



Outreach Efforts to mitigation IKBs

27 February 2025

Ideas that fly.

WHO WE ARE

ESSENTIAL FACTS

- First environmental NGO in Lebanon
- Established in 1986
- ...A... national, non-geographic, non-sectorial, non-political environmental NGO
- BirdLife partner in Lebanon
- First IUCN member in Lebanon
- World leader in Hima revival to conserve the IBA's and KBA's



Our mission

SPNL AIMS TO PROTECT NATURE, BIRDS AND BIODIVERSITY OF LEBANON TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH THE HIMA APPROACH.



SPNL pillars of establishment

Two pillars:

- Establishment of protected area system.**
- Contribution to the organization of hunting in the country.**

HUNTING PROBLEM

- Hunters shoot on anything that flies
 - Regardless of species, season, time, tools,....
 - Even migratory soaring birds
- **2nd** most important flyway
 - **400** recorded bird species
 - **291** regularly occurring
 - **100%** bird species illegally killed
 - **2.6 million IKB per year**



Social hobby embedded within our culture. 5

Further Achievements

- **Trainings for rangers, law enforcement officers, youth,**
- **Building contacts with hunters, hunter organizations, merchants,....**
.....
- **Development of new hunting law.**
- **Survey about drivers of hunting.**

IMPORTANT MILESTONES

2010 SPNL signed an agreement with Sayd magazine as field coordinator for responsible hunting.

2015 SPNL supported Sayd magazine in the establishment of MESHC.



IMPORTANT MILESTONES

March 2017 Lebanese President launched a “Peace Treaty” Campaign to protect the migrating birds over Lebanon reaching an agreement between man and nature, man and birds”

April 2017 Minister of Environment opened the hunting season 15 Sept 2017- 31 Jan 2018 (banned since 1995),

May 2017 Creation of the “National Committee” by Ms. Claudine Aoun Roukoz, special advisor of the President with MoE, MoA, Mol, SPNL, to implement the President peace treaty. SPNL volunteered to develop road map and 5 year action plan against IKBs.

May 2017 National conference in WBCC with Claudine A. Roukoz. All stakeholders for the development of the roadmap against IKB and 5 years action plan



SOLUTION AGAINST IKBS

2004 Establishment of the Hunting Law N° 580 (supported by SPNL)

2011 Creation of “Hunting Higher Council” in the MoE

2017 Hunting permits, Gun permit, and insurance are mandatory

Law Enforcement: it is **not a priority** for the MoI & MoD

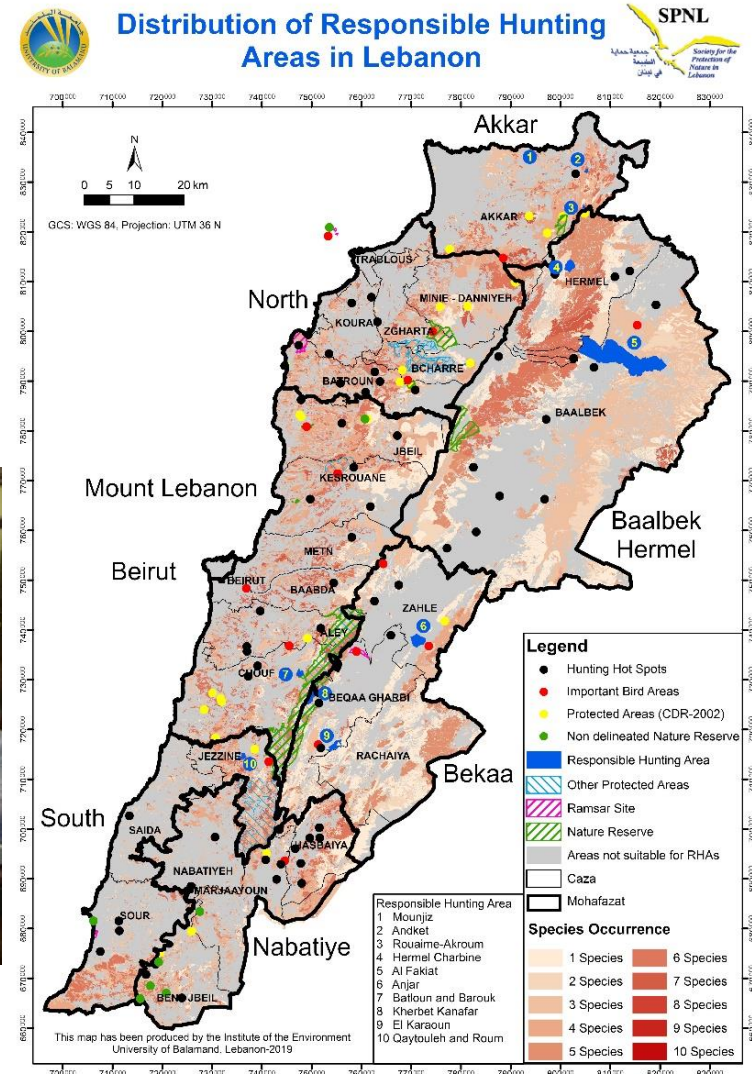
SPNL suggested:

