

# Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon



**SPNL**

homat al hima

حماة الحمى

# Who is SPNL?

- One of the first environmental NGOs in Lebanon
- Established in 1986
- National, non-geographic, non-sectorial, non-political environmental NGO
- BirdLife partner in Lebanon

## SPNL 's Mission Statement

**SPNL aims to protect nature, birds and biodiversity of Lebanon  
to ensure sustainable use of natural resources through the Hima approach.**





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 Burundi Cameroon Canada Canada Chile China (Hong Kong) Chinese Taiwan Colombia Cook Islands Cote d'Ivoire Croatia Cuba Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Djibouti  
 Dominican Republic Ecuador Egypt El Salvador Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands (Malvinas) Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Polynesia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar  
 Greece Hungary Iceland India Indonesia Iraq Ireland Israel Italy Japan Jordan Kazakhstan Kenya Kuwait Kyrgyzstan  
 Latvia Lebanon Liberia Liechtenstein Lithuania Luxembourg Macedonia Madagascar Malawi Malaysia Malta Mauritania Mauritius  
 Mexico Montenegro Morocco Myanmar Nepal Netherlands New Caledonia New Zealand Nigeria Norway Palau Palestine Panama  
 Paraguay Philippines Poland Portugal Puerto Rico Qatar Romania Rwanda Saudi Arabia Serbia Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia South Africa  
 Spain Sri Lanka Sweden Switzerland Syria Thailand Tunisia Turkey Uganda Ukraine United Kingdom Uruguay USA Uzbekistan Zambia Zimbabwe

# Responsible Hunting Programme

- **Aim:** decrease IKBs and promote responsible hunting practices.
- SPNL represented at Hunting Higher Council.
- Supported the development of hunting law & application decrees.
  
- Developed a lot of awareness material including hunting guide.
- Organize awareness sessions with municipalities, shooters, youth, schools & universities.
  
- **Enforcement**
- Established MECSH and Anti-poaching unit to support law enforcement.
- Organize missions in partnership with CABS to identify, record and report hunting violations.



# Globally Threatened Species Programme

- **Aim:** promote conservation of globally threatened species.
- Various species: Birds, mammals, reptiles, butterflies,....
- Syrian serin, River otter, Mediterranean Monk seal, sea turtles, wild cat,....
- Conservation efforts include:
  - Organize scientific surveys,
  - Develop action plans,
  - Awareness campaigns,
  - Conservation efforts.

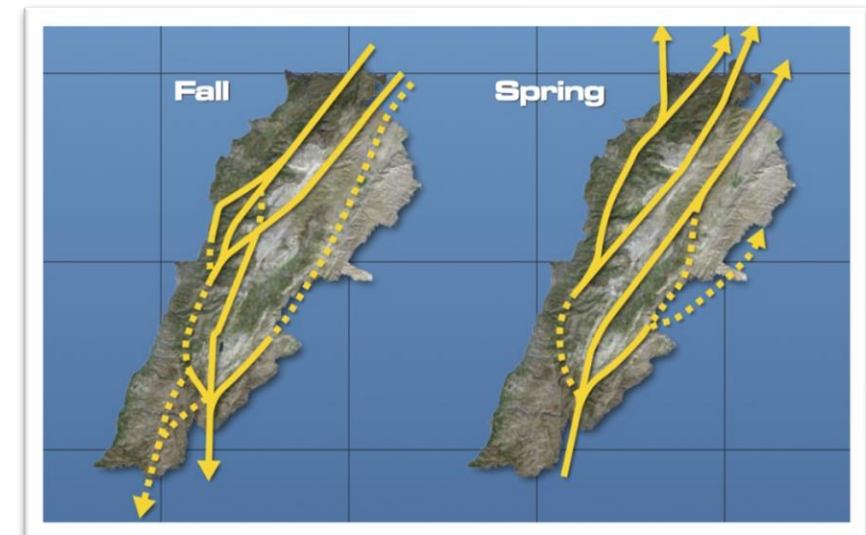
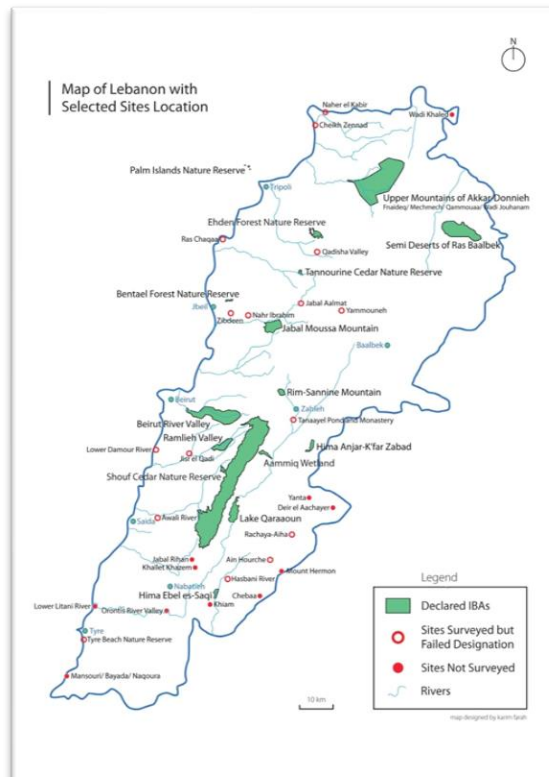


# Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBBA)

- Aim: Protect IBBA through the protection of their habitats from major threats
- 3 years of extensive work (2005 –2008) to research and report IBAs: 320 site visits by teams of researchers, +3000 hours of observations

## Results:

- **15 IBBA identified by SPNL and Arocha Lebanon & declared internationally by BirdLife International**
- **Variety in habitats, ecosystems, biodiversity & bottlenecks for migration**



# Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBBA)



- HIMA: Arabic word meaning "a protected area"
- Established over 1500 years ago within the Arabian Peninsula
- Evolved by adding to its social norms and values especially through the Islamic culture
- Traditional community-based approach to sustainably manage natural resources
- Common benefits for people and Nature
- Traditional way to conserve biodiversity, and natural and cultural heritage of the area

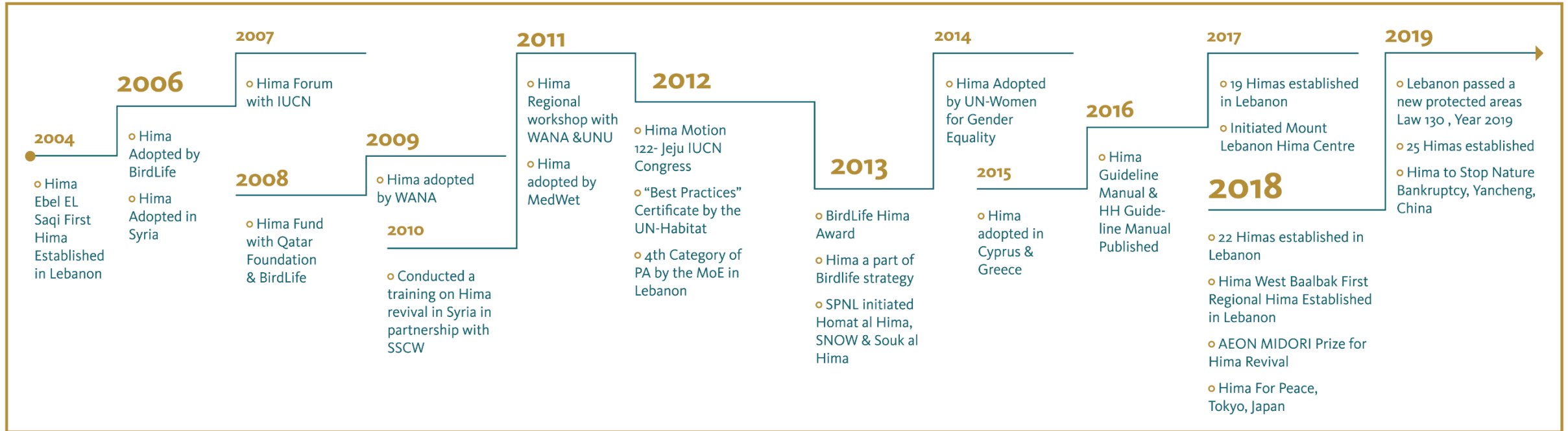
# SPNL and the Hima Revival



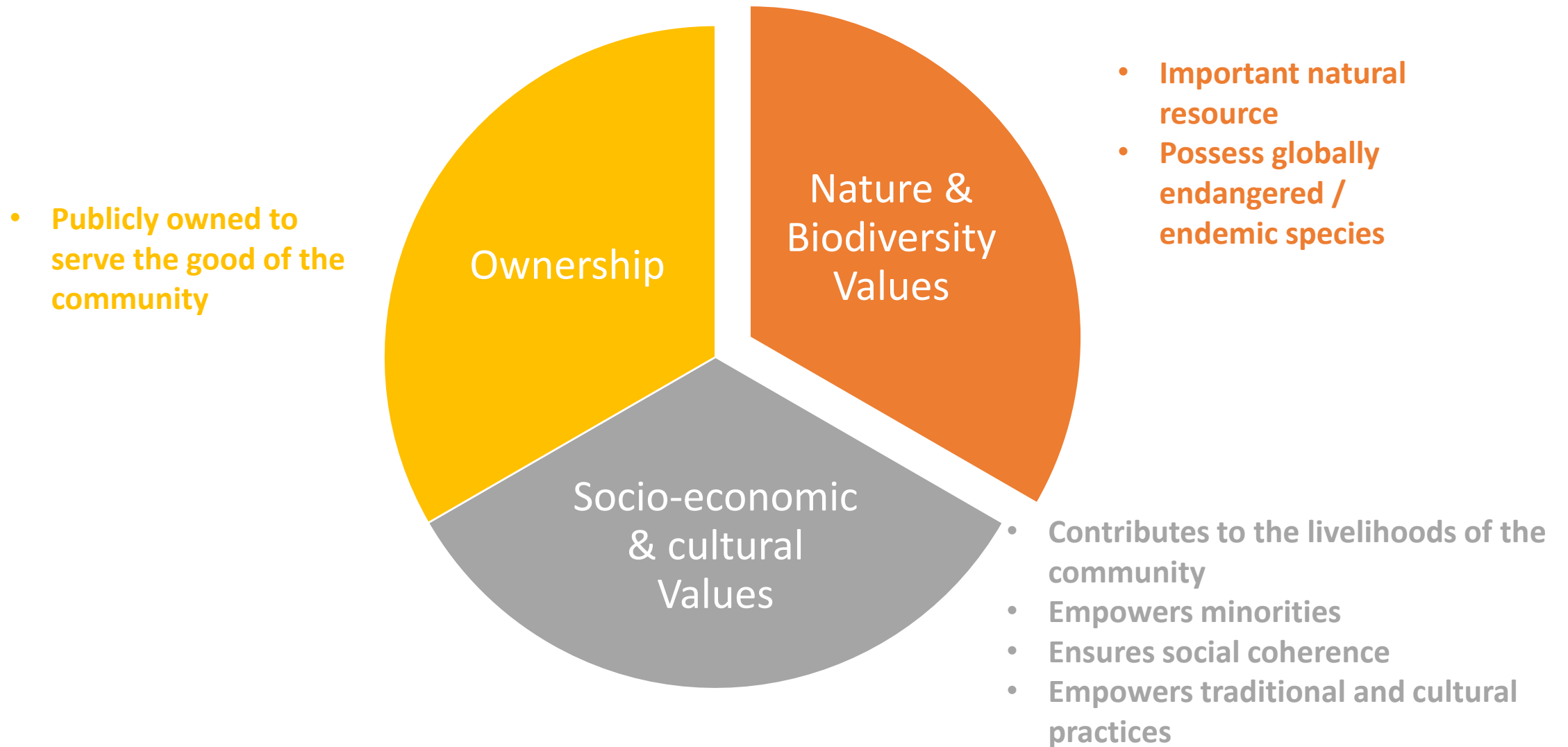
- Approach revived in 2004
- Support of its conservation partners Birdlife International & IUCN aiming to conserve IBAs/KBAs
- Merging scientific approaches with the HIMA traditional values
  
