





## Hima Andaket, The Living Past

Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon – SPNL is one of the oldest environmental NGOs in Lebanon. It was established in 1983 under the Lebanese Laws, and licensed by the Ministry of Interior by decision no. 6/AD dated 8/1/1986.

SPNL is the national partner for BirdLife International in Lebanon. It considers birds as entry points for the conservation of wider natural resources, as they act as key indicators of the status and health of ecosystems. Ever since its establishment in 1986, SPNL advocated the establishment of protected areas and initiated with the Ministry of Environment the protected areas in Le anon.

After twenty years of experience working with nature reserves through government agencies, SPNL is now reviving and advocating the Hima community based conservation approach that has been prevalent in the Arabic region for more than 1500 years.

Hima Upper Akkar was established in 2009 and it includes several areas, in Aandket, KarmChbat and Qobayyat. This area extends in the North of Lebanon from Wadi Jhannam to Al Qammouaa, passing through Meshmesh and Fneidik, with an estimated area of 5270 hectares.

Upper Akkar Mountains are covered with forests of Lebanese Cedar trees, and Excelsa Juniperus, in addition to the presence of rocky slopes and grasslands for grazing. It is known to have the highest forest cover of 21% in comparison to 13% average in the whole country. This region is characterized by its high biodiversity (fauna and flora), by which there are at least 500 plant species, unique animal species such as the Persian squirrel and a huge number of birds (about 134 species) including the Syrian Serin that is globally threatened with extinction. This area is the first entry point for soaring bird migration into Lebanon.



### **Andaket**

Andaket, the green horizontal village, is stretched on one of Upper Akkar's mountains of Lebanon, North, 600 meters above sea level and 140 kilometers away from Beirut. Surrounds Andaket from the East and North is Syria, West Tripoli, and South Bikaa Valley. Andaket Village is 27 km2 and 47 % out of Andaket is a forest.

Andaket is recognized for being the biggest village in Akkar with a widely spread forest. Andaket was called the princess since it stood as a lighthouse between the villages Bekayaa and Oudyn. "Daket" means the elevated place. Andaket is a very old village based on its presence in a map found in the church "Saydet II Ghassala" – "Koubbayat" as "Ayn daket", in European as "Andaqet" and in his book "Recognize Lebanon", Anis Frayha wrote it as "Indiqit". Father Cesar Mourani, Professor in Archeology says: "Some say that the word "Andaket" is from a syriac origin", others such as M. Mtanios Gharbiyeh, marks that the name goes back to a Phoenician residence of a Phoenician Goddess called "Anet".

The village has passed through several historical events that go back to the "Mamalik Age" and the "Ottomans". The Mamaliks used the village as a battle field between the parties of "Al Chouaayed" in Aakra, "Al Sayfa" in old Akar, and the mountain. In the time of the Ottoman Conquest, the Ottomans took sides with Al Sayfa and brought back Andaket to its people. The Ottomans took advantage, after helping in the development of the agricultural and industrial sector in the village, to take taxes that would support Turkey.



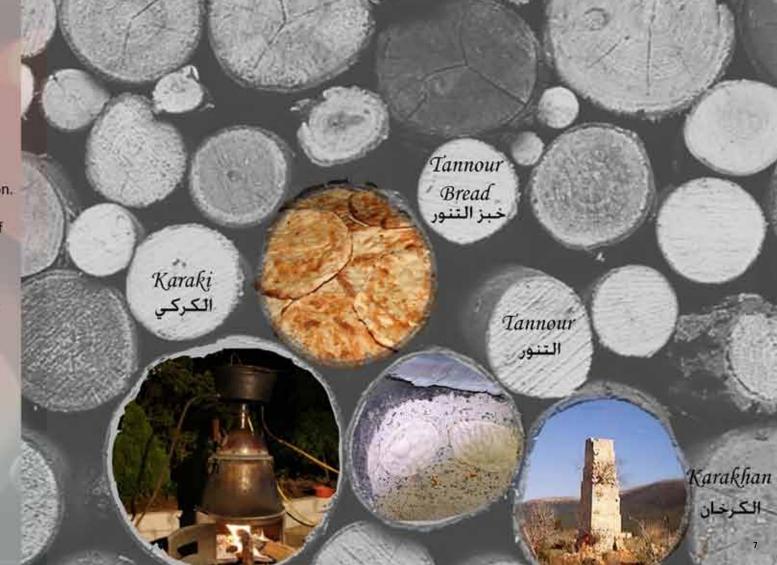
### The Industries of Andaket

Andaket has two industries for the production of pure silk "Karakhanat". Khawaja Youssef Rahme Al Bshirranni has built the first factory in 1898. Its elevation and presence along a water canal plays a role in indulging a habitat for silkworms. Today, the chimney is what remains of the factory and the Agriculture Cooperation of Andaket has got hold of it to protect it.

