to visitor center | © Jiro Osee

La SPNL participe au projet soutenu par BirdLife International, le PNUD et le Fonds mondial pour l'environnement intitulé « Prise en compte de la préservation des oiseaux planeurs migrants dans les secteurs productifs-clés le long de la voie migratoire de la vallée du Rift/mer Rouge » et s'assure que les oiseaux globalement menacés qui empruntent ce corridor sont efficacement protégés. Les principales contributions de la SPNL à ce projet, financé par GEF, sont : le développement de l'Atlas des oiseaux planeurs, la production d'un plan de développement pour une gestion durable de la chasse au Liban, l'élaboration de cartes SIG de la répartition des oiseaux planeurs, de cartes des goulots d'étranglement des voies migratoires, et la rédaction d'un rapport sur les clubs de tir, les zones de chasse privée, les élevages de gibier à plumes, les sites classés protégés et les sites potentiels de chasse publique et privée.



Upper Akkar region

SEARCH project Le projet SEARCH

The Social, Ecological, and Agricultural Resilience in the face of Climate Change (SEARCH) project, is a three year regional project working in five countries (Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon) funded by the European Union (EU), aiming to develop and pilot a resilience framework for local action planning capacities and methodologies in order to increase climate change resilience through joint learning, planning and testing by stakeholders in demonstration sites. Its overall objective is to increase social and ecological resilience in watershed ecosystems of the Mediterranean region in the face of climate change and other drivers of change.

The "SEARCH" project is implemented in Lebanon by two non-governmental organizations, the Society for Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL) and MADA, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature- Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN/ROWA). In Lebanon, the project is being implemented in the Upper Akkar watershed located in the North Governorate. This region is a critical and unique zone harboring various natural ecosystems and habitats delineated by changes in types and structures as well as differences in human impacts caused by discrepancies in livelihoods and exploitation of natural resources by local communities.

The SEARCH project initiative is based on a participatory approach bridging the gap between local and national stakeholders. From the initial phases of the project, SEARCH focused on working with the local communities in Upper Akkar to build their capacities, raise awareness and teach them about climate change related issues that are affecting their villages. Participatory approaches, stakeholders' analysis and climate change adaptation tools were used throughout the project duration where the locals became acquainted with the tools and could use them for their benefit. The project focuses on three study villages, namely: Qobayat, Andaket, Aydamoun-Karmchbat that are located in the Upper Akkar area. This area is known to be very sensitive to climate change and other drivers of change.

Next, the project witnessed social and ecological vulnerability assessments (VA) in the three study villages. Accordingly, different methods and tools were used in order to come up with qualitative and quantitative data, and reach a concrete assessment that identifies the vulnerability of those sites in the face of climate change. After completion of the vulnerability assessments in the three study villages with their respective results along with the adaptive capacity (strengths/weaknesses), a resilience strategy was finally adopted based on the four conceptual components that include: Diversity, Capital & Innovation, Self-Organization and Learning. The Resilience Framework will actively empower and build resilience of the local community in the face of climate change and other drivers of change. Another major achievement of the SEARCH project



Rehabilitation of water reservoir at Upper Akkar region

was the establishment a National Steering Committee (NSC) with representatives from the different ministries as well as private institutions. The NSC was involved throughout the project duration and collaborated with the locals for the benefit of the project.

Project results & outcomes

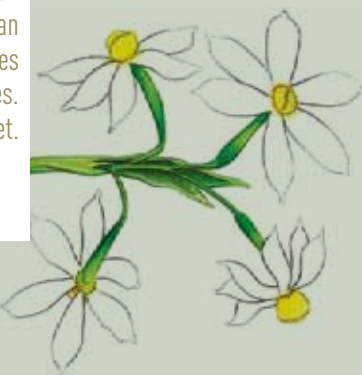
The final phase of the SEARCH project witnessed the implementation of pilot projects as a result of the previous assessments that were conducted. This was also done in consolidation with the local community. The vulnerability assessments presented that Aydamoun- Karmchbat is the most vulnerable of the three villages from the ecological and social levels and thus, needs urgent support.

The first project targeted the rehabilitation of two old water tanks and their networks in the village of Rwaiymeh (in Karmchbat area) in addition to the installation of a new plastic water tank so that water will reach all households in the village even the ones located at higher levels than the old water tanks. This helped address the issue of water shortage and improved the quantity of water available for both potable and agricultural usages. Water is now available for more than 60 households.

In addition, three smaller activities were implemented; the first was providing the local women with utensils to produce dairy products; and the second included supplying local men with beehives to produce honey to sell. These activities were seen as enhancing the livelihoods of the locals by creating alternative sources of income. Lastly, an educational booklet was developed. The aim of this educational booklet is to increase knowledge and raise awareness on water related issues, climate change and forest conservation in the Upper Akkar watershed targeting women, children and farmers who are seen as the most sensitive and influential groups.

As the SEARCH project has come to end, a toolkit was developed that will be used as a guiding document to highlight all the tools, methodologies and approaches that were used throughout the 3 years project focusing on the success of each tool for each stage of the project. The importance of this toolkit will be highlighted in the replication and up-scaling of the SEARCH tools and methodologies at both the local and national levels.

