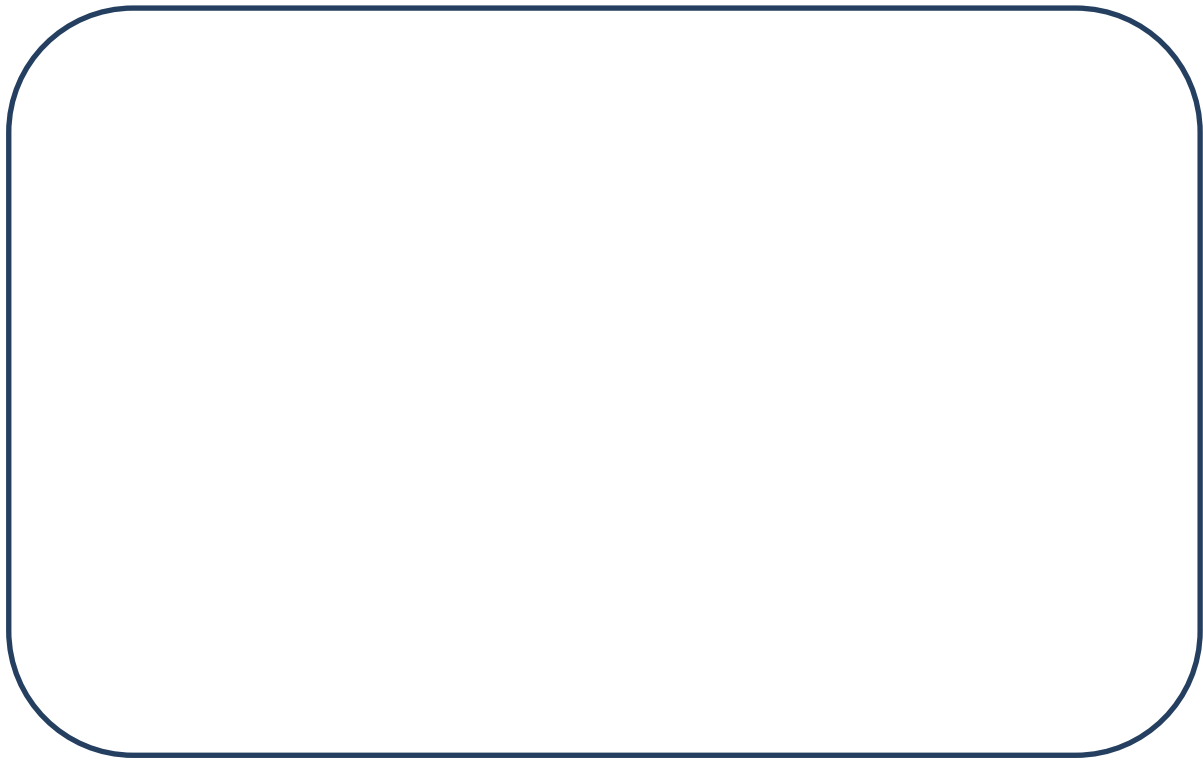


# Action Plan for Implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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(INSERT PHOTO OF COUNTRY)

**(LEBANON)**

Submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity [DATE]

# Protected area information:

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## **PoWPA Focal Point:** (Name, contact details)

Department of Ecosystems  
Service of Nature Resources  
Ministry of Environment  
Tel : +961 1 976555 (ext :417)  
Fax : +961 1 976535  
E-mail : [l.samaha@moe.gov.lb](mailto:l.samaha@moe.gov.lb)

## **Lead implementing agency:** (Add name of primary government agency)

### **Ministry of Environment**

The Ministry of Environment (MoE) is the lead government agency responsible for protected areas management in Lebanon as per the law # 690 dated 26/8/2005 organizing the Ministry of Environment and determining its mandate. The article 23 of the mentioned law mandates MoE to determine candidates areas for establishing protected areas and criteria for protected areas designation, and propose necessary laws and regulations for protected areas management.

## **Multi-stakeholder committee:** (Add description)

Each protected area has a local committee responsible for the management of the site, the committee is established through a decision from the Minister of Environment and works under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment. The protected areas committees include representatives from the concerned municipalities, local NGOs, academic experts and in some cases representatives from the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and the Ministry of Agriculture. The number of the members of each committee, the institutions and bodies represented in each committee and the duration of each committee are stated in the law establishing each protected area.

