

Biodiversity status of Lebanon

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AN ECOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF LEBANON



Lebanon has a very rich and unique biodiversity

- ▶ Due to its biogeography, geology, ecology and historic human settlements in the Mediterranean area.
- ▶ The Mediterranean area is considered to be a true biodiversity “**hotspot**” and globally ranks **third** among hotspots in **plant diversity and endemism** after the Tropical Andes and Sundaland



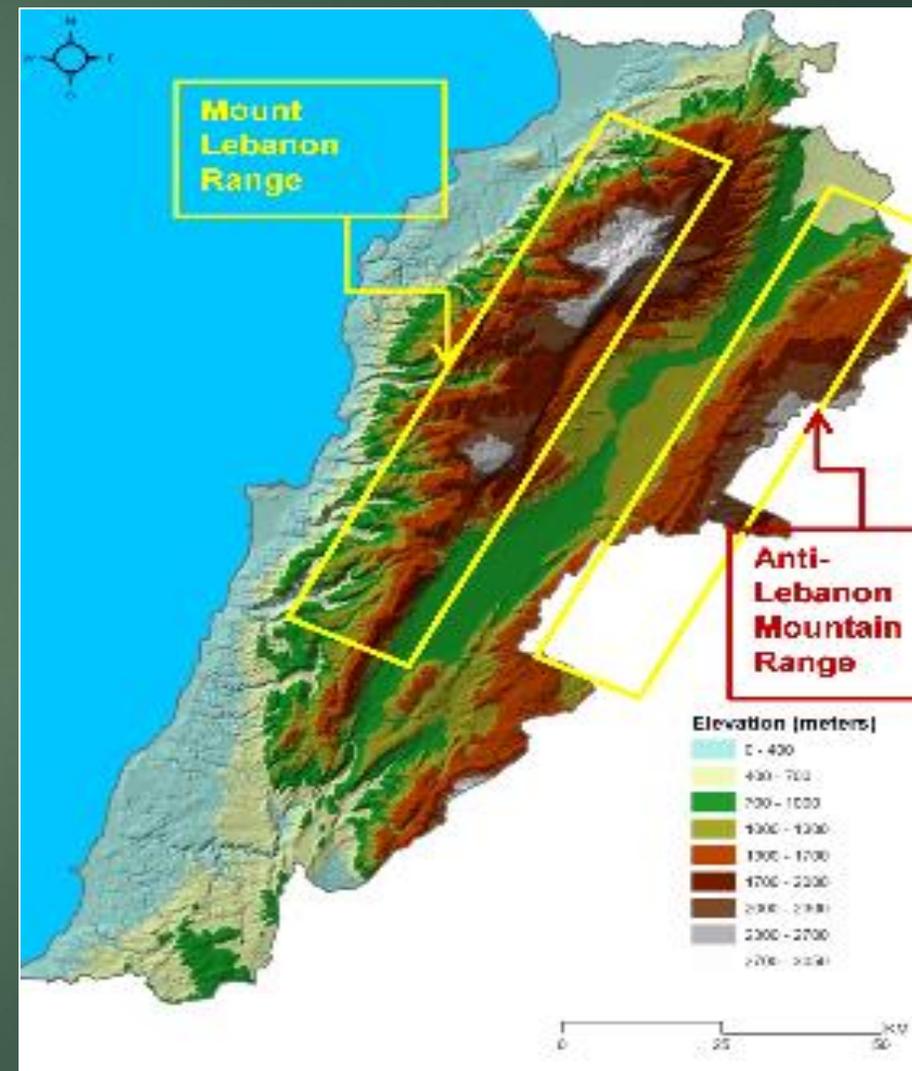
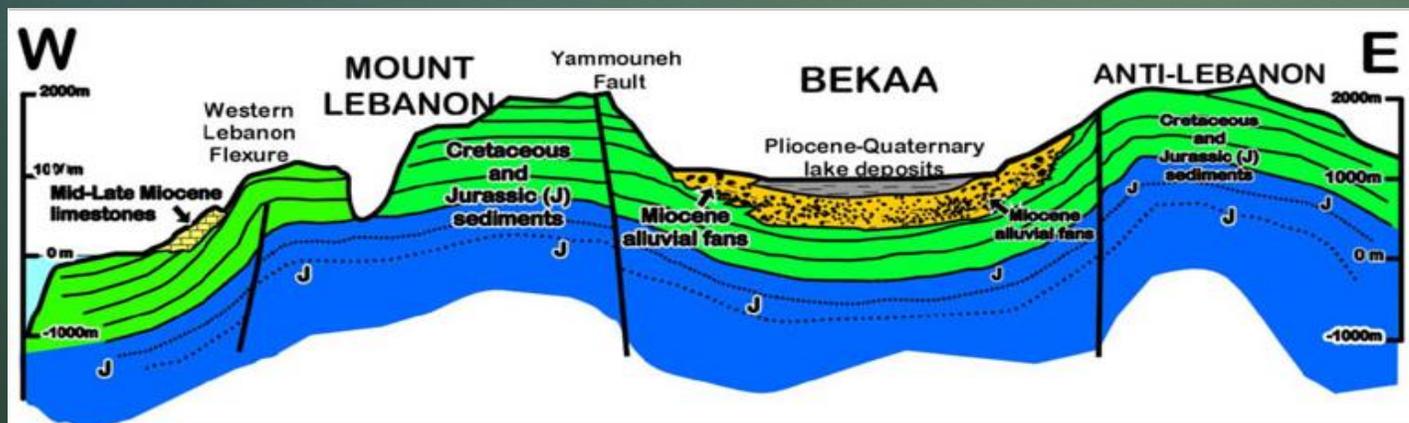
9,116 known species