Search est un projet régional d'une durée de trois ans, financé par l'Union Européenne et couvrant le Liban, la Palestine, la Jordanie, l'Égypte et le Maroc. Son objectif est d'améliorer la résistance sociale et économique dans les écosystèmes des bassins hydrologiques de la région méditerranéenne face aux changements climatiques. Le projet SEARCH est mis en œuvre au Liban en partenariat avec la SPNL et l'association MADA. Il souligne l'importance d'une approches ascendante de gestion en participant en termes de planification avec les communautés locales. Ainsi la vision commune partagée par tous les acteurs et les habitants sert de base pour le projet.





Enhancing livelihoods of local Lebanese communities in Hima territories; from social, economic and natural perspectives

SPNL started to implement the project “Enhancing livelihoods of local Lebanese communities in Hima territories; from social, economic and natural perspectives” funded by the European Commission on June 1, 2014. The project will be realized over a time span of three years and it will take place in three Himas in the Bekaa region, namely Anjar/ Kfar Zabad, El-Fakiha and Ain Zebdeh/Kherbet Qanafar.

These villages are rural areas that depend mainly on agriculture and grazing as their economic source of living. Due to the impact of the Syrian crisis and the influx of Syrian refugees, the community’s economic situation deteriorated further. This project will first implement preliminary rapid assessments on the current situation of the involved Hima sites which will be developed in a participatory approach in order to upgrade livelihood status and stimulate economic recovery of the local communities through promoting alternative income related to nature conservation. Four particularly vulnerable groups will be targeted and provided with economic support: shepherds, shepherd women, fishermen and local women; aiming to upgrade their livelihood status. The activities they will be involved in will range from trainings on the correct hygiene procedures to be followed in the production and marketing of dairy products, to the production of traditional Lebanese musical instruments such as the tabliah and the rabeba and the carving of traditional wooden handicrafts, in addition to support of traditional artisanal skills.

In the second part of the project the emphasis will be put on outreach and sustainability. An outreach educational program (SNOW) addressing school children on natural resources (including educational trails, presentations, musical workshops, outdoor activities in the Himas and the development of an educational manual) will be implemented with the objective of raising awareness in the new generation and training educators on environmental issues.

Finally, the lessons learned will be disseminated. A space for marketing local products will be provided in order to enhance the community economic conditions and, at the same time, provide visibility for the project and the importance of conserving and protecting nature.

Le projet de développement économique et social des communautés locales des Himas Financé par la Commission Européenne, ce projet a pour objectif de développer des sources de revenus alternatifs liés à la conservation et à la protection de la nature auprès de la population de trois Himas, essentiellement rurale et durement touchée par la crise en Syrie et l’afflux de réfugiés syriens dans la région de la Békaa. Cette approche participative ira de la formation aux conditions d’hygiène dans la fabrication et la commercialisation des produits laitiers à celles d’instruments de musique traditionnels et d’objets d’artisanat,

La deuxième phase du projet mettra l’accent sur la sensibilisation et la durabilité en matière environnementale à travers le programme éducatif SNOW destiné aux enseignants et à la jeune génération.

MED-PHARES project

“Integrated Management Strategies for the development of the lighthouses and semaphores in the Mediterranean” is the title of the new project involving four Mediterranean countries.

The overall objective of the project is the contribution to the enhancement of the coastal cultural and historical heritage related to navigation and its integration into strategies and policies for the management of coastal areas. Various activities will take place in the four countries of cooperation (Italy, France, Tunisia and Lebanon), leading to the creation of a new model for the rehabilitation and management of the lighthouses, beacons, and semaphores of the Mediterranean in order to promote these unique resources throughout a sustainable touristic development plan.

MED-PHARES officially started on December 19th 2013 spanning for two years and is funded by the European Union within the ENPI-CBCMED program. (Cross-border cooperation in the Mediterranean)

Le projet MED-PHARES, financé par l’Union Européenne et lancé en décembre 2013, a pour objectif de promouvoir l’héritage culturel et historique des phares et des sémaphores en Méditerranée et d’encourager leur prise en compte dans la gestion des zones côtières particulièrement en Italie, en France, en Tunisie et au Liban, grâce à un nouveau modèle de gestion et de réhabilitation basé sur un plan de développement touristique durable.



MED-SCAPES project

Development of Landscape character assessment as a tool effective conservation of natural heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean



MedScapes is a two-year project funded by the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument for the Mediterranean Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme (ENPI). Partners come from Cyprus, Greece, Jordan and Lebanon and are led by the Laona Foundation for the Conservation and Regeneration of the Cypriot Countryside. Other project partners are the Open University Cyprus, the University of Aegean, the Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos from Greece, the American University of Beirut and the Society for the Protection of Nature of Lebanon, as well as the German Jordanian University and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature of Jordan.