# Description of protected area system

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## Coverage

(Amount and % protected for terrestrial and marine; maps of protected area system)

Lebanon includes today 13 nature reserves: two marine and coastal and twelve terrestrial, covering about 2.3% of Lebanon's surface (up from two nature reserves in 1992 covering just 15 km<sup>2</sup>).

## Description and background

- Seven nature reserves established from 1992 till 1999 (two marine and coastal and five terrestrial)
- Two terrestrial nature reserves established in 2010
- Four terrestrial nature reserves established in 2011
- All these reserves were established by law

Nature Reserve	Law No.	Date	Approximate area Km <sup>2</sup>	Elevation Zone meters
Palm Islands	121	9/3/1992	5	Sea level
Horsh Ehden	121	9/3/1992	17	1200-1900
Al-Shouf Cedars	532  (amended by law 119 dated 23/7/2010)	24/7/1996	160	900-2000
Tyre Coast	708	5/11/1998	4	Sea level
Tannourine Cedar Forest	9	20/2/1999	1.5	1300-1800
Yammouneh	10	20/2/1999	17.5	1400-2000
Bentael	11	20/2/1999	2	600-1100

Wadi Al Houjair	121	23/7/2010	33.87	250-400
Machaa Chnaanir	122	23/7/2010	2	500-530
Kafra	198	18/11/2011	_____	_____
Ramia	199	18/11/2011	0.340	_____
Debl	200	18/11/2011	_____	_____
Beit Lif	201	18/11/2011	_____	_____

### **Description of the main Protected Areas:**

**Al Shouf Cedars Nature Reserve:** Pure, dense Cedar Forest –Southern most limit of Cedrus-Libani.-  
Larger mammals conservation - Resting area for migratory birds

**Horsh Ehdn Nature Reserve:** Mixed, dense Forest - the richest Lebanese forest in terms of biodiversity  
- most balanced ecosystem- Harbors rare and endemic plants and many endangered mammals-  
Sanctuary for resident and migratory birds

**Palm Islands Nature Reserve:** Marine Islands with rocky and sandy shores - Resting area for migratory  
birds –Nesting places for endangered marine turtles - Rich in wild flowers>

**Tannourine Cedar Forest Nature Reserve:** Pure, dense Cedar Forest - The largest cedar forest in  
Lebanon that represent at least 30% of mammals in Lebanon>

**Bentael Nature Reserve:** Mixed, dense Forest Typical Mediterranean pine forest with biodiversity value.

**Tyre Coast Nature Reserve:** Coastal Zone, Marine ecosystem, Breeding ground for the sea turtles and  
path for migratory birds

**Yammounh Nature Reserve:** Mix between forest and marshes - Variety of old Juniper trees and  
distinguished by the existence of the rare Lebanese fish minnow, rich in water sources.

## **Governance types**

(Summary matrix of governance types)

Six nature reserves have local management teams who carry out the daily management activities and each reserve has a local committee who supervises the work of the management teams and ensure the proper implementation of the management plan and the budget and reports regularly to

the Ministry of Environment. The local committee is established through a decision from the Minister of Environment (as stated in the law establishing each nature reserve) and works under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment and forms the link between the management teams and the Ministry. The Appointed Protected Areas Committees (APAC) include volunteers representing the concerned municipalities, local NGOs, academic experts and in some cases representatives from the concerned government entities. The number of the members of each committee, the institutions and bodies represented in each committee and the duration of each committee are stated in the law establishing each nature reserves as follows:

Nature Reserve	Numbers of the members of the Committee (as stated in the law establishing the nature reserves)	Entities represented in the Committee (as stated in the law establishing the nature reserves)	Duration of the Committee (as stated in the law establishing the nature reserves)	Current committees (established through decision from the Minister of Environment)
Palm Islands	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Municipality of Tripoli</li> <li>- Municipality of El-Mina</li> <li>- Parties concerned with the ecological issues</li> </ul>	Three years	√
Horsh Ehdén	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Municipality of Ehdén</li> <li>- Parties concerned with the ecological issues</li> </ul>	Three years	√
Al-Shouf Cedars	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Concerned municipalities in the region</li> <li>-NGOs</li> <li>-People with</li> </ul>	Three years	√

		relevant experience in ecology		
Tyre Coast	5	-Ministry of Agriculture -Municipality of Tyre city -Governorate of Tyre caza -Two representatives from NGOs	Five years	√
Tannourine Cedar Forest	11	-Ministry of Agriculture -Ministry of Interior and Municipalities -Concerned municipalities in the region -NGOs -People with relevant experience in ecology	Three years	√
Yammouneh				In process
Bentael	12	-Ministry of Agriculture -Ministry of Interior and Municipalities -Municipality of	Three years	√

		<p>Bentael</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-NGOs</li> <li>-People with relevant experience in ecology</li> </ul>		
Wadi Al Houjair	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Five people from the local communities</li> <li>-NGOs</li> <li>-Specialists in ecology</li> </ul>	Three years	In process
Machaa Chnaanir	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Five people from the local communities</li> <li>-NGOs</li> <li>-Specialists in ecology</li> </ul>	Three years	√
Kafra	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Municipality of Kafra</li> <li>-NGOs</li> <li>-Specialists in ecology</li> </ul>	Three years	In process
Ramia	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Municipality of Ramia</li> <li>-NGOs</li> <li>-Specialists in ecology</li> </ul>	Three years	In process
Debl	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Municipality of Debl</li> </ul>	Three years	In process

		-NGOs -Specialists in ecology		
Beit Lif	7	-Municipality of Beit Lif -NGOs -Specialists in ecology	Three years	In process

## Key threats

(Description of key threats, and maps, if available)

- Threats from tourists mainly in the marine protected areas (waste generated from tourists, noise, damages to the habitats ...)
- Agriculture runoffs in marine protected areas
- In some cases infrastructure in the surroundings of some terrestrial protected areas
- Illegal fishing activities and overfishing in some cases in the marine protected areas
- Shift to unsustainable/intensive human activities
- Alien and invasive species in marine protected areas

## Barriers for effective implementation

(Description of key barriers for effective implementation)

-Land ownerships (some public protected areas include private lands within their geographical boundaries identified by the law establishing these reserves while these laws declared only the nature reserves on the public lands within this geographical area), this leads to a difficulty in the delineation or demarcation of the exact boundaries of the protected area and production of the related maps and leads to some conflicts with the private landowners



- Lack of sustainability of financial resources for optimum implementation
- Lack of environmental awareness in local and national communities which in some cases leads to irresponsible activities from the local communities and lack of cooperation for the preservation of the reserve
- Some conflicts in the Appointed Protected Areas Committees (APAC)
- The APAC doesn't have till now the legal personality (a draft framework law for protected areas is being currently discussed at the Parliament, the endorsement of the law would grant the APAC the legal personality and the financial autonomy)
- The management teams of current PAs lack job security because they have no legally recognized employer since they are recruited through contracts between them and the APAC after approval of the Ministry of Environment and based on detailed TORs prepared by the Ministry (The draft framework law for protected areas which is being currently discussed at the Parliament, has dedicated a section dealing with job security of management teams and would formalize PA management jobs by providing social security and other entitlements in the overall objective of securing a more stable management of PAs)

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## **National Targets and Vision for Protected Areas**

(Insert national targets for protected areas/Target 11 of the Aichi Targets. Include rationale from protected area gap assessment, if completed, along with any additional information about the vision for the protected area system, including statements about the value of the protected area system to the country)

- By 2020, at least 4% of terrestrial and inland waters in Lebanon are conserved effectively through a system of Protected Areas
- By 2020, at least 2% of coastal and marine areas are effectively conserved through a system of protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures.
- By 2015, an ecological gap analysis of PAs representativeness will be achieved in Lebanon and by 2020 the major ecological habitats will be covered by a system of Protected Areas
- By 2016, all classified "Important Bird Areas" IBAs in Lebanon which constitutes migratory routes of key migratory birds, are protected
- By 2015, all protected areas in Lebanon have effective management plans, and effective management teams and a management effectiveness assessment is conducted.
- By 2013, legislation is in place in Lebanon to recognize different categories of PAs including community conservation areas, and to recognize the establishment of PAs on private lands.