- Promoting **RHAs**: restricted hunting within specific areas managed by municipalities (within the hunting law & its application decrees).
- **Collaborating with CABS/UNEP** for identifying hunting law violations. Within this scope, SPNL in collaboration with MECRH has established an anti-poaching unit for identifying violations, and following up with the Ministry of Justice.



SOLUTION AGAINST IKBS

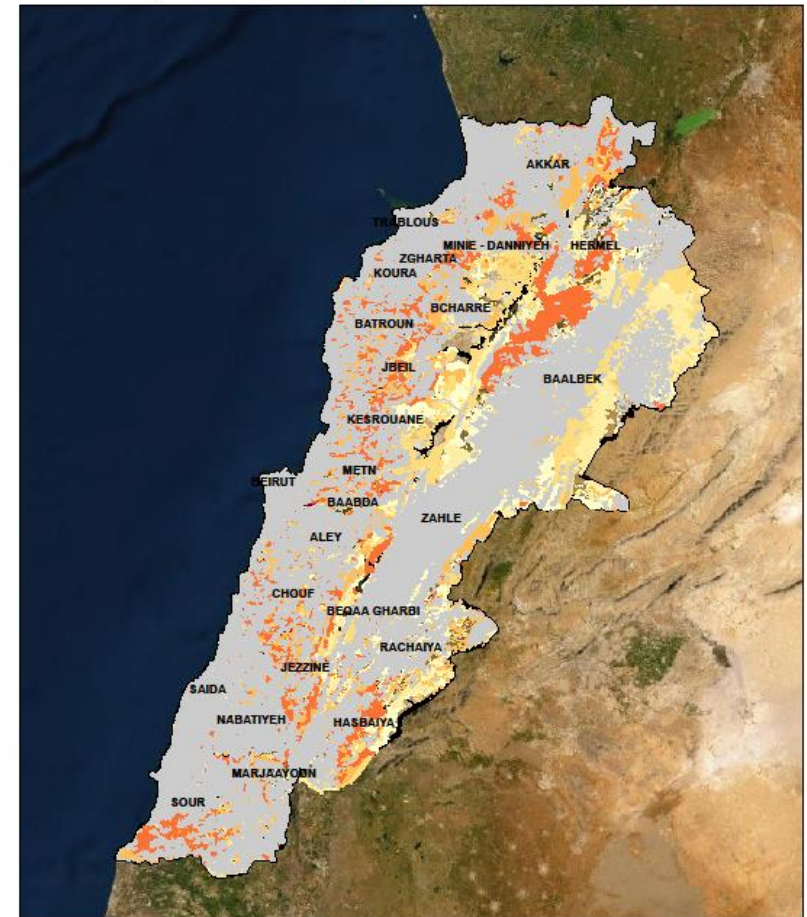
8 Lebanese Municipalities sign RHAs declaration to end current chaotic situation, and be responsible for the management and monitoring of these areas.