In addition to working on the development in pilot form of a holistic system for the diagnosis and mapping of Eastern Mediterranean habitats, for the enhancement of habitat monitoring, protection of natural heritage and more effective mitigation of climate change / desertification, SPNL is working on a specific work package related to the Hima approach revived by SPNL.

MedScapes est un projet sur deux ans financé par l’Instrument Européen de Voisinage et de Partenariat (IEVP) pour le « Bassin Maritime Méditerranée » avec pour partenaires Chypre, la Grèce, la Jordanie et le Liban. Il est conduit par la fondation Laona pour la conservation et la régénération de l’espace rural chypriote. Son objectif est de développer sous forme de projet pilote un système holistique de cartographie, de diagnostic et de suivi des habitats de la Méditerranée Est, de protection du patrimoine naturel et de prévention contre le changement climatique et la désertification. Le programme de travail de la SPNL s’inscrit dans le cadre du concept spécifique de la Hima, basé sur l’approche communautaire des actions de préservation et de conservation de l’environnement. Près de 10 zones rurales ont été déclarées aires de conservation communautaires par les autorités locales dans les pays partenaires.

The expected results of the work package is a cadre of trained personnel in the implementation of Hima community based approach, development of the best practice for use of Hima approach and LCA in the Med Basin, Around 10 rural communities declared by local authorities as Hima conserved areas in partner countries,

Hima Guideline Manual developed, and a youtube documentary on community involvement process is produced, and translated to local language.



R-KNOW project

The "Regional Knowledge Network on Systemic Approaches to Water Resources Management" project is a three year regional project working in five countries (Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt and Morocco) where its main goal is to promote systemic approaches to integrated water resource management, throughout the region among researchers, experts, practitioners and other stakeholders with an interest in this domain. The Network is composed of a nodal structure. This means that it will make use of already existing national and regional networks and integrate these networks into a well- organized cluster of networks with the specific objective to extract and disseminate the aforementioned systemic approaches. Everyone and every institution that has information to share and/or is looking for such information can become a member of the Network. In this way, the Network will in particular enrich and strengthen the experience gained in specific demonstration projects in selected countries.

Our vision is that R-KNOW will become the market place of choice for exchanging knowledge on practical and participatory integrated water management approaches in the Arab Region.

Moreover, the importance of this network is highlighted in the creation of new knowledge to systemic approaches for water management. In addition to this, the R-KNOW network will incorporate practical knowledge (data, information & knowledge) from different knowledge sources and suppliers on four thematic areas that include water governance; water, food and energy; sustainable water technologies; water and climate change. In addressing these thematic areas, R-KNOW will consider a number of cross-cutting issues including, but not limited to ecosystems rehabilitation (wetlands, rivers, services, etc.), gender mainstreaming, water security, capacity development and trans-boundary issues. Each of the four thematic areas will have a knowledge node, followed by network members and network support members who are willing to extract and disseminate information on the aforementioned topics. In addition to this, a case study will be chosen for each thematic area by the partner countries to be highlighted as a major success in the network.



Water Rehabilitation and Management at Hima Kfar Zabad Wetlands and Springs project

Through the generous support of the Japanese Embassy "Grass Roots" fund, SPNL has implemented the rehabilitation in Hima Kfar Zabad within the period of March & July 2014. The project aimed to improve the water management of Hima Kfar Zabad Wetlands for people and nature. The implemented project contributed to:

- 1) The rehabilitation of the Maasaya pool
- 2) The control of the water distribution and usage inside and on the entries of the Hima through the installation of water sluices
- 3) The creation of drinking fountain for public purposes from the Massaya pool.



Vocational Trainings on Carpet Weaving in el-Fekha Village and pruning in Aanjar/Kfar Zabad

Through the generous support of USAID & the Lebanon Civic Support Initiative - OTI Lebanon, SPNL implemented the project which took place between December 2013 and June 2014. This project aimed to offer alternative income generating activities for women and young farmers, thus mitigating the Syrian crisis tensions in those area and reducing resource and economic strains on the affected Hima communities.

The Hima El-Fekha section was built on the UN Women previous initiative aiming to empower the leadership role of rural women and revive the production of traditional hand made carpets. OTI contributed to disseminating this craft to a group of women thus boosting their livelihoods, where around 30 Lebanese and Syrian women were trained on how to weave handmade carpets from natural wool. They were also provided by the needed equipment (wooden loom, metal loom, weaving wheel, scissors, and comb). However in Hima Anjar, the project benefited around 30 Lebanese and Syrian men who were trained on new pruning techniques where trainees were provided with the pruning equipment too.





Revive Traditional Approaches for the Benefit of the Future

Hima Andket lies within the upper Akkar region which is characterized with high forest cover (21% as compared to the 13% average in the whole country). Unfortunately, a combination of factors including lack of environmental awareness, bad basic infrastructure and poverty are posing a threat to the region's environment and preventing equitable Access to natural resources. Several areas are being threatened by illegal uncontrolled bird and wildlife shooting, overgrazing of livestock, logging, forest fires and urban development.