- By 2016, the Protected Areas in Lebanon have effective business plans and are implementing regular income generating activities.
- By 2016, Biodiversity and Protected Areas are mainstreamed into major land use plans.

## Progress in and plans for achieving the goals of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

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**Progress:** 0 = no work, 1 = just started, 2 = partially complete, 3 = nearly complete, 4 = complete

Goals of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas	Progress 0-4
• Progress in <b>establishing and strengthening national and regional systems</b> of protected areas (1.1)	3
• Progress in integrating protected areas into <b>broader land- and seascapes and sectors</b> so as to maintain ecological structure and function (1.2)	1
• Progress in establishing and strengthening <b>regional networks, transboundary protected areas</b> (TBPAs) and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across <b>national boundaries</b> (1.3)	0
• Progress in substantially improving <b>site-based</b> protected area planning and management (1.4)	3
• Progress in preventing and mitigating the negative impacts of <b>key threats</b> to protected areas (1.5)	2
• Progress in promoting <b>equity and benefit-sharing</b> (2.1)	1
• Progress in assessing and implementing diverse protected area <b>governance types</b> (2.1)	2
• Progress in enhancing and securing <b>involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders</b> (2.2)	3
• Progress in providing an <b>enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic</b> environment for protected areas (3.1)	3
• Progress in assessing the <b>contribution of protected areas</b> to local and national economies (3.1)	2
• Progress in <b>building capacity</b> for the planning, establishment and management of protected areas (3.2)	3
• Progress in developing, applying and transferring appropriate <b>technologies</b> for protected areas (3.3)	2
• Progress in ensuring <b>financial sustainability</b> of protected areas and national and regional systems of protected areas (3.4)	2
• Progress in strengthening <b>communication, education and public awareness</b> (3.5)	3
• Progress in developing and adopting <b>minimum standards and best practices</b> for national and regional protected area systems (4.1)	2

• Progress in evaluating and improving the <b>effectiveness of protected areas management</b> (4.2)	2
• Progress in <b>assessing and monitoring</b> protected area status and trends (4.3)	2
• Progress in ensuring that <b>scientific knowledge</b> contributes to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and protected area systems (4.4)	2
• Progress in <b>marine protected areas</b>	2
• Progress in incorporating <b>climate change</b> aspects into protected areas	0

## Priority activities for fully implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas:

Activities	Timeline
1. Establishment of a network of Marine protected Areas	2014
2. Ensuring Financial sustainability of Protected Areas	2014
3. Adopting diverse protected areas governance type	2014
4. Effective management of protected areas	2015

(Insert more as needed)

## Action Plans (detailed steps) for completing priority activities for fully implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas:

### Activity 1:

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible agencies	Indicative budget
Identification of potential MPAs	Done	MoE	_____
Execution of Biodiversity field surveys	2012-2013	MoE	_____
Finalization of administrative and legal procedures for the establishment of new MPAs	2013	MoE	_____
Establishment of new MPAs through legislations	2014	MoE	_____

### Activity 2:

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible agencies	Indicative budget
Restructuring the PA Financial Model (through	2013	MoE/Parliament	_____

legalization of their status)			
Explore Alternative Funding Mechanisms	Done	MoE/APAC	_____
Apply Economic Models for the Valuation of Environmental Services	2014	MoE/APAC	\$20,000
Diversify Sources of Funding for Protected Areas Management	2014	MoE/APAC	

### Activity 3:

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible agencies	Indicative budget
Issuance of a draft framework law on protected areas which regulates the establishment of protected areas on private lands	2012	Parliament	_____
Propose a revised PA Category System for Lebanon	Done	MoE	_____
Endorse the revised PA Category System including community conservation areas	2013	MoE	_____
Begin the process of reclassifying existing PAs based on new Category System	2014	MoE	\$15,000
Recommend new areas and classify those areas based on the new Category System	2015	MoE	\$20,000

(Insert more as needed)

