



**Memorandum of Understanding Between  
The Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture  
And  
The Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL)**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("Memorandum") was agreed upon on the third day of April 2025, between:

**The Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon** (First Party)

and:

**The Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL)** (Second Party),  
a legally registered non-profit organization at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities  
under notification number 6 A.D., dated 08/01/1986, headquartered in Keyfoun,  
Lebanon.

**Preamble**

Whereas the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture is the competent authority overseeing the enforcement of laws and agreements related to the illegal trade of wildlife and marine species, combating overfishing, and regulating the exploitation of natural resources to ensure their sustainability;

And whereas the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL) works to safeguard biodiversity and promote the traditional "Hima" concept as a tool for terrestrial and marine environmental protection, in cooperation with municipalities and relevant ministries, aiming to ensure the sustainability of biodiversity and fisheries resources;

And in light of the desire of both parties to enhance cooperation to implement the CITES Convention and ensure the protection of endangered terrestrial and marine species, and combat overhunting and overfishing;

The parties have agreed to the following:

**Article One:**

The preamble is considered an integral part of this Memorandum.

**Article Two: Legal Basis**

This Memorandum is based on the following laws and conventions:

1. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

2. The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
3. Lebanese laws and regulations regarding sustainable marine and terrestrial hunting.
4. Environmental Protection Law No. 444/2002.
5. The Lebanese Law on Fisheries Protection.
6. The Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution.
7. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

### **Article Three: Objectives**

This Memorandum aims to:

1. Combat overfishing and illegal terrestrial hunting by enforcing environmental laws and international agreements.
2. Enhance cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and environmental organizations to ensure sustainable management of marine and terrestrial biodiversity and fishery resources.
3. Implement awareness programs for hunters and local communities about the importance of responsible hunting and the protection of endangered species.
4. Enhance environmental and marine monitoring mechanisms through the use of modern technologies to detect violations.

5. Support the establishment of “Marine Hima Areas” to protect marine ecosystems and ensure their sustainability.

## Article Four: Scope of Work

This Memorandum includes:

1. **Field Cooperation:** Implementing joint patrols to monitor terrestrial and marine activities and ensure the enforcement of sustainable hunting laws.
2. **Enhancing CITES Implementation:** Through monitoring illegal trade in endangered species.
3. **Training Specialized Teams:** Providing training sessions for hunters, farmers, and environmental inspectors on sustainable hunting laws and environmental smuggling prevention.
4. **Conducting Environmental Studies and Research:** To assess the impact of overhunting on wildlife and marine life and propose appropriate solutions.
5. **Promoting Regional and International Cooperation:** With specialized environmental organizations to ensure the protection of natural resources.

## Article Five: Commitments

### Ministry of Agriculture Commitments:

1. Support the implementation of joint plans and projects with partners and promote cooperation in biodiversity protection and the fight against overhunting.
2. Enforce environmental and marine-terrestrial legislation regarding overhunting and the protection of endangered species.
3. Facilitate SPNL’s work by providing necessary legal and administrative support for environmental and field activities, and ensure coordination with the Ministry of

Environment where applicable.

### **SPNL Commitments:**

1. Support the establishment and management of Marine Hima Areas with municipalities and local communities.
2. Develop community awareness programs about the importance of marine Hima and its role in protecting biodiversity.
3. Cooperate with hunters and farmers to enhance environmental awareness regarding the protection of endangered marine species.

### **Joint Commitments:**

1. Engage farmers in bird and biodiversity protection by organizing workshops on avoiding pesticide use harmful to birds, protecting birds on their lands, and reporting violations.
2. Promote the role of rural women farmers in environmental awareness by empowering them to participate in biodiversity campaigns and encouraging them to take active roles in conservation.
3. Cooperate with security agencies and environmental authorities to monitor illegal hunting and address violations.
4. Organize training programs for hunters and farmers on sustainable practices and environmental compliance procedures.
5. Contribute to strengthening oversight at hunting and trade points to ensure no protected species are traded in violation of CITES.

### **Article Six: Implementation Mechanism**

1. A joint committee will be formed from both parties to follow up on the implementation of this Memorandum and ensure achievement of defined objectives.
2. Regular reports will be prepared on progress in combating overhunting and protecting wildlife and marine life.
3. Periodic meetings will be held to evaluate performance, review implementation plans, and amend them as needed.

### **Article Seven: Duration and Termination**

This Memorandum is valid for three (3) years from the date of signing, unless terminated earlier by either party.

Either party may terminate this Memorandum by providing a written notice at least ninety (90) days in advance.

### **Article Eight: Amendments**

This Memorandum may be amended, or new clauses may be added upon mutual agreement between the two parties.

### **Article Nine: Confidentiality**

Both parties commit to maintaining the confidentiality of any sensitive information exchanged during the implementation of this Memorandum. The second party may not share or use any data belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture beyond the scope of this Memorandum without explicit written consent.

### **Article Ten: Dispute Resolution**

Any disputes arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum shall be resolved through mutual consultation and negotiation. If unresolved, the matter shall be referred to competent courts in accordance with Lebanese laws and relevant international environmental standards.

### **Article Eleven: General Provisions**

- The implementation of this Memorandum entails no financial obligations on the Republic of Lebanon.



- SPNL shall bear all costs related to the execution of this Memorandum.
- No clause in this Memorandum shall be interpreted as establishing an employment relationship, joint venture, or partnership between the two parties.

This Memorandum was drafted and signed on the above-mentioned date in two original copies, each party retaining one to act upon accordingly.

**For the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL):**

*Mr. Assad Serhal*

**For the Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon:**

*His Excellency Minister Dr. Nizar Hani*