This project, funded by the EU, was implemented in partnership with Andket municipality in order to achieve the following overall objective: To promote conservation of communal natural resources through revival of traditional community based approaches. While the specific objectives concentrated on:

- Empower municipalities-local authorities and strengthen cooperation through local committee.
- Raise the capacity of municipalities in environmental conservation through awareness on the Hima approach for conservation of natural resources, especially forests and water resources.
- Promote protection of KBAs through establishment of Hima site-community based conservation.
- Support the establishment of scout camping site for awareness and training of the youth
- Support the adaptation of traditional but actually applied management of water resources to the new needs of agriculture and the communities.
- Ensure possible replication through dissemination of lessons learned from the project.

Demonstrating Community-based Sustainable Management of Important Eastern Mediterranean KBA in Anti-Lebanon Mountains

The Anti-Lebanon mountain range on the Lebanese border constitutes a priority KBA "Western Anti Lebanon Mountains KBA" in Lebanon, characterized with globally threatened species (plants, reptiles & mammals). This KBA is an area of degraded natural ecosystem that suffered from overgrazing for hundreds of years leading to desertification. This situation is aggravated by the continuous overstocking and overgrazing practices in addition to the semi-desert climatic situation prevailing in the region. This marginalized high poverty area has the highest concentration of trans-human shepherd grazing practices in Lebanon (more than 15,000 heads of goat & sheep), for more than 25 shepherds where the suggested Hima site for sustainable grazing is around 56 Km².

The target site is characterized by the close interaction between the environment and the daily life cycle of the nearby human settlements. Economic and social values of rearing sheep and goat is still very strong among the population in this particular region of Lebanon for their livelihood; even though these practices are affecting the ecological sustainability of the region; this is due mainly to the absence of alternatives for their livelihood. Main current threat is overgrazing and overstocking, in addition to uncontrolled hunting, which is practiced in some parts of these KBAs.



The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund-CEPF funded project goal is to improve the conservation status of key biodiversity areas in Lebanon.

Project overall objective: To reduce the grazing threatening activities in Anti-Lebanon Mountain KBA in Lebanon by end of the project through community based conservation and management.

Component 1: Adoption of community based Hima approach for sustainable grazing in Anti-Lebanon KBA

Component 2: Develop a zonation plan for sustainable grazing, and conservation of Important Plant Area

Component 3: Develop a Hima management plan for the site ensuring the protection of globally threatened species, conservation of natural habitat remnants and sustainable use of resources within the participatory approaches of the Hima

Component 4: Develop shepherd income generation plan based on the revival of traditional grazing practices

Component 5: Raise awareness among stakeholders



Promoting Hima Women Empowerment for Conservation and Livelihood

Women have a basic, influential, and guiding role in the communities and in raising up new generations. Moreover, rural women have differentiated responsibilities for maintaining the household (food, medicine, fire, water...), where many of these activities are dependent on the environment. Therefore, the state of the environment has a massive impact on women and their role and responsibilities, and affects their health, their labor, etc.

This project addresses the involvement of women in the sustainable management of natural resources, conservation of globally threatened species at IBAs/Himas, and supports the women in generating income to maintain their livelihoods in close connection with protected sites.

The main goal of the project is to empower women politically and economically, thus enhancing the livelihood of rural women through the revival of the Hima approach in the sustainable management of the IBAs of Lebanon and conservation of globally threatened species. Four Hima sites are involved in the programme, and these are Aanjar, Kfar Zabad, Al Fekha, and Al Qoleileh/Mansouri. The communities around those Hima sites are rural and depend mainly on agriculture for their livelihoods, but also possess different characteristics such as diverse religions, sects and alienation to different political parties. This programme targets 90 rural women residing around the involved Hima sites who are traditionally excluded from both decision-making and economic spheres of the community.

The project is funded by UN Women Fund for Gender Equality, and extends for 3 years (2013-2015).

Les femmes jouent un rôle d'influence au sein des communautés, notamment en matière d'éducation des nouvelles générations. De plus, les femmes des régions rurales exercent des responsabilités différenciées dans la tenue du ménage (nourriture, eau, feu, médicaments, etc) et l'environnement a un impact majeur sur plusieurs activités qui en dépendent étroitement.

Le projet d'une durée de trois ans (2013-2015-), est financé par le Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes. Il porte sur l'implication des femmes dans la gestion durable des ressources naturelles, la préservation des espèces globalement menacées dans les « Hima » et les zones importantes pour la conservation des oiseaux et il aide par ailleurs ces femmes à générer des revenus pour maintenir leur ménage en relation étroite avec les sites protégés, à travers le renouveau du concept de « Hima » pour une gestion durable des ressources naturelles. Cinq « Hima » sont concernées par ce programme.