### Activity 4:

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible agencies	Indicative budget
Delineate and demarcate PA boundaries	2015	MoE/APAC/concerned municipalities/Ministry of Finance	\$200,000
Update existing procedures and design new policies and procedures for effective PA management and operation	Done	MoE	_____
Develop book of specifications for the Protected Areas Management Information	Done	MoE	_____

System			
Contract Software Engineer to develop the Protected Areas Management Information System (PAMIS)	2013	MoE	\$8,000
Install PAMIS software where needed, train PA staff on how to use it and provide troubleshooting	2014	MoE	\$5,000
Prepare management plans for Protected Areas that do not have a plan and update existing ones	2013	MoE/APAC	\$50,000
Prepare business plans for protected areas that do not have a plan and update and monitor existing business plans	2015	MoE/APAC	\$30,000
Assess the performance of protected areas & take action	2015	MoE	\$25,000

# Key assessment results

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## **Ecological gap assessment** (insert summary findings if available)

Not conducted yet

## **Management effectiveness assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

Management effectiveness assessment was recently done for MPAs. It's not conducted yet in the terrestrial protected areas.

Analyses of completed Management effectiveness assessment data sheets were done for the two existing marine nature reserves (Tyre Coast Nature Reserve and Palm Islands Nature Reserve). None of them fell within the high rank of management effectiveness categories. Both of them fell in the intermediate management effectiveness category. The outcome of the assessment of threats in the two NRs reveals that illegal fishing is the most serious problems across them. Tyre Coast NR specifically face threats from agriculture and human settlement (refugees camp) in a way that may lead to serious environmental problems especially for marine life.

Analyses management effectiveness at both sites showed that there are critical management challenges at both of them include staffing, communication, self-evaluation, financing and management planning.

In terms of planning the greatest challenges identified were: staffing, zoning, boundary issues and inadequate financial resources whereby the weakest inputs includes staffing, financing and skills training. Processes were weak in terms of implementation of management planning, research and monitoring especially for use in decision making. With the weaknesses in these three areas, outputs were somewhat weak and challenged by poor training for staff and finances. At the system level, key challenges include: lack of demonstrated commitment, inadequate training programmes and lack of routine evaluation.

## **Sustainable finance assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

- 1- The Ministry of Environment (MoE) designed a funding strategy for three nature reserve in 2000. The strategy recognized at least six sources of funding:
  - National Government (for PA management mainly staffing and operational costs)
  - Municipalities (for major infrastructure works including access roads and information panels)
  - International donor finance (for research, training, global targets)
  - Local donors/sponsors/contributors (for specific activities, interventions and upgrades)
  - Loans/investment finance (from banks/finance institutions for small-scale infrastructure works)
  - Revenue (mainly from entrance fees, souvenirs and PA products)

2- A database of all accessible international and national sources of funding for PAs was prepared by MoE in 2006

2- A sustainable financial strategy for PA management was done by MoE in 2006

The needed tasks are:

- Continue to disburse MOE funds to PAs on an annual basis [\$550,000 per year]
- Audit PA revenues and expenses annually
- Upon approval of the central audit court, issue ministerial decision to disburse yearly funds to conservation needs in PAs
- Develop a national agenda highlighting priorities and time constraints for proposal submission from PAs to receive support on project basis
- Assess and evaluate the proposals to disburse the funds to support PAs on project basis
- Disseminate the database of all accessible international and national sources of funding for PAs
- Prepare and distribute a PA Contributors Report

### **Capacity needs assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

Work is being done currently for the marine protected areas

### **Policy environment assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

Major gaps in the policy related to the establishment and management of Protected Areas are addressed in a draft framework law for PAs which is currently in the process of endorsement at the Parliament (e.g. legal personality for the Appointed Protected Areas Committees (APAC), establishment of PAs on private lands, different categories of PAs, creation of different zones in the protected areas/strict conservation and sustainable use, to grant the right for the PA management, etc....)

### **Protected area integration and mainstreaming assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

Not conducted yet

### **Protected area valuation assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

Not conducted yet. Planned to be done in 2013 in the marine protected areas.

### **Climate change resilience and adaptation assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

No work has been done in relation to Protected Areas. It is planned to carry out an assessment about the relation between alien and invasive species in marine environment and climate change.