ONLINE APP FOR RHAs

Identifies potential RHAs
on ALL land tenure

Responsible Haunting Areas Distribution in Lebanon



10/05/2021, 11:53:37

Areas not suitable for RHAs

Species Occurrence

1

2

4

5

6

7

9

10

Caza

Mohafaza

1:1,155,581
0 5 10 20 mi
0 12.5 25 50 km

Earthstar Geographics

PARTNERSHIP WITH CABS

1 to 11 Sept 2017

Joint CABS / SPNL operation 'Safe Haven':
documenting acts of illegal hunting before
hunting season



SPNL
homat al hima

Missions twice annually, Autumn & Spring.

ANTI POACHING UNIT - APU

- Established April 2018
- Identify violations
- Prosecute violators in collaboration with ISF



CONCEPTS OF APU

Launched its easy and clear equation that is close to the mentality of the hunter and the environmentalist together, which shows the difference between (hunter/shooter) - (prey/bird) - (responsible hunting/irresponsible hunting),

HUNTER

practices responsible sustainable hunting, and hunts prey that is permitted to be caught during the hunting season. He must adhere to the specified numbers for each trip.



SHOOTER

he does the opposite, and uses illegal methods of hunting, such as nets and lime sticks, lighting trees at night, and luring birds with bird sound machines.

ANTI POACHING UNIT - APU

APU is working on several fronts in order to promote hunting law enforcement:

- establishing contact & partnerships with hunter groups.
- Establishing partnership with internal security forces.
- Organizing patrolling missions to identify and document hunting violations.
-
- Organizing awareness sessions with schools, youth,....& Shooters.
- Organizing alternative activities to hunting & IKBs.

Establishing partnership with Internal Security forces

Cooperation established by the unit between it and the general directorate of the internal security forces under the auspices of the director general, major general Imad Othman, and in coordination with colonel Joseph Musallam, head of the public relations division and the information branch, had a great impact, which was evident in many joint awareness meetings and activities, and the unit developed itself based on the field needs in the job.



CAMPAIGN WITH ISF

Distributing pamphlets in collaboration with ISF

1ST of a kind collaboration in Lebanon and the region



Meeting between the security forces and the unit to develop joint plans to organize hunting and appropriate mechanisms of action to document and suppress violations, where the public relations division participated, represented by its head, colonel joseph muslim, officers from the investigation and information division, and two faction commanders.



BIRD RESCUE

SPNL receiving calls for injured MSB birds.
Caring, rehabilitating.....vets, medication, food,.....



Female Egyptian Vulture: Anahita



Juvenile Crane: Osmat

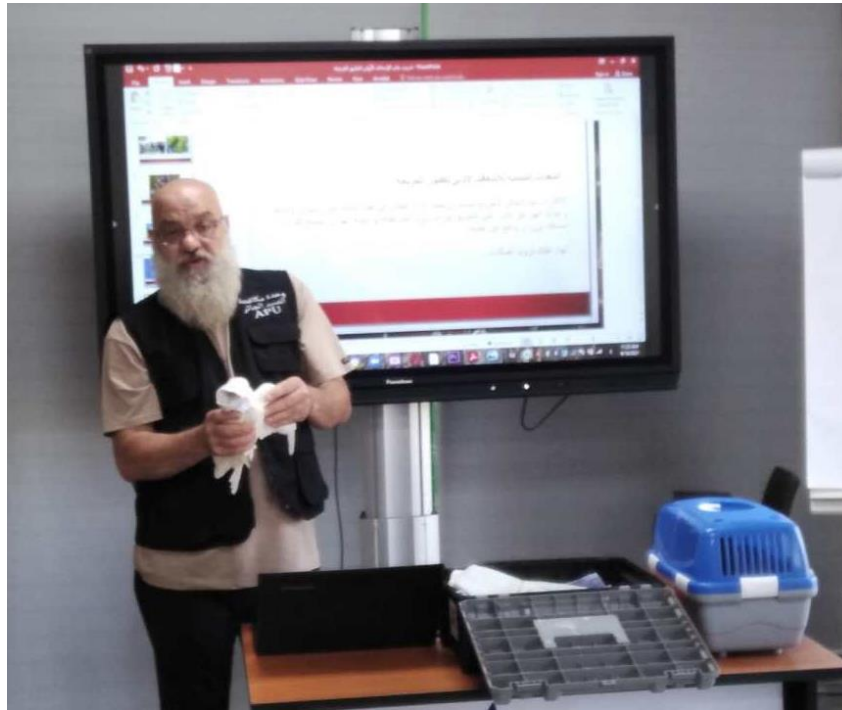


Juvenile Pelican: Nemo

APU PROVIDING FIRST AID TO BIRDS

(SEPTEMBER 2021)