- **Hybrid Hima:**
  - Using scientific assessments for the identification of sites
  - Adopting social tools for stakeholder analysis assessments
  - Adopting participatory approaches to ensure ownership by the community
  - Stressing the values & culture of traditional Hima (equity, traditional knowledge, underprivileged groups, benefits for the poor,...)



# SPNL Regional Progress in Hima Revival



# Criteria for Selecting Hima



# Hima vs Nature Reserve: Definition

Mutually complementary

<b>Hima</b>	<b>Nature Reserve</b>
A Community based	A government based
Protected area	Protected area
Managed for the sustainability of natural resources and systems	Managed for the conservation of biodiversity, natural habitats and/or ecosystems.
And livelihood of communities depending on it.	

# Hima vs Nature Reserve

<b>Hima</b>	<b>Nature Reserve</b>
Sustainable use	Strict conservation
Controlled human activity is allowed	No human activity or intervention is allowed
Range of human activities (Fishing, grazing, habitat manipulation...) within control of carrying capacity	Mainly research and monitoring; and eco-tourism activities.
Managed by local community	Managed by government
Managed thr. Local elected committees	Managed thr. Government appointed committees
Declared by decisions from local authorities	Declared by law

# Hima vs Nature Reserve

<b>Hima</b>	<b>Nature Reserve</b>
Provides benefit to local people	Limited benefit to local community
Gains support from local community	Opposition and resentment from local communities
Can reach financial satisfaction thr. income-generating activities	Financial sustainability depends on government support
Cost effective	Exhausting financial resources
Ownership & support for conservation from local communities	No direct involvement



# Hima School- School with No Walls



## Aim:

- Raise the capacities of children (8 and 12) on concepts of conservation, biodiversity or natural resources
- Prepare them to join Homat Al Hima program at a later stage
- Provides environmental packages to all schools in the Hima sites

## Packages include:

- Interactive educational tools to be used by teachers
- Build the capacities of children: explore their Hima heritage, appreciate its values and be dedicated to preserve it



# Who are Homat Al Hima?

- HIMA guardians and heroes
- Motivated, well trained and equipped youth from local HIMA communities
- Lead on activities and give exposure to the HIMAs
- Work for their communities including environmental, economic and social concerns
- Assure the conservation of the site and its key biodiversity, and the ecological and cultural services it provides.