Promouvoir la responsabilisation des femmes des « Hima » pour la préservation de l'environnement et le développement de leurs moyens de subsistance



SPNL Souk Al Hima

By end of the project, the following outcomes shall be achieved within the local communities:

- Women groups should have increased understanding on Hima approach and proactive action on natural resources sustainable use, through organizing different training workshops on Hima approach, sustainable use of natural resources, conservation of globally threatened species, and site local action plans.
- Women groups should have raised voice in the local committee for the sustainable management of the site, through organizing different capacity building trainings on CEDAW and right-based approach, leadership, decision making, and group work collective skills, in addition to initiating women legal cooperatives within the sites.
- Women groups should benefit from new job opportunities and income generating activities within the sites, through developing ecotourism and marketing plans, organizing training workshops on the skills needed for the identified job opportunities and how to start a small business, manage it, generate income, and manage financials in it. Furthermore, women will be provided with the needed tools and equipment for the identified job opportunities and various marketing approaches will be used to support women such as branding, brochures, linkage with SPNL website, festivals... etc.
- Rural women and decision makers should show increased interest to involve women in the protected area management, through exchanging visits between the Hima sites, developing a guide including the success stories and lessons learned, and using different media tools to disseminate these lessons.

A l'issue de ce projet, les objectifs suivants devraient être atteints au sein des communautés locales :

- Les groupes de femmes auraient appris à mieux comprendre l'approche de la « Hima » et les actions proactives pour une utilisation durable des ressources naturelles, la protection des espèces globalement menacées et les plans d'action locaux.
- Les femmes devraient avoir plus d'influence au sein de leur communauté, grâce à des sessions de formation de renforcement des capacités, du leadership et de la prise de décision.
- Elles devraient bénéficier de nouvelles opportunités de travail et d'activités génératrices de revenus, grâce au développement de l'écotourisme et des plans de gestion, des ateliers de formation à la gestion des micro-entreprises et des coopératives.
- Le matériel et l'équipement nécessaires à des activités spécifiques leur seraient fournis et diverses approches de commercialisation de leurs produits élaborées.



Nahla | Hima El-Fekha

El-Fekha Carpet Weaving

The origin of the carpet craft of el-Fekha comes from the town of Bergama which gave its name to the district of Bergama situated on the north-western coast of Turkey, in the Province of Izmir. The history of carpet weaving in Bergama dates back to the 11th century - when Turkish migration to the area started.

The carpet making craft was introduced to Lebanon - more precisely in the Akkar region in the villages of Aidamoun and el-Kwashra - during the Ottoman occupation, in late 19th century.

This craft reached el-Fekha village in the beginning of the 20th century through the Succarieh family who married one of its daughters to a man from Aidamoun. When she returned to her birth-village, el-Fekha, she brought this skill with her. That was around the year 1920.

Every house in el-Fekha used to produce its own carpets, blankets, and covers with the loom technique. However, today, with the advent of the mechanized industry, the handicraft of carpets is nearly extinct, due to the fact that this handicraft requires a long, difficult, and demanding process, so women and young girls nowadays prefer to work in other fields with less effort and more economic profit.

Only one woman, Nahla Succarieh, still weaves carpets from natural wool and dyes them with natural colors extracted from plants, trees, leaves and fruits such as walnut, onion, pomegranate, etc.

Les tapis traditionnels d'El-Fekha

Cet artisanat remonte au 11ème siècle et trouve son origine dans la ville de Bergama, située sur la côte nord-ouest de Turquie, dans la province d'Izmir. Ces tapis, robustes et très décoratifs, représentent un témoignage du mode de vie pastoral des Yörük, clans qui peuplaient la région à cette époque. Cet artisanat traditionnel, introduit au Liban durant l'occupation ottomane au 18ème siècle, a aujourd'hui presque disparu avec l'industrie mécanisée et la SPNL s'est engagée à le relancer dans le cadre du projet Hima El-Fekha: l'équipement nécessaire a été fourni (métiers à tisser, roues de filage, ciseaux, peignes etc..) et trente femmes du village formées au tissage de ces tapis en laine naturelle.



SPNL through the project "Promoting Hima Women Empowerment for Conservation and Livelihood", funded by the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality (UNW FGE) is planning to empower el-Fekha women through the revival of this cultural handicraft. Mrs. Nahla Succarieh has trained a group of women on all the stages of carpet weaving in order to acquire the needed skills for this handicraft for which the required equipment and tools has been provided. A marketing expert and a designer will be hired in order to market the products and introduce new and modern designs with smaller sizes than the original ones, which can be sold easier.





Oud and Hima - Ras Baalbeck

Similarly to all targeted sites Hima el-Fekha is characterized by the close interaction between the environment and the daily life cycle of the nearby human settlements. One of those cultural features is the Oud handicraft which is found in the village of Ras Baalbak since many decades. The Oud is a traditional Mediterranean musical instrument used in most of the Arabic music and songs. This instrument dates back to the sixth grandson of the Prophet Adam where evidence was first found of it around 5000 years ago in Iraq.

Hima Al Fekha has been declared for the sustainable grazing and hunting in the area and for enhancing the livelihood of the local community through eco-tourism. Part of empowering the community was marketing their products especially those that are linked to nature and can be used as an awareness message.