- APU, MESHC & SPNL in partnership with CABS & the support of the GGF
- Training session on first aid for migratory birds in cooperation with the Hunting Legends Collective of the Western Bekaa.



Awareness sessions

- **Began its work in partnership with SPNL, in the process of raising awareness of hunters under the title: “tallo al-sayyadi session” until February 4, 2018,**
- **Switched to capacity building and discussion sessions.**
- **SPNL and MESHHC began training hunters on combating poaching, methods of monitoring and documenting violations to submit to environmental prosecutors or contacting security forces or army intelligence to suppress violations.**
- **Professional hunters became focal points per mohafazat collaborating with APU.**



Awareness and training sessions for hunters in areas of irresponsible hunting



Examples of electronic publications for awareness



Promotion of alternative hobbies for hunters during spring migration

To confirm the role of the hunter in protecting the migration corridor, and sending a message to the world that the real Lebanese hunter is not a shooter.

.....

PEACE JOURNEY ON THE PATH OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

(26-28 APRIL 2019)

Part of the “Safe Haven” Campaign

3 days event for families of responsible hunters to spread awareness about the importance of conservation of migratory bird along the flyway

Spring migration season



Children of hunters gave children in the south their drawings of birds so they could help color them, and this is what happened on the itinerary in the west bekaa, hermel, danniyeh and koura.



Courses for women launched by the MESHC, SPNL, and the sayd magazine (off-the-beaten-track driving, wild photography, shooting with a professional air pressure rifle (PCP), and bow and arrow)









TRIBUTE TO HUNTING SEASON

(5 SEPTEMBER 2020)

Educational and sport-focused activities in HHIC – West Bekaa

Including a seminar on the importance of bird migration and the need to combat excessive hunting, and to promote the culture of the new generation in understanding the benefits of birds to biodiversity.

3 hunters were honoured for being responsible hunters

Bird kites were flown to represent the safe passage of MSB



ASAAD ADEL SERHAL WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE (AUGUST 2021)

using a rifle with a lens for spring hunting during the breeding season, in which the hunter practices the hobby of hunting with a lens, to protect his hobby and nature. The Center chose to name the award after Asaad Serhal because he represents a responsible hunter turned environmentalist, winning the Midori Prize for Biodiversity from Japan



Middle East Sustainable Hunting Center
وحدة مكافحة الصيد الجائر
ANTI-POACHING UNIT

ASSAD ADEL SERHAL WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE
جائزة أسعد عادل سرحال لتصوير الحياة البرية

أبطال صيد الربيع بندقية الكاميرا
الصيادون المشاركون في المسابقة
حسب الترتيب الأبجدي

أندره تابت - إيلي كرم - بيتر ليشع - تسولاك هركليان
جاد بو رقول - خليل نعيم - ربيع صالحه - روني خوري
سامر حلواني - شادي سعد - طوني بجاني - ظافر النخلاوي
محمد حيمور - ميلاد خالد - هديل حية

تنتهي المسابقة في حزيران
نصوت لهم في تموز على صفحة المسابقة facebook
Middle East Sustainable Hunting Center
نحتفل بالفائزين ونوزع لهم الجوائز النقدية في آب 2021 خلال حفل خاص



MSB Maintaining Conservation of Migratory Scaring Birds in Key Productive Sectors Along the Red Valley-Red Sea Flyway

gef **UNDP** **BirdLife International** **MAVA**



WMBD 2019 | three bird stamps

- Event at the Presidential Palace
- Launched by the President to celebrate WMBD
- Birds picked are significant to Lebanon's biodiversity
- +100 people attended



LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

- Support from the presidential palace
- Support from Minister of Interior and Municipalities who urged ISF to take urgent measures to facilitate the implementation of the law of hunting
- MoEdu issued a letter to all schools to allocate one hour during the month of April 2019 to discuss the importance of birds and their protection (based on the efforts of SPNL)
- The government issued the new law for protected areas management which includes 4 categories, one of them is the Hima community based approach (30 April 2019).
- Hotlines to highlight violations to the MoE, APU and ISF

Main Challenges

Political and security situation in the region.

