



# SPNL SPECIAL ISSUE





**S P N L**  
SPECIAL  
ISSUE



**Cover photo:**

Black Francolin extinct from Lebanon since 1950, being reared at Luc Hoffmann Hima Home's bird aviary, to be reintroduced in 2022 to its natural habitat.

# EDITORIAL / FROM NATURE BANKRUPTCY TO HIMA FOR PEACE

By the time the Society for the Protection for Nature in Lebanon (SPNL) got its legal recognition in 1986, it had established a solid foundation for the promotion of protected areas and combating the illegal killing of birds in Lebanon since its inception in 1983.

SPNL is Birdlife Lebanon and the first Lebanese member of the IUCN. Our organization has thrived over the years in protecting the environment where priority threatened species and the people dependent on them could mutually survive. Through ongoing times of both political and economic instability, we continued to initiate and manage projects and sustain activities to accomplish our vision.

Reflecting on SPNL's new 2030 strategy, what we've accomplished over the last four decades, the challenges faced and what we still aspire to accomplish with SPNL's amazing team, founding members and executive board, we remain devoted to a journey of real and clear purpose while growing healthy and resilient against global crises.

In the hope of learning from our mistakes and building on our successes, upscaling them nationally and regionally to stop nature's bankruptcy and the war on nature and biodiversity, we continue to energize our Hima revival, aimed at the wellbeing of both nature and people. Having said that, it's now agreed upon amongst the SPNL team and board to continue and propagate our Hima success story, which has brought global recognition and national pride, in cooperation with our partners in the regions of the Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa, and backing from the Lebanese authorities and community, to international partners and donors including BirdLife, IUCN, MAVA

Foundation, GEF, SRT, CEPF, EU, USAID, and many others.

Also, to help stop the war on migrating and resident birds, and on wildlife in general, we seek to conserve our natural heritage by promoting the rehabilitation of sites and various natural habitats along with sustainable practices in relevant sectors, including agriculture and tourism. Furthermore, SPNL aims at promoting nature-based, community-led climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives. All that and more is achieved while empowering and engaging municipalities, officials, private sector actors, and local community groups, including youth and women's groups, farmers, fishermen, shepherds and responsible hunters. Last but not least, we remain fiercely committed to building the pro-environmental profiles of our future generations, especially the young people (Homat al Hima), to support nature conservation and the management of their Himas.

In the words of Andre (Luc) Hoffmann, founder of the MAVA Foundation, **"You can't be green, when you are in the red"**, that is, financially in the red.

SPNL has recently launched its communication and marketing departments closely operating to help us continue linking the environmental sector to the socio-economic sector using the holistic Hima approach through our very efficient and professional SPNL team and rural Hima centers, where money is being generated to sustain our mission statement and set the goals towards 2030, namely helping people and nature in a one planet campaign.



**Assad Serhal**  
SPNL Director  
General  
Birdlife International  
Global Councillor





# SPNL / HOMAT AL HIMA INTERNATIONAL MAKING CONNECTIVITY

**SPNL** is making connectivity and partnership with diverse stakeholders, regarding the different topics of interest (climate change, biodiversity, anti-poaching etc.). Working with governmental authorities, municipalities, academic institutions, museums and the local communities, linking culture to nature.

**Homat al Hima International (HHI)** is SPNL business arm, to insure sustainability of the programs in the face of the national and global financial meltdown and the post covid-19 recovery.

## 00. **HIMA** / MoE - MUNICIPALITIES

COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION /  
OFFICIALLY DECLARED 1 OF THE 4 CATEGORIES OF  
PROTECTED AREAS IN LEBANON



### ACRONYMS

**APU** Anti-Poaching Unit

**CABS** Committee Against Bird Slaughter

**GAPs** Good Agricultural Practices

**HH** Homat al Hima

**HHI** Homat al Hima International

**IBBA** Important Bird and Biodiversity Area

**IKBs** Illegal Killing of Birds

**ISF** Internal Security Forces

**KBAs** Key Biodiversity Areas

**LHHH** Luc Hoffmann Hima Home

**MESHHC** Middle-East Sustainable Hunting Center

**MoA** Ministry of Agriculture

**MoC** Ministry of Culture

**MoEd** Ministry of Education

**MoE** Ministry of Environment

**MoI** Ministry of Interior

**MoJ** Ministry of Justice

**MoT** Ministry of Tourism

**RHAs** Responsible Hunting Areas

**SPNL** Society for the Protection of Nature  
in Lebanon

# 01. HIMA EDUCATION / MoEd - MoC

## MoE / SNOW



MAINSTREAMING CONSERVATION IN EDUCATION / TARGETING SCHOOL CHILDREN NATIONALLY / CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE / BUILDING PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILES / EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



## HOMAT AL HIMA PROGRAMME



EMPOWERING HIMA FUTURE LEADERS / ENGAGEMENT IN CONSERVATION WORK / HIMA MANAGEMENT / CAPACITY BUILDING



## MoC / MUSEUMS

ADDING A CONSERVATION DIMENSION / UNDERSTANDING NATURE THROUGH ANTIQUITIES / EDUCATIONAL TOURS / BOOKS SECTION

## 02. IKBs / MoI - MoJ - MoE /// MESHC - CABS

### MUNICIPALITIES



SECURING INFRASTRUCTURE /  
SIGNING HIMA AGREEMENTS /  
RHAs DECISIONS /  
PARTNERING ON PROJECTS

### CENTERS

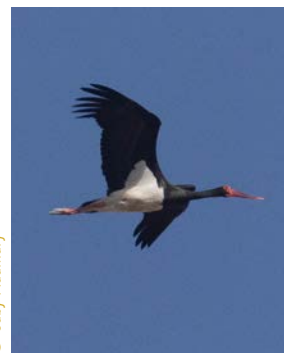


FINDING SOLUTION TO  
RESPONSIBLE HUNTING /  
BIRD OSERVATORIES, AVIARIES &  
RESCUE CENTERS /  
AWERNESS & EDUCATION

### RESPONSIBLE HUNTERS vs POACHERS



SHIFTING CUTURES-  
MENTALITIES /  
RESPONSIBLE HUNTING  
PRACTICES /  
BIRD MONITORING /  
BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY /  
RESCUING



© Gabby Maamary



## ISF / APU



ENFORCING HUNTING LAW /  
PATROLLING MISSIONS /  
REPORTING VIOLATIONS /  
PERSECUTION

## UNIFIL



PEACE MAKING  
FOR NATURE /  
SAFE RELEASE  
FOR RESCUED  
BIRDS



# 03. HIMA FARM / MoA

## FARMERS



PROMOTING NATURE-FRIENDLY AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES / MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INTO AGRICULTURAL SECTOR / SUPPORTING SMALL-SCALE FARMING THROUGH HIMA FARM PROGRAMME / MAINTAINING TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PRACTICES / PROMOTING GAPs / ENSURING ECONOMIC VIABILITY



## PRIVATE SECTOR / SOUK AL HIMA

ENSURING LOCAL ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT / PROMOTING NATURE-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES / STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES' LIVELIHOODS



# 04. NATURE BASED TOURISM / MoT

## HOMAT AL HIMA PROGRAMME



MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION INTO TOURISM  
SECTOR /  
MoT SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH  
SPNL /  
TRAINING MoT NATIONAL GUIDES  
AND TOUR OPERATORS ON CROSS-  
CUTTING THEMES /  
RAISING CAPACITIES OF HH AT  
HIMA SITES



## HIMA TO HIMA



FOSTERING RESPONSIBLE  
TOURISM /  
PROMOTING THE  
CONSERVATION OF  
NATURAL AND CULTURAL  
HERITAGE /  
ECONOMIC  
EMPOWERMENT OF HIMA  
COMMUNITIES





المجلس العالمي للطيور يضم ممثلين عن 110 جمعية غير حكومية في العالم. جمعية حماية الطبيعة في لبنان هي الشريك الوطني منذ أوائل التسعينات

BirdLife International is the global partnership of Non-Governmental Organisations working for nature in over 110 countries. SPNL is BirdLife in Lebanon  
[www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org) | [www.spnl.org](http://www.spnl.org)

# ASSAD SERHAL AWARDED HONORARY MEMBERSHIP OF IUCN

Assad Serhal, the Director General of SPNL-BirdLife Partner Lebanon, was awarded the IUCN Honorary Membership Award at the council meeting of the World Conservation Congress 2020, which explored, this year, the link between biodiversity and human and economic wellbeing. The Global Nature Conservation Community stood today to applaud Serhal's outstanding contributions to the conservation of nature and natural resources in Lebanon and West Asia and to further the goals of IUCN.

