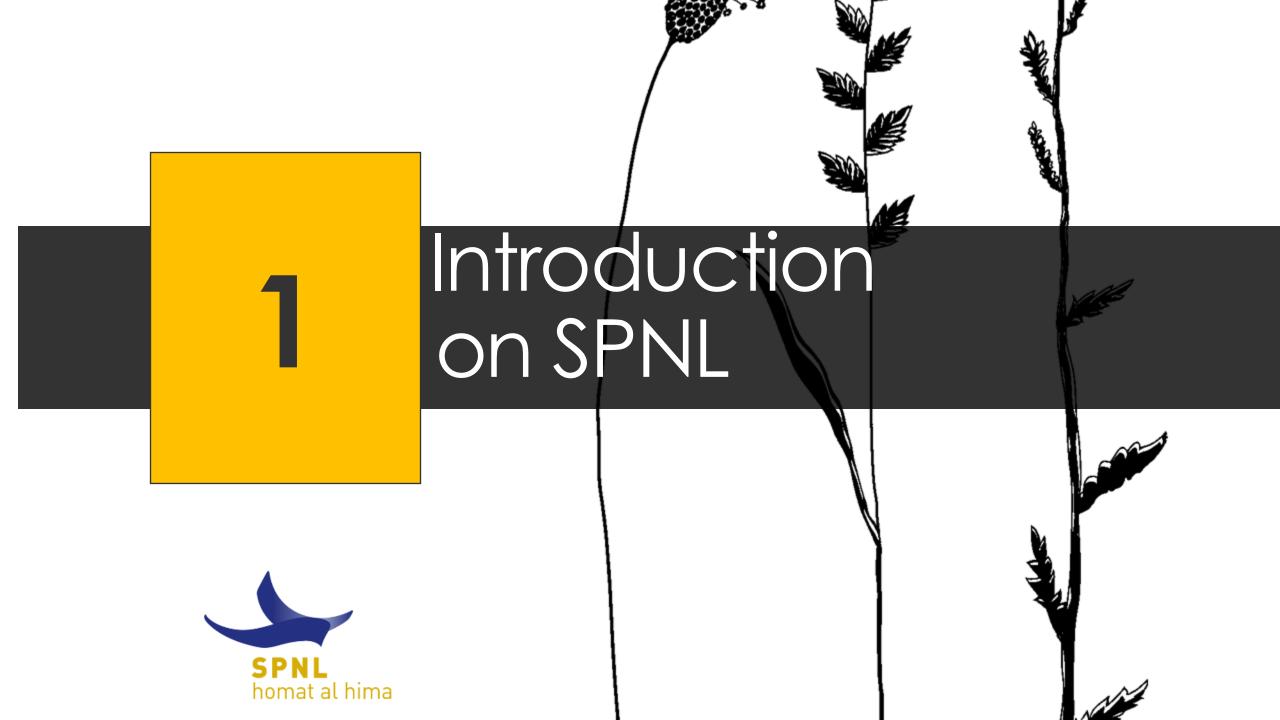


## Outlines



- 1. Introduction on SPNL
  - BioConnect project
- 2. Geographical scope
- 3. Main aim
- 4. Achievements