The second factory was built facing the first one using old black bricks. Both factories have stopped working during the French mandate. By that time, most of the residents of Andaket used to work with the silk production.

The "Karaki" is a traditional Lebanese Arak making utensil. Some still use it as a household for the production of their own nonalcoholic drinks especially the Arak that is made of grapes and anis.

"Al Tannour" is a traditional Lebanese bread baking oven which was used by many Lebanese Villages that are located by forests. The dead twigs and branches of forests were collected by villagers as a fuel for the Tannour, which is considered a way of decreasing forest fires.



### Stars of Andaket

Sainte Joseph Monastery was built by the Jesuit Father Barnier in 1897. In 1896 it was established as a school that is still active up till now by the Jesuit Nuns.

Mar Challita Church is considered an important archeological site according to the criteria by the ministry of tourism. The church goes back to the 1538 as stated in the manuscript in Deir al Churfa.

Santa Maria Church was built in 1852. It had a spring flowing next to it and was named Al Saideh for the presence of the church. This spring is now dried out.

#### Other Landmarks Include:

- St Vincent Association is a home for the elderly and all in need people
- Scout of Lebanon
- Movement of the Apostolic Mariah (Mouvement Marial Appostolique)









## A Historic Glimpse of Andaket

In 1000 BC, Canaanian Tombe- Oudine Valley Father Cesar Mourani, Professor in Archeology, believes that Andaket was an old residential area due to the presence of well preserved tombs, which are commonly named the "Jewish graves" according to the Canaanite Period. Andaket's realm is reached by its great valley Oudine, A syriac word derived from "Oudo", which stands for forest. This valley is indeed sacred as it honored many saints such as Mar Saba, Mar Lyan, and Mar Elias.