The hunter-turned-conservationist has realized the need for community-based action to conserve the rich biodiversity of the region. Also winner of the 2018 MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity, Serhal has led the revival of the ancient Hima approach in Lebanon and catalysed its spread across the region, along with a network of partners and donors. In practice, the Hima empowers people to participate and develop leadership in decision making, enables them to protect their own natural and cultural heritage and brings them sustainable livelihoods, facilitating their co-existence with nature.

The Birdlife International Global Councillor has deliberately translated the region's particular reality, challenges, and needs in the context of biodiversity to the international community, bringing more understanding to the systems of protection and conservation in West Asia. Realizing the effectiveness of community-based approach to nature conservation and community development, Assaad and his team, along with prominent actors, has established 25 Himas, covering 6% of the Lebanese territory, and succeeded in setting Hima as 4th category to the Protected Areas of Lebanon.

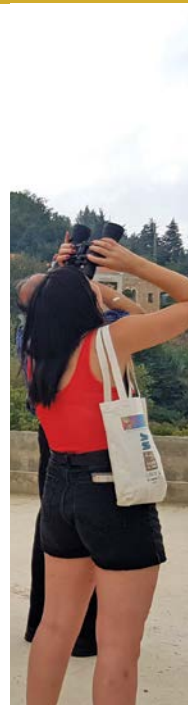
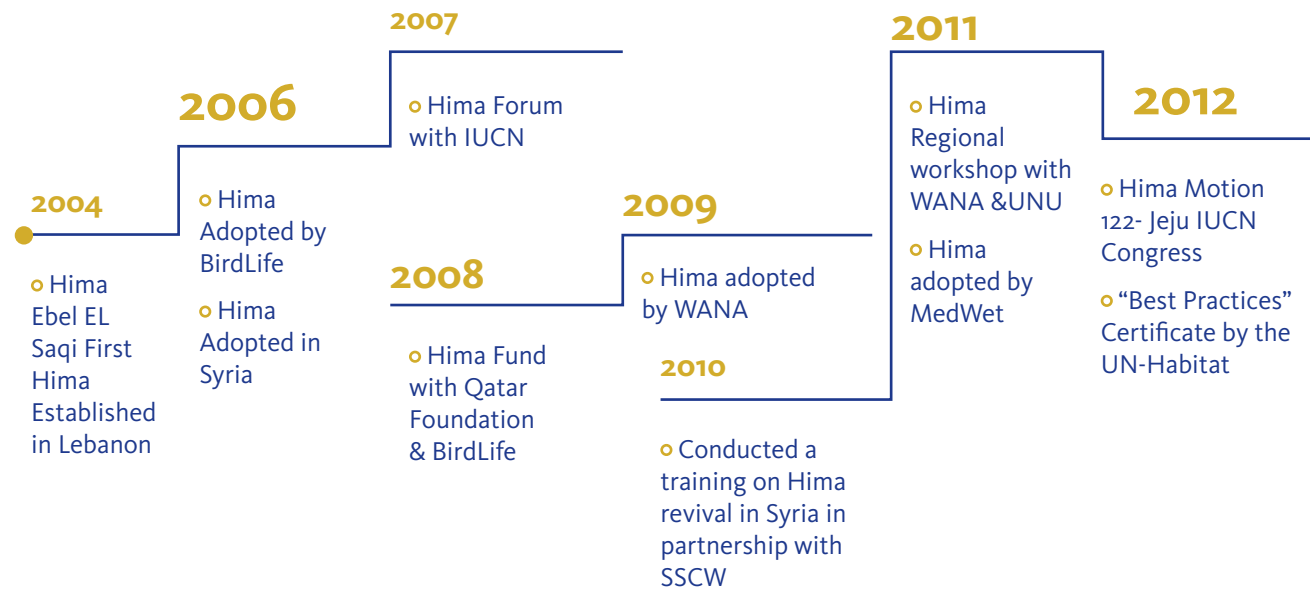
This award fuels Serhal's 40-year journey and battle to spread the values, principles and consciousness needed for a sustainable and healthy future. SPNL Director will continue to inspire and influence activists, practitioners and decision-makers to deliver aligned and effective conservation outcomes.



© Fadi Ghanem



# HIMA TIMELINE



## 2013

- BirdLife Hima Award
- Hima a part of Birdlife strategy
- SPNL initiated Homat al Hima, SNOW & Souk al Hima

## 2014

- Hima Adopted by UN-Women for Gender Equality

## 2015

- Hima adopted in Cyprus & Greece

## 2016

- Hima Guideline Manual & HH Guideline Manual Published

## 2017

- 19 Himas established in Lebanon
- Initiated Luc Hoffmann Hima Home (LHHH)

## 2018

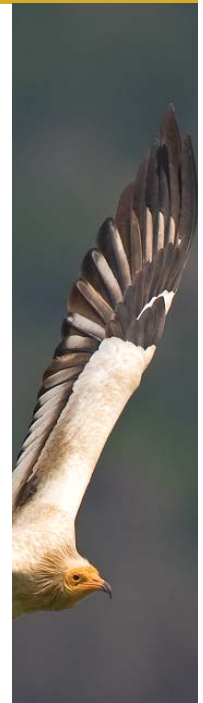
- 22 Himas established in Lebanon
- Hima West Baalbak First Regional Hima Established in Lebanon
- AEON MIDORI Prize for Hima Revival
- Hima For Peace, Tokyo, Japan

## 2019

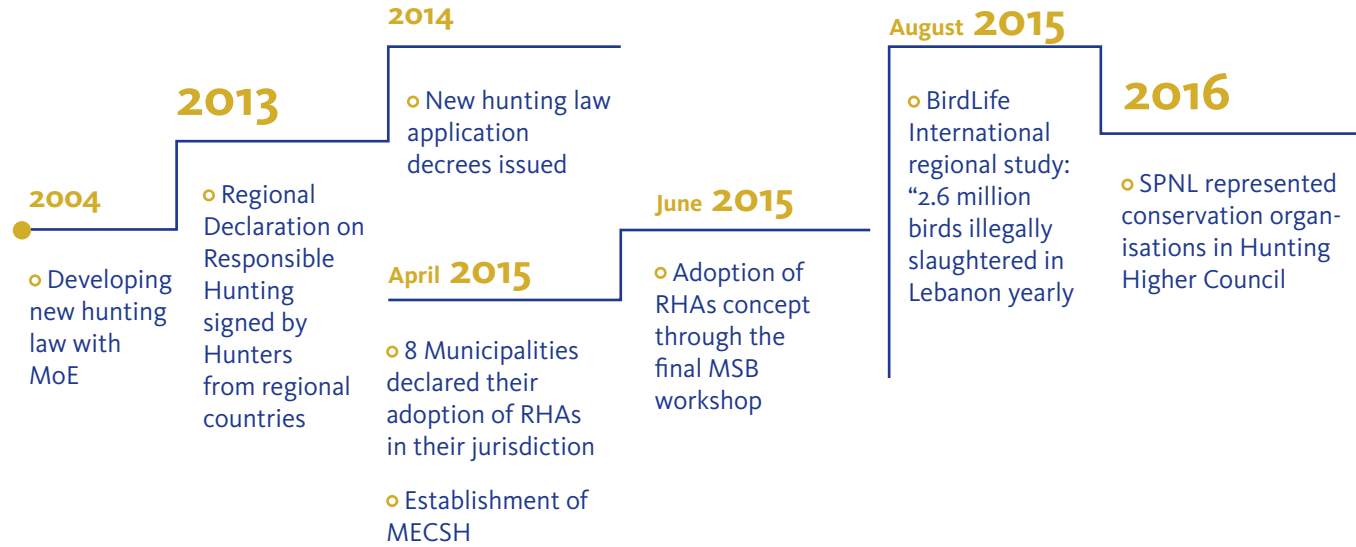
- Lebanon passed a new protected areas Law 130, Year 2019
- 25 Himas established
- Hima to Stop Nature Bankruptcy, Yancheng, China