#### Our mission

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





#### **OUR DIFFERENT PROGRAMS**

#### Saveguarding nature



Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas



Responsible Farming



Education SNOW



Migratory Soaring Birds



Eco-Tourism



Responsible hunting



Hima Revival

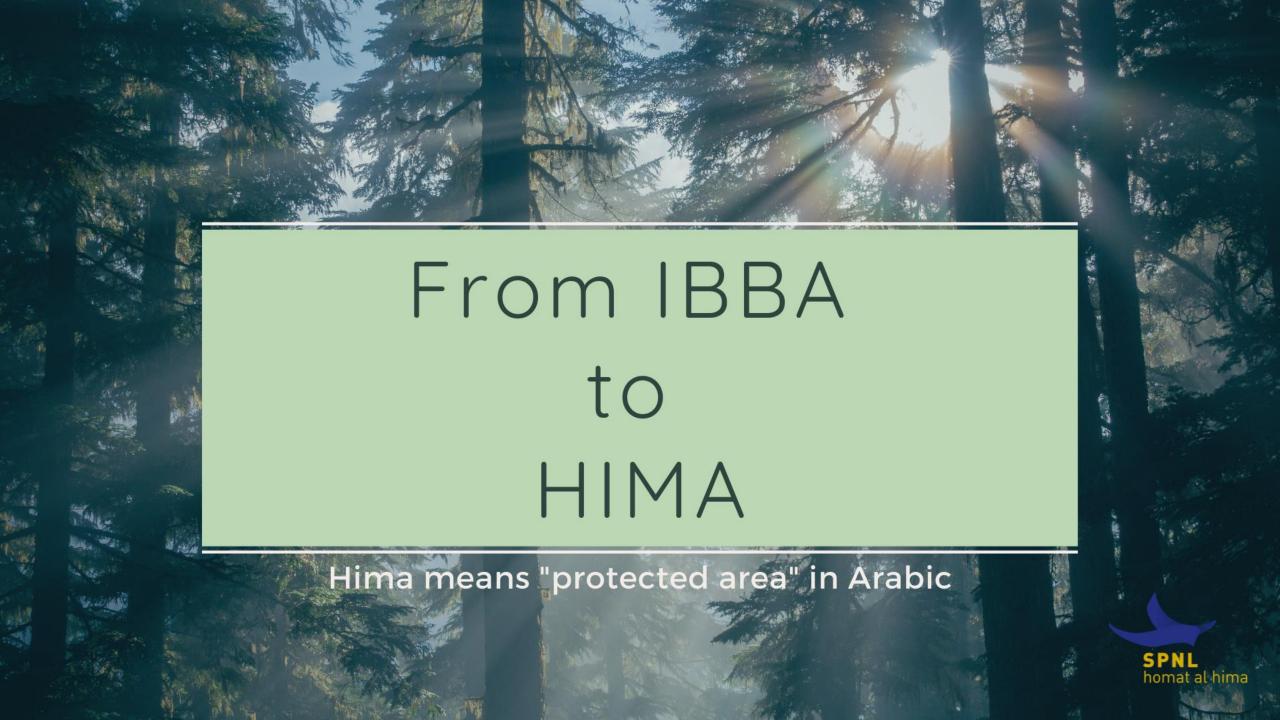


Globally Threatened Species



Homat el Hima





**01** →

NATURE RESERVES

From the 15 identified sites. Five are Nature Reserves.

02

NO STATUS OF PROTECTION

The other 10 don't have any protection status and lie on public lands.

03

EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

This lead to a quick solution to ensure their effective management

04

HIMA

Traditional communitybased approach to:

- \* sustainably manage natural resources .
- \*realize common benefits for people and nature
- \*conserve biodiversity and heritage.

The HIMA was established over 1500 years ago within the Arabian Peninsula. It evolved later by adding to its social norms and values especially through the Islamic culture.

SPNL homat al him

# SPNL and the Hima revival

Since 2004, with the support Birdlife International & IUCN



## The Hybrid HIMA

SPNL merged modern science with the values of the traditional Hima.









Adopting social tools for stakeholder analysis assessments.



Adopting participatory approaches to ensure ownership by the community.



Stressing the values & culture embedded in the traditional Hima (equity, traditional knowledge, underprivileged groups, benefits for the poor,...)



#### NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY VALUES

Important natural resource
Possess globally endangered / endemic species



#### **OWNERSHIP**

Publicly owned to serve the good of the community



# SOCIO-ECONOMIC & CULTURAL VALUES

Contributes to the livelihoods of the community
Empowers minorities
Ensures social coherence
Empowers traditional and cultural practices