Integrating the Oud handicraft in the Hima ecotourism strategy is considered as a solid socio-economic alternative to the livelihood of the local community. The visitors of the Hima would enjoy visiting the artist in his workshop and learn about this traditional craft and extend their stay in the region by walking on the grazing trails, discovering the other typical handicraft represented by the carpet weaving and spend the night in the local guesthouses, generating economic benefit for the local community. Both handicrafts, Oud making and Carpet weaving are two main pillars in the new initiative Souk Al Hima by SPNL along with other handicrafts from other Himas in Lebanon. Mr. Nazih Ghadban is one of the remaining oud craftsmen in Ras Baalbeck – Lebanon. He masters the oud production and has his own workshop in his house in Ras Baalbeck.

La fabrication de ouds à Ras Baalbeck

Le oud est un instrument de musique traditionnel utilisé dans la plupart des chansons et musiques arabes et méditerranéennes. Son origine remonte à près de 5000 ans dans ce qui est actuellement l'Irak. L'intégration de la fabrication du oud dans la stratégie écotouristique des Himas est une sérieuse alternative socio-économique génératrice de revenus pour les habitants. Les visiteurs pourront rencontrer Mr. Nazih Ghadban, l'un des derniers maître artisan de ouds et de bouzouks au Liban.



Anjar Handcrafts L'artisanat de Anjar

Anjar is a village in the Bekaa Valley where the original Armenian community is settled. The area is a commercial center for the World Heritage Site of Qalaat Anjar. Hima Anjar is one of the most important areas in Lebanon for having the biggest wetlands where the Syrian Serin and the River Otter, globally threatened species, are well conserved.

The women of Anjar master several traditional Armenian handcrafts especially needlework. This production dates back to the Ottoman rule over the area. The women have been attached to this work for it is what reminds them of their home. Today, SPNL and through Souk Al Hima, is marketing their products to generate income to the local community and to raise the awareness over the Hima Anjar and the conservation of the Syrian Serin and River Otter.

Destiné à assurer des revenus supplémentaires à la communauté locale, l'atelier et le centre d'exposition d'objets d'artisanat traditionnel de la Hima Anjar sera créé par la SPNL, la municipalité de Anjar et la Croix du Secours Arménienne au Liban. Différents produits (broderies arméniennes, peintures, céramique, bijoux etc.) seront commercialisés et associés à la protection de la nature et aux espèces en danger dans les Himas, notamment le serin de Syrie et la loutre de rivière dans la Hima Anjar.



Hima Atelier in Anjar

The Anjar Hima Atelier represents an art workshop and display center, which will be established by SPNL, the municipality of the Anjar and The Armenian Relief Cross, aiming to empower the livelihoods & traditional knowledge of the women of the area, through supporting the production of traditional crafts including artisana (Armenia needle works, painting, metal, ceramic and jewelry ..etc). The center will also serve as a nature shop for traditional crafts too, where messages on the conservation of nature and globally endangered species of Hima sites, will be highlighted through the designed products.

The Anjar Hima Atelier is an outpost of careful and accomplished craft production of the women of Anjar. Here, skilled women use different handcrafted techniques including (Armenian needle works, Jewlery, painting.. etc) in order to come up with unique products which distinguish them as messengers for nature conservation through fine armenian art work , based on costumers taste. The Atelier will serve as a marketing entity for women products in Anjar village ,which represents a major attraction for more than 100,000 tourists a year who visit the area to enjoy the natural and cultural blend of this spot of Lebanon through visiting the Omayad World Hertiage Site, wetland resturants and Hima natural sites which expand from the mountain downward to the Wetlands, forming a spectacular landscape.

SOUK AL HIMA PRODUCTS

Souk Al Hima

SPNL's revival of the Hima concept is meant to protect nature, birds and biodiversity of Lebanon for people and to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources; on the other hand, to enhance the livelihood of the local community. SPNL has been engaged for the last two years in the promotion and revival of traditional handcrafts that are directly related to Lebanese culture and nature. «Souk» is the Arabic word for Market. Souk Al Hima program has been established by SPNL to answer to the needs of the local community in having their products marketed. In addition, SPNL is planning to open spaces in rural and urban areas where to raise awareness over the importance of products that are both related to nature and to Lebanese tradition. This initiative is with the support of UNW Fund for Gender Equality and other partners.



Needle work - Hima Anjar



Needle work - Hima Anjar



Tabl - Hima Kherbit Qanafar



Needle work - Hima Anjar



Carpet - Hima El-Fekha



Carpet - Hima El-Fekha



Carpet - Hima El-Fekha

LES PRODUITS DE SOUK AL HIMA

Souk Al Hima

La SPNL, à travers le renouveau du concept de Hima conjuguant conservation de la biodiversité au Liban et amélioration des moyens de subsistance de la communauté locale, s'est engagée dans le redémarrage et la promotion de l'artisanat traditionnel local directement lié à la nature et à la culture libanaise. Le mot « Souk » signifie « marché » en arabe. Le Souk des Himas permettra d'exposer et de commercialiser les produits en provenance des Himas, (en particulier les ouds et les tapis traditionnels) et d'attirer les visiteurs qui se verront proposer des services de restauration et d'hébergement et diverses activités sportives et culturelles au bénéfice des communautés concernées.