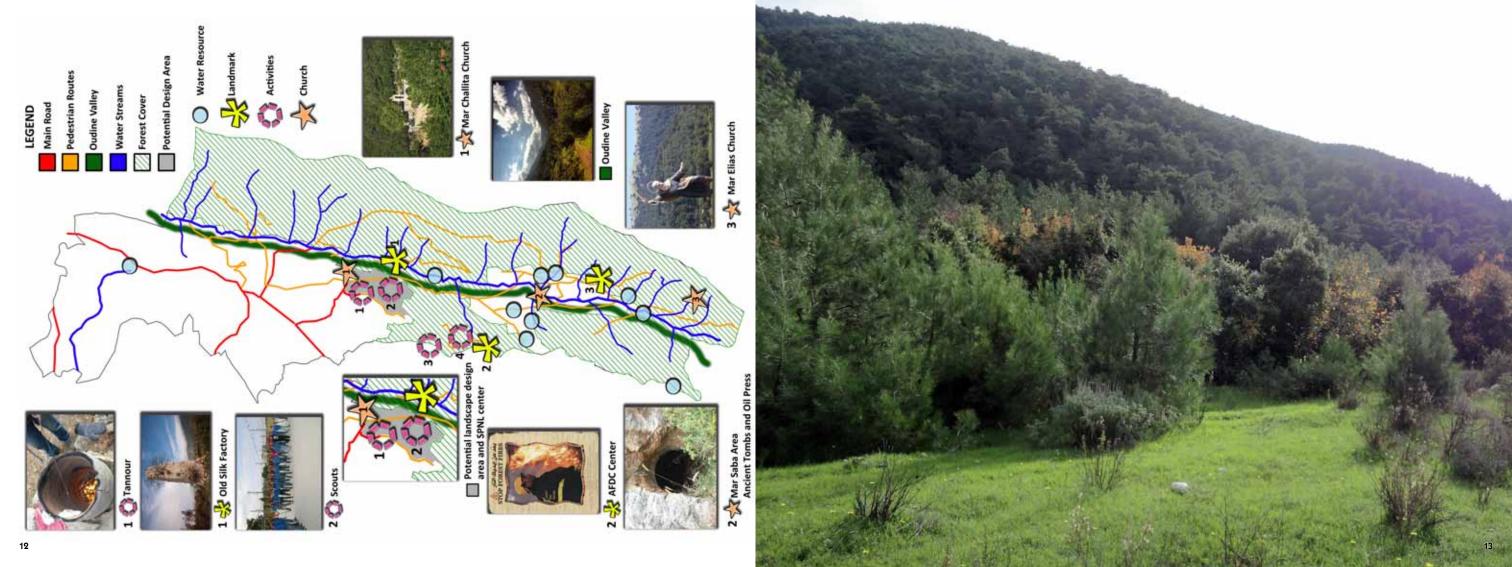
1150 AC, St. Elian Oudine valley

Sainte Elian was actually from homs, Syria. He was recognized at Andaket and other parts of Lebanon.

630 AC, Oil Presses, St. Saba

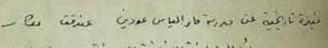
Dr. Naji Karam, professor in Phoenician art and archeology, believes that the archeological site, discovered at Andaket, represents an olive oil press. A large rock, tanks, clay reservoirs, and walls are signs of the presence of a press at that time. The oldest piece of clay found on the site belongs to the end of the Byzantine Era and the beginning of the Arab Era. Since the press is surrounded by olive trees, Dr. Karam suggests that it must have belonged to an orchard, to a village, a convent, or a temple. The discovery of the press has added to Andaket a cultural value that could be used for Lebanese Cultural Tourism.











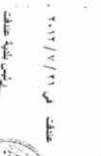








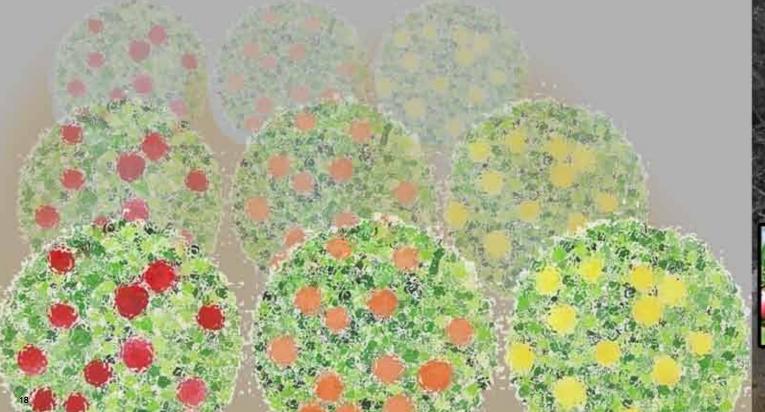




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## The Rainbow of Andaket

Agriculture plays a part in the productions of Andaket. Andaket produces around 20 tons per year of wine for the presence of massive grapes orchards, 150 tons per year of corn, 1500 boxes per year of apples and pear, and has around 25000 tree of olive. The olive trees have played a role in the production of olive oil and other olive oil products such as traditional soaps.





## Trees of the Forest

Pinus brutia (Turkish pine) is the main tree species growing in Andqet Forest. In the west side of the forest grows Quercus calliprinos ( Palestine Oak) which is considered the second most abundant tree layer in the forest is found associated with Cupressus sempervirens (Mediterranean Cypress) in some areas of the forest. Arbutus sp. (strawberry tree) with Asplenium species (spleenworts) are found mostly in humid regions of the forest where they are more prone for development and regeneration. In addition, Phillyrea media, Rhamnus punctata, Pistacia sp., Ceratonia siliqua, Origanum libanoticum are present at lower regions of the forest. Urginea maritimum is spread in open areas in addition to other species such as Origanum syriacum, Slavia sp., Phlomis sp.











Oak سنديان









Cypress sempervirens 9









# The Splash

Earlier, the people of Andaket met at a place called Ain Al Misrab where many used to fill their clay jars with water for drinking or cooking. It was a place where lovers used to meet. Today, one major element of Andaket's Forest is the water resources. The main river, known as Al Mawqid in the north and Oudine in the south, crosses the forest in a diagonally. Fifteen streams flow through the forest into the main river and two springs called Nabaa al Charqi, eastern spring spurt out from the "Aassy River", used for irrigation due to its richness and Nabaa al Gharbi, western spring.