## 2020/21

- SPNL established the HH Center in West Beqaa, LHHH in Mount Lebanon and Hima Farm in Hammana



# RESPONSIBLE HUNTING TIMELINE





## April 2017

- President Aoun launched “Peace Treaty” to protect birds followed by AP

## September 2017

- Opening of the hunting season after a 22 years ban
- CABS partnership initiated

## April 2018

- Anti-poaching unit established to combat illegal killing of birds

## December 2018

- First bird camp in Lebanon at Hima Hammana

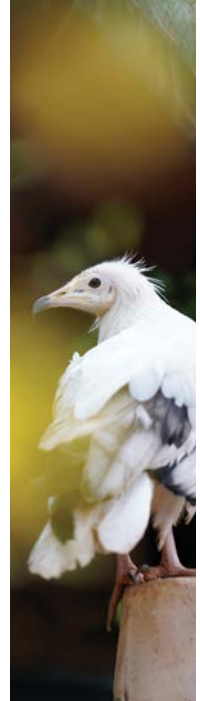
## May 2019

- President launched 3 bird stamps to celebrate WMBD

## September 2019

- Flight for Survival campaign launched
- Bird Observatory and raptor count in Hima Hammana

## 2020/21





SPNL President Mrs. Afaf Osseiran Saidi signing the new strategy / SPNL team at LHHH



# SPNL STRATEGY 2030

Amidst the challenging environment of Biodiversity Crisis and Climate Emergency, SPNL has adopted its 2030 Organizational Development Strategy. SPNL aims at strengthening its position through redefining its direction priorities, partnerships, structure, functions and resource needs. High-level strategic development goals were developed under themes of Nature Conservation, Community Based Sustainable Development as well as Climate Change, and underpinning these three, Organisational Development. Backed up with annual operational and financial planning, this Strategy directs SPNL to generate increased impacts and successes.

## THEMATIC WORK AREAS AND HIGH-LEVEL STRATEGIC GOALS





## FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN SHORES TO THE SNOW CAP MOUNTAINS OF LEBANON من فقش الموج لمرمى الثلج

### LEGEND

#### HIMA ICONS

(when saturated it is valid, when light shaded it is not)



**POPULATION**



**SURFACE AREA**



**IBBA**



**FLYWAY**



**BOTTLENECK**



**RHA**



**GASTRONOMY**

#### HIMA RANKING

##### Level of needs/challenges

(1 out of 5)

- 1/ Human resources/  
capacity building
- 2/ Site management plan
- 3/ Policy enforcement
- 4/ Infrastructures
- 5/ Awareness/education

- |          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Highly satisfactory</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Good</b>                |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Average</b>             |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Weak</b>                |
| <b>5</b> | <b>None</b>                |

A photograph of the Mediterranean Sea at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a uniform, warm yellow-orange color. The sea is a deep blue-green, with gentle ripples. In the distance, a small white boat is visible on the horizon. In the foreground, there are several dark, rectangular objects floating in the water, possibly buoys or markers. A wooden post with a metal ring is visible in the lower right corner.

# MEDITERRANEAN SHORE

A large water wheel with green blades is positioned on a rocky shore. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon over the sea. The water wheel is a prominent feature, and the overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

«SPNL has been one of our most prolific Partners being BirdLife Lebanon since 1994. SPNL has collaboratively executed many projects over Lebanon to protect birds, nature and improve the livelihoods of people.»»

**Patricia Zurita**

Chief Executive Officer BirdLife International





© Rita Kalindjian

3

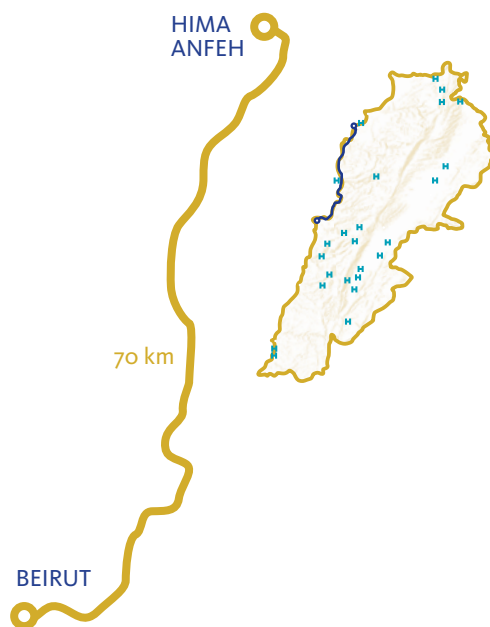
# 01. HIMA ANFEH



6500



504 ha



## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

Anfeh: 728 ha

**Habitat /** Coastal / Maritime / Farmland

### Species /

**Flora:** Olive tree, Lentisk, Late narcissus, Common myrtle /

**Fauna:** Loggerhead turtle, Green turtle, Little egret

### Threats /

Illegal fishing / Habitat loss and degradation / Invasive species/ Climate change / Pollution / Distraction of sea turtles

### Conservation action /

**Done:** Management plan /

Homat Al Hima (HH) training

**Needed:** Responsible tourism / Monitoring / Education & awareness / Land & water management / Invasive species control / Waste management / Species reintroduction / Fish and marine species farms / Sea turtles action plan / Local policy & law enforcement

## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

Ancient wall in the peninsula / Phoenician ruins / Old churches / Fish gastronomy / Historic and active salinas

### Recreational activities /

Salt salines /

Hiking / Birdwatching / Biking /

Paddling / Sailing / Diving



© Rita Kalinofjian

## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Green Sandpiper

#### Scientific name:

*Tringa ochropus*

#### Current conservation status:

Least Concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Habitat loss, pollution, and avian diseases

#### Distribution status:

Common

**Most likely to be seen:** Mainly a passage migrant in spring, summer, and autumn, rarely a winterer



### Monk seal

#### Scientific name:

*Monachus monachus*

#### Current conservation status:

Endangered (EN)

#### Main threats:

Hunting, fishing nets, pollution, and coastal development

#### Distribution status:

Rare

#### Most likely to be seen:

Sometimes seen on shore or swimming, spend time in sea caves



### Rock samphire

#### Scientific name:

*Crithmum maritimum*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Urbanisation, coastal development

#### Distribution status:

Common

#### Most likely to be seen:

Perennial, flowers June through October

#### Medicinal value:

Diuretic, obesity, kidney problems, also edible





4

# 02. HIMA QOLEILEH / MANSOURI



7000



1981 ha





## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

Qoleileh: 1 ha /

Mansouri: 1 ha

**Habitat /** Coastal / Marine

### Species /

**Flora:** Sycamore fig, Sand lily /

**Fauna:** Loggerhead turtle, Leatherback turtle, Mediterranean horseshoe bat, Armenia gull, Ocellated skink, Levantine shearwater

### Threats /

Illegal fishing / Habitat loss and degradation / Invasive species/ Climate change / Pollution / Distraction of sea turtles

### Conservation action /

**Done:** Sea turtle conservation / Fishermen training / Sustainable fishing promotion / Advocacy to prevent development projects

**Needed:** Management plan / Responsible tourism / Monitoring / Education & awareness

## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

Orange house - turtle reserve

### Recreational activities /

Watching sea turtles hatching /

Swimming /

Shore activities /

Standing paddle /

Sustainable fishing /

Boating

\* Work is underway for Naqura Key Biodiversity area



© Rita Kalinofjian

## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Schreiber's fringe-fingered lizard

#### Scientific name:

*Acanthodactylus schreiberi syriacus*

#### Current conservation status:

Endangered (EN)

**Main threats:** Habitat loss

**Distribution status:** Rare

**Most likely to be seen:** Diurnal



### Green sea turtle

#### Scientific name:

*Chelonia mydas*

#### Current conservation status:

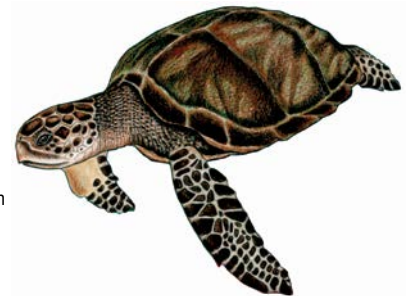
Critically endangered (CR)

#### Main threats:

Hunting, pollution, fishing nets, ingesting plastics, egg collection, urbanisation, and habitat loss from coastal development

**Distribution status:** Rare

**Most likely to be seen:** Typically submerged, but seen when surfacing and exchanging air



### Sea cottonweed

#### Scientific name:

*Otanthus maritimus*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Coastal development, urbanisation, sand dredging

**Distribution status:** Common

**Most likely to be seen:**

Perennial, flowers May through December





# WETLANDS

«With outstanding dedication over the years, Assad and his colleagues advocated and promoted the Hima concept on the national and global stage. This culminated at the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress, held in South Korea, where IUCN adopted Resolution 122, recognising the Hima as a model for community conservation.»»