Oud - Hima Ras Baalbeck



Rababah-Hima Kherbit Qanafar



'Atlas' needle work - Hima Anjar



Bouzouq - Hima Ras Baalbeck



Accessories - Hima Qoleileh/Mansoureh

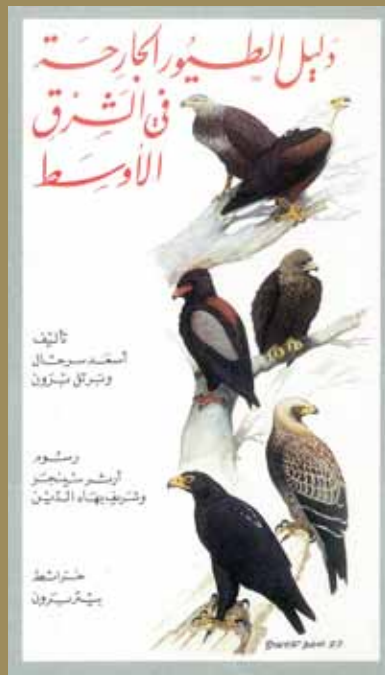


Glass items - Hima Qoleileh/Mansoureh

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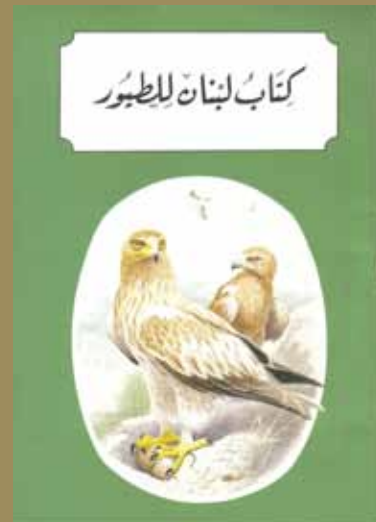
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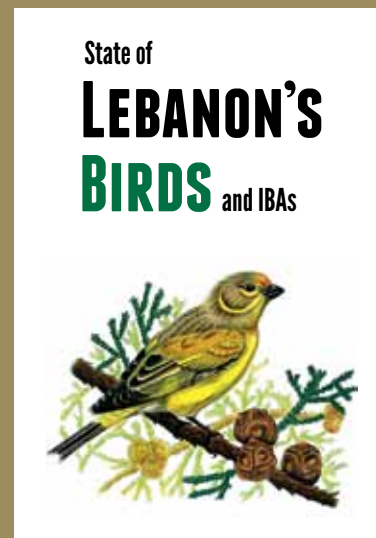
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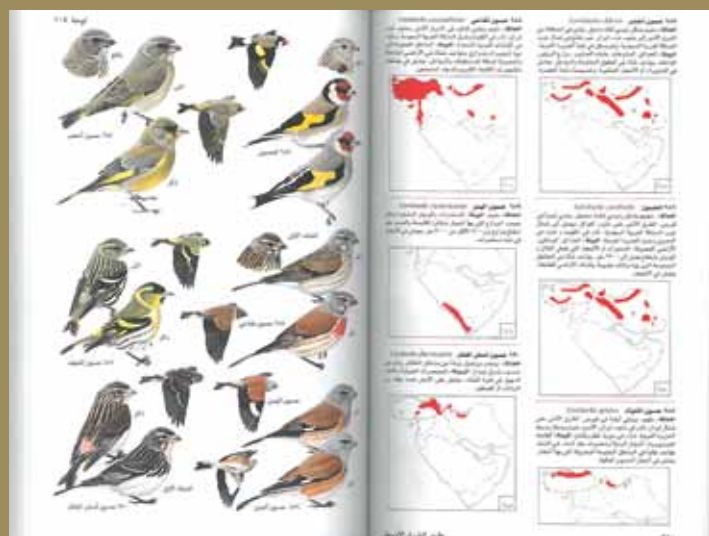
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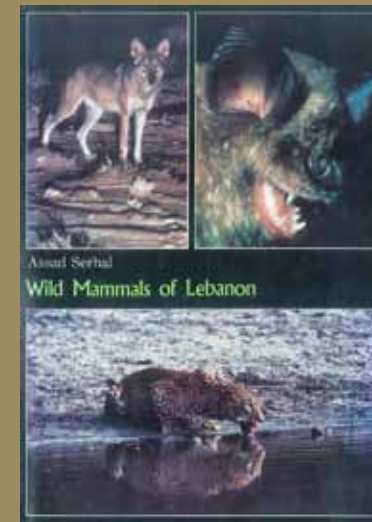