Economic meltdown & devaluation of Lebanese Currency.

URGENT NEEDS

Support APU work through tools, equipment and running cost.

Establish model RHAs per each Mohafazat.

Support work on injured MSB birds rescue.

PARTNERSHIP



- To protect these amazing beneficial creatures.

SYRIA AWARENESS WORK

SSCW

AWARENESS OF ILLEGAL TRADE & TAKING OF BIRDS

- A juvenile Egyptian Vulture was taken from the market and was rescued by a bird trader who knew about the importance of some species through SSCW previous awareness activities.
- He agreed to anonymously surrender this bird for SSCW to take care of.

A tracking device was installed on this Egyptian Vulture, in cooperation between the Syrian Society team and the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds as a remnant of the EU-Egyptian Vulture New LIFE Project. It was then released to continue its migration on May 30th 2024.



ADVOCACY FOR THE UPDATED HUNTING REGULATION

A dialogue workshop on sustainable hunting was delivered on May 31st 2024, in Messiaf, Hama, by the SSCW, with the attendance of few hunters alongside founders, influencers, and managers of the main Syrian pages for hunting on social media.

They were made aware of the pligh that birds are facing and the need to abide by the updated laws.



CAPACITY ABOUT BIRD MONITORING WORK

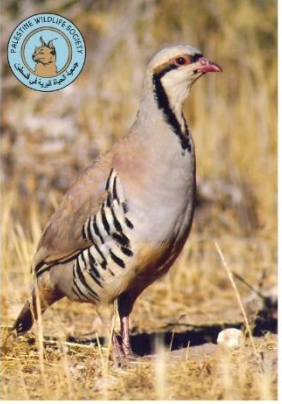
A training workshop was delivered to selected members from SSCW who will play some role in the future monitoring activities in Damascus on June 13th 2024.

The trainees were made aware of the basic skills needed to identify birds, and how to count or estimate bird numbers at sites.

This will be followed in the future by a more detailed and advanced training.







لا لصيد
الطيور في
موسم
التفريخ
جميع
الاديان
نهت عن
الصيد
في هذه
الايام

حافظوا
عليها



حماية الطيور جزء من هويتنا الثقافية

هدفنا بالمشروع هو الابتعاد عن
الصيد الجائر بكافة اساليبه والتجارة غير المشروعة للطيور (المقيمة والمهاجرة)
لحماية هذه الثروة الوطنية لنا وللجيال القادمة



مشروع الصيد المستدام

www.wildlife-pal.org



SPNL
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From a Bird
Hunter
To
ornithologist



Yabed-
Jenin

A bird
migration
Station

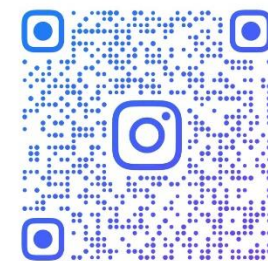




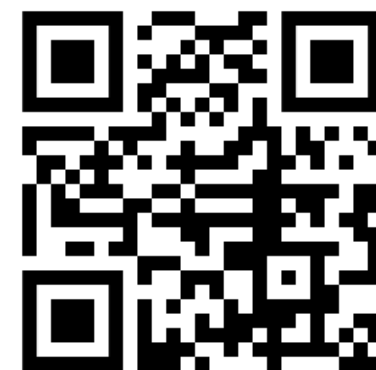
**Yabed
Monitoring
Station
And meeting with
hunters in Jenin**



**Distributing the
Questionnaire**



@WILDLIFE.PAL



Thank you



Samir Azar®
WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY



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