**Dr Bruno Oberle**

IUCN, Director General



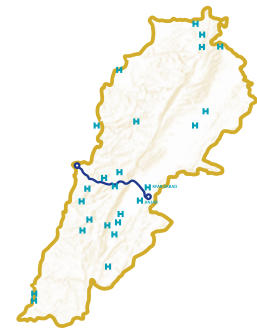
© Asaad Saleh

2

# 03. HIMA ANJAR / K FAR ZABAD

BEIRUT

57 km



5563



4466 ha



HIMA ANJAR / K FAR ZABAD

## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

Anjar: 554 ha /

Kfar Zabad: 2 ha

### IBA designation / A1

**Habitat /** Wetland / Woodland / Forest

### Species /

**Flora:** Water iris, Yellow pond lily, Syrian poppy, Sweet violet, Wild chamomile /

**Fauna:** Great snipe, Little bustard, Swamp cat

### Threats /

Over grazing / Hunting

Poor water resources management /

Pollution from agriculture practices /

Climate change

### Conservation action /

**Done:** Education / Awareness / Hima center/ Policy decisions / Monitoring / Conservation with farmers / Reforestation / RHA decision / Ecotourism trails / Developed management plan / Developed ecotourism plan

**Needed:** Ecotourism plan implementation / Update syrian serin A.P. / RHA implementation / Management plan implementation / Water management / NF land-use practices promotion

## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

World heritage site / Old Umayyad city / Gastronomy / Old houses & churches / The main source of Litani river / Otter watching

### Recreational activities /

Hiking / Canoeing /

Birdwatching / Camping



© Jacquesstudios

## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Syrian serin

#### Scientific name:

*Serinus syriacus*

#### Current conservation status:

Vulnerable (VU)

**Main threats:** Habitat loss, degradation, drought, hunting, and climate change

#### Distribution status:

Localised, endemic

#### Most likely to be seen:

Mainly summer, less commonly seen in the winter



### River otter

#### Scientific name:

*Lutra lutra seistanica*

#### Current conservation status:

Near threatened (NT)

**Main threats:** Pollution, habitat loss, and hunting

#### Distribution status:

Localised, rare

#### Most likely to be seen:

Nocturnal, hide in shelters dug in riverbanks during the day



### Syrian ash

#### Scientific name:

*Fraxinus angustifolia syriaca*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Wetland drainage

#### Distribution status:

Localised, cultivated, near-endemic

#### Most likely to be seen:

Tree, flowers March and April

#### Medicinal value:

rheumatism, arthritis



\* Assad Serhal, director general of SPNL, is the conservation champion of the Syrian Serin species in the Rare Bird Club, UK.



© Asaad Saleh

3

# 04.

## HIMA KHERBET KANAFAR / AIN ZEBDE / EL-QARAOUN / AITANITE

BEIRUT



76 km

HIMA  
WEST BEQAA



17045

6629 ha



## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

Kherbet Kanafar: 328 ha /

Ain Zebde: 45 ha /

EL-Qaraoun: 306 ha /

Aitanite: -

**IBA designation /** A4iv

**Habitat /** Woodland / Wetland

### Species /

**Flora:** Bieberstein's milfoil, Long-stamened garlic /

**Fauna:** Eurasian jay, Marbled teal, Crested porcupine, Meadow pipit, Plain tiger, Woodcock, European badger

### Threats /

Over grazing / Over extraction of medicinal edible plants / Hunting / Pollution / Climate change

### Conservation action /

**Done:** Shepherd trail / HHIP & Butterfly garden / Reforestation / RHA decision / Grazing policy plan / Biodiversity assessment / Training on sustainable cultural practices / Women economic & cultural trainings / Mountain pasture management plan

**Needed:** Management plan / Responsible tourism / Monitoring / RHA implementation / Education & awareness / NF land-use practices promotion

## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

Wine tours and wine tasting / Old caves / Springs / Lake / Archaeological sites and tombs

### Recreational activities /

Hiking / Birdwatching / Meeting with shepherds / Star gazing / Night hike / Tour of the lake / Cycling / Pedalo



© Asaad Saleh

## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Near-eastern fire salamander

#### Scientific name:

*Salamandra infraimmaculata*

#### Current conservation status:

Near threatened (NT)

**Main threats:** Wetland drainage, agricultural intensification, urbanisation, pollution

#### Distribution status:

Localised, near-endemic

**Most likely to be seen:** Nocturnal, also seen during the day following rains in winter and spring



### Swamp cat

#### Scientific name:

*Felis chaus*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

**Main threats:** Wetland drainage, urbanisation, hunting, and poisoning

#### Distribution status:

Rare

**Most likely to be seen:** Diurnal, less active on hot afternoons, typically solitary



### Oak (Palestine & Aleppo)

#### Scientific name:

*Quercus calliprinos* @ *Q. infectoria*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

**Main threats:** Deforestation, forest fires, habitat degradation

#### Distribution status:

near-endemic  
**Medicinal value:** trees, deciduous and evergreen, flowers early spring





# MOUNTAINS & VALLEYS



«SPNL is now demonstrating that the Hima concept can help to restore populations of threatened species, exemplified by the work that SPNL is doing for the Syrian serin – classified as “Vulnerable” on the IUCN Red List. It is really heartening to see the population growth already achieved in the Hima Anjar over the past five years.»»



**Martin Harper**

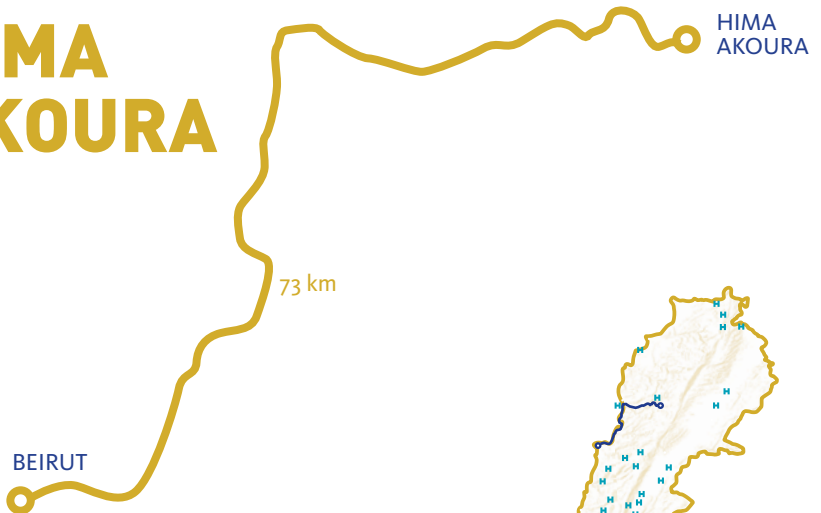
Executive Director, Global Conservation RSPB



© Hassan Hamud

4

# 05. HIMA AKOURA



12000 14000 ha



## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

Akoura: 8000 ha

**Habitat /** Mountains / Caves / Woodland

### Species /

**Flora:** Lebanon violet, Heath, Round-leaved Calamint, Black-scaled chamomile /

**Fauna:** Chukar partridge, Syrian hare, Short-toed Eagle

### Threats /

Forest fires / Hunting

### Conservation action /

**Done:** Monitoring of IKBs /

**Needed:** Management plan / Responsible tourism / Monitoring / Education & awareness

## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

Mountain lakes / Stunng view / Junipers / Old churches / Traditional costumes / Carved stone Saint Peter and Paul church in Akoura is by far the oldest existing

### Recreational activities /

Hiking / Climbing /

Religious touring /

Wine tasting (blue wine) /

Meeting with shepherds /

Speleology / Camping

Fruit picking /



## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Bent-winged bat

#### Scientific name:

*Miniopterus schreibersii*

#### Current conservation status:

Vulnerable (VU)