2

Geographical Scope

1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2025

A 45-month Workplan

### Partners in the project





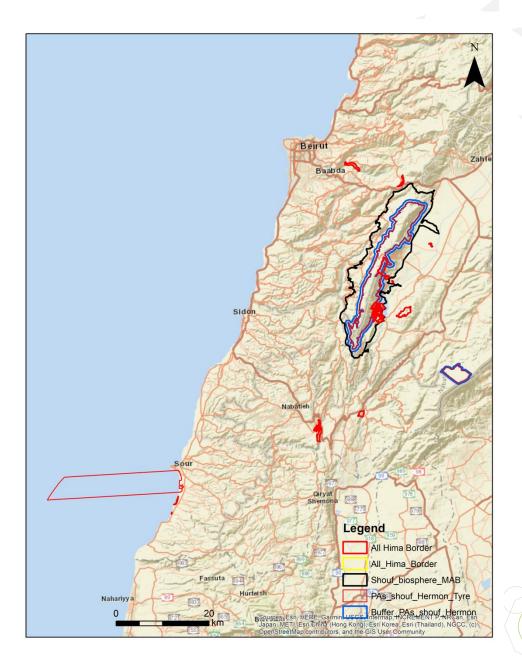


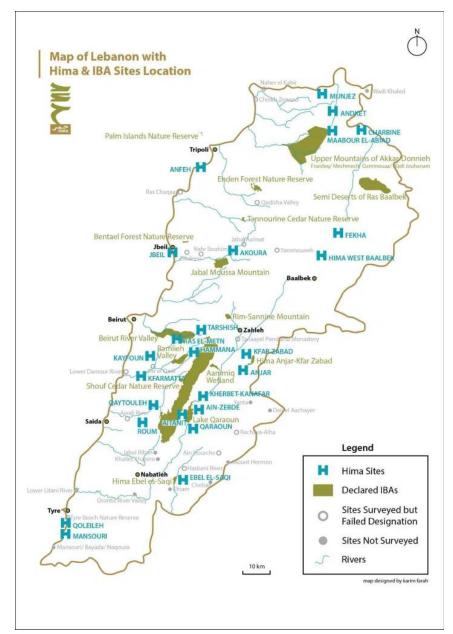


implemented by **European Union** 

- جمعية أرز الشوف •

- جمعية تنمية القدرات الريفية
  جمعية المجتمع والبيئة
  وجمعية حماية الطبيعة في لبنان