Fauna
4,486 species

Flora
4,630 species

5 geomorphological regions

1. The Coastal Zone: 250 km;
2. The Mount Lebanon Range: 160 km long and is 25-40 km wide; highest peak: 3,088 meters at Kornet Es-Saouda
3. The Beqaa Plain: 8-12 km wide fertile corridor and is about 120 km
4. The Anti-Lebanon Range: across the Lebanese-Syrian borders and peaks at 2,600 meters
5. South Lebanon: elevated plateau





One of the most remarkable features about Lebanon is the presence of such biodiversity in a very limited area of land (0.007% of the world's land surface):

- ▶ 0.8% of the world's recorded and catalogued species
- ▶ High percentage (12%) of endemic terrestrial and marine plant species
- ▶ High species-area ratio for fauna: 0.028 species/km² (e.g. Syria with 0.019 species/km²)



Ecosystems: terrestrial and freshwater

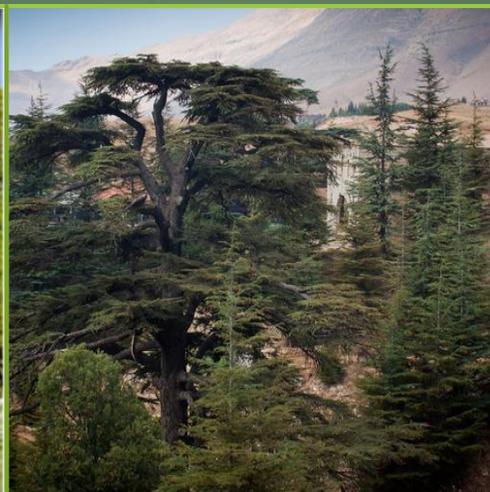
- ✓ 16% of the fauna in Lebanon: 5% threatened and 1.3% endemic
- ✓ 6% of the flora in Lebanon.



Pine forests



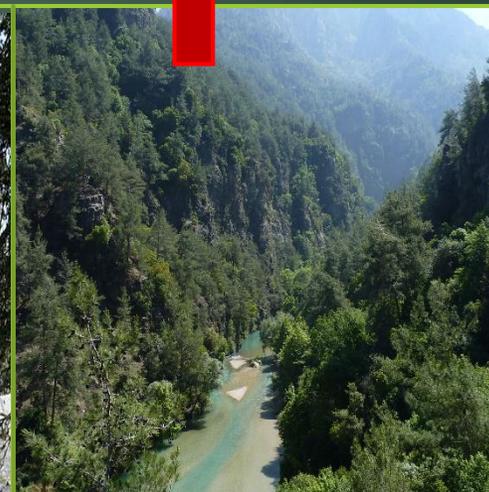
Oak forests



Cedar, fir and
juniper forests



Evergreen
cypress forests



Riparian
Vegetation and
Wetlands

81% of the floral species are terrestrial:

- ✓ 8.5% are endemic (221 species),
- ✓ 1.3% are rare (34 species),
- ✓ 2.7% are threatened (69 species)

Marine and Coastal Areas



Lebanese waters represent less than 1% of the world's ocean surface.