**Main threats:** Habitat loss, disturbance, and pesticides

#### Distribution status:

Rare, near-endemic

#### Most likely to be seen:

Nocturnal, roosts in groups in large caves



### Banded newt

#### Scientific name:

*Ommatotriton vittatus*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

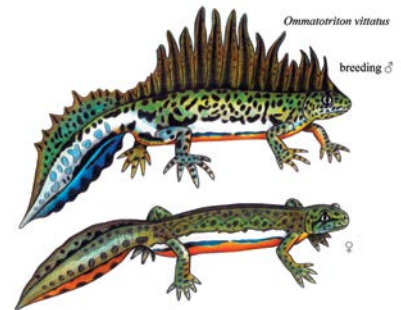
#### Main threats:

Habitat loss, wetland destruction, overgrazing, urbanisation, pollution, and pet trade

#### Distribution status:

Sporadic, near-endemic

**Most likely to be seen:** Nocturnal, hibernate after September until early spring



### Sofar iris

#### Scientific name:

*Iris sofarana*

#### Current conservation status:

Endangered (EN)

#### Main threats:

Urbanisation, overgrazing, agricultural intensification, climate change, overcollection

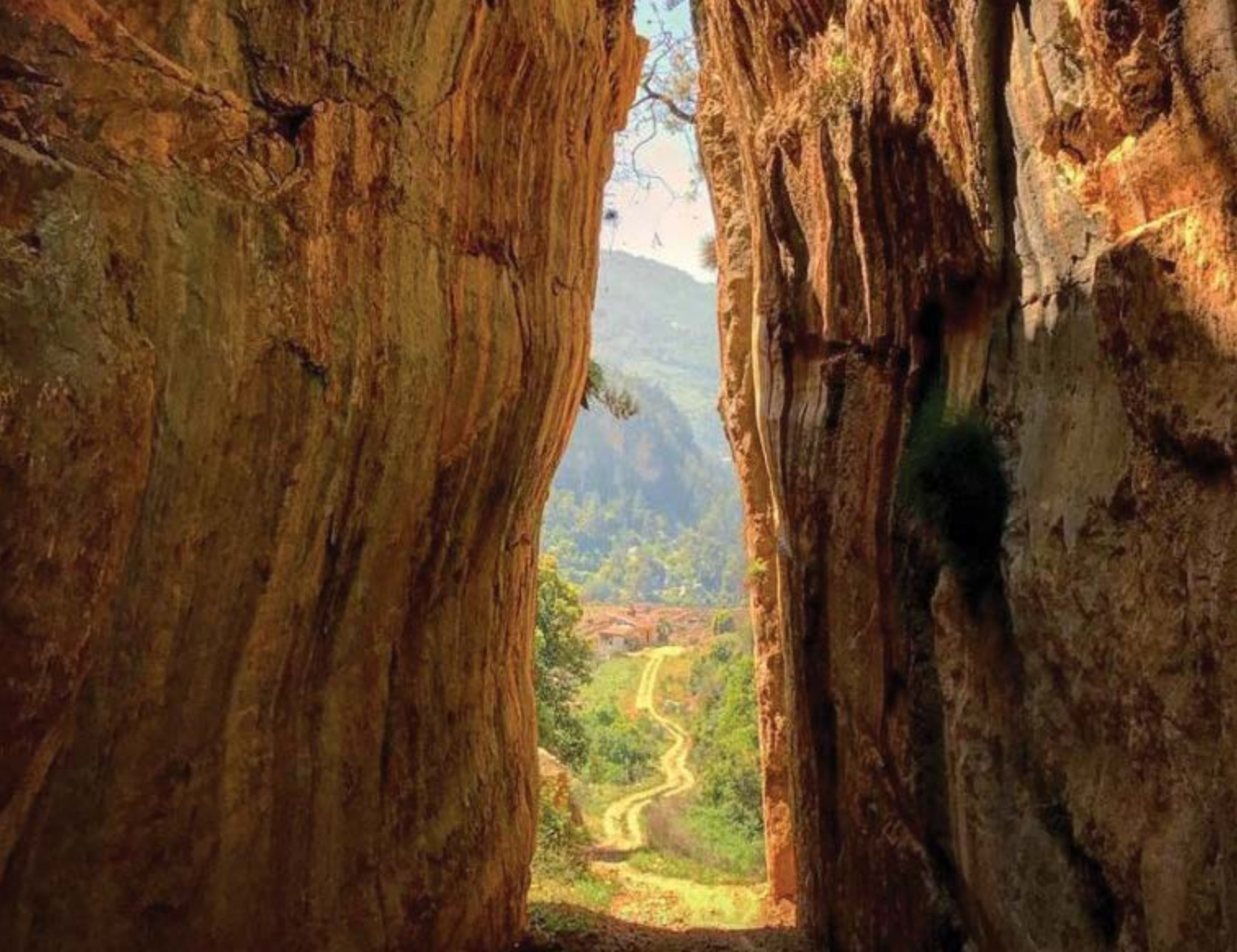
#### Distribution status:

Rare, endemic

**Most likely to be seen:** Perennial, flowers May and June

**Medicinal value:** Toxic, can cause allergic reaction





# 06. HIMA KFARMATTA

BEIRUT



5600



1164 ha



30 km

HIMA  
KFARMATTA



## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

Kfarmatta: 10 ha

**Habitat /** Woodland / Wetland (near rivers) / Farmland / Scrub

### Species /

**Flora:** Lebanon shrubby sage, Thyme-leaved St. John's-wort, Common split gill /

**Fauna:** Mongoose, Pine martin, Pole cat, Persian Squirrel

### Threats /

Mass & unmanaged tourism / Illegal logging / Unsustainable hunting / Unsustainable agriculture / Water & land pollution

### Conservation action /

**Done:** Preliminary biodiversity assessment / Management plan / Educational & ecotourism trail (in process) / Women economic & cultural trainings / Training on sustainable cultural practices

**Needed:** Responsible tourism / Monitoring / Education & awareness / Farmers training / HH Training

## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

Abandoned silk factory / Al Fizr geologic fault / Habanjar tomb / Romanian & Phoenicians sarcophagi / Al Areed forest / Damour river hike

### Recreational activities /

Hiking / Horseback riding / Camping / Bird-watching / B&Bs / Pine seeds picking



## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Syrian woodpecker

#### Scientific name:

*Dendrocopos syriacus*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Habitat loss, hunting, and pesticides

#### Distribution status:

Common

#### Most likely to be seen:

All year round, considered a resident breeder



### Syrian marjoram

#### Scientific name:

*Origanum syriacum*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Overcollection

#### Distribution status:

Common, near-endemic

#### Most likely to be seen:

Perennial, flowers June through December

#### Medicinal value:

rheumatism, also with antiseptic, antispasmodic, carminative, cicatrisant, diuretic, emmenagogue, expectorant, sedative, stimulant, and tonic properties, and essential oil



### Lebanese orchid

#### Scientific name:

*Orchis romana libanotica*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Deforestation, forest fires

#### Distribution status:

Endemic subspecies

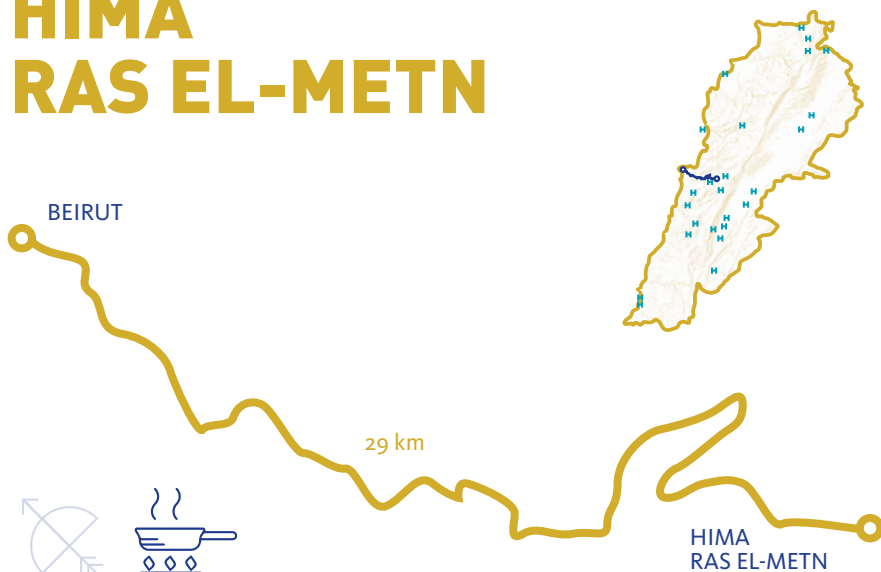
#### Most likely to be seen:

Perennial, flowers February through April





# 07. HIMA RAS EL-METN



10000

1300 ha

HIMA RAS EL-METN

## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

Ras El-Metr: 400 ha

**IBA designation /** A4iv

**Habitat /** Mountains / Woodland / Fields

### Species /

**Flora:** Ehrenberg's marjoram, Caper, Fenne, Common myrtle /

**Fauna:** Crested porcupine, White-bellied hedgehog, White-spectacled bulbul

### Threats /

Over grazing /

Forest fires /

Hunting

### Conservation action /

**Done:** Management plan development / HH training / Awareness & education / Ecosystem services assessment & economic valuation / Training on sustainable cultural practices / Women economic & cultural trainings

**Needed:** Responsible tourism / Monitoring / Education & awareness / Management plan implementation / NF land-use practices promotion

## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

Roman tombs /

Hiskan grotto /

Ottoman bridge /

Water mill

### Recreational activities /

Hiking (many trails) /

Birdwatching



## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Hyrax

#### Scientific name:

*Procavia capensis*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

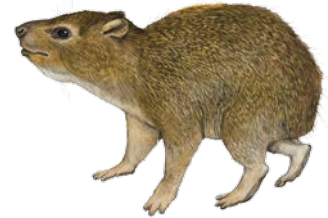
#### Main threats:

Habitat loss, urbanisation, hunting, and persecution

#### Distribution status:

Fairly common

**Most likely to be seen:** Diurnal, in groups, sometimes seen on moonlit nights



### Greek tortoise

#### Scientific name:

*Testudo graeca terrestris*

#### Current conservation status:

Vulnerable (VU)

#### Main threats:

Habitat loss, forest fires, and pet trade

#### Distribution status:

Fairly common in some places

**Most likely to be seen:** Diurnal, typically heard moving and seen in warm summer months



### Strawberry-tree

#### Scientific name:

*Arbutus andrachne*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Deforestation, forest fires, habitat degradation

#### Distribution status:

Localised, near-endemic

**Most likely to be seen:** Tree, flowers January through April



**Medicinal value:** Berries edible





5

# 08. HIMA ROUM / QAYTOULEH

   
4000 1279 ha





## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

Roum: 100 ha /

Qaytouleh: 75 ha

**Habitat /** Woodland / Fields / Scrub

### Species /

**Flora:** Aleppo pine, Lebanon bedstraw, Lebanon birdsfoot-trefoil /

**Fauna:** Marbled polecat, Common Quail, Wild boar

### Threats /

Over grazing /

Forest fires /

Hunting

### Conservation action /

**Done:** RHA decision

**Needed:** Management plan / Responsible tourism / Monitoring / Education & awareness / RHA implementation

## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

Pine wood / Harvest pine nuts / Old churches /

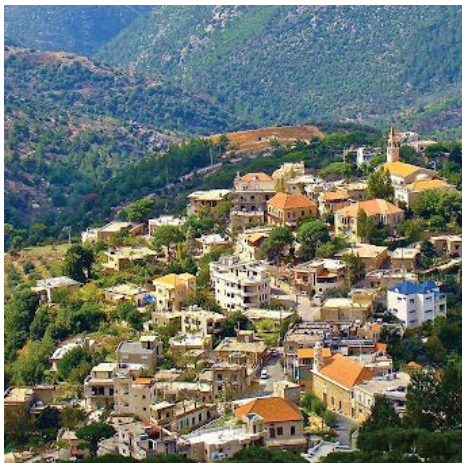
Old coal quarries and mines / Mar Gergess spring / The Al-Houwwa

### Recreational activities /

Hiking /

Camping /

Birdwatching



## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Turtle dove

#### Scientific name:

*Streptopelia turtur*

#### Current conservation status:

Vulnerable (VU)

#### Main threats:

Hunting, habitat loss, pesticides, diseases, and drought

#### Distribution status:

Common

#### Most likely to be seen:

Seen April through November, considered a common breeder and passage migrant



### European badger

#### Scientific name:

*Meles meles canescens*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Hunting, habitat loss, and persecution

#### Distribution status:

Fairly common

#### Most likely to be seen:

crepuscular and nocturnal, hide in burrows during the day



### Aleppo pine

#### Scientific name:

*Pinus halepensis*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Deforestation, forest fires, habitat degradation

#### Distribution status:

Localised

#### Most likely to be seen:

Tree, evergreen

#### Medicinal value:

Respiratory diseases, the seeds edible



An aerial photograph of a vast, hilly landscape under a hazy, golden-yellow sky. The terrain is characterized by rolling hills and valleys, with numerous winding dirt roads and paths crisscrossing the area. Sparse vegetation, including small trees and shrubs, is scattered across the dry, brownish-yellow ground. The overall atmosphere is one of a remote, rural region.

# FLYWAYS

«SPNL has grown into one of the greatest conservation NGOs in the region, and one of MAVA Foundation's main partners in the region. However, still a lot needs to be done for conservation of the fragile ecosystems in the Middle East and we are counting on Assad and his team to be leading this work in the years to come.»»

**Lynda Mansson**

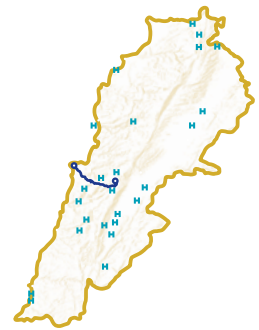
MAVA Foundation, Director General





# 09. HIMA HAMMANA

BEIRUT



35 km

HIMA HAMMANA



8000



883 ha



## NATURAL VALUE

**Hima area** / Hammana: 50 ha

**IBA designation** / A4iv

**Habitat** / Steppes / Mountains / Woodland  
**Species** /

**Flora:** Bear plum, Gum tragacanth, Long-flowered spur-valerian, Tumbleweed /

**Fauna:** Grey wolf, Common cuckoo, Social vole, Red fox

**Threats** /

Forest fires / Hunting

**Conservation action** /

**Done:** Management plan development / HH training / Awareness & education / Trails / Airfrance park / Bird observatory / Ecosystem services assessment & economic valuation / Training on sustainable cultural practices / Women economic & cultural trainings

**Needed:** Responsible tourism / Monitoring / Education & awareness / Management plan implementation / NF land-use practices promotion

## CULTURAL VALUE

**Natural & Cultural highlights** /

Typical local gastronomy (fassoulia) / Traditional architecture / Old churches / Old paved souk / Impressive cliff / Old mills along Chaghour river / The mouqaddimin palace

**Recreational activities** /

Canyoning / Hiking / Birdwatching / Paragliding / Camping / Climbing / Cherry picking / Beginners aquatrekking / Star gazing / Full moon hike



## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Eastern imperial eagle

**Scientific name:**

*Aquila heliaca*

**Current conservation status:**

Vulnerable (VU)

**Main threats:**

Hunting and persecution

**Distribution status:** Rare

**Most likely to be seen:** Seen

February through April and September and October, considered a rare passage migrant



### Persian squirrel

**Scientific name:**

*Sciurus anomalus*

**Current conservation status:**

Least concern (LC)

**Main threats:**

Deforestation and hunting

**Distribution status:**

Declining, near-endemic

**Most likely to be seen:** Diurnal, typically solitary, seen in trees



### Lebanese cedar

**Scientific name:**

*Cedrus libani*

**Current conservation status:**

Vulnerable (VU)

