Shouf Biosphere Reserve Lebanon

Organisation

Al-Shouf Cedar Reserve (ACS)

Location

Mount Lebanon Governorate, in the centre of Lebanon.

About one hour from Beirut

Description

- High Mountain Conifer Forests cluster
- 50,000 hectares
- 1200-1980 m asl

Ecological values

- The largest Mediterranean protected ecosystem in the Middle East
- Largest stands of *Cedrus libani* in the country
- Approximatively 620 ha of relic forest
- Ammig wetland
- Wildlife (Wolf, Wild Cats, Hyena, Syrian Serin, and Nubian Ibex under reintroduction)

Protection status & conservation actions

- Biosphere Reserve
- Mediterranean Mosaics: adaptive forest restoration
- Adopt a Cedar Tree
- Building the resilience of the Shouf Mountain Landscape by restoring the socio-cultural fabric which sustains its biodiversity and cultural values
- Restoration and valorization of traditional agriculture systems (STONE)



Threats

- Climate change
- Overgrazing
- Hunting
- Urban pressure in the buffer zone of the biosphere reserve
- Abandonment of traditional land practices

Strengths of the site

- Community participation
- Rural development
- Adaptive landscape management
- Being part of the MAB network



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