However, almost **6%** of all global marine species are found in those waters



Protected areas in Lebanon

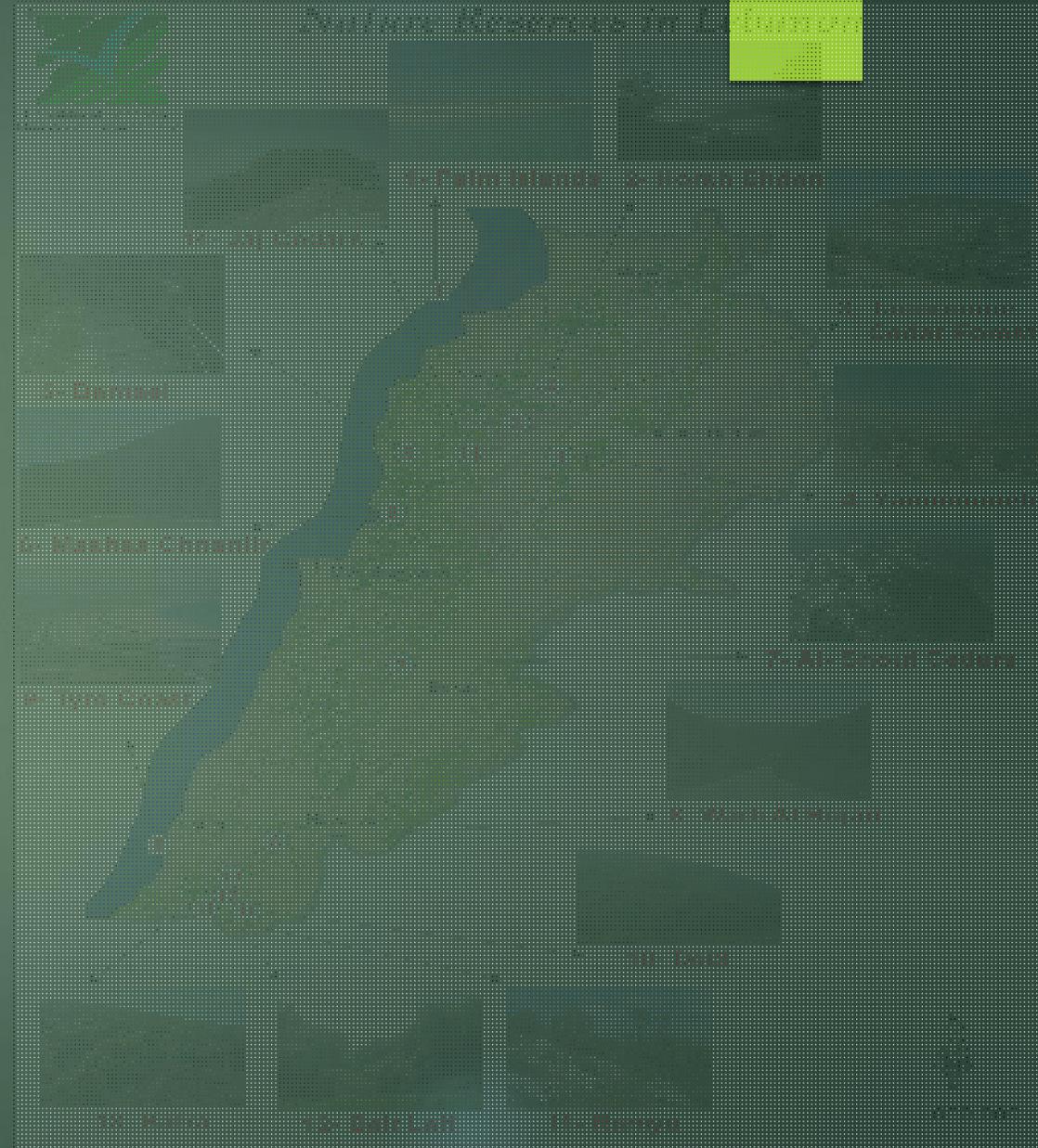
The PAs in Lebanon are divided into 3 categories:

Nature Reserves → established by laws

Nature sites → under the protection of MoE and established by MoE decisions

Protected forests → established by MoA decisions based on the Law of Protection of Forests Wealth

Some sites are recognized by international entities and conventions: **World Heritage Sites**, **Ramsar sites**, **IBAs**, **SPAMI**





1994



NBSAP and Biodiversity reports:

First National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and first National Biodiversity Report in 1998, then the second, third and fourth National Report consequently in 2002, 2005, 2009.

Clearing Houses:

MoE → 2005 → a biodiversity website for Lebanon: <http://biodiversity.moe.gov.lb> → part of the CBD Clearing-house mechanism (CHM), however this website was static and needed updating and enhancement.