**Main threats:**

Deforestation, forest fires, habitat degradation, pathogens

**Distribution status:**

Localised, endemic

**Most likely to be seen:**

Tree, evergreen

**Medicinal value:** Essential oil, timber used in construction, furniture, and handicrafts

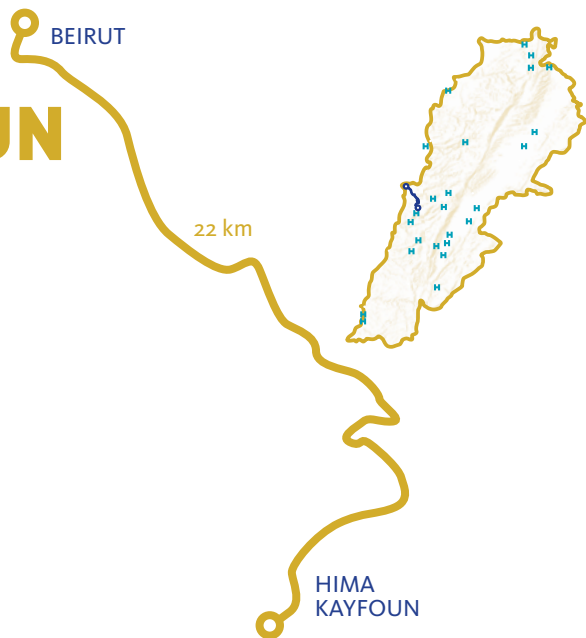




© Elie Karam

3

# 10. HIMA KAYFOUN



1928



335 ha



HIMA KAYFOUN

## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

Kayfoun: 5 ha

**IBA designation /** A4iv

**Habitat /** Woodland / Plains / Fields / Farmland

### Species /

**Flora:** Calabrian pine, Lebanon shrubby sage, Woody fleabane, Caper /

**Fauna:** Wild boar, Black francolin (Re-introduced in Jahliye)

### Threats /

Pollution /

Irresponsible hunting

### Conservation action /

**Done:** LHHH / Bird aviary / Peace trail / Awareness & education / HH training / Women economic & cultural trainings / Training on sustainable cultural practices

**Needed:** Management plan / Responsible tourism / Monitoring

## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

Luc Hoffmann Hima Home /

Bird aviary /

Al-Hosn Fortress /

Hima Kayfoun Qoranic Garden

### Recreational activities /

Educational activities in LHHH /

Educational trail /

Hiking /

Bird watching



© Asaad Saleh

## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Egyptian vulture

#### Scientific name:

*Neophron percnopterus*

#### Current conservation status:

Endangered (EN)

#### Main threats:

Hunting, disturbance, and persecution

#### Distribution status:

Rare

#### Most likely to be seen:

seen in the spring and September and October, considered an uncommon passage migrant



### White-bellied hedgehog

#### Scientific name:

*Erinaceus concolor*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Habitat loss, persecution, pesticides, road mortality

#### Distribution status:

common, near-endemic

**Most likely to be seen:** nocturnal, typically January through August



### Sumach

#### Scientific name:

*Rhus coriaria*

#### Current conservation status:

Vulnerable (VU)

#### Main threats:

Deforestation, urbanisation, agricultural intensification

#### Distribution status:

Restricted, fragmented

**Most likely to be seen:** Tree, flowers April through June

#### Medicinal value:

Hepatoprotective, antimicrobial, and source of antioxidants, dyes, bark used in tanning, oil in candle-making, also a popular spice





4

# 11.

## HIMA ANDKET / MUNJEZ / MAABOUR EL-ABIAD / CHARBINE

HIMA  
NORTH  
LEBANON



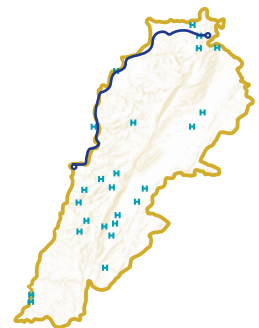
15410

10294 ha



BEIRUT

140 km





## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

Andket: 52 ha /  
Munjez: 49 ha /  
Maabour EL-Abiad: 33 ha /  
Charbine: 364 ha

**IBA designation /** A1, A2, A3

**Habitat /** Woodland / (High) Mountains

### Species /

**Flora:** Greek juniper, Hyena broad-bean, Tabor oak, Lebanon barberry, Fragrant lavender-cotton, Hanbury's squill /

**Fauna:** Saker falcon, Long-legged buzzard, Mistle Thrush

### Threats /

Over grazing / Forest fires / Hunting

### Conservation action /

**Done:** RHA decision

**Needed:** Management plan / Responsible tourism / Monitoring / Education & awareness / RHA implementation

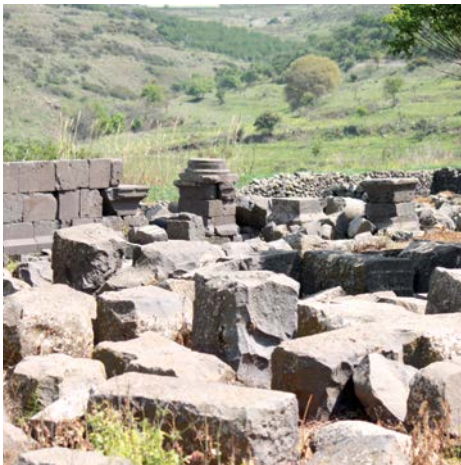
## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

Megalithic tombs / Roman ruins / "Saydet El-Qalaa church / Juniper and cedar's forest

### Recreational activities /

Forest /  
Hiking /  
Camping /  
Birdwatching



## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Greater spotted eagle

#### Scientific name:

*Aquila clanga*

#### Current conservation status:

Vulnerable (VU)

#### Main threats:

Hunting, disturbance, and persecution

**Distribution status:** Rare

#### Most likely to be seen:

Early spring and September and October, considered a scarce passage migrant



### Lebanon viper

#### Scientific name:

*Montivipera bornmuelleri*

#### Current conservation status:

Endangered (EN)

#### Main threats:

Habitat loss

**Distribution status:** Endemic

**Most likely to be seen:** Sometimes seen in the shade beneath shrubs or trees, hide in rocks



### Cilician fir

#### Scientific name:

*Abies cilicica*

#### Current conservation status:

Near threatened (NT)

#### Main threats:

Deforestation, habitat loss, forest fires

**Distribution status:** Localised, near-endemic

#### Most likely to be seen:

Tree, evergreen

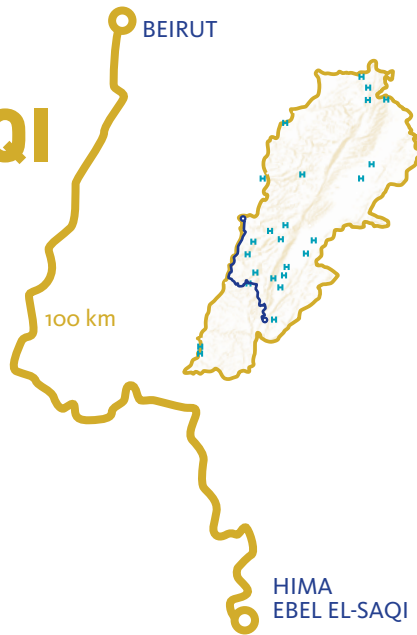
**Medicinal value:** Antiseptic, diuretic, and antimicrobial





4

# 12. HIMA EBEL EL-SAQI



4000



799 ha



HIMA  
EBEL EL-SAQI

## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

Ebel EL-Saqi : 1 ha

**IBA designation /** A1, A3, A4iv

**Habitat /** Mountains / Fields / Steppes / wetland / semi-desert

### Species /

**Flora:** Nazareth iris, Fir tree, Cypruss tree, Cretan Iris /

**Fauna:** Dalmatian pelican, Long-legged buzzard, Mistle thrush, Stripped hiyena

### Threats /

Over grazing /

Forest fires /

Hunting

### Conservation action /

**Done:** Awareness & Education / Hima center / Shepherd home / Trails / Management plan

**Needed:** Management plan update / Responsible tourism / Monitoring / Education & awareness / RHA implementation

## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

Old houses /

Hasbani river

### Recreational activities /

Birdwatching /

Hiking



## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Common crane

#### Scientific name:

*Grus grus*

#### Current conservation status:

Least Concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Habitat loss, hunting, and pesticides

#### Distribution status:

Common

#### Most likely to be seen:

Mainly a passage migrant in early spring and autumn, also a rare winterer



### Lebanese thin-toed gecko

#### Scientific name:

*Mediodactylus amictopholis*

#### Current conservation status:

Endangered (EN)

#### Main threats:

Habitat loss

#### Distribution status:

Rare, near-endemic

#### Most likely to be seen:

Nocturnal, sometimes seen basking on rocks in the mornings and late in the afternoon in cooler weather



### Heavy-scented crocus

#### Scientific name:

*Crocus graveolens*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

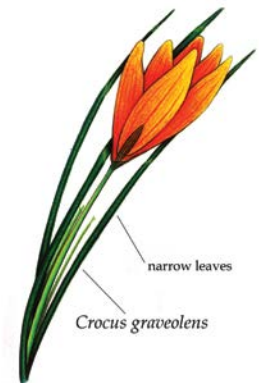
#### Main threats:

Overgrazing, urbanisation, agricultural intensification

#### Distribution status:

Fairly common, near-endemic

**Most likely to be seen:** Perennial, flowers October through January





# SEMI-DESERT

«The reviving of Hima by SPNL has put nature conservation on a fast track in Lebanon and has managed to bring different economic and cultural communities together for the benefit of the sustainable management of the environment.»»

