



ENI/2021/430-096

Ensuring effective management and governance in Sites of Ecological Importance  
and expanding biodiversity protection in Southern Lebanon

ضمان الإدارة والحوكمة الفعالة في المواقع ذات الأهمية البيئية  
وتوسيع حماية التنوع البيولوجي في جنوب لبنان



This project is funded by the European Union



Implemented by



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## Area of the action

Shouf Biosphere Reserve

Jezzine area

Mount Hermon protected area

Tyr Coast Nature Reserve

Himas' in 6 locations

Ain Zebdeh, Kherbet Kanafar in west

Beqaa,

Hammana and Ras el Metn in Metn area,

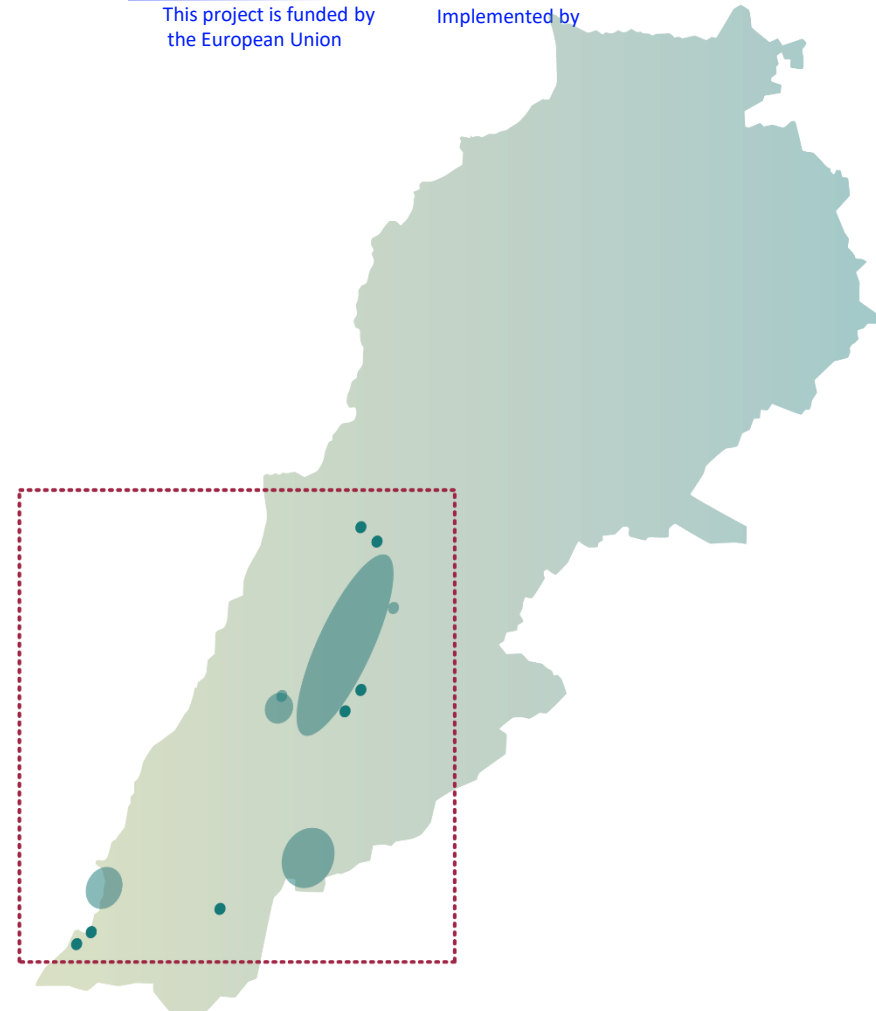
Kleileh, Ebl el Saqi and Mansouri in

South)

New PA's and OECMs



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## Background

**The global objective of the call for proposals was to contribute to protect biodiversity and ecosystems in Lebanon through tackling the root causes of threats to diversity and forest ecosystems in regions classified as natural sites of national interest**

## BioConnect vision

**Attain integrated conservation, landscape connectivity and socio-ecological resilience through enhanced PA management and stakeholders' capacity building and networks**

# BioConnect mission

## 1. Enhance the management and governance of sites of ecological importance in southern Lebanon

- Ensure socio-ecological resilience through improved conservation monitoring and evaluation protocols, and abating key pressures on biodiversity
- Expand protection and increase management effectiveness inside protected areas development of Management Plans and enhancement of management effectiveness

## 2. Create/identify new Protected Areas and OECMs for broader landscape conservation in southern Lebanon

- Create/identify new PAs and OECMs (includes the Shouf-Jezzine GeoPark)
- Ensure effective management of new sites
- **Increase landscape connectivity through new protected areas, OECMs, and restoration practices**



# Connectivity for Conservation

## Protected Areas in isolation vs. Connected Areas

Living things can move freely and access the resources they need to thrive

If connectivity is lost, landscapes, river systems, seascapes...etc. become fragmented and ecological systems can break down

**Connectivity conserves critical species movement ecology, such as allowing fish to travel up streams to spawn, facilitating the seasonal migration of whales, butterflies and birds and providing the adaptive space for plants to spread across a landscape in the face of changing environmental conditions.**

**National Council for Scientific Research – Lebanon (CNRS-L) to present key findings from the identification and mapping of potential sites suitable for designation as Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) and/or Protected Areas (PAs).**



# Successful conservation requires movement

## From isolated Protected Areas



Protected Area refers to all PAs and Himas (with or without management plans)

# Towards Connectivity





To achieve connectivity, with the support of CNRS, ACS will:

1. Define Potential Priority Areas (maps of ecological corridors, habitat mapping)
2. Characterization (assessment of challenges and threats and proposal of potential solutions)
3. Define and Map the Corridors(outcomes are geolocated, and a standardized geodatabase will be created to develop detailed maps of ecological corridors. Various mapping sources and GIS modeling will be used, including the EUNIS habitat classification)
4. Present new potential PAs and OECMs of high conservation value, (this includes a workshop with MOE, and a final assessment of new potential PAs and OECMs of high conservation value, in addition to recommended actions to enhance ecological connectivity between the sites.