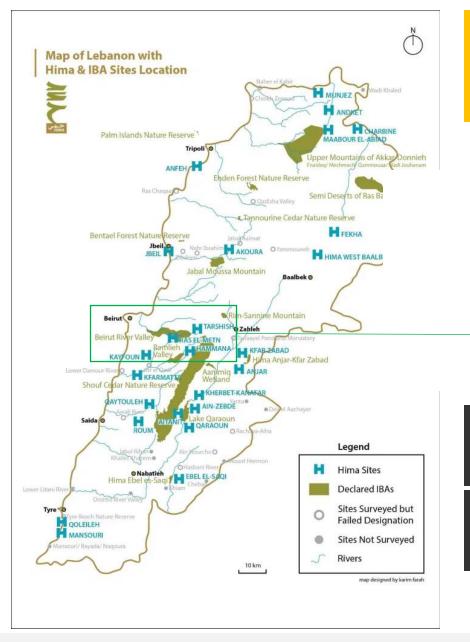




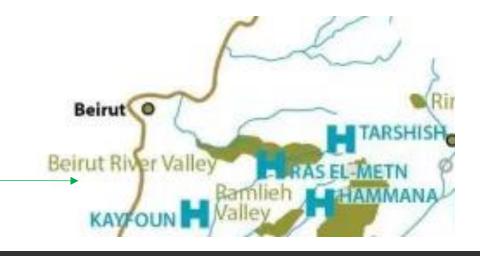
4 Regions

7 Himas





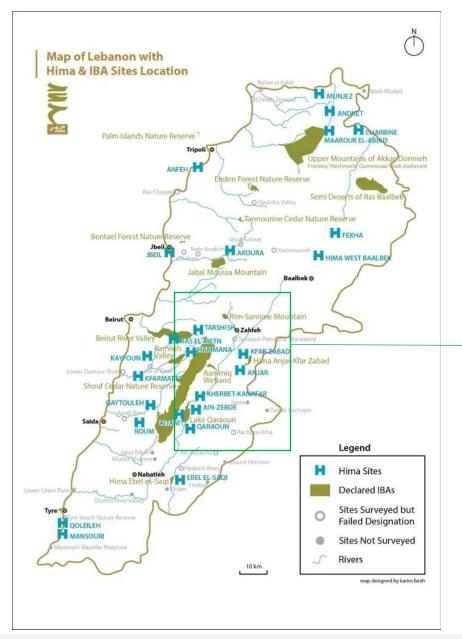
Upper Beirut River Valley



Hammana

Ras El Metn





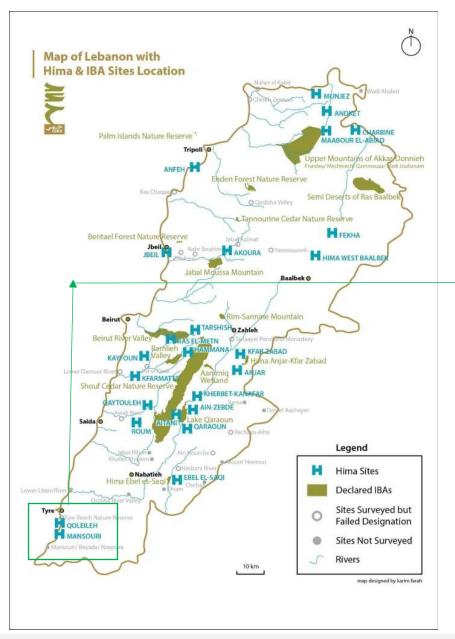
#### **West Bekaa**



### **Kherbet Qanafar**

Ain Zebde





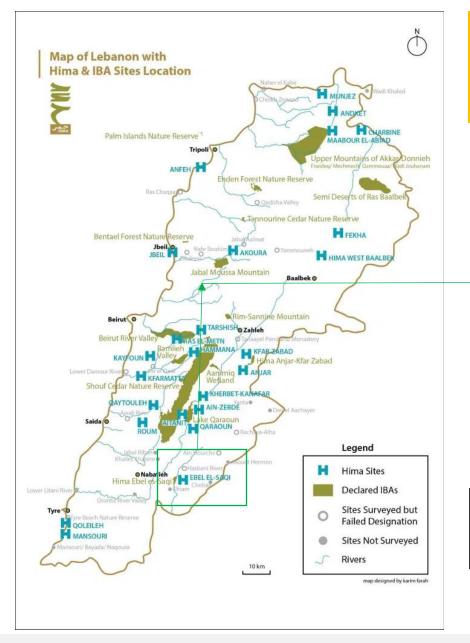
### Coastal area of South Lebanon



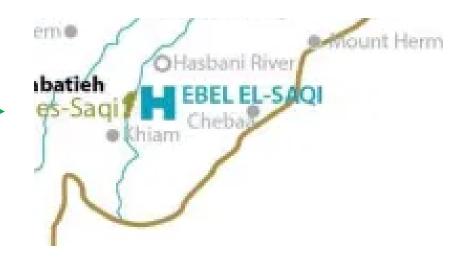
Qoleileh

Mansouri





Hima Ebel El Saqi



Ebel El Saqi





## Project Aim

# Biodiversity I Traditional Practices I PA management

The project aims at 1) Enhancing the management and governance of sites of ecological importance in southern Lebanon; and 2) Creation of new Protected Areas and OECMs for broader landscape conservation in southern Lebanon.

يهدف المشروع إلى 1) تعزيز إدارة وحوكمة المواقع ذات الأهمية البيئية في جنوب لبنان؛ و 2) إنشاء مناطق محمية جديدة ومراكز حماية طبيعية للحفاظ على المناظر الطبيعية على نطاق أوسع في جنوب لبنان.