**Olivier Langrand**

Executive Director – CEPF





© Asaad Saleh

4

# 13. HIMA FEKHA



28546

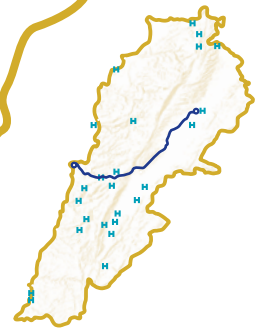


2798 ha

BEIRUT

120 km

HIMA FEKHA



## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

Fekha: 5914 ha

**IBA designation /** A3

**Habitat /** Semi-desert / Steppes / Mountains

### Species /

**Flora:** White wormwood, Lowne's tulip, Pinard's sage /

**Fauna:** Cream-coloured courser, Sociable lapwing, Blanford's short-nosed desert lizard

### Threats /

Hunting /

Misuse of water resources

### Conservation action /

**Done:** Water conservation / HH training / Women training

**Needed:** Management plan / Responsible tourism / Monitoring / Education & awareness

## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

Traditional wool carpet weaving

### Recreational activities /

Hiking /

Medicinal plant picking



## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Caracal

#### Scientific name:

*Caracal caracal*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Habitat loss, agricultural intensification, persecution, and road mortality

#### Distribution status:

Rare

#### Most likely to be seen:

Nocturnal, not readily observable



### Long-eared hedgehog

#### Scientific name:

*Hemiechinus auritus*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Habitat loss

#### Distribution status:

Rare

#### Most likely to be seen:

Nocturnal, hide under stones and piles during the day



### Lebanon savory

#### Scientific name:

*Micromeria libanotica*

#### Current conservation status:

Endangered (EN)

#### Main threats:

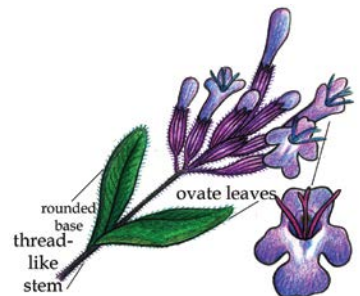
Overgrazing, agricultural intensification, climate change

#### Distribution status:

Localised, endemic

#### Most likely to be seen:

Perennial, flowers June through September

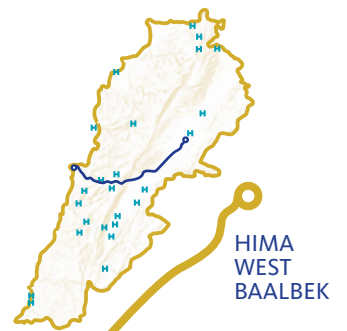




© R.D Photographer

5

# 14. HIMA WEST BAALBEK



...



... ha



BEIRUT

88 km

HIMA WEST BAALBEK



## NATURAL VALUE

### Hima area /

West Baalbek: 5960 ha

**IBA designation /** A3

**Habitat /** Steppes / Mountains / Plains

### Species /

**Flora:** Fragrant lavender cotton, Palestine sage (*Salvia palaestina*), Greek juniper /

**Fauna:** Stone Curlew, Cinereous bunting, Gray wolf

### Threats /

Hunting /

Misuse of water resources

### Conservation action /

**Done:** Water conservation / HH training

**Needed:** Management plan / Responsible tourism / Monitoring / Education & awareness

## CULTURAL VALUE

### Natural & Cultural highlights /

Old roman temples in Ksarnaba, Temnine and Niha / Rose harvesting in Ksarnaba to make rose water / Horticulture crops

### Recreational activities /

Hiking /

Visiting archeological sites

\*

Our eyes on the Badya gateway at the north-eastern Lebanon (بوابة بادية بلاد الشام), for it is the only region in Lebanon with semi desert-species and habitats



© R. D. Photographer

## STAR SPECIES

Enter the circle of Hima Heroes by adopting one of these priority species for conservation.

### Eurasian stone curlew

#### Scientific name:

*Burhinus oediconemus*

#### Current conservation status:

Least concern (LC)

#### Main threats:

Habitat loss, hunting, and agricultural intensification

#### Distribution status:

Common  
**Most likely to be seen:** Seen spring, summer, and autumn months, considered a common passage migrant and scarce summer breeder



### Striped hyena

#### Scientific name:

*Hyaena hyaena syriaca*

#### Current conservation status:

Near threatened (NT)

#### Main threats:

Hunting and persecution

#### Distribution status:

Declining  
**Most likely to be seen:** Nocturnal, hide in caves, often travels with wolves



### Field almond

#### Scientific name:

*Prunus agrestis*

#### Current conservation status:

Endangered (EN)

#### Main threats:

Overgrazing

#### Distribution status:

Localised, endemic  
**Most likely to be seen:** Shrub, flowers April and May



# BE PART OF THE SOLUTION PICK YOUR HIMA / SPECIES

## ADOPT / DONATE

The symbolic adoption is a strong commitment: through your donation, you contribute in a sustainable way to the projects that the SPNL carries out for the survival of the species and/or Hima site you have chosen, and you support our essential nature conservation work in Lebanon.

[www.spnl.org/donate/](http://www.spnl.org/donate/)



**Adopt a species** by making a donation to the SPNL to support our conservation work in Lebanon and receive an illustration and/or a designed item produced by the **SPNL/HHI**.

## HIMA SERVICES

Homat al-Hima International proudly operates in many areas that allow the individual to connect with nature and wildlife. We offer a range of service such as consulting, excursions, film shooting, and sale of natural products. You can ask for customized services: it will be a pleasure for us to meet all your requirements.

Visit our Website: [www.homatalhima.com](http://www.homatalhima.com)  
Contact us: [www.homatalhima.com/contact/](http://www.homatalhima.com/contact/)

### Credits

Graphic Design | **Karim Farah**  
Illustration |

All by **Husein Ali Zorkot**, except for **Jonathan Kingdon** (Swamp cat p.29, Hyrax p.37, Striped hyena p.55), **Juan Varela** (Monk seal p.21, Bent-winged bat p.33, European badger p.39, White-bellied hedgehog p.45) **Karen Wade** (Green sandpiper p.21, Common crane p.49)

**Karim Farah** (Persian squirrel p.43)  
Printing | **Salim Dabbous Printing Company**

Beirut 2021

## CONTACT

### MAIN OFFICE

Hamra, Awad Bldg.  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Abdel Aziz St.  
P.O.Box: 11-5665  
Beirut - Lebanon

Tel/Fax: +961 1 343 740  
+961 1 344 814  
+961 1 748 309

### OTHER CENTERS

#### LHHH

Kayfoun, Mount Lebanon, +961 5 271 041

#### HHIC

West Bekaa, Kherbet Kanafar

[news@spnl.org](mailto:news@spnl.org)

[www.spnl.org](http://www.spnl.org)



/ SpnlOrg





A visual transition that draws a relationship between the form of a bird and the arabic letter H, as featured in the untranslatable 'Hima'



# WWW.SPNL.ORG

## SPNL THE WORLD LEADER IN HIMA REVIVAL

**Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL)** is a national non-governmental organization established under a no.6.A.D. in 1986.

SPNL is the national partner for Birdlife International in Lebanon, and the first IUCN member in Lebanon.

SPNL aims to conserve birds, and biodiversity in Lebanon; and to promote the sustainable use of natural resources. SPNL is a leader in reviving the "Hima" community based approach as a decentralized approach for managing natural resources in a sustainable way.



SIGRID  
RAUSING  
TRUST

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM  
PARTNERSHIP FUND