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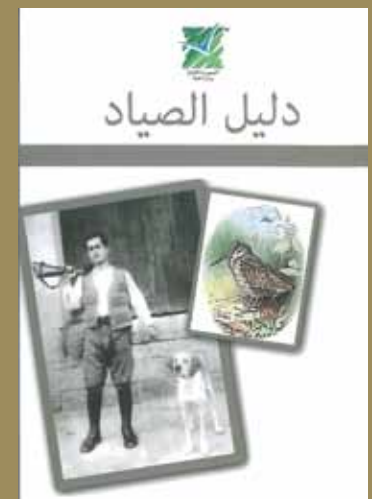
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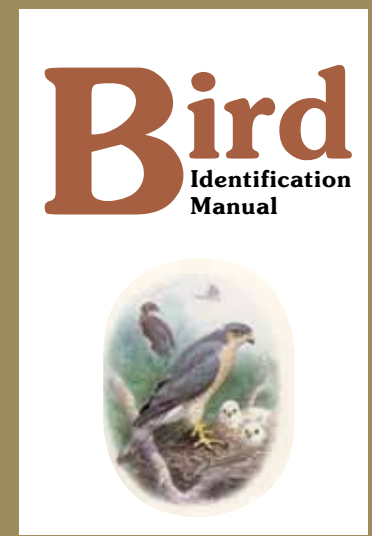


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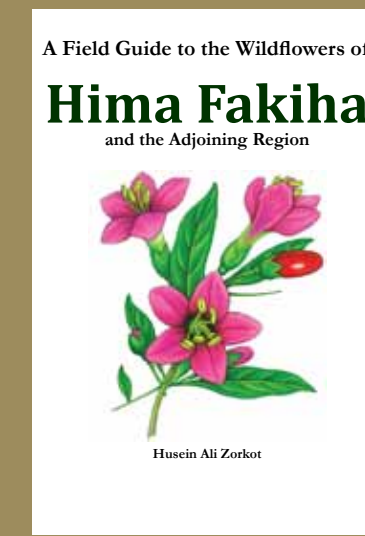


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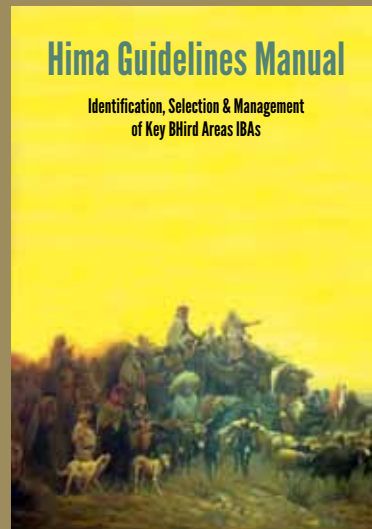
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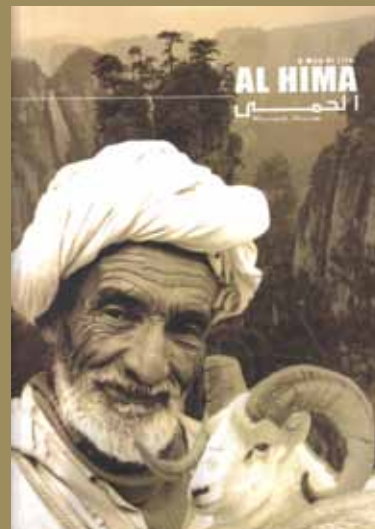
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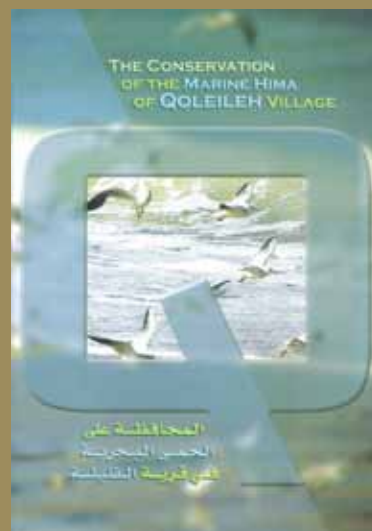
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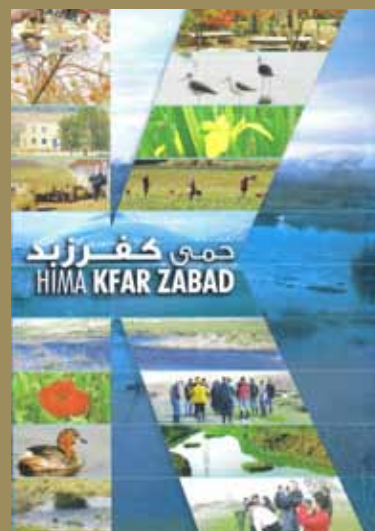
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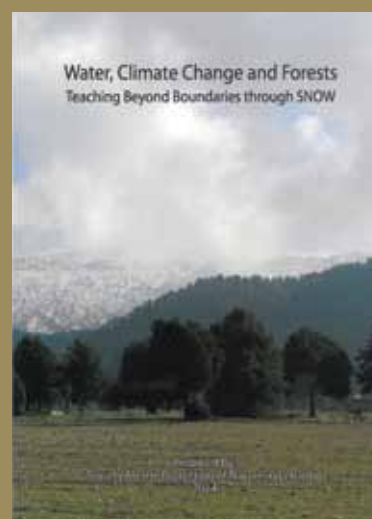


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