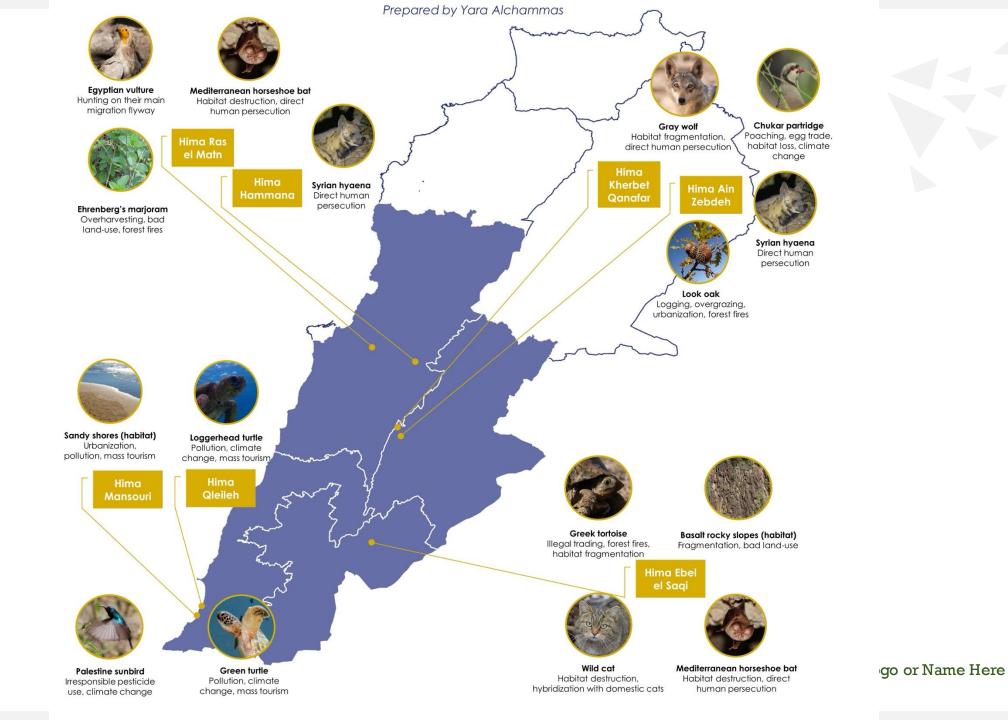


#### **Identification of Key Biodiversity Features**

- Baseline biodiversity assessments finished in March 2023
- KBFs has been selected (4 per Hima site).



Region 1: Hammana/ Ras El Maten	KBF1.1 - Mediterranean horseshoe bat (Rhinolophus euryale)	Hima Ras El Maten / Al Heskan Cave
	KBF 1.2 - Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus)	Hima Hammana / Hima Ras El Maten (Migration Route)
	KBF 1.3 - Ehrenberg's Marjoram (Origanum ehrenbergii)	Within the forest of Hima Ras El Maten and in the surrounding pine forests
	KBF 1.4 - Stripped Hyaena (Hyaena hyaena syriaca)	Ras El Maten & Hammana
	KBF 2.1 - Chukar Partridge (Alectoris chukar)	Kherbet Qanafar
Region 2: Hima Kherbet Qanafar & Hima Ain Zebdeh	KBF 2.2 - Look Oak (Quercus look)	All the forst of Ain Zebdeh/Kherbet Qanafar
	KBF 2.3 - Grey Wolf (Canis lupus)	All the forst of Ain Zebdeh/Kherbet Qanafar
	KBF 2.4 - Stripped Hyaena (Hyaena hyaena syriaca)	Hima forest of Kherbet Qanafar and Ain Zebdeh
Region 3: Hima Qleileh & Hima Mansouri Region 4: Hima Ebel El Saqi	KBF 3.1 - Palestinian Sunbird (Cinnyris osea)	Hima Qleileh and Mansouri
	KBF 3.2 - Sandy shore (Coastal Habitat) KBF 3.3 - Loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta)	Hima Mansouri Hima Mansouri
	KBF 3.4 - Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas) KBF 4.1 - Wild Cat (Felis silvestris tristrami)	Hima Mansouri Forest of Hima Ebel El Saqi
	KBF 4.2 - Mediterranean horseshoe bat (Rhinolophus euryale)	One Cave within Ebel El Saqi
	KBF 4.3 - Basalt Rocky slopes	Within the Hima area in Ebel El Saqi
	KBF 4.4 - Greek Torotise	Within the Hima area in Ebel







#### Citizen Science



Citizen science manual developed – first of its kind in Lebanon.



Technical guide for Hima Hammana and Hima Ras el Matn, accompanied by an informational pamphlet and a booklet for all the species in Lebanon were fully developed.



The "Homat Al Hima – Quick Track" application is finalized and ready to be used: a biodiversity monitoring online application for the development of an online database (used by experts, citizens, nature lovers...)