2014-2016 → MoE → UNEP/GEF project :

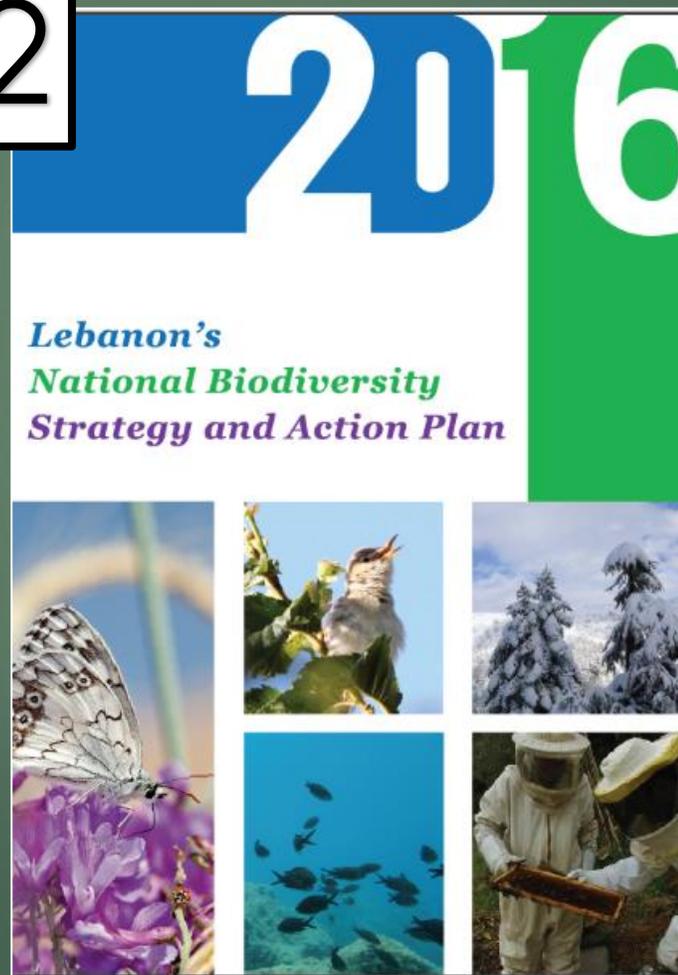
“Biodiversity- Enabling Activity for Revision/Updating of The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Preparation of The 5th National Report to the Convention on Biological diversity (CBD) and Undertaking Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) Activities”



1



2



3

National Biodiversity Clearing House for Lebanon was created under the CBD Clearing-house mechanism:

<http://www.biodiv.be/liban>

December 14, 15 and 16, 2015: A training on the use of this Clearing House (co-financed by the Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium (ISNRB)), and by the UNEP/GEF)



Republic of Lebanon

Le Centre d'échange d'information de la Convention sur la diversité biologique

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The CBD
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Biodiversity in
Lebanon

Implementation

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LATEST EVENTS

[atelier-de-formation-des-gestionnaires-du-chm](#)

14/12/2015

LATEST UPLOADS

-  [Fifth National Report to the convention on biological diversity](#) [posted on: 19/05/2016]
-  [Fourth National Report to the convention on biological diversity](#) [posted on: 19/05/2016]
-  [Second National Report to the convention on biological diversity](#) [posted on: 19/05/2016]

EVENTS CALENDAR

« March 2018 »						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2016

Lebanon's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan



Lebanon's Vision for Biodiversity

“By 2030, Lebanon’s biodiversity is valued and sustainably managed for the preservation and conservation of its ecosystems and habitats and the species they harbor, in order to adequately respond to anthropogenic and natural pressures, and to ensure Lebanese citizens equal access to ecosystem goods and services.”

PRIORITY AREA 11: RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

NATIONAL TARGET 15:

By 2030, research on biodiversity is improved in Lebanon, and research outputs and biodiversity related reports are shared through a centralized platform (from both public and private institutions), which is updated and made accessible to the public (CHM)



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National Action 15.1

- Create a **Biodiversity Research and Information Unit** responsible for centralizing biodiversity related information and coordinating the works between the multiple stakeholders, mainly public, private, academics and NGOs

National Action 15.2

- Identify **priority areas of research** in the biodiversity field.

National Action 15.3

- **Update** the national Science Technology and Innovation Policy (**STIP**) to include **biodiversity as a** priority and define the areas where research is needed within the biodiversity sector

National Action 15.4

- **Allocate larger budgets for research on biodiversity** valorization: conservation, sustainable management, and economic valuation



THANK YOU