**HOMAT AL HIMA  
IS THE WAY OF LIFE  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

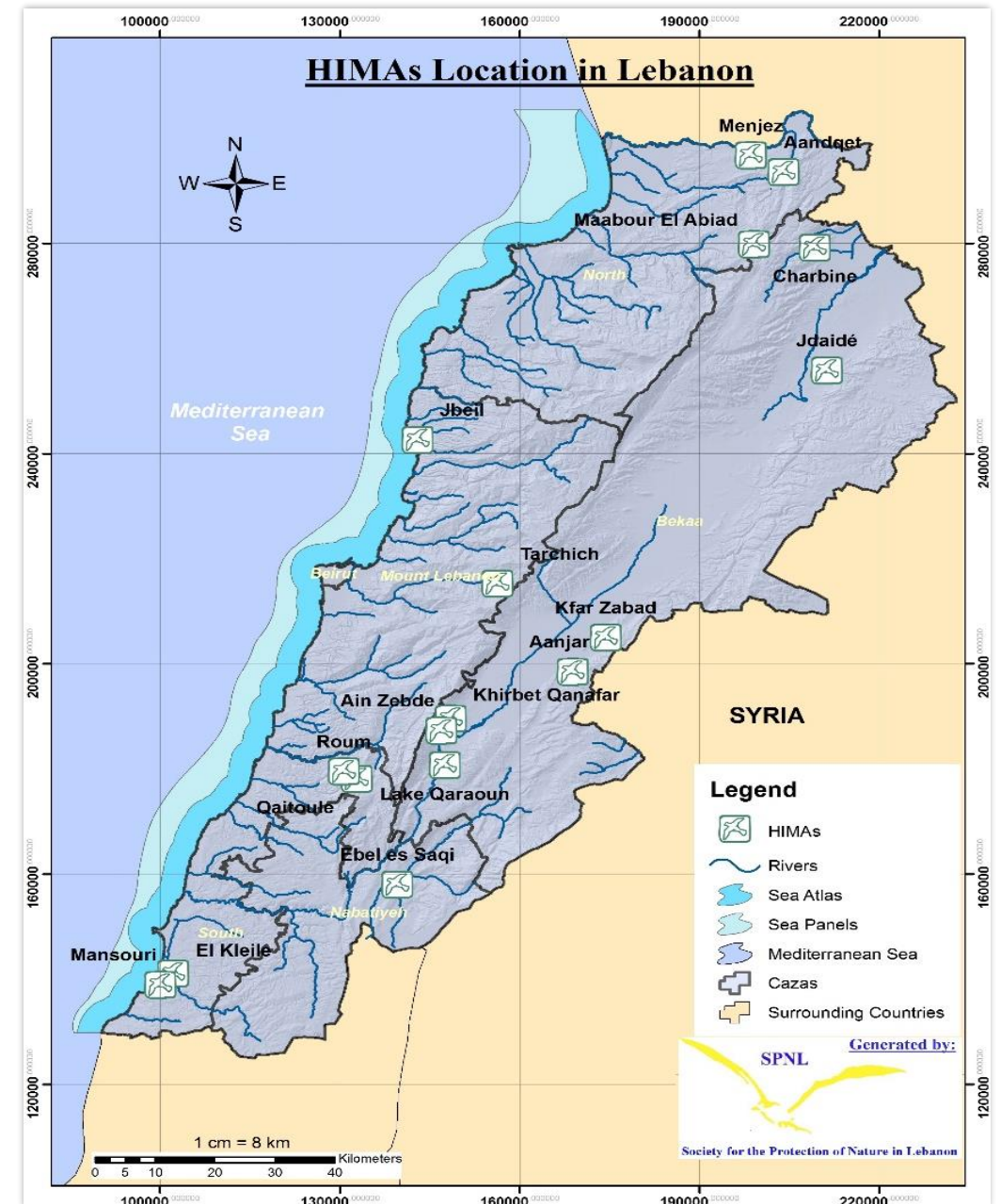


# Hima to Hima Programme

- Eco-touristic model linking different Himas
- Highlights the natural, cultural and social values of the Hima managed by the local community

## Aims at connecting:

- PEOPLE
- CULTURES
- MINDS
- SPIRITS



# Souk Hima Programme

## Aims:

- Conserve cultural and traditional skills at local communities
- Upgrade the livelihood of rural communities interlinked with natural resources
- Revival of traditional and cultural hand-made products in the Hima sites
- Souk Hima arose as a marketplace (Virtual /Online ) and at HIMA Shops (دكان الحمى)
- Hold conservation messages
- Serve the purpose of economic empowerment at local, national and international levels



# Hima Farm

## Values & benefits:

- Organic farming, permaculture
- Sustainable use of resources
- No child labor
- No hunting
- Raises capacity of locals
- Provide jobs for locals & refugees
- Conserve native plants & herbs
- Financially sustainable





Thank you 😊