#### Lebanese cedar

Cedrus libani



The Lebanese cedar is an evergreen pine tree found at altitudes between 500 and 3000 meters. At maturity, it can reach heights between 12 and 18 meters, and a width of 9

The leaves of this conifer are arranged in needles, and its fruits appear in the spring time as brown cones

The Lebanese cedar is Vulnerable



TECHNICAL GUIDE TO CITIZEN SCIENCE **BIODIVERSITY MONITORING** IN LEBANON

> Prepared by Yara Alchammas, Biodiversity Data Analyst, SPNL - May 2023, Beirut Under a project entitled: "BioConnect" and Funded by the European Union















### GIS Mapping of Hima sites



Map Title: Map Showing 26 Hima Borders while Highlighting Important and Key Biodiversity Areas and World Heritage Sites Across Lebanon

Hima Borders

Beabek dentage Scient

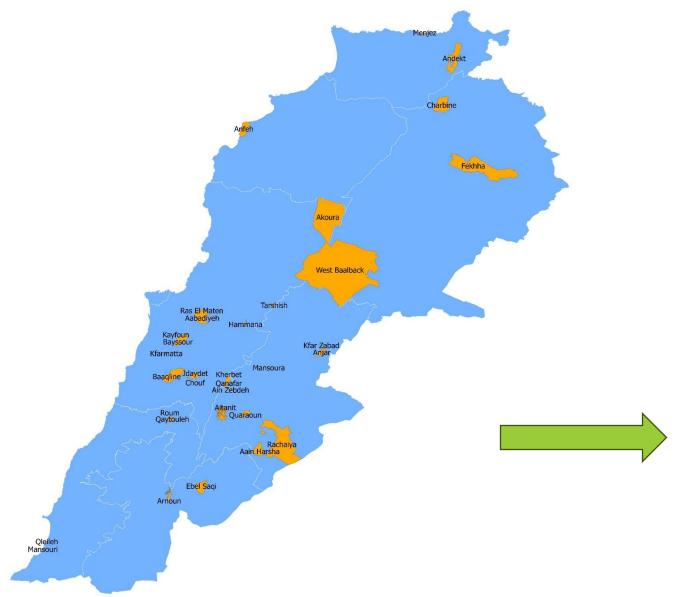
Important Biodiversity Areas

Anjer Heritage Site.

Key Biodiversity Areas References: Base Map by Esri NEP-WCMC and IUCN (2025), Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

Name	AREA	Area_km
West Baalback	250424992	250.43
Hima Tarshish	658572	0.66
Hima Roum	880513	0.88
Hima Ras El Maten	1667880	1.67
Hima Quaraoun	3206120	3.21
Hima Qleileh	164576	0.16
Hima Qaytouleh	694725	0.69
Hima Menjez	447509	0.45
Hima Mansouri	11230.2002	0.01
Hima Mansoura	200695	0.2
Hima Kherbet Qanafar	3254910	3.25
Hima Kfarmatta	139201	0.14
Hima Kfar Zabad	348584	0.35
Hima Kayfoun	8778.320313	0.01
Hima Jdaydet Bekataa	34108	0.03
Hima Hammana	598900	0.6
Hima Ebel Saqi	7989880	7.99
Hima Charbine	13658200	13.66
Hima Arnoun	2440920	2.44
Hima Anjar	3210420	3.21
Hima Anfeh	7328290	7.33
Hima Andekt	14647500	14.65
Hima Fekhha	59091800	59.09
Hima Akoura	67456496	67.46
Hima Aitanit	8003390	8
Hima Ain Zebdeh	555135	0.56
	Sum	447.13
	Percentage	4.28

### Map of the 33 Himas in Lebanon





Achieving around 22% of protected areas coverage

#### **Outreach to Hima Local communities**

# Empower local communities in the management of Himas (Homat al Hima, Hima school)

Homat al Hima & Hima School (SNOW)

- -Covered all regions of the project
- -SNOW: Target exceeded 1214 students (1200)
- -Homat al Hima: target exceeded: 140 youth (90)









Conduct an annual workshop for Hima leaders to share experiences and

understand their roles in relation to each other

- The first annual Hima Leaders Forum conducted 23 November 2023 at HHIC Kherbet Qanafar

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hima Leaders Forum was held on 24 January 2025 at Ras el Maten municipality.

















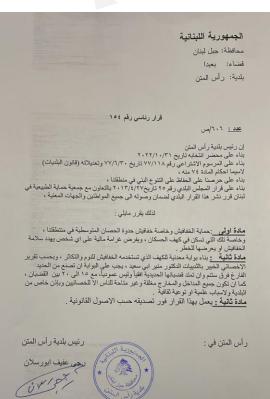
Advocate for local policies by municipalities to combat unsustainable/illegal practices in the selected

Himas

- 3 Municipal decisions till now
  - Ain Zebde
  - Kherbet Oanafar
  - Ras el Maten









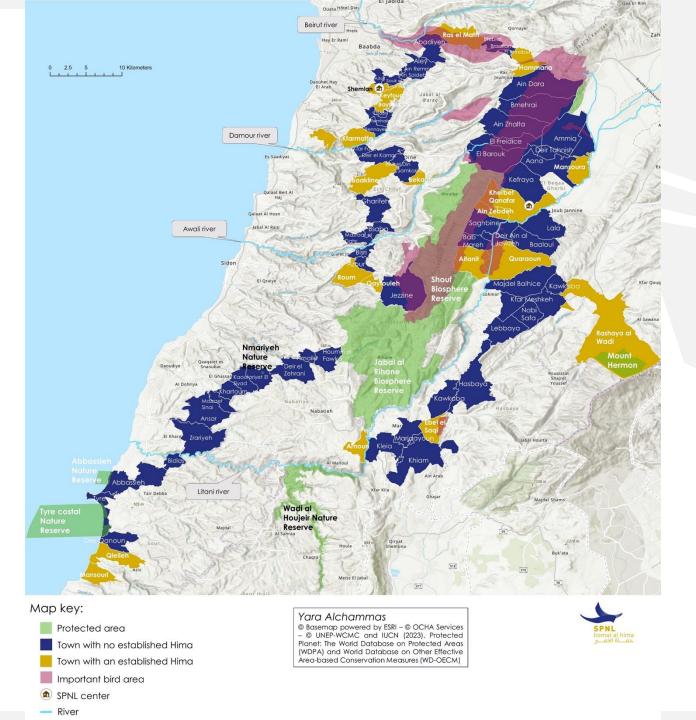












Your Logo or Name Here



### Hima for Peace villages

- Kayfoun
- Chemlan
- Baysour
- Souk el Gharib
- Kfarmatta
- Ein Remmeneh
- Ain Sayde
- Aitat





### Signed Charter

1.	Ras el Matn
2.	Abadieh
3.	Hlalieh
4.	Kalaa
5.	Qobieh
6.	Ras el Harf
7.	Btekhnay
8.	Deir el Harf
9.	Qortada
10.	Zandouka
11.	Araya
12.	Hammana
13.	Qarnayel
14.	Falougha
15.	Roweiset El Ballout
16.	Shweet
17.	Shbanieh

#### Establishment of a Natural Park in the Upper Beirut River Valley: A Commitment to Conservation

#### Memorandum of Understanding

#### February 2024

Under the Hima approach and with the primary objective of safeguarding the exceptional nature and biodiversity in the Upper Beirut River Valley, the following municipalities of the Upper Metn have unanimously recognized the need to establish a natural park in the region.

#### 1. Geographic delimitation:

The natural park initiative is set to be implemented, when completing legal transactions.

#### 2. Included Villages:

The designated area encompasses the following villages: [List of villages included].

Ras El Matn Deir El Harf

Btekhney

Al Ebadiyeh

Rweis El Balout

Qubaih

Shbenieh

Hammana

Shweet

Araya

Helaliye

Qourtada

Falougha

Alqalaa

Ras El Harf

#### 3. Coverage:

The total area spans [70 sqKm].

#### 4. Importance and Benefits:

#### · Nature Values:

The natural park will serve as a stronghold for preserving the diverse flora and fauna, ensuring the protection of the natural heritage within the Upper Beirut River Valley.

#### · Economic Values:

The establishment of the natural park will not only contribute to the conservation efforts but will also create opportunities for sustainable nature-based tourism, enhancing the economic prosperity of the region.

Annual control of the second control of the

#### · Social and Cultural Values:

Natural parks play a primordial role in fostering and maintaining connections between people and their land. They provide a platform for sharing irreplaceable cultural knowledge with the broader community, contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage.

#### · Health and Well-being:

Natural areas have a profound impact on physical and emotional health. The natural park will serve as a sanctuary, offering individuals a respite from the fast-paced world. It will be a space for people to engage in outdoor activities, promoting fitness, relaxation, and revitalization.

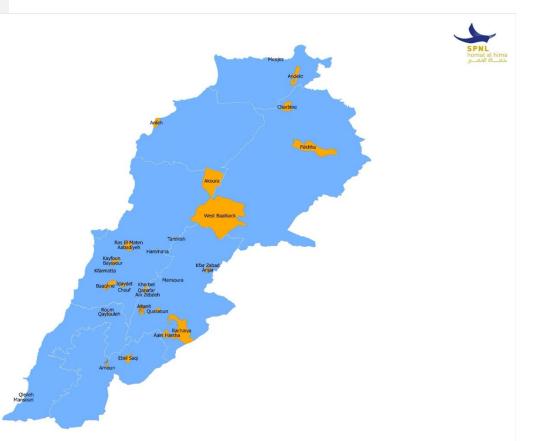
In our modern world, natural parks play a crucial role as sanctuaries. They provide individuals with an opportunity to take a break, connect with nature, improve physical fitness, and relax. Moreover, the inherent beauty of nature within the park will serve as a source of artistic, creative, and spiritual inspiration for visitors.

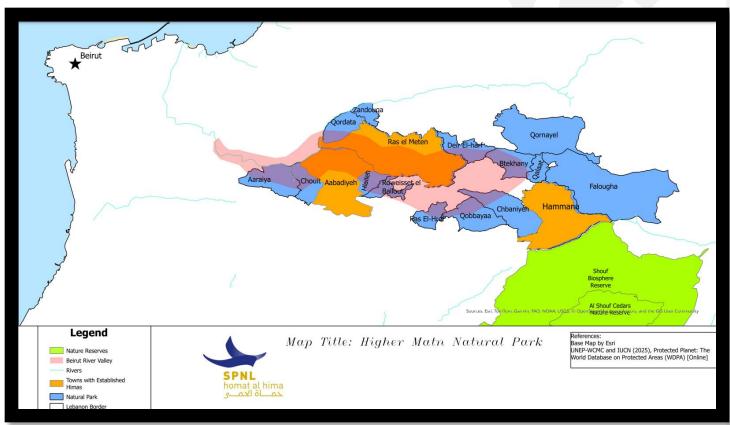
#### 5. Outputs:

- A well-preserved and protected park with healthy biodiversity that ensures a safe passage for birds and continues to provide ecological and higher economic value for the community.
- A set of policies and a code of conduct to protect the natural habitat in the park from grazing, unsustainable harvesting, and illegal hunting activities.
- A participatory, inclusive plan of action that targets all stakeholders and builds awareness about the importance of the park, protecting fauna and flora, including birds, and the oak and pine forests economically and ecologically.
- A well-trained community capable of supporting itself and sustaining its livelihood.

The establishment of this natural park is not only a conservation initiative; it is a holistic approach that embraces the values of nature, economy, culture, and well-being, ensuring a sustainable and vibrant future for the Upper Beirut River Valley and its communities.

### Higher Matn Natural Park





Contributing 6% of Lebanese territory to GBF









# Advocating for Rawche Rock as Natural Monument

- Claiming areas from Rawche Rock to the Monk Seal cave as 4<sup>th</sup> marine Hima.
- Meeting with Beirut Municipality.
- Full support from:
  - Ministry of Environment.
  - Mohafez of Beirut.



Your Logo or Name Here

# Over 42 years advocating for the 4 categories of P.A.s in Lebanon, together for Biodiversity and Nature

### Partnership



To protect these amazing